
Travel with The Met

May 2–10, 2019

Vixens, Vistas & Versailles:
Art of the Loire Valley & Paris Environs
with Page Knox,
Lecturer and Museum Educator



THE
MET

Vixens, Vistas & Versailles: Art of the Loire Valley & Paris Environs

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

I am pleased to be your guide on an unforgettable eight-day excursion through the majestic Loire Valley, to behold the artistry, architecture, and opulence of the French Renaissance. Gain entry into exquisite palaces, formal gardens, and magnificent rolling landscapes surrounding world-famous *châteaux*, while enjoying exclusive access not available to the general public.

We begin at the Domaine de la Tortinière, a four-star *château*-hotel near Château d'Ussé, the inspiration for the classic fairytale *Sleeping Beauty*. At the Palace of Fontainebleau, home to Louis VII and Napoleon III, enjoy a private tour not normally available to the public, followed by tea with the owners of nearby Château de Vaux le Vicomte. Later, see treasured paintings at the Château de Chantilly, including works by Raphael.

Then it is on to the palace and grounds of Versailles, the artistic culmination of the French Renaissance style, where the royals ruled until the Revolution. Here we'll take a unique tour behind hidden doors, receiving special access to the intimate quarters of the aristocracy; our visit concludes at the Domaine de la Reine, where Marie Antoinette would escape from the restrictive social etiquette of life at court.

Other highlights include a stay at the Trianon Palace Versailles, a Waldorf Astoria hotel; a visit to the final resting place of Leonardo da Vinci; and a private cocktail reception in a tower of the *château* where he is buried.

I hope you will join me for this captivating and enlightening adventure through one of the world's most beautiful regions.

Sincerely,
Page Knox
*Lecturer and Museum Educator
The Metropolitan Museum of Art*



Traveling with You

Page Knox

Page Knox is an adjunct professor in the Art History Department of Columbia University, where she received her PhD in 2012. She is a lecturer for the Education Department at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she gives public gallery talks and lectures on special exhibitions as well as the permanent collection and teaches membership classes. Page has a particular expertise in the art and architecture of Paris and the Loire Valley, having recently taught an eight-week course on this subject. She is delighted to be joining Travel with The Met.

Trip Highlights

- Stay at Domaine de la Tortinière, an exclusive *château*-hotel outside Tours; and the Trianon Palace Versailles, a Waldorf Astoria hotel
- Admire the Château d'Ussé, which inspired *Sleeping Beauty*; and the Château de Chenonceau, known as “the castle of the ladies”
- Visit royal residences from Blois, with its early examples of Renaissance decoration, to sumptuous Versailles
- Gain special access to palaces and *châteaux*, including secret doors at Versailles and a special opening of Fontainebleau when it is closed to the public
- Enjoy the expertise of educator Page Knox, PhD, Columbia University art history professor and frequent Met lecturer
- Meet the owners of the Château de Vaux le Vicomte near Fontainebleau for tea and a tour



Vase with cover (*vase des âges*), 1782. Charles Nicolas Dodin (French, Versailles 1734–1803 Sèvres). Soft-paste porcelain The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Bequest of Celine B. Hosack, in memory of her husband, Alexander E. Hosack M.D., 1886 [86.7.2a, b]



Photos clockwise from top right: Regional map; Château de Langeais, photo by Daniel Jolivet; Château de Chambord; Versailles Gardens; Tapestries in Chenonceau *château*, photo by Dennis Jarvis; Château d'Ussé. Front cover: *The Château of Chambord Seen from the Southwest*, 18th century. Simon Mathurin Lantara (French, Oncy 1729–1778 Paris). Pen and gray ink, watercolor, over traces of graphite. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Harry G. Sperling Fund, 1985 [1985.104.3]. Back cover: Queen's Hamlet, Versailles, photo by Moulin (top); Château de Chantilly, photo by minikti (bottom).

Vixens, Vistas & Versailles

May 2–10, 2019



Château d'Ussé, photo by Two in France

Departure

Thursday, May 2

Depart on an overnight flight to Paris.

Paris / Tours

Friday, May 3

Arrive this morning and transfer to the Domaine de la Tortinière, a 19th-century *château*-hotel set in a magnificent wooded park outside of Tours. Gather this evening for Page Knox's first lecture, followed by a festive welcome dinner. D

Blois / Chambord

Saturday, May 4

Today we visit Blois, whose royal palace has the earliest Renaissance architecture in France. Continue to the Château de Chambord, known for its forest of chimneys. Designed for François I, perhaps with some ideas contributed by Leonardo da Vinci, Chambord is a fascinating hybrid of a traditional French hunting lodge and a royal palace. Return to the hotel for an evening at leisure. B, L

Chenonceau / Amboise

Sunday, May 5

Drive to the village of Chenonceau and its magnificent *château* on the Cher River. Designed by the French Renaissance architect Philibert de l'Orme, it was once the residence of Diane de Poitiers and then Catherine de Medici. Constructed on the site of an old mill, it spans the Cher River atop a graceful arcade. Tour the *château's* fine collection of Old Masters' paintings and Flemish tapestries and step into the elegant formal gardens. Continue to the Italianate Château d'Amboise, once an important royal residence. Visit the small chapel where Leonardo da Vinci is buried before a private cocktail reception in one of the *château's* towers. B, R

Langeais / Azay-le-Rideau

Monday, May 6

This morning depart for the Château de Langeais, where in 1491 Anne of Brittany and King Charles VIII celebrated the marriage that brought that province to France. Then continue to the Château d'Ussé, a place of towers and crenellations, which was the romantic inspiration for Perrault's tale of *Sleeping Beauty*. Following lunch, visit Azay-le-Rideau. Built on an island on the Indre River during the reign of François I, this 16th-century *château* appears to rise from the water. This evening, enjoy dinner together. B, L, D

