VENICE to PARIS
A CLASSIC JOURNEY ON THE ORIENT-EXPRESS
April 25 to May 6, 2015
I’m often asked which of my travel adventures has been my favorite. As a travel enthusiast, I’ve found it difficult to pinpoint any particular destination, but as I look back, the trips that have included travel by train seem to have lingered most affectionately in my mind. My love of trains started when I was a kid, and over the years I’ve made lasting memories riding miles of track throughout the world. Of all the legendary rail lines, none conveys luxury like the Orient-Express, and our trip from Venice to Paris decidedly delivers this gold standard of travel. Add in the romance, intrigue and sophistication of Venice, Budapest and Paris and you get a potent combination sure to satisfy the most discriminating traveler’s wanderlust. I hope you’ll join us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**Stroll** the storied streets of Venice, Budapest and Paris, soaking up each city’s wealth of historical and cultural sites.

**Revel** in the nostalgia of travel aboard the exquisitely appointed Venice Simplon-Orient-Express during our nearly 1,500-mile-long train journey.

**Savor** exquisite cuisine, ranging from traditional Venetian specialties to nouveau Hungarian dishes to savory French bistro comfort food.

**Indulge** in a total of eight nights spent in classic, deluxe hotels in each of the iconic cities on our itinerary.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 25 & 26
DEPART U.S. / VENICE, ITALY
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights to Venice. Upon arrival on Sunday, transfer to our hotel. Enjoy a short walking tour of the neighborhood before our welcome reception and dinner.

HOTEL GRITTI PALACE (4/26: D)

MONDAY, APRIL 27
VENICE
With its turbulent history and extraordinarily beautiful monuments and art treasures, Venice is one of the best-known and best-loved cities in the world. Its magnificent architecture gives this city of islands an aura of opulent splendor. On our guided walking tour this morning, visit St. Mark’s Square and marvel at the façade, mosaics and golden dome of the Basilica of San Marco and the lofty Campanile. Finally, visit Torcello which was originally settled by Venetians fleeing barbarian invasions in the 5th century. By the 10th century Torcello had become a political and trading center that rivaled Venice. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Venice independently.

HOTEL GRITTI PALACE (B)

TUESDAY, APRIL 28
VENICE
This morning, board a private boat and head out across the beautiful Venetian Lagoon to Venice’s most enchanting islands: Murano, Burano and Torcello. Our first stop is the island of Murano where, in 1291, all the glassmakers in Venice relocated due to the risk of fires. In the following centuries Murano became Europe’s main producer of high-quality glass. Continue by boat to Burano, the most picturesque of Venetian islands and famous for its lace-making industry. Finally, visit Torcello which was originally settled by Venetians fleeing barbarian invasions in the 5th century. By the 10th century Torcello had become a political and trading center that rivaled Venice. The afternoon is at leisure to explore Venice independently.

HOTEL GRITTI PALACE (B)

THURSDAY, APRIL 30
BUDAPEST / DISEMBARK
Spend the morning relaxing in the comfort of our cabins as the train heads toward Budapest. Later, enjoy a three-course lunch before arriving in Budapest in the afternoon. This stunning capital was once two cities on opposite sides of the Danube, which flows through the center of this visually spectacular city. The UNESCO World Heritage Committee has listed the view of the Danube embankments and the Buda Castle District as a World Heritage site. Transfer from the train station to our hotel, where the remainder of the evening is at leisure.

FOUR SEASONS GRESHAM PALACE (B,L)

FRIDAY, MAY 1
BUDAPEST
Depart our hotel this morning for a tour of Budapest that will take us through both the Buda and Pest sections of the city. See many of the city’s major landmarks, including Heroes’ Square, the Opera House and the Gothic-style Parliament building. Continue to the 700-year-old Matthias Church and the turreted Fisherman’s Bastion. After an afternoon at leisure, reconvene this evening to travel to Szentendre, one of Hungary’s loveliest cities situated a few miles north of Budapest. Our brief walking tour along its winding cobblestone streets highlights the delightful architecture of this medieval town. Dinner is served at a local restaurant that features both traditional and nouvelle Hungarian cuisine.

FOUR SEASONS GRESHAM PALACE (B,D)
SATURDAY, MAY 2

BUDAPEST / EMBARK

This morning we re-board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express to begin our rail journey to Paris. Enjoy a delicious brunch, and later, afternoon tea served by our stewards in the comfort of our cabins. This evening partake in a leisurely four-course dinner, prepared onboard by skilled French chefs. Enjoy a brandy or liqueur with pleasant company in the bar before retiring for the night. VENICE SIMPLO-ON-EXPRESS (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, MAY 3

PARIS / DISEMBARK

Paris’s iconic architecture, artistic gems, unparalleled cuisine and century upon century of history are treasures to be explored. After disembarking our train, discover some of the city’s stunning landmarks. View the Champs-Élysées, bookended by Napoleon’s Arc de Triomphe and the Place de la Concorde with its Obelisk of Luxor, pass by the Madeleine Church and visit the famous symbol of Paris, the Eiffel Tower. Marvel at the Gothic cathedral of Notre Dame, the city’s crown jewel. Enjoy lunch at a lively, local brasserie. Following lunch, transfer to our hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. HOTEL LE MEURICE (B,L)

