

Vassar Travel Program

Educational Excursions for Alumnae/i, Family, and Friends

London: Art & Ballet

March 19 - 28, 2015

Exploring the Worlds of Art and Ballet in London with Susan Kuretsky, Professor of Art and John Meehan, Professor of Dance and Director of Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre

Dear Vassar travelers,

As colleagues on the Vassar faculty and as friends who greatly appreciate each other's areas of expertise, we are delighted to invite you to join us for a London arts adventure in a city that has long been one of the world's greatest centers for art and dance.

Our explorations will take us to both exciting ballet performances and visits to a selection of famous and lesser-known galleries and museums. Our goal will be to experience and discuss a range of major artistic creations, while also learning more about London's historical evolution as a center for the arts. Indeed, London—perhaps more than any other city in the world—can become a classroom in which to consider the origins, history and development of museums and this city's extraordinary institutions and facilities for both art and dance.

In our museum visits we will consider the history of each institution as a whole, as it relates to the larger history of art collecting, and will focus upon examining and discussing, on-site, a small selection of the finest works in each collection. During each visit, generous time will also be available for members of the group to wander freely in order to make their own discoveries.

In dance, we will get a sense of the spectrum of brilliant choreography created over the past 150 years, attending performances of the Royal Ballet Company, Covent Garden, in a variety of repertoire including traditional classical ballet, modern masterpieces, and brand new creations. We will also have the opportunity to appreciate the stylistic range and technical excellence of today's ballet artists, attending the final round of a competition of young dancers from the English National Ballet entitled Emerging Dancers. On a less formal note, we will dine with some ballet luminaries and have a peek backstage at the Royal Opera House and the Royal Ballet School.

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Land only (no airfare included): **\$5680**
Single supplement: **\$1580**

Airfares are available from many U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

The following services are included:

- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation at the Washington Mayfair hotel. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Meals:** Full breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 4 dinners.
- Guides:** Professor Susan Kuretsky, Professor John Meehan and a Discover Europe tour director throughout.
- Tickets:** Best seats for 4 performances.
- Expenses:** Portage of one large suitcase per person.
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary.

Note: Additional special guest visits are still in the process of being finalized.



The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden

For many of us, this may not be our first visit to London, but the dual focus of our trip should provide many opportunities for lively and illuminating conversations about matters of great interest to us all. We hope that you will join us as we explore and share what promises to be a unique, edifying and, above all, extremely enjoyable experience.

With warm regards,

Susan Donahue Kuretsky '63
Sarah Gibson Blanding
Professor of Art

John Meehan
Professor/Chair of Dance,
Director VRDT, Frances Daly
Fergusson Chair in the
Humanities

Thursday, March 19th

Overnight flight to London from your chosen international gateway.

Overnight: Plane

Friday, March 20th

Your morning arrival at London Heathrow Airport will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After time to unpack and rest up from the overnight flight, there will be an orientation meeting and free time to begin exploring the neighborhood. This evening the group will gather for a reception and dinner. **(D)**

Overnight: London

Saturday, March 21st

We'll begin the day with a morning breakfast meeting to go over the highlights and schedule of the day's activities. We begin with a panoramic sightseeing tour of London with a local guide, designed to give newcomers an overview of this great city and acquaint returning travelers with its many charms. From Trafalgar Square to the South Bank, London is bursting with energy, and your guide will ensure that you are aware of the latest happenings as well as all the old favorites. We'll end our tour with a visit to the Tate Modern, where you can have lunch and spend as much time as you like browsing the gallery. This evening we will gather again to attend a performance of Swan Lake at the Royal Opera House. **(B)**

Overnight: London



The National Gallery

Sunday, March 22nd

This morning we drive to the desirable suburb of north London, known as Hampstead, famous for its artistic and literary connections. Here we'll visit Kenwood House. Recently reopened in 2013 after major renovations, Kenwood is a marvelous example of the work of the architect Robert Adam and houses a magnificent art collection. The afternoon is free after our return to central London – or perhaps you'd like to stay on in Hampstead. Early this evening, we'll gather for a lecture at the hotel by professors Kuretsky and Meehan and then we will be free to sample local restaurants for dinner. **(B)**

