

Highlights of the Netherlands & Belgium
with Riviera River Cruises

4 nights / 5 days



Overview

- ◆ Four nights on board in your choice of luxury cabin or suite, with river views
- ◆ 4 visits and tours including guided tours of Rotterdam, Kinderdijk, Antwerp, and Oosterbeek HQ and war cemetery in Arnhem
- ◆ All meals on board from dinner on your day of arrival through to breakfast on your day of departure, including the Captain's Dinner
- ◆ Five-star service from an English-speaking crew and knowledgeable local guides
- ◆ Complimentary on-board tea and coffee Complimentary on-board Wi-Fi
- ◆ Services of a Riviera River Cruises cruise director and concierge

Your Cruise at a Glance

Day	City	Program
Sunday, March 17, 2024	Amsterdam	Embarkation
Monday, March 18, 2024	Rotterdam / Kinderdijk	(AM) Rotterdam guided walking tour (PM) Kinderdijk windmills guided tour
Tuesday, March 19, 2024	Antwerp	(AM) Walking tour of Antwerp
Wednesday, March 20, 2024	Arnhem	(AM) Visit to Arnhem Oosterbeek Airbourne Museum
Thursday, March 21, 2024	Amsterdam	Disembark

Day 1 - Embark in Amsterdam

Embark the ship in Amsterdam. Overnight sailing to Rotterdam.

Day 2 - Rotterdam & Kinderdijk

Included morning guided tour of Rotterdam. This afternoon included guided tour of Kinderdijk windmills. Evening sailing to Antwerp.

Day 3 - Antwerp

Included morning guided tour of Antwerp. Afternoon and overnight sailing to Arnhem.

Day 4 - Arnhem

This morning included visit to Oosterbeek Airborne Museum and war cemetery. Afternoon and evening sailing to Amsterdam with captain's dinner on board.

Day 5 - Disembark in Amsterdam

After breakfast you disembark.



Your Cruise in Detail

DAY 1 - EMBARK IN AMSTERDAM

Embark the ship in Amsterdam, moored near the city center and railway station. The friendly crew welcomes you on board, helping you settle into your spacious and exquisitely furnished accommodation – you'll feel immediately at home.

DAY 2 - ROTTERDAM & KINDERDIJK

Wake up in historic Rotterdam, the Netherlands' second-largest metropolis, situated where the Rhine flows into the North Sea. This morning we embark on a guided tour of this captivating city, from the old harbor to the modern architecture, passing by the Witte Huis, Europe's first skyscraper, built in the Art Nouveau style.



Rotterdam

Known as the 'Gateway to Europe', it is the largest European cargo port and has been a conduit for trade since the 14th century. Unsurprisingly, its logistical significance made it a target for bombing during the Second World War and its old town was destroyed, with only the Church of Saint Lawrence left standing. During the following decades Rotterdam was reconstructed with typical Dutch optimism and engineering expertise and now boasts an abundance of innovative and imaginative architecture.

Other highlights of Rotterdam include Europe's largest swing bridge, the Erasmus Bridge, arched Markthal (market hall) and Cube Houses. The Erasmus Bridge is a cable-stayed and bascule construction in the heart of Rotterdam, which is aptly dubbed 'the Swan' because of its striking structure. Whilst the vibrant yellow Cube Houses, known locally as Kubuswoningen, are another architectural masterpiece. Built on stilts and tilted at bizarre angles, they were designed by Dutch architect Piet Blom in the 1970s and remain an iconic part of the city to this day.

There are also excellent museums, such as the vast Boijmans Van Beuningen, which houses a world-class collection of works by old and modern masters, from Rembrandt to Van Gogh to Dalí, and some rare and beautiful glassware.

During lunch on board you can enjoy a kaleidoscope of views through the restaurant's panoramic windows as we leave Rotterdam's skyline behind. A significant part of the Netherlands lies up to 22 feet below sea level, but an intricate network of dykes and polders, the Netherlands' unique drainage systems, has kept the seawater at bay and allowed land reclamation.



Kinderdijk

At the very heart of this fascinating reclaimed region is Kinderdijk, our next port of call. Here, you can witness a truly iconic polder scene – a series of 19 authentic windmills lining the canal banks, set against a starkly beautiful backdrop of pancake-flat marshland. Windmills are symbolic of Dutch history and the never-ending battle with the sea, and visiting these beautifully preserved structures is like stepping back in time. Later we return to the cruise ship, where the chef has prepared a sumptuous dinner.

DAY 3 - ANTWERP

We arrive in the early morning to Antwerp, birthplace of the Baroque master Peter Paul Rubens. We enjoy a tour led by a local guide taking in its numerous highlights and lesser-known features. Once part of the Spanish Empire, Antwerp grew wealthy during its 16th-century Golden Age, when it was Europe's largest port north of the Alps, with profits invested in the city's Flemish art and architectural heritage, and later it became the world's diamond trading center. At its heart is the captivating main square – the Grote Markt – dominated by ornately gabled guildhouses, the Renaissance town hall, and opulent Brabo Fountain.

This afternoon there's a chance to marvel at the Captain's skill as he calmly navigates the busy River Scheldt as we sail towards Arnhem.



Antwerp

DAY 4 - ARNHEM



Arnhem

One of the delights of river cruising is the enchanting experience of waking somewhere new, the water gently lapping as the ship glides almost imperceptibly along. We're now deep in the heart of Holland, passing flower-bedecked houseboats, flocks of wildfowl and, of course, windmills! We soon arrive in Arnhem, synonymous with the ill-fated 1944 aerial assault depicted in the film *A Bridge Too Far*. We visit the battle HQ of the British 1st Airborne Division at Oosterbeek, now an excellent museum, and the Commonwealth War Cemetery, the final resting place of so many. Back on board, we continue our passage along the mighty River Rhine, one of Europe's most important arterial waterways, before enjoying another sumptuous dinner on board, as distant lights glint on the waterfront as we silently slip by.

DAY 5 - DISEMBARK IN AMSTERDAM

After breakfast this morning your friendly crew bid you farewell before you disembark



Amsterdam