An Elbe River Cruise
aboard the Elbe Princesse • April 23–May 4, 2017
With Jocelyne Kolb, Professor of German Studies
Dear Smith Alumnae,

The Elbe River has long been an important delineator of east and west in Europe. Linking two of the most fascinating capitals of Europe—Prague and Berlin—it traverses a land filled with captivating treasures, including cosmopolitan cities and picturesque towns; terraced vineyards and lush orchards; fortress-crowned crags; and the spectacular gorges of “Saxon Switzerland.”

This eight-night river cruise aboard the brand-new Elbe Princess embraces the broad sweep of history across this region of Europe in visits to some of its most meaningful cities, towns, and monuments: Wenceslas Square, ground zero of the Velvet Revolution; the Wittenberg church where Martin Luther posted his 95 Reformation Theses; historic Jewish synagogues and cemeteries; World War II memorials; Meissen’s fine porcelain workshop; the treasures of Dresden’s Green Vault; Potsdam’s whimsical Sanssouci Palace; and Friedensreich Hundertwasser’s Green Citadel, a fine example of a unique artistic vision often compared to that of Antoni Gaudí. From Bohemia to the former East Germany, the variety of visits and views in this part of the world is rich and unique.

Accompanied by Smith Professor Jocelyne Kolb, soak up the fascinating history unfolding throughout this cruise while enjoying visits to noteworthy cathedrals, magnificent palaces and gardens, and art and architectural masterpieces old and new.

This cruise is co-sponsored by Harvard and Yale, and the Elbe Princess has accommodations for only 64 guests. To ensure your place on this voyage, please call Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or go to http://alumnae.smith.edu/travel.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations
Study Leaders

**Jocelyne Kolb**, Professor of German Studies, received her BA from Smith College and her PhD from Yale University. Her research focuses on European Romanticism with a concentration on the works of Heinrich Heine in the European context. She has written on music and literature in the works of Heine, Thomas Mann, and Wagner; on literary decorum in Goethe, Diderot, Byron, and Heine; on Heine and George Eliot; on romantic irony; on literary antisemitism; and on literary correspondence. Her book *The Ambiguity of Taste: Freedom and Food in European Literature* was awarded the Barricelli Prize by the International Conference of Romanticism. She was three times a fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and served for eight years as the president of the North American Heine Society.

**Paul Kennedy** is Director of International Security Studies, J. Richardson Dilworth Professor of History, and Distinguished Fellow of the Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy at Yale. He teaches “Military History of the West since 1500,” as well as numerous seminars on Great Power politics. His monthly column on current global issues is distributed worldwide by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate/Tribune Media Services. His best-known work, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, has been translated into more than twenty languages. He is currently writing a book about sea power and global transformations during World War II.

**John Stewart**, a composer and music theorist, earned degrees from the New England Conservatory and Harvard University, where he studied with composers Earl Kim, Leon Kirchner, and Lukas Foss, among others. A composer of chamber, vocal, and orchestral music, Dr. Stewart taught at the New England Conservatory for many years before joining the faculty of Harvard University for over 25 years—retiring in 2008. While at Harvard he received both the Harvard Phi Beta Kappa Teaching Prize (1994) and the Joseph R. Levenson Memorial Teaching Award (2008), and was named a “Favorite Professor” of the Harvard College Class of 2009.
**ITINERARY**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 23–MONDAY, APRIL 24**

**U.S. / Prague, Czech Republic**

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. Arrive on Monday and transfer to your hotel, located on the edge of Prague’s historic Old Town.

**PRAGUE MARRIOTT**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 25**

**Prague**

Set out on a walking tour of charming Old Town Prague, largely unchanged for centuries. See Old Town Square, home of an intricately decorated astronomical clock (below) and the iconic pointed spires of Tyn Cathedral. Stroll among the street artists and musicians across the Charles Bridge, which spans the Vltava River and offers spectacular views of Prague Castle and the domes and turrets of Old Town. Enjoy lunch on your own and an afternoon to explore Prague at your leisure, then gather for a welcome reception, dinner, and private concert at the incomparable Lobkowicz Palace, an impressive Renaissance chateau perched high above the river. **PRAGUE MARRIOTT (B,R,D)**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 27**

