Another Bite of the Big Apple

THEATRE, ART AND MUSIC IN NEW YORK AND PHILADELPHIA

with Jonathan Biggins
15–26 January 2016 (12 days)
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Following two previous ‘sell-out’ midwinter tours to New York, Jonathan Biggins returns in January 2016 for another bite of the Big Apple. One of the world’s most dynamic and exciting metropolises, New York is bursting with energy and exuberance, and is without doubt one of the world’s great art and theatre destinations.

Over ten days, discover the New York art scene, from Brooklyn to the Cloisters, and enjoy four nights of theatre plus a night at the Metropolitan Opera. During a three-day sojourn to Philadelphia, discover that city’s wonderful art collections, enjoy a concert by its great orchestra and sample its theatre scene.

At a glance…

- Enjoy guided visits to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Cloisters, MoMA, the Guggenheim Museum and the Brooklyn Museum in New York
- In Philadelphia discover the new Barnes Foundation, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Rodin Museum
- In New York see the hit musical comedy Something Rotten. Plus others to be announced
- See and hear the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Yannick Nézet-Seguin
- Conclude with David McVicar’s new production of Cavalleria Rusticana and Pagliacci at the Metropolitan Opera

TOUR LEADER

Jonathan Biggins actor, writer and director, is perhaps best known as one of the creators of The Wharf Revue. He has performed for all the state theatre and opera companies, with recent credits including Travesties and Orpheus in the Underworld. Jonathan won a Helpmann Award for his direction of the musical Avenue Q. A regular contributor to the Good Weekend magazine and former host of ABC TV’s arts program Critical Mass, Jonathan’s first play, Australia Day, debuted for the Melbourne Theatre Company and Sydney Theatre Company in 2012. He recently directed Noises Off for the STC. Jonathan is a regular speaker at Art After Hours and has led successful tours for the Gallery to New York and Chicago.
Fri 15 January 2016  Depart Australia / New York
Suggested departure from Australia on Qantas flights. Arrive New York late afternoon on the same day. Check in to your hotel located in the Central Park area near the Lincoln Centre, Carnegie Hall, MoMA, Times Square and Fifth Avenue’s famous shops.

Sat 16 Jan  New York
Welcome to the Big Apple! After a welcome briefing and breakfast depart the hotel for an orientation tour of Lower Manhattan, south of Central Park. Begin with Times Square, the Rockefeller Centre, St Patrick’s Cathedral, the Empire State Building and Madison Square Garden on your way to Ground Zero, the site of the former World Trade Centre.

After lunch explore colourful Chelsea and Soho, the heart of New York’s avant-garde art world. During the 1990s Chelsea evolved into one of Manhattan’s most trendy neighbourhoods. Former warehouses have been converted into gallery space, and Chelsea has become a thriving quarter for new art. Visit some galleries such as Gagosion, Matthew Marks and Agora Galleries.

Sun 17 Jan  New York
Start your exploration of the museums of New York with a private tour of the Museum of Modern Art. Enjoy the experience of touring the museum without the crowds, one hour before the doors open to the public.

In 2004 MoMA re-opened to acclaim after a major expansion and refurbishing program at its mid-Manhattan site. The new MoMA was designed by the Japanese architect Yoshio Taniguchi and houses celebrated works of art of the past 150 years. There are outstanding examples by Monet, Van Gogh, Cezanne, Matisse and Pablo Picasso, including his seminal cubist painting *Les Demoiselles d’Avignon* (1907), as well as major photography and film collections. Time at leisure to remain at the museum.

This afternoon, take a tour of the Radio City Music Hall. Explore the Art Deco public areas, meet a Rockette and go behind-the-scenes of this iconic New York entertainment venue.

Mon 18 Jan  New York
Enjoy a morning tour of the Upper West side and Harlem. The area has been associated for a long period with the American black community, crime and poverty but Harlem is now experiencing an economic and social gentrification.

Continue to the Cloisters, a branch of the Metropolitan Museum devoted to the art and architecture of medieval Europe, located in northern Manhattan’s Fort Tryon Park. This building incorporates elements from five medieval French cloisters. Discover the Cloisters collection, which comprises approximately five thousand works of art from medieval Europe, dating from about the ninth to the fifteenth century.

Afternoon visit to the magnificent Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum located on Fifth Avenue. The Guggenheim is home to one of the world’s most integrated collections of modern and contemporary art in one of the greatest modern architectural icons of the 20th century.

