

INSCAPE CULTURAL STUDY SOCIETY



THE HUDSON

RIVER OF INVENTION, VALLEY OF HOPE

THURSDAY 9 TO MONDAY 20 OCTOBER 2014

NICHOLAS FRIEND

Along the 315 mile length of the Hudson River which flows through eastern New York State from the Adirondacks to the Statue of Liberty, much that we value in American culture was conceived: New York City began, as New Amsterdam, on the Hudson. American landscape painting was born on the Hudson, as was the landscape conservation movement. The Shakers led by Ann Lee emigrated from England to thrive at New Lebanon, on the Hudson. The first commercially successful paddle steamboat line occurred not on the Mississippi, but on the Hudson, and America's first regularly scheduled rail service connected New York City with Albany, the state capital at the mouth of the Hudson. Churchill first met Roosevelt at FDR's country house at Hyde Park on the Hudson. It is not too much to say that the American dream itself was created and sustained on the Hudson. We familiarise ourselves with an approximately 80-mile long area, the heart of the valley where New Yorkers and others seeking refreshment and solace from concrete jungles have flocked since the Industrial Revolution.

When viewed from the water, the Manhattan skyscrapers in their majestic profusion echo the Palisades, the dramatic natural cliffs rising vertically from the water along the west side of the lower Hudson River. Spanning the time between their formation 200 million years ago and the topping on May 2013 of America's tallest building, One World Trade Center, is a story of an extraordinary expansion and respect for life along the shores of the Hudson, an area of such valued natural beauty it is called America's Rhineland. We follow in the trails of the Mahican and Munsee Native Americans who prospered along its banks, explore the traces of New Netherland's colony operations in their New Amsterdam settlement on Manhattan, seek to understand how the valley became one of the major regions of conflict during the American Revolution, and delve, especially, into the culture of the 19c when popularized by the stories of Washington Irving, the Hudson Valley gained a reputation as a region of gothic mystery. For the Hudson River School, a group of American Romantic painters who worked from about 1830 to 1870, nature in the form of the Hudson Valley landscape was an ineffable manifestation of God. This tour is a celebration of the beliefs, the myths, the architecture, and material culture of one of America's most special regions, the Hudson Valley. We have planned many private visits, and we will stay at lovely hotels, some set amid dramatic, even wild landscape.

THURSDAY 9 OCTOBER

Departure from London Heathrow at 10.30; arrival at John F Kennedy airport New York 13:35, transfer to Washington Square Hotel. Optional architectural walk.

FRIDAY 10 OCTOBER

Architectural walk through Old Dutch New York, Lower East Side and Battery Park, Museum of American Indian, Museum of History of New York, overnight at Washington Square Hotel; group dinner

SATURDAY 11 OCTOBER

Private view, New York Historical Society to see Thomas Cole landscapes; Metropolitan Museum of Art American Collection; Cruise on Lower Hudson River; overnight at Washington Square Hotel.

SUNDAY 12 OCTOBER

Dutch Harlem, Van Cortlandt House in the Bronx, Morris-Jumel Mansion, Hudson Valley Museum with private visit to archives; overnight at Washington Square Hotel; group dinner

MONDAY 13 OCTOBER

Tarrytown: Washington Irving's Sunnyside, and Old Dutch Church and Burial Ground; Philipsburg Manor; Union Church Pocantico; private view of Historic Hudson Valley Research Library. Overnight in Hudson House Hotel, Cold Spring

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER

Storm King Art Center; Dia Beacon Modern Art Collection; overnight Hudson House Hotel, Cold Spring

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER

Loeb Art Center with private visit to print room; Franklin Delano Roosevelt home; Lunch in Culinary Institute; Montgomery Place historic house and grounds; transfer to Saugerties; overnight in Diamond Mills Hotel, Saugerties, group dinner

THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER

Catskill Mountains; Kaaterskill Falls and Lakes; Thomas Cole House Cedar Grove; Frederick Church's Olana; overnight Diamond Mills Hotel, Saugerties

FRIDAY 17 OCTOBER

New Lebanon Shaker Museum; Albany State Capitol; Albany Institute of History and Art; overnight Diamond Mills Hotel, Saugerties

SATURDAY 18 OCTOBER

Private view of Bronck House and Museum, Coxsackie; Athens historic village; Kykuit Rockefeller estate and its Sculpture garden; transfer to Roosevelt Inn , Hyde Park, for last night; group dinner

SUNDAY 19 OCTOBER

Newburgh: River Rose paddle steamer Sunday Brunch cruise; New Paltz historic Huguenot Street; Kingston Old Dutch Church; transfer to John F Kennedy airport for evening flight

MONDAY 20 OCTOBER

Arrive London Heathrow 9:20 am

COST £3995, SRS £240, Deposit £300, including flights London-New York-London, private transfers throughout the tour, accommodation, all breakfasts, four evening meals with wine, all entrance fees, private views and gratuities.

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