

# Best of Holland & Belgium Route Guide

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Certified Western Europe Destination Specialist

#### Best of Holland & Belgium Map



# Amsterdam Day 1

Embarkation

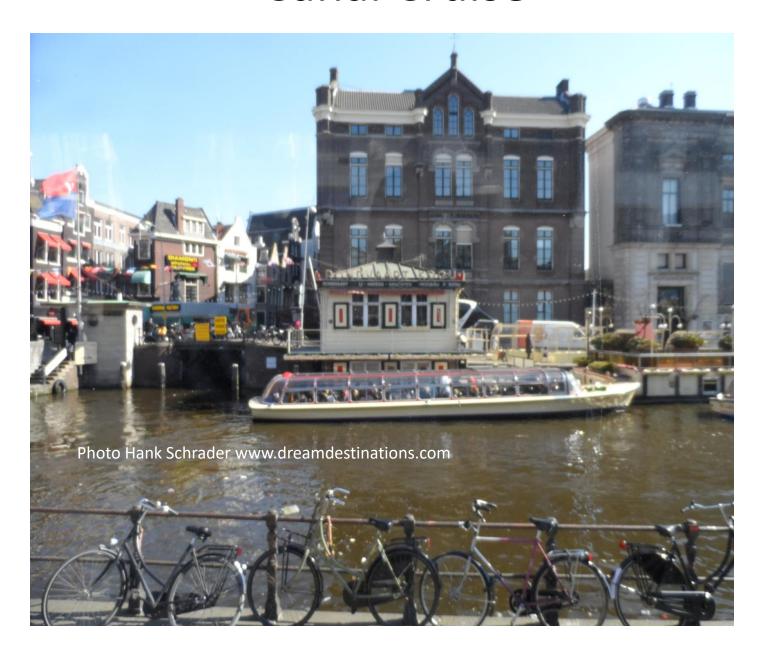
#### Amsterdam Day 2

- Amsterdam canal cruise
- or Floriade, which features stunning gardens, and innovative sustainable gardening exhibits (it happens only once every decade).
- Scenic cruising out of Amsterdam
- Walking tour with Museum Speelklok (organ music) visit
- Or Castle de Haar (the largest castle in the Netherlands) visit
- Or Bike Tour

#### Amsterdam, Netherlands

- Amsterdam is the capital and largest city of the Netherlands.
- It is known for its elaborate canal system, narrow houses with gabled roofs, art museums and bike riders.
- Your cruise will include a canal boat cruise on the famous canals of Amsterdam.

