

# Windmills, Tulips & Belgium Delights Scenic River Cruises

By

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# Overview

- The Netherlands in bloom
- *There's something irrepressibly joyful about witnessing nature spring to life and nowhere more so than in The Netherlands.*
- See the very best of The Netherlands and Belgium on this fascinating journey that starts and concludes in charming Amsterdam, a city filled with waterways, exquisitely preserved canal houses and historic bridges.
- Cruising from sleepy towns of Veere and Hoorn, to thriving modern centres such as Antwerp, you'll see authentic windmills, learn about modern war history, and see the world-famous tulips meticulously laid out in brilliant patterns and rows.

# Map From Scenic River Cruises



# Day 1 - Amsterdam

- Welcome to Amsterdam.
- The Netherlands' capital city is a treasure trove of architectural beauty, masterpiece-filled galleries, tranquil scenes of boats putting along 16th-century canals, narrow cobbled laneways filled with boutiques and cafes, and streets busy with cyclists crisscrossing their way about town.
- Often referred to as the Venice of the North, much of the UNESCO-listed canal system exists today as it did hundreds of years ago, lined with well-preserved canal houses and intersected by charming bridges.
- A warm welcome awaits you from the crew of your Scenic Space-Ship. Raise your glass to the marvelous cruise ahead of you at this evening's welcome reception.
- Please book your flight to arrive in Amsterdam prior to 06:00 PM.
- **Meals Included:** Dinner

# Day 2 - Dordrecht

- You'll arrive in Dordrecht, one of The Netherlands' oldest cities, this morning.
- Once an important trade city for wood, grain and wine, it's made up of an historical city center with buildings dating to the Middle Ages, as well as merchant houses and warehouses along the harbor.
- From here, you will explore surrounding cities and villages on 4 possible excursions.
- Your Scenic Space-Ship will depart Dordrecht after dinner, so you have ample time to explore the lovely town of Dordrecht at leisure this afternoon.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 2 Excursions

- Guided tour of Rotterdam: From Dordrecht, you will be transferred to Rotterdam where a local guide will introduce you to this dynamic city that is evolving at a rapid pace.
- The city was all but destroyed after WWII, with very few buildings surviving.
- Today you'll see some pre-war structures such as the 19th century Art Nouveau Witte Huis and 1920s Hotel New York hidden among contemporary architecture and cutting-edge design.

Excursion to Delft: Take an excursion to Delft, a pretty town whose center is a maze of narrow canal-lined streets.

- It has an historic association with the Dutch Royal Family and is the origin of the globally regarded Delft Blue Pottery, created here from the 16th century.
- Enjoy a guided tour of the charming city of Delft before a visit to a pottery factory and museum.

# Day 2 Excursions

- Excursion to Kinderdijk: Picturesque Kinderdijk is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for its 19 historic windmills that are recognized as a Dutch icon throughout the world.
- See these authentic windmills on today's tour while learning about how their hydraulic works have been used to drain the land for agriculture and settlement for centuries.

Gouda Cheese Markets: A local guide will show you around the beautiful historic city of Gouda, known for its namesake cheese.

- Explore the city including the small alleyways, tree-lined canals and the main square where a traditional cheese market that was first initiated in 1395 is still operating.
- (Note: the cheese market is open every Thursday morning; tours that fall on a different day will still visit Gouda but not the market.)



# Kinderdijk

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





## Day 3 - Veere

- You will arrive in Veere this morning, one of The Netherland's prettiest villages whose historic harbor is filled with bobbing yachts.
- While its beginnings date to the 13th century, Veere flourished in the 16th century when it became an important port for Scottish wool.
- This prosperity lasted two centuries, and to this day Scottish ties are strong.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 3 Excursions

- Guided City Tour: Discover many of the hundreds of heritage buildings of Veere on a guided tour.
- Set on the Veerse Meer Lake, the village is home to a harbor lined with Scottish merchant houses, a 15th century town hall with tower, a defensive tower that was later used as an inn and lighthouse, and Grote Kerk, an imposing Gothic church that has also been used as a hospital and poorhouse.

Cycling Tour: Join your local guide as you ride through the village of Veere, seeing all its key sights as well as the unspoilt natural beauty along the dykes in the surrounding area.

Delta Works Visit: Transfer from Veere to tour the Delta Works, a complex series of dams purposely created to protect the population on the Delta plain from flooding.

- Discover this impressive engineering feat and see one of the Storm Surge Barrier that make up the project.

## Day 4 - Antwerp

- This morning you will arrive in Belgium's second city, Antwerp.
- Full of historical and cultural contrasts, Antwerp has a mélange of architectural wonders, a medieval center with cobbled streets and Gothic buildings, many that were severely bombed during WWII, blended with modern architecture.
- It's also the diamond capital of the world, with 70 per cent of the world's diamonds traded there.
- It's all aboard your Scenic Space-Ship this afternoon as you cruise towards the Dutch city of Arnhem, perhaps enjoy a regional beer or wine in the Panoramic Bar & Lounge.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 4 Excursions

- Guided walking tour of Antwerp: Join your local guide on a walking tour through this beautiful city, known as the diamond capital of the world.
- Explore sights such as the impressive Cathedral of Our Lady, Steen Castle, the Medieval fortress, and main square lined with extravagant buildings.

