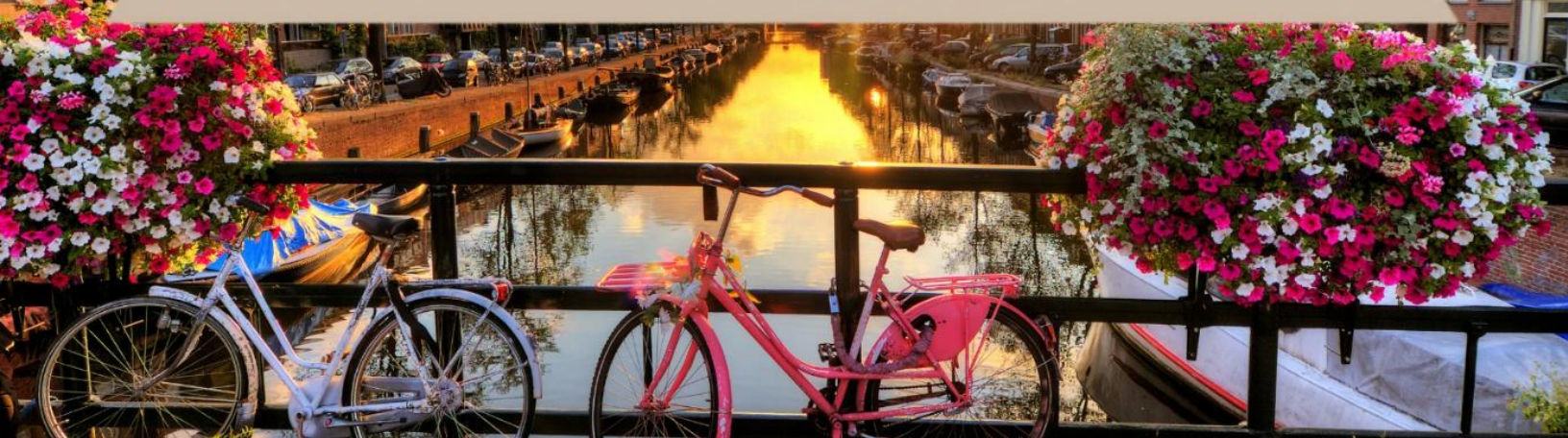


AMSTERDAM & BELGIUM BY FIRST CLASS BARGE



with JC Raulston Arboretum

April 13 - 22, 2027



Join Mark Weathington and friends of the JC Raulston Arboretum for an unforgettable springtime garden journey to the Netherlands and Belgium.

Travel aboard the elegant first-class MS Magnifique II as we cruise scenic waterways at the height of tulip season, when landscapes burst into color with sweeping fields of bulbs and beautifully designed gardens. Along the way, enjoy visits to renowned gardens, horticultural collections, and historic landscapes that showcase the artistry and innovation of Dutch

and Belgian garden design.

Stroll through charming villages, admire the iconic windmills of Kinderdijk set among vibrant spring plantings, and gain insight into the region's rich horticultural traditions. Between garden visits, savor local flavors—from fresh seafood and Belgian chocolate to regional specialties—and enjoy time to relax and take in the scenery.

What could be more delightful? Join Mark and fellow JC Raulston Arboretum supporters for this inspiring and immersive journey through the Netherlands and Belgium. Space is limited, so reserve your place and come aboard!



**EARTHBOUND
EXPEDITIONS**

Earthbound Expeditions Inc.
P.O. Box 11305, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110 USA
Tel: 206.842.9775
www.EarthboundExpeditions.com

TRIP AT A GLANCE

2 Nights – Amsterdam

7 Nights – Aboard the first-class MS Magnifique II



JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Cruise through the Netherlands at the height of tulip season, when thousands of acres burst into brilliant bloom ♦ Explore the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens, one of the greatest floral displays on Earth ♦ Enjoy guided visits to outstanding museums showcasing masterpieces by the Dutch Masters ♦ Discover charming community gardens, historic estates, and working flower farms ♦ Visit the picturesque city of Delft, renowned for its centuries-old blue-and-white Delftware pottery ♦ Experience the iconic windmills of Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a triumph of Dutch landscape engineering ♦ Travel with like-minded garden enthusiasts who share your passion for horticulture, art, culture, fine cuisine, and wonderful conversation

