

Society for Asian Art

Asian Art in Northern Europe Tour

August 9-21 2015

With Optional Extension in Berlin

August 9: Depart the USA

August 10: Monday. Stockholm.

Independent arrivals Stockholm.

Stockholm, Sweden's capital city, spreads out over 14 islands in Lake Mälaren and looks out proudly to the Baltic Sea to the east. Her grand public buildings, palaces, rich cultural history and museums tell her 700 year-old history beautifully.

Everyone will make their own way, to the *Radisson Blu Waterfront*: to check-in. Situated in the heart of Stockholm, the Radisson offers scenic views of City Hall and surrounding rivers. The cobble stone streets of Old Town are also located minutes away, showcasing classical German architecture from the 18th century.

Evening welcome reception at the hotel. Includes two glasses of wine, mineral water and 4 hors d'oeuvres. **R**

August 11: Tuesday. Stockholm.

After breakfast depart the hotel by private bus to drive to the Museum for Far Eastern Antiquities, located on Skeppsholmen in the middle of Stockholm, The Museum for Far Eastern Antiquities, is a vivid meeting place for Asian cultures, a forum for experiences and debate on Asia in the world, culturally and traditionally – both in the present and in the future.

Begin our time at the museum with a lecture on “Osvald Siren and Asian Art in Stockholm”. Osvald Siren was an art historian, whose interests included the art of 18th century Sweden, Renaissance Italy and China. Siren was a Scholar of Italian Trecento but more notably one of the early Western scholars and collectors of Asian art; professor of Fine Arts at Stockholm University, 1908-1925 and Keeper of Painting and Sculpture, National Museum in Stockholm, 1928-1944.

Walk 10 minutes to have a 2-course lunch at the Grand Hotel which is located near the museum and overlooking the bay. Rich in history and tradition, the more than 130 year old Grand Hôtel Stockholm occupies prime position on the city's waterfront, a timeless classic that has played a pivotal role in shaping Stockholm as the cosmopolitan city that it is today. One of Scandinavia's leading luxury hotels, Grand Hôtel Stockholm has borne witness to some of the world's greatest achievements, and to this day, continues to makes its presence felt far beyond its shores.

Afternoon free to further explore the museum and meet members of the Friends of Östasiatiska museet.

Independent return to the Radisson Blu Waterfront.

Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening in the wonderful Smorgastarteriet restaurant. We have selected the Provincial Journey menu

Travel and return to the restaurant by private bus **B,L,D**.

August 12: Wednesday. Stockholm.

After breakfast, take a private bus to the Museum for Far Eastern Antiquities for a private art handling opportunity with museum curators.

Travel by private bus to Stockholm's old town and enjoy delicious Swedish cuisine for lunch today in Stockholm's old quarter at the Tradition Gamla Stan. We have selected the tasting menu.

Free afternoon in Old Town which is the original Stockholm, the town was built during the 1300 century.

Old Town or Gamla Stan, is composed of the islands Stadsholmen and Riddarholmen whose famous labyrinth of cobbled streets, alleyways, colored town houses, and meeting squares reflect Stockholm's undeniable charm. Make your way through the narrow streets to the Royal Palace and the Royal Chapel to admire the beautiful baroque architecture. Stop by Stortorget, Old Town's largest square, where you will find street musicians playing amongst the beautiful colorful old merchants' homes that surround the square. Stroll by the many cafes, restaurants, studios and galleries that make up this delightful neighborhood.

Independent return to the hotel.

Evening at leisure. **B,L**.

August 13: Thursday. Cologne.

Morning depart by private bus to the airport for a flight to Dusseldorf. Upon arrival, you will be met and taken by bus – drive of about 45 minutes – directly to Cologne, Germany's fourth largest city.

Upon arrival in Cologne transfer to the *Excelsior Hotel Ernst* for check-in. Located along the Rhine River, the Excelsior Hotel Ernst, is just a few steps from the famous Cologne Cathedral whose beautiful gothic architecture is the centerpiece of the city.

After lunch at the hotel, travel by private bus to the Museum of East Asian Art. The museum hosts an outstanding collection of Chinese antiquities, Buddhist paintings and sculptures, Japanese screen paintings, woodblock prints, and Korean ceramics and lacquer. The museum is also known for its beautiful architecture striking modern design by architect Kunio Maekawa in 1977 in a tranquil setting with a large pond and beautiful Japanese garden.

