

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Presents

Holland Tulips Cruise

April 19 – 27, 2023

Haydn Deck \$4,945 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago; Single Supplement - \$400
Strauss Deck \$5,395 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago; Single Supplement - \$1,290
Mozart Deck \$5,645 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago; Single Supplement - \$1,690



This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

Day by Day Itinerary

Wednesday, April 19 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport late this afternoon by scheduled service of United Airlines to begin the transatlantic journey to Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Thursday, April 20 – AMSTERDAM / CRUISING (Volendam & Marken) (I,L,D)

As the sun begins to rise on the Holland coast, we arrive in Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport where we'll meet our local Tour Guide who will return us to the days of yesteryear with a visit to the picturesque villages of Volendam and Marken. It was not until the late 19th century that Volendam began drawing visitors, and only after renowned artists came to paint the Doolhof, an area of narrow canals and streets behind the main dikes. While in Volendam we'll learn firsthand how the Dutch make their wooden shoes and excellent cheeses. Then we'll travel to the fishing community of Marken, little changed over the last 200 years. Like Volendam, the local inhabitants of Marken still wear traditional dress, and visitors are drawn by its old-world character displayed in the gabled timber houses that are painted in the somber shades of black and green. Following our tour, we'll travel to Amsterdam's waterfront for embarkation aboard Lüftner Cruises *Amadeus Imperial*.

Friday, April 21 – CRUISING (Arnhem) (B,L,D)

Today's port of call is the city of Arnhem, all but destroyed between September 17 – 27, 1944, in one of the most famous battles of World War II. Although filled with post-war rebuilding schemes, Arnhem still has a small square at Korenmarkt that escaped much of the destruction. Be sure to stroll the streets filled with bars and restaurants before stopping to visit Markt Square where you'll find the 15th century St. Eusebius Church, which allows visitors to travel to the top for a scenic view over the city.

This afternoon we'll learn about Arnhem's rich and eventful past. We'll see the John Frost Bridge, immortalized in the film "A Bridge Too Far," that was famously held by British paratroopers against overwhelming odds during the Market Garden airborne operation. Then we'll continue to the Arnhem suburb of Oosterbeek to visit the Airborne Museum Hartenstein. Housed in the former 19th-century villa that served as Frost's headquarters, we'll find on display a large collection of memorabilia, along with exhibits regarding life in the Netherlands during WWII.

Saturday, April 22 – CRUISING (Middelburg) (B,L,D)

After a morning spent cruising the waterways, we'll arrive in the picturesque town of Middelburg. As we'll soon find out, the capital of the Dutch province of Zeeland possesses all the charms of a proud city steeped in tradition. With 1,200 landmarked buildings, many of which have been incredibly renovated, Middelburg is a city with plenty to see. We'll learn how Middelburg became the capital of Zeeland and breathe in the rich history of this former VOC trade city on a walking tour as we explore twisty alleyways with historic canal side houses and stop off at Market Square to discover the town's

Gothic town hall. Scale the 207 steps of the Lange Jan abbey tower and you'll be rewarded with a fantastic view of the city. For engineering aficionados, an optional excursion can take you to the marvel known as the Delta Works, where you'll learn about the Netherlands' 2,000-year history of fighting back the sea.

Sunday, April 23 – CRUISING (Ghent & Bruges) (B,L,D)

Early this morning we arrive in the university town of Ghent, Belgium, where stately gabled façades line the tranquil canals, and the towers of its great monuments shape the skyline. Ghent was founded in the 9th century, but the heart of the historic center was built during the 13th and 14th centuries when the city prospered as a result of the cloth trade. Our day will begin with a city sightseeing tour of Ghent. We'll visit imposing Gravensteen, the residence of the Counts of Flanders until 1353 and re-purposed over time as a court, prison, mint, and even a cotton factory. We'll also see Gothic St. Baaf's cathedral, and the Belfort, one of the city's historic landmarks, which together with the adjacent Lakenhalle was a center of medieval trade. Next, we'll explore the Korenmarkt lined with popular cafes and boutiques, before returning to Graslei, one of Ghent's most picturesque streets overlooking the River Leie on the site of the city's medieval harbor.

After lunch, we'll travel to Bruges, the best preserved of all Belgian medieval cities. Although Bruges attained its peak of prosperity under the House of Burgundy during the 14th and 15th centuries, the village has preserved its precious artistic heritage to the present day. A guided tour will take us to the Church of Our Lady, home to Michelangelo's marble Madonna and Child. We'll also see the intricately carved façade of the Stadhuis on Burg Square, and the medieval gabled houses that line the 13th century Market Square. Free time will also be set aside for shopping, an opportunity to visit the Basilica of the Holy Blood with its holy relic, a vial of blood that is said to be that of Jesus, or to simply relax at one of the many sidewalk cafés.

Monday, April 24 – CRUISING (Antwerp) (B,L,D)

Today we dock in Antwerp, the principal city of Flemish-speaking Belgium. Antwerp is located on the banks of the Scheldt River and is bordered by the countries of the Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, and France. Considered the diamond capital of the world, Antwerp is also full of fascinating architecture and historical institutions.



