

# Cruising the Dutch Waterways Tauck River Cruises

By

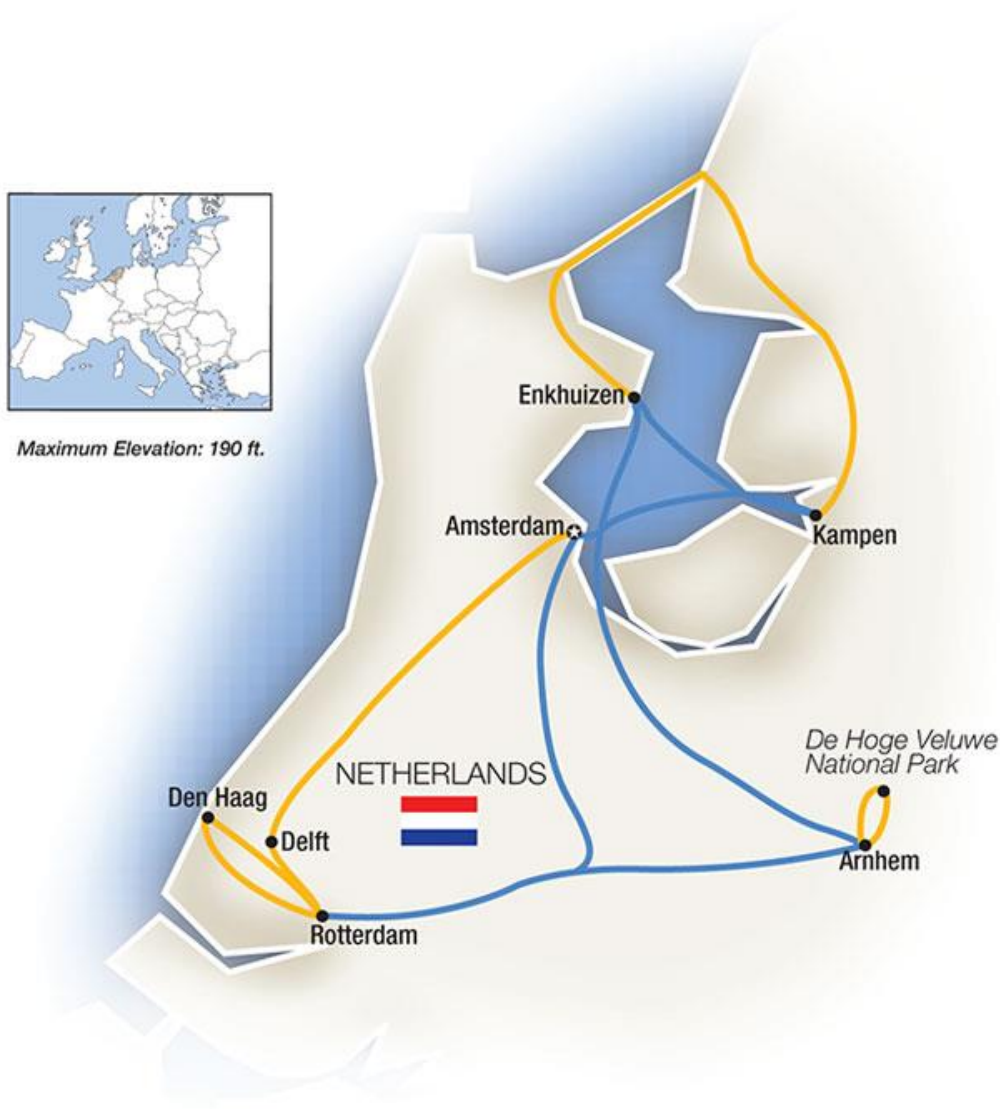
Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

# Map from Tauck



Maximum Elevation: 190 ft.



# Overview

- Explore The Netherlands' inland waterways aboard a custom-designed Tauck riverboat for a unique view of the Dutch cultural landscape on this 8-day, 7-night river cruise that begins and ends in historic Amsterdam
- In Friesland, tour Lake District villages or a historic pumping station; from Hoorn, cruise the IJsselmeer on a century-old sailboat, or discover the area's maritime heritage with private early entrance to the Zuiderzee Museum in Enkhuizen.
- In Arnhem, select a tour of the Kröller-Müller Museum in De Hoge Veluwe Nat'l Park; a bicycle ride through the park; or WWII sites and the Airborne Museum.
- Explore the city of Rotterdam on a culinary walking or bicycling tour; in Den Haag (The Hague), enjoy a Tauck Exclusive tour and dinner at the Mauritshuis museum, featuring live music and Dutch Golden Age paintings.
- Choose a visit to Rotterdam or enjoy a tour of the famous Royal Delft factory.
- And in Amsterdam, you'll have a choice of a visit to the famed Rijksmuseum or a bicycle tour through the windmill and canal-laced landscapes of Volendam.

# Day 1 Welcome to Amsterdam

- **Tour begins: 5:30 PM, Amsterdam.**
- A transfer is included from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport or Central Station directly to your riverboat.
- After settling into your floating hotel for a memorable weeklong voyage, attend a discovery briefing prior to a welcome reception, onboard entertainment, and a toast by the captain and his officers.
- Enjoy a leisurely dinner in the Compass Rose as your cruise begins.