IT'S INCLUDED

- ♦ Hosted by JC Raulston Arboretum Director **Mark Weathington**
- ♦ Accompanied throughout by a hand-selected Earthbound veteran guide
- ♦ Visits to the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens and exclusive excursions to flower farms and private gardens
- ♦ Special tastings featuring Dutch cheeses, fresh mussels and local Belgian beers
- ♦ Seven relaxing nights aboard the first-class **MS Magnifique II**
- ♦ Two pre-cruise nights at a centrally located four-star hotel in Amsterdam
- ♦ All breakfasts, multicourse meals aboard the ship and selected meals at local restaurants
- ♦ Enriching excursions to gardens, museums, and historic markets
- ♦ All sightseeing, entrance fees, and activities as outlined in the itinerary
- ♦ Gratuities for local guides and motor coach drivers (*ship crew gratuities not included*)

TRIP DETAILS

10 days/9 nights (not including air travel)

From \$7,795 per person (see page 10 for details)

Trip begins: April 13, 2027, in Amsterdam

Trip ends: April 22, 2027, after breakfast in Amsterdam

SAVE UP TO \$200

JC Raulston and Earthbound Travel alumni save \$100 per person ❖ Pay final balance by check and save \$100 per person





Your floating comfy home, the first-class MS Magnifique II

Welcome to Holland!



DAY 0: Depart the U.S. for Amsterdam

DAY 1: Tuesday, April 13 – Welcome to Amsterdam

Welcome to the Netherlands! Upon arrival, meet your guide and fellow travelers at a centrally located four-star hotel in the heart of Amsterdam. This afternoon, your journey begins with a private canal cruise through the city's historic waterways, lined with elegant 17th-century merchant homes and charming bridges. This evening, gather for a festive welcome dinner in a beautiful canal house restaurant. *Overnight in Amsterdam (D)*

DAY 2: Wednesday, April 14 – The Dutch Golden Age and Van Gogh

After breakfast, enjoy a private guided tour of the renowned Rijksmuseum, home to masterpieces by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Frans Hals, and other Dutch masters. Along the way, discover remarkable still lifes featuring flowers and exotic foods that reflect the wealth, global trade, and botanical discoveries of the Dutch Golden Age. Following free time for lunch, visit the acclaimed Van Gogh Museum at your own pace before enjoying an afternoon strolling Amsterdam's picturesque canals, gardens, cafés, and boutiques. This evening, join your hosts for a special dinner in one of the city's inviting neighborhoods. *Overnight in Amsterdam (B, D)*



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View the Night Watch, by Rembrandt, 1642

DAY 3: Thursday, April 15 – Keukenhof Gardens, Dutch Waterworks and

Embarkation: Today, we visit the spectacular Keukenhof Gardens, where millions of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths create one of the world's most breathtaking spring displays. Explore this floral masterpiece, and continue to the fascinating Cruquius Pump Museum to learn how the Dutch reclaimed land from the sea using one of the largest steam engines ever built. As the well-known Dutch saying goes, "God created the Earth, but the Dutch created Holland." Later this afternoon, return to Amsterdam to board the elegant MS Magnifique II, where welcome drinks and dinner await.

Overnight aboard the ship (B, D)

DAY 4: Friday, April 16 – Cruise to Historic Haarlem

Relax on the sun deck this morning as we cruise through Holland's picturesque countryside. Our destination is the charming city of Haarlem, whose name inspired New York's Harlem neighborhood. After an orientation walk, enjoy free time to explore the historic center, browse inviting shops, or visit the renowned Frans Hals Museum. For lunch, enjoy an authentic Indonesian rijsttafel, a delicious assortment of satays, curries, sambals and other specialties that reflect the Netherlands' rich culinary heritage.

Overnight aboard the ship (B, L, D)



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Enjoy a morning in the Hague



DAY 5: Saturday, April 17 – Historic Leiden

Today we visit the beautiful university city of Leiden, renowned for its picturesque canals, centuries-old architecture, and the oldest university in the Netherlands. It was here that the Pilgrims lived for more than a decade before sailing to America aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620. We'll visit the celebrated **Hortus Botanicus Leiden**, founded in 1590, which played an important role in introducing and cultivating tulips in the Netherlands. After, enjoy lunch in the gardens and stroll Leiden's lively Saturday market and charming old town before returning to MS Magnifique II for an evening cruise to Utrecht. Dinner is served on board. *Overnight aboard the ship (B, L, D)*



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DAY 6: Sunday, April 18 – The Hague and Delft

After breakfast, we depart for The Hague, the elegant seat of the Dutch government and home to some of the Netherlands' greatest cultural treasures. Enjoy an exclusive visit to the renowned Mauritshuis Museum, where you'll discover masterpieces from the Dutch Golden Age in the intimate setting of this 17th-century monument. Highlights include Vermeer's *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Rembrandt's *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp*, Fabritius' *The Goldfinch*, and Potter's *The Bull*.

