

Highlight Tours

Museum Highlights: An Introduction to the Met's Collection

Take a journey around the world, experiencing highlights of the Museum's vast collections of master paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts from ancient times to the present.

Great Paintings

Explore masterworks of painting dating from ancient times to the present. Two-dimensional objects from Europe, Asia, America, and The Islamic World offer multiple viewpoints on artistry and function.

Great Sculpture

Explore sculptural masterworks dating from ancient times to the present. Three-dimensional objects from Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas offer multiple viewpoints on artistry and function.

EmptyMet

An EmptyMet tour is your opportunity to see The Met before it opens to the public. One of the Museum's most engaging guides leads you through an intimate view of 5,000 years of human history housed in NYC's most visited museum and attraction. Priced at \$2500 for up to 25 guests, the EmptyMet tour is your chance to experience the depth and breadth of The Met's collection in an exclusive way. Your EmptyMet ticket includes same-day admission to The Met Fifth Avenue, The Met Breuer, and The Met Cloisters.

To reserve and EmptyMet tour, please email us at mettours@metmuseum.org.

Time and Culture Specific Tours

American Art (1650-1915)

Encounter the rich tradition of American art, from its mid-seventeenth-century colonial beginnings to the early twentieth-century panoply of subjects and styles. This outstanding collection of portraits, landscapes, and narrative depictions, domestic interiors, architectural elements, furnishings, silver, glass and other domestic objects is presented in the galleries of The American Wing.

This tour may focus on American paintings and sculpture or historic interiors and decorative arts at your request.

Ancestors, Spirits, and Deities in the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas

Travel across continents while staying under one roof through this tour that includes art from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas. Works of art represent diverse cultural traditions from 3000 B.C.E. to the present, including decorative and ceremonial objects from Africa, images of gods, ancestors, and spirits from Oceania, works of art made of gold, ceramic, and stone from the Pre-Columbian cultures of Mexico and Central and South America, and wood sculpture from the North Pacific Coast, ivory carvings from the Arctic, and works of animal hide from the Great Plains.

This tour may focus on one of these cultures-Africa, Oceania, Ancient America, or Native North America-at your request.

Ancient Near Eastern Art

Tour thousands of years of history through the art of the Ancient Near East. Imagine everyday life and ritual in the ancient world. Uncover the diversity of styles and techniques employed by the many cultures that populated the region bound by the Mediterranean and North Africa and the Indian Ocean to the East. Among the collection's highlights are the monumental relief sculptures from the Northwest Palace of Assurnashirpal II at Nimrud, and a statue of the ruler Gudea from the third millennium B.C.

Arts of Ancient Greece and Rome

Revel in the Museum's exceptional collection of objects Greek and Roman, spanning five thousand years of art. See how the ancients conveyed ideas of beauty, death, and heroism in stunning visual art objects and stories, including exceptional examples of Etruscan and early Cycladic art, Greek and Roman sculptures, Greek vases, painted walls and rooms from the Villa at Boscoreale, Roman mosaics, and more.

Art of the Islamic World

The galleries for the Art of the Arab Lands, Turkey, Iran, Central Asia, and Later South Asia feature magnificent objects from the 7th to the 19th century. In both the sacred and secular realms, the collection reveals the importance of artistic traditions from this vast region, including calligraphy and illuminated manuscripts, carpets and other textiles, ceramics, architectural decorations, metalwork, and glassware. The collections also reflect dynamic intercultural exchange with works from as far west as Spain and Morocco to areas now occupied by India and Pakistan.

Asian Art

Visit the largest and most comprehensive collection of Asian art outside of Asia, which includes ancient and modern works of art from China, Japan, Korea, and South and Southeast Asia. Explore a variety of works of art, including paintings, ceramics, sculptures, jades, lacquerware, and screens. A special highlight is the Astor Court, a courtyard modeled after a Ming Dynasty scholar's Chinese garden.

This tour may focus on one of the Asian cultures-China, Japan, Korea, or South and Southeast Asia-at your request.

Egyptian Art

Delve into ancient Egypt with the Met's collection of ancient Egyptian art. Explore artifacts dating from the Paleolithic to the Roman period – many from the Museum's own excavations – that illuminate ancient Egyptian history, religion, and society. Highlights of the galleries include magnificent burial objects, the Old Kingdom mastaba (offering chapel) of Perneb, the New Kingdom statuary of the female pharaoh Hatshepsut, and the Roman era's spectacular Temple of Dendur.

European Art (1250-1800)

Explore the stories, revel in the landscapes, and meet the people in portraits by Italian, Flemish, Dutch, German, Spanish, English, and French masters from the 13th to 18th centuries. Discuss the changes in taste and fashion of European interiors, told through the Met's unparalleled collection of English and French period rooms, architectural elements, furnishings, silver, glass and other domestic objects from the seventeenth-century and eighteenth-century.

This tour may focus on European paintings or historic interiors and decorative arts at your request.

Fashion in Art

Consider fashion throughout the ages and learn what clothes reveal to us about their wearers. Highlighting clothing represented in stone, wood, paint, and other media found throughout the Museum's collections, this tour examines developments in fashion from all over the world.

Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Painting

Reflect on color, light, and brushstrokes as you examine landscapes, portraits, and stilllife in late nineteenth-century France. The survey of French painting between neo-Classicism and post-Impressionism offered by the Museum's collection is second only to collections in Paris.

Medieval Europe

Discover an age of profound social, religious, and artistic change as you explore works of art created during the Byzantine period and Middle Ages. Explore this and sensory and religious world, from its roots in Celtic and late Roman art to the sumptuous objects of late medieval courts and the ecclesiastical riches of Late Byzantium and its eastern neighbors, as you look closely at sculptures and architectural fragments, tapestries, manuscripts, reliquaries, icons, and objects from everyday life.

Modern and Contemporary Art

See highlights of the Museum's Modern and Contemporary collections which are presented in groupings by theme, chronology, and media. Discuss the major stylistic movements from 1900 to the present.

Shining Armor, Six-Shooters, and Samurai

Examine some of the best examples of parade, battle, and tournament armor from Europe, America, Japan, India, and various Islamic cultures. Investigate the function, material and technique, and creativity of these works of art dating from the fifth to the late nineteenth century.

The Art of Music: Pleasing Eye and Ear Alike

Highlighting the connections between the musical traditions of different peoples, places, and time periods, this tour gives visitors an appreciation of the Museum's global holdings of instruments selected for social significance, technical virtuosity, tonal quality, and visual beauty. While the Musical Instruments galleries are currently closed for an extensive renovation and reorganization, tours will feature musical instruments throughout the Museum's collection and their depictions in art.

Special Exhibition Tours

See special exhibition listing on the Museum Website to choose your request. Not all special exhibitions allow private tours; we will do our best to accommodate you.