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# Travel with The Met

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October 31–November 5, 2023

The Arts in America's Heartland:  
Kansas City & Crystal Bridges  
with Rika Burnham, Lecturer



THE  
MET



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# The Arts in America's Heartland: Kansas City & Crystal Bridges

Dear Members and Friends of The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

With an abundance of extraordinary museums and exceptional private collections, Kansas City, Missouri, beckons every art lover to come and explore. Two hundred miles south, Bentonville, Arkansas does so too, thanks to the visionary Alice Walton and her world-renowned Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. This new and celebrated museum enthalls visitors with its marvelous interweaving of art, architecture, and nature, designed by Moshe Safdie in the middle of the Ozarks.

Please join me this fall to experience this splendid array of art, architecture, and landscape in America's heartland. As a longtime museum educator whose specialty is looking closely at works of art, I am excited to savor, share, and discover with you a selection of the many masterpieces we'll encounter.

Our program begins with three nights in Kansas City. Accompanied by curators, we will gain behind-the-scenes access to several of the city's exceptional art spaces, including the well-preserved home and studio of the Missouri-born artist Thomas Hart Benton, as well as the epoch-spanning galleries of the vast Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. We will also privately explore the striking Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, viewing masterpieces from artists including Pollock, Rauschenberg, and Johns. A highlight will be a special visit to Harry S. Truman's hometown of Independence, Missouri, and his recently renovated Presidential Library.

Then we will venture south for a two-night stay in Bentonville, including a full-day, curator-led tour of Crystal Bridges. With its glass pavilions surrounded by tranquil ponds, the museum's beauty is matched by the superb American art on display, including works by Georgia O'Keeffe, Norman Rockwell, and others. The museum's campus is equally captivating, encompassing 120 acres of native Ozark forest and five miles of walking trails. Here, we'll find some of the museum's most enchanting works, including outdoor sculptures, a site-specific installation from James Turrell, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Bachman-Wilson House, a fine example of his "Usonian" style of architecture, which was relocated here from its original New Jersey home in 2013.

Mid-autumn in Missouri and Arkansas promises pleasant, mild weather, a perfect time of year in which to immerse ourselves in American art against a backdrop of pine forests and natural springs. I hope you join me for this profoundly enriching cultural experience in the Midwest.

Sincerely,

Rika Burnham

Lecturer

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

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## Traveling with You

Rika Burnham

Rika Burnham is a leading theorist and practitioner of art museum gallery teaching. Author of *Teaching in the Art Museum: Interpretation as Experience*, and lecturer at Columbia University, she has served as Head of Education at The Frick Collection, Museum Educator at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Project Director for TIME/Teaching Institute in Museum Education at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and was appointed Getty Research Institute Museum Scholar in 2002 and 2018. She holds a degree in art history from Harvard University and was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from Massachusetts College of Art and Design in 2014.

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## Trip Highlights

- Enjoy curatorial tours in Kansas City of the encyclopedic collections of the **Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art**, where you will have a close look at its European masterpieces, old and new; and the **Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art**, featuring art by Georgia O'Keeffe, Hans Hofmann, Rashid Johnson, and others
- Meet a curator for a special day-long tour of the **Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art**, enjoying a close look at an American masterpiece and exploring the museum's 120-acre Ozark campus, its outdoor sculptures, and a site-specific installation by James Turrell
- Go backstage at the Moshe Safdie-designed **Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts**, which boasts arches inspired by the rolling plains of Kansas and Missouri
- Venture to Independence, Missouri, for a special inside look at the **Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum**, which has recently undergone a \$29 million renovation
- Step back in time on a guided visit to **the home of Thomas Hart Benton**, noted painter and Missouri native, whose on-site studio is virtually untouched since his death



Asher Durand, *Kindred Spirits*, 1849 (detail), Oil on canvas, 116.8 x 91.4 cm., Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art





Photos clockwise from top right: Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri; Caravaggio, *Saint John the Baptist in the Wilderness*, 1604–1605, Oil on canvas, Purchase: William Rockhill Nelson Trust, 52–25, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri; Medieval Gallery, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri; Claes Oldenburg, (American, born Sweden, 1929 - 2022), *Shuttlecocks*, 1994, Acquired through the generosity of the Sosland Family, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri; Dale Chihuly, *Golden Sun*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Missouri, photo courtesy of the Missouri Tourist Board; Map of the region. Front cover: Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Missouri, photo courtesy of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. Back cover: Tom Otterness, *Crying Giant*, 2002, Museum purchase made possible by a gift from the Kearney Wornall Foundation and the Enid and Crosby Kemper Foundation, 2002.24.01, The Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Missouri (top) and the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City, photo courtesy of Visit Kansas City.



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# The Arts in America's Heartland: Kansas City & Crystal Bridges

October 31–November 5, 2023



Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Kansas City

## Arrival in Kansas City, Missouri

Tuesday, October 31

Arrive in Kansas City and continue to the 21c Museum Hotel. Gather for a reception with welcome remarks from Rika Burnham, followed by a festive welcome dinner this evening.

