

2024

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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TREASURES OF NORTHERN EUROPE, MEDIEVAL TO MODERN

England to Denmark Aboard *Ocean Albatros*

April 27 – May 7, 2024

with Stephen Mitchell, Robert S. and
Ilse Friend Professor of Scandinavian and Folklore



HARVARD

Alumni Travels



Keukenhof Gardens

Treasures of Northern Europe, Medieval to Modern: England to Denmark Aboard *Ocean Albatros*

On an enriching sea voyage from the south of England to Denmark, be among the first to sail aboard the new, environmentally friendly *Ocean Albatros*. As you cruise, experience the lavish legacy of the medieval Hanseatic League, a northern European trade alliance whose wealth paved the way for the Renaissance.

Aboard *Ocean Albatros*, follow Hanseatic trade routes along the cliff-lined English Channel, the North Sea, and the Baltic. Step ashore in the Normandy region of France for inside looks at marvelous *châteaux* and medieval cathedrals, including the 11th-century Bayeux Cathedral and its legendary *Bayeux Tapestry*. In Belgium, stop in splendid Bruges and behold the Van Eyck brothers' *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* in Ghent.

Experience Holland's colorful tulip season and private tours of museums such as Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum. In Germany, join experts in sparkling Hanseatic cities including Hamburg and Lübeck. Then navigate the world's busiest artificial waterway, the scenic, 61-mile-long Kiel Canal connecting the North Sea to the Baltic. Step ashore for an expert-led inside look at Berlin's incredible landmarks. Alternatively, visit little-known Schwerin, Germany, going behind the scenes of a medieval island castle. Conclude with a day in Copenhagen, UNESCO's World Capital of Architecture, and have an inside look at the opulent, 17th-century Rosenborg Castle.

Activity Level 3:

A Little More To It

This active program involves extensive walking and standing during onshore tours. Comfortable walking shoes are essential. Temperatures during your travels in northern Europe should range from the low-50s to upper 60s F. Layered clothing is recommended for cooler nights. We suggest you bring a lined raincoat and a folding umbrella for possible rain showers. Casual dress is appropriate most of the time. For welcome and farewell dinners, jacket and tie is customary for gentlemen, with comparable attire for ladies. Smart casual clothing is suggested for other dinners aboard *Ocean Albatros*. This new ship has an elevator.

Study Leader



Stephen A. Mitchell is the Robert S. and Ilse Friend Professor of Scandinavian and Folklore at Harvard University. His research focuses on the Nordic world during the medieval and early modern periods. He employs a range of interdisciplinary approaches, such as performance theory, memory studies, anthropological linguistics, and other perspectives centered on folklore.

He is a former Master of Eliot House (1991-2000) and, together with colleagues from the University of Aarhus and Moesgaard Museum, Denmark, he annually teaches in and directs Harvard's Viking Studies Program in Scandinavia, featured in *USA Today* as one of the nation's most unique study abroad programs. A frequent award recipient, Mitchell is the author of many publications, his most recent being *Old Norse Folklore: Tradition, Innovation, and Performance in Medieval Scandinavia*, from Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, arriving in late 2023.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
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Map of the region (left); Mauritshuis, The Hague (right); and Les Falaises d'Étretat, France (below)

Schedule by Day

SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Departure

Depart for London on an overnight flight. D

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

London, United Kingdom/ Portsmouth / Embark *Ocean Albatros*

Arrive this morning at Heathrow Airport and transfer to *Ocean Albatros* docked in Portsmouth. Enjoy lunch on board, followed by an afternoon at leisure to explore this new ship or learn about the Royal Navy's history on a visit to the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. Savor dinner on board as you sail across the English Channel to Normandy in France. L,D

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Ouistreham, France / Caen

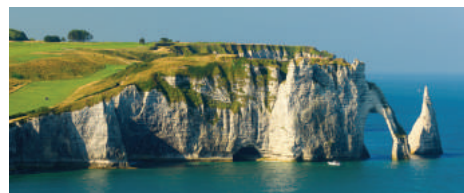
From the port of Ouistreham, visit historic Caen, whose Norman treasures have survived the centuries. Continue to Bayeux and visit the town's 11th-century cathedral, where you will find the remarkable *Bayeux Tapestry*, one of the most renowned surviving works of medieval art. Stop at the Memorial Museum of the Battle of Normandy. As an alternative, you

may visit Mont-Saint-Michel, a UNESCO-listed tidal island topped with a medieval monastery. As *Ocean Albatros* sails to Belgium, behold the chalky cliffs and the extraordinary rock formations of Les Falaises d'Étretat and the Manneporte, which Claude Monet captured in numerous paintings. Attend the captain's welcome reception and dinner this evening. B,L,R,D