Return to the hotel by bus.

Enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant within walking distance of the hotel. **B,L,D**

August 14: Friday. Cologne

After breakfast travel by private bus to the Museum of East Asian Art. Upon arrival at the museum enjoy a lecture on "Aldolph and Frieda Fischer". The Fischer's founded the Museum of East Asian Art in Cologne in 1913. The impressive museum housed an array of paintings and sculptures from Japanese Buddhists dating back as far as 784 AD.

After the lecture enjoy a guided tour of art storage at the Museum of East Asian Art.

Afternoon lunch at museum with museum friends group.

Spend the afternoon on a half-day tour with local guide discovering Cologne which sits along both sides of the beautiful Rhine River and boasts its 2,000 years of history through striking roman towers and gothic cathedrals. Rich in ancient culture, Cologne is home to more than thirty museums and hundreds of galleries. Stop by the Cologne Cathedral, the city's most famous monument, to view its beautiful stained windows and gothic architecture that took 800 years to complete. Head over to Cologne's Old Town to admire its colorful houses, historic town center and tower. Explore Gross St. Martin, the famous Romanesque cathedral that was re-opened in 1985 following sever damage during World War II. Stroll through the lovely Botanical Gardens Flora along the Rhine River.

Dinner at leisure. **B,L.**

August 15: Saturday. Zurich.

Morning depart to the airport by private bus for a morning flight to Zurich. Depart at 10.55am and arrive at 12.00pm.

Zürich, Switzerland's largest city, situated on the North West tip of Lake Zürich is surrounded by the captivating snowcapped Alps in the distance. This vibrant city is the heart of Switzerland offering a variety of multicultural activities, natural beauty, and timeless architecture.

Upon arrival transfer to the *Swissotel Zurich*. Located in the center of Zurich, this hotel offers magnificent panoramic views of the city, as well as, the Swiss Alps.

Enjoy a two-course lunch at Zum Vorbahnhof Restaurant

Drive by private bus for an afternoon visit to the Rietberg Museum. Founded in 1952, the Rietberg Museum is situated on the 17-acre Rieterpark in central Zurich, consisting of several historic buildings: the Wesendonck Villa, the Remise, the Rieter Park-Villa, and the Schönberg Villa. The museum is the only art museum for non-European cultures in Switzerland exhibiting an internationally renowned collection of art from Asia, Africa and Ancient America.

Return to the hotel by bus.

Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. **B,L,D.**

August 16: Sunday. Zurich

After breakfast travel by private bus to Rietberg Museum. Upon arrival at the museum enjoy a lecture on "Eduard von der Heydt", a German and Swiss banker and art collector, whose collections were the basis for the creation of the Rietberg Museum.

After the lecture enjoy viewing the open storage.

Travel by private bus for a guided tour of art storage at the Museum of East Asian Art.

Enjoy a meeting at the museum with its friends group.

Lunch at a local restaurant

Enjoy a afternoon half-day tour with special local guide visiting some of the beautiful attractions in Zurich. Head to Bahnhofstrasse, Zurich's most popular boulevard for fashion and art. Stop by the Opera House and Grossmünster en route to see the beautiful Lake Zurich. Walk through Zurich's historic Old Town, which features cobblestone streets, magnificent architecture, small cafes, and many of the city's most significant religious landmarks.

Dinner at leisure, **B,L**.

August 17: Monday. Berlin

Morning transfer by private bus to the airport for a flight to Berlin. Depart at 10.40am and arrive at 12.05pm.

With a population of 3.4 million people, Berlin is Germany's largest city, the second most populous city proper, and the seventh most populous urban area in the European Union. Home to 440 galleries, scores of world-class collections and some 10,000 international artists, Berlin has assumed a pole position on the global artistic circuit.

Upon arrival in Berlin, drop our luggage at the *Adina Apartment Hotel Berlin Hackescher Markt*.

The Adina Apartment Hotel Berlin Hackescher Markt is situated right in the heart of the historic Mitte district. It's close to Berlin's famous Hackesche Höfe that boasts ancient courtyards with an exquisite selection of shops, restaurants and theatres.

Bus will drop you off for lunch close to the Pergamom and Neues Museums on Museum Island. Walk around the exterior of the Pergamom Museum, and spend the afternoon in the Neues Museum.

Return to the hotel by taxis or public transportation.

Check-in and have dinner at a restaurant close to the hotel. **B,L,D**.

