

BORIS GODOUNOV and DON PASQUALE in PARIS

Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris - visit Bruges and Versailles – 10 days

Departure: June 03, 2018

Return: June 12, 2018



Here is an opportunity to hear the great bass singer Ildar Abdrazakov, who made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2004 under James Levine, sing the part of BORIS GODOUNOV at the Palais Garnier in Paris. In Amsterdam you will hear THE TALES OF HOFFMAN, with sub-titles in English, sung by the exceptional American tenor John Osborn,

who made his Met debut in 1996. In Brussels, you will hear the bass singer Ante Jerkunica in BLUEBEARD'S CASTLE. We will stay in the deluxe hotels very near to the famous museums in each of these cities, to see Rembrandt's masterpiece "The Night Watch" and Leonardo da Vinci's "Mona Lisa".

Opera Performances

In Amsterdam:

June 06 – **The Tales of Hoffman** by Jacques Offenbach at the Dutch National Opera.

In Brussels:

June 08 – **Bluebeard's Castle** by Bela Bartok at the La Monnaie De Munt Opera

In Paris:

June 09 – **Don Pasquale** by Gaetano Donizetti at Palais Garnier

June 10- **Boris Godounov** by Modest Mussorgski at Palais Garnier



Sunday, June 03. (D)* DEPART FOR AMSTERDAM

Depart this evening aboard any airline of your choice to Amsterdam, Holland. Dinner and light breakfast served on the plane.

Monday, June 04. (B,D). AMSTERDAM

Independent arrival at the Schiphol International Airport. Take a taxi to the deluxe centrally located RADISSON BLU HOTEL, where we stay three nights. We will reimburse you the taxi fare. Briefing and Gala Welcome Dinner at the hotel.

Amsterdam is colloquially known as the Venice of the North with its impressive architecture and more than 1500 bridges. In the 17th Century this small fishing village exploded into the most important trading center in the world during the Dutch Golden Age of trading with South Africa, India, Indonesia and China. In the 19th and 20th Centuries, the city expanded in all directions, with many neighborhoods and suburbs designed in Modernistic styles. Amsterdam is not the capital of Holland, which is The Hague. This gives the city an informal atmosphere, tolerant and progressive.

Tuesday, June 05. (B). AMSTERDAM

Morning sightseeing of this multi-cultural city to see the canals lined with old houses designed in Renaissance, Baroque, Art Nouveau and Modern Architecture. Afternoon free to take a glass top boat ride for a delightful cruise of the winding canals.

Wednesday, June 06. (B). AMSTERDAM

Today is free to visit the Anne Frank House or any of the fine museums including the Van Gogh Museum, or the Rijksmuseum with its most famous painting the "Night Watch", a masterpiece by Rembrandt. This evening we will see the opera **The Tales of Hoffman** by Jacques Offenbach with American tenor **John Osborn** singing.

Thursday, June 07. (B,D). BRUGES - BRUSSELS

Morning departure to visit Bruges, a fairy-tale town in Belgium to see Our Lady's Church, housing the famous Madonna statue by Michelangelo and the Town Hall Square with its Chapel of the Holy Blood. We continue our journey to arrive in Brussels where we stay at the deluxe HOTEL WARWICK for two nights. Dinner at a gourmet restaurant.



Brussels, the capital of Belgium is more renowned as capital for the European Union. Brussels operates as a bilingual city where both French and Dutch (as in Holland) are official languages and displayed on all streets and signs. The Grand Place or the Market Square is surrounded by the city tower and a range of beautiful 300-year-old buildings, which when lit by bright illumination in the evening make it an unforgettable sight. Just a short walk away is the most famous small bronze statue of the city, Mannekin Pis, performing one of a child's most basic functions. Near the square are shops that sell the famous Belgium Lace even though today some of them are outsourced abroad. Ask for the country of origin, if interested in purchasing.

Friday, June 08 (B). BRUSSELS

Morning sightseeing to include the Atomium, a gigantic structure that still remains from the 1958 World Expo, the Palace of Justice, Royal Palace, Grand Palace and the famous Mannekin Pis fountain. This evening we will see the opera **Bluebeard's Castle** by Bela Bartok at the La Monnaie De Munt opera.

Saturday, June 09. (B). VERSAILLES - PARIS

Morning departure to visit Versailles, France to see the magnificent gardens and the Grand Hall of the Palais built by King Louis the 14th. We continue our drive to Paris, where we stay three nights at the super deluxe Hotel Palais Royal, right near Le Louvre Museum. This evening we will see the opera **Don Pasquale** by Donizetti at Palais Garnier Opera.

Paris, the City of Light, dominates France's intellectual, artistic, scientific and political life. What began as a peaceful settlement starting end of the 5th century, was constantly sacked by the Danish Vikings sailing up the Seine River to pilfer its abbeys until the Vikings back in Denmark themselves accepted Christianity around 9th century. In 1136, Abbot Suger rebuilt the church of St. Denis in the revolutionary Gothic style which was soon copied by churches in Europe. The century of Louis XIV, beginning with the year 1661 produced extraordinary advancement of arts and literature, besides the splendor of court life. Two kings later, the monarchy came to an end with a public demonstration in front of the fortress Bastille on 14 July 1789. It took Napoleon Bonaparte to put down the revolution on 9 November 1799. He went on to create a vast French Empire extending up to Moscow, Russia. Having failed to establish control over Russia, his Grand Army marched back to face eventual defeat at Waterloo, Belgium in 1814.



Sunday, June 10. (B). PARIS

Morning sightseeing of this city full of monuments and museums. Among the sights are the Notre Dame Cathedral, churches of Sainte Chapelle, St. Germain-des-Pres, Eglise du Dome, housing Napoleon's tomb, and Sacre -Coeure; Grand Palais, Les Invalides, Le Louvre, Arc de Triomphe and the Eiffle Tower. This evening we will see the opera **Boris Godounov** by Moussorgski at the Palais Garnier Opera house with **Ildar Abdrazakov** singing the title role.

Monday, June 11. (B,D). PARIS

Today free to shop at the chic boutiques near our hotel or see any of the many famous museums of Paris. Gala Farewell Dinner at a gourmet restaurant.

Tuesday, June 12. (B). PARIS - BACK HOME

Morning departure aboard your flight back home arriving the same afternoon. Au revoir. See you on another H.A.T. Tour.

* B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner (including wine)



LAND COST

DOUBLE: \$6,950 PER PERSON

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: \$1,250 PER PERSON

TOUR INCLUDES

- 1st Category orchestra level seats in theaters
- Four operas
- Deluxe centrally located hotel
- Buffet breakfast daily, 3 dinners with wine.
- Welcome reception with cocktails
- Private sightseeing in each city
- Experienced English speaking guides
- Entrance fees to museums
- Deluxe intercity coach services
- Transportation to and from theaters
- Baggage handling
- Guide, driver, and bellboy gratuities
- Complete package with details of all operas listed
- Transfers between airports and hotels on published arrival and departure days only

H.A.T. Tours

Address: PO Box 46876, St. Petersburg, Florida, 33741, USA

Phone: (727) 367 3973

Fax: (727) 360-8459

Toll free: (800) 472-4448

E-mail: operas@hattours.com

Website: www.EuropeanOperaTours.com