R, D

## Kansas City

Wednesday, November 1

Delight in a private morning visit to the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Missouri's largest contemporary art museum. Discover its collection bridging the gap between modern and contemporary art, featuring artworks by the likes of Louise Bourgeois, Helen Frankenthaler, Hans Hofmann, Rashid Johnson, Joan Mitchell, Richard Mosse, Willem de Kooning, and Georgia O'Keeffe. Later this afternoon, take a behind-the-scenes excursion to the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts. This magnificent building in downtown Kansas City was designed by architect Moshe Safdie, who also designed the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art. This evening, dinner is at leisure.

B, L

## Kansas City

Thursday, November 2

Our day begins with a curatorial visit to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, which houses more than 35,000 works of art ranging from ancient Greek sculptures to outstanding modern and contemporary pieces by Paul Klee, Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Donald Judd, and other artists. Lunch is at leisure. Then visit the beautifully preserved house and studio of Thomas Hart Benton (1889–1975), the Missouri-born muralist and painter who was known as one of the founders of American Regionalism. Benton vividly captured scenes of U.S. life, family, and history in his art, and you will have an exclusive look at his creative process. Enjoy dinner at a local favorite this evening.

B, D



Harry S. Truman Presidential Library and Museum, Independence, Missouri

## Kansas City / Independence / Bentonville, Arkansas

Friday, November 3

After checking out of the hotel in Kansas City, embark on a short excursion to Independence, Missouri, the hometown of President Harry S. Truman. Delight in a special inside look at the impressive, technologically advanced Harry S. Truman Presidential Library & Museum, established in 1957 and recently reopened after a \$29 million renovation, the largest in its history. Enjoy lunch in Independence before transferring to Bentonville, Arkansas, for a two-night stay. You may opt to have an early visit to the sprawling Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art at your own pace. You may also enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure to admire the charming, rapidly growing Ozark town of Bentonville.

B, L



Kansas City, Missouri

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## More Travels with The Met

**Egypt & the Nile: A Journey Into Antiquity Aboard *Sanctuary Nile Adventurer***  
December 29, 2023–January 9, 2024

**Sailing the Ganges: Round-Trip Kolkata Aboard *Ganges Voyager*** January 22–31, 2024

**Caribbean Paradises & Extraordinary Vistas: Round-Trip Barbados Aboard *Sea Cloud***  
February 23–March 1, 2024

**Treasures of Northern Europe, Medieval to Modern: England to Denmark Aboard *Ocean Albatros*** April 27–May 7, 2024

For details and more trip information, please go to [metmuseum.org/travel](https://www.metmuseum.org/travel)

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James Turrell, *The Way of Color*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Missouri, photo by K. Gordon

## Bentonville

Saturday, November 4

Spend today exploring the acclaimed Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, situated in a picturesque setting that unites the power of art with the beauty of nature. Immerse yourself in its expansive collection of American artworks by artists such as Norman Rockwell, Andy Warhol, Georgia O'Keeffe, John Singer Sargent, Edward Hopper, Kehinde Wiley, and Jordan Casteel. You will also wander through its immensely beautiful campus, featuring Ozark forest, wonderful nature walks, outdoor sculptures and installations, and Frank Lloyd Wright's Bachman-Wilson House, which was relocated here in 2013. Enjoy a festive farewell reception and dinner this evening. B, R, D

## Bentonville / Return

Sunday, November 5

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for flights home. Alternatively, time permitting, you may enjoy more of Bentonville's sites on your own. B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).

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R. Buckminster Fuller, *The Fly's Eye Dome*, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville Arkansas

## Program Rate

**\$6,499 per person, double rate**  
**\$7,299 single rate**

### Rate Includes

- Five 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, coffee/tea, wine, and beer with all included meals
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges

### Not included in rate

Airfare; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

## Accommodations



21c Museum Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri

### 21c Museum Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri

Let contemporary art surround you in this museum and boutique hotel featuring a chef-driven restaurant, nestled between the Power & Light district and River Market in downtown Kansas City.

### 21c Museum Hotel, Bentonville, Arkansas

Located on the northeast corner of the Bentonville town square and a short walk to the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, this 104-room boutique hotel is home to a contemporary art museum, cultural civic center, and The Hive restaurant.

## Crystal Bridges: October 31–November 5, 2023

### Reservation Form

To secure your reservation, please call Arrangements Abroad at 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638); email: [met@arrangementsabroad.com](mailto:met@arrangementsabroad.com); or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit card, credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passports. Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax Email

### Accommodations

Hotel room preference  One bed  Two beds  Single

I wish to share a room with \_\_\_\_\_

### Form of payment

Enclosed is my check (payable to Arrangements Abroad)  Debit card  Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

**Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms) and detailed in program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.**

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

For additional information, please call 844-TRVLMET (844-878-5638) or to opt out from receiving mail, email [travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org](mailto:travelwiththemet@metmuseum.org)





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**The Metropolitan  
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1000 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10028

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