

The Western European Cultural History Program 2015

Itinerary

Flight to the U.K.

Edinburgh | Days 1–3

We will begin our program with an intensive orientation in Edinburgh, Scotland, that will help us to create a community of culturally aware traveling scholars.



We'll get acquainted with each other and learn the ground rules for ECHP and our unique approach to study and travel. There will also be essential introductions to the academic subject areas and the interdisciplinary framework we will use throughout the program.

Edinburgh is not only the governmental capital of Scotland, but also the cultural capital. Our tour here will take us up and down the entirety of the Royal Mile, which is the main street in Edinburgh's Old Town. We will explore the Medieval center of the city before climbing to Edinburgh Castle which sits on top of an ancient volcano overlooking the city. Other likely stops include a visit to the Scottish Parliament as well St. Giles' Cathedral, Scotland's principal Church.

London | Days 5–9



The Tower of London will bring the Middle Ages to life, while St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey will introduce us to one of Europe's most magnificent cathedrals and one of the world's most important monuments. We will see the Houses of Parliament and Buckingham Palace on walking tours.

The British Museum is a vast storehouse of treasures from every period of civilization; of special interest to us will be the Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon in Athens and the Rosetta Stone, which provided the key to deciphering ancient Egyptian writing.

The National Gallery, one of the great art collections of the world, will be a highlight of the many art museums we have visited. Included in our stay will be theater or concert performances.



Paris | Days 10–14



Paris, one of the oldest cities in Western Europe, is considered to be the art capital of the world. You will be introduced to Paris through a cruise on the Seine. Our art professor will schedule visits to the Musee du Louvre ("Mona Lisa," "Venus de Milo," Delacroix's "Liberty Leading the People" and many other priceless art treasures); the Musee D'Orsay (the world's finest collection of Impressionist paintings), and the Musee Rodin. We'll visit the Centre National d'Art et Culture Georges Pompidou (a fine collection of modern art).



A discussion on Napoleon will take place at Les Invalides, where he lies in the crypt of the Eglise du Dome, within the innermost of six successive coffins. Your history professor will also guide you through the Musee de l'Armee where you will view fascinating artifacts such as Napoleon's favorite horse and the room in which he died at St. Helena.

We will also visit Notre Dame, the Gothic chapel of Sainte Chapelle and the nearby Conciergerie, where Marie Antoinette, Robespierre and many others spent their last days in prison during the French Revolution. Tickets also will be provided to chamber music concerts at one of the following venues: Sainte Chapelle, Saint Severin, or at the Church of Saint Julien le Pauvre.

Chartres and Versailles

We will make excursions outside of Paris to Versailles, the magnificent palace of Louis XIV and to Chartres with its majestic Gothic cathedral, Notre Dame des Chartres.

Amsterdam| Days 15–17

We will travel by train to Amsterdam-the political and cultural capital of the Netherlands, where our historian will take us on a walking tour of the city. We'll be sure to visit the Ann Frank House.

Our art professor will take us on a guided tour of the Van Gogh Museum where we will discover the artist's work from earliest years to his last painting. We'll be sure to see works of the many Dutch masters in the Rijksmuseum-including such artists as Rembrandt and Vermeer.



The Rhine Valley: Bacharach | Days 18–19



We will board a steamer for a cruise on the Rhine River and glide past vineyard-covered hills and cliffs, including the Lorelei Cliff from which, as Heinrich Heine relates, “beautiful sirens lured weary sailors to the treacherous rocks”. We will spend the night in a castle with an impressive view overlooking the Rhine, in Bacharach



Munich | Days 20–24

Munich, the capital of Bavaria, is a cultural center of Germany. Our art professor will take us on a tour of the Alte Pinakothek, famous for works by Dürer, Rubens, Rembrandt, and its large collection of Dutch, French and Italian masters. We will also visit the Neue Pinakothek with works by 18th and 19th century artists and the

German Expressionists. We also plan to travel to Dachau on the outskirts of Munich, to visit the concentration camp which was established there by Nazi Germany. We will, of course, leave time for final course work and preparations for the return home.



Return Home

End of Program