**Prague / Cruising**

This morning explore Prague’s Jewish Quarter, visiting the haunting Old Jewish Cemetery and the 13th-century Old-New Synagogue, the oldest active synagogue in Europe. Spend the afternoon cruising toward the Germany border. **ELBE PRINCESSE (B.L,D)**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 28**

**Cruising / Bad Schandau**

Enjoy a morning of cruising along the beautiful Elbe River through “Saxon Switzerland” to the charming town of Bad Schandau, a summer resort for more than two centuries. Travel uphill and inland by coach to see the spectacular Bastei Rock and the maze of pinnacles, ravines, and bizarre stone formations said to have inspired Richard Wagner’s *Lohengrin*. **ELBE PRINCESSE (B.L,D)**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30**

**Dresden**

One of the most beautiful cities in Germany, Dresden is renowned for its splendid Baroque architecture and world-class art collections. Enjoy a walking tour of the Old Town, including Theater Square, framed by the Zwinger Palace, now a museum complex; the Catholic Hofkirche, which contains the last work of renowned organ builder Gottfried Silbermann; and the Semper Opera House, regarded as one of the...
imaginative Green Citadel of artist Friedensreich Hundertwasser, for whom straight lines were anathema. At the Kloster Museum, housed in a former convent, view a contemporary art exhibit, then drive through a suburb of Bauhaus homes, some designed by Walter Gropius. This afternoon, cruise the incredible 35-mile-long Havel Canal, transiting three locks en route to Potsdam. **ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30**

**Dresden / Meissen**

This morning visit the Zwinger Palace museum and tour the Old Masters Gallery, where works by Rembrandt, Rubens, and Raphael are displayed. After free time to explore the palace’s other collections, drive to Meissen, where the formula for hard-paste porcelain was discovered in 1708. Visit the workshop where the “white gold” is still made by hand, and see the exquisite collection at the Porcelain Museum; or explore Moritzburg Castle, a Baroque palace originally built as a hunting lodge in the mid-1500s by Duke Moritz of Saxony. **ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)**

**MONDAY, MAY 1**

**Wittenberg**

Call at Wittenberg for a visit to the Castle Church, where in 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door, beginning the Protestant Reformation. Wittenberg’s historic Market Square, spared by the Allies during bombing raids, is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On a walking tour of Old Town, visit Luther’s home as well as St. Mary’s Church, where he often preached. **ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)**

**TUESDAY, MAY 2**

**Magdeburg**

Founded by Charlemagne in 805, Magdeburg was one of the most important medieval cities in Europe. Visit the cathedral, the oldest Gothic example in Germany, and the highly

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3**

**Potsdam / Berlin**

In Potsdam, explore the magnificently Rococo Sanssouci Palace and Park, originally sketched by Frederick the Great and now the largest UNESCO World Heritage site in Germany. Also visit Cecilienhof Palace, where Churchill, Truman, and Stalin met at the historic Potsdam Conference in 1945 and redrew the map of Europe. This afternoon, cruise to Berlin and join the captain for a farewell reception and dinner on board. **ELBE PRINCESSE (B,L,D)**

**THURSDAY, MAY 4**

**Berlin (Disembark) / Home**

Disembark the Elbe Princesse and transfer to Berlin Tegel airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)
**Elbe Princesse**

The *Elbe Princesse*, under construction in 2016, will be able to navigate the Elbe River year-round—even when waters are low and not navigable by other vessels—thanks to the incorporation of advanced paddle-wheel technology into its design. This new-generation French-flagged river vessel is also designed to berth close to some of the historic European city centers visited during this cruise. The intimate *Elbe Princesse* has 40 guest cabins, many of them with a picture window and a private balcony. All cabins are air-conditioned and equipped with en suite facilities, a hair dryer, a safe, and a flat-screen TV. The restaurant accommodates all passengers at one seating and offers delicious cuisine and attentive service. The *Elbe Princesse* also features a lounge/bar with large picture windows and a dance floor, a spacious sun deck with chaise lounges, and free Wi-Fi.

**Optional Post-Trip Extension • Berlin**

**MAY 4–7, 2017**

Enjoy a three-night, post-trip extension in this exciting European capital. Admire the eclectic architecture of the city, from the historic Berlin Cathedral and Brandenburg Gate (left) to the more contemporary buildings and complexes that have arisen since the end of the Cold War. Reflect on somber periods in German history at Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Museum, and the remains of the Berlin Wall. Enjoy lunch in the rooftop restaurant of the Norman Foster–enhanced Reichstag and marvel at the fashion, food, and home décor displays at the KaDeWe department store, the German equivalent of London’s Harrods.