We have included a 3-day consecutive Berlin Museum Pass which opens the doors to a number of the city's big museums. From impressive works of art, archaeological treasures from six thousand years of human history and touching historical monuments to technical inventions and interactive experiments All the information you need about the individual museums can be found in the handy guide "Museen entdecken" ("Museums to enjoy") which is included with the ticket.

Ticket will begin on April 18th and end on the 20th of August.

We have also included a 3-day Berlin City Tour card which is a transport pass and allows transportation on the U-Bahn. Card will begin on the 18th and end on the 20th.

August 18: Tuesday. Berlin

9.00am. We have arranged a visit of the Reichstag Building. The Reichstag Building was home to the German Parliament from 1894 until 1933, when it was severely damaged by a fire. The ruined building was left largely unused until the German reunification in 1990, when it underwent reconstruction by architect Norman Foster. Today it houses the German Parliament once again the tour ends at Norman Foster's gorgeous glass cupola on its terrace roof. Helical ramps allow people to ascend to the cupola's top and enjoy a 360-degree view of the city — while symbolically standing above the heads of their elected representatives in the chamber below.

After the tour, meet our local guide for a morning city tour exploring Berlin by bus. Explore Brandenburg Gate, built in the 18th century, is a defining symbol of Berlin and both the city's division and unification. Check-point Charlie.

End the tour at Neue Synagogue, one of Germany's largest synagogues. This magnificent building was the symbol of the Jewish community in Berlin.

Bus will drop you off at a local restaurant near Museum Island for lunch.

After lunch, walk over to the Museum Island to tour the Bode Museum with its famous collection of Byzantine Art, and the Alte/Old Museum collection of 19th C. painting and sculpture.

Return to the hotel using the U-Bahn.

Dinner at your own leisure. **B,L**

August 19: Wednesday. Berlin

Travel by U-Bahn to visit the **Museum of Asian Art**. Upon arrival enjoy a lecture on "Bringing Asian Art to Berlin."

After the lecture visit the South Asian and Central Asian galleries. The museum houses one of the most important collections worldwide of art from the Indo-Asian cultural region dating from the 4th millennium BC to the present day. Key focal areas include early Indian sculpture and Silk Route art, as well as art from China, Japan and Korea on display in individual galleries and as part of an academic collection. Also notable is the acclaimed Turfan collection, named after the first of four royal Prussian expeditions along the northern Silk Route (now Xinjiang, People's Republic of China) between 1902 and 1914: the highlight is a full-scale reconstruction of a quadratic temple decorated with the original murals from Cave 123 in the Kucha oasis.

Lunch at the restaurant 'eßkultur' at the museum.

After lunch, enjoy a guided visit of the storage galleries of South Asian and Central Asian art.

Meet with Gesellschaft für Indo-Asiatische Kunst (Society for Indo-Asian Art): With members dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Indo-Asian art, the Society for Indo-Asian Art organizes lectures and excursions to inform interested members of the public. As a result, the society has worked with the Museum for many years.

Enjoy dinner at your own leisure. **B,L**.

August 20: Thursday. Berlin

Travel by U-Bahn to the Museum of Asian Art to visit the China, Korea and Japan galleries. The arts of China, Japan and Korea are exhibited in individual galleries surrounding a central room dedicated to items of Buddhist art common to all three cultures.

Chinese archaeology is represented with important ancient bronzes, early ceramics and objects made of jade. Characteristic examples of porcelain and lacquer-work are also on show. A small porcelain goblet, which dates from the early 17th century and once belonged to the art collection of the Electors of Brandenburg, is of particular cultural and historical significance. The examples of lacquer-work include a 17th-century imperial throne with an accompanying screen. This masterpiece, made of palisander wood with an inlay of mother-of-pearl in a lacquer and gold base, is on display in a special room of its own.

The museum's highlights include the collection of Japanese paintings and East Asian lacquerwork by Klaus Friedrich Naumann, a Berlin-born art dealer and collector who lives in Tokyo.

Painting and calligraphy, a field in which the Museum's collection is outstanding and which is traditionally regarded with highest esteem, is highlighted by a number of particularly fine examples in the Chinese and Japanese galleries. The Museum's impressive collection of mainly Japanese woodcuts is presented in a series of special exhibitions. The tea-room, Bôki, built by Japanese carpenters, is a new attraction in the Japanese gallery, serving as an exhibition piece in itself as well as demonstrating the tea ceremony.

