Travel with The Met

Treasures of Northern Europe, Medieval to Modern: England to Denmark Aboard Ocean Albatros with Rika Burnham, Lecturer

April 27–May 7, 2024
Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

In spring 2024, please join me aboard the brand-new small ship Ocean Albatros on a cruise of incredible scope and diversity. We will sail along historic trade routes to seaside towns in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Denmark, exploring hidden treasures inside opulent public buildings, lavish private houses, and awe-inspiring museums that embody the rich legacy of the medieval Hanseatic League. As a longtime museum educator, I look forward to sharing with you a series of masterpieces through close looking, conversation, and transformative observation.

Our travels first take us through the cliff-lined English Channel to the North Sea and the Baltic, stopping along the way to immerse ourselves in Northern Europe’s rich artistic heritage. From England, we will set sail for France, marveling at the coastal rock formations of Normandy that inspired Claude Monet. At the Bayeux Cathedral, we’ll have a private look at the famed Bayeux Tapestry, an iconic achievement of medieval art.

In the Low Countries, we’ll savor exclusive looks at Dutch and Flemish masterworks, sailing to Bruges for expert-led museum tours and visiting Ghent to see the Van Eyck brothers’ monumental altarpiece. We’ll celebrate Holland’s tulip season amid the sprawling Keukenhof Gardens and enjoy a private tour of Amsterdam’s Van Gogh Museum.

In Hamburg, Germany, we’ll dine atop the innovative Elbphilharmonie concert hall. Then we’ll navigate the world’s busiest artificial waterway, the 61-mile-long Kiel Canal connecting the North Sea to the Baltic. You may then opt for inside looks at Berlin’s incredible landmarks and ancient treasures at its restored Neues Museum. Alternatively, visit romantic, little-known Schwerin to go behind the scenes of a 14th-century island castle and art museum set in a pristine lake. Our voyage concludes in Copenhagen, UNESCO’s World Capital of Architecture, with an inside look at the 17th-century Rosenborg Castle, featuring 400 years of royal treasures.

We’ll sail in the company of members from The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the alumni associations of Dartmouth, Duke, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Tufts, the University of Mary Washington, and Vanderbilt. I hope you will join us on this unforgettable sea voyage aboard the new Ocean Albatros.

Sincerely,
Rika Burnham
Lecturer
The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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**Trip Highlights**

— Sail aboard the brand-new Ocean Albatros, which has 95 comfortable staterooms and suites and more than a 50% lower carbon footprint than traditional vessels

— Step ashore in northern Europe’s most enchanting cities—including Bruges, Amsterdam, Hamburg, Berlin, and Copenhagen, as well as the lesser-known Hanseatic cities of Groningen in Holland and Lübeck in Germany

— In Belgium and Holland, join art experts to view masterpieces at museums opened exclusively for us, such as Amsterdam’s Van Gogh Museum or The Hague’s Mauritshuis

— Experience the vibrant end of Holland’s tulip season during an optional visit to the magnificent Keukenhof Gardens

— Delight in a private rooftop lunch and musical performance (pending confirmation) at Hamburg’s glittering Elbphilharmonie concert hall and attend an onboard chamber music concert by one of Europe’s renowned quartets in Belgium

— Choose between an expert-led tour of Berlin’s incredible landmarks, including the restored Neues Museum and new Humboldt Forum, or go behind the scenes of the island-set, medieval Schwerin Castle, which houses a world-class museum

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**Traveling with You**
Rika Burnham

Rika Burnham is a leading theorist and practitioner of art museum gallery teaching. Author of *Teaching in the Art Museum: Interpretation as Experience*, and lecturer at Columbia University, she has served as Head of Education at The Frick Collection, Museum Educator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Project Director for TIME/Teaching Institute in Museum Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and was appointed Getty Research Institute Museum Scholar in 2002 and 2018. She holds a degree in art history from Harvard University and was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2014.
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Departure
Saturday, April 27
Depart for London on an overnight flight.

London, United Kingdom / Portsmouth / Embark Ocean Albatros
Sunday, April 28
Arrive this morning at Heathrow Airport and transfer to Ocean Albatros docked in Portsmouth. Enjoy lunch on board, followed by an afternoon at leisure to explore this new ship or learn about the Royal Navy’s history on a visit to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Savor dinner on board as you sail across the English Channel to Normandy in France. L, D

Ouistreham, France / Caen
Monday, April 29
From the port of Ouistreham, visit historic Caen, whose Norman treasures have survived the centuries. Continue to Bayeaux and visit the town’s 11th-century cathedral, where you will find the remarkable Bayeux Tapestry, one of the most renowned surviving works of medieval art. Stop at the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy. As an alternative, you may visit Mont-Saint-Michel, a UNESCO-listed tidal island topped with a medieval monastery. As Ocean Albatros sails to Belgium, behold the chalky cliffs and the extraordinary rock formations of Les Falaises d’Étretat and the Manneporte, which Claude Monet captured in numerous paintings. Attend the captain’s welcome reception and dinner this evening. B, L, R, D

