Elbe River Cruise

Prague to Berlin

aboard Elbe Princesse II

March 31–April 11, 2020

James Hepokoski

Henry L. & Lucy G. Moses Professor of Music
Dear Yale Traveler,

The Elbe River has long been an important delineator of east and west in Europe. Linking two of the continent’s most fascinating capitals, Prague and Berlin, it traverses a land filled with captivating treasures. I invite you to join Yale for a journey through cosmopolitan cities and picturesque towns; terraced vineyards and lush orchards; fortress-crowned crags; and the spectacular gorges of “Saxon Switzerland.” We’ll cruise aboard the newly built, all-inclusive Elbe Princesse II from Bohemia to the former East Germany as we learn about the broad sweep of history that defines this region.

We’ll have the pleasure of traveling with Yale Professor of Music James Hepokoski as our study leader. His specialty in the operatic, symphonic and chamber music of the 18th–20th centuries brings a unique cultural lens to our explorations. We’ll visit Prague Castle, a sprawling 9th-century complex that has served as the seat of power for kings of Bohemia, Holy Roman emperors, and presidents of Czechoslovakia. Other tour highlights include historic Jewish synagogues and cemeteries; World War II memorials; Meissen’s fine porcelain workshop; the treasures of Dresden’s Green Vault and Zwinger Palace; the famous Bauhaus school of architecture; and Potsdam’s whimsical Sanssouci, summer residence of Frederick the Great, notable for the numerous temples and follies within its park.

This intimate voyage aboard the Elbe Princesse II has space for just 70 guests, so we’ve partnered with the Harvard Alumni Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation to create a collegial atmosphere of travelers who are all excited about learning. To ensure your place on this voyage, please make your reservation by calling (203) 432-1952, or make a secure reservation online at yaleedtravel.org/elbe20

With best wishes from Yale,

Lauren Summers
Senior Director of Alumni Lifelong Learning and Travel
Yale Alumni Association

yaleedtravel.org/elbe20
Highlights

Savor an elegant dinner and private musical performance in one of Prague's historic castles.

Marvel at the glittering treasures of the Green Vault and the incredible collection of Old Masters paintings at the Zwinger Museum in Dresden.

Explore Wittenberg and its Castle Church more than 500 years after Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses to start the Protestant Reformation.

Stroll the fanciful gardens of Sanssouci Palace at Potsdam, and explore Cecilienhof Palace, where Truman, Churchill, and Stalin met in 1945 to redesign the map of Europe.

Yale Study Leader

JAMES HEPOKOSKI is the Henry L. & Lucy G. Moses Professor of Music, and a frequent and popular lecturer with Yale Alumni Association educational travel programs. Professor Hepokoski is a specialist in operatic, symphonic, and chamber music from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, with particular expertise in musical style and its political and cultural implications. He is the author or co-author of seven books and dozens of essays on a wide variety of topics. These include studies of Verdi, Sibelius, and Debussy, as well as his award-winning book Elements of Sonata Theory. He has also given several preconcert lectures at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall. At Yale he teaches a generous selection of music courses, among which are a much-praised survey of music history as well as numerous graduate and undergraduate seminars ranging from Mozart, Beethoven, and European Nationalism to American Music, 1920s Blues, and Cole Porter songs. Students have remarked on his lively and entertaining lectures, which illuminate aesthetic and historical points embedded in the classical repertory. In 2010 he was awarded Yale College’s Sidonie Miskimin Clauss Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities.

Additional Lecturer

THOMAS FORREST KELLY is the Morton B. Knafel Professor of Music at Harvard. He received his B.A. from Chapel Hill and spent two years on a Fulbright Scholarship in France studying musicology, chant, and organ. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard (1973) with a dissertation on office tropes. He has taught at Wellesley, Smith, Amherst, and at Oberlin, where he directed the Historical Performance Program and served as acting Dean of the Conservatory.

Upcoming Trips

Japan: Bashō’s Road to the North
October 11–23, 2019
Edward Kamens ’74, ’82 PhD Japanese Studies

Cruising the Mekong River aboard Mekong Princess
November 4–17, 2019
Prof. James Salzman ’85 Environmental Law

Insider’s Israel
November 7–17, 2019
Greg Sterling
Dean, Yale Divinity School
Itinerary
MARCH 31–APRIL 11, 2020

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Thursday, March 19, 2020
Join the group Thursday, March 19th at 4 p.m. Eastern for a pre-trip welcome call to learn more about what to expect and ask any questions you may have.

