



Norman Foster's Miroir Ombrière in Vieux Port Marseille

In the last few years The London Art History Society has joined forces with Real Holidays in order to offer study tours to continental Europe. We propose to continue to develop this relationship, and for the 2017 autumn tour we intend taking The London Art History Society to Marseille on Friday October 13th and returning on Monday October 16th 2017. Our lecturer will be **Dr Alexandra Gajewski**, architectural historian and lecturer specialising in mediaeval art, leader of the Society's visit to Montpellier in 2012. She has devised and led many cultural tours in Europe for leading art history travel companies.

Marseille was the European City of Culture in 2013. As part of this award, given to an already vibrant city which had growing awareness of the potential of culture to revitalise itself, there were highlights which included the opening of MuCEM, the *Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée* which has become a great success. There was also the re-opening of two museums in Marseille: the *Musée des arts décoratifs, de la faïence et de la mode* (Château Borély) and the *Musée d'histoire et du port antique* (centre Bourse). Our visit under the guidance of Dr. Gajewski gives the opportunity for a

short but intense exploration of the city, its history and culture.

We have prepared an ambitious and interesting tour, including direct travel by Eurostar from St Pancras, a city centre 4* hotel on a bed and breakfast basis and dinner at selected restaurants on two evenings. Alexandra will meet us at the hotel to start our tour on arrival on Friday afternoon.

Full details including the draft itinerary, booking form and Real Holidays' terms and conditions are enclosed (NB: only enclosed for Postal members – available on web for online members). Should you have any other questions, please contact Michael Pearson, by email tours@londonarthistorysociety.org.uk or telephone 01799 521290. All applicants and friends who travel with them must be current members of The London Art History Society at the time of the trip.

Preliminary Itinerary

Friday 13th October : Arrive mid-afternoon, transfer to the hotel and assemble for a walk to the **Abbaye Saint Victor**. Access should be possible to the crypt, where we will discuss the early Christian and medieval cult and monasticism at Marseille.

Dinner to be arranged nearby.

Saturday 14th October : **Marseille History Museum and excavations of Old Port (Musée d'Histoire de Marseille)** - the history of the city and its port, from prehistoric times to the present day, around the theme of navigation. We will discuss a selection of objects that reflect this varied history. **Musée des Beaux Arts** - we shall focus on works related to Marseille itself, some of them showing views of the city that will help us better understand it.

Dinner independent.

Sunday 15th October: Musée des Docks Romains – a small museum that features exhibits from Roman shipwrecks. **Vieille Charité** - here we shall look at the architecture of the Charité's buildings and visit the Musée d'archéologie méditerranéenne housed there. Sunday afternoon is free time for independent exploration.

Dinner to be arranged nearby.

Monday 16th October: MuCEM. We will look at the Fort Saint-Jean and discuss its history and visit the permanent exhibition, *The Gallery of the Mediterranean*. **Afternoon** - Eurostar direct to St Pancras.

Practical Details and Booking Arrangements

Once in the region we will stay at the Mgallery Grand Hôtel Beauvau Marseille Vieux Port. Full details can be found on its website www.sofitel.com/gb/hotel-1293-grand-hotel-beauvau-marseille-vieux-port-mgallery-by-sofitel/index.shtml. Travel will be arranged on Eurostar which is offering direct connections from summer 2017, with a return journey to be arranged in the afternoon on the final day of our tour which will leave an adequate amount of time for a reasonable amount of exploration on our final day. Timings are:

13th October London St Pancras to Marseille
depart 07:15 arrive 14:46
16th October Marseille to London St Pancras
depart 15:22 arrive 22:12

There is however an option to make your own travel arrangements and meet the main party at the station or hotel to join the afternoon visit or assemble later for dinner at 20:00.

The total cost including travel will be **£640** per person (**£540** if making your own travel arrangements), which includes Eurostar, hotel accommodation, breakfasts, admission charges, dinner on two occasions, along with wine, water and coffee, tips for drivers and restaurant staff, and the services of the lecturer. It is calculated on the basis of shared twin rooms, and does not include lunches or dinner on one evening. There are a few single rooms available, however the net additional prices quoted by the hotels give rise to a supplement of **£150**.

The Tour has been planned on the basis of 15 participants and the prices have been calculated on a non-profit basis in accordance with the Society's normal policy for foreign tours. This does enable us to provide an extremely attractive package with the best of hotels and guides. If there is sufficient interest, a maximum of 20 participants may be considered but this will be dependent upon the availability of hotel rooms. If only 10 participants expressed interest, we would consult those who have applied but, if the tour were to go ahead, there would need to be a supplement of about £75 per

person to ensure that the Society does not incur a loss - the tour would still be terrific value and have the bonus of being a very personal weekend.

