# Your best trip starts here.

Best of Holland, Belgium and Luxembourg End Brussels



# Your itinerary



# Day 1 | Welcome to Amsterdam



Fall in love with the Lowlands, launching your holiday in the magical city of Amsterdam, whose labyrinthine canals and vibrant squares you will have an opportunity to explore on your own. Later, you'll meet your Travel Director and fellow travellers for a Welcome Reception cruise, including a light meal and welcome drink. Cruise the city's famous waterways admiring the picture-perfect surrounds and gabled façades.

Meals: Welcome Reception

Hotel: Apollo Hotel Amsterdam, a Tribute Portfolio

Hotel

Day 2 | Explore Amazing Amsterdam



Explore Amsterdam's historic city centre this morning. Dive Into Culture as you join a Small Group Sightseeing tour of the Rijksmuseum with a Local Specialist. Come face-to-face with such masterpieces as Rembrandt's 'The Night Watch', Van Gogh's self-portrait, and 'The Milkmaid' by Vermeer. Celebrate spring and enjoy an included visit to Keukenhof (subject to season) where you'll stroll through an enchanting wonderland of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths with millions of blooms planted across the 32-hectare site.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Apollo Hotel Amsterdam, a Tribute Portfolio

Hotel

#### **Optional Experiences:**

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Hidden Amsterdam - We'll pay a visit to The Royal Palace in Amsterdam with our Local Specialist. Built in 1648, it originally served as the Town Hall and is still in use by the Dutch Royal Family today. It has also been a Napoleonic Palace, before its current role. Its rich history and the interior of this magnificent building in the heart of Amsterdam make this a must see.

Adult: 51.00 EUR

**Van Loon Museum** - In the heart of the canal district lies Museum Van Loon, a magnificent private residence built in 1672. The former residence of the artist Ferdinand Bol, the 18th-century interior still evokes the splendour of the Golden Age. With our Local Specialist, we'll discover the large collection of paintings, fine furniture, precious silver and porcelain from several centuries. A short walking tour in the heart of the city will then take us to the Beguinage (Begijnhof), a hidden courtyard where extremely pious women lived for almost 700 years. This glimpse behind the façades of Amsterdam's world-famous canals is highly recommended. Adult: 44.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

**Dinner In A Historic Dutch House** - Join us for a delicious meal of Dutch specialities, including drinks, in the elegant surroundings of this historic house.

Adult: **63.00 EUR** 

Holland's Favorite Foods - Nibble your way through Amsterdam's international dining scene on a tasting tour led by a Local Specialist. Learn about the international flavors that have influenced Dutch cuisine, while grabbing bites at a

cheese shop, beer garden and family restaurant. Savour handpicked local delicacies including artisanal cheeses, a sweet 'stroopwafel' and the best fish in town. We'll wash them all down with a beer or Jenever. Adult: **62.00 EUR** 

# Day 3 | Discover Delft and Rotterdam



Soak up the gezellig Dutch atmosphere this morning, before heading to Delft via The Hague. We Dive Into Culture during a visit to the Royal Delft Pottery workshop and admire the delicate blue and white porcelain that has made this historic town famous. We continue our journey south, arriving in the edgy port city of Rotterdam where we will enjoy an informative orientation tour. Heading back to Amsterdam, consider a leisurely evening in one of the charming pleins lined with cosy cafés.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Apollo Hotel Amsterdam, a Tribute Portfolio

Hotel

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Muiderslot, A Genuine Castle - We'll take a short drive with our Local Specialist to imposing Muiderslot Castle, which will give us a real taste of Dutch history. It's part of Amsterdam's Defence Line and is UNESCO World Heritage Listed. During your guided tour, through rooms refurbished in 17th-century style, it's easy to picture yourself in a Rembrandt painting, as it evokes the period when Pieter Corneliszoon Hooft, known as the "Dutch Shakespeare," occupied the castle. We'll also enjoy a garden tour and a refreshment in a typical Dutch Inn. Adult: **58.00 EUR** 

Kinderdijk Exploration And Boat Ride - Join us to discover the spectacular straight line of 19 working windmills at the Kinderdijk. Part of a UNESCO Cultural Heritage site and situated below sea-level, they were built around 1740 to pump water out of the reclaimed 'polder' lands. You'll also admire the classic Dutch landscape between the Rhine river branches of the delta, during a relaxing boat ride. Adult: 40.00 EUR

# Day 4 | Onwards to Maastricht, Bastogne and Luxembourg City



The fortified city of Maastricht, with its beautiful old churches, ancient city walls, and stunning merchant houses, takes centre stage this morning. We spend some time strolling through its town centre before continuing to Bastogne, the site of bloody skirmishes in the World War II Battle of the Bulge. Visit the 12<sup>th</sup>century Cistercian Orval Abbey, renowned for being one of the few breweries that produce Trappist beer before journeying to the Duchy of Luxembourg, where tonight we'll dine in our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Doubletree by Hilton/Parc Hotel Alvisse

## Day 5 | See the Sights of Luxembourg City



This morning, we pay tribute to Allied Forces hero, General George S. Patton, whose final resting place is the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial. Later, we embark on a leisurely walking tour of Luxembourg City with a Local Specialist. Our route takes us past the Cathedral and the Grand Ducal Palace, with its Flemish Renaissance façades, and includes spectacular views of the gorge of the rivers Alzette and Petrusse. Spend the rest of the day at leisure soaking up the quaint atmosphere of this tiny country or indulge in a coffee while you people-watch in the leafy Place d'Armes - the choice is yours.

