

Dutch Waterways

Antwerp to Amsterdam

Inspiring Moments

- ► Glide past elegant, gabled houses from the Dutch Golden Age on Amsterdam's picturesque canals.
- Relish a rare opportunity to view Vermeer's stunning masterpieces, shown together in an extraordinary exhibition at the Rijksmuseum.
- ► Marvel at the glorious **springtime display of tulips** and other cheerful blooms at Keukenhof Gardens.
- Delight in the romantic, cozy ambience of canal-lined Bruges, packed with wonderfully preserved Gothic architecture.
- ► Admire **Antwerp's medieval treasures** in the colorful Old Town.
- ► Take in the beautiful façades of charming **Kampen**, a historic Hanseatic city.
- Enjoy the relaxed pace of life in the Dutch seaside harbor town of Veere.



EXTEND YOUR STAY		
Amsterdam	2 Nights	PRE-Trip
Antwerp	2 Nights	POST-Trip
{See website for details.}		



Keukenhof Gardens

Embark on a delightful, first-class cruise along the intimate waterways of Belgium and the Netherlands brimming with historic riches! Revel in a remarkably rare exhibition of Vermeer's paintings gathered from around the world at the Rijksmuseum, stroll amid the brilliant tulips at Keukenhof Gardens and savor the Old-World ambience of Amsterdam, Bruges and Antwerp. Enjoy enrichment from expert guides and lecturers that adds context to your sightseeing, plus choose from included cultural and culinary experiences in selected ports!

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Brussels, Belgium.

Day 2 | Brussels, Belgium | Antwerp

Transfer I to Antwerp and embark the ship.

Discovery: *Antwerp.* Located near the North Sea on the Scheldt River, Antwerp has long been an important center of trade. In the old town, discover a wealth of medieval architecture on a guided walk. See the Gothic Cathedral of Our Lady, the 16th-century town hall and the Grote Markt's striking row of narrow guild buildings.

Enrichment: Contemporary Belgium.

Day 3 | Bruges

PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

All excursions include a guided walking tour of Bruges. Stroll through the splendid Market Square and see the medieval guild hall buildings, the exquisite 12th-century Basilica of the Holy Blood and the stately Belfry Tower. Then continue with your selected tour.

•*Cultural Bruges.* Admire the outstanding artwork at the Groeninge Museum, known for its Flemish Primitive paintings and Flemish expressionist pieces. (*Active*)

•*Bruges and Beer.* Visit the De Halve Maan Brewery and learn about the traditions of Belgian brewing. Take in the sweeping view of Bruges from the roof, then sample a glass of freshly brewed beer. (*Active*)

•*Bruges and Belgian Chocolate.* At a chocolatier's shop, delve into the art and history behind Belgian chocolate-making, plus enjoy a tasty sample. *(Active)* Find a nice spot for lunch on your own in Bruges. Later, rejoin the ship in Middelburg.

As the ship sails toward Veere this evening, gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 4 | Veere, Netherlands

Free Time: Join the half-day Elective Activity or follow your own agenda in Veere for the entire day.





Elective | *Neeltje Jans & Delta Expo.* Travel to the artificial island of Neeltje Jans and its Delta Expo along the coast. Learn about the Delta Works, the massive dams and storm surge barriers built to protect the portion of the country below sea level. Grasp the devastating impact of the disastrous 1953 flood through a riveting 3-D exhibit.

The ship cruises toward Schoonhoven via Willemstad, where it will moor tonight.

Day 5 | The Hague | Delft | Gouda

Enrichment: The Dutch Masters.

PYJ | Choose one of the following excursions:

•*The Hague and the Mauritshuis.* After seeing the city's highlights including the Binnenhof, the center of Dutch politics, and the Peace Palace, visit the famed Mauritshuis, which houses Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring" and artwork by Dutch and Flemish masters.

Old Delft and the Porcelain Factory. Explore historic Delft on a guided walk, then enjoy a tour of the Royal Delft Porcelain Factory, founded in 1653. Watch as a master artisan hand-paints their iconic blue-and-white pottery and view a lovely collection of antique porcelain.
Gouda – City of Cheese. See Gouda's lively market square and its 15th-century town hall, then visit Sint langlering accent.

Janskerk, the country's longest church, featuring some of Europe's finest, 16th-century painted-glass windows. Afterward, nibble on varieties of fresh Gouda cheese! Enjoy lunch and an afternoon of cruising to Kampen.

Day 6 | Kampen

Enrichment: The Hanseatic League.

Discovery: Historic Kampen Walking Tour.

See the stately buildings, grand old town gates and peaceful squares of this richly historic city on the banks of the IJssel, which was once a member of the powerful medieval Hanseatic network of trading partners.

Free Time: After returning to the ship for lunch, spend some time at leisure in Kampen this afternoon. The ship departs for Amsterdam this evening.

Day 7 | Amsterdam

Discovery: Canals of Amsterdam. Board a cruiser for



a guided journey past 17th-century Dutch canal houses and architectural gems in the bustling harbor.

Discovery: *Rijksmuseum with Special Vermeer Exhibit.* View fabulous art and artifacts representing 800 years of Dutch history, including a one-of-a-kind exhibition of Johannes Vermeer's masterpieces. One of history's greatest artists, Vermeer was renowned for his command of color, composition and light. Take in an exceptional display of paintings on loan from around the world representing most of his life's work.

Free Time: Spend the afternoon at leisure.

Enrichment: Contemporary Netherlands.

Day 8 | Amsterdam

Discovery: *Keukenhof Gardens.* Explore this 80-acre paradise of brightly colored tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and other gorgeous blooms. More than nine miles of footpaths crisscross the enchanting grounds.

Free Time: Pursue your own interests this afternoon. Tonight, gather for a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner on the ship to commemorate your journey.

Day 9 | In Transit

Transfer **t** to the airport for the return flight **t** to your gateway city.

Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- Unpack once and cruise for **7 nights** aboard the **exclusively chartered**, first-class MS Amadeus Star.

Extensive Meal Program

- -7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 7 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic, local cuisine.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- PYJ | Personalize Your Journey A choice of excursions in select locales.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **Electives** to pursue your individual interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- -Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



2023 Departures & Pricing

April 28 – May 6, 2023

¢2 205*
\$250
\$3,545

Special Price from \$3,295

*See website for complete category pricing.

*Special price available for a limited time. Call for details.

VAT & port tax supplement are an additional \$395 per person. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly. Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https:// norcar.ahitravel.com/destinations/1688A?schoolld=114. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Walking is required on many excursions.

Flights 🔂 and transfers 🔾 provided for AHI FlexAir participants.