Rates: $2,290 per person, double occupancy; $2,990 per person, single occupancy.

**Program Rates Include**

All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • All excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel • Entrance fees and port charges • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • House wine, beer, and soft drinks at lunch and dinner and aboard the *Elbe Princesse* • Bottled water on motorcoaches • Professional tour manager

**What to Expect**

The pace of this tour is moderately active, with considerable walking each day over rough, cobblestoned terrain. Participants should be in good health and capable of undertaking this level of activity without assistance from tour staff. By forwarding the deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

**Air Arrangements**

Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., is our preferred provider for airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

Please note: U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Economy-class airfare between New York and Prague with return from Berlin is approximately $1,200 per person as of May 2016 and is subject to change without notice. Information about making flight arrangements will be sent to all participants.
GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Travel insurance • Deviations from the scheduled tour • Airport transfers except as noted in Program Rates Include • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary: dishes and beverages not part of the included meals • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, email, and fax charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

INSURANCE A trip protection plan is available at extra cost. Upon receiving your reservation, Smith Travel will send you information on this policy. This comprehensive guest protection plan covers trip cancellation for medical reasons, trip delay, medical expenses, accidental death, lost baggage, and medical evacuation.

SIZE This program is limited to 64 participants, including travelers from Smith, Harvard, and Yale.

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS Your costs are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063, or fax to (413) 585-2015. Balance of payment is due December 24, 2016. We accept personal checks, payable to Criterion Travel, as well as VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Smith Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a $250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Final payment is due December 24, 2016 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations within 120 days of departure are 100% nonrefundable. For this reason we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by Smith Travel or our tour operator, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. Note: Neither Smith College nor Criterion Travel, Inc., the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

ITINERARY CHANGES The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Smith College and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Smith College and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

DISCLAIMER Smith Travel is pleased to provide this service of facilitating travel opportunities for its Alumnae and Friends. Smith Travel strives to work with the best tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Smith family. Please note that Smith Travel does not conduct tours, nor does it act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Smith College acts as a facilitator with tour operators, with whom tour participants make arrangements for completing travel, and is pleased to act as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during, or after your tour. Smith Travel encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator’s cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. Smith College is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel.

CABIN CATEGORY

ACCOMMODATIONS Cabin category preference: 1st choice 2nd choice

Bed preference in hotel (not guaranteed): One bed Two beds

I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated herein.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

RESERVATION FORM

Prague to Berlin
A N E L B E R I V E R C R U I S E

aboard the Elbe Princesse • April 23–May 4, 2017

To reserve your space, please make your deposit check payable to Criterion Travel and mail to: Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. You may fax credit card information to: (413) 585-2015. For questions, call Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029.

CONTACT INFORMATION (Please Print)

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) SMITH AFFILIATION
NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) SMITH AFFILIATION

STREET ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

HOME PHONE BUSINESS PHONE

FAX E-MAIL

PAYMENT

I Enclosed is my check for $ (1,000 per person), to hold place(s) on An Elbe River Cruise. OR
I Charge my deposit to:

I MasterCard I VISA I AmEx I Discover

CARD # EXPIRE DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE SECURITY CODE

SINGLE TRAVELERS

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

I I prefer to have single accommodations.
I I plan to share accommodations with

I I am willing to share with another participant (not guaranteed). I am a Non-smoker Smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of December 24, 2016, I will pay the single rate.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference: 1st choice 2nd choice

Bed preference in hotel (not guaranteed): One bed Two beds

I I have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated herein.
Travel for eight nights from Prague to Berlin aboard the intimate 40-cabin Elbe Princesse, gliding through the idyllic green countryside that lines the Elbe River.

Enjoy a fascinating educational program presented by an expert team of study leaders as well as knowledgeable local guides.

Marvel at the glittering treasures of the Green Vault and the incredible collection of Old Masters paintings at the Zwinger Museum in Dresden.

Explore Wittenberg and its Castle Church during the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses.

Stroll the fanciful gardens of Sanssouci Palace in Potsdam, and explore Cecilienhof Palace, where Truman, Churchill, and Stalin met in 1945 to redesign the map of Europe.

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