

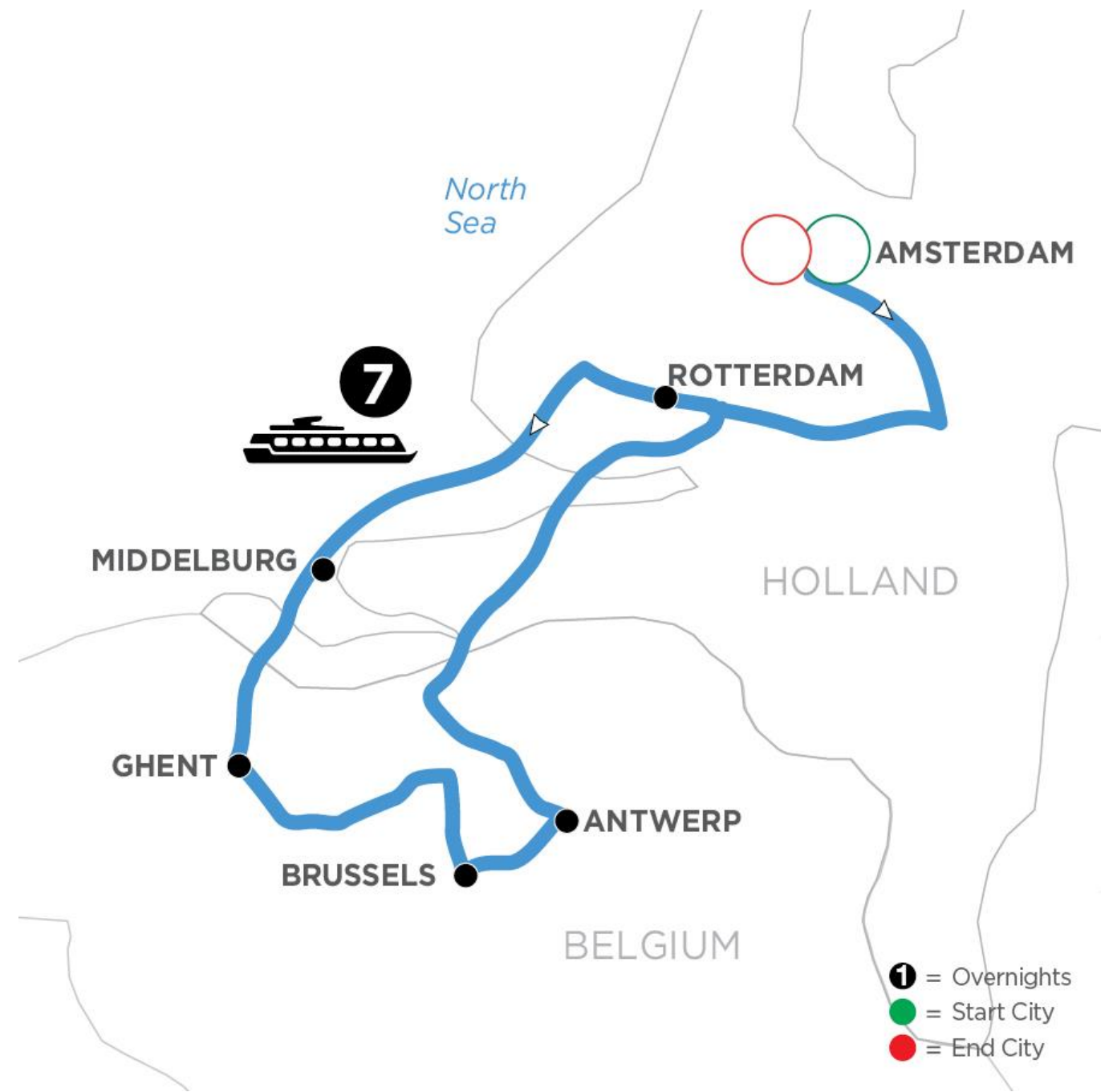
# Active and Discovery in Holland and Belgium Avalon Waterways

By

Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

# Map From Avalon



# Overview

- There's no better way to spring into action and catapult into culture than on an Avalon Active & Discovery cruise to the Netherlands and Belgium.
- Belgian chocolate workshop, classic paintings, and even graffiti walls glow brighter when you experience them in the most interactive ways.

Discover the graceful ways of Holland on an Active & Discovery cruise.