Meals: Breakfast

**Hotel:** Doubletree by Hilton Luxembourg / Parc Hotel

Alvisse Luxembourg

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Roman Trier Discovery And Dinner - Your Local Specialist will reveal the historic Roman city of Trier, with free time in the centre before you proceed to the nearby hills, for views over the Moselle River and famous wine region. Here, in a traditional villa converted into a restaurant, you'll enjoy a three-course dinner with drinks overlooking the valley. Adult: 70.00 EUR

# Day 6 | Journey to Bruges



En route to the enchanting medieval town of Bruges, we stop in Dinant whose famous son, Adolphe Sax, is credited with having invented the saxophone.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: De' Medici

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Ypres Excursion and Last Post Ceremony - Travel with your Local Specialist to the historic town of Ypres, a 'city of peace' famous for its involvement in World War I. Visit two famous cemeteries and attend the famous Last Post Ceremony, which commemorates the fallen of the British Army and her allies on the surrounding Flanders Fields. You'll also have the chance to visit Ypres' famous market square and take in the atmosphere of this unique location. Adult: **52.00 EUR** 

# Day 7 | Uncover the Treasures of Bruges



Wake up in beautiful Bruges and join a Local Specialist for a walking tour of the town. Take to the water and enjoy a whimsical sightseeing cruise along the city's wonderful canals lined with Gothic façades. Dive Into Culture next and admire the delicate art of Belgian lace. Spend the rest of the day at leisure, immersing yourself in the old-world allure of this town.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: De' Medici | SWS NH Brugge

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Belgium's Best Traditions and Tastes - You'll discover all the secrets and techniques that make Belgian chocolate the most exquisite in the world. Then head to a Belgian Brewery to savour a selection of Belgian beers. Adult: **44.00 EUR** 

Magical Bruges by Horse and Carriage - Experience a magical carriage ride by the colourful canals and squares of the Venice of the North. You'll see the Lake of Love with its gliding swans, the ornate bridges, the step-gabled houses reflecting in the canals and hear the bells of the carillon chiming. Adult: 41.00 EUR

# Day 8 | Continue to Ghent and Brussels



Delve into centuries of trade heritage in the medieval port city of Ghent, with its picturesque riverine backdrop. See the three famous towers – Saint Nicholas Church, the Belfry and Saint Bavo's Cathedral – before continuing to Brussels, a multi-cultural melting pot, which you will have an opportunity to explore after your Travel Director shows you the city's highlights. See the Atomium, designed for the 1958 Brussels World's Fair, Mannekin Pis and the exquisite Grand Place with its opulent and ornate guildhalls. This evening, consider sampling mouth-watering Belgian cuisine washed down with the city's best beers. Our Stays With Stories hotel is the elegant Sofitel Brussels Europe. The hotel has long been the lodgings of choice for the world's movers and shakers, including Mark Zuckerberg and Angela Merkel. It's surrounded by leafy parks, cafes and museums, in the heart of the tranquil European District.

Meals: Breakfast Hotel: Sofitel Europe

#### **Optional Experiences:**

Waterloo Explored - In 1815 Napoleon fought his famous last battle here against the Duke of Wellington. You'll visit the battlefields and monuments and discover how the face of Europe was changed forever. You'll also see the famous iron lion monument on top of the hill, which you can climb if you wish. The monument was built by the widows of veterans and you'll hear their story as you gaze at the spectacular panoramic view. Adult: 40.00 EUR

# Day 9 | Brussels Your Way



Embrace this day at leisure to explore the Belgian capital as you wish. Stroll past the Royal Palace and through the leafy lanes of Brussels Park or indulge in tasting delicious chocolate. Your Travel Director will assist you to make the most out of your free day at leisure. This evening, join us for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER Experience to learn about how one Belgian beer maker is making a difference with their zero waste brews. We will enjoy a tasting to start our celebration of a memorable sojourn through three fascinating countries before enjoying a Farewell Dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

**Hotel:** Sofitel Europe

# **Optional Experiences:**

**Antwerp Unveiled** - Join this half-day experience to Antwerp, the second largest city and biggest port of Belgium. You'll discover the city with your Local Specialist and visit the largest Gothic cathedral of Belgium to see artworks by Peter Paul Rubens. You can also enjoy a traditional beer or waffle in the beautiful square right by the Cathedral. Adult: **46.00 EUR** 

# **Day 10 | Farewell Brussels**



We bid Belgium a fond adieu this morning as we prepare to close the curtain on a memorable holiday. Find out more about your free airport transfer at trafalgar.com/freetransfers.

Meals: Breakfast