HOME / PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC
Tuesday & Wednesday, March 31 & April 1
Depart home on an overnight flight to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Arrive on Wednesday and transfer to your hotel, located near the Charles Bridge on the Vltava River in historic Old Town.
Four Seasons Prague

PRAGUE
Thursday, April 2
Explore Prague’s Jewish Quarter, visiting the haunting Old Jewish Cemetery and the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in Europe. After an afternoon at leisure, gather for a gala welcome reception, dinner, and private concert at a 17th-century chateau boasting panoramic views of the city. Four Seasons Prague (BRD)

BAD SCHANDAU, GERMANY
Saturday, April 4
Enjoy a morning of cruising along the beautiful Elbe River through “Saxon Switzerland” to the picturesque spa town of Bad Schandau, a summer resort for more than two centuries. Travel uphill and inland by motorcoach to see the spectacular Bastei Rock and the maze of pinnacles, ravines, and bizarre stone formations said to have inspired Richard Wagner’s Lohengrin. Moor in Dresden for the night. Elbe Princesse II (BLD)

DRESDEN
Sunday, April 5
One of the most beautiful cities in Germany, Dresden is renowned for its splendid Baroque architecture and world-class art collections. Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town, including Theater Square and the Frauenkirche (Church of Our Lady), an outstanding example of Protestant sacred architecture that was rebuilt and reconsecrated in 2005 after being leveled by Allied bombs during World War II. Also marvel at the glittering displays of precious objects from the late Renaissance and Rococo periods at Dresden Castle’s Green Vault. Choose one of two optional excursions this afternoon: (1) Travel to nearby Schloss Wackerbarth, a historic chateau known today as Saxony’s oldest sparkling wine producer for wine tasting. (2) Visit Dresden’s Transparent Factory, a glass-walled facility designed by Volkswagen for the production of its top-of-the-line sedans and expanded into a fascinating interactive exhibition space for innovative future technologies. Or enjoy free time to explore Dresden independently. Elbe Princesse II (BLD)

During the 18th century Dresden developed into a great center of the fine arts and became known as “Florence on the Elbe.”

waCkerBarth Castle
DRESDEN / MEISSEN
Monday, April 6
This morning visit the Zwinger Palace museum and explore the Old Masters Gallery, where works by Rembrandt, Rubens, and Raphael are displayed. Continue to nearby Meissen this afternoon, where the formula for hard-paste porcelain was developed in 1708. Choose between (1) A visit to the workshop that continues to make the “white gold” by hand and the exquisite collection at the Porcelain Museum. (2) A guided walking tour along Meissen’s lovely riverfront.
Elbe Princesse II (BLD)

WITTENBERG
Tuesday, April 7
Following a morning of relaxed cruising and shipboard lectures, call at Wittenberg for a visit to the Castle Church, where in 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door, beginning the Protestant Reformation. Wittenberg’s historic Market Square, spared by the Allies during bombing raids, is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. On a walking tour of Old Town, visit Luther’s home as well as St. Mary’s Church, where he preached.
Elbe Princesse II (BLD)

DESSAU
Wednesday, April 8
Tour the city of Dessau, home of the famous Bauhaus school of architecture and the Wörlitz Garden Kingdom, each of which has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See the influential Main Building at Bauhaus as well as the Masters’ Houses, once home to visiting artists such as Paul Klee and Wassily Kandinsky. Enjoy a gondola ride through the lakes and canals of the English-style gardens at Wörlitz, among the largest in continental Europe. Elbe Princesse II (BLD)

TANGERMÜNDE / POTSDAM
Thursday, April 9
Enjoy a morning walking tour of the picturesque village of Tangermünde, along narrow streets and medieval landmarks that still bear clear signs of the town’s colorful one-thousand-year history. Continue with midmorning cruising, before arrival in Potsdam. Explore the magnificently Rococo Sanssouci Palace and Park, originally sketched by Frederick the Great and now the largest UNESCO World Heritage site in Germany. Also visit Cecilienhof Palace, where Churchill, Truman, and Stalin met at the historic Potsdam Conference in 1945 and redrew the map of Europe. The vessel remains berthed in Potsdam this evening. Elbe Princesse II (BLD)

POTSDAM / BERLIN
Friday, April 10
Travel by motorcoach to Berlin for a morning tour including the infamous “Checkpoint Charlie,” the best-known crossing point between East and West Germany through the Berlin Wall during the Cold War. Enjoy a walking and tasting tour through one of the city’s several Market Halls, featuring locally-sourced bites and beverages. Spend the afternoon at leisure before gathering for a farewell reception and dinner this evening.
Elbe Princesse II (BLRD)

BERLIN / HOME
Saturday April 11
Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home or to the hotel for the optional 3-night Berlin extension. (B)

Optional Post-Cruise Extension
BERLIN
April 11–14
Enjoy three nights in this exciting European capital, based at the luxurious and award-winning Regent Berlin. Explore iconic sites, timeless museums, soaring cathedrals, quaint cafes, bustling plazas, and more. Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

Reservation
Book online: yaleedtravel.org/elbe20
Elbe Princesse II

The delightful MS Elbe Princesse II, launched in 2018, is specifically designed to navigate the rapidly-changing conditions of the Elbe River using advanced engineering technologies. With stern wheel propulsion and a remarkably shallow draft, she is able to navigate low waters and traverse areas that other vessels operating in this region are not. Accommodating a maximum of just 77 passengers, a warm and intimate atmosphere is created on board. The restaurant accommodates all guests in one sitting, and the lounge is a pleasant space for relaxation with panoramic windows, a large TV, and a bar area. The modern and comfortable cabins all face outside and feature picture windows, a small desk and seating area, independent climate control, a safe, hairdryer, bathroom with full amenities, and a flat screen TV. With plenty of light in public areas and a large Sun Deck, there is ample opportunity to watch the shoreline gently glide by as you relax on your comfortable floating hotel. Complimentary wifi (intermittent) is accessible throughout the vessel.