MONDAY, MAY 4

PARIS

Constructed as a fortress in the 12th century and rebuilt as a royal residence in the 16th century, the Louvre is home to arguably the world’s greatest art collection. Our guided tour showcases highlights of the vast collection and provides information on the history of the artwork and of the museum itself. Enjoy some time at leisure this afternoon to relax or to continue to explore the Louvre independently. Later this afternoon, board a private boat and cruise along the Seine. Glide past the Tuileries Gardens, Notre Dame on the Île de la Cité and Île Saint-Louis before entering the tranquil, leafy Canal Saint-Martin. HOTEL LE MEURICE (B,D)

TUESDAY, MAY 5

PARIS

Marais means “marsh,” but this neighborhood is much more elegant than its name. We explore the heart of artistic and cultural life in Paris on a walking tour of this intimate neighborhood, once the nucleus of Jewish life. There is time this afternoon to do some final exploring on our own before our farewell reception and dinner this evening. HOTEL LE MEURICE (B,D)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

PARIS / U.S.

This morning, transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
Venice Simplon-Orient-Express

From the 1920s to the ’30s the carriages of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express played a significant role in the golden age of travel. Today, every carriage has been lovingly restored to its former glory, re-creating one of the finest luxury experiences in travel.

Each private cabin features gleaming wood, polished brass and beautiful marquetry, complete with hot and cold running water, soft fluffy towels and crisp linen. During the day cabins are configured as a lounge with a banquette sofa, footstool, small table and washbasin cabinet. At night they become a cozy bedroom with an upper and lower bed.

Note: Cabins do not offer private bathrooms. Well-appointed toilet facilities are located at the end of each car and are shared. Two nights are spent aboard the Orient-Express.

Program Cost*

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*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
**Single accommodations are limited at this rate.
Information

DATES
April 25 to May 6, 2015 (12 days)

SIZE
Limited to 28 participants

INCLUDED
8 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations • 2 nights aboard the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express • 10 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 dinners • Welcome and farewell receptions • Gratuities to guides, drivers and train crew for all group activities • All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary • Airport transfers on scheduled arrival and departure days • Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance • Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book and travel information • Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

NOT INCLUDED
International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport and visa fees • Immunization costs • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Independent and private transfers • Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance • Excess-baggage charges • Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from San Francisco to Venice with return from Paris is approximately $1,400 as of June 2014 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be moderately strenuous. Excursions in cities involve one to three miles of walking on city streets, which are, in some cases, uneven or cobblestone. Some sites and museums do not allow buses to pull up in front, thus it may take several minutes of walking to reach the entrance. Buses are not available for touring in Venice, so all excursions will be on foot. Busy days are contrasted with the relaxed pace aboard the train, where travelers will have ample opportunity to take in the scenery from the comfort of their cabins. Embarking and disembarking the train will require stepping up and down several steep steps, and participants should feel comfortable walking through and between rocking rail cars while the train is in motion. Train accommodations include an upper berth and lower berth; at least one person must be fit enough to climb up a short ladder to reach the upper berth. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $2,500-per-person deposit is required to hold space for this program. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $1,250-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,250-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you postmark your insurance payment within a specified window: 21 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter for the Early Purchase provisions.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Stanford Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and train arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in June 2014 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048523-50
CAROLYN LOUGEE has been teaching history at Stanford since 1973. A specialist in early modern Europe, she has made pioneering contributions to social and cultural history, particularly to the history of women and families. Her courses for undergraduates have regularly included Western Civ and its various successors, and she regards this rail journey as an unusual opportunity to revisit Europe’s breadth in time and space, just as Stanford’s freshman courses used to do: Venice for the Renaissance, Budapest for the Gilded Age and Paris for every age. With one eye on the way history lives on in each of these cities and one eye on their current vibrancy, she believes the trip will yield a new understanding of the diverse peoples and pasts that have now joined to form a single continent in the form of the European Union.

— Frances and Charles Field Professor in History; Bass Fellow in Undergraduate Education; director, structured liberal education
— Formerly: chair, history department; dean, undergraduate studies; senior associate dean, humanities and sciences
— Lloyd W. Dinkelspiel Award for Distinguished Service to Undergraduate Education
— Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching
— BA, history, 1963, Smith College; PhD, history, 1972, University of Michigan

"Who could be better than Carolyn Lougee? The combination of her deep knowledge of history and a real desire to help participants connect with what she had to say was amazing."

MARJORIE HANSEN SHAEVITZ, ’67, FOCUS ON PROVENCE, 2011

Reservation Form
Venice to Paris
April 25 to May 6, 2015

SIGN UP ONLINE!

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.
Signature _________________________________________________________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:
☐ I wish to have single accommodations.
OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with __________________________
OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Bed Preference:
☐ Twin Beds ☐ Double Bed

Here is my deposit of $________ ($2,500 per person) for ______ space(s).
☐ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR
☐ Charge my deposit to my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

CARD # _______________ EXPIRES _______________

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE ________________________ DATE _______________

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?orientexpress2015. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
Venice is an astonishing place and Stanford Travel/Study assembled a remarkable set of highlights for this trip.

Jim Mehring, PhD ’83, Venice and the Veneto, 2014

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