Williams College Alumni Travel/Study

The Art Connoisseur’s Berlin

June 8 - 15, 2014

With Professor Michael Lewis of the Art Department
Michael Lewis is the Faison-Pierson-Stoddard Professor of Art History. He came to Williams in 1993 after receiving his B.A. from Haverford and his Ph.D. from Penn. As a critic of architecture, he has written for the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, the Architectural Record, and Commentary, among others. He is the author of books about Frank Furness, the Gothic Revival in America, American Art and Architecture, and the Politics of the German Gothic Revival. Michael has been the popular leader of seven previous alumni trips.

Reichstag Dome, Berlin
ITINERARY

SUNDAY, JUNE 8  US Departures
• Depart on independent flights to Berlin.

MONDAY, JUNE 9  Berlin Arrivals
• Transfer independently to the luxury five-star Westin Grand Berlin, offering impeccable service and an ideal downtown location near many of Berlin’s most important attractions, including Gendarmerie, Museum Island, and the Reichstag.
• Enjoy free time for relaxing and settling into the Westin.
• In the afternoon, meet study leader Michael Lewis, your Berlin guide, your tour manager, and fellow travelers.
• Following introductions and a program overview, set out on an orientation walking tour of the area around your hotel. Enter the Pariser Platz, and admire the classic architecture lining the renowned Unter den Linden Boulevard, including the Brandenburg Gate. Also, see the American Embassy and Frank Gehry’s intriguing DZ bank building, whose sedate façade belies its avant-garde interior and fishlike dome.
• Continue to the Gendarmerie Restaurant for a sumptuous welcome dinner.

Westin Grand Berlin (D)
TUESDAY, JUNE 10  An Introduction to Berlin

• Today is dedicated to a cultural and historical overview of Berlin, designed to provide context and depth as you better orient yourself to this unique, complex city.
• Following a morning lecture, walk to the German History Museum, stopping at Gendarmenmarkt, Berlin’s most elegant French-inspired square; Bebelplatz, the site of the infamous Nazi book burning; and the New Guardhouse designed by Karl Friedrich Schinkel, which houses Käthe Kollwitz’s moving Pietà, a memorial to the victims of war and tyranny.
• At the German History Museum, see I. M. Pei’s stunning addition to the original Baroque palace followed by a guided tour of the museum for an overview of German history.
• Following lunch, enjoy an orientation driving tour of the city, including the Neo-Gothic Friedrichswerdersche church, also by Schinkel, the spectacular Moorish-styled Oranienburger Synagogue, Check Point Charlie, and the East Side Gallery, where defiant graffiti on a remaining section of the Berlin Wall was painted after the Wall’s collapse.
• Finish the afternoon with a special architectural tour of the Jewish Museum designed by Daniel Libeskind where architecture is used as a means of narrative and formal design as a conceptually expressive tool to represent the Jewish lifestyle before, during, and after the Holocaust. *(Those who wish may remain at the museum to view the collection.)*
• This evening enjoy an optional Dutch-treat dinner at a popular local restaurant.

Westin Grand Berlin (B, L)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11  Museum Island

• Walk down Unter den Linden to Berlin’s Museum Island, a repository of ancient art and architectural treasures from Babylon to Egypt to Rome.
• Stop at the site of the former Prussian palace, and hear about the controversial decision to rebuild an exact replica, which will house an enormous museum complex.
• Begin with an exterior visit to Berlin’s cathedral and the Altes Museum, one of the finest neoclassical buildings in Germany, and learn about Karl Friedrich Schinkel, a prominent German architect who was responsible for reshaping the relatively unspectacular city of Berlin into a representative capital for Prussia.
• Visit the Neues Museum, renovated by renowned architect David Chipperfield, which reopened in October 2009 to rave reviews. See highlights from the Egyptian Collection, including the remarkable bust of Nefertiti.
• Following lunch in a local restaurant, visit the spectacular Pergamon Museum where architectural treasures of ancient Babylon, Greece, and Rome have been transported and rebuilt. *(The museum is under renovation so sections may be closed.)*

• The balance of the afternoon is at leisure to see one of the other museums on Museum Island, such as the Alte Nationalgalerie, which houses French Impressionist masterpieces, the Nazereen Brotherhood, Caspar David Friedrich, and the German Romantics, or the Bode Museum, a spectacular building that houses an outstanding sculpture and decorative arts collection.

• The evening is free to enjoy one of the city’s many cultural offerings.

*Westin Grand Berlin (B, L)*

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 12**  
**Kulturforum and Environs**

• Following a morning lecture, walk to Peter Eisenman’s soul-searching *Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.*

• Walk along the edge of Tiergarten, Berlin’s central urban park, to Potsdamer Platz where your guide will discuss the area’s transformation from the Cold War’s “no-man’s land” to an architectural showpiece and site for many of the greatest contemporary architects.

• Continue on foot to the Kulturforum, a Berlin quarter with many cultural institutions.

• Visit the Gemäldegalerie, housing a remarkable collection of the Old Masters, including Dürer, Holbein, Giotto, Titian, Botticelli, Lippi, Brueghel, and one of the world’s largest collections of Rembrandt’s works.

• Stop at the Neue Nationalgalerie for an architectural tour of Mies Van der Rohe’s modern glass and steel creation.