We'll also see the Peace Palace, home of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial body of the United Nations.

After an independent lunch, we continue to Delft, a charming city celebrated for its beautifully preserved historic center, picturesque canals, and iconic blue-and-white Delftware ceramics. The city remains home to three working Delftware factories preserving this centuries-old tradition. In Delft, you will also find the *Nieuwe Kerk* (New Church), the final resting place of the Dutch royal family, including William of Orange. Return to the MS Magnifique II for dinner. *Overnight aboard the ship (B, D)*



DAY 7: Monday, April 19 – Antwerp, Belgium

Today we discover Antwerp, Belgium's historic port city on the River Scheldt, with roots dating back to the Middle Ages. Known for its Flemish Renaissance architecture, artistic heritage, and diamond trade, Antwerp offers a fascinating blend of history and culture.

Enjoy a guided walking tour through the historic center, including the magnificent Grote Markt, the city's grand central square, and the Diamond District, home to generations of diamond traders and craftsmen. We'll also explore the legacy of Flemish Baroque master Peter Paul Rubens at the 17th-century Rubens House, featuring period rooms, his remarkable works and a garden.

Afterward, savor a traditional Belgian feast of mussels, frites, beer and chocolate before returning to the barge in the late afternoon. *Overnight aboard the ship (B, L, D)*





"I dream of painting and then I paint my dream." — Vincent van Gogh

DAY 8: Tuesday, April 20 – Rotterdam, Kinderdijk and Gouda: Say Cheese!

This morning we'll tour Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. See firsthand how a nation's ingenuity and determination have transformed reclaimed land from the sea into thriving countryside. Climb inside one of the historic wind-powered pumping stations. Kinderdijk is the largest collection of authentic, working 18th-century windmills in the world.



After your visit, rejoin your floating home and enjoy lunch while cruising through the Dutch countryside. The MS Magnifique II continues to the famous cheese town of Gouda where you'll have free time to explore. Enjoy a cheese tasting and an independent dinner out on the town. *Sleep aboard the ship (B, L)*





The first-class lovingly restored MS Magnifique II

DAY 9: Wednesday, April 21 – Scenic Cruise to Amsterdam

Drift from Gouda to Amsterdam, passing historic windmills and colorful tulip fields. Enjoy sun-dappled decks for reading, coffee, or simply soaking in the scenery. This is the Netherlands at its best! *Sleep aboard the ship (B, L, D)*

DAY 10: Thursday, April 22 – Homeward bound

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam for your flight home, or remain in Europe for further travels. Cities such as Paris are just a few hours away by high-speed train. Return home with a lifetime of happy memories! *(B)*



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Meet Your Host!

Mark Weathington is the Director of the JC Raulston Arboretum at NC State University, where he is passionate about connecting people with plants. His career in public horticulture has also included the Norfolk Botanical Garden where he served as Director of Horticulture and the Atlanta Botanical Garden as a horticulturist.

Mark travels extensively searching for new plants to diversify the American landscape and lecturing on a variety of topics in horticulture to further the JC Raulston Arboretum's vision of "Planning and Planting a Better World." His explorations and speaking engagements have taken him to China, Taiwan, Japan, Ecuador, Europe, Mexico, New Zealand, and throughout the U.S.



