

PRINCETON JOURNEYS

In the Footsteps of Van Gogh

The Netherlands & Belgium

September 14 - 22, 2027



With Debora Silverman '75 *83, Distinguished Professor Emerita
of History and Art History, UCLA



Traveling With *You*

Debora Silverman '75 '83 is Distinguished Professor Emerita of History and Art History at UCLA. A scholar of 19th- and 20th-century European arts, she writes and lectures widely on Van Gogh, Gauguin, Art Nouveau, Belgian art and architecture, and the social worlds that shaped modernist creative consciousness. Her books include *Art Nouveau in Fin-de-Siècle France* and *Van Gogh and Gauguin: The Search for Sacred Art*, winner of the Ralph Waldo Emerson National Humanities Prize and a PEN American Center/Architectural Digest award. Professor Silverman has been a Getty Scholar, Guggenheim Fellow, and member of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study. She is elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. In 2024, she was the Van Gogh Museum Visiting Fellow in 19th-Century Art.

Trip Highlights

Tour Amsterdam's **Van Gogh Museum**, where Professor Silverman was a visiting scholar, home to the world's largest Van Gogh collection.

Visit the **Kröller-Müller Museum** for a curator-led tour of the world's second-largest Van Gogh collection, set amid the forests and sculpture gardens of De Hoge Veluwe National Park.

Bike along the **Van Gogh-Roosegaarde Cycle Path**, a nearly 2,000-foot route with thousands of glow-in-the-dark stones that light up in swirling patterns inspired by *The Starry Night*.

Spend time in **Brabant**, the Dutch region where Van Gogh lived and created roughly a quarter of his works, immersing yourself in the landscapes that inspired his early art.

Join a curator at the **Het Noordbrabants Museum** to see 12 works from Van Gogh's Brabant years, along with letters, documents, and photographs.

View Old Master paintings that Van Gogh closely studied, including Rubens's altarpieces inside **Antwerp's Cathedral of Our Lady** and Frans Hals's paintings at the **Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp**.



Genneper Watermolen, photo courtesy of Visit Brabant

Dear Princetonian,

Delight in an art lover's paradise on a custom-designed, Princeton-exclusive journey through Vincent van Gogh's **Netherlands and Belgium**.

Travel alongside acclaimed art historian **Debora Silverman '75 *83**, former visiting fellow at the Van Gogh Museum and award-winning author of *Van Gogh and Gauguin: The Search for Sacred Art*, who will illuminate the world of this revolutionary artist.

Convene with fellow Tigers in **Amsterdam**. Tour the **Van Gogh Museum**, showcasing the world's largest collection of his work, explore the Rijksmuseum, and enjoy a private dinner cruise through the city's UNESCO-listed canal ring.

Continue through **Eindhoven**, **Antwerp**, **Brussels**, and surrounding villages, enjoying access to renowned museums, cultural highlights, and places that shaped Van Gogh's eye as a practicing artist. See the **Gennep Watermolen** painted by Van Gogh in 1884, take a curator-led tour of the world-class **Kröller-Müller Museum**, and visit **Den Bosch** in the province where Van Gogh was born.

Explore **Nuenen**, where Van Gogh painted a quarter of his life's work, admire Rubens' spectacular altarpieces at the **Cathedral of Our Lady**, which Van Gogh made several visits to see, and discover the amazing collection of the **Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp**.

To reserve your place on this expertly curated adventure, please [register online](#) or contact Princeton Journeys at 609-258-8686 / journeys@princeton.edu.

Best wishes for continued curiosity and lifelong learning,

Bridget St. Clair

Director, Alumni Education and Travel
Princeton University

PRINCETON
JOURNEYS



Map of the region

Activity Level:
Intermediate

Pace Level:
Vivace



Visit Arrangements Abroad's website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels at www.arrangementsabroad.com/faqs.

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In the Footsteps of Van Gogh

The Netherlands & Belgium

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Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Tuesday, September 14:

Departure

Depart on an overnight flight for Amsterdam.

Wednesday, September 15:

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

(R,D)

Arrive in **Amsterdam** and transfer to the iconic **InterContinental Amstel Amsterdam**. Revered as the city's "Grand Dame," the Amstel has welcomed royalty, world leaders, and luminaries for more than 150 years.