Travel locally in the city will either be on foot or by bus/Metro/taxi. We hope participants will share taxi costs and have not budgeted for providing local transport, nor taxis. This will include the short journey on arrival and departure between the hotel and the Gare de Marseille Saint-Charles.

NB To avoid fixing the cost at too discouraging a level no allowance has been made for a deterioration in the value of sterling against the euro. We therefore reserve the right to make a surcharge of not more than **£100**, to cover up to 10% of extra costs caused by a fall in the exchange rate. Any costs above that will be borne by The London Art History Society. The exchange rate used for these costings was £1 = 1.15 euros.

The above costs also include the services of a travel agent – **Real Holidays** – who provide professional booking services and ABTA cover. All travel and accommodation (Eurostar and hotels) have been arranged by Real Holidays, who will accordingly handle the financial side of the trip.

Bookings and any initial enquiries will be dealt with by Michael Pearson, The London Art History Society Study Tour Organiser, who may be contacted by email tours@londonarthistorysociety.org.uk or telephone 01799 521290.

Bookings can only be accepted if accompanied by a deposit of **£200** per person, made payable to **Real Holidays**. All applicants and friends who travel with them must be current members of The London Art History Society at the time of the trip.

Booking forms are included with this posting, so if you do intend joining us, please complete the form and send it, along with a cheque made payable to Real Holidays, to Michael Pearson at the address below.

The London Art History Society, c/o Tudor Cottage, Stoke Prior, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 0LG

Your attention is drawn to the booking conditions issued by Real Holidays and available for inspection on its website www.realholidays.co.uk/about-us/about-real-holidays/travel-agency-booking-conditions. It is essential that you take out travel insurance cover, and you should also obtain the European Health Insurance Card (which replaced the form E111) from a Post Office. **Note** that the EHIC is

only valid for five years; please ensure that your card will be valid during the period of our tour.

The itinerary and locations are subject to unpredictable circumstances. We are visiting churches where funerals and weddings are held and choir practice and enthusiastic organists can disrupt our day. We shall try to work around these little problems but ask for your understanding should they occur. We would like to emphasise the fact that these cultural tours are organised for the benefit of members by an enthusiastic volunteer; they are not commercial operations and we will **not** be accompanied by a tour manager for the duration of our tour. We rely on participants to be self-reliant and independent. Participants who feel that they may need help should make arrangements for a companion to accompany them who is prepared to give them assistance. All tours involve a significant amount of standing around in museums or walking, often over uneven cobbled streets. Participants on all tours should be able to walk at a reasonable pace and/or stand for at least thirty minutes without aid or requiring a rest. If you or any member of your party has any medical condition you are expected to know the limit of your abilities and be sensible. Where appropriate, you should consider using taxis or other independent transport.

Expanded Preliminary Itinerary

Our Lecturer

Alexandra Gajewski (PhD, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, 1996) studied Art History first at Münster University, Germany and then at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London, where she obtained her PhD on Gothic architecture in northern Burgundy. She has taught at various London universities, at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, and as Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Most recently, she worked as a Senior Researcher at the Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Madrid, where she was part of a research team investigating 'The Roles of Women as Makers of Medieval Art and Architecture'. Her research has concentrated on art and architecture in medieval Europe between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries, especially on questions of monasticism, cult, patronage, and the role of women. She has published widely on Cistercian architecture in France, the Empire and Bohemia. Her publications include works on Emile

Mâle, on the abbey church at Vézelay, and in 2016 a collaborative study on women and textiles. Her current research centres on southern France, including Marseille, which is particularly opportune for our tour. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Friday

Arrive mid-afternoon, transfer to the hotel and assemble for walk to Abbaye Saint Victor

Marseille's oldest church. Tradition holds that in about 415, John Cassian founded two monasteries of St. Victor at Marseille, one for men (the later Abbey of St. Victor), the other for women. In the 8th or 9th centuries both monasteries were destroyed by the Saracens, either in 731 or in 838. Both foundations suffered from Saracen raids culminating in 838 when the then abbess, Saint Eusebia, was martyred with 39 nuns. The nunnery was never re-established. In 977, monastic life began again, due to bishop Honorat and the first Benedictine abbot Wilfred who submitted the abbey to the rule of Saint Benedict. Saint Isarn (d. 1048), a Catalan monk successor as abbot to Saint Wilfred, began extensive building. He built the first upper church to which the tower belongs (called Isarn tower), today the access to the church. The earlier church became a crypt that was extended in the twelfth century. The dissolution of the Abbey of St. Victor was decreed by Pope Clement XII on 17 December 1739. In 1794 the abbey was stripped of its treasures, the relics were burned, the gold and silver objects were melted down to make coins and the building itself became a warehouse, prison and barracks. Despite all destructions, the church that remains is an impressive Romanesque and Gothic structure. Access should be possible to the crypt, where we will consider the early Christian and medieval cult and monasticism at Marseille.