RESERVATIONS & QUESTIONS

206-842-9775

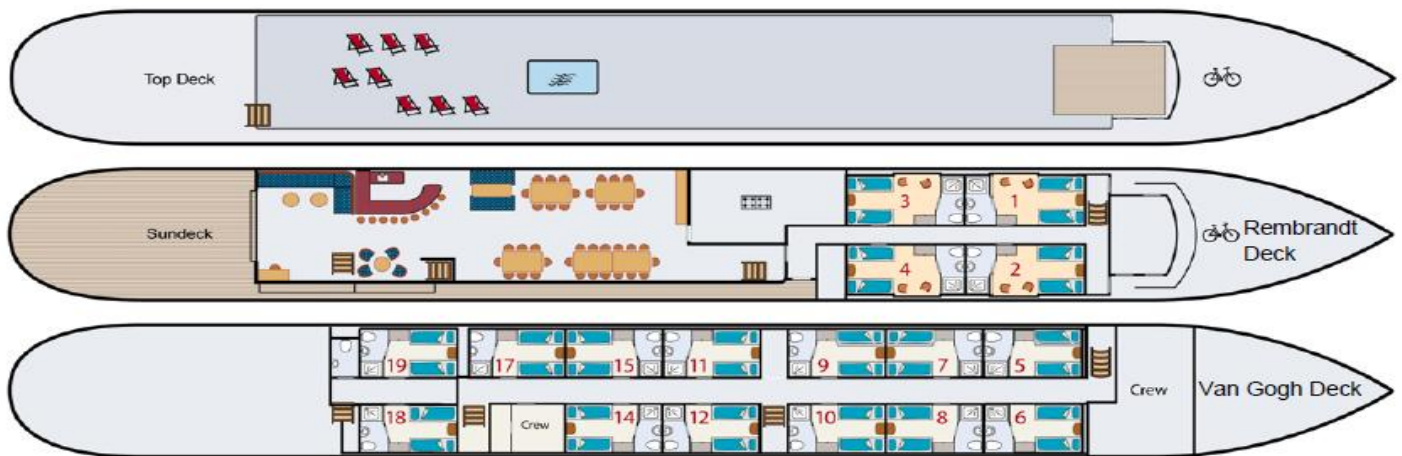
info@earthboundexpeditions.com



Your Exclusive, First-Class Barge Adventure

Barge: The MS Magnifique II

Relax and enjoy! Our first-class ship boasts bright, modern and cheery cabins with emphasis on superior comfort. A tastefully furnished salon and restaurant, a full bar, a gorgeous lounge and wooden sun deck with chairs and tables and hot tub are available, just for you!



\$8,595 Rembrandt Deck (*per person based on double occupancy*)

\$7,795 Van Gogh Deck (*per person based on double occupancy*)

Single Supplement: \$1,795 for all cabins (excluding suites). Single availability is limited.

***Savings:** Discounts apply for all JC Raulston and Earthbound alumni. If you pay the final balance by check, you can save an additional \$100 per person. To qualify, there must be a remaining balance of \$3100 per person at time of final payment.

Not Included: Gratuities for ship crew, airport transfers, travel insurance and any items not mentioned in your itinerary. Port taxes, charges, and fees are currently \$125 per person and are additional.

[Click here to view photos of the MS Magnifique II barge](#)



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All cabins are bright and spacious.
Each comes equipped with
bathroom and shower.
Lower Van Gogh deck cabin



Bar and dining: A great place to
relax and socialize with fellow
travelers



Enjoy wonderful multicourse
meals in the elegant dining
room



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Know Before You Go!

Reservations and Deposits: A deposit of \$1,000 per person deposit is required to confirm your reservation. You can make a credit card deposit online or by phone. Deposits are refundable, minus a \$250 per person cancellation fee, for 30 days from the processing date or 90 days prior to departure, whichever comes first. Deposits made within 90 days of departure are nonrefundable. A progress payment of \$1,500 per person is due five months before departure. All future payments are also non-refundable, which is why we strongly urge guests to purchase travel insurance.

Not Included: International airline tickets, alcoholic beverages, room service and gratuities for hotel staff, travel insurance, meals not listed in brochure, and any activities or items not listed in your itinerary.

Physical Requirements: It is the responsibility of each guest to be aware of their physical abilities or limitations and to be in sufficient good health to undertake the trip. [Click here](#) to read "Is an Earthbound trip right for you?" or call the Earthbound office for more details.

Travel Insurance: Earthbound Expeditions strongly encourages the purchase of travel insurance coverage. We include information on trip insurance in your deposit information.

Events and Hosted Journeys: If a planned event is canceled for any reason, another event will be included in its place. This is not cause for refund. Events are subject to change. Also, if a host or special guest is unable to attend as planned, Earthbound Expeditions will do its utmost to find another host who has similar interests, talents, and expertise. The inability of a host to participate in a tour is not grounds for a full or partial refund.

Terms & conditions: [Click here](#) to read the full terms and conditions.

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