This evening, join a **welcome reception and dinner on a private evening cruise** through Amsterdam's UNESCO-listed canal ring, a 17th-century achievement in urban planning.

Thursday, September 16:

Amsterdam

(B,L)

Begin your Van Gogh experience with a **lecture by Debora Silverman '75 *83**, Distinguished Professor Emerita of History and Art History at UCLA, who will introduce the Dutch artist's early subjects, working methods, and later reputation.

Next, enjoy a guided tour of the **Van Gogh Museum**, home to the world's largest collection of his work, including paintings, drawings, and letters. See masterpieces such as *The Potato Eaters*, *The Bedroom*, *Sunflowers*, and *Wheatfield with Crows*, following his shift from dark Brabant interiors to the vibrant colors of his final years in France.

After lunch, you may join an optional guided visit to the **Rijksmuseum**, the national museum of the Netherlands, where you will place Van Gogh within the longer history of Dutch painting. In the Gallery of Honour, view Dutch Golden Age works by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and others.



Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands



Jean Dubuffet, *Enamel Garden*, 1974, photo: Marjon Gemmeke, Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo

You may also spend the afternoon at **Museumplein**, visiting the **Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam** for modern and contemporary art by Mondrian, Warhol, Malevich, and others. Those who prefer independent time may stroll or bike along the canals, or seek out Amsterdam's contemporary design galleries. The evening, including dinner, is at leisure.

Friday, September 17:

Amsterdam / Otterlo / Den Bosch / Eindhoven

(B,L)

After a morning lecture by **Debora Silverman**, travel to **Otterlo** and **De Hoge Veluwe National Park**, one of the largest nature reserves in the Netherlands. In this picturesque setting, join a curator-led tour of the **Kröller-Müller Museum**, home to the world's second-largest collection of Van Gogh paintings. The museum began with Helene Kröller-Müller, one of the first major collectors to champion his work, and also holds paintings by Monet, Seurat, Picasso, and Mondrian.

Afterwards, you may use the park's bicycles for a short ride through woods and heathland to **Jachthuis Sint Hubertus**, the former Kröller-Müller hunting lodge, and visit the museum's sculpture garden, one of the largest in Europe.

After lunch, head to **Den Bosch**, also known as 's-Hertogenbosch, a major city in North Brabant, the province where Van Gogh was born. Tour the medieval city center, including the towering Gothic St. John's Cathedral and lively Market Square.

At **Het Noordbrabants Museum**, join a curator-led tour focused on Van Gogh's Brabant years. View 12 paintings from his early Dutch period, along with letters, documents, and photographs that help explain his work in nearby Nuenen.

Transfer to **Eindhoven** to check into your hotel. Relax and enjoy the rest of the evening, including dinner, at your leisure.

Saturday, September 18:

Eindhoven / Nuenen / Eindhoven

(B,L)

Start the day with a guided look at the **Van Abbemuseum**, Eindhoven's leading museum of modern and contemporary art, with more than 2,700 works by artists including Picasso, Marlene Dumas, Rineke Dijkstra, El Lissitzky, and John Körmeling.

Visit Van Gogh sites in and around Eindhoven, including **Genneper Watermolen**, the working watermill he painted in 1884, and the 19th-century **St. Catharina Church**, which Van Gogh sketched. View the **Van Gogh Mural**, Julien Crevaels's large public tribute to the painter's Brabant years.



Van Gogh Village Museum, Neunen, photo courtesy of Visit Brabant



Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp, Belgium

Travel to **Nuenen**, where Van Gogh lived with his parents from 1883 to 1885 and created roughly a quarter of his work. Lunch is at **De Watermolen**, set within **Collse Watermolen**, another historic watermill he painted.

At the **Van Gogh Village Museum**, learn how the village and its cottages, weavers, church, and fields entered his early work. A walking tour includes the site of the **De Groot family cottage**, where the family pictured in *The Potato Eaters* lived.

Return to Eindhoven for dinner at leisure. This evening, guests may choose an optional visit to the **Van Gogh-Roosegaarde Cycle Path**, a nearly 2,000-foot route with glow-in-the-dark stones based on *The Starry Night*.

Sunday, September 19:

Eindhoven / Antwerp, Belgium

(B,L,R)

Rise for a **morning lecture** by **Debora Silverman**, which takes you into the next stages of Van Gogh's artistic growth and transformation. Travel to the next base for exploring Van Gogh's work: **Antwerp**, the Belgian city where he lived for several months in 1885-1886, visiting museums and churches to learn from earlier painters.

