

10-Day Netherlands Heritage Tour

DAY 1 **USA/AMSTERDAM**

Today we depart on our overnight journey to Amsterdam. (meals aloft)

DAY 2 **ARRIVE AMSTERDAM**

Upon arrival in Amsterdam we will be welcomed by our driver and tour escort who will transfer us to the city center of Amsterdam. The capital of the Netherlands consists of 70 islands which are separated by nearly 50 miles of canals and connected by more than 1000 bridges. Our first acquaintance with this beautiful city will be by boat. We will enjoy a narrated canal excursion, passing gabled warehouses, noble mansions, arched bridges, and colorful houseboats. Afterward we will transfer to our hotel in Amsterdam for check-in and have our welcome dinner. (meals aloft, D)

DAY 3 **AMSTERDAM**

After breakfast we will enjoy a guided walking tour of the capital of the Netherlands. During the tour we will see the Our Lord in the Attic Museum, a church hidden in the attic of a seventeenth-century house from the Dutch Golden Age. We will see the Dam Square with its Royal Palace, the Koepelkerk, National Monument, and sights from the history of the Lutheran church in Amsterdam, such as the West Indisch Huis (West Indian House) a former orphanage, the Claeszhoefje, a courtyard surrounded by almshouses (charitable housing) of the denomination, and De Nieuwe Kerk (New Church). This monumental church is known as the place where Queen Beatrix was officially inaugurated and where the wedding between King Willem Alexander and Princess Maxima took place. Next we will walk to De Westerkerk, a 17th-century Protestant church which is the largest of its kind in the Netherlands. We will view the Anne Frank House, located mere footsteps from the Westerkerk. After lunch on our own, we will see the Old Lutheran Church, the first Lutheran church in Amsterdam, located in former warehouses and stroll through the Begijnhof, one of Amsterdam's best known almshouses. Via the Bloemenmarkt,



the only floating flower market in the world, we will walk to the Waterlooplein (Waterloo Square) with its famous market, the Rembrandt House and the Portuguese Synagogue. The remainder of the day will be at leisure with dinner on your own. (B)

DAY 4 **ALKMAAR/VOLENDAM/ HAARLEM/AMSTERDAM**

This morning we will visit Alkmaar and enjoy a guided city tour, including the Cheese Museum. Although Volendam's fishing industry is no longer flourishing, the harbor area with its many boats is still bustling. Volendam's traditional costume is one of the best known examples of ancient clothing in Holland. We will continue to Haarlem to visit the Corrie ten Boom House. The museum is a memorial to this family who lived as Christians through their obedience to God and during the Second World War, offered their home as a refuge for fugitives and those hunted by the Nazis. In 1944, the family was betrayed and arrested and Corrie and her sister were transported to the notorious Ravensbrück Concentration Camp in Germany, which Corrie miraculously survived. This evening we will return to Amsterdam and have dinner on our own. (B)

DAY 5 **AALSMEER/DELFT**

After an early breakfast, we go to the world's largest flower auction in Aalsmeer. Here flowers and plants are auctioned and then packaged for immediate distribution to all corners of the world, some arriving throughout Europe on the very same day. After this visit, we will return to Delft for a visit to the Royal Delftware factory, to learn about the history of Blue Delft and its development and production process, while watching the skilled artisans at work. The showroom has a

comprehensive collection of hand-painted Delft Blue by Royal Delft, as well as an extensive selection of Dutch earthenware and souvenirs. Dinner is included at our hotel this evening. (B, D)

DAY 6 GOUDA/LEIDEN/DELFT

After breakfast we will depart for Gouda, where we will have a guided tour of the City of Cheese. We will visit the famous Cheese Market and the Old Weigh House, which also houses a small cheese museum and shop. We will see the famous stained glass windows in St. Jan's Church. We will also have a class to learn how to bake treacle waffles, the local delicacy. We can take our waffles with us, if we can resist them long enough. After lunch we will drive to Leiden, a city with beautiful canals, gabled houses, lovely squares, and even a castle ruin on a mount in the middle of town. We will meet our local guide, who will take us on a walking tour of the city, including the American Pilgrim Museum, dedicated to the Pilgrim Fathers who fled England in 1620 and stayed in Leiden for 11 years before departing for the New World. We will also see the Hoogland Church, the almshouses and hear about the Spanish siege of the city during the Eighty Years War, when the Spanish King tried to force the Netherlands back under the Spanish reign and Catholicism. After our time here, we return to Delft for overnight. (B, L)

DAY 7 KINDERDIJK/ROTTERDAM/DELFT

Today we will enjoy a tour into the typical Dutch countryside to visit Kinderdijk, a Unesco World Cultural site. We will first see an introduction movie about Kinderdijk, then we will visit 2 of the 19

windmills which once kept the surrounding land dry. They still function, but some of their task has been taken over by modern day equipment elsewhere. Next we will travel back to Rotterdam by boat and enjoy lunch and the impressive skyline from the water. In Rotterdam, we will enjoy a guided walking tour through the city center. We will see some of the buildings that escaped the bombing of WWII and also modern architecture like the Markthal, the Cube houses and more. The city is the birthplace of Erasmus, the famous Dutch philosopher and theologian. The university and downtown bridge are both named after him. From here we return to Delft, with dinner on your own. (B)

DAY 8 DELFT

After breakfast we will enjoy a guided walking tour of the old town. During the tour, we will visit the Prinsenhof and learn all about the history of the Netherlands and the Dutch Revolt and Reformation. The museum is housed in a building of great historical importance, the site of some of the most dramatic and consequential events of Dutch history. After lunch on our own, the rest of the afternoon will be at leisure. Tonight we will have our farewell dinner and overnight in Delft. (B, D)

DAY 9 AMSTERDAM/USA

We will transfer to the airport in Amsterdam for our flights to the US. (B, meals aloft)

All sites listed in the itinerary will be covered but the sequence and days may be altered to adjust to religious holidays, special closings of sites, air schedules, etc. Hotels listed subject to confirmation.

