

Travel with The Met

September 19–30, 2018

Golden Cities of Central Europe
with Keith Christiansen
John Pope-Hennessy Chairman,
Department of European Paintings

THE
MET



Golden Cities of Central Europe

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

I love visiting Budapest and Vienna, but Warsaw was a revelation when I went there last year. And it reminded me of the significant contributions in art and culture that have been made by the cities in Central Europe. Although almost entirely destroyed during World War II, Warsaw has rebuilt its historic center and is undergoing an artistic renaissance. It is full of surprises. Kraków and Wrocław (formerly Breslau), also restored to their pre-World War II glory, are brimming with energy and culture, while their Czech neighbor, Prague, is rightly admired as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. Please join me next fall to experience these splendid places, immersing yourself in their architecture, museums, and music as we travel together from Warsaw to Prague.

With my love of Renaissance art, I am especially looking forward to journeying with you to Kraków to admire Leonardo da Vinci's breathtaking *Lady with an Ermine*, now at the National Museum. Rarely seen outside the country, it was recently purchased by the Polish government from the noble Czartoryski family in a widely publicized (and controversial) sale. Of no less note is the immense and extraordinary carved altarpiece in the cathedral by Veit Stoss, one of the landmarks of German, and indeed of European, sculpture.

Many more pleasures await. In Warsaw, we will visit sites associated with the Romantic composer Frederic Chopin and enjoy a private recital of his music. Kraków's Jewish heritage rivals Prague's in richness. Wrocław offers wonderfully restored buildings with Bohemian, Austrian, and Prussian influences; and Prague, where our journey concludes, is home to the Lobkowitz Palace, where a special lunch precedes a tour of its exquisite collection of Old Masters and handwritten scores by some of Europe's greatest composers.

I look forward to joining you on this intriguing exploration of some of Central Europe's less-visited places.

Sincerely,

Keith Christiansen

*John Pope-Hennessy Chairman of the Department of European Paintings
The Metropolitan Museum of Art*



Traveling with You

Keith Christiansen

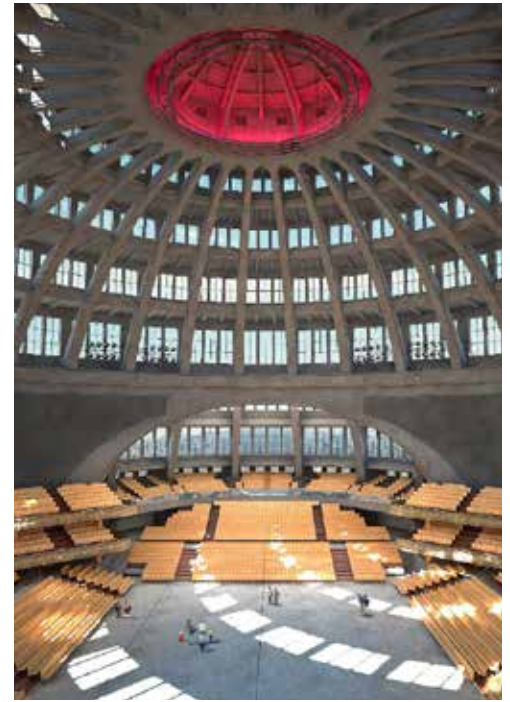
Keith Christiansen is the John Pope-Hennessy Chairman of the Department of European Paintings at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. He began work at The Met in 1977 and has since organized numerous exhibitions, ranging in subject from *Painting in Renaissance Siena*, *Andrea Mantegna*, and *The Renaissance Portrait* to *Giambattista Tiepolo*, *El Greco*, *The Age of Caravaggio*, *Jusepe de Ribera*, and *Poussin and Nature*. He has written widely on Italian painting and is the recipient of several awards. Dr. Christiansen has also taught at Columbia University and The Institute of Fine Arts of New York University. Raised in Seattle, Washington, and Concord, California, he attended the University of California campuses at Santa Cruz and Los Angeles and received his PhD from Harvard University.