Fontainebleau

Tuesday, May 7

Travel to the Palace of Fontainebleau, home to seven centuries of French monarchs from Louis VII to Napoleon III, each of whom embellished the hunting-lodge-turned-palace with elements from the style of his or her time. Enjoy a private tour of the palace, which is opened specially for the group. This afternoon, we are invited to the nearby Château de Vaux le Vicomte for a tour of the gardens and interiors, followed by tea with the owners. Continue to Versailles to check in to the Trianon Palace Versailles. B, T

Chantilly

Wednesday, May 8

Visit the Château de Chantilly, largely intact since it was bequeathed to the state by the Duke of Aumale, son of the last king of France, Louis-Philippe. Admire the treasures in the *château's* little-known Condé museum, including works by Raphael, Poussin, and Ingres, as well as the famous *Très Riches Heures* of Duc de Berry. B, L

Versailles

Thursday, May 9

Spend the day at the Palace and grounds of Versailles, the artistic culmination of the French Renaissance style. Tour the Palace with new eyes after the insights of the last few days and gain special access through hidden doors to the intimate apartments of the sovereigns. After lunch at leisure, continue on a guided tour of the expansive formal gardens. Watch the Musical Fountains Show when the water features spout to the rhythm of Baroque music. Conclude the tour at the Domaine de la Reine, Marie Antoinette's own private kingdom away from the restrictive social etiquette of the palace. Return to the hotel for a festive dinner at Gordan Ramsay's Michelin-starred restaurant, au Trianon. B, D

Paris / Return

Friday, May 10

Transfer to Charles de Gaulle Airport for flights home.

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

More Travels with The Met

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For details, please go to metmuseum.org/travel

Accommodations

The Domaine de la Tortinière

The Domaine de la Tortinière is a beautiful 4-star hotel at the heart of the Loire *châteaux* region. Set in a magnificent wooded park that overlooks the Loire Valley, the hotel boasts many amenities including the *château's* terrace, tennis court, heated swimming pool, billiard room, massage room and sauna, and boats for drifting along the Indre River.



The Domaine de la Tortinière



The Domaine de la Tortinière restaurant

Trianon Palace Versailles, Waldorf Astoria

Only 30 minutes from Paris, this luxury country retreat is within walking distance of the legendary Château de Versailles. The hotel offers a range of rooms and suites. Dining options at the Trianon Palace include The Michelin-starred Gordon Ramsay au Trianon. The hotel also has a luxurious spa and fitness facilities.



Trianon Palace Versailles



Trianon Palace Versailles, Veranda Restaurant

Program Rate

\$7,499 per person, double occupancy

\$8,599 single rate

Rate Includes

- Seven nights accommodations as per itinerary
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, T=Tea, D=Dinner); bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals, wine at lunches and dinners
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Escorted sightseeing by private motor coach; entrance fees for included visits
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

Not included in rate

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



Paris

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Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

Accommodations

Hotel room preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with _____

Form of Payment

Check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

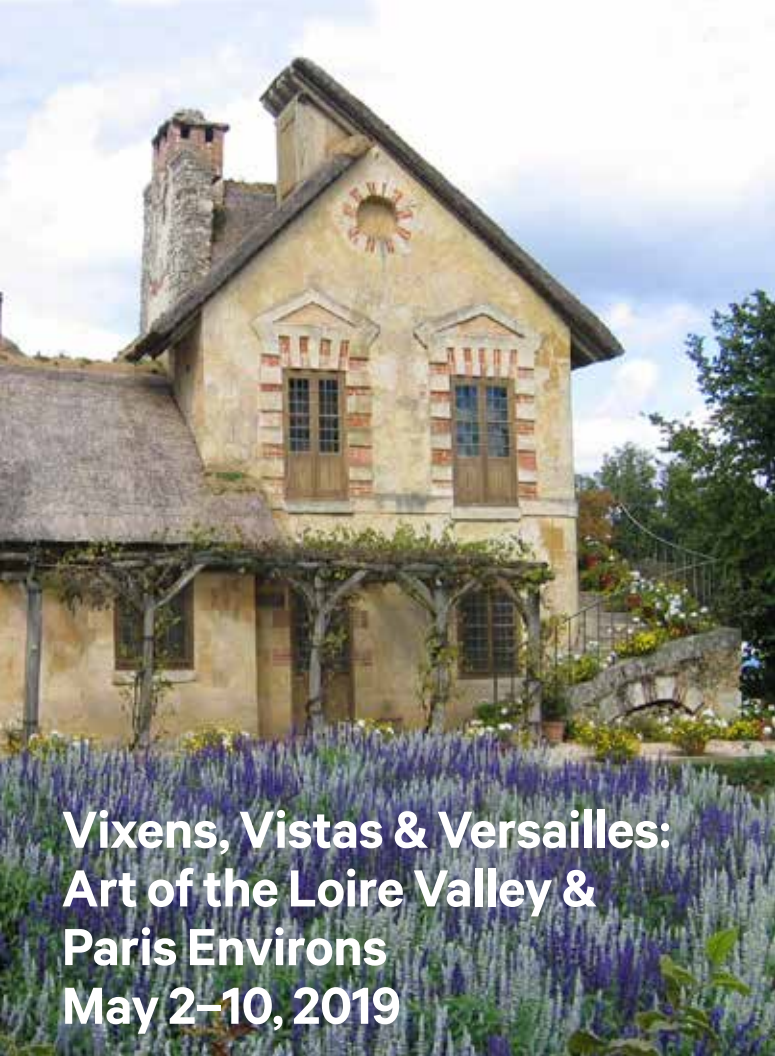
Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date



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**The Metropolitan
Museum of Art**
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New York, NY 10028

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