Changing Tides of History:
Cruising the Baltic Sea

Harvey Goldblatt ’77 PhD
Professor of Medieval Slavic Literatures
Dear Yale Traveler

I am truly excited to share the great news that in 2020 Yale is offering a splendid Baltic Sea voyage highlighting six countries and featuring the historic world leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and former President of Poland, Lech Wałęsa, as well as Pavel Palazhchenko, interpreter and advisor for former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev. I warmly invite you to join me in exploring a region that is not only near and dear to my heart but also a set of diverse lands that are remarkably rich in culture and a history of fascinating complexity.

During our travels, we’ll experience the cultural rebirth of the Baltic States while cruising aboard the new Le Dumont-d’Urville, which I know is a wonderful ship. In the tradition of ancient Viking mariners and medieval merchants, we’ll set forth from the cosmopolitan Swedish capital of Stockholm to Denmark’s sophisticated capital city of Copenhagen. Then, we’ll have two days to explore the regal and unique city of St. Petersburg, featuring visits to the world-acclaimed Hermitage Museum, the Peter and Paul Fortress, and the tsarist palaces in Pushkin and Peterhof. In Helsinki, Finland, we’ll see storied architecture, then tour the well-preserved medieval Old Town of Tallinn, Estonia. We’ll also explore the former Hanseatic League town of Visby on Sweden’s Gotland Island and discover Gdańsk, Poland, where we’ll immerse ourselves in the legacy of the Solidarity movement.

Having explored both Russia and the other lands of the Baltic Sea many times in the past, I am tremendously enthusiastic about this upcoming northern adventure and revisiting the great cities of the Baltic. Moreover, as a specialist in Russian medieval culture and literature, I long have sought to expose to view the multitude of striking connections that exist between, on the one hand, the history and culture of Slavic peoples and, on the other hand, the diverse civilizations that emerged and flourished on the shores of the Baltic Sea. My hope is that my formal presentations will be accompanied by informal discussions as we move from one great city to another and one distinct culture to another.

We are sharing the program with Columbia, Georgetown, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the University of Virginia. I hope you’ll join me and encourage you to register soon at www.yaleedtravel.org/baltic20. You can also contact Yale Educational Travel at 203-432-1952 or edtravel@yale.edu.

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Highlights

Discover Finland’s stunning architecture and modern design aesthetic.

Explore the treasures of St. Petersburg, including the State Hermitage Museum, Peter and Paul Fortress, Catherine Palace, and the palace and garden at Peterhof.

Revel in the charms of Estonia’s Tallinn, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Tour Poland’s historic Gdańsk Shipyard, where the Solidarity movement first began in 1980.
Yale Study Leader and Guest Speakers

Harvey Goldblatt

Harvey Goldblatt, Professor of Medieval Slavic Literatures at Yale, is a specialist in Slavic literary and cultural traditions. A graduate of McGill University, he undertook further study in Moscow and Prague before earning his PhD from Yale in 1977. Professor Goldblatt was Head of Pierson College for almost two decades (1994-2013); for many years he served as chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, Yale’s Language Study Committee, the Yale-Ukraine Initiative, and Yale’s Canadian Studies Committee. He is the editor of Yale Russian and East European Publications and also serves on the editorial boards of several prominent journals on Slavic literatures both in the United States and abroad.

Lech Wałęsa

By exclusive arrangement, Lech Wałęsa—former President of Poland (1990 to 1995), Polish hero, and international icon in the pursuit of freedom and democracy—will meet with our group aboard Le Dumont-D’Urville. From his position as a marine electrician in Gdańsk Shipyard, Mr. Wałęsa emerged as a world-renowned figure in the struggle against communism during the 1980 shipyard workers’ strike and the establishment of the Polish Solidarity labor movement.

Pavel Palazhchenko

Principal English interpreter for former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev and former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Pavel Palazhchenko remains one of the world’s leading interpreters. Mr. Palazhchenko participated in all U.S.-Soviet summit talks leading to the end of the Cold War and eventually became the head of the press office of the International Foundation for Socio-Economic and Political Studies (or The Gorbachev Foundation), where he has also functioned as an analyst, spokesperson, interpreter, and translator.

Upcoming Trips

Circumnavigation of Iceland
June 21 to 29, 2020
Prof. Maureen Long, Geology

Danube River featuring Oberammergau
June 21 to July 1, 2020
Prof. Harold Attridge, Divinity

Waterways of Russia
July 18 to 29, 2020
Prof. Harvey Goldblatt ’77 PhD
Medieval Slavic Literatures
**WELCOME PHONE CALL**
*Tuesday, June 23 (tentative)*
Join the group at 4PM Eastern for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Goldblatt in order to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

**U.S./STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN**
*Tuesday, July 7 and Wednesday, July 8*
Depart the U.S. for Sweden’s “Venice of the North.” Upon arrival, embark the five-star *Le Dumont-d’Urville* and cruise through the scenic Stockholm archipelago. (1D)

**HELSPINKI, FINLAND**
*Thursday, July 9*
Today, enjoy two insightful lectures from Pavel Palazhchenko, world-renowned interpreter who serves as interpreter and advisor for former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Helsinki merges the influence of Classicism and the Finnish National Romantic Movement with Functionalism, establishing design as a permanent and significant component of the city. Cruise past the 18th-century maritime Fortress of Suomenlinna, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy a panoramic tour of the city’s boulevards, overflowing with magnificent architecture, including Europe’s greatest concentration of Art Nouveau buildings. See stately Senate Square, University of Helsinki, Helsinki Cathedral, and the Parliament Building—paragmns of neoclassical style. Discover idylic Sibelius Park and the Modernist Finlandia Hall. Visit the subterranean Temppeliaukio Church, or “Church of the Rock,” impressively hewn into solid natural bedrock in 1969.