In the entrance section visitors will have access to a variety of modern information sources such as a video room and a number of computer terminals. The study collection on the intermediary floor offers deeper insights into aspects of the collection.

Lunch at the restaurant 'eßkultur' at the museum.

Afternoon: guided visit to museum storage, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese art.

Meet with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ostasiatische Kunst (Society for East Asian Art): The Society for East Asian Art prioritizes the acquisition of new art and subsequent promotion of newly found relationships. Their goals have helped to broaden The Museum's already fascinating collection of East Asian art.

Return to the hotel by U-Bahn

Farewell dinner with Dr. Abe at Sucre et Sel Restaurant. **B,L,D.**

August 21: Friday.

One transfer to the airport which will be for the flight back to the US. **B**

Trip Price

20-24 paying travelers: \$6,720

Single room supplement: \$1,340

Includes:

- Accommodations based on double occupancy in hotels as listed.
- The following flights in economy class
 - Stockholm/Dusseldorf
 - Cologne/Zurich
 - Zurich/Berlin
- Meals as listed in the program – with large bottles of water to be shared at each meal.
- All sightseeing and entrances listed
- Transportation as specified in the itinerary
- A Distant Horizons tour manager who will accompany the group throughout
- Local guides as listed for specific sightseeing in cities as listed
- All tips to drivers and staff, portorage of luggage in hotels.
- A \$400 per person contribution to the Society for Asian art.
- Dr. Stanley Abe will accompany the group and provide a series of four lectures in the course of the program. In addition Dr. Abe's wife and daughter will be joining the program.

Does not include:

- International airfare to and from Europe
- Visa and passport fees
- Drinks other than water with meals
- Trip cancellation insurance
- Health insurance
- Excess luggage charges
- Laundry charges
- Communication (phone, fax and internet) charges
- Any items not listed

Optional Extension

August 21: Friday. Berlin:

Begin our tour at the Gemaeldegalerie with its collection of Rembrandts and Vermeers. Continue to the Jewish Museum, a magnificent building built by architect Daniel Liebeskind. Take a walk around the exterior before visiting the exhibits inside that will take you on an intriguing journey through Jewish history.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

After lunch we have arranged a half-day guided tour concentrating on contemporary galleries, and private collections. (We will know more about our exact itinerary as we get closer to August 2015.) We will definitely include a visit to the BMW Foundation 'Herbert Quandt', "Natura Naturata" exhibit, featuring Chinese, European, and American artists. There is a spectacular view of Berlin from this space.

Evening at your leisure, to try another Berlin restaurant, or continue visiting more galleries. (We will have more suggestions for optional musical and cultural events as we get closer to the trip.) **B,L**.

August 22: Saturday. Berlin

After breakfast head to the Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin's contemporary art museum. A former railway station, Hamburger Bahnhof was reopened as a museum in 1996. The buildings Neoclassical style was conceived by the architect and railway pioneer Friedrich Neuhaus.

Afternoon visit to the Nolde Foundation. The current museum, once the residential building of Emil Nolde, was designed by the artist in 1927 reflecting the era's Bauhaus architecture. Today you can view his paintings, as well as, his studio and beautiful garden.

Visit the Kunst Gallerie. One of the newer museums in Berlin, this museum collects art from 1870 to present day with both an international and local focus. Founded in 1975, the museum is a great representation of the art of the divided and reunified city of Berlin.

Final dinner this evening. **B,L,D**.

Trip price based on

10-14 travelers: \$885

15-19 Travelers: \$845

Single room supplement: \$240

1. Accommodation with breakfast at Adina Apartment Hotel Hackescher Markt for 2 nights
2. 2 lunches and 1 dinner at local restaurants
3. Two museum passes for 3 days (this is the only pass they do, so the people taking the extension will have a 2 X 3-day passes).
4. Audio guides at the Jewish Museum.
5. Supplement for 5-day City Tour Card (transport pass) instead of 3-day pass included in main program
6. Services of a Distant Horizons tour manager
7. Private coach transfer from the hotel to Berlin airport on 23rd August for a designed group flight

Notes:

1. Entrance to the Topography of Terror is free of charge.
2. Jewish Museum and Hamburger Bahnhof are both covered by the museum pass.

Does Not Include

1. Dr. Abe will not participate in the Berlin extension
2. Any items not listed
3. Private transfers on the 23rd if the traveler is not on the group flight