Overnight: London

Monday, March 23rd

A full day exploring central London galleries. We'll begin at the National Gallery, the repository of the Nation's collection of fine art from the mid-13th century up to 1900. Just around the corner is the National Portrait Gallery, which we will visit and then break for lunch. Strolling back down Piccadilly towards our hotel, we'll stop in at the Royal Academy. This evening we'll enjoy an early supper in Shepherd Market, a delightfully tucked-away area of Mayfair, just behind our hotel and then attend the final of the Emerging Dancer competition at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. Organised by the English National Ballet to nurture and recognise young talent, the final tonight is between the top 6 finalists performing before a panel of expert judges. **(B, D)**

Overnight: London

Tuesday, March 24th

An excursion today outside the city. Our first stop will be at the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Founded in 1811, Dulwich was the first purpose-built public art gallery and now contains one of the country's finest collections of Old Masters. After a visit here, we'll leave the city behind and venture into the Kent countryside. We'll have lunch in a country pub along the way and spend the afternoon at Knole House. Knole was the childhood home of Vita Sackville-West and the house contains works by Van Dyck, Gainsborough and Sir Joshua Reynolds. We'll return to London for a free evening. **(B, L)**

Overnight: London

Wednesday, March 25th

This morning we'll have a tour of the Queen's Gallery in Buckingham Palace. First opened in 1962, the Gallery displays the Queen's collection that she holds in trust for the nation – as opposed to her private collection. This afternoon we will take a backstage tour of the Royal Opera House, and then, after a break for dinner, attend a performance of The Bayadere Project. **(B, D)**

Overnight: London

Thursday, March 26th

Our day begins with a visit to the Wallace Collection, a private collection of some 5,500 objects, bequeathed to the nation by the widow of Sir Richard Wallace and known for the quality of the 18th-century French paintings. We will transfer from here to the Covent Garden area for lunch. After lunch we walk to the Courtauld Institute, particularly known for its collection of French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings. As a contrast, we round off the day with a short stroll to the Sir John Soane Museum, an amazingly eclectic assortment of everything collected by the late architect (1753-1837). The evening is free. **(B, L)**

Overnight: London



Knole House

Friday, March 27th

A completely free day to explore London. As Dr. Samuel Johnson said, "The man who is tired of London is tired of life, for in London there is all that life can afford!" Explore some of the other museums of the city, enjoy shopping along Oxford Street, or join the crowds in the markets of Covent Garden or Camden Lock. We gather early this evening for a farewell dinner at a restaurant in Covent Garden before attending a performance of the Four Temperaments program at the Royal Opera House. **(B, D)**

Overnight: London

Saturday, March 28th

Morning transfers are included to Heathrow Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

Overnight: Home

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner

Vassar Travel Program

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Registration Form

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make checks payable to DISCOVER EUROPE, LTD.
2. Detach the bottom section and mail it to Discover Europe with your registration deposit of \$800 per person. The remaining balance will be billed and payable 90 days prior to trip departure.
3. Please make sure that your name appears on this form exactly as on your passport.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Flight Information:

- a). Discover Europe will be very happy to book your flights for you. The fee for this service is \$25 per ticket.
- b). If you are arranging your own flights to join the tour, it is essential that Discover Europe has your complete flight information. Please make sure you give us the following: dates of travel, airline(s), flight numbers, departure and arrival airports and departure and arrival times for all flight segments that you have booked.

2. Rooming Requirements:

- Please tick the appropriate boxes. We will book non-smoking rooms (where available) unless otherwise requested.
- i). If you are sharing a room, please let us know with whom. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, we will be happy to try and match you up but unfortunately cannot guarantee that this will be possible. If no match is available, the single supplement will apply.
 - ii). A twin room has two separate single beds in it. A double room has one large bed. Please let us know your preference.

TERMS & CONDITIONS:

Registration and payment waive and release Discover Europe, Ltd., and the Vassar Travel Program, their affiliates, directors, officers, employees, including any person or entity employed or utilized by them, from all claims arising from any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or expense resulting from events beyond their control, including, without limitation: natural disasters, war, strikes, incidents of politically-motivated violence, sickness or quarantine, government restrictions or regulations, and in the absence of its own gross negligence, arising from the use of any vehicle or from any act of omission by any bus or car rental agency, airline, taxi or tour service, hotel, restaurant, or other firm, agency, company or individual.

TOUR COST ADJUSTMENTS:

Discover Europe makes every effort to guarantee that the published cost of your chosen tour will not change - in fact we have not had to invoke this clause in the contract in 13 years of operation. However we do reserve the right to make adjustments in the following circumstances:

1. Exchange rates. Should the value of the dollar fall against the currency of the countries visited on your tour by more than 10% in the year prior to trip departure.
2. Group size. Your tour has been based on a group size of 16 paying participants. Should we end up with less than 16 people, Discover Europe will work with the group

organizer to determine a course of action which will involve either paying a surcharge to keep the tour as is, or making adjustments to the tour in order to keep the cost the same.

