

BALLET AROUND THE WORLD 2019

UPDATED NOVEMBER 2018

Classical Ballets of Europe



BERLIN, HAMBURG AND PARIS

Romeo and Juliet choreography by John Cranko,
Staatsballett Berlin © Bettina Stöß

with Donna Cusack
22 June – 03 July 2019 (12 days)

Read more here



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TOUR LEADER

Donna Cusack's association with ballet began before she was born! Her grandmother worked at the iconic J.C. Williamson's Theatre, and her mother took ballet lessons from renowned ballerina of her era, and artist of the Borovansky Ballet, Ms Edna Busse. Donna worked at The Australian Ballet between 2004 and 2016 where her various roles included media relations, coordinating the education and public programs, and philanthropy, and returned in 2018 to work as The Australian Ballet archivist. In 2009 Donna was awarded the Ian McCrae Scholarship to spend time with New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, NY Public Library, The Balanchine Trust and Jerome Robbins Foundation. In 2015 she again spent time in New York upon receiving the Noel Pelly Scholarship as well as leading The Australian Ballet patrons' tour to China with Renaissance Tours. Donna led Renaissance Tours' *Christmas Ballet Spectacular* tour to Germany, Paris and London in 2017.

"Donna was a delight, mindful and caring of each of the travellers. Her research for talks was excellent. Always cheerful and enthusiastic!"

Lou H.
CHRISTMAS BALLET SPECTACULAR 2017

Delight in captivating performances of classical ballet favourites and new works by five different companies in the romantic European cities of Berlin, Hamburg and Paris.

Begin in Berlin for Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations* by the Berlin State Ballet. Then, travel to Hamburg for the Ballett-Tage Festival, and enjoy a performance of *Don Quixote* and a new work, *Shakespeare – Sonnets*, by the Hamburg Ballet, along with a performance of works choreographed by Hans van Manen by the Dutch National Ballet.

In France, thrill to a performance of *Swan Lake* by the Perm Tchaikovsky Ballet company in the opulent surrounds of Versailles Palace and finish with a further two performances in Paris by the Paris Opéra Ballet.

At a glance:

- Enjoy excellent seats for eight ballet performances, in the cities of Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and the Palace of Versailles
- Be captivated by productions of classical repertoire favourites including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Don Quixote* and *Swan Lake*
- Attend a new production by the Hamburg Ballet *Shakespeare – Sonnets*, in Hamburg, and new works by the Paris Opéra Ballet choreographed by Wayne McGregor and Mats Ek
- Revel in a performance by the Russian Perm Tchaikovsky Ballet company in Versailles
- Deepen your appreciation of these splendid ballet performances with talks by your tour leader, ballet aficionado Donna Cusack



Friday 21 June 2019 Depart Australia/New Zealand

Depart Australia or New Zealand in the evening on suggested Qatar Airways flights to Berlin via Doha. Renaissance Tours or your travel agent can assist you with your flights and other travel arrangements.

Sat 22 June Arrive Berlin

Arrive in Berlin and make your way to the hotel.

At 16:00, join Donna and fellow travellers for a welcome briefing and pre-performance talk followed by a special welcome dinner. Afterwards, walk to Berlin's recently renovated opera house at Unter den Linden for a performance by the Berlin State Ballet of three works by famed choreographers, beginning with George Balanchine's *Theme and Variations* with music by Tchaikovsky, and continuing with works by William Forsythe and Richard Siegal. **D**

Sun 23 Jun Berlin

Begin the day with a talk by Donna, then depart for a guided tour of the Museum of Decorative Arts to see its collection of art, fashion and design, followed by lunch at a local restaurant.

In the evening, travel to the Deutsche Oper Berlin for the Berlin State Ballet's performance of *Romeo and Juliet*, with choreography by the celebrated John Cranko. **B L**

Mon 24 June Berlin

Enjoy a morning at leisure to explore Berlin at your own pace.

In the afternoon, explore the Mitte district of Berlin with a walking tour along its streets and laneways. Visit Clärchens Ballhaus, the 1913 ballroom with baroque detailing and chandeliered *Spiegelsaal* (mirror hall). Afterwards, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. **B D**

Tue 25 Jun Berlin – Hamburg

This morning, check out of the hotel and travel north west across Germany. Arrive at Schwerin Castle, a palace situated on an island in Lake Schwerin, and considered one of the most romantic castles of Germany. Enjoy lunch followed by a guided tour of the castle.

Continue to Hamburg and arrive at the hotel in the late afternoon.

B L

Wed 26 Jun Hamburg

Begin the day with a talk by Donna on the coming days' performances. Then, begin your exploration of Hamburg with a walking tour through its *Altstadt*, past the dominating Neo-Renaissance Town Hall and Hamburg's canals. After the tour, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.

