

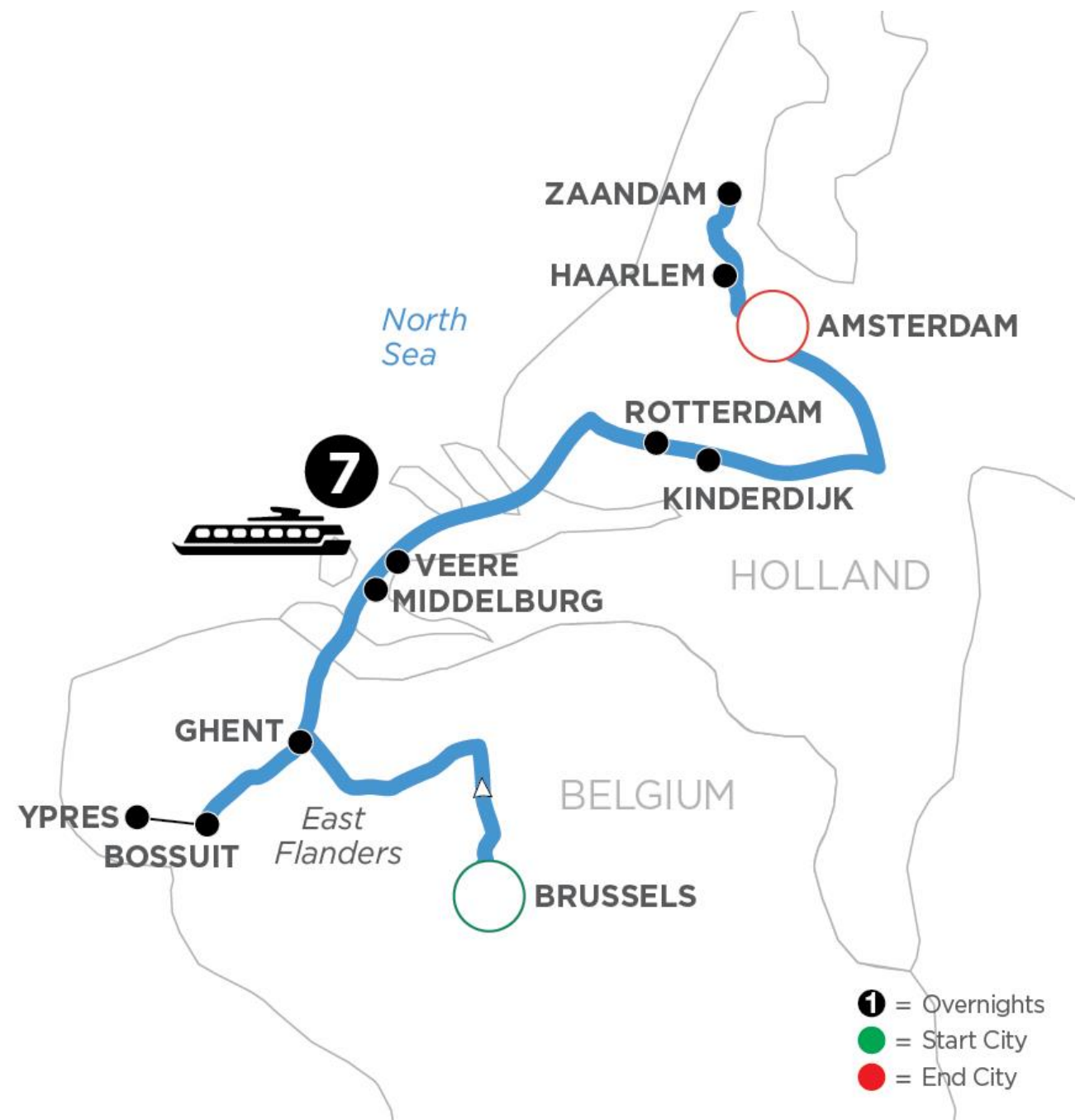
# Tulip Time Highlights Avalon Waterways

By

Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

# Map From Avalon



# Overview

- See your visions of tulip season in Holland and Belgium come into view while cruising from Brussels to Amsterdam.
- Take in the quintessential Dutch scenes of windmills, waterways, and seemingly endless rows of blooming color.
- Embark in Brussels and sail to Ghent—“The Diamond of Flanders.” Visit St. Bavo’s Cathedral with its stunning Flemish artwork.
- Sail to Bossuit for moving battlefield remembrances, including In Flanders Fields Museum and the Last Post Ceremony.

