Travel with The Met

Palaces & Personalities: England in the Age of Victoria
with Constance McPhee
Curator, Department of Drawings and Prints

June 18–27, 2019
Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

Queen Victoria’s reign of more than six decades marked a period of unprecedented expansion for the British Empire and a flowering in the humanities and sciences. Much of our modern-day culture has its roots in the Victorian Age, and we still enjoy the art and literature produced by those living during her reign. Join me this summer, during the bicentennial year of Victoria’s birth, to discover the people and places of her time, from J.M.W. Turner to Charles Darwin, in the context of this rich historical period and in the company of experts.

As a scholar of 19th-century British works on paper who grew up in London, I invite you to explore some of my favorite places in and around the British capital as we delve into riches of the Victorian era. Together we will stroll the halls of Westminster Abbey and Kensington Palace, call at the historic homes of artists and patrons, and pay a visit to Queen Victoria and Prince Albert’s summer palace at Osborne House on the Isle of Wight. Our journey will be marked by behind-the-scenes access, including a visit to the Tower of London for a private viewing of the Crown Jewels.

We end our experience at Windsor, to explore its eponymous castle—the site of two recent royal weddings—and pay our respects to Victoria at the statue erected for her Golden Jubilee. Please join me next summer on this exquisite trip to England to celebrate the life and legacy of the woman known as “the grandmother of Europe.”

Sincerely,
Constance McPhee
Curator, Department of Drawings and Prints
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Trip Highlights

— Explore Kensington Palace, and enjoy a traditional afternoon tea
— Enjoy special access to areas of Westminster Abbey normally closed to the public
— Admire the Crown Jewels at a private viewing and cocktail reception in the Tower of London
— Take a curated tour of the Arts and Crafts collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum
— Visit the Isle of Wight, where Queen Victoria spent summers en famille
— Spend two nights at the luxurious Coworth Park Hotel in Ascot, where Prince Harry stayed before his wedding in Windsor

Constance McPhee (Connie) is a curator in the Department of Drawings and Prints, responsible for British and American works dating before 1900. She was co-curator of The Pre-Raphaelite Legacy: British Art and Design (May-October 2014), and arranged related Museum displays of William Morris: Textiles and Wallpapers (February–July, 2014) and Pre-Raphaelite Prints (April–July, 2014). She co-curated Infinite Jest: Caricature and Satire from Leonardo to Levine (September 2011-March 2012) and oversaw the 2006 New York venue of Samuel Palmer: Vision and Landscape. She has also explored Shakespeare as a theme within the Museum collections, written related articles, and is currently building the department’s collection of British drawings towards a related exhibition. Connie grew up in London and joined the department in 2000, after earning undergraduate and graduate degrees from Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania.
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London
Friday, June 21
Enjoy a curatorial tour at the Leighton House Museum, considered one of the world’s best small museums. Once the home and studio of Victorian artist Frederic, Lord Leighton, it contains a remarkable collection of his works as well as other Holland Park Circle artists. Following lunch, admire the excellent Arts and Crafts collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum. In the evening, see the Crown Jewels up close at a private viewing and cocktail reception at the Tower of London.

London / East Sussex
Saturday, June 22
Travel to East Sussex and stop at Down House, where Darwin worked on his scientific theories and wrote On the Origin of Species. The house remains much as it was when Darwin lived there with his wife and children, and some of his experiments in natural selection are recreated in the greenhouse. The beautifully restored garden, with its herbaceous borders, is an enchantment. Then continue to Standen, designed in the 1890s by Philip Webb, a friend of William Morris. The house is a showpiece of his experiments in natural selection and contains a remarkable collection of his works of Victorian artist Frederic, Lord Leighton, it contains a remarkable collection of his works as well as other Holland Park Circle artists. Following lunch, admire the excellent Arts and Crafts collection at the Victoria and Albert Museum. In the evening, see the Crown Jewels up close at a private viewing and cocktail reception at the Tower of London.

East Sussex / Hampshire
Sunday, June 23
Following a morning lecture, check out of the hotel and enjoy a Sunday lunch in the country. Stop at Petworth, a vast 17th-century mansion occupied by the current Lord and Lady Egremont. Lord Egremont, J.M.W. Turner’s host and patron in the early 19th century, was one of the most enlightened collectors of the age. View his collection of works by Turner, Van Dyck, Reynolds, and Blake, as well as ancient and Neoclassical sculpture, fine furniture, and carvings by Grinling Gibbons. Continue to Brockenhurst to check into Careys Manor.

Isle of Wight
Monday, June 24
Travel by ferry to the Isle of Wight to visit Osborne House, Victoria and Albert’s Italianate palace and beloved seaside retreat. Tour formal reception rooms for heads of state as well as a children's play-cottage, which paint a picture of a family home that is both grand and intimate. After the tour, enjoy lunch at leisure in the charming town of Cowes before returning to the mainland.

Ascot
Tuesday, June 25
On the way to Ascot, stop in the city of Winchester and explore its rich history from Roman times to modernity. At Winchester Castle, see Alfred Gilbert’s heavily-symbolic bronze statue of Queen Victoria, considered an important image of her reign. Hanging across from the statue is a reimagining of King Arthur’s Round Table dating from the 13th-century. Paintwork on the surface of the Round Table dates from the 16th-century and shows King Arthur represented by Henry VIII, complete with the Tudor rose. After lunch, continue to Ascot and check in to luxurious Coworth Park for a two-night stay.

More Travels with The Met
High Art in the Low Countries Aboard Magnifique III
May 17–25, 2019
Southern Charms: Art & Architecture of Charleston
May 19–23, 2019
Undiscovered Greek Islands Aboard Sea Cloud
July 21–29, 2019
Ireland’s Historic Homes & Glorious Gardens
September 16–24, 2019

For details, please go to metmuseum.org/travel
Windsor
Wednesday, June 26
This morning, tour Windsor Castle, still a royal residence and the site of important ceremonial occasions. Queen Victoria spent much of her time at the castle, and the State Apartments are furnished with decorative arts from this period. Explore the charming town of Windsor, situated on the River Thames, and visit the statue of Queen Victoria that was erected to celebrate her Golden Jubilee. Return to the hotel to enjoy its splendid amenities before toasting to an enriching journey at our farewell dinner.

Windsor / Return
Thursday, June 27
Depart the hotel this morning for the flight home. Alternatively, extra nights can be arranged at a London hotel for those who wish to remain in town for London Art Week, which begins the following day.

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.

Accommodations

The Dorchester
This iconic five-star hotel is at the center of London, nestled between Royal Hyde Park and the historic streets of Mayfair.

Ashdown Park Hotel & Country Club
This luxury country house hotel is located in the heart of East Sussex.

Careys Manor, Brockenhurst
Located in picturesque Brockenhurst in the heart of the New Forest, this spa hotel is set in a manor house dating to 1888.

Coworth Park (Windsor)
This luxury countryside resort recently served as accommodations for Prince Harry and celebrity guests at the royal wedding.

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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 per person (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 10019-3721.

Name(s) in full. Please print.

Address

City    State  Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax    Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference □ One bed □ Two beds □ Single
I wish to share a room with ______________________________

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code                                                                      Expiration date

Program Rate

$8,999 per person, double rate
$11,199 single rate

Rate Includes

— Eight nights accommodations as per itinerary
— Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, T=Tea, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at 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; baggage in excess of one suitcase; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Form of Payment

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

Name on debit/credit card

Signature (required)                                                                                              Date

Signature (required)                                                                                              Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org
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The Metropolitan Museum of Art
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028

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