History of Art: A Thousand Years of European Highlights

Utrecht University - Faculty of Humanities, Freie Universität Berlin –

Course location(s)

Utrecht, The Netherlands - Berlin, Germany - Florence, Italy - Rome, Italy

Stay in three of Europe's most wonderful cities, cover some 2000 years of Western art, visit all the relevant museums and sites and yet feel like you’ve done more than just skim the surface? The European Highlights combines a broad approach with profound analysis over the period of six weeks in Florence, Utrecht and Berlin. Seize this opportunity to travel back through time and through some of Europe's most incredible museums in only one summer!

In Florence, you will have the chance to see the works of the great Italian Masters of the Renaissance in the flesh, visiting the many renowned museums, magnificent cathedrals and grand palaces. The journey then continues up north, to Utrecht. Since the Netherlands is a relatively small country, we will visit several cities to discover Dutch Golden Age art. All the landscapes, seascapes, portraits and still lifes may look so realistic, that one can feel the sea-breeze and smell the grapes, but in fact, nothing in these works really is what it seems.

The last two weeks of the course take place in Berlin. Its many museums will take you from the Middle Ages up until today, with additional focus on the art produced during the time that Germany was divided into two nations by the Iron Curtain.

Upon completion, you will have experienced Western Art in broad strokes, and covered particular periods in great detail. The course is highly interactive, and for a large part takes place in front of the original artworks.