After exploring the lively Market Square at leisure, reboard the ship and attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception this evening. (B/L/R/D)

**ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA**
*Friday, July 10*
Founded in 1703 as his “Window on the West,” St. Petersburg is Peter the Great’s extraordinary vision.

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated palace and garden of Peterhof, commissioned by Peter the Great to rival the Palace of Versailles, and walk its elaborately landscaped grounds, encompassing two centuries of imperial style. Return to the ship by hydrofoil.

**Experience local Russian specialties—including borsch, blini (honey pancakes), and vodka during a specially arranged lunch in St. Petersburg.**

See exquisite examples of Russian Baroque and neoclassical architecture along the main thoroughfare, Nevsky Prospekt, and view the iconic Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood (Church of the Resurrection of Christ).

Enjoy specially arranged entry and a guided tour of the State Hermitage Museum.

One of the world’s greatest art repositories, the UNESCO World Heritage-designated museum was founded by Catherine the Great in 1764. (B/L/D)

**ST. PETERSBURG**
*Saturday, July 11*
Visit the Baroque Catherine Palace in the town of Pushkin. This UNESCO World Heritage site is highlighted by the jewel-encrusted Amber Room.

Enjoy a panoramic tour of St. Petersburg’s UNESCO World Heritage-inscribed historic center. See the 19th-century St. Isaac’s Cathedral, whose striking golden dome crowns the city’s skyline.

Visit Peter and Paul Fortress, constructed to secure the country’s access to the sea, and the Baroque Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, where 32 tsars—from Peter the Great to Nicholas II, the last of the Romanovs—are interred. (B/L/D)

**TALLINN, ESTONIA**
*Sunday, July 12*
Tallinn’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated Old Town has remained virtually unchanged for 600 years. See the landmark Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the 13th-century Church of St. Nicholas, and Toompea Castle, the seat of Estonia’s Parliament.

Visit the intricate chambers of the medieval Town Hall, which dominates the Town Hall Square. (B/L/D)
VISBY, SWEDEN  
**Monday, July 13**
Call at the Baltic island of Gotland, rich with Swedish history and abundant Viking and medieval sites. See the UNESCO World Heritage-designated Old Town of Visby, the former Baltic center of the Hanseatic League. Tour the Gotlands Historical Museum and visit the Cathedral of St. Mary.  
(B/L/D)

GDAŃSK, POLAND  
**Tuesday, July 14**
A former Hanseatic League port, Gdansk proudly displays restored late Renaissance and Baroque patrician mansions in its *Stare Miasto* (Old Town). Stroll along the pedestrian-only *Droga Królewska* (Royal Route) and the Long Wharf to see Neptune's Fountain and the 14th-century Artus Court. Visit Gdansk Shipyard, where the Solidarity movement began in 1980, and see its Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers. Meet the leader of the Solidarity movement, former President of Poland, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Wałęsa on board the ship this evening, where he will present his perspective on Solidarity, globalization, and progress in the region.  
(B/L/D)

CRUISING THE BALTIC SEA  
**Wednesday, July 15**
Cruise the Baltic Sea while enjoying a series of enriching lectures and the Captain's Farewell Reception this evening.  
(B/L/R/D)

COPENHAGEN, DENMARK/U.S.  
**Thursday, July 16**
Arrive in colorful Copenhagen and continue to the Wonders of Norway Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight home.  
(B)

Included meals indicated each day as  
B/L/R/D = Breakfast/Lunch/Reception/Dinner.

What is Included:
- Program of lectures and discussions with Professor Harvey Goldblatt, Lech Wałęsa, and Pavel Palazhchenko.
- Accommodation on double occupancy basis as per the itinerary.
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary.
- All entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- Services of Travel Director during the tour as per the itinerary.
- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages served throughout the cruise.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access aboard ship (conditions permitting).
- Welcome & Farewell Receptions.
- Complimentary bottled water in your stateroom or suite and on excursions.
- Emergency medical evacuation services.

What is Not Included:
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, telephone/fax calls, Internet access unless otherwise specified, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax, etc.
- Any insurance other than specified above.
- Any meals or beverages that are not specified in the above inclusions.
- International airfares.
- Expenses caused by factors beyond our control like rail and airplane delays, roadblocks, vehicle malfunctions, political disturbances, taxes, lost luggage, etc.
- Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.

www.yaleedtravel.org/baltic20
Please call Yale Educational Travel for specific cabin availability.
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July 7-16, 2020

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- pay by check made out to “Gohagan & Company”
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Accommodations

- I wish to have a single (limited availability – please call)
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Travel Options

- Splendors of Stockholm Pre-Program Option (per person)
  - double $945
  - single $1,345

- Wonders of Norway Post-Program Option (per person)
  - double $2,945
  - single $3,795

- I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility section of this brochure and agree to their terms on behalf of myself and the members of my party named above.

signature(s)
Date

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   yale connection
   passport origin
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   yale connection
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PAYMENT SCHEDULE

A deposit of $1,000 per person, payable to Gohagan & Company, of which $500 is nonrefundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment must be received 90 days prior to departure. Mail to: The Yale Alumni Association, Yale Educational Travel, Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Or call: 203-432-1952.

Complete Terms and Conditions will be sent after registration and are available at: www.yaleedtravel.org/faqs.

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Meet the leader of the Solidarity movement, former President of Poland, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Wałęsa.

Hear the unique insights of Pavel Palazhchenko, interpreter and advisor for former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev.