



Grand Tulip Cruise of Holland & Belgium

March 31 - April 16
2023



Consumer Protection BC License: #70485

Geoff (direct line): 604.685.6756



*Touch, Feel
Experience*



Welcome
to your 16 day
Grand Tulip Cruise
of
the Netherlands
and
Belgium



This booklet contains
a daily itinerary* of events for your
Avalon Imagery II

**Avalon requires proof of vaccination
for Covid-19 before boarding.**

*The ship's itinerary may be subject to
changes due to river conditions.

PASSPORTS!



Everyone must be holding a

VALID PASSPORT

for travel to all of the
countries included in this trip
valid for at least six (6) months
from date of departure
for each of the countries visited.

This is your responsibility to make sure
that your passport is valid
as per these rules.

*As well, keep a copy of your passport
photo page in your luggage.*

Currency Advice!

Please be aware that stores, pubs
and restaurants in the EU
may refuse large currency notes,
so be advised to bring Euros in
denominations no larger than 50s.

Tipping



Minimum tipping
for ship staff is
already included in your cruise fare.
Additional tipping for ship staff and
cruise manager is at your discretion.

WARNING

When dining off ship,
check your restaurant bill:
the gratuity may have been included
automatically but with a gap left on the
credit card receipt for a second tip.
Watch carefully!

Prescription Medications



Please ensure that all medications are in your carry-on baggage.

Do not pack any of your meds in your checked baggage!

As a safety precaution, list below *all prescription medications* you are taking with you in case of an emergency.

Rx _____

Rx _____

Rx _____

Rx _____

Rx _____

Emergency contact: _____

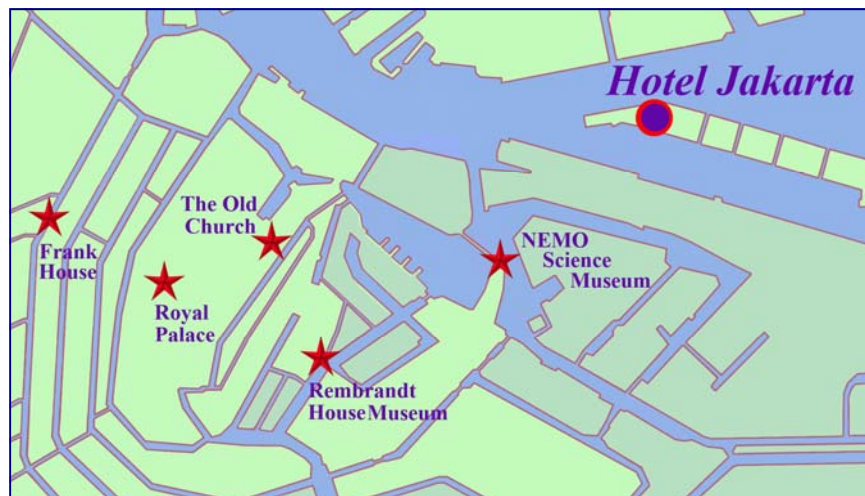
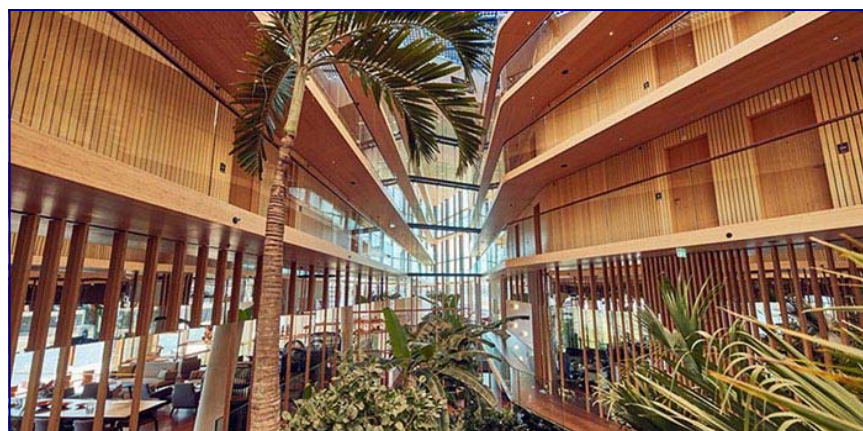
Phone: _____

Your Hotel in Amsterdam

Hotel Jakarta Amsterdam



Address: Javakade 766
1019 SH Amsterdam
The Netherlands
Telephone: +31(0)20.236.0000





***ALL
ABOARD!***

Being on time for the ship's departure is important since locks and moorage are booked for transit up to a year in advance. Consequently, the ship must leave at its scheduled time. *If you miss the ship's sailing time you will be left behind* to join the ship at the next port or lock, then to be known by the crew and passengers as a *lock jumper*.

Always have the ship's phone number whenever you are off the ship. If you miss the sailing time, phone and you will be advised the best way to meet up with the ship. *The additional cost to catch up to the ship is at your own expense!*

*Avalon Imagery II:
49 172 2597 186*

Xxxx Xxxxxxx (Cruise Director):

**Day Before Departure:
Thursday, 30 March 2023**

The day before you travel . . .

**Please check your e-ticket
and check in online
24 hours
before departure.**

**If problems arise
call your airline:**



KLM: 1.866.434.0321



Air Canada: 1.888.247.2262



Air France: 1.800.667.2747



British Airways: 1.800.247.9297



Lufthansa: 1.800.563.5954

Day 1: Departure

Friday, 31 March 2023

Departure Day

Arrive YVR at least 2 hours
before the scheduled departure.

KLM Arts Club Group Flights

KLM 682 Vancouver to Amsterdam*

Depart: Vancouver 5:40 p.m.
Friday 31 March 2023

Arrive: Amsterdam 11:55 a.m.
(next day)



Be sure to wear
comfortable travel clothing.

***Flight times are subject to change.**

Day 2: Netherlands

Saturday, 01 April 2023

Arrival in Amsterdam



Arrive in Amsterdam with an included
group transfer to our hotel for those
who purchased their airfare from the
tour company.

Welcome to Amsterdam!
Enjoy the rest of your day.
You are free to relax
in this lovely, exciting city.



Check the Avalon notice board
in the lobby for the departure time
of tomorrow's tour.

Day 3: Netherlands

Sunday, 02 April, 2022

(B, D)

Keukenhof Gardens & Embarkation

Checked luggage out by: a.m.

Arts Club Featured Event

Meet in the hotel lobby at: a.m.

Tour departs promptly at: a.m.

Today join our included excursion to the famous Keukenhof Gardens where over seven million tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and other bulbs are planted each year.



Afterwards we board the
Avalon Imagery II.



At a welcoming reception before dinner
in the Panorama Lounge
you will meet some of the senior crew.



Afterwards enjoy your first dinner
on board as we sail to Nijmegen.



Day 4: Netherlands



Monday, 03 April 2023

(B, L, D)

Nijmegen

The oldest city in the Netherlands, Nijmegen dates to the 1st century BCE when the Romans built a military camp here. Within 100 years it became

Andreas Hetfeld's
Roman Mask
Nijmegen



a major Roman city. History buffs may join a *guided sightseeing tour* to discover Arnhem, a key WWII operations site and home to impressive

historical monuments. Afterwards you can visit a medieval castle for a regional herb and vegetable product tasting.



Doorwerth Castle

Alternatively, you can take a *guided tour* of the Airborne Museum of Hartenstein in Oosterbeek commemorating the 1944 WWII Battle of Arnhem.



Alternatively you could join a *biking tour* in Hoge Veluwe

National Park to admire the diversity of scenery from dense forests to sand dunes.



This evening we cruise to Maastricht.

Day 5: Netherlands



Tuesday, 04 April 2023

(B, L, D)

Maastricht



After arriving in Maastricht later this morning, you can explore some Dutch history on a *guided tour* of this vibrant university town with lovely cathedrals, old houses, historical buildings and impressively cobblestoned areas, such as Vrijhof, once an ancient Roman and Frankish cemetery but now the town's main square since the 19th century.



*Cathedral of St. Servatius
on Vrijhof Square*



The centre of Maastricht is a protected area, so walking is the best way to enjoy the sites and life of this city: architecture, a medieval watermill still used to grind flour for local pastries, caves used in WW II and paintings of the Dutch Masters are just a few sites to see here.



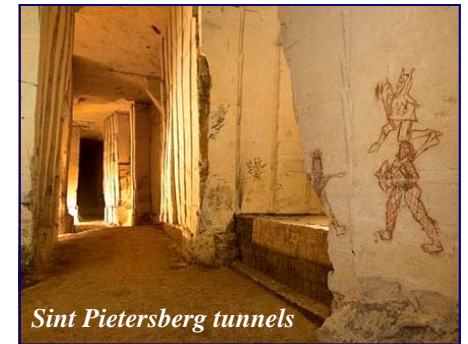
The Bishop's Mill



Bonnefanten Gallery



Interior St. Janskerk



Sint Pietersberg tunnels

Later on board we'll enjoy some live entertainment.
Overnight we cruise to Namur.

Day 6: Belgium

Wednesday, 05 April 2023

(B, L, D)

Namur



In Namur enjoy a *guided sightseeing tour* of this picturesque old town with its medieval architecture and fortress



citadel, dating from 937 CE, as well as the town's beloved gold plated giant sea turtle statue.



After the tour enjoy free time strolling Namur's cobblestone lanes and visit its museums, hidden gems, charming cafés

and bookshops. You might even stop for a snack and drink at *Le Ratintot*, a 400 year old café.



Since we are moored overnight here in Namur, you will have the whole evening to enjoy this lovely town.



... evening in Namur

Day 7: Belgium

Thursday, 06 April 2023

(B, L, D)

Liège



Liège is known as the *Fiery City* which refers to a gruesome memory of the city's history: in 1468 the city was burnt and



upwards of 5,000 citizens were massacred by Charles the Bold and King Louis XI of France.

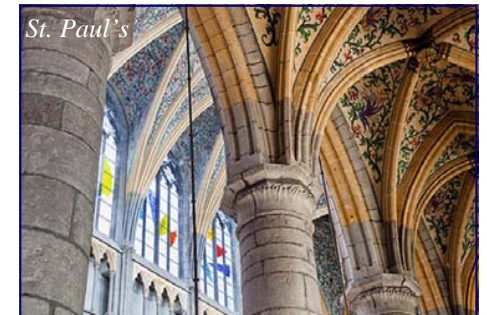
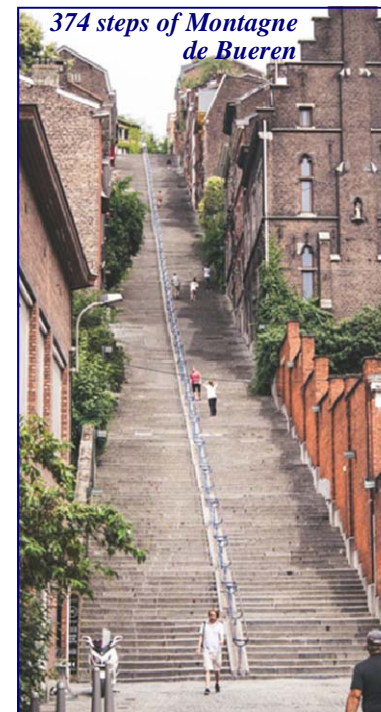
On a *guided sightseeing tour* you will discover Liège's beautiful ancient quarters, alleys and romantic streets.

In the 10th and 11th centuries, seven collegiate churches in Liège had key



corporate status in the First Estate and led the city to become one of the most renowned urban centers of the Holy Roman

Empire. This history can be seen in the art and architecture of the city.



Overnight we will cruise to Antwerp.

Day 8: Belgium



Friday, 07 April 2023

(B, L, D)

Antwerp & Brussels



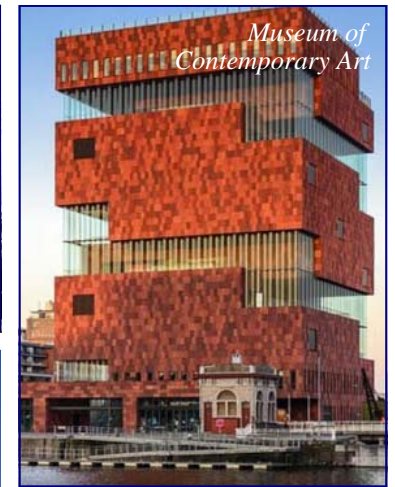
Antwerp is a port city on the Scheldt River and has a history dating to the Middle Ages. The town is lined with 16th century guildhall houses and some startling architecture. On a guided tour visit the Great Market Square with its Flemish Renaissance architecture, the beautiful city hall and the Cathedral of Our Lady with its stunning altarpiece paintings by Rubens.



123 m Spire of Our Lady



Rubens House



Museum of Contemporary Art



Port Authority

This afternoon we sail to Brussels, relaxing on board and enjoying some beautiful river scenery. This evening dinner is followed by live entertainment. We dock overnight in Brussels.

Day 9: Belgium

Saturday, 08 April 2023

(B, L, D)

Brussels



Grand Place

Brussels is the administrative centre of the European Union and is often referred to as the EU's capital city. Today we will view the ancient landmarks of Brussels on a *guided tour*, seeing the historic Grand Place and Town Hall, the Cathedral of St. Michael and St. Gudule and other landmark buildings and more,



St. Michael and St. Gudule



Manneken Pis



The Atomium

such as the Atomium, the 102 metre tall main pavilion and icon of the 1958 World's Fair.



Palace of Justice

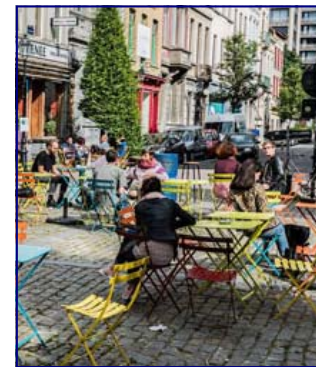


Royal Palace



La Monnaie/De Munt

The afternoon and evening are free for you to enjoy this vibrant city. We will again overnight here in Brussels.



Grand Place by night

Day 10: Belgium

Sunday, 09 April 2023

(B, L, D)

Brussels

Today is a free day in Brussels at your leisure, so you explore more deeply what you saw yesterday or enjoy something new. One of the main attractions of



Brussels is the Royal Museums, six museums with an important collection of the visual arts of the country from the

15th to the 21st century. Then, again, you might like the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History that explores conflict history in times of war and peace.



-26-

Brussels is known for its chocolates, waffles, beer and street fries, considered



to be the original fries, so maybe it's time to sample the treats of the town. Perhaps one of the chocolate tours of the city is meant for you.



In Lower Town, the two Butcher streets are narrow lanes of nothing but little restaurants and small shops where you



can people watch with a local snack and drink.

This evening enjoy dinner on board as we sail for Ghent.

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Day 11: Belgium



Monday, 10 April 2023

(B, L, D)

Ghent



Dating from the 7th century at a strategic location, Ghent was one of the most important cities in Europe during the Dark Ages. We will explore this *Diamond of Flanders* on a tour showcasing its medieval Flemish wealth, including St. Bavo's Cathedral with its remarkable Flemish artwork and whale skeleton.



Ghent's quays were part of the medieval port and are a cultural center today with its cafés and patios.



Also, in the middle of Ghent's old town is the medieval castle of the Counts of Flanders dating from 1180.

Alternatively, you may choose to join a full-day guided optional excursion of Bruges where you'll see its cobblestoned streets, crisscrossed canals and medieval



buildings, Market Square with its 13th century leaning belfry of Market Square and charming patrician houses.



This evening enjoy live entertainment on board. Overnight we cruise to Bossuit.

Day 12: Belgium

Tuesday, 11 April 2023

(B, D)

Bossuit

Today we will visit the In Flanders' Field Museum in Ypres and learn about the story of the invasion of Belgium, the first months of the mobilization, the four



years trench war in the Westhoek, the end of the war and the permanent

remembrance ever since. After your visit, enjoy lunch at the museum's café.



Following lunch you will be able to visit the battlefields, cemeteries, memorials and private collections. The Lille Gate is



the original southern entrance to the city. In WW I the stone ramparts built in 1385 gave the city residents a view of the German advance and also protected the city from German artillery shells.