WHAT IS INCLUDED

• Educational program lectures and discussions with Yale study leader
• Two hotel nights and eight nights aboard Elbe Princesse II
• All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary
• Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations
• Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates
• Baggage handling
• Gratuities to ship staff, porters, waitstaff, guides, and drivers
• Entrance fees
• Welcome and farewell wine receptions
• All alcoholic beverages and soft drinks on board the vessel (except premium brands)
• Bottled water on motorcoaches
• Team of expert local guides
• Professional tour manager throughout the program
• Emergency medical evacuation services

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

Program Rates, per person (including VAT and taxes)

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<th>CATEGORY/DECK</th>
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<tr>
<td>CATEGORY 1: MAIN DECK (156 sq. ft.)</td>
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<td>CATEGORY 3: MAIN DECK (156 sq. ft.)</td>
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<td>CATEGORY 4: UPPER DECK (130 sq. ft.)</td>
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AIR ARRANGEMENTS U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Economy-class airfare from from New York to Prague with return from Berlin is approximately $1,050 per person as of June 2019 and is subject to change without notice. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary as presented is subject to modification by Yale Educational Travel and Criterion Travel (the tour operator), should unforeseen world events and conditions require such alterations for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant. Program rates are based upon current taxes, tariffs, fuel prices, currency values, and a minimum number of participants, and are subject to change (e.g., should fuel prices increase). If there are significant changes, we will notify participants in advance of departure.
Elbe River Cruise Prague to Berlin aboard Elbe Princesse II

To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to YET. Final payment is due December 2, 2019.

1) NAME AS ON PASSPORT

DATE OF BIRTH YALE CONNECTION

PASSPORT ORIGIN RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GUEST

2) NAME AS ON PASSPORT

DATE OF BIRTH YALE CONNECTION

PASSPORT ORIGIN RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER GUEST

Contact Information

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PRIMARY PHONE SECONDARY PHONE

E-MAIL

Payment Options

- Pay by check made out to “Criterion Travel.”
- Please charge the deposit of $1,000 per person to:
  - American Express (AMEX)
  - Visa
  - MasterCard
  - Discover Card

CARD #

EXP. DATE SEC. CODE

Accommodations

Bed preference:

- Queen
- Twins

I wish to have a single accommodation (limited availability; please call).

I will share accommodations with

I would like to know about roommates.

I am a
- smoker
- non-smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of December 2, 2019, I will pay the single rate.

I/We confirm that I/We have carefully read the Terms and Conditions section of this brochure and agree to their terms.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

Terms and Conditions

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this tour, please mail a deposit of $1,000 per person payable to “CRITERION TRAVEL,” along with the completed reservation form, to: Yale Educational Travel, Yale Alumni Association, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010 or fax the completed form to (203) 432-0587. Deposits may be charged to a credit card. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due December 2, 2019.

CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be in writing to Yale Educational Travel. Refunds, less a cancellation fee of $300 per person, are made if we are notified in writing on or before December 2, 2019. No refunds are made after that date. There are no refunds for unused meals, accommodations, or other trip features.

WHAT TO EXPECT: We consider this to be a moderately active program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily activities can involve one to two miles of walking on uneven cobblestone; stairs may be unavailable or not have handrails. Participants should be fit, in active good health, and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. Any physical or mental condition that may require special medical attention must be reported in writing when you make your reservation. If you have any questions about your ability to participate fully on this itinerary, please call Yale Educational Travel at (203) 432-1952.

INSURANCE: Yale Educational Travel highly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. If participants purchase trip insurance, and we hope that they do, participants are free to purchase the insurance of their choice. Most travel insurance must be purchased within 7-10 days of paying a deposit in order to include certain provisions including pre-existing conditions.

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

March 31–April 11, 2020
yaleedtravel.org/elbe20

BranDenBurg gate (optional extension)
Journey through a region filled with rich history and natural beauty

After two nights in Prague, travel for eight nights to Berlin aboard the newly launched Elbe Princesse II, gliding through the idyllic green countryside that lines the Elbe River.

Visit the Bauhaus school of design in Dessau and view the incredible collection of Old Masters at the Zwinger Museum in Dresden.

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