

RLS's 1863 Journey Through Europe

RLS, his mother, father, cousin Elizabeth (Bessie) Stevenson and nurse Alison Cunningham (Cummy) travelled through Europe from 2 January - 20 May 1863. Cummy kept a diary of the visit, which offers many insights into the Stevensons' travels and where they stayed. Please see below the Stevensons' travel itinerary – you can also look at the pages devoted to these places in the “In the Footsteps” section of the website:

Outward Journey

3 & 4 January: London

Accommodation: Craven Hotel

5 January: Dover

Accommodation: Lord Warden Hotel

France

6 January: Amiens

Accommodation: Hotel du Rhin.

7 January: Paris

Accommodation: Hotel Meurice.

Visited: Notre Dame; L'Eglise de la Madeleine; Palais des Tuileries.

8 & 9 January: Lyons

Accommodation: Grand-Hotel Collet

10 January: Marseilles

Accommodation: Hotel des Colonies

11 January: Toulon

Accommodation: Hotel de l'Amiraute

12 -14 January: Cannes

Accommodation: Hotel du Nord

Note: from Toulon they took a rail to les Arcs and then a carriage to Cannes. They also passed through Frejus.

15 January – 4 February: Nice

Accommodation: Hotel Chauvain, on the Quai of St Jean Baptiste

Visited: Villefranche-sur-Mer (29 January), a village three miles from Nice

4 February – 31 March: Mentone

Accommodation: Villa Bosano

Visited: Monaco (12 February); Italy (20 and 23 February, 5 March - Ventimiglia); Turin Road (21 February); Hotel Victoria for the Mentone celebrations of the marriage of the Prince of Wales (10 March); Roquebrune-Cap-Martin (29 March)

Italy

31 March: Oneglia (now a district in Imperia)

Accommodation: Hotel Victoria

Visited: en route to Oneglia, lunched at Sanremo

1 April: Savona

Accommodation: Hotel Reale

Visited: en route to Savona, lunched at Finale Borgo

2 – 5 April: Genoa

Accommodation: Hotel Royal

Visited: Palazzo Rosso and Palazzo Balbi (4 April); Church of Sant' Ambrogio (5 April, Easter Sunday); Scotch Service at the Waldensian Church (5 April)

6 April: Sestri Levante

Accommodation: Hotel de l'Europe

7 April : La Spezia

8 April: Pisa

Visited: lunched at Massa, leaning tower of Pisa, Baptistry of St John, and the cathedral of Pisa – Piazza del Duomo

9 April: Leghorn

10-16 April: Naples

Accommodation: Hotel Washington

Visited: National Archaeological Museum (11 April); Virgil's Tomb (11 April); Teatro di San Carlo (11 April); ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum (13 and 14 April); Puzzoli (14 April)

Note: On 10 April the Stevensons sailed the *Principe Umberto* to Naples, passing Elba and Corsica.

17 -23 April: Rome

Accommodation: Hotel de l'Europe in the Piazza di Spagna

Visited: St Peter's Basilica (17, 19 and 20 April); Appian Way (19 April); Catacombs (19 April); ruins of Caesar's Palace (19 April); Vatican (20 April); Basilica of Saint Lawrence - San Lorenzo fuori le Mura (22 April)

Note: Also visited the Temple of Vesta and the Colosseum, but exact dates unknown

23 April: Viterbo

24 April: Orvieto

Visited: Oriveto Cathedral - Duomo di Oriveto; the city ramparts

25 April: Ficulle, and train via Sienna en route to Florence

26 – 30 April : Florence

Accommodation: Hotel Arno

Visited: Florence Cathedral – Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore (28 April); Palazzo Pitti, home of King Emmanuel II (29 April); Boboli Gardens (30 April)

1 May: Through the Apennines

Note: From Florence, the party took the train and then the diligence (a stagecoach) across the Apennines.

2 May: Bologna

3 May: Ferrara

4 May: Padua

Visited: Padua Cathedral (Duomo di Padova); Basilica of Saint Anthony of Padua

4-7 May: Venice

Accommodation: near to Ponte Rialto

Visited: Ponte dei Sospiri (5 May); Palace of Doges (5 May); gondola trips (6 & 7 May)

8 May: Verona (party stops for lunch)

Austria

8 May: Botzen (now part of Italy and known as Bolzano – Botzen, was part of the Austro-Hungarian county of Tyrol until 1919)

9 May: Mittwolde (this is now Mittenwald, Germany)

10 May: carriage along Brenner Pass, staying the night in Innsbruck

Germany

11 & 12 May: Munich

Accommodation: Bavarian Hotel

13 May: Augsburg

Accommodation: Drei Mohren Hotel

14 May: Nuremberg

Accommodation: Bavarian Hotel

15 May: Frankfurt

16 & 17 May Cologne

Accommodation: Hotel de Hollande

Visited: Cologne Cathedral (17 May)

Note: On 16 May take steamer at Bingen am Rheim to Koblenz (pass Stolzenfels Castle en route); have lunch at Koblenz in Hotel Bellevue and arrive Cologne

Belgium

18 May: Ghent

Return Journey

19 May: Calais

Note: Pass through Lille on way to Calais

20 May: Cross the channel

20 May: pass through Dover

20-22 May: London

Accommodation: Craven Hotel, Strand

Visited: Lee, Blackheath (22 May)

The Stevensons probably returned to Edinburgh shortly afterwards – Cummy returned on the 23rd, having taken an overnight train from London to Edinburgh.

For more information see Cunningham, Alison, *Cummy's Diary*, preface by Robert T. Skinner (London: Chatto and Windus, 1926).