Tue 19 Jan  New York
This morning join Jonathan for an introductory talk followed by a backstage tour of the Metropolitan Opera House and increase your understanding of how the company works. Backstage tours visit production areas not usually seen by the general public. Return to the hotel on your own arrangements. Afternoon at leisure.

This evening join Jonathan for the second theatrical performance (details to be confirmed late 2015).

Wed 20 Jan  New York – Philadelphia
Today depart by coach from Manhattan to Philadelphia (approx. 95 miles, 2 hrs). Renowned for its cultural institutions, Philadelphia is a citywide gallery of public art. More than 1,800 murals adorn city
facades and 1,400 sculptures are mounted on buildings and along sidewalks throughout the city, making Philadelphia home to one of the largest inventories of public art in the US.

Visit the Philadelphia Museum of Art, with its collection of more than a half-million paintings, sculptures and artefacts, including its outstanding collection of French art from the modern era.

Mid-afternoon transfer to the hotel, overlooking Independence National Historic Park.

Early pre performance dinner at hotel followed by a theatrical performance (details to be confirmed late 2015).

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**Thu 21 Jan**  
Philadelphia

Begin your morning with a guided walking tour of the Independence National Historical Park area by connecting the buildings and places where the events of the American Revolution transpired.

Mid-morning travel to the new home of the Barnes Foundation, established in 1922 by wealthy pharmaceutical mogul Dr Albert C. Barnes to “promote the advancement of education and the appreciation of the fine arts”. View the remarkable collection of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings.

After lunch (own expense) stroll to the Rodin Museum which houses the largest collection of masterpieces, outside of Paris, by French sculptor Auguste Rodin. The Museum was designed by French architect Paul Cret (1876–1945) and French landscape designer Jacques Gréber (1882–1962). Weather permitting stroll through the gardens which recently underwent a three-year rejuvenation effort supported by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

This evening enjoy a performance at the Kimmel Centre by the Philadelphia Orchestra conducted by Yannick Nézet-Séguin.

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**Fri 22 Jan**  
Philadelphia – New York

This morning enjoy a guided tour of the Fairmount Historic Houses on a journey through Fairmount Park and travel back in time to experience the architectural and decorative styles that exemplified the good life in America’s earliest years. After lunch travel back to New York, arriving mid-afternoon.

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**Sat 23 Jan**  
New York

Day at leisure. Time to explore the Metropolitan Museum of Art on your own or explore the streets of New York.

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**Sun 24 Jan**  
New York

This morning continue your exploration of Greater New York City with a tour to Brooklyn, New York City’s most populated borough with 2.5 million residents. Brooklyn was an independent city until its consolidation with New York City in 1898, but continues to maintain a distinct culture, independent art scene, and unique architectural heritage. Enjoy Lunch in a local restaurant followed by a visit to the Brooklyn Museum, the second-largest art museum in New York City, and one of the largest in the USA. It is one of the premier art institutions in the world, with its permanent collection including more than one-and-a-half million objects, from ancient Egyptian masterpieces to contemporary art.

Return to the Theatre District this evening for a fourth theatrical performance (details to be confirmed late 2015).

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**Mon 25 Jan**  
New York

Day at leisure before celebrating the conclusion of the tour with a pre performance farewell dinner. This evening experience a new production by Sir David McVicar of _Cavalleria Rusticana / Pagliacci_. Conducted by Met Principal Fabio Luisi and features a cast including Marcelo Álvarez dual tenor (Turiddu) in _Cavalleria_ and (Canio) in _Pagliacci_ and Eva-Maria Westbroek (Santuzza) the unlucky heroine in _Cavalleria_.

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**Philadelphia Orchestra, Kimmel Centre**

**Conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin**

Haydn – Symphony No.103 _Drum Roll_

Bruckner – Symphony No.4 _Romantic_

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**Guggenheim Museum © Jules Antonio via flickr.com.jpg**

**Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra © Chris Lee**
Tour prices

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<th>AUD</th>
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<tr>
<td>Per person, double share</td>
<td>9,950</td>
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<td>Per person, twin share</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposit per person</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>15 November 2015</td>
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*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code

AG1602

Fitness level

Moderate

Please see booking conditions for fitness level definitions.

Suggested airline

Qantas/Emirates

Please contact Renaissance Tours for current airfares and flight reservations.