After dinner experience the Last Post Ceremony, taking place nightly under the arches of the Menin Gate.



Overnight we cruise to Middelburg.

Day 13: Netherlands

Wednesday, 12 April 2023 (B, L, D)

Middelburg & Veere



This morning take a guided walking tour through the winding cobblestone streets and canals of the Dutch town of Middelburg where you'll see the 15th



century Gothic town hall and learn about its important role in the spice trade and Dutch East India trading.

Afterwards enjoy lunch on board while we sail to our next port. Veere is known for its beaches and marinas but especially for its storm barrier works. So, in Veere we will have a guided tour of the Delta Works, the largest flood protection system in the world and a technical marvel of modern technology.



This evening we will sail to Kinderdijk where we will dock overnight.

Day 14: Netherlands

Thursday, 13 April 2023 (B, L, D)

Kinderdijk & Rotterdam

Today take a guided tour of Kinderdijk where 19 windmills were built in 1740 for flood prevention and is the largest concentration of old windmills in the country.



It's also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You'll hear about the windmills' vital role in the Netherlands' history and why they are a national symbol of Holland. Afterwards enjoy a cruise through Rotterdam Harbour, the third largest in the world.



Alternatively you may take a guided sightseeing tour of Rotterdam with its innovative architecture, including the Marvelous Erasmus Bridge.



Tonight you can enjoy live entertainment on board. We will cruise to Zaandam overnight.

Day 15: Netherlands

Friday, 14 April 2023

(B, L, D)

Zaandam & Haarlem



Zaanse Schans

This morning you have free time to enjoy Zaandam. Perhaps explore the Zaanse Schans, an open

air museum of a classic Dutch village with wooden houses, windmills and shops. Zaandam centre was voted the second



Tsar Peter House

Best City Centre in 2013 and is also worth a visit. Then there's Tsar Peter's house from 1697 when he visited to learn about the Dutch shipbuilding industry. We then cruise to Haarlem while enjoying lunch on board.



Zaandam



Haarlem, with its great boutique lined streets, is a major flower bulbs growing district. On a guided tour we'll explore this old trading port with its medieval walls, cobblestone streets, gabled houses and leafy courtyard gardens dating to medieval times that were home to almshouses for mostly poor women.



During dinner this evening we will sail to and overnight in Amsterdam.



Amsterdam

Day 16: Netherlands

Saturday, 15 April 2023 (B, L, D)



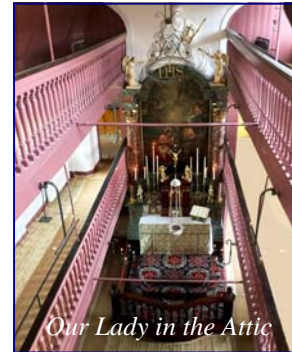
Amsterdam



Today on the final day of your cruise, we will explore the iconic waterways of Amsterdam on a guided canal cruise past the stately homes of its Golden Age.



Alternatively, you may join a biking tour through the countryside biking past polders, dykes and quaint old villages.



However, you might just want to explore the city independently. From an illegal Catholic church from the 1660s to trendy streets, Amsterdam has so much to offer.



We dock overnight in Amsterdam.

Day 17: Netherlands 
Sunday, 16 April 2023 (B)

Disembarkation

Your cruise ends this morning following breakfast. After breakfast, those on the group flight will be transferred to the airport for the KLM flight back to Vancouver.

Your checked luggage will be picked up by the crew in the early morning, so label your luggage correctly and place it outside your stateroom by the time announced.

Keep your carry on with documents and medications on your person.

Luggage out by: *a.m.*

**DO NOT LEAVE BAGS
IN YOUR ROOM!
This is your responsibility.**

If you are not returning to Vancouver on the group flight, you will need to hire a taxi to your next destination.

Amsterdam to Vancouver

KLM Arts Club Group Flights

KLM 681 Amsterdam to Vancouver*

Depart: Amsterdam 3:20 p.m.

Arrive: Vancouver 3:50 p.m.



Welcome home . . .

***Flight times are subject to change.**