

# Hidden Waterways of Flanders and Holland Tauck River Cruises

By

Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

# Map from Tauck



# Overview

- Be as active as you like as you venture off-the-beaten rivers to charming inland waterways in Belgium and the Netherlands.
- Here daily life unfolds in leisurely bicycle rides along country lanes,
- guided walking tours in quintessential Dutch villages steeped in history and cultural riches,
- a beer tasting at a Belgian brewery,
- a visit to the newly opened Royal Museum of Fine Art in Antwerp,
- a canal boat cruise in Amsterdam
- and an unforgettable dinner at a 14th-century castle on a private island open just for Tauck guests.

# Day 1 Arrive Brussels / Embark riverboat

- **Tour begins: 4:00 PM.**
- A transfer is included from Brussels Airport or train station to your riverboat; check-in time is 4:00 PM.
-

## Day 2 Explore Brussels

- Enjoy a day in Brussels, exploring the sights with local guides who share insider anecdotes about life here past and present on a choice of excursions.
- See landmark sights that speak volumes about history, from its Art Nouveau and Art Deco architecture to the Guild Houses lining Grand-Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site,
- or experience culinary discoveries that tempt with a taste of chocolate, waffles and beer, perfected through the generations.
- After free time to enjoy as you wish, return to the riverboat as it sets sail for Antwerp.
- Dinner is at leisure tonight.

# Brussels Grand Place

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Market Square

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Municipal Museum in King's House





# Brussels Mannekan Pis



# Day 3 Architecture and Ale in Antwerp

- Belgium's largest port city, Antwerp has long been a magnet for art lovers and diamond traders.
- It was of Europe's most important – and one of its richest – cities in the mid-16th century when merchants traded sugar and diamonds here.
- Golden Age artists Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony Van Dyck and Frans Snyders called Antwerp home in the 17th century and Renaissance monuments and a still unfinished 13th-century cathedral enrich the variety of architectural styles that grace its medieval heart.
- Join a local guide on a sightseeing drive and walking tour that explores the historic gems of this lively town, from bustling Grote Market to medieval guild houses, baroque churches, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and atmospheric squares,
- or visit the newly renovated and recently reopened Royal Museum of Fine Arts to see its impressive collection of art from the 14th through the 20th century, with an impressive hall dedicated to the art of its native son, Pieter Paul Rubens
- Or, experience a brewery tour and tasting of the city's famous Belgian beers.
- Spend the afternoon exploring as you wish; a shuttle will be available to bring you back to the riverboat.
- Cocktails and dinner are at leisure tonight onboard ship; set sail for Bruges this evening.

# Antwerp, Belgium Castle

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Antwerp Belgium Waffles



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Shop



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Display



# Antwerp, Belgium Town Hall in the Grote Markt



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

**Barbo statue.** According to the legend, a terrible giant, called Druoon Antigoon, lived on the banks of the river Scheldt. He demand tolls, when refused he cut off the hands of offending sailors. A Roman soldier, Silvius Brabo, killed the giant and by cutting his hand off, he ended his reign of terror.





# Antwerp, Belgium Guild Houses

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Ghent, Belgium One of the Canals

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



Cathedral of St.  
Bavon. Inside is  
the famous  
Altar of Ghent  
painted by Jan  
van Eyck



Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Graslei Canal, Ghent, Belgium. Most of these buildings are old guild houses



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Tour Boat on a Canal of Ghent



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Day 4 Discover the Best of Bruges

- Arrive this morning in Bruges, Belgium, for a day of Belgian delights.
- Join our local guide for a walking tour of this fairy tale town, renowned as one of Europe's best-preserved cities.
- Stroll picturesque cobblestone lanes to market squares where medieval towers, churches and whitewashed alm houses reflect its storied past.
- Visit Old Market Square in the ancient heart of town and see the 13th-century belfry that soars over the rooftops.
- Enjoy lunch as you wish before time at leisure this afternoon.
- If you wish, join our local guide for a bicycle ride into the Belgian countryside.
- Have cocktails and dinner onboard as your riverboat charts a course towards Gorinchem.