- The way the wind moves the grasses beneath the whirling windmills of the "Low Countries;" how the city cobblestones buzz with the ubiquitous bicycles and lively cafes and canals in Amsterdam; or the narrow houses evoking a time gone by.
- The visions of Holland come to life as you float past unforgettable scenes, pedal past incomparable views, and capture it all in a painting class a la the Dutch Masters.
- Our varied selection of Classic, Discovery and Active excursions from Amsterdam to Brussels and back lets you experience Holland and Belgium in the most colorful and cultural ways.

# Overview

- **Move:** Enjoy a little get-up-and-go on your cruising vacation when you:
  - Soak in castle and farmland views on a walk through the woods and dunes of Domburg.
  - Pedal past polders, dykes, and quaint centuries-old villages through the Dutch countryside.
  - Take an architectural bike tour through Rotterdam to see the design highlights of Europe's largest seaport.

**And be moved.:** Get off the beaten path and relish the world when you:

- Visit a century-old oyster farm in Middleburg and taste the catch of the day.
- Paint the town red, green or whatever color you choose on an interactive tour of Ghent's Graffiti Street.
- Discover your inner artist at a Delft tile pottery workshop in Rotterdam or a painting class in Amsterdam.

Plus, Classic sightseeing is always available in every port along the way.

Activate your senses and discover a world of wonder in all-new, entirely "you" ways on your personal, passion-packed cruise along the waterways of Holland and Belgium.

# Day 1 Amsterdam

- How Suite It Is! Welcome Aboard Your Avalon Suite Ship®.

Flights into Amsterdam must arrive by 3:30 pm.

Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.

During tulip season, you may take a Guided Optional Excursion to Keukenhof gardens—with more than seven million tulips, daffodils and hyacinths, as well as other bulbs, planted each year.

- **Keukenhof Gardens Visit**
- With more than 7 million dazzling bulb flowers creating incredible works of art, this exciting visit to Keukenhof is a true visual feast!
- Outside of tulip season, join a Guided Optional Excursion to Zaanse Schans to see historic windmills and charming Dutch houses.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MIDDELBURG**

# Day 1 Optional Tour (Extra Cost)

- **Keukenhof Gardens Visit**
- With more than 7 million dazzling bulb flowers creating incredible works of art, this exciting visit to Keukenhof is a true visual feast!

# Keukenhof Gardens



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

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## Day 2 Middleburg

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Take a Guided walk through the woods and dunes; see Castle Westhove and farmlands of the beautiful North-Sea area, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Walking Tour of the fascinating town of Veere, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Guided Visit to a family-owned Oyster Farm, active in the cultivation of crustaceans and shellfish in the Netherlands since 1906. A taste of oysters and lobster, accompanied with a glass of wine is the perfect ending of this beautiful experience, OR:
- **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.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO GHENT

# Day 3 Ghent

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore the outskirts of the city and the lesser-known sights on a Guided Bike Tour, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Graffiti Street, where artists create striking spray-can art to their heart's content. And do not miss the chance to become an artist yourself, creating your street art, 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.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BRUSSELS

# Ghent, Belgium One of the Canals

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St. Bavo's  
Cathedral.  
Inside is the  
famous Altar of  
Ghent painted  
by Jan van Eyck



Photo Anne Schrader  
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# 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



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# Day 3 Optional Tour (Extra Cost)

- 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."
- **Bruges, Venice of the North with Ghent orientation walk - Full day**
- Discover medieval Bruges, one of Belgium's true crown jewels, on this captivating full-day guided walking tour and canal cruise.
- Conclude the experience with an orientation walk of Ghent, the "Diamond of Flanders".

# 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 Brussels

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Take a bike tour to explore the beauty near Brussels, including the Belgian town of Laken, home to the Royal family estates, exotic pavilions from the world expo, and beautiful parks and lanes, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Belgian chocolate-making Workshop to learn how to create your own delicious candies. Enjoy a cup of the finest hot chocolate, while crafting traditional confections of pralines and mendiants from scratch, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Brussels, see the Town Hall with its landmark buildings, discover the many local bars, cafés, and shops of the Lower Town Streets, and visit the Atomium.
- The afternoon is free to explore Brussels —considered home to the European Union and admire its magnificent palaces and cathedrals. Alternatively, enjoy one of the Optional Excursions on offer.
- Later enjoy live entertainment onboard.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ANTWERP**