Excursion to Ghent: Visit one of Belgium's most historic cities, where you can explore the myriad of medieval buildings and charming canals with your local guide.

- Ghent also has a rich industrial past, which is evident in its old factories, many of which are being gentrified as cultural hotspots.
- The city was also named a Creative City of Music by UNESCO in 2009.

# Antwerp, Belgium Castle

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# Antwerp Belgium Waffles



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# 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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# Ghent, Belgium One of the Canals

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Cathedral of St.  
Bavon. 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 5 - Arnhem

- Arrive in Arnhem, a city made famous by the Battle of Arnhem, a bold but failed attempt to outflank German forces in north-west Europe during WWII.
- It resulted in thousands of British and Polish troops being killed, wounded or taken prisoner.
- Much of the city and its river bridges were destroyed by the battle and subsequent bombings, but Arnhem has been rebuilt and is now an attractive and picturesque city.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 5 Excursions

- Arnhem Airborne Museum: Visit the Arnhem Airborne Museum with your local guide to learn about the Battle of Arnhem.
- The Airborne Experience allows you to follow in the footsteps of British parachutists as they made their way to Arnhem in September 1944.
- The museum is housed in the beautiful Villa Hartenstein, the former headquarters for the British troops.

Netherlands Open Air Museum: Discover the stories and immerse yourself in life in The Netherlands from years gone by.

- Your local guide will take you on an exploration of this fascinating 44-hectare outdoor museum, to see replicas of historic houses, mills and farmhouses, and to learn about Dutch work, customs and traditions.

Het Loo Royal Palace: Het Loo Palace dates to 1685 and served as the royal family's summer home for centuries.

- Since 1984 it has been turned into an incredible museum showcasing the rich history of the Dutch royal family.
- Guests can admire the elaborately decorated rooms, an impressive collection of coach stables and the magnificent gardens.

# Airborne Museum



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



# Airborne Museum



# Airborne Museum



## Day 6 - Hoorn > Amsterdam

- The wonderful town of Hoorn was a prosperous trading center from the Middle Ages to the 17th century.
- Its main harbor, Binnenhaven, houses beautiful traditional warehouses, while there are many historical buildings and monuments throughout town including a defense tower used in the 16th and 17th centuries, and a well-preserved city gate first built in 1578.
- This afternoon, enjoy some time at leisure as you cruise towards Amsterdam.
- You may wish to spend time in the wellness center, relaxing with a massage, or head to the exclusive Salt Therapy Lounge, which has natural anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



# Day 6 Excursions

- Guided tour of Hoorn with tasting: Join a local guide for a walking tour of Hoorn, including a visit to its charming inner harbor area.
- You will also have the opportunity to sample some of Hoorn's delicious specialties such as local fish and cheese.

Veldzicht Hoeve cheese farm: Veldzicht Hoeve is a sustainable, family run cheese producer of the famous Beemster Cheese.

- Here you will meet the family and learn about their passion for energy neutral and sustainable dairy farming, and how they produce this delicious cheese.

Ancestry of the Kitchen: Traditional Dutch apple pie making class:

- Traditional recipes have long been passed down through generations.
- Today you'll be let in on the secrets of a family recipe as you learn how to make traditional Dutch apple pie with a local.

Cycling tour of Hoorn: Join your local guide on an active cycling tour of the harbor city of Hoorn.

- See some of the key sights of the city such as the Oosterkerk (the Old Church) as you cycle towards IJssel Lake dyke, the biggest lake in The Netherlands.

# Day 6 Scenic Enrich

- **Enrich**

- Tonight's Scenic Enrich - Fabrique des Lumières: During after-hours access, you be welcomed with a glass of champagne as you visit Fabrique des Lumières.
- Located in a former 19th century gas works, you will see the works of the worlds most renowned artists projected onto the 17-metre-high walls, accompanied and complemented by a musical soundtrack.

# Day 7 - Amsterdam

- Wake this morning in Amsterdam and enjoy an excursion with your fellow guests to Keukenhof Gardens to see the most magnificent display of tulips.
- Transfer via coach to Keukenhof Gardens, where you'll witness a display of more than seven million tulips in bloom.
- There are around 800 varieties of tulips carefully arranged here in beautiful patterns and colors, making it one of the most magical public gardens in the world
- Return to Amsterdam this afternoon for free time to explore this city steeped in history, art and quirky culture.
- You could fill an afternoon wandering the labyrinth of narrow laneways and canals that are lined with beautifully preserved 17th century buildings.
- Or visit the Rijksmuseum to see masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh; take a poignant walk-through Anne Frank's House;
- or hop aboard a scenic cruise along some of the 100 kilometers of canals, passing elegant merchant's residences, churches and warehouses that date from the Golden Age.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



# Keukenhof Gardens



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# Canal Cruise



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# The Famous Gabled Roofs

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# Rijksmuseum



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# Skinny Bridge, Amsterdam



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# Day 8 - Amsterdam

- After breakfast, transfer to Amsterdam airport or train station for your onward journey.
- This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water.
- As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above.
- Please refer to our terms and conditions.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast



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