

# Tulip Time Avalon Waterways

By

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# Map From Avalon



# Overview

- This springtime river cruise gets underway in Holland's colorful capital of Amsterdam.
- This 700-year-old city offers an abundance of classic architecture, cafés, and restaurants to explore before you embark on your river cruise through Holland and Belgium.
- Sail through Rotterdam's harbor, said to be the world's busiest port.
- Garden enthusiasts will delight in a visit to see the breathtaking colors of Keukenhof, also known as the "Garden of Europe." With 70 acres of parkland and lakes, it's one of the world's largest flower gardens with nearly 7 million flowering bulbs bursting with color.
- Next, sail to Antwerp, Belgium's second-largest city, known for its centuries-old history in diamond trading amid ancient buildings and monuments combined with modern architecture.
- In Ghent, Belgium, join a local expert for a guided tour of the city, including a visit to St. Baaf's Cathedral.

# Overview

- Your cruise traverses back into Holland where you'll explore Middelburg, formerly an important trading city.
- You'll still get a sense of its historic wealth today with its impressive structures like the Gothic Town Hall, Abbey Tower, and bustling Market Square.
- This beautiful and historic springtime river cruise concludes with more time to explore the wonderful city of Amsterdam.
- See the most fascinating views of the city on a canal cruise along the elegant grachten lined with homes dating back to the city's "Golden Age."



# Day 1 Amsterdam

- Welcome to Holland. Your Suite Ship<sup>®</sup> is Ready for Boarding.
- Flights into Amsterdam must arrive by 3:30 pm.
- Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.
- Your day in Amsterdam is free to explore at your leisure.
- You may choose to join a Guided Optional Excursion to beautiful Zaanse Schans where you'll see a wonderful collection of well-preserved historic windmills and Dutch houses.
- Enjoy dinner and explore the ship on your first night on board.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ROTTERDAM

## Day 2 Antwerp, Belgium

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Antwerp by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Tour of this sophisticated city to visit the central Grote Markt, lined with 16th-century guildhall houses.
- You'll also see the beautiful city hall, the Cathedral of Our Lady with its stunning altarpiece paintings by Rubens.
- Alternatively, you may choose to join a Guided Optional Excursion to the nearby capital, Brussels—considered home to the European Union, and admire its magnificent palaces and cathedrals.
- You might prefer to take time on your own to indulge in Antwerp's signature Belgian waffles and crêpes—or explore this bike-friendly city from its old wharfs to its legendary diamond district.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO GHENT**

# Antwerp, Belgium Castle

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# 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



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**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)



# Day 2 Optional Tours (Extra Cost)

- **Brussels: Europe's Secret Capital**
- Discover Brussels, the "Unofficial Capital of Europe", on this guided sightseeing tour featuring Grand'Place, one of Europe's most dramatic medieval squares; the impressive guild houses; 15th-century Hôtel de Ville; and the tiny yet world-famous statue of Manneken Pis.
- **Biking in Antwerp with your Adventure Host**
- Explore Antwerp by bike with your Adventure Host.

# Brussels Grand Place

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



# Market Square

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# Municipal Museum in King's House



# Brussels Mannekan Pis



# Day 3 Ghent

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore a different side of Ghent by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Explore Ghent—“The Diamond of Flanders”—with a Guided Sightseeing Tour of this showcase of medieval Flemish wealth. You’ll visit St. Bavo’s Cathedral—with its remarkable Flemish artwork.
- Alternatively, you may choose to join a full-day Guided Optional Excursion of Bruges to explore its canals, cobbled streets, and medieval buildings.
- You’ll see its crisscrossed canals, the 13th-century belfry of Market Square, and charming patrician houses.
- You won’t miss the opportunity to explore Ghent since this Optional Excursion ends with an orientation walk of the "Diamond of Flanders."
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MIDDELBURG**

# Ghent, Belgium One of the Canals

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



St. Bavo's  
Cathedral.  
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



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# Tour Boat on a Canal of Ghent



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# Bruges Canal



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# Brugge

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# Market Square

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# Burg Square City Hall



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Madonna and  
Child  
by Michelangelo

Photo Hank Schrader



# Day 4 Middleburg

- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walking Tour through the winding cobblestones and canals of Middelburg. See the 15th-century Gothic Town Hall and learn about its important role in the spice trade and Dutch East India trading.
- Spend some free time biking or walking through Middelburg to sample Babbelaar cookies, fries, or beer before cruising to Veere.
- During lunchtime enjoy a short sailing from Middelburg to Veere.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Alternatively, bike from Middelburg to Veere with your Adventure Host.
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Explore the town of Veere with an expert local guide.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO WILLEMSTAD**

# Day 5 Willemstad

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** See Willemstad by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walking Tour of Willemstad and discover its many beautifully restored buildings from the 17th and 18th Century.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Later, enjoy a Cheese Tasting on board as you prepare to sail to Amsterdam.
- **AFTERNOON/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO AMSTERDAM**

Willemstad Harbor. On the left you can see part of the 7 side star fortifications



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# Old Town Hall Willemstad



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# The Dome Church Willemstad—the first Protestant Church in the Netherlands



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# The Orange Windmill in Willemstad



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Mauritshuis was built for the Prince of Orange in 1623-1625



Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Gelderland Bastion WW II Bunkers built in 1940

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# Day 6 Amsterdam

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Start your day joining your Adventure Host on an early morning walk in Amsterdam, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Discover Aalsmeer Flower Auction—the largest in the world, where around 20 million flowers are sold every day. Later enjoy a typical Dutch breakfast, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam on a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of Amsterdam’s “Golden Age.”
- This afternoon choose among the many Guided Optional Excursions available.
- Take some free time to explore Amsterdam’s colorful streets and canal houses, galleries, and shops.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM**

# Canal Cruise



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# 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



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# Day 7 Amsterdam

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.
- Optional Tours (Extra Cost)
- **Medieval Muiderslot Castle**
- From Golden Age paintings to 13th-century arms and armor, discover the wonders of Muiderslot Castle, one of Holland's most beautiful medieval castle fortresses, on this captivating half-day guided tour.
- **Bites & Highlights of Amsterdam**
- Discover Amsterdam's charming Jordaan district, and taste the authentic foods the locals know and love on this enjoyable guided foodie walking tour.

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