# Brussels Grand Place

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# Market Square

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# Municipal Museum in King's House



# Brussels Mannekan Pis



## Day 4 Optional Tours (Extra Cost)

- Alternatively, enjoy one of the Optional Excursions on offer.
- **Charms of Mechelen with Canal Cruise**
- Experience the impressive highlights of Mechelen, named a top European City of the Future by the Financial Times, on this half-day guided walk featuring a cruise along the scenic canals!
- **Fairytale Marnix Castle Come True**
- Visit Brussel's Marnix de Sainte-Aldegonde Castle.
-

# Day 5 Antwerp, Belgium

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Bike Tour and discover centuries of history and a story around every corner. Don't miss out the unique atmosphere of small neighborhoods and squares, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of the Red Star Line Museum. Follow the footsteps of the emigrants, become acquainted with the Red Star Line passengers and accompany them on their trip from their native village via Antwerp to the new world, 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.
- 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. You might consider partaking one of the Optional Excursion available.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ROTTERDAM



# Red Star Line Museum

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# Model of the Red Star Ship



Photo Anne Schrader  
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# Diagram of Passage Class Accommodations

nl fr en

S.S. BELGENLAND - THIRDE BOREW. TONNAGE 27.200 - LENGTH 497 FEET - BREADTH 70 1/2 FEET - BEAM 80 FEET.

RED STAR LINE  
S.S. BELGENLAND  
27.200 TONS

Red Star Line

Vaar mee, koop je ticket

<p><i>Belgenland</i> - RED STAR LINE -</p> <p>Haven van vertrek en aankomst Antwerpen - New York</p> <p>★</p> <p><b>EERSTE KLASSE</b></p> <p>N° 404 325 410</p>	<p><i>Belgenland</i> - RED STAR LINE -</p> <p>Haven van vertrek en aankomst Antwerpen - New York</p> <p>★</p> <p><b>TWEEDE KLASSE</b></p> <p>N° 404 758 632</p>	<p><i>Belgenland</i> - RED STAR LINE -</p> <p>Haven van vertrek en aankomst Antwerpen - New York</p> <p>★</p> <p><b>DERDE KLASSE</b></p> <p>N° 404 227 869</p>	<p><i>Belgenland</i> - RED STAR LINE -</p> <p>Haven van vertrek en aankomst Antwerpen - New York</p> <p>★</p> <p><b>PERSONEEL</b></p> <p>N° 404 341 720</p>
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# First Class Passage on the Red Star Line

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# Some of the Passengers Who Immigrated to the US



# 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



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# 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

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# Day 5 Optional Tours (Extra Cost)

- **Cultures of Antwerp**
- Discover the many surprises of Antwerp with a guided walking tour by exploring its ethnic and cultural neighborhoods.
- **De Ruien of Ancient Antwerp**
- Discover a piece of Antwerp history with a tour of the forgotten underground waterways of De Ruien.

# Day 6 Rotterdam

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Take a unique Architecture Bike Tour to see the architectural highlights of Rotterdam. Do not miss the interesting Cube Houses, the popular Market Hall, the spectacular Erasmus Bridge, the vertical city 'De Rotterdam', and the iconic Central Station. In the city center, admire how historic buildings lash cheerfully with hypermodern skyscrapers OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Attend a Pottery Workshop. In a characteristic painter's room, a professional painter will guide you through the process of painting a Delft tile OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Rotterdam featuring unusual collection of cube houses innovative architecture, including the marvelous Erasmus Bridge, and plenty of other fascinating sites.
- Before dinner, enjoy a cruise through Rotterdam harbor. In the evening, enjoy live entertainment on board.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO AMSTERDAM

# Day 6 Optional Excursions (Extra Cost)

- **Bites & Highlights of Rotterdam**
- Explore Rotterdam with a tour and water-taxi ride, including drinks and culinary treats along the way.

# Day 6 Amsterdam

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Join a Kayak Tour through the Dutch countryside past polders, dykes, and quaint centuries-old villages, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Attend a Painting Class and be inspired by the masters' techniques. Paint your own canvas and discover your inner artist OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Enjoy a Guided Canal Cruise to explore the iconic waterways and sites of Amsterdam.
- 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



## Day 6 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.
- **Vincent Meets Rembrandt**—this is a new tour that is to be announced later.

# Day 7 Amsterdam

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

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