Trip Highlights

- Learn from lectures by Keith Christiansen, whom art critic Jed Perl described as “an inspired curator who can make the art of the past feel immediate and inevitable”
- Discover the rich Jewish heritage of Warsaw, Kraków, and Prague
- Take a Chopin-themed walking tour in Warsaw that concludes with a special concert of works by Poland's greatest composer
- Admire Art Nouveau architecture and enjoy a private lunch at Lobkowitz Palace in Prague
- View Leonardo da Vinci's rarely seen masterpiece, *Lady with an Ermine*
- See the Veit Stoss altarpiece in Kraków, the largest Gothic altarpiece in the world and the pride of Poland



Salt Market (Plac Solny), Wrocław



Photos clockwise from top right: Centennial Hall, Wrocław, photo by Chapman Taylor; Saxon Gardens, Warsaw, photo by picqero; Leopoldina Hall, Wrocław, photo by petrOly; St. George's Basilica, Prague, photo by Gordon Heaney; Wawel Castle, Kraków, photo by Roderick Eime; regional map. Front cover: *Interior View of Vladislav Hall at Prague Castle during the Annual Fair, 1607*. Aegidius Sadeler II (Netherlandish, Antwerp 1568–1629 Prague). Engraving. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Harris Brisbane Dick Fund, 1953 [53.601.10(1)]. Back cover: Strahov Library, Prague, photo by Jennifer King (top); Spanish Synagogue, Prague, photo by loadsy (bottom).

Golden Cities of Central Europe

September 19–30, 2018



St. Mary's Basilica, Kraków

Departure

Wednesday, September 19

Depart for Warsaw on an overnight flight.

Warsaw, Poland

Thursday, September 20

Arrive in Warsaw and transfer to the Polonia Palace for check-in. In the late afternoon join a walking tour through the Old Town — reduced to rubble in World War II and now gloriously restored. Tonight, gather at the hotel for our welcome dinner. D

Warsaw

Friday, September 21

On a morning architectural tour, view the ornate Palace of Culture and Science, built by Stalin. Pass by Castle Square in the Old Town en route to Lazienki Park and Palace, summer residence of the last King of Poland. At the Saxon Gardens, modeled on the gardens at Versailles, view the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the only surviving part of the Saxon Palace. After lunch, a deeply moving exploration of Warsaw's Jewish history takes us to the former Warsaw Ghetto, where bullet holes from the Nazi liquidation still mark the walls and the Museum of the History of Polish Jews, where we will meet with the director. After, visit the Nozyk Synagogue (the only prewar synagogue to survive) and the poignant Jewish cemetery. B, L

Warsaw

Saturday, September 22

Drive to Wilanów Palace, a 17th-century Baroque palace and park complex that survived the war virtually unscathed. Lunch and the early afternoon are at leisure. Then follow in the steps of Frederic Chopin on a walking tour of sites associated with Poland's most famous composer. After, enjoy an exclusive Chopin concert in one of the palaces in picturesque Royal Lazienki Park, followed by dinner. B, D

Warsaw / Kraków, Poland

Sunday, September 23

Depart for Kraków by train. On arrival, visit UNESCO-listed Wawel Castle, one of the greatest Renaissance palaces north of the Alps. Continue to the National Museum, now home to Leonardo da Vinci's rarely seen *Lady with an Ermine*. Check in at the Unicus Palace

located in Kraków's Old Town, which we will explore on a walking tour. See the medieval market square and visit the impressive Gothic church. At St. Mary's Basilica, marvel at the elaborate wooden altarpiece carved by Veit Stoss, considered the greatest masterpiece of Gothic art in Poland. B, L, D

Kraków

Monday, September 24

Gather for a lecture before touring the campus of Jagiellonian University, founded in 1364. See the 15th-century Collegium Maius and St. Anne's Church, a major work of Polish Baroque architecture. Following lunch, explore the Kazimierz district, the center of Jewish life in Kraków for over 500 years before it was destroyed by the Nazis. Afterwards, those who wish to further examine the consequences of the Holocaust may join an optional visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and Museum. Alternatively, discover the work of one of Poland's most revered artists on a private visit to the Józef Mehoffer House, followed by a piano concert. B, L