REFUND POLICY:

1. Participants who withdraw more than 60 days prior to tour departure will receive a refund of all monies received by Discover Europe, Ltd., less a \$200 cancellation penalty.
2. Participants who withdraw less than 60 days prior to tour departure will be assessed the following cancellation penalties:

59-30 days prior	\$2000 per person
29-2 days prior	\$3000 per person
less than 2 days prior	No refund
3. Comprehensive travel insurance is **not** included in your tour package. Discover Europe, Ltd., strongly advises that you purchase travel insurance for your upcoming trip. The Vassar Travel Program will be providing you with details of a recommended insurance company.
4. All cancellation requests must be received in writing (by mail or e-mail).
5. There is no provision for refund for any activities missed due to the participant's absence once the tour has started.

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS:

1. All inclusions on *London: Art & Ballet* are listed on this itinerary.
2. The following are not included (unless specifically mentioned in the itinerary): transportation to and from the participant's home to their departure airport, passport fees, excess baggage charges, and items of a personal nature.

Responsibility Clause: Participation of the Vassar Travel Program / Vassar College (VTP) is limited to the educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). VTP and their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, and/or representatives (agents) assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus, or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any sub-contractor or other third party which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will VTP and/or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, acts of nature or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. Participants understand risks and responsibilities inherent in travel described in the brochure and participate at their own risk. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to VTP. Additional expenses if any will be borne by the participants. VTP reserves the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by VTP to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

1. Passenger Details:

Passenger Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: (____) _____

Work Telephone: (____) _____

Date(s) of Birth: _____ / _____

Passport No. (passenger 1): _____ Expires: _____

Passport No. (passenger 2): _____ Expires: _____

e-mail address: _____

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

Health Information: _____

2. Trip Details:

Itinerary Name: _____ **London: Art & Ballet**

Departure Date: _____

Departure Airport or City: _____

I would like to extend my trip to: _____

Your Vassar Travel Program Hosts:



Susan Donahue Kuretsky is the Sarah Gibson Blanding Professor of Art and a member of Vassar's class of 1963, received her Ph.D. from Harvard University and taught at Boston University before coming back to Vassar. A specialist in the art of the Netherlands, she has published a monograph on the Dutch genre painter Jacob Ochtervelt, numerous articles on Rembrandt and seventeenth century print-making, co-authored the catalogue of Dutch paintings at the Detroit Institute of Arts and produced the 2005 traveling exhibition, Time and Transformation in Seventeenth Century Dutch Art. That experience led to the development of a course called "The Museum in History, Theory and Practice," while recent articles on science and technology in Dutch art have been inspired by teaching a Vassar seminar called "Art and Science in the Age of Vermeer." Her current project – a book to be titled Rembrandt's Animals – will explore a largely ignored aspect of this artist's work in relation to the artistic and scientific issues of his period.

John Meehan was a principal dancer with the Australian Ballet, American Ballet Theater and was a frequent guest artist with the New York City Ballet and National Ballet of Canada. He has partnered many of the world's great ballerinas including Dame Margot Fonteyn, Natalia Makarova, Merrill Ashley, Gelsey Kirkland, Cynthia Gregory, Karen Kain, and the Australian ballet stars Marilyn Rowe and Marilyn Jones. John has choreographed ballets for The Australian Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Washington Ballet, Metropolitan Opera, and Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Meehan also served as the artistic director of Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, The American Ballet Theatre Studio Company and the Hong Kong Ballet. In 2013 Meehan was named to the Frances Daly Fergusson Chair in the Humanities at Vassar College, where he is currently Chair of the dance department and the Director of Vassar Repertory Dance Theatre.



The Vassar Travel Program
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Poughkeepsie, NY 12604
Call: (845) 437-5453
e-mail: suquade@vassar.edu

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Please return this form to:
Discover Europe, Ltd.
95 Adams St., Keene, NH 03431
Toll Free: (866) 563-7077
discovereurope@earthlink.net



2015 Vassar

3. Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Telephone: (_____) _____

4. Flight Information:

Do you want Discover Europe to book your flights: Yes No

Flight details (if self-arranged) _____

5. Rooming Requirements:

I will be sharing with: _____

We would like a double twin bedded room

I would like a single room (see itinerary for supplement)

6. Signatures:

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risk inherent therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Vassar College and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licensees, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, the tour.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____