



BARRINGTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL & BARRINGTON GARDEN CLUB PRESENT

FLORAL FLANDERS

EXPLORING THE ART & GARDENS OF HOLLAND & BELGIUM APRIL 17TH - 25TH 2017

MONDAY, APRIL 17TH - Depart Barrington with BCS director Sandi Tynk for Boston Logan, where you board your direct flight to Amsterdam. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

TUESDAY, APRIL 18TH - Upon arrival at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, we will be transferred to our hotel in the heart of the city. After checking in and having some free time to relax and find lunch, . Dinner is included this evening. **(D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19TH - We'll begin this morning with a guided tour of the recently re-opened Rijksmuseum. This national museum was originally founded in 1808 by Louis Bonaparte and houses an exceptional collection of 15th - 17th century paintings. The afternoon is free to explore the city. Take a canal boat tour, shop in the Jordaan district, visit the Van Gogh Museum, or the Anne Frank House. The evening is free to sample a local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH - An early start this morning as we head for the Aalsmeer Flower Auction. We view the whole operation from raised galleries running across the huge hall with windows looking into each of the five auction rooms. The display of color, sound and movement is extraordinary as the flower carts need to move quickly once purchased. We then continue east to visit the Royal Het Loo Palace. Originally built by Prince William III in the 17th century as a hunting lodge, the palace was a royal residence until 1975. Its extensive gardens have been restored to their former glory and the palace is a fascinating record of three centuries of royalty. From here it is a short drive to the Kroller-Muller National Museum, with the 2nd largest collection of Van Gogh paintings in the world, as well as French Impressionist works. We'll also have time to wander the fabulous Sculpture garden added in the 1960s. We return to Amsterdam for dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

FRIDAY, APRIL 21ST - First stop this morning is in the city of Leiden to visit the Hortus Botanicus, the first botanical garden in northern Europe, founded by the university in 1587. We cross the border with Belgium and continue to Antwerp. Here we visit Rubens' house, where he lived for 29 years from 1611. The house and garden were restored using engravings made between 1684 and 1692. It is an enclosed Renaissance garden, typical of its time, with straight walks and parterres bounded by yew hedges. Because it belonged to a famous artist, more is known of this garden than of its contemporaries. We continue to our hotel in Bruges for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BRUGES**

SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND - Bruges is the capital of West Flanders and is known as the "Venice of the North," owing to the myriad canals that criss-cross the city. A morning walking tour of Bruges with a local guide will introduce this wonderfully-preserved, ancient city and include a visit to the Groeninge Museum, with its world-class collection of Flemish Primitive and later Dutch Masters. The afternoon and evening are free to further explore. **(B) OVERNIGHT: BRUGES**

SUNDAY, APRIL 23RD - Our excursion today takes us first to neighboring Ghent, with its wonderful medieval city center. A walking tour will introduce the highlights of the city: St. Bavo Cathedral, St. Nicolas Church and the Castle of the Counts of Flanders. After free time for lunch we drive to Ypres, where we will visit the "In the Fields of Flanders" Museum dedicated to the many soldiers who laid down their lives here in the First World War. We return to Bruges for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BRUGES**

MONDAY, APRIL 24TH - We'll break our morning drive back to Amsterdam with a stop in The Hague to visit the world famous Mauritshuis Museum. The Mauritshuis houses the very best from the Golden Age of Dutch Painting. Passing through acres of colorful bulb fields at the peak of spring bloom this afternoon, we will visit the glorious Keukenhof Gardens, in the heart of the bulb-growing industry. We'll explore the many themed gardens and pavilions. In addition to the glorious abundance of blossom, works of art by Dutch artists are on display throughout the park. We return to our hotel in Amsterdam for an evening of merriment and our farewell dinner party. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH - Morning transport to Amsterdam Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner

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