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Ostend, Belgium / Bruges / Ghent

After docking in Ostend, transfer to the perfectly preserved medieval city of Bruges for a walking tour. See some of Belgium's best art collections, including the Groeninge Museum, the Hans Memling collection at St. John's Hospital, and a sculpture by Michelangelo displayed in the Church of Our Lady. Continue to Ghent for an expert-led viewing of the Van Eycks' restored 15th-century masterpiece *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* in St. Bavo's Cathedral. Aboard *Ocean Albatros*, enjoy chamber music performed by one of Europe's renowned quartets. B,L,D



WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Scheveningen, Holland / Amsterdam or Keukenhof & The Hague

Dock in the seaside resort of Scheveningen near The Hague, and choose between two excursions. You may explore Amsterdam's canals and the famed Rijksmuseum, with its unrivaled collection of works by Dutch masters. Savor lunch aboard a private canal cruise, followed by a special opening of the Van Gogh Museum (*pending confirmation*).

Alternatively, see a million flowering bulbs at Keukenhof Gardens during tulip season. After lunch, visit The Hague and the Mauritshuis museum, home to Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*. Then see the Peace Palace, home to the International Court of Justice. All guests will meet in The Hague and visit Panorama Mesdag, a museum housing Hendrik Mesdag's vast 1881 panoramic canvas of Scheveningen. B,L,D

THURSDAY, MAY 2

Delfzijl / Groningen

Step ashore in Delfzijl, Holland, and transfer to Groningen, a virtual open-air museum. Discover the gems of its Grote Markt (Great Market Square), including the Gothic Martinikerk, a 13th-century church with beautiful frescoes and a baroque organ. As a contemporary

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Holstentor, Lübeck, Germany (left) and Copenhagen, Denmark (right)

contrast, tour the Groninger Museum, a futuristic structure showcasing modern and contemporary art. After lunch, learn about traditional printmaking at the GRID Grafisch Museum Groningen, where you will attend a specially arranged graphics art workshop. Garden lovers may choose to visit Hortus Haren, one of Holland's oldest botanical gardens, and the Museum De Buitenplaats, a botanical complex with flowery garden roofs. B,L,D

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Hamburg, Germany or Lübeck

Hamburg's famous port was a vital link during the Hanseatic League. Experience the city's UNESCO-listed Speicherstadt, the world's largest warehouse district, an ensemble of 19th- to early 20th-century brick and timber buildings on oak log foundations along the canals. Then have lunch on the rooftop of Hamburg's magical Elbphilharmonie concert hall. After free time, attend a performance at the Elbphilharmonie (*pending schedules*).

Alternatively, explore Lübeck, the "Queen of the Hanseatic League." Visit the European Hansemuseum and stroll around Lübeck's beautiful Old Town, stopping to see the Holstentor, the 15th-century Brick Gothic city gate. B,L,D

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Brunsbüttel / Kiel Canal Transit

Spend the day navigating the Kiel Canal, which cuts across the Jutland Peninsula and connects the North Sea to the Baltic. While sailing, attend lectures and learn about the canal's engineering B,L,D

SUNDAY, MAY 5

Travemünde / Berlin or Schwerin / Warnemünde

Transfer from Travemünde, Germany, to Berlin for an expert-led look at notable landmarks and lunch atop the Reichstag. Discover Egyptian and Greek treasures in the restored Neues Museum, including the famous bust of Nefertiti. Then take an inside look at the Humboldt Forum, a museum inside the reconstructed 15th-century Berlin Palace.

Alternatively, visit the romantic town of Schwerin. On an island in shimmering Lake Schwerin, join an expert guide amid lush gardens at the medieval Schwerin Castle. In its museum, discover medieval art, 17th-century Dutch and Flemish paintings, and a large collection of works by Marcel Duchamp. Then marvel at the towering Gothic cathedral in Schwerin's charming Old Town. Rejoin *Ocean Albatros* in Warnemünde and sail to Copenhagen. B,L,D