In the evening, walk to the Hamburg State Opera for the first of three Hamburg Ballett-Tage Festival performances, with a performance by the Dutch National Ballet of a program of works by celebrated choreographer Hans van Manen set to the music of Sergei Prokofiev and Astor Piazzolla. **B L**

Thu 27 Jun Hamburg

This morning, visit the Hamburg Ballet Centre for a private tour of the dance studios and facilities. Then, travel to the Hamburg State Opera for exclusive access to a rehearsal of the Hamburg Ballet company (subject to confirmation of rehearsal times).

This evening, enjoy a performance of *Don Quixote* by the Hamburg Ballet. **B**



Fri 28 Jun

Hamburg

Visit the Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg's celebrated concert hall which opened in 2017 after a decade of construction. Enjoy a guided tour through the Elbphilharmonie building, discovering the details of Hamburg's newest landmark.

In the evening, return to the Hamburg State Opera for a performance by the Hamburg Ballet of *Shakespeare – Sonnets* developed by choreographers of the Hamburg Ballet, Marc Jubete, Aleix Martinez and Edvin Revazov. This captivating production has as its unifying theme the sonnets of William Shakespeare. **B**

Sat 29 Jun

Hamburg – Paris

Check out of the hotel in the late morning and transfer to the airport for an afternoon flight to Paris (flight included in tour price).

Arrive in Paris, 'The City of Lights', and transfer to the hotel. Dinner is at the hotel. **B D**

Sun 30 Jun

Paris

In the morning, travel to the Palace of Versailles, the former residence of French royalty in the 17th and 18th centuries. Explore the palace with a guided tour through its opulent Baroque interiors.

After lunch, enjoy a performance in the Royal Opera House of Versailles, inaugurated during the reign of King Louis XV in 1770, at which time it was the largest concert hall in Europe. Performing *Swan Lake*, the Perm Tchaikovsky State Ballet is considered amongst the finest Russian ballet companies with its strong conservative ballet traditions. (Their home town of Perm is the birthplace of the founder of the Ballets Russes, Sergei Diaghilev!)

Return to Paris in the early evening. **B L**

Mon 01 Jul

Paris

Start the day with a talk by Donna on the upcoming days' ballet performances. Then, discover the opulence of the Palais Garnier with a guided tour through its lavish gold-leaf Grand Foyer, dominating Grand Staircase and impressive Auditorium.

The afternoon is at leisure.

In the evening, depart for the Opéra Bastille, Paris's modern opera house, for a performance by the Paris Opéra Ballet with dancers from Company Wayne McGregor. Directed and choreographed by Wayne McGregor, current Resident Choreographer of London's Royal Ballet, *Trees of Code* combines music, scenography and movement in an experimental collaboration of space, bodies and architecture. **B**

Tue 02 Jul

Paris

This morning, travel to the Montmartre district for a walking tour through its charming streets and alleys. Dominated by the Basilica of Sacré Coeur, Montmartre sits on a hill to the north of Paris. Many artists had studios or worked in or around Montmartre, including Pablo Picasso, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Amedeo Modigliani, Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh and Piet Mondrian.

Afterwards, celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a special farewell lunch with Donna and fellow travellers.

The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure.

This evening, enjoy a performance at Paris's historic Palais Garnier of two new works by Swedish choreographer Mats Ek, choreographed to the music of Ravel and Liszt. **B L**

Wed 03 Jul

Depart Paris

Tour arrangements conclude after breakfast.

For those returning home today, make your way to Paris Airport for suggested Qatar Airways flights to Australia and New Zealand via Doha. Renaissance Tours or your travel agent can assist you with your flights and other travel arrangements, including any additional nights' accommodation, either before or after the tour. **B**



Don Quixote, Hamburg Ballett John Neumeier © Kiran West



Panoramic view of Hamburg with Elbphilharmonie



Paris with Opera Garnier in the background



Trees of Code choreography by Wayne McGregor © Little Shao/Opéra national de Paris



Swan Lake, Perm Tchaikovsky Ballet © Jack Devant

Tour prices

Per person, twin-share	AUD 10,950
Single supplement*	AUD 2,150
Deposit per person (at time of booking)	AUD 1,500
Final payment due	23 April 2019

*Single travellers may request to share. Please advise at time of booking.

Tour code AB1901

Fitness level Moderate
Please see Terms & Conditions for fitness level definitions.

Suggested airline Qatar Airways
Please contact Renaissance Tours or your travel agent for current airfares and flight reservations.

Visa

Australian and New Zealand passport holders do not require a visa to visit Germany or France.