## Day 2 A choice of excursions from Kampen

- Your riverboat arrives in Kampen this morning for a choice of sightseeing in The Netherlands' northern province of Friesland.
- One excursion takes you to the Lake District, known for its horses and picturesque villages along the IJsselmeer, for stops in various villages and a private visit to a local horse farm, before returning to Kampen, where you'll rejoin your riverboat and spend the afternoon cruising to Enkhuizen.
- Or embark on a full-day excursion that explores the importance of water to Dutch culture, including a tour of the Wouda Steam Pumping Station, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest facility of its kind in the world; and a trip through the region's small villages en route to the famous Enclosing Dike at the Wadden Sea UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a private visit to the site's center and a relaxed local dinner before catching up with the riverboat in Enkhuizen.

# Day 3 Early-opening at the Zuiderzee Museum, a schooner sail and on to Arnhem

- This morning, your riverboat is docked in Enkhuizen, considered one of the Netherlands' prettiest towns, laced with canals and historic buildings.
- It's here where you will enjoy an exclusive, early-morning opening of the open-air Zuiderzee Museum.
- Dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage and maritime history from the old Zuiderzee region, this renowned institution paints a portrait of everyday life in a Zuiderzee (south sea) fishing village between the 1880s and the 1930s.
- Following your time at the museum and lunch, take part in a Schooner Sail on the IJselemeer aboard a historic century-old sailboat, where you'll be part of the team preparing the ship to sail – perhaps holding the ropes, pulling up the sails or working through the navigation; no sailing experience or special strength is necessary, just a willingness to be an active part of a sailing team!
- This evening, enjoy dinner aboard the riverboat as the ship sails from Enkhuizen to Arnhem.

# Day 4 A Range of Choices from Nijmegen

- Call on Nijmegen today for a choice of three distinct afternoon experiences.
- One is a guided tour of the acclaimed Kröller-Müller Museum in De Hoge Veluwe National Park, home to works by artists as wide-ranging as Seurat, Picasso and Mondrian – and to one of the world's largest collections of paintings by Dutch Post-Impressionist Vincent van Gogh, including his *Café Terrace in Arles*; the museum's expansive sculpture garden displays pieces by masters including Rodin, Dubuffet, Moore and Oldenburg.
- Another choice is a guided bicycle excursion along the bike paths of De Hoge Veluwe National Park, Holland's largest nature preserve, winding past its scenic forests, drifting sand dunes and grassy plains.
- Or discover Arnhem's history-making battlegrounds and their significant role in World War II – when the town's strategic road bridge over the Lower Rhine became the target of a massive Allied airborne assault – with a visit to the Airborne Museum Hartenstein in nearby Oosterbeek, chronicling the Battle of Arnhem.
- Back onboard, enjoy a lecture by your Tauck Director prior to cocktails and the chef's signature dinner tonight.

# Airborne Museum



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# Airborne Museum



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# Day 5 Rotterdam & The Hague

- Arrive this morning in Rotterdam, the second-largest city in the Netherlands and a centuries-old seaport that's among the largest and busiest in the world.
- After most of its historic center was obliterated during World War II, the city rose from the ashes to become the thriving commercial and transportation center it is today; renowned for its cutting-edge architecture and vibrant cultural life, 21st-century Rotterdam has been called the "Gateway to Europe."
- You can explore Rotterdam's stunning 21st-century Markthal (Markethall) and its contemporary culinary culture on your choice of food-focused walking or bicycling tours today.
- After lunch, travel overland to Den Haag (The Hague) for a guided tour of this city known internationally as the Dutch seat of government, home to the royal family and renowned for its embassies, mansions, boulevards and parks.
- You'll also enjoy a Tauck Exclusive evening at the Mauritshuis, a museum set in a 17th-century mansion displaying some of the most famous paintings of the Dutch Golden Age, open after hours for Tauck guests only.
- Meet a museum official; view masterpieces by Rembrandt, Holbein the Younger and Vermeer (including his iconic *Girl with a Pearl Earring*); and enjoy dinner with live music performed by students from the Royal Conservatory of the Hague.

# Day 6 Discovering Delft

- Spend a full day in Delft on a choice of excursions.
- Enjoy a guided city tour along canal-lined streets rich with remnants of its medieval and Golden Age heritage, followed by free time.
- Alternatively, visit The Royal Delft pottery factory where generations of craftsmen have been making Delft Blue pottery by hand since 1653; experience a painting workshop with master tile painters that includes high tea.
- Return to the riverboat this afternoon and enjoy a performance by a musical trio following dinner onboard ship.

# Day 7 Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum or a bike excursion

- Your day in amazing Amsterdam begins with a choice of a guided tour of the city's matchless Rijksmuseum, filled with great works by the Dutch Masters like Rembrandt's *The Night Watch* and Vermeer's *The Milkmaid*, and an included lunch at the museum's RIJKS® restaurant, awarded a Michelin star in 2016;
- or travel outside the city for a bicycle excursion through lovely coastal landscapes, stopping at a cheese farm, where you'll gain insights on cheesemaking and enjoy lunch before heading back to Amsterdam.
- The rest of the day is yours to spend as you please.
- Celebrate your memorable cruise with tonight's farewell reception and toast in the riverboat's panoramic lounge, followed by dinner in the Compass Rose.

# Rijksmuseum



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# Day 8 Homeward bound

- **Tour ends: Amsterdam.**
- Fly home anytime; a transfer from your riverboat to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport or Centraal Train Station is included; all guests must disembark the riverboat by 9:00 AM.
- Allow a minimum of 3 hours for flight check-in at the airport.

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