Kraków / Wrocław, Poland

Tuesday, September 25

Early this morning drive to Wrocław (formerly Breslau) in the Silesian region. En route, stop in the village of Kamieniec Ząbkowicki to see the country residence of Prince Albert of Prussia, considered a pearl of Gothic Revival architecture. Following lunch and a visit to a vineyard, continue to Wrocław and check into our hotel. A brief walking tour is followed by dinner at a local restaurant. B, L, D

Wrocław

Wednesday, September 26

Spend the day on a guided tour of Wrocław's Old Town, a lively cultural center as well as

More Travels with The Met

Cuba by Sea: Cienfuegos to Havana Aboard *Harmony V* January 25–February 3, 2018

The Enchanting Douro River Round-Trip Porto Aboard *M.S. AmaVida* April 16–24, 2018

The Pleasures of Burgundy: Culture & Wine in the Heart of France May 10–19, 2018

Waterways of The Tsars: Moscow to St. Petersburg Aboard *Volga Dream* June 2–12, 2018

For details, please go to metmuseum.org/travel

the city's historic center. See the Rynek (market square), restored to its prewar splendor; the magnificent Gothic town hall; and 14th-century St. Elizabeth's Church, boasting lovely vistas from its tower. Continue to the Salt Market (*Plac Solny*), with its colorful Renaissance and Baroque houses, and Wroclaw University's spectacularly Baroque Leopoldina Hall. Cross the Odra River to explore Ostrów Tumski (Cathedral Island), the oldest part of the city. Dinner is at leisure. B, L

Wroclaw / Prague, Czech Republic

Thursday, September 27

Begin the day at the Centennial Hall, built in 1913 to mark the centenary of Napoleon's defeat at the Battle of Leipzig. See the nearby Four Dome Pavilion, built by architect Hans Poelzig. Depart for Prague with lunch en route. Following check-in at the Mandarin Oriental, tour the Strahov Library, with its extraordinary collection of manuscripts. B, L, D

Prague

Friday, September 28

This morning explore Josefov, Prague's Jewish quarter, on a walk from the Old Jewish Cemetery to the opulent Moorish-style Spanish Synagogue. Then see the collection of Bohemian and Central European art housed in St. Agnes Convent. After lunch stroll through the medieval Old Town. Those who wish to see Prague's Art Nouveau landmarks may continue to the Municipal House for a special visit to Smetana Hall, an architectural jewel with decorations by Alphonse Mucha and other Czech artists. B, L

Prague

Saturday, September 29

Today we begin in Hradčany, the castle district. At Prague Castle, former residence of Bohemian royalty, see the late-medieval Vladislav Hall. Continue to St. George's Basilica, the oldest church within the castle complex, and tour the Gothic Cathedral of St. Vitus and its St. Wenceslaus Chapel. At the Lobkowitz Palace, enjoy a private lunch before admiring the priceless assemblage of Old Masters. The collection of original music scores handwritten by Beethoven, Mozart, and Haydn is a special highlight. Our farewell dinner is this evening. B, L, D

Prague / Return

Sunday, September 30

Depart this morning for the airport and the flight home.

An optional postlude to Dresden is offered from September 30 to October 3, 2018.

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

Program Rate

\$8,999 per person double occupancy

\$1,799 single supplement

Rate Includes

- Ten nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, thoughtfully selected wines and beers at welcome and farewell dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach; entrance fees for included visits
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rate

International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than as noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; optional Dresden postlude; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Accommodations

Mandarin Oriental, Prague

This five-star property is housed in a beautifully restored, 14th-century monastery.

Polonia Palace Hotel, Warsaw

This hotel offers comfort and elegance with an outstanding location.

Unicus Palace, Kraków

This newly opened hotel features modern décor.

AC by Marriott, Wroclaw

This luxury hotel is housed in a historic 19th-century tenement building.



Mandarin Oriental, Prague

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single (at a supplement of \$1,799)

I wish to share a room with _____

Optional Postlude

I/We wish to join the optional postlude in Dresden

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

Form of Payment

Check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date



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