

# Cities of Intrigue: Capitals of Culture

## Freight & Salvage ♦ Thursdays 1–3 pm ♦ January 24–February 28

In history, the most fascinating cities have not been ones at the center of power. More often they are cities that served as beacons of civilization, lighting up their corner of the world. In this course, each session will highlight the history, art, and architecture of a distinctive City of Intrigue at its cultural apogee. Working chronologically, we begin with Florence, which gave rise to the Renaissance, then move to Prague, a key center for the Scientific Revolution. Proceeding to the time of the Enlightenment, we will experience the brilliance of Edinburgh, and the magnificence of Tsarist St. Petersburg. Our journey culminates in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with virtual visits to Imperial Vienna in the Waltz Age and Art Nouveau Barcelona, home ground of Picasso and Antonio Gaudi.



Florence Cathedral - 1440



Edinburgh Castle - 1765



Vienna Opera House - 1880

### Great City

### Visual Feature

- 1) **Florence** – *Renaissance Flowering* – Sequence of Innovation **New Perspectives**  
**15<sup>th</sup>C** Florentine City-Republic – First Revolution in Art
- 2) **Prague** – *The Golden City* – Court of Emperor Rudolf II **Scientific Revolution**  
**15-16<sup>th</sup>C** Bohemian Capital – Astronomy of Kepler & Tycho Brahe
- 3) **Edinburgh** – *Athens of the North* – Scottish Enlightenment **The Two Scotlands**  
**18<sup>th</sup>C** The Invention of the Modern World: Philosophy & Science
- 4) **St. Petersburg** – *Window on the West* – Romanov Twilight **Russian Baroque**  
**18-19<sup>th</sup>C** Architectural Magnificence: Winter Palace, Isaac's Cathedral
- 5) **Vienna** – *Hapsburg Capital* – Central Europe's Melting Pot **Vienna Secession**  
**19<sup>th</sup>C** Artistic Historicism – Freud & Klimt's Unmasking Project
- 6) **Barcelona** – *Jewel of Catalonia* – Mediterranean Connections **Art Nouveau**  
**19-20<sup>th</sup>C** Modernist Art and Architecture: Picasso and Gaudi