

# Tulips & Windmills Viking River Cruises

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

# Overview

- Admire the genius of the Dutch Masters at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum.
- Explore Hoorn's seafaring heritage, Arnhem's World War II history and Antwerp's Renaissance splendor.
- See colorful tulips in bloom, and sample Belgian beers and chocolates.
- Step into the Middle Ages in Bruges.
- Roam Keukenhof Gardens, the world's largest floral park.
- The best time to see the Low Countries is spring, and the best *way* to see them is on our 10-day cruise.

# Trip Map From Viking River Cruises



# Day 1 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- Arrive in Amsterdam, then transfer to your ship.\*
- After boarding, the afternoon is yours to relax or explore the city on your own.
- If your arrival schedule permits, you may wish to visit the Rijksmuseum, or the van Gogh Museum next door. (Dinner)

\* Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.



# Rijksmuseum



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# Day 2 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- After breakfast, embark on a canal tour by glass-topped boat to see architecture from the city's Golden Age.
- Return on board for lunch, then take free time to visit the Van Gogh Museum or the renovated Rijksmuseum with its marvelous collection of Dutch Master paintings, or just explore the city's charming neighborhoods.
- Alternatively, visit a Delftware factory this afternoon to see how the famed porcelain is made. As always, your Viking Guest Services representative can help you plan your stay.
- Dine on board or on shore; your ship remains docked in Amsterdam overnight. (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
- \*Note: Due to the opening schedule of Keukenhof Gardens, the Day 2 program may be exchanged with the Day 9 program and vice versa on select departures.

# Day 2 Shore Excursions

- Amsterdam Canal Cruise—included
- Delft Walking Tour & Porcelain Ware--Enjoy a city walking tour, then visit a Delftware factory to see up close how the famed porcelain is made.
- Amsterdam's Golden Age--Peruse the work of the Dutch Masters, cruise Amsterdam's charming waterways and visit a patrician museum.



# Canal Cruise



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# The Famous Gabled Roofs

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# Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



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# Day 3 Hoorn, The Netherlands

- Early this morning, sail across the IJsselmeer (once known as the Zuiderzee) to the ancient shipping village of Hoorn.
- After breakfast, enjoy a guided walk through the Hoorn's cobblestone streets; see age-old cheese warehouses on the town's main square, which dates back to Holland's Golden Age.
- Lunch is served on board; you have a free afternoon to explore Hoorn, visit a local bakery and shop for souvenirs.
- Or, take an optional excursion into the countryside to a tulip farm and see how windmills have changed over the years.
- Depart during dinner and cruise through the night.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 3 Shore Excursions

- Hoorn Walking Tour & Local Performance—included
- Cheeses of Edam & Beemster--Discover Holland's love affair with cheese and make your own during a workshop at a working farm.
- Tulips & Windmills--Drive through the dreamy Dutch countryside to a tulip farm and witness how windmills have changed over the years, all on one fascinating excursion.
- Dutch Countryside & Home Visit by E-bike--Enjoy a hosted visit at a Dutch residence and pedal along dikes, through quiet villages and past flower fields.



# Day 4 Arnhem, The Netherlands

- We arrive early today in Arnhem, a relaxed city bursting with inviting green parks and gardens. Still more famous than its much-admired green spaces is Arnhem's wartime history. Join us on an included excursion to delve into the city's role in Operation Market Garden, an ill-fated Allied World War II operation. Witness a battle reenactment during your visit to the Airborne Museum and pay your respects at the Airborne Cemetery.
- Also available today is an optional excursion to an open-air museum where 80 historic structures, from a drawbridge to a working paper mill, are preserved. Here you can enjoy a tram ride through 200 years of traditional Dutch country life, and perhaps even try a hands-on experience of a traditional trade.
- Dine on board or on shore; your ship remains docked in Arnhem overnight.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 4 Shore Excursions

- Operation Market Garden: Arnhem--See the sites of a crucial wartime operation, the basis for a 1977 Richard Attenborough film.
- Kröller-Müller Museum & Sculpture Garden--See the second-largest collection of paintings by Vincent van Gogh and a remarkable sculpture garden during a visit to one of The Netherlands' most extraordinary museums.
- Netherlands Open Air Museum--Witness 200 years of Dutch life at this living museum of traditional villages, crafts and agriculture.
- Paleis Het Loo--Tour the magnificent Paleis Het Loo, the summer residence of the Royal House of Orange from 1686 until 1962.
- Veluwe by Bicycle--Experience the peace and tranquility of nature during a leisurely bike ride through Hoge Veluwe National Park.

