

AAUW and Linda Gold of Gourmet Art Tours LLC present

Art and Adventure on the Maine Seacoast

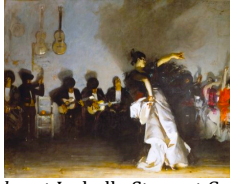
with a visit to the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston
& accommodations at a grand seaside resort in Prouts Neck, Maine.

June 1-3, 2014

\$775 per person based on double occupancy with deposit by March 2, 2014
\$800 per person after March 2, 2014 / Single supplement \$350 additional



Winslow Homer's *Prout's Neck*



Sargent's *El Jaleo* at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum



Sailing on Casco Bay

Pack your suitcase, sketch book and camera, and get ready for three days of extraordinary art, the dramatic coast of Maine, and the salty mist of the ocean spray against the rocks. Maine is known for its rocky coastline, sandy beaches, wonderful seaside inns and lobster dinners. This trip will embrace all of this plus a visit to one of the most charming museums in the Northeast: Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. We'll sail on a wooden windjammer on Casco Bay (weather permitting), and visit both Portland and Freeport. You'll have time to dip in the heated saltwater pool of our hotel, walk the sandy beach and experience the waves crashing against the rocks on the magnificent cliff walk.

The bus departs Sunday, June 1, at 7:30am from the front of the Monticello Government Center, and 8:30am from the back of the former Ames in the Kingston Plaza. It returns Tuesday, June 3, at approximately 8:30pm in Kingston and 9:30pm in Monticello. The fee includes the luxury coach, gratuity, champagne and wine served en route, handling of one piece of luggage, and six wonderful meals, including gratuity. Also included is admission and self-guided visit with introductory talk at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

Our accommodations are at the Black Point Inn, a 4 star luxurious seaside resort located in Scarborough, Maine, just minutes away from bustling Portland. The hotel is surrounded by water on three sides with miles of sandy beaches and a cliff walk with views of the crashing surf that inspired Winslow Homer's paintings of Prouts Neck. This is a place to relax, to be pampered, and to take in the perfumed fragrance of salt air and beach roses. All rooms have private bath, fluffy towels, bathrobes, hair dryers, wi-fi, cable TV, and turn down service. High-speed internet is available in the lobby. Most rooms have ocean or bay views and the others have a great view of the pool. There is a chic bar with outdoor and indoor seating.

For the first time ever, we are visiting the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston. Isabella Stewart Gardner, one of the foremost patrons of the arts, spent three decades traveling the world amassing a remarkable collection of paintings, sculpture and decorative arts. She fulfilled her dream when, in 1903, the museum housing her collection, opened in Boston. Built to emulate a 15th century Venetian Palace, it has an intimacy and charm with three floors of galleries surrounding a breathtaking inner courtyard. Among the artists represented in her rich collection are masterpieces by Titian, Rembrandt, Michelangelo, Botticelli, Manet, Whistler and Sargent. The \$118 million addition, designed by famed architect Renzo Piano opened in 1012, doubling the size of the museum, and adding a new lobby, tapestry room, concert space, museum shop, and expanded outdoor gardens. The museum made headlines on March 19, 1990, when a pair of thieves disguised as Boston police officers gained entry in the middle of the night and stole 13 major works of art. These include a painting by Vermeer (he painted only 31 total), along with three Rembrandts, and works by Manet and Degas. Shockingly, the thieves cut paintings out of their frames; we'll see the empty frames as a disturbing reminder of what happened. Sadly, the stolen paintings have not yet been returned.

Day 1 begins with a champagne breakfast on the bus. Our first stop is the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston for a self-guided tour of the original and the new wing. Lunch is dutch-treat in *Café G*, the lovely museum restaurant. Then it's off to Maine and the Black Point Inn – the historic grand hotel surrounded by the ocean. We'll have time to check-in and have a cocktail before our dinner at *The Point*, the 4 diamond restaurant of our hotel. Menu choices will include "chowda," lobster and other delicious entrées.

Day 2 begins with a wonderful breakfast at our inn. There will be time to ride a bike, swim in the heated pool, walk the beach, or sit on the front porch and gaze at the sea. If you take the cliff walk, you'll see and hear the eider ducks, seagulls, and piping plovers as you continue along the path with views of the actual granite rocks that Winslow Homer immortalized in his famous paintings. There will be an optional excursion mid-morning to "Two Lights State Park." This is a glorious spot high above the rocky coast with sweeping views of the open Atlantic. At 11:30am the bus will depart for Portland. You'll have time to explore this charming *Old Port* with its great restaurants and attractive shops. Lunch is dutch-treat at any of the restaurants (we'll give suggestions within easy walking distance). If time allows, you may wish to visit (optional) the Portland Museum of Art to see its permanent collection and a special exhibit of Richard Estes. We meet at 3pm for a two-hour sail on a Maine-built historic wooden sailboat. With a glass of wine in hand, we'll savor the ocean breezes as we glide along Casco Bay. At 5pm our coach takes us back to the inn to relax and freshen up before another wonderful dinner at *The Point*.

Day 3 again begins with a full breakfast at the inn. We'll have some time in the morning to enjoy the magnificent beauty of the Maine seascape before checking out of the inn, and heading to Freeport. This is the home of the LLBean flagship store as well as some of the best outlet stores. Lunch is dutch-treat (we'll make suggestions; the lobster rolls are the best!). Before heading home, we'll pick up our box dinners, board the bus, sip a glass or two of wine, and share the memories of a quintessential Maine experience.

TO RESERVE

Make your check payable to AAUW, include your home and cell phone number and email address, and mail to: Linda Gold, 1 Jacobs Lane, New Paltz, NY 12561. For further information, call Linda at 845-255-5256 or email artladyLG@aol.com. Specify "art tours" in the space for "subject." Since the hotel is small and we will be reserving a large block of rooms during their high season, we will need a minimum of 25 reservations (with deposits) by Sunday, March 9, in order to hold the rooms. A \$300 non-refundable deposit is due with your reservation and final payment is due by Wednesday, April 2, 2014. There will be no refunds unless your spot is filled. Note: You will receive a complete *Information Sheet* and detailed *Itinerary* before departing on the trip.

Choose one appetizer and one entrée selection for the two dinners at Black Point Inn. Include your selection with your reservation. A vegetarian option is available.

Sunday Night Dinner at *The Point*, Black Point Inn

Includes tea, coffee, and dessert.

Choose one Appetizer:

1. New England Clam Chowder
2. Caprese Salad (fresh mozzarella, basil, tomatoes, olive oil, balsamic dressing)

Choose one entrée:

1. Lobster
2. Filet Mignon, cabernet reduction
3. Broiled Haddock, ritz crumb topping, lemon beurre blanc

Monday Night Dinner at *The Point*, Black Point Inn

Includes tea, coffee, and dessert.

Choose one Appetizer:

1. New England Clam Chowder
2. BPI House Salad (spring greens, tomato, cucumber, radish, balsamic dressing)

Choose one entrée:

1. Lobster
2. Fillet Mignon, cabernet reduction
3. Seared Sea Scallops, citrus beurre blanc

Box Dinner for Return Trip Tuesday

Includes: mixed green salad with caramelized pistachios, goat cheese, & roasted apple balsamic vinaigrette, and a perfect semi-sweet chocolate chip cookie.

Choose One:

1. Roast Turkey Sandwich with green leaf lettuce on whole grain bread
2. Vegetarian Sandwich Option

