


# Your best trip starts *here.*

Best of Holland




# Your itinerary


 Start Location

 Plane

 Cruise

 Over night

 Visited Location

 End Location

 Train

 Ferry

## Day 1 | Welcome to Amsterdam



What better place to start your jaunt through the Netherlands than Amsterdam? Spend your day strolling through its pretty streets and tree-lined canals, stopping for a coffee and speculaas along the way. Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers this evening on a scenic canal cruise, including a light meal and welcome drinks, admiring the centuries-old façades.

**Meals:** Welcome Reception

**Hotel:** Bilderberg Garden

## Day 2 | Explore Amsterdam's Art and Architecture



Delve into the Dutch Golden Age and its extraordinary art, architecture and history, traversing the city's inner labyrinth of canals and narrow streets, along which hundreds of sturdy Dutch bicycles rattle day and night. Dive Into Culture and enjoy a Small Group Sightseeing tour of the Rijksmuseum, featuring the works of great Dutch masters, including Rembrandt's 'The Night Watch'.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Bilderberg Garden

### Optional Experiences:

**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*

**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*

**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*

## Day 3 | Journey to Aalsmeer/Keukenhof, The Hague and Rotterdam



We rise with the birds this morning, taking a trip to Aalsmeer to visit the vibrant flower auction and see the vividly hued blooms for which Holland is so famous. Alternatively, during the flowering season (end of March until mid-May), we'll enjoy an included visit to the tulip gardens of Keukenhof – the mesmerising sight of several million flowering bulbs planted across 32 hectares will leave you in absolute awe. This afternoon, we travel through The Hague to the historic town of Delft and Dive Into Culture at the Royal Delft Pottery workshop where we'll gain insights into the manufacturing of this delicate hand-painted blue and white porcelain. We continue to edgy Rotterdam, which was rebuilt from the ground up after being destroyed during World War II. Your orientation tour will reveal an innovative city with architectural treasures worth capturing on camera and a vibrant multicultural scene around every turn.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Regional Dinner

**Hotel:** Bilderberg Parkhotel

## Day 4 | Onwards to Arnhem and Zutphen

Enjoy a morning at leisure, or perhaps consider joining an Optional Experience to visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed village of Kinderdijk, famous for its 19 monumental windmills. Later we travel east to Arnhem to see the John Frost Bridge, so named as a tribute to the commander of the British forces that held the bridge for four days with a mere 750 soldiers, during the World War II Battle of Arnhem. Learn about this famous battle, inspiration behind the film 'A Bridge Too Far', on an included visit to the Airborne Museum at Oosterbeek. This afternoon, continue on to the Hanseatic town of Zutphen, our home for the night.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Hampshire Gravenhof Zutphen

### Optional Experiences:

**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*

**Dinner in a Nature Reserve** - Join us for a trip through the De Gelderse Poort nature reserve. Our destination is a dike-house restaurant in the middle of the reserve that's been making guests feel at home since 1600. We'll enjoy a delicious meal of authentic Dutch specialities, accompanied by drinks and an inspiring view.

*Adult: 63.00 EUR*

## Day 5 | Off to Stunning Zwolle and Groningen



Leaving Nijmegen behind, we head north to the beautiful Hanseatic city of Zwolle, where we'll join our Local Specialist for a walking tour through its medieval centre. Later we continue to Groningen, where the rich history and peculiar dialect will certainly be a highlight for culture and history buffs alike.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Apollo

### Optional Experiences:

**Holland's Green Venice Unveiled** - Today we'll enjoy the charming village of Giethoorn, popularly known as 'Holland's Green Venice'. This village, without roads, is famous for having only waterways and hump-backed bridges that lead to traditional thatched houses. Due to its unique qualities, Giethoorn was included on the World Edition of the Monopoly board game, sharing space with cities like Taipei, Montreal and Sydney. We'll explore the town by boat and enjoy a light dinner, including soup, Dutch pancake, homemade apple pie and coffee or tea.

*Adult: 51.00 EUR*

## Day 6 | Venture to Volendam and Return to Amsterdam



Dive Into Culture this morning and saddle up to explore the university city of Groningen during a guided bicycle tour of its medieval centre. Ramble along the city's ring of canals like a local, before enjoying a beautiful drive through Friesland en route to Volendam, a former fishing port on the edge of IJsselmeer. Dive Into Culture and learn about the craft of wooden clog making and Dutch cheese. Then meet Tom, miller of Katwoude, for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Visit the mill and learn about the important role the mill plays in managing rising water levels. This evening, enjoy a celebratory Be My Guest Farewell Dinner with the Pauw family as you Connect With Locals over a traditional Dutch meal.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Be My Guest

**Hotel:** Mercure City

## Day 7 | Farewell Amsterdam



For now we say a *fond tot ziens* to Amsterdam and our newfound friends, closing the door on a memorable Dutch experience. Find out more about your free airport transfer at [trafalgar.com/freetransfers](https://trafalgar.com/freetransfers).

**Meals:** Breakfast