• Following free time for lunch, explore the Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin’s most important contemporary art museum, which is housed in a converted railway station.

• This evening is at leisure.

*Westin Grand Berlin (B)*
FRIDAY, JUNE 13    Potsdam and Sanssouci

• Drive to Potsdam and en route see Glienicke Bridge, the famous Bridge of Spies. The bridge lies at an isolated joint where US-occupied West-Berlin met Soviet-occupied Potsdam, which was in East Germany. During the Cold War, this bridge was one of the few places in the world where the Soviet Union and the United States stood directly opposite each other and brokered deals with one another. The United States and the Soviet Union used it four times to exchange captured spies during the Cold War.

• Spend the morning exploring Sanssouci Palace, the exquisite summer palace of Frederick the Great who was one of the most liberal and farsighted of the Prussian monarchs as well as an enlightened patron of the arts. Enjoy the palace interior, which is one of the most flamboyant in Germany, followed by a stroll through the splendid palace gardens.

• Following lunch in Potsdam, continue to Cecelienhof Palace, the location of the signing of the Potsdam Treaty, and enjoy a stroll through its magnificent gardens.

• Upon reentering Berlin, drive along Kurfürstendamm, often compared to the Champs-Élysées.

• Enjoy an optional visit to the renowned food court of the deluxe, historical department store “KaDeWe,” which was such an important symbol of the West during the Cold War, East Germans would be required to line up for hours to purchase bare necessities.

• The balance of the evening at leisure.

Westin Grand Berlin (B, L)
SATURDAY, JUNE 14  A Private Collection and the Reichstag

- Drive to the Boros Bunker for a curator-led tour of “one of the world’s leading contemporary art collections” as described in ARTnews, which is housed in a World War II bunker. The collection consists of light and room installations as well as abstract paintings and sculptures and provocative photography.
- Enjoy an independent afternoon for independent explorations.
- In the afternoon, walk to the Reichstag building, and gain immediate access to a special elevator that will take you straight up to the sensational dome designed by Lord Norman Foster. Learn about the energy conservation implemented in the dome’s design, which tops one of the “greenest” buildings in the world.
- Be treated to a farewell dinner in the renowned rooftop Käfer restaurant, immediately adjacent to the dome.

Westin Grand Berlin (B, D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 15  Auf Wiedersehen

- Transfer independently to the Berlin airport for return flights to the U.S.A
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Tour Cost

Land-Only Package.................................................$3,295
Single Supplement......................................................$795

Tour price is based on double occupancy with a minimum of 20 paying participants. Land prices are based on quotes of August 2013 and are subject to change. Participants are responsible for all aspects of their air arrangements. Tour payments must be paid by check to ISDI. Final payment is due on February 27, 2014. Registrations will be accepted beyond this date on a space-available basis.

LAND PACKAGE INCLUDES: Accommodations as outlined in the itinerary, based on double occupancy; breakfast daily, three lunches, two dinners; mineral water or soft drink at lunches and dinners; two glasses of wine or beer at dinners; transportation by private, deluxe motorcoach; porterage of two pieces of luggage per person at each hotel; gratuities for guides and drivers; all sightseeing and admission charges; instruction from Professor Lewis; service charges, taxes, and basic gratuities for services included in the itinerary.

AIRFARE: You are responsible for arranging your own flights between the United States and Berlin. ISDI can assist you with your air booking for a fee of $50 per person.

NOT INCLUDED: Airport transfers; passport fees; personal items, such as wines, liquors, and mineral water, except where noted in the itinerary; personal services; international air arrangements; airport/airline taxes; travel extensions; gratuities for chambermaids; personal insurance for health, baggage, and tour cancellation; any other items not specifically mentioned in the itinerary as included.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS: International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) and The President and Trustees of Williams College reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason, including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, participants will be advised of additional surcharge before departure date. All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. If a tour member cancels, the following scale of charges is incurred: There is a nonrefundable administrative fee of $500 per person. The costs associated with any tickets purchased for planned activities (as indicated in the itinerary) are nonrefundable. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before February 27, 2014: full refund minus $500-per-person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI between February 28 and April 24, 2014: full refund of any recoverable land costs, less $1,500 per person cancellation charge (includes administrative fee). Written cancellation received by ISDI on or between April 25 and May 7, 2014: results in forfeit of majority of funds, including a $1,500 per person cancellation charge (includes administrative fee). Cancellation in this time period could involve a loss of as much as 100% of land costs per person. Cancellations received on or after May 8, 2014: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds are issued for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. If due to weather, flight schedules, or other uncontrollable factors you are required to spend an additional night, you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, and meal costs. Tour cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended. A confirmation letter and travel insurance application will be mailed to you upon receipt of your deposit. Travel insurance is strongly suggested.
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Registration Form

Enclosed is my deposit check ($1,000 per person) payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.

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# OF PERSONS AMOUNT ENCLOSED ($1,000PP):

I/WE ARE REGISTERING: ☐ DOUBLE OCCUPANCY ($3,295) ☐ SINGLE OCCUPANCY ($3,295 + $795)

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks 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 The President and Trustees of Williams College and International Seminar Design, Inc. (ISDI) 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.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN:

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

Complete and return this entire page to:
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For additional information, please call ISDI at (202) 244-1448