2024

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS
DISCOVER • LEARN • CONNECT • EXPLORE

TREASURES OF NORTHERN EUROPE, MEDIEVAL TO MODERN
England to Denmark Aboard Ocean Albatros
April 27 – May 7, 2024

with Stephen Mitchell, Robert S. and Ilse Friend Professor of Scandinavian and Folklore

HARVARD Alumni Travels
Treasures of Northern Europe, Medieval to Modern: England to Denmark Aboard Ocean Albatros

On an enriching luxury sea voyage from the south of England to Denmark, be among the first to sail aboard the new, environmentally friendly Ocean Albatros. As you cruise, experience the lavish legacy of the medieval Hanseatic League, a northern European trade alliance whose wealth paved the way for the Renaissance.

Aboard Ocean Albatros, follow Hanseatic trade routes along the cliff-lined English Channel, the North Sea, and the Baltic. Step ashore in the Normandy region of France for inside looks at marvelous châteaux, medieval cathedrals, and World War II history. In Belgium, stop in splendid Bruges and behold the Van Eyck brothers’ Adoration of the Mystic Lamb in Ghent.

Experience Holland’s colorful tulip season and private tours of museums such as Amsterdam’s Van Gogh Museum. In Germany, join experts in sparkling Hanseatic cities including Hamburg and Lübeck. Then navigate the world’s busiest artificial waterway, the scenic, 61-mile-long Kiel Canal connecting the North Sea to the Baltic. You may step ashore for an expert-led inside look at Berlin’s incredible landmarks. Alternatively, visit little-known Schwerin, Germany, going behind the scenes of a medieval castle set on an island in a shimmering lake. Conclude with a day in spectacular Copenhagen, Denmark.

Cruise in the company of members from institutions such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art and several notable alumni associations.

Activity Level 3: "A Little More To It"

This active program involves extensive walking and standing during onshore tours. Comfortable walking shoes are essential. Temperatures during your travels in northern Europe should range from the low-50s to upper 60s F. Layered clothing is recommended for cooler nights. We suggest you bring a lined raincoat and a folding umbrella for possible rain showers. Casual dress is appropriate most of the time. For welcome and farewell dinners, jacket and tie is customary for gentlemen, with comparable attire for ladies. Smart casual clothing is suggested for other dinners aboard Ocean Albatros. This new ship has an elevator.

Stephen A. Mitchell is the Robert S. and Ilse Friend Professor of Scandinavian and Folklore at Harvard University. His research focuses on the Nordic world during the medieval and early modern periods. He employs a range of interdisciplinary approaches, such as performance theory, memory studies, anthropological linguistics, and other perspectives centered on folklore.

He is a former Master of Eliot House (1991-2000) and, together with colleagues from the University of Aarhus and Moesgaard Museum, Denmark, he annually teaches in and directs Harvard’s Viking Studies Program in Scandinavia, featured in USA Today as one of the nation’s most unique study abroad programs. A frequent award recipient, Mitchell is the author of many publications, his most recent being Old Norse Folklore: Tradition, Innovation, and Performance in Medieval Scandinavia, from Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, arriving in late 2023.

For more information, visit alumni.harvard.edu/travel
Schedule by Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 27  
Departure  
Depart for London on an overnight flight. D

SUNDAY, APRIL 28  
London, United Kingdom / Portsmouth / Embark Ocean Albatros  
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

MONDAY, APRIL 29  
Ouistreham, France / Caen  
From the port of Ouistreham, visit historic Caen, whose Norman treasures have survived the centuries. Continue to Bayeaux and the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy. Then visit the town’s 11th-century cathedral, in which you will find the remarkable Bayeux Tapestry, one of the most renowned surviving works of medieval art. Stop at Malcolm Forbes’s 17th-century Château de Balleroy to visit the Musée des Ballons, which houses Forbes’s hot-air balloon collection, and enjoy a cocktail reception. 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

TUESDAY, APRIL 30  
Ostend, Belgium / Bruges / Ghent  
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 Eycks’ 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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1  
Scheveningen, Holland / Amsterdam or Keukenhof & The Hague  
Dock in the seaside resort of Scheveningen 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 Mesoag’s vast 1881 panoramic canvas of Scheveningen. B,L,D

THURSDAY, MAY 2  
Delfzijl / Groningen  
Step ashore in Delfzijl, Holland, and transfer to Groningen, a virtual open-air museum. Discover the gems of its Grote

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
Markt (Great Market Square), including the Gothic Martinikerk, a 13th-century church with beautiful frescoes and a baroque organ. As a contemporary contrast, tour the Groninger Museum, a futuristic structure showcasing modern and contemporary art. After lunch, learn about traditional printmaking at the 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.

Alternatively, spend the day in Lübeck, the “Queen of the Hanseatic League.” Visit the European Hansemuseum, which includes interactive displays on Hanseatic trade. Stroll around Lübeck’s beautiful Old Town, stopping to see the Holstentor, the 15th-century Brick Gothic city gate.

B,L,D

FRIDAY, MAY 3
Hamburg, Germany or Lübeck

Dating back more than eight centuries, Hamburg’s famous port was a vital link during the Hanseatic League. Experience the city’s iconic, UNESCO-listed Speicherstadt district, 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, which features a glistening wave-like top soaring hundreds of feet into the sky. After free time, you may attend a musical performance at the Elbphilharmonie (pending schedules).

SUNDAY, MAY 5
Travemünde / Berlin or Schwerin / Warnemünde

Transfer from Travemünde, Germany, to Berlin for an expert-led look at landmarks including the striking Holocaust Memorial. At the Reichstag’s rooftop restaurant, enjoy lunch as you take in gorgeous city views. 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, an ambitious museum housed in the reconstructed 15th-century Berlin Palace.

Alternatively, visit Schwerin, one of northern Germany’s most romantic historical towns. On an island in shimmering Lake Schwerin, join an expert guide amid lush gardens at the medieval Schwerin Castle. In its museum, discover medieval art, 17th-century Dutch and Flemish paintings, and a large collection of works by Marcel Duchamp. Then marvel at the towering Gothic cathedral in Schwerin’s charming Old Town. Rejoin Ocean Albatros in Warnemünde and sail to Copenhagen.

B,L,D

MONDAY, MAY 6
Copenhagen, Denmark

In the spectacular Danish capital, shop along the Strøget, one of the world’s longest pedestrian streets, and stroll along the quay of Nyhavn, with its rainbow of famous centuries-old townhouses. After lunch, continue to the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art and its impressive 20th-century collection, including several works by Henry Moore. Gather on board for the captain’s farewell reception and dinner this evening.

B,L,R,D

TUESDAY, MAY 7
Copenhagen / Disembark / Return

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home.

B

© 2023 Arrangements Abroad Inc.
All Rights Reserved.
Ocean Albatros

Being unveiled in June 2023, Ocean Albatros holds 95 comfortable 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.

Rates Include

• Nine nights cabin accommodations aboard Ocean Albatros
• 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
• Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
• Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
• Gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuity
• Taxes, service, and porterage charges

Not Included:
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.

Cover: Mont-Saint-Michel, France. Trip Registration page: Adoration of the Mystic Lamb (detail) (top); and Groningen Museum, Holland (bottom)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
Trip Registration is Easy

Step 1: Click this link: alumni.harvard.edu/haatripform

Step 2: Fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

Step 3: Look for an email confirmation from Harvard Alumni Travels.

To review this program’s terms and conditions, visit https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/northern_europe_2024

TRAVEL WITH HARVARD
QUESTIONS? CONTACT US AT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL 800-422-1636
HAATRAVELS@HARVARD.EDU