

March 17th

Welcome to Amsterdam & embark riverboat

Tour begins: 12:00 PM, Amsterdam. Embark the MS Joy and enjoy a beautiful buffet lunch. After settling into your cabin, attend a discovery briefing, then enjoy a welcome reception followed by dinner and Dutch entertainment this evening aboard the riverboat.

Lunch, Dinner Ship

DAY 2

March 18th

Explore Amsterdam

Explore Amsterdam today, blending past with present, from its medieval core to the bustling shops, cafés and rich cosmopolitan life of a 21st-century European metropolis. Disembark for a guided canal boat cruise under the curved bridges and past merchants' homes along the 17th-century *grachten* (canals) of the city. The three main canals, dug during the Dutch Golden Age, form concentric belts around the city, and are resplendent with 1,550 monumental buildings. Your cruise ends with a guided tour of the Rijksmuseum to see works by the Old Dutch Masters, including Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Van Gogh. Alternatively, enjoy a full day excursion to the Dutch countryside, complete with a guided tour of a tulip and vegetable nursery. Enjoy free time in Amsterdam to explore the sights as you wish.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 3

March 19th

A range of choices in Arnhem

Call on historic Arnhem today for a choice of three distinct afternoon experiences. One is a guided tour of the acclaimed Kröller-Müller Museum in De Hoge Veluwe National Park, home to works by artists as wide-ranging as Seurat, Picasso and Mondrian – and to one of the world's largest collections of paintings by Dutch Post-Impressionist Vincent van Gogh, including his *Café Terrace in Arles*; the museum's expansive sculpture

garden displays pieces by masters including Rodin, Dubuffet, Moore and Oldenburg. Another choice is a guided bicycle excursion along the bike paths of De Hoge Veluwe National Park, Holland's largest nature preserve, winding past its scenic forests, drifting sand dunes and grassy plains. Or discover Arnhem's history-making battlegrounds and their significant role in World War II – when the town's strategic road bridge over the Lower Rhine became the target of a massive Allied airborne assault – with a visit to the Airborne Museum Hartenstein in nearby Oosterbeek, chronicling the Battle of Arnhem. Back onboard, enjoy a lecture by your Tauck Director prior to cocktails and the chef's signature dinner tonight.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 4

March 20th

Rotterdam & The Hague

Arrive this morning in Rotterdam, the second-largest city in the Netherlands and a centuries-old seaport that's among the largest and busiest in the world. After most of its historic center was obliterated during World War II, the city rose from the ashes to become the thriving commercial and transportation center it is today; renowned for its cutting-edge architecture and vibrant cultural life, 21st-century Rotterdam has been called the "Gateway to Europe." You can explore Rotterdam's stunning 21st-century Markthal (Markethall) and its contemporary culinary culture on your choice of food-focused walking or bicycling tours today. After lunch, travel overland to Den Haag (The Hague) for a guided tour of this city known internationally as the Dutch seat of government, home to the royal family and renowned for its embassies, mansions, boulevards and parks. You'll also enjoy a Tauck Exclusive evening at the Mauritshuis, a museum set in a 17th-century mansion displaying some of the most famous paintings of the Dutch Golden Age, open after hours for Tauck guests only. Meet a museum official; view masterpieces by Rembrandt, Holbein the Younger and Vermeer (including his iconic *Girl with a Pearl Earring*); and enjoy dinner with live music performed by students from the Royal Conservatory of the Hague.


Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 5

March 21st

Antwerp & the age of exploration

Your riverboat arrives this morning in the major port city of Antwerp for a day in the capital of the Belgian province of Flanders. Take an orientation tour of the city and a guided walk through the city's historic center. As you stroll and hear stories and insights from your local guide, take in Grote Markt, the old market square and numerous restored merchants' houses, harkening back to the days of the 16th-century Age of Exploration when Antwerp – at the time a powerful center of international commerce – was the richest city in Europe. After lunch aboard ship, you'll have some free time to explore more of Antwerp. Return to the ship and enjoy a special Chef's Signature Dinner and a musical performance this evening as the riverboat cruises to Brussels.

 Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

March 22nd

Disembark for your journey home

Tour ends: Antwerp. Fly home anytime; all guests must disembark the riverboat by 9:00 AM. A transfer is included from the riverboat to Brussels Airport; allow 3 hours for flight check-in.

Breakfast