



THE FOOD & FINE ART OF FLANDERS

EXPLORING THE ART & GASTRONOMY OF HOLLAND & BELGIUM

NOVEMBER 5TH - 13TH 2021

It is said that God created heaven and earth – except Holland. The Dutch people made that! The ingenious use of windmills, dikes, and canals has created large flat and fertile areas that, for hundreds of years, have been cultivated and protected from the encroaching sea.

This November, we explore the art, cuisine, and culture of this tiny nation and that of neighboring northern Belgium – a region together known collectively as Flanders. We begin in Amsterdam, a city built on a network of canals with its tall and narrow brick houses reflected in the glimmering water. We include a guided tour of the world-famous Rijksmuseum, a day at the Royal Palaces to the east of the city, and a day exploring the countryside.

Next, our travels then take us over the border into Belgium where we make our base in the city of Bruges. Known as the “Venice of the North” due to the many picturesque canals crisscrossing the city, we will investigate the three main things for which the region is famous: art, beer, and chocolate!

Discover Europe has crafted an itinerary that highlights the museums and the landscapes of Holland and Belgium. The pace is never frantic, yet the days are pleasantly full and there are bound to be some unexpected diversions and adventures along the way. Your tour guide will provide background history, anecdotes, and an insight into Dutch life as you travel around. Join us on an unforgettable journey through a country that is bursting with art and culture that are enjoyable year-round!



BRUGES



RIJKSMUSEUM

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$3930**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 950**

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 7 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 4 dinners
- GUIDES:** Fully qualified Discover Europe guide throughout the tour
Local guides in Amsterdam (Rijksmuseum) and Bruges
- EXPENSES:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH - Departure from your chosen gateway city aboard your overnight flight to Amsterdam. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH - Morning arrival in Amsterdam. Your flight will be met for the transfer to our city-center hotel. After checking in, there will time to unpack, relax and find some lunch at a local restaurant. This afternoon a local guide will introduce the highlights of the city – from a canal boat! Amsterdam was built around the network of canals and they provide the best way to see most of the major sites. This evening we will gather for a welcome reception and dinner at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH - The morning will begin with a guided tour of the Rijksmuseum. This national museum was originally founded in 1808 by Louis Bonaparte and houses an exceptional collection of 15 - 17C paintings. We will then repair to the famous De Prael Brewpub for a tour and lunch. The rest of the day is free to explore the city: stroll the canals, shop in the Jordaan district, visit the Van Gogh Museum or Anne Frank's House. Your tour guide will be on hand to help with suggestions and advice. The evening is free to sample some local cuisine - perhaps a rijsttafel dinner, an Indonesian specialty that is a relic of Dutch colonialism in the East Indies. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH - Today's excursion takes us to the east of Amsterdam towards the city of Apeldoorn. Our first stop will be to visit the Het Loo Palace, home of the Dutch royal family and now a national museum. To the south of the palace lies the De Hoge Veluwe National Park, 14,000 acres of nature reserve and home to the Kroller-Muller National Museum, housing an important collection of sculpture and art, specializing in works by Van Gogh. We'll have free time for lunch and then a guided tour of the museum. There may also be time for individual exploration in the sculpture garden before we continue our journey to the Huis Doorn Museum. The interior is unchanged from the time when the German Emperor, Wilhelm II, lived in the house. We return to Amsterdam where we will gather for dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: AMSTERDAM**



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH - Heading south from Amsterdam, our first stop today is in the village of Kinderdijk. Holland's constant battle with the sea is demonstrated here with 19 windmills and 3 pumping stations keeping the water at bay. We'll also visit a nearby organic cheese factory (the town of Gouda is close by) before continuing to the city of Antwerp. We'll have time for lunch before meeting up again to visit the Rubens House museum. Purchased in 1610, this was the home and workshop of Peter Paul Rubens. We'll continue on the city of Bruges, where we'll have time to freshen up and relax before going out to dinner at a nearby restaurant concentrating on local specialties. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: BRUGES**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH - Bruges is known as the "Venice of the North," owing to the myriad canals that crisscross the city. A morning walking tour of Bruges with a local guide will introduce this wonderfully-preserved, ancient city and include a visit to Bruges Cathedral. We'll end the tour at the Groeninge Museum, with its world-class collection of Flemish Primitive and later Dutch Masters (including works by Jan van Eyck, Gerard David, and Hieronymus Bosch). We have lunch in Bruges at the sophisticated Assiette Blanche restaurant in the city center and then visit Roose's Chocolate World. We'll have a demonstration of chocolate making, a brief history of the industry and then a chance to sample the products. The rest of the afternoon and evening are free to further explore – perhaps pay a visit to the Memling Museum in St. Jan Hospital or the Museum of Chocolate. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: BRUGES**

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH - Our excursion today takes us first 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 then continue to the famous Rodenbach Brewery in Roeselare, where we'll enjoy a tour and tasting and lunch. After lunch, it's a short drive to neighboring Ghent, with its wonderful medieval city center. A walking tour will introduce the highlights of the city: St. Bavo Cathedral (home of the Ghent Altarpiece), St. Nicolas Church and the Castle of the Counts of Flanders. We return to Bruges for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: BRUGES**

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH - Leaving Bruges, our journey today takes us to the seat of government of the Netherlands (not to be confused with the capital city, Amsterdam), the ancient port city of Den Haag (The Hague). We'll begin our exploration of the city with a tour of the Peace Palace, the home of the International Court of Justice. After a break for lunch, we'll take a tour of the Mauritshuis, the Royal Picture Gallery named after Prince John Maurice of Nassau, whose 17th-century residence now houses the collection. There will then be free time to visit the Stedelijk Museum with its collection of Mondrians, for those interested, or to view the Mesdag Panorama. This amazing canvas (nearly 400 feet long and 46 feet high) was commissioned from the artist Hendrik Willem Mesdag in 1880 and shows the seaside town of Scheveningen as it was in 1881. We'll continue on the city of Leiden, where we'll have a farewell gourmet dinner at a local restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LEIDEN**



AMSTERDAM CANAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH - Morning transfers to the nearby airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

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