Tour price includes

- 11 nights’ accommodation in a centrally located four star superior hotels with daily breakfast (B)
- Meals as per itinerary (L = Lunch, D = Dinner) including wine with meals.
- A-reserve tickets to 7 performances – opera, musical and theatre.
- Pre-performance talks with Jonathan Biggins
- Transfers and sightseeing, including entrance fees as per itinerary, in comfortable air-conditioned coaches
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel porterage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- International airfares
- Transfer on arrival and departure in New York
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, room service etc.
- Travel insurance
- Airport porterage

Your hotels

New York – Park Central
Philadelphia – Omni Hotel at Independence Park

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted
**How to Book**

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours with your deposit and page one of your passport.

**Deposit / Final Payments**

Your deposit is due at the time of booking and is used to pay hotel, airline, performance tickets and/or other deposits. It is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation.

Final payment is due 60 days before departure. Failure to make the final payment by the due date may result in cancellation of your booking and loss of deposit.

Payment by cash, cheque, direct deposit, American Express, MasterCard and Visa is accepted. 1.5% service charge applies to payment made by MasterCard and Visa. 3% service charge applies to payment made by American Express.

Payments for some international airfares can be made by credit card without a service fee. Please check for details.

**Cancellation & Refunds**

(a) Cancellation by You – Cancellation charges will be applied as shown below, calculated from the day written notification is received by Renaissance Tours. In addition to cancellation fees for tours operated by Renaissance Tours as shown below, airlines, hotels and other third parties may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

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<th>Days before departure</th>
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<td>Less than 15 days</td>
<td>100% of tour cost</td>
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The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above, cancellation charges may apply for additional arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours, such as air tickets, hotels and travel insurance premium. If the reason for cancellation is covered by the insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

(b) Cancellation by Us – We reserve the right to cancel a tour for any reason (such as failure to reach minimum tour participant numbers). Except for force majeure, we will not cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure. No further compensation will be paid in the event of cancellation by Renaissance Tours. A full refund of monies paid for tour costs will be the full extent of our liability.

Cancellation and/or amendment fees may apply for additional travel arrangements booked by Renaissance Tours.

**Passports, Visas and Vaccinations**

All travellers must be in a possession of a valid passport – most countries require a 6-month validity from your date of entry or exit. For some countries (e.g. China, Vietnam, India, Russia), visas are included in the tour cost and will be arranged by Renaissance Tours prior to travel. For other countries, it is your responsibility to ensure you have the appropriate visa(s).

You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour.

**Tour Prices**

Prices quoted in our tour information are based on exchange rates, cost of services and applicable taxes at the time of publication. Prices may be subject to change in the event of significant currency fluctuations or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received.

In the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes or a correction in advertised prices, we will advise you and you have the option of accepting the amended prices, inclusions and booking conditions or withdrawing from the tour and receiving a full refund of all monies paid.

Once final payment is received, all prices will be guaranteed and no surcharges will apply.

**Travel Insurance**

It is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. Your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours.

**Fitness and Participation**

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness. However, in certain destinations (e.g. Silk Road, Central Asia, Outback Australia, tropical destinations) or in certain seasons (e.g. mid-winter, mid-summer) or because of the nature of travel (e.g. remote rail), certain tours will require an ABOVE AVERAGE or CHALLENGING level of fitness.

If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to have a doctor’s appraisal. This would require your doctor to read the itinerary of your chosen tour, including the fitness level, and provide you (and us) with a written confirmation of your ability to participate.

**Moderate**

For the overall benefit of the group, all tour members must possess a moderate level of mobility, including the ability to:

- negotiate airports and railway stations without wheelchair assistance
- use combined shower/bath facilities (it is impossible to guarantee walk-in shower facilities)
- undertake walking tour of 1-2 hours duration, including using stairs, walking over cobblestones and other uneven surfaces
- stand for long periods in museums and other sites
- embark / disembark coaches, trains and other methods of transportation without assistance
- handle your own luggage

**Above Average**

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- undertake walking tours of 2-3 hours
- climb staircases of 100 or more steps

**Challenging**

In addition to the above, tour members must also be able to:

- handle extremes of temperature (e.g. below 0 or above 35 degrees)
- handle extremes of altitudes (e.g. 4000 metres and above)

You can find the full terms & conditions at www.renaissancetours.com.au/booking-conditions or we would be happy to post you a copy on request.