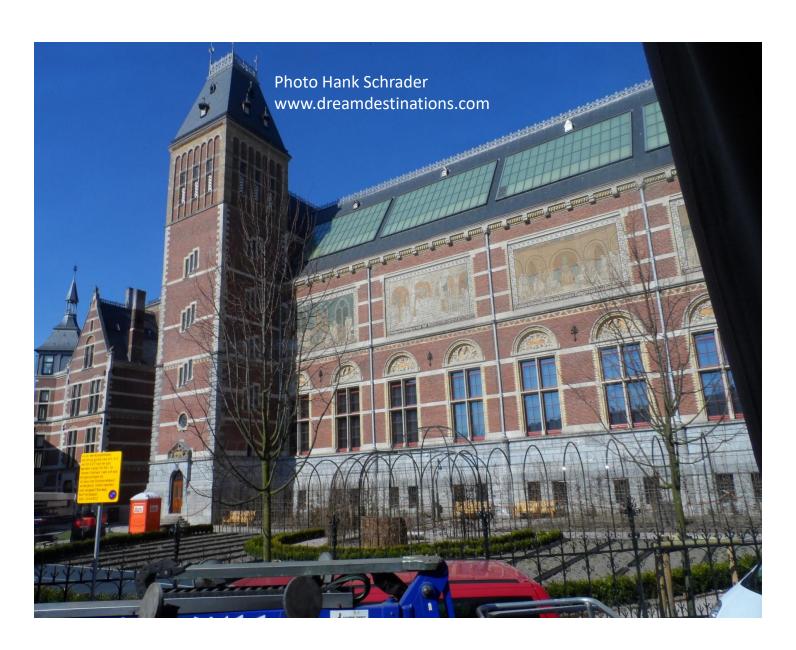
#### **Canal Cruise**



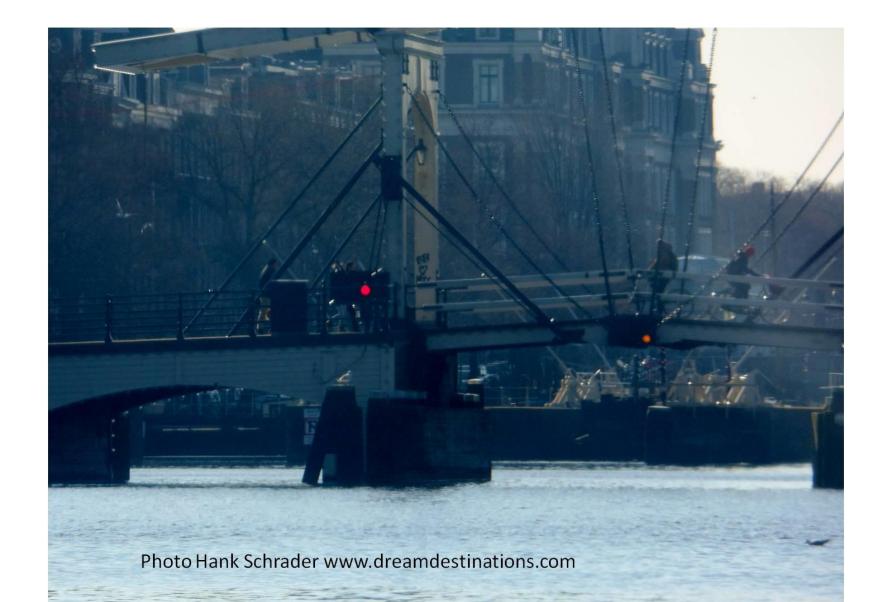
#### The Famous Gabled Roofs



# Rijksmuseum



# Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



## Hellevoetsluis Day 3

- Cruising the Delta
- Zierikzee "Medieval harbor town" walking tour
- Traditional Dutch Flat Bottom Boat visit
- Or Delta Works Tour
- Or Harinvlietdam bike tour

## **Ghent Day 4**

- Ghent "Capital of East Flanders" walking tour
- Or bike tour
- Or All Day Brugge "Capital of West Flanders" walking tour and Church of Our Lady visit Highlights of Brugge tour
- Or shorter Brugge half day tour
- Or Castle of the Counts of Flanders afternoon tour

#### Brugge

- Brugge is one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe.
- Full of canals, it once was a prosperous trading center, especially in the wool trade.

## **Bruges Canal**



# Brugge



# Market Square



# **Burg Square City Hall**



# Madonna and Child by Michelanglo

**Photo Hank Schrader** 



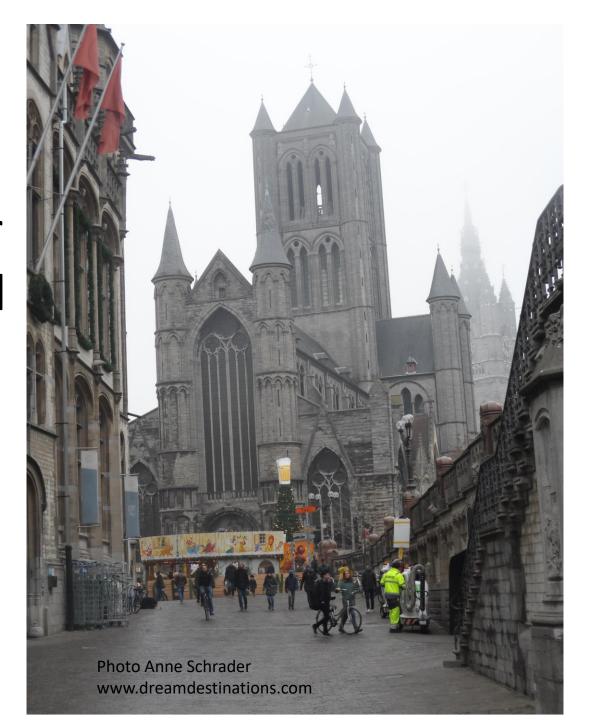
## Ghent, Belgium Overview

- Ghent is another important medieval city, and it was the capital of Flanders and a wealthy trading center with numerous powerful guilds in its heyday.
- Much of it is pedestrian only in the old town and a joy to visit, especially the older buildings and impressive churches. It has some very interesting architecture buildings, especially in the old harbor area.
- The famous Jan van Eyck wooden altar pieces are on display behind a glass protective barrier.
- Our first visit was in 2012. We visited Ghent again in December 2018 and found it quite fun and a worthwhile stop.

# Ghent, Belgium One of the Canals



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



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



#### Tour Boat on a Canal of Ghent



#### Brussels Day 5

- "Capital of Belgium" tour
- Or Full-Day Battle of the Bulge tour
- Or Bike tour
- Beersel Castle afternoon tour
- Or Belgium chocolate tasting afternoon tour

#### Brussels, Belgium

- Brussels is the capital city of Belgium.
- The old town square, known as the Grand Place, is said to be the most beautiful square in all Europe.
- Fitting in with the unique sense of humor of Belgium's, the most famous statue is the Manneken Pis, who has a museum full of his outfits

#### **Brussels Grand Place**



# Market Square



# Municipal Museum in King's House



#### Brussels Mannekan Pis





#### Antwerp Day 6

- "City of Diamonds" walking tour and cathedral visit
- Or bike tour
- Belgian beer tour
- Or Flavors of Belgium
- Or bike tour with Red Star Line Museum (shipping line that transported 3 million immigrant to the US)

#### Antwerp, Belgium Overview

- Antwerp is located on the Scheldt River, and world famous for diamond trading and cutting.
- Antwerp has a small castle fortress right at the river port area.
- It has an excellent square with impressive guild buildings and a monster killing statue to protect the residents in the main square.
- It is a fun and easy walking city—we would return.

# Antwerp, Belgium Castle



# Antwerp Belgium Waffles



#### Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Shop



#### Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Display



# Antwerp, Belgium Town Hall in the Grote Markt



**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



## Dordrecht Day 7

- "Holland's Oldest City" walking tour
- Or Rotterdam tour and Delfshaven (departure point of the Pilgrim fathers in 1620 to US)
- Or Gorinchen old town excursion
- Or bike tour of Rotterdam
- Kinderdijk UNSECO Windmills afternoon tour
- Or Kinderdijk bike tour

# Kinderdijk



# Kinderdijk



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