Tour price includes

- A combination of premium category and excellent A-Reserve tickets for eight ballet performances in Berlin, Hamburg, Versailles and Paris
- Accommodation in centrally-located 4- and 5-star hotels, with breakfast daily (B)
- Pre-performance talks by your tour leader, Donna Cusack
- Meals as per itinerary (L=Lunch, D=Dinner) including wine with welcome dinner and farewell lunch
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)
- Economy Class flight from Hamburg to Paris
- Comprehensive sightseeing, including local guides and entrance fees as per itinerary
- Transportation throughout on comfortable air-conditioned coaches
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers
- Hotel portorage (one piece per person)

Tour price does not include

- International airfares (please contact Renaissance Tours or your travel agent for assistance)
- Airport/hotel transfers on arrival and departure
- Items of a personal nature, including telephone, laundry, taxis, room service, etc.
- Travel insurance (a condition of travel; please contact Renaissance Tours or your travel agent for assistance)

Your hotels

Berlin – Regent Berlin ★★★★★

Hamburg – Renaissance Hamburg Hotel ★★★★★

Paris – Hilton Paris Opera ★★★★★

NB. Hotels of a similar standard may be substituted



L'Orangerie gardens, Palace of Versailles



Interior of Opera Garnier, Paris



Basilica of Sacré Coeur, Montmartre

Terms & Conditions

1. BOOKINGS

Bookings can be made in person at our office, by telephone, or in writing by mail, email or fax.

A non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking and in order to confirm your place on the tour. Please refer to the specific tour for the deposit amount required. You will also be required to complete, sign and return a Booking Form available from Renaissance Tours together with a photocopy of the information page (photo page) of your valid passport.

2. TOUR PRICES

Prices quoted in our tour information brochures and/or on our website 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 and/or the introduction of new taxes, up until final payment is received. We will advise you at the earliest opportunity in the event of a price increase, whether because of a currency fluctuation, increase in taxes and/or a correction in advertised prices. You will then 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.

3. PAYMENT

A deposit is due at the time of booking and is non-refundable in the event of your cancellation. This deposit is used to pay for hotels, performance tickets and other land arrangements to be made on your behalf.

Your final payment is due 60 days before the tour's departure. Failure to make your final payment by the due date may result in the cancellation of your booking and loss of any payments made to date. We reserve the right to charge a late payment fee in the event of late booking and/or payment to cover additional communication and other expenses.

For tours that include international flights in the tour price, payment of the international airfare component is due 120 days before departure.

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

4. FLIGHT BOOKINGS & FARES

Renaissance Tours will use its best endeavours to ensure that all flight prices are correct at the time that they are quoted. However, once a deposit is paid on an airfare, it guarantees that a booking is being held for you, however it does not guarantee the fare and applicable taxes. The fare and taxes can only be guaranteed when the flight booking has been paid in full and a ticket has been issued. Flight bookings cannot be transferred.

5. CHANGES

a) Changes by You – Because of additional communication and other expenses, we reserve the right to charge an appropriate administration fee per amendment to your original booking. While every reasonable effort will be made to accommodate changes and additional requests, their availability cannot be guaranteed.

b) Changes by Us – While we will use our best endeavours to operate all tours as advertised, by entering into this contract the Client accepts that it may prove necessary or advisable to vary or modify a tour or its contents due to prevailing local conditions. We reserve the right at any time to cancel or change any of the facilities, services or prices described in the brochure (including flights, transport, accommodation or other arrangements) and to substitute alternative arrangements of comparable monetary value without compensation.

If a service or facility becomes unavailable due to circumstances beyond our control ('force majeure') and no alternative arrangement of comparable monetary value is available, we will substitute the best alternative available and will refund the Client for any cost saving or charge the Client for any additional costs incurred. 'Force majeure' includes any event which Renaissance Tours or its suppliers could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid (e.g. advice against travel from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), war, threat of war, riot, civil strife, industrial dispute, epidemics, health risks, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire or adverse weather conditions, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes imposed by cancellation or rescheduling of flights by an airline or main charterer, the alteration of airline or aircraft type). Renaissance Tours is not liable for any penalty charges associated with 'supersaver'-type connecting rail or air fares in the

event of a change to a holiday departure time, date or airport.

6. SUBSTITUTION OF CLIENT

If any member of the party is prevented from travelling because of the death, injury or serious illness of the passenger, close relative or friend, redundancy or jury service, it may be possible to transfer the booking to another suitable person (acceptable to Renaissance Tours) provided that written notice is given at least one calendar month prior to departure. An administration fee of \$100 + GST per person will be levied plus any costs imposed by our suppliers. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

7. CANCELLATION AND 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 the charges shown below, airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

60 days or more	Forfeit of deposit*
59 – 30 days	50% of tour price*
Less than 30 days	100% of tour price*

*Includes any flight deposit/payment

The above cancellation charges include applicable GST.