# Airborne Museum



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# Airborne Museum





# Airborne Museum



# Day 5 Kinderdijk, The Netherlands

- Arrive this afternoon in Kinderdijk and disembark for a tour of this ingenious 18th-century community.
- Learn why the windmills were built and see how they work to help control flooding, then tour a working windmill to see its pumping mechanism and living quarters at this UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- You can also take an optional excursion to explore The Netherlands' renowned cheeses and windmills,
- or cycle past Kinderdijk's 19 historic windmills.
- In late afternoon, we set sail toward Antwerp.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 5 Shore Excursions

- Kinderdijk Windmills—included
- Kinderdijk Windmills by Bicycle--Cycle through the grasslands of Kinderdijk and see the 19 historic windmills, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Kinderdijk by Vintage Barge--Go beyond the usual visitor experience on a Viking exclusive boat tour and visit the oldest Kinderdijk windmill.
- Kinderdijk Windmills & Dutch Cheese Making--See the picturesque Dutch countryside as you explore The Netherlands' world-famous cheeses and windmills.
- Rotterdam on Foot--Explore historic sites in the heart of Rotterdam and enjoy a tasting of local favorites during a walking tour.

# Kinderdijk

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# Kinderdijk

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# Day 6 Antwerp, Belgium

- This morning, enjoy a half-day tour of Antwerp featuring the Cathedral of Our Lady with its three monumental altarpieces painted by Peter Paul Rubens; the Grote Markt (Grand Square) surrounded by the Golden Age Town Hall and guild halls; and Het Steen (Steen Castle), Antwerp's oldest building.
- You can take an optional excursion to satisfy your taste buds with some of Antwerp's traditional specialties
- or explore the major sights of Brussels.
- You have free time to explore at your leisure this afternoon before dining on board your ship tonight as we sail for Ghent.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 6 Shore Excursions

- Antwerp Walking Tour—included
- Best of Brussels--Explore Brussels, the hub of Belgian culture.
- Delicious Antwerp--Savor some of Antwerp's traditional treats and learn what inspired their distinct creation.

# Antwerp, Belgium Castle

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# 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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# Brussels Grand Place (Optional)

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# Market Square

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# Municipal Museum in King's House



# Brussels Mannekan Pis





# Antwerp Belgium Waffles (Optional)



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# Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Shop



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# Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Display



# Day 7 Ghent & Bruges, Belgium

- From Ghent, travel to Bruges, one of the oldest towns in Flanders.
- Your city walk takes you through its cultural and artistic center, home to important Flemish painters such as Eyck and Memling.
- Also see the Béguinage, a hidden courtyard inhabited by nuns, and the town's scenic network of canals.
- Stay in Bruges for lunch on your own,
- or return to Ghent for lunch on board and an afternoon exploring this exceptionally charming, canal-filled capital of East Flanders.
- Enjoy a beautifully lit evening departure from Ghent as we cruise through the night.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 7 Shore Excursions

- Medieval Brugges: Half Day—included--Step back in time during a guided walking tour of one of the best-preserved medieval cities in the world.
- Medieval Brugges: Full Day—included--Step back in time during a guided walking tour of one of the best-preserved medieval cities in the world. Includes 3 hours of free time
- Flanders Fields--Pay a sobering visit to one of World War I's hallowed battlefields and see the highlights of Bruges.



# 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 8 Delta Works, Zeeland, The Netherlands

- After breakfast travel to the region of Walcheren, formerly an island of the southwest Netherlands.
- Stop in Veere and enjoy a walking tour of this engaging, time-honored town.
- From here, travel to the Delta Works, the ingenious system of enormous doors that can be lowered during spring tides to protect the area from floods while allowing the tides to ebb and flow.
- Or you may choose to visit a local oyster farm, where you can shuck and try oysters. Rejoin your ship for lunch.
- Enjoy an afternoon of scenic sailing along the Dutch waterways as you cruise toward Amsterdam.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



# Day 8 Shore Excursions

- Walcheren & Delta Works—included
- Flavors of Holland--Savor the taste of local oysters, learn about the significance of the industry to the region and try shucking your own.

## Day 9 Keukenhof Gardens & Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- After breakfast, visit the picturesque Keukenhof Gardens, the world's largest floral park. Admire the stunning beauty at both indoor and outdoor exhibits of millions of vibrant blooms including tulips, hyacinths, crocuses and daffodils.
- You may choose the option of spending a full day at the gardens, with lunch on your own, or heading to explore historic Haarlem.
- Alternatively, return on board for lunch, then use the rest of the day to discover Amsterdam's hidden treasures. You may choose to explore Museum Square, take a bike ride or shop for colorful clogs and tulip bulbs.
- Enjoy dinner on board your ship, followed by free time to enjoy Amsterdam's nightlife. Your ship remains docked overnight.
- (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

# Day 9 Shore Excursions

- Kuekenhof Gardens—included
- Historic Haarlem--Journey to historic Haarlem, revered for its many museums and its grand collection of paintings by Dutch masters.
- Kuekenhof Gardens & Historic Haarlem--Walk the footpaths of renowned Keukenhof Gardens and the streets of charming Haarlem.



# Keukenhof Gardens



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# Keukenhof Gardens

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# Day 10 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- After breakfast, disembark and proceed to the airport for your return flight.\*
- (Breakfast)
- \* Ground transfers are included with Viking Air purchase.

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