Dinner to be arranged nearby.

Saturday

Marseille History Museum and excavations of Old Port (Musée d'Histoire de Marseille)

The renovated and expanded historical museum now sits on the archaeological site of the Jardin des Vestiges, which shows the remains of Marseille's ancient sea port at a time when the natural harbour or inlet extended further inland than today. Surrounded by the remains of the port, with its fortifications and docks dating from the 1st century, visitors can follow the paved Roman road leading to the entrance of the museum. The museum traces the history of the city and its port, from prehistoric times to the present day, around the theme of navigation. We will examine a selection of objects that reflect this history.

Musée des Beaux Arts

Palais Longchamp. This remarkable building with its monumental fountains was constructed from 1862 to 1869 by the Nîmes architect Henri Esperandieu, to celebrate the completion of the Durance to Marseille canal. A true hymn to the glory of water, it mixes many different architectural styles and has an attractive garden at the upper level. It is linked by colonnades to the Musée des Beaux-Arts and the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle. The Musée des Beaux-Arts's collection has just been re-hung. It includes paintings and sculptures from the 16th and 17th centuries on the first floor while the second floor is devoted to 18th and 19th century artists. We shall focus on art related to Marseille itself, looking at the Baroque sculptures of the city's famous son, Pierre Puget, and at paintings by local artists from the late 19th/early 20th century, some of them showing views of Marseille that will help us better understand the city.

Dinner independent.

Sunday

Musée des Docks Romains; Vieille Charité

Musée des Docks Romains - A small museum that features exhibits from Roman shipwrecks. The museum is situated on the ruins of an ancient Roman warehouse that brings alive the time when Marseille was a thriving Roman harbour.

Vieille Charité - In accordance with the royal policy of "the great confinement of the poor", in 1640 the City Council decided to "confine Marseille's native poor to a clean and specific place". In 1670, a charity within the Magistrate Council commissioned Pierre Puget, the Marseille-born royal architect, to build a General Hospital to accommodate beggars and the poor. The first stone was laid in 1671 of what would be one of Pierre Puget's most beautiful architectural designs. The hospital was completed in 1749 with four wings of buildings enclosing an internal rectangular courtyard to access the vast communal work and residential spaces separating men and women. The chapel built in the centre of the courtyard between 1679 and 1707 is a stunning architectural piece with an ovoid dome, the epitome of Italian baroque. The current façade wasn't built until 1863 and echoes the Charité's mission. After the Revolution, the Charité became a hospice for the elderly and children until the end of the 19th century. In 1905, the building was occupied by the army and was then used to shelter the poorest citizens. Abandoned after the Second World War and destined to be demolished, the architect Le Corbusier campaigned to save it and eventually succeeded in having it listed as a Monument Historique in 1951. The renovated Vieille Charité has been a science and culture centre since 1986 and houses the Musée d'archéologie méditerranéenne. We shall discuss the architecture of the Charité's buildings and visit the Musée d'archéologie méditerranéenne.



La Vieille Charité

Sunday afternoon: Free time for independent exploration.

Dinner to be arranged nearby.

Monday

MuCEM (*The Musée des civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée*)

Opened for the European City of Culture in June 2013. Developed in partnership between the State, the City of Marseille, the Département of Bouches-du-Rhône and the Region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, MuCEM is the first transfer to a provincial capital of a national collection devoted to the peoples and cultures of the Mediterranean which was based in Paris. The collection from the Musée des Arts et Traditions Populaires founded in Paris in 1937 consisted of nearly one million works, objects and documents that have been transported to Marseille in their entirety.

The Musée des Civilisations de l'Europe et de la Méditerranée (MuCEM) is a symbol of the importance and rebirth of Marseille: it has joined the circle of the 50 most visited museums in the world.

It occupies three sites and we shall visit two of them, the Fort Saint-Jean and the permanent exhibition, *The Gallery of the Mediterranean*.

Afternoon - Eurostar direct to St Pancras