Take a guided visit to the **Cathedral of Our Lady**, home to great altarpieces by Rubens, including *The Elevation of the Cross* and *The Descent from the Cross*, works Van Gogh returned to see during his time in the city.

Walk through **Grote Markt van Antwerpen**, the city's historic main square, with its Renaissance City Hall and restored guild houses. Gather for lunch at a local restaurant known for family-style Flemish cooking.

After checking into the hotel, visit **Saint Paul's Church**, which holds Baroque works by Rubens, Anthony van Dyck, Jacob Jordaens, and other 17th-century Flemish painters. This evening, gather for a **reception with drinks and appetizers** during a guided cruise on the Scheldt River. Dinner is at leisure.

Monday, September 20:

Antwerp

(B,L)

In an early-morning guided visit to the **Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp (KMSKA)**, see the Flemish and Dutch works Van Gogh studied during his months in the city. He looked closely at Rubens's scale, color, and movement, and admired how Frans Hals could create a face on canvas with a few quick strokes.



Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp, Belgium, photo by Karin Borghouts



Hôtel Solvay, Brussels, Belgium

After the tour, spend time with the collection on your own, then gather for lunch before an afternoon and evening at leisure. Explore Antwerp's old city center, return to **Grote Markt van Antwerpen**, browse shops and cafés, or walk along the river.

Tuesday, September 21:

Antwerp / Brussels

(B,D)

Join Debora Silverman for one final morning lecture.

Afterwards, travel to Brussels, where Van Gogh studied drawing and perspective at the Académie Royale des Beaux-Arts. Upon arrival, walk through the **Quartier Royal**, the city's neoclassical Royal Quarter, with a focus on Van Gogh's brief time in the city.

Next, visit the UNESCO-listed **Hôtel Solvay**, an Art Nouveau townhouse built between 1895 and 1900. Belgian architect Victor Horta designed the structure and its interiors down to the furniture, carpets, light fixtures, door handles, and tableware, much of which remains in place.

Brussels is widely recognized as one of the world's top chocolate capitals. After lunch at leisure, join a **chocolate workshop** and make a personalized bar to take home. Gain insight into the rare artisanal process that only select Belgian chocolatiers have mastered.

Later, gather for a **celebratory farewell dinner**.

Wednesday, September 22:

Brussels / Return

(B)

Conclude with a final breakfast, then check out of the hotel and transfer to Brussels Airport for your flight home.

Program Rate
\$8,699 per person, double rate
\$9,799 single rate

Rate Includes

- Seven nights hotel accommodations as per itinerary
- 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 and beer at all included lunches and dinners
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers for participants on arrival and departure days
- 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 those noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for participants on arrival and departure days; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

DISCLAIMER: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Princeton Journeys and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms>.

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Accommodations



Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp

InterContinental Amstel Amsterdam

Opened in 1867, the iconic Amstel occupies a stunning riverside setting. Long known as Amsterdam's "Grand Dame," the hotel features refined rooms and suites, dining along the Amstel River, a health and fitness club, and an indoor pool.

NH Collection Eindhoven Centre

Set in Eindhoven's modern city center, this hotel is within walking distance of museums, shops, and the train station. Its 132 rooms have floor-to-ceiling windows and French balconies, while the rooftop restaurant and bar offer views across the city.

Botanic Sanctuary Antwerp

Set within a beautifully restored 15th-century monastery, this five-star superior hotel is Antwerp's first member of The Leading Hotels of the World and offers a spa, gardens, and Michelin-starred dining.

Corinthia Brussels

This newly restored, 126-room hotel brings new life to the former Grand Hotel Astoria on Rue Royale. Designed by Henri van Dievoet, the *Belle Époque* landmark features a subterranean spa and premier dining, including restaurants by renowned chefs.

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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve your place, please [register online](#) or contact Princeton Journeys at 609-258-8686 / journeys@princeton.edu. You may also complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Princeton Journeys, P.O. Box 5256, Princeton, NJ 08543.

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State

Zip

Telephone (mobile)

(home)

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel room preference ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

I wish to share a room with

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Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

Front cover: Vincent van Gogh, *The Yellow House (The Street)*, 1888, Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (Vincent van Gogh Foundation)

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