

**MAGNIFICENCE REVEALED
NEW YORK & THE HUDSON VALLEY**

TUESDAY 28 MARCH – WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL 2017 (9 DAYS)

TOUR LEADER: JAMES HILL

£3970

- **Remarkable introduction to the principal Art Museum & ‘House’ collections of New York**
- **Enjoy Old Masters, Period Interiors & American Art at ‘The Met’**
- **Private visit to MOMA**
- **Excellently located Midtown hotel off 5th Avenue**
- **Opportunity to attend the Metropolitan Opera**
- **Discover Houses & Gardens along the Lower Hudson River Valley**



John Singer Sargent, detail from *The Wynndham Sisters*,
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

OVERVIEW

No other city in the United States offers visitors such an opportunity to experience the unrivalled richness of American art collecting as New York. Great family dynasties such as the Vanderbilts and Rockefellers, together with wealthy individuals such as John Pierpont Morgan and Henry Clay Frick, built remarkable collections across an extraordinary array of objects, periods and styles. All either donated large numbers of superlative works of art to the ‘big’ comprehensive museums or personal museums have been created within their town houses.

Our visit will explore a selection of these museums and galleries whilst also allowing you ample free time to explore the city’s great shopping, culinary and musical opportunities. In addition, we complement our city stay with a rural sojourn when we explore the Lower Hudson Valley to the north of New York, as we visit sumptuous Federal (Greek Revival) Boscobel and some of the so-called “Gilded Era” mansions, above all, Hyde Park.

This tour will be led and managed by James Hill who has worked with CICERONI for fifteen years, managing all our Italian and U.S. tours. In New York we use specialist art historians provided by the individual Museums for all the guided visits. This is because no one individual art historian has the level of knowledge required to cover with the necessary depth *all* that we shall see. Indeed, our chosen lecturers will be either curatorial staff from the museum department concerned or art historians who are well known to us.

We shall stay at the 4* **Warwick New York Hotel**, a palatial midtown Manhattan landmark, perfectly located close to Broadway and many New York City landmarks. The historic 4* **Tarrytown House Hotel** is located just outside of Hudson-facing Tarrytown, spread across twenty six acres of fine, landscaped gardens.

ITINERARY OUTLINE

Day 1: Tuesday 28 March – We fly from Heathrow with BA to New York JFK, arriving mid afternoon. We then travel via bus transfer into the city and our hotel, the 4* **Warwick**. After check in there will be an early group dinner at **Brasserie Ruhlmann** at the nearby **Rockefeller Centre**, followed by an early night – wine, water and coffee are included with all group dinners.

Day 2: Wednesday 29 March – Our first morning begins with an introductory coach trip around Manhattan to admire its principal architectural monuments. These will include early steel-framed skyscrapers such as the **Flatiron Building**, Art Deco icons the **Chrysler** and **Empire State** buildings and the virtuoso Beaux-Arts style as seen at the **Helmsley Building**. Early modern and post-modern architectural styles will not be overlooked. After coffee we make our way to the home of the most influential financier in US history, JP Morgan.

Morgan collected on an astonishing scale, fed by a voracious interest in history and **The Pierpont Morgan Museum and Library** reflects these interests via an enviable collection of drawings, paintings, rare books and manuscripts. After a formal visit of the museum we shall have a group lunch in the original Morgan dining room. The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be free.

Day 3: Thursday 30 March – Today we enjoy the first of two formal visits to **The Metropolitan Museum of Art**. Founded in 1870 to rival those of Europe, an aim richly achieved, indeed surpassed, it is now regarded as *the* most comprehensive museum in the world. Our time will be divided into a number of formal visits spread over two days, guided by the Museum’s own staff. We spend the morning enjoying the fabled **Old Master Collection of Paintings**, divided by a coffee break. After a group lunch in the Met’s **Members Dining Room**, we walk to **The Frick Collection**, a truly marvellous town house with a unique collection. This will take up the remainder of the afternoon and the evening will be free.

Day 4: Friday 31 March - **The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA)** is our only formal visit of the day, where we spend the morning. We shall be given an early morning private introductory tour of the Museum’s highlights and after coffee, the morning will conclude with an informal period allowing participants to return to those exhibits which might need further consideration. The rest of the day and evening will be free.

Day 5: Saturday 1 April - We return to **The Metropolitan** and the morning will explore American paintings and sculpture from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries in the newly redesigned **American Wing**, divided by a coffee break. After lunch (not included) we continue with **Interiors and Decorative Arts** where a sequence of rooms offer an unparalleled display of magnificent interiors. In the evening we shall dine nearby at the historic **21 Club**.

Day 6: Sunday 2 April – The morning will be free for private explorations. After lunch (not included) we leave by coach from Manhattan and drive one hour to Tarrytown and a private visit to **Lyndhurst House**, a fine Gothic Revival mansion designed as a “folly” overlooking the Hudson River. We arrive at our hotel, the **4* Tarrytown House Estate** by late afternoon, where later in the evening there will be a group dinner in the hotel.

Day 7: Monday 3 April – Today we drive north, following the Hudson River, to visit **Boscobel House and Gardens**. One of the finest Federal mansions in the state, its lavish interiors contain an enviable collection of decorative arts. After a snack lunch on site (not included) we return to Tarrytown to visit the **Union Church in Potanico Hills**, where stained glass windows designed by Matisse and Chagall light this Rockefeller memorial church. We end our afternoon with a private visit to **Sunnyside**, once the home of Washington Irving. America’s first internationally renowned author created a bucolic home with landscape gardens. It is part Dutch Colonial, part Tudor Revival: a romantic hybrid. Later in the evening we have our final group dinner in Tarrytown.

Days 8 & 9: Tuesday 4 & Wednesday 5 April – We depart on our last morning and drive north to the **Vanderbilt Mansion at Hyde Park**. Designed by McKim, Mead and White, the house and its interiors offer a window on magnificent rural bliss as lived in the “Gilded Age”. After a group lunch in nearby **Rhinebeck** we make our return journey back to New York and JFK for the flight home, arriving at Heathrow early on Wednesday morning.

OPERA IN NEW YORK

The Metropolitan Opera House will present three operas during our stay: **La Traviata** on the 29th, the season premiere of **Eugene Onegin** on the 30th and finally, **Aida** on the 31st. You can either book tickets directly or the **CICERONI** office will be delighted to do this on your behalf, subject to availability.

PRACTICALITIES

Price £3970

Price without flights £3485

Deposit £490

Single Supplement £689 (Double for Sole Use)

Flight Upgrades Available on request

Hotel 5 Nights Bed & Breakfast 4* Hotel Warwick (Located Avenue of Americas at 65 West 54th Street) and 2 Nights Bed and Breakfast 4* Tarrytown House Estate, Tarrytown.

Flights British Airways

Outward: **BA177** Depart London Heathrow (Terminal 5) **1300** arrive New York (JFK) **1555**

Return: **BA172** Depart New York **2045** arrive London Heathrow (Terminal 5) **0850**

Price includes 5 Dinners & 3 lunches all local transfers, Friends membership of the Metropolitan Museum (valid for one year from date of issue), entry fees & gratuities, services of curatorial experts & James Hill

Not included Travel to/from Heathrow, 3 Dinners & 4 Lunches



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