In addition to the above cancellation charges, the full insurance premium together with any existing administration fees is also payable in the event of a cancellation by the Client. 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 (as outlined in clause 4b) or the Client's failure to pay the final balance, we will endeavour not to cancel a tour less than 60 days before departure for international tours and 45 days before departure for domestic tours. Unless the Client fails to pay the final balance, we will return all monies paid, excluding payment for travel insurance and administration fees. No 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. Airlines may impose up to 100% cancellation charges.

8. PASSPORTS, VISAS AND VACCINATIONS

It is your responsibility to be in possession of a passport valid for 6 months after the date of your return home. You are also responsible for obtaining all necessary visas, inoculations and preventative medicines as may be required for the duration of the tour. Information about these matters or related items is given in good faith but without responsibility on the part of Renaissance Tours.

9. TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is highly recommended that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for domestic tours. However, it is a condition of travel that you are covered by comprehensive travel insurance for international tours. It is strongly recommended that you secure this insurance cover as soon as you have made a booking and have made a non-refundable payment. You can make your own arrangements or your travel insurance can be arranged by Renaissance Tours. In either case all participants must provide the following information no later than 60 days prior to commencement of travel:

- a copy of your travel insurance policy (or details of master policy)
- the emergency telephone number of your insurance company
- next of kin emergency contact

10. FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE

Most of our tours require a MODERATE level of fitness. However, in certain destinations, or in certain seasons, or because of the nature of travel, certain tours will require an ABOVE MODERATE or CHALLENGING level of fitness. For the overall benefit of the group, at the time of booking we will require you to declare in writing that you are fit to participate in your chosen tour according to the level of fitness required for that tour. If you (or we) have any doubts about your level of fitness, you may be required to undergo 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. If we remain unsure of your suitability to travel, we reserve the right to refuse admission to the tour. Furthermore, if, after the tour has begun, it becomes apparent that you are unfit to travel on the tour, we reserve the right to invite you to withdraw from the tour at the earliest opportunity to do so. No refund will be provided.

MODERATE

Tour members must be able 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 tours 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 MODERATE

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)

*Please also read specific details in the relevant tour itinerary

11. ILLNESS OR DISABILITY

Anyone suffering from illness or disability or undergoing treatment for any physical or medical condition must declare the true nature of that condition at the time of booking and make arrangements for the provision of any medication or other treatment which may be required during the tour. Failure to make such disclosure will constitute a breach of these booking conditions and result in such persons being excluded from the tour in which case all monies paid will be forfeited.

12. LOCAL LAWS

All participants of the tours we operate are expected to obey the laws and regulations of the countries visited and any failure to do so will relieve Renaissance Tours of all obligations that they may otherwise have under these booking conditions.

13. IF YOU HAVE A COMPLAINT

If you have a complaint about any of the tour arrangements, you must bring it to the attention of the tour leader or other representative of Renaissance Tours at the time so that they may use their best endeavours to rectify the situation. It is only if we are made aware of any problems that there will be the opportunity to put things right. Any complaints must be made in writing to Renaissance Tours within 28 days of the completion of the tour.

14. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

All bookings are accepted on the understanding that the Client appreciates that travel does involve some risk and that they undertake all tours of their own volition.

i) Renaissance Tours accepts liability should any part of the tour arrangements booked with us not be supplied as described in the brochure(s) and not be of reasonable standard. In such a case, we will pay reasonable compensation if the Client's enjoyment of the tour has been adversely affected but will pay no compensation if there has been no fault on the part of Renaissance Tours or our suppliers and the reason for the failure in the tour arrangements was the Client's fault, the actions of someone unconnected with the tour arrangements or could not have been foreseen or avoided by Renaissance Tours or its suppliers even if all due care had been exercised.

ii) Our acceptance of liability to pay compensation pursuant to clause 11(i) is limited, in the case of air travel, rail travel, sea travel or hotel accommodation, to the amount set out in the provisions of, respectively, the Warsaw Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol 1955, the 1961 Berne Convention, the 1974 Athens Convention and the 1962 Paris Convention.

iii) Our acceptance of liability in clauses 11(i) and 11(ii) above is subject to assignment by the Client to Renaissance Tours of the Client's rights against any agent, supplier or sub-contractor of Renaissance Tours which is in any way responsible for the unsatisfactory tour arrangements.

Renaissance Tours reserves the right to amend these Terms & Conditions from time to time, without notice.