# Overview

- On to Holland for a visit the former Dutch East India Company trading port.
- Visit the fascinating Flood Museum to hear and see the stories of the flood of 1953.
- In Kinderdijk, see 19 windmills built in 1740 for water management and marvel at the Erasmus Bridge in the historic port city of Rotterdam.
- Take in the tulips and other flowering bulbs in the flower farm regions of Zaandam and Haarlem and conclude your river cruise through Belgium and Holland with a visit to Amsterdam.
- Take a guided canal cruise past bridges and homes of a golden age.



# Day 1 Brussels, Belgium

- Welcome to Belgium. Your Suite Ship<sup>®</sup> is Ready for Boarding.

Flights into Brussels must arrive by 2:00 pm.

Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.

Enjoy dinner on board as you sail for Ghent this evening.

- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO GHENT

# Day 2 Ghent, Belgium

- **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.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Enjoy an excursion to the Natural reserve “Citadelpark”
- 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.”
- This evening, enjoy live entertainment onboard.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BOSSUIT**

# 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  
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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



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

# Optional Tours (Extra Cost)

- **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".
- **Sights, Bites & Delights of Ghent**
- The treasures of Ghent await on this exciting excursion featuring a canal cruise through the Old Town, and tastings of authentic Belgian beer and delectable chocolate at a family-run chocolaterie!
- **Biking in Ghent with your Adventure Host**
- Explore a different side of Ghent by bike with your Adventure Host.



# 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 3 Bossuit

- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Visit the In Flanders Field Museum in Ypres—named for the soldier’s famed poem.
- Learn about the story of the invasion of Belgium, the first months of the mobilization, the four years trench war in the Westhoek, the end of the war, and the lasting remembrance to follow.
- After your visit, enjoy lunch at the museum’s café.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Following the museum, visit battlefields, cemeteries, memorials and private collections.
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Experience the Last Post Ceremony, taking place nightly under the arches of the Menin Gate. Enjoy some free time for dinner before the Ceremony starts.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MIDDELBURG**



# The Menin Gate where the ceremony called the “Last Post” is held

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# A Lion guards the Menin Gate

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Concrete shelters of the Advance Dressing Station (A.D.S.) where LTC John McCrae, a doctor, wrote the poem "In Flanders Field"





# Tyne Cot Cemetery and Memorial

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

The Cross of  
Sacrifice Tyne Cot  
Cemetery — the  
words on the Cross  
of Sacrifice reads  
THEIR NAME  
LIVETH FOR  
EVERMORE



# Day 4 Middelburg

- **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 KINDERDIJK**

# Day 5 Kinderdijk to Rotterdam

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** See the windmills of Kinderdijk by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Kinderdijk where 19 windmills were built in 1740 as flood prevention and water management. You'll hear about the windmill's vital role in the Netherland's history and why it became a national symbol of Holland.
- Enjoy a cruise through Rotterdam harbor.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Experience Rotterdam by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of Rotterdam featuring innovative architecture, including the marvelous Erasmus Bridge.
- Later, enjoy live entertainment onboard.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ZAANDAM**

# Kinderdijk

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# Kinderdijk

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# Day 6 Zaandam to Haarlem

- Arrive in Zaandam this morning with free time to explore this quintessential Dutch town.
- During tulip season, you may take a Guided Optional Excursion to Keukenhof gardens. Outside of tulip season, join a Guided Optional Excursion to Zaanse Schans to see historic windmills and charming Dutch houses.
- Cruise to Haarlem this afternoon while enjoying lunch onboard.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Enjoy an easy bike ride to the beach with your Adventure Host, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Visit Haarlem, a major flower bulbs growing district outside of Amsterdam. Explore the former North Sea trading port with its medieval features, gabled houses, and leafy courtyards.
- Enjoy dinner on board your ship this evening as you sail to Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM**

# Keukenhof Gardens



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# Keukenhof Gardens

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# Day 7 Amsterdam

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Join a Biking Tour through the Dutch countryside past polders, dykes, and quaint centuries-old villages, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam on a Guided Canal Cruise past stately homes of Amsterdam's "Golden Age".
- This afternoon, you might consider joining one of the Optional Excursions available.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN AMSTERDAM**



# Canal Cruise



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# The Famous Gabled Roofs

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# Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



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# Rijksmuseum



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# Day 7 Amsterdam

- 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.

# Day 8 Amsterdam

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.



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