Les Falaises d’Étretat, France

Ostend, Belgium / Bruges / Ghent
Tuesday, April 30
After docking in Ostend, transfer to the perfectly preserved medieval city of Bruges for a walking tour. See some of Belgium’s best art collections, including the Groeninge Museum, the Hans Memling collection at St. John’s Hospital, and a sculpture by Michelangelo displayed in the Church of Our Lady. Continue to Ghent for an expert-led viewing of the Van Eyck’s restored 15th-century masterpiece The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb in St. Bavo’s Cathedral. Aboard Ocean Albatros, enjoy chamber music performed by one of Europe’s renowned quartets. B, L, D

Schöveningen, Holland / Amsterdam or Keukenhof & The Hague
Wednesday, May 1
Dock in the seaside resort of Schöveningen near The Hague, and choose between two excursions. You may explore Amsterdam’s canals and the famed Rijksmuseum, with its unrivaled collection of works by Dutch masters. Savor lunch aboard a private canal cruise, followed by a special opening of the Van Gogh Museum (pending confirmation). Alternatively, see a million flowering bulbs at Keukenhof Gardens during tulip season. After lunch, visit The Hague and the Mauritshuis museum, home to Vermeer’s Girl with a Pearl Earring. Then see the Peace Palace, home to the International Court of Justice. All guests will meet in The Hague and visit Panorama Mesdag, a museum housing Hendrik Madesg’s vast 1881 panoramic canvas of Scheveningen. B, L, D

Brunsbüttel / Kiel Canal Transit
Saturday, May 4
Spend the day navigating the Kiel Canal, which cuts across the Jutland Peninsula and connects the North Sea to the Baltic. While sailing, attend lectures and learn about the canal’s engineering. B, L, D

Travémünde / Berlin or Schwerin / Warnemünde
Sunday, May 5
Transfer from Travémünde, Germany, to Berlin for an expert-led look at notable landmarks and lunch atop the Reichstag. Discover Egyptian and Greek treasures in the restored Neues Museum, including the famous bust of Nefertiti. Then take an inside look at the Humboldt Forum, a museum inside the reconstructed 15th-century Berlin Palace. Alternatively, visit the romantic town of Schwerin. On an island in Lake Schwerin, join an expert guide at the medieval Schwerin Castle. In its museum, discover medieval art and 17th-century Dutch and Flemish

GRID Grafisch Museum Groningen, where you will attend a specially arranged graphics art workshop. Garden lovers may choose to visit Hortus Haren, one of Holland’s oldest botanical gardens, and the Museum De Buitenplaats, a botanical complex with flowery garden roofs. B, L, D

Hamburg, Germany or Lübeck
Friday, May 3
Hamburg’s famous port was a vital link during the Hanseatic League. Experience the city’s UNESCO-listed Speicherstadt, the world’s largest warehouse district, an ensemble of 19th- to early 20th-century brick and timber buildings on oak log foundations along the canals. Then have lunch on the rooftop of Hamburg’s magical Elbphilharmonie concert hall. After free time, attend a performance at the Elbphilharmonie (pending schedules). Alternatively, explore Lübeck, the “Queen of the Hanseatic League.” Visit the European Hansemuseum and stroll around Lübeck’s beautiful Old Town, stopping to see the Holstentor, the 15th-century Brick Gothic city gate. B, L, D
Copenhagen, Denmark
Monday, May 6
Discover why UNESCO named the Danish capital its World Capital of Architecture. Shop along the Strøget, one of the world’s longest pedestrian streets. Walk in the footsteps of Hans Christian Andersen along the waterfront Nyhavn district.

With its rainbow of famous centuries-old townhouses. After lunch, enjoy an inside look at the sleek Copenhagen Opera House, one of the world’s most expensive and modern concert halls, with its auditorium adorned with 105,000 sheets of 24-carat gold leaf. Then go behind the scenes at the 17th-century Rosenborg Castle, originally Christian IV’s summer residence, featuring 400 years of gardens and royal treasures, including Denmark’s Crown Jewels. Gather on board for the captain’s farewell reception and dinner this evening.

Ocean Albatros
Museum Island, Berlin, Germany

The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb (detail), Ghent, Belgium

Ghent, Belgium
The four-star, expedition-style Ocean Albatros has a casual, comfortable ambiance and holds 95 staterooms and suites, all with unobstructed sea views and most with their own balconies. Ocean Albatros offers two restaurants, a wellness area, a unique panorama sauna, an Albatros Nordic Bar, an open-deck dining facility, a modern lecture lounge, and other state-of-the-art amenities. The environmentally friendly vessel emphasizes sustainability and will have more than a 50% lower carbon footprint than traditional expedition vessels.

Cruise Rates

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Ocean Albatros

Rates Include

— Nine nights cabin accommodations aboard Ocean Albatros as per itinerary
— Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine during lunches and dinners
— Enrichment program of lectures and talks
— Escorting sightseeing by private motorcoach; entrance fees for included visit
— Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
— Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

Not included in rates
International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.
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metmuseum.org/travel