A morning sightseeing tour will take us to the Belgian capital of Brussels, a key center of European trade and culture since the 13th century. Highlights on tour will include the magnificent Grand Place, often considered one of Europe's most beautiful public squares, dominated by its unique Town Hall and the surrounding gabled houses; and the infamous Manneken Pis statue that serves as a symbol of the spirit and humor of Brussels. On our return to Antwerp the afternoon is at leisure, an opportunity to explore Antwerp's exquisite guild-houses where merchants once traded, imposing churches and several museums housing paintings by the city's most famous son, Pieter Paul Rubens. Most sites of interest are within easy walking distance of the Grote Markt, which is surrounded by museums, shops and exuberant cafés and bars in Groenplaats.

Tuesday, April 25 – CRUISING (Rotterdam) (B,L,D)

Today we return to the Netherlands as we dock in the port city of Rotterdam. As we'll soon learn, Rotterdam occupies a strategic location where the Rhine River meets the North Sea. During the Second World War the heart of Rotterdam was almost completely destroyed. Today, Rotterdam is famous for its eye catching skyline and modern architecture.

This morning's tour will take us to the small village of Kinderdijk, where we'll discover 19 astonishingly well-preserved UNESCO World Heritage designated windmills dating back to the 1500s. We'll also learn why windmills are so important to this region; set almost 23 feet below sea level, the incredibly innovative and intricate system keeps the ever-rising seawater from flooding the land. This afternoon we'll enjoy a tour of the Keukenhof Gardens, a 70-acre showcase for the Dutch flower industry where every spring there is an extraordinary sight as millions of bulbs burst forth in a blaze of color. Set on 28 acres of wooded park, Keukenhof is one of the most remarkable flower gardens in the world, at its most spectacular from the end of March until late May, when great drifts of dazzling colored daffodils, hyacinths or tulips are in bloom.



Wednesday, April 26 – CRUISING (Amsterdam) (B,L,D)

As we'll soon find out, the city of Amsterdam has one of the largest historic centers in Europe, with about 7,500 registered historic buildings. The street pattern is largely unchanged since the 19th century, with a center consisting of roughly 90 islands, linked by 400 bridges. This morning we'll enjoy a canal cruise aboard a glass-top motor launch, a wonderful insight to the city's maze of canals, charming gabled merchant houses, and humpback drawbridges reminiscent of a Golden Age. We'll also stop to visit the Amsterdam Flower Market, the only floating flower market in the world, and one of the most fragrant places of interest of Amsterdam. Following our tour, the afternoon is at leisure, an opportunity to visit any one of the city's many museums, most notably the Anne Frank House or the Rijksmuseum, and explore the tree-shaded canals that create Amsterdam's uniquely magical ambiance.

Thursday, April 27 – AMSTERDAM / CHICAGO (B,I)

Early this morning we disembark from Lüftner Cruises *Amadeus Imperial* and travel to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport in preparation for our return journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our vacation to last a lifetime and new friendships made along the way!

***** Welcome Home *****

Visit myniu.com to make your reservation.

The Vacation Price Includes:

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of United Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guides on pre and post-cruise days.
- Accommodations based on choice of stateroom aboard Lüftner Cruises *Amadeus Imperial*.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the pier.
- Taxes for included ground services, **and airline taxes and fuel surcharge of \$510 per person.**

The Vacation Price Does Not Include: Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at airports; gratuities to the motor coach driver(s), Tour Guides, and shipboard personnel; personal and baggage insurance; and meals other than those stated above.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC

PROGRAM TOUR CONDITIONS

Tour Deposit and Payment: Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and in advance of your tour's departure

Tour Pricing: This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed.

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or my.travelinsure.com/niu. Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

No Liability: By participating in this Program, you understand and agree that the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC ("AATP") and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any liabilities, claims, causes of action, damages, fees, costs, and expenses of any kind relating to any tour cancellation, tour interruption and/or delay; baggage loss, theft, damage, or delay; accident and/or sickness medical expenses, accidental death; and worldwide emergency medical evacuation and assistance arising out of or in any way related to this Program.

RESPONSIBILITY

AATP does not conduct the tours and does not act as agent for any participants interested in tours. AATP acts solely as a facilitator with independent tour operators, with whom tour participants directly make arrangements for completing travel. As a courtesy only, AATP acts as a liaison with tour operators should you have any questions or concerns that may arise before, during or after your tour. AATP strongly encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with all the tour operator's terms and conditions, including without limitation, their cancellation and refund policies. AATP strongly encourages you to investigate all available insurance options from third parties. AATP and its affiliates, related entities, officers, directors, attorneys, trustees, beneficiaries, insurers, employees, managers, members, volunteers, students, agents, other representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns are not responsible for any changes to trips or travel arrangements, or for any monetary losses or additional expenses of any kind arising out of or related in any way to your travel.

AATP does not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program. AATP does not act as agent for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations, or any other travel related services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AATP is not liable for any negligent, intentional, or willful act by any such person or entity. In addition and without limitation, AATP is not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property, or any accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature whatsoever arising out of or related in any way to any accommodations, transportation or other services, or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses that may be incurred. AATP, in its sole and exclusive discretion reserves the right to withdraw its affiliation with any individual tour operator should conditions warrant.

Tour Operator. The tour operator, supplier of services, or their respective affiliates, officers, directors, trustees, employees, agents or other representatives (collectively "Tour Operator") shall not be responsible for or become liable for any delay incurred by any person in connection with any means of transportation, for any loss, damage or injury to person or property by reason of any event beyond their control or occurring without their fault or negligence.

The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

No Refunds. No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

No Travel Carrier Liability. The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

For more information, contact the Alumni Office at 815-753-1512 or visit the Travel section at myniu.com.

\$100 of the trip cost is tax-deductible as a charitable donation.

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