MONDAY, MAY 6

Copenhagen, Denmark

Discover why UNESCO named the Danish capital its World Capital of Architecture, shop along the Strøget, one of the world's longest pedestrian streets. Walk in the footsteps of Hans Christian Andersen along the waterfront Nyhavn district, with its rainbow of famous centuries-old townhouses. After lunch, enjoy an inside look at the Copenhagen Opera House, one of the world's most expensive and modern concert halls, with its auditorium adorned with 105,000 sheets of 24-carat gold leaf. Then go behind the scenes at the 17th-century Rosenborg Castle, originally Christian IV's summer residence, featuring 400 years of gardens and royal treasures, including Denmark's Crown Jewels.. Gather on board for the captain's farewell reception and dinner this evening. B,L,R,D

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Copenhagen / Disembark / Return

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home. B

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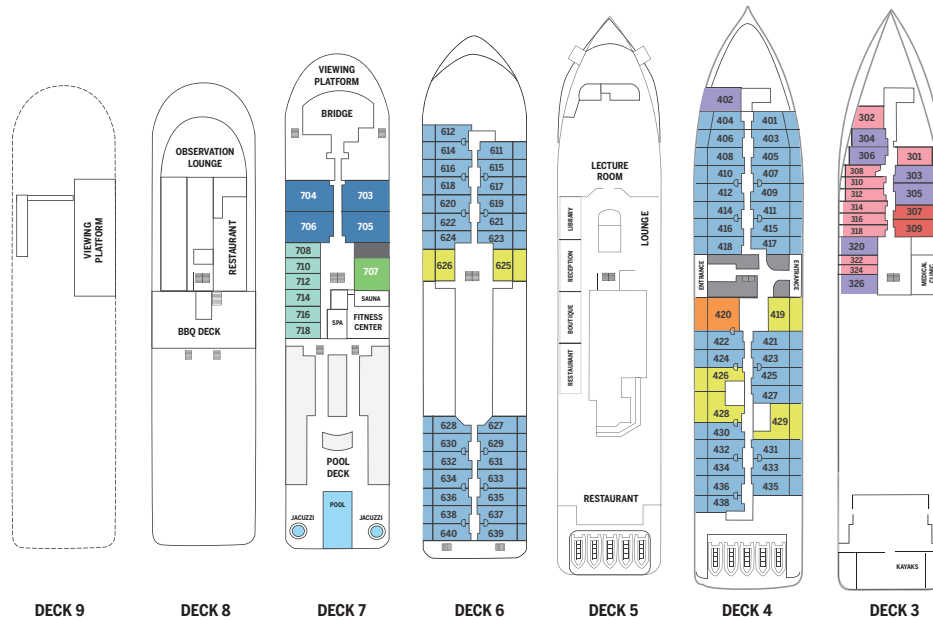
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Ocean Albatros

The four-star, expedition-style *Ocean Albatros* has a casual, comfortable ambiance and holds 95 staterooms and suites, all with unobstructed sea views and most with their own balconies. *Ocean Albatros* offers two restaurants, a wellness area, a unique panorama sauna, an Albatros Nordic Bar, an open-deck dining facility, a modern lecture lounge, and other state-of-the-art amenities. The environmentally friendly vessel emphasizes sustainability and will have more than a 50% lower carbon footprint than traditional expedition vessels.



Ocean Albatros



Rates Per Person

CABIN NUMBERS	DECKS	DOUBLE RATES	SINGLE RATES
301, 302, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 322, 324	3	-----	\$9,999
Single Stateroom with porthole, 140 sq. ft.			
303, 304, 305, 306, 320, 326, 402	3 & 4	\$6,999	\$10,999
Stateroom with porthole, 172 sq. ft.			
307, 309	3	\$7,999	\$11,999
Stateroom with porthole, 215 sq. ft.			
708, 710, 712, 714, 716, 718	7	\$8,999	\$13,499
Stateroom with French balcony, 172 sq. ft.			
401, 403-412, 414-418, 421-425, 427, 430-436, 438, 611, 612, 614-624, 627-640	4 & 6	\$10,999	\$16,499
Stateroom with balcony, 237 sq. ft.			
419, 426, 428, 429, 625, 626	4 & 6	\$12,999	Inquire
Stateroom with balcony, 344 sq. ft.			
707	7	\$16,999	Inquire
Junior Suite with French balcony, 388 sq. ft.			
703-706	7	\$17,999	Inquire
Premium Junior Suite with balcony, 431 sq. ft.			
420	4	\$19,999	Inquire
Suite with balcony, 463 sq. ft.			

Rates Include

- Nine nights cabin accommodations aboard *Ocean Albatros*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine during lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuity
- Taxes, service, and portage charges

Not Included: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Cover: *Mont-Saint-Michel, France. Trip Registration page: Adoration of the Mystic Lamb (detail) (top); and Groningen Museum, Holland (bottom)*

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