# Bruges Canal



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Brugge

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)





# Market Square

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Burg Square City Hall



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

Madonna and  
Child  
by Michelangelo

Photo Hank Schrader



# Day 5 Gorinchem & a Castle Dinner

- Voted "the most beautiful fortified town in the Netherlands," Gorinchem was founded in 1,000 AD, fortified in the 13th and 14th centuries, and today boasts the largest fully intact fort in the Netherlands.
- A quintessentially Dutch town with flowers and windmills, it is surrounded by green polders with grazing cows.
- The city was originally part of the Dutch Waterline of defense and the historic city center is still a well-preserved walled fortress.
- Join our local guide for a walking tour of its historic heart, viewing its charming canals, the well-preserved Renaissance-style and medieval architecture, and pretty parks and gardens.
- Explore as you wish this afternoon, before joining us for a Tauck Exclusive dinner at Slot Loevestein.
- Set in a nature reserve on a private island, the 14th-century castle has served as a prison, residence and toll taker; tonight, it will be yours to enjoy as the island and castle are open for Tauck guests only.

## Day 6 Leiden or Rotterdam

- Enjoy a choice of guided shore excursions as your riverboat is docked in Rotterdam, founded as a fishing village in the 13th century.
- A living monument to Holland's Golden Age until it was bombed to rubble during World War II, the city today welcomes with world-class architecture and urban design, along with surviving traces of Old Rotterdam in Delfshaven (Delft Harbor) and Oude Haven (Old Harbor).
- You may choose to stay in town to explore the sights with a local guide, with time at leisure to explore as you wish.
- Or you may embark on a guided excursion to Leiden, the birthplace of Rembrandt, and home to charming architecture, canals and historic sights, including the country's oldest university.
- Return to the riverboat late afternoon; following dinner this evening, enjoy musical entertainment in the Lounge.

# Day 7 The Artful Life in Amsterdam

- Spend the day in the world-famous 17th century capital of Holland, known for its artistic heritage, historic canals, and narrow houses with gabled facades, living legacies of the city's Golden Age.
- Art masterpieces hang in its acclaimed museums, including the Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum, where the Old Masters hold court.
- Bicycles and canal boats are key to the city's character; gardens bloom with Dutch bulbs; and its cultural treasures are among the most significant Europe.
- View the sights aboard a canal boat cruise this morning, followed by a guided tour of the Rijksmuseum, seeing such works as *The Milkmaid* by Vermeer, *Self-portrait* by Van Gogh, *The Merry Family* by Jan Steen and Rembrandt's *Night Watch*, before time to explore on your own.
- Return to your riverboat for a musical performance before a farewell toast and dinner.

# Canal Cruise



Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# The Famous Gabled Roofs

Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)





# Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



Photo Hank Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Rijksmuseum



Photo Hank Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

# Day 8 Journey Home

- **Tour Ends: Amsterdam.**
- Disembark your riverboat this morning by 9:00 AM.
- A transfer is included from Tauck's riverboat to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport or Centraal Station.
- Fly home anytime.
- Allow a minimum of three hours for flight check-in at the airport.

# 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.

# Visit Dream Destinations

## *Your Journey Begins Here!*

*Dream Destinations*



*Your journey begins here!*

- **We want to be your travel consultants!**
- **Please contact us at:**
- [aschrader@dreamdestinations.com](mailto:aschrader@dreamdestinations.com) or
- [hschrader@dreamdestinations.com](mailto:hschrader@dreamdestinations.com) or
- [hschrader@visitdd.com](mailto:hschrader@visitdd.com)
- Call us at:
- 832-244-0215 (Anne cell); 713-397-0188 (Hank Cell)
- Or visit at [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

**Let Us Plan your next vacation!**

Call Hank (713-397-0188) or  
Anne (832-244-0215)

