

Holland and Belgium Springtime River Cruise

Access to Water on Tour

The natural wonders of our planet are awe-inspiring. To ensure their beauty can be enjoyed for generations, we are committed to reducing single-use plastics on our tours and in our offices. On tours in this region, where the tap water is safe to drink, we encourage you to bring a reusable filter water bottle. Your Tour Manager will direct you to bottle refill stations throughout each day. By bringing your own bottle, you will reduce plastic waste and help to preserve the environment. Thank you for helping us make the world a better place through travel and supporting sustainability!

Accommodations

At the time of booking, you will be asked what type of room you would like. A double room has either one large bed or two smaller ones. Double rooms are perfect for couples or if you're travelling with a companion and wish to share a room. There are plenty of double rooms available on our tours. A single or solo room has only one bed and may be smaller in size. These rooms are first come, first-served, as most properties have only a limited number of these rooms available. We will forward your request to the hotel and do our best to accommodate your needs; however, please know that we cannot make any guarantees. In certain countries, the hotel rooms may not be as large as standard hotel rooms in your home country due to the fact that hotels may be in historical buildings. In some hotels, the air-conditioning and heating systems may be centrally-controlled and only operate seasonally. It is also important to note that not all hotels have AC, and those that do may not cool to the degree that you are used to at home. Here are a few details to keep in mind: Check-in times are set by individual hotels and can vary, but most hotels offer afternoon check-ins. Depending on your arrival time, you may have to wait before you can get into your room. Some hotels may be willing to store your luggage in a secure location until your room is ready. In these instances, the hotel will not be responsible for lost or stolen items and there may be a charge for this service. Please observe check-out times at all properties. Hotels designate these as well. Some hotels require a credit card imprint or your passport information upon check-in in order to activate telephones in the rooms and for potential incidental charges. Most hotels charge an access fee for using phones in hotel rooms. Please check with the front desk personnel at each hotel for specific policies. You will be responsible for all incidental fees occurred during your stay, and these must be paid at time of check-out. Hotel membership programs are not applicable.

Booking Flights with Us

If you have chosen our air-inclusive tour package, you have opted that we take care of all your air travels from your home to the destination and back. This also includes any inter-flights from city to city within the tour package if applicable. We ask that you keep the following in mind: 1) In order to comply with Homeland Security's "Secure Flight" mandate, you must provide full name (including middle name or middle initial, if applicable), as it appears on your valid, non-expired, government issued photo ID that you will show at the airport. The name on your airline ticket must be an exact match to this ID, or you may be prevented from boarding the aircraft. 2) If you are a member of a participating frequent flyer program, make sure to provide the number when you book your trip and retain the copy of your ticket and boarding pass so you will receive proper credit for your mileage. Please note that some air tickets are not eligible for mileage accrual. 3) Whenever possible, we will add charges for air departure taxes to your invoice. Some international arrival and departure fees are not included in your air ticket and must be paid by you during the tour in the local currency.

Booking Your Own Flights

If you chose to purchase a land-only tour package, you have opted to purchase your own airline tickets to and from home. In this case, we ask that you keep a few important factors in mind when booking your round-trip flights: 1) Please make sure your round-trip flights work with your tour itinerary. There may be scheduled activities on these days. 2) You must provide us with your flight schedules for the entire tour upon final payment. This ensures that we can arrange any other services you may have purchased from us, including hotel transfers, and that your Tour Manager will know when to expect your arrival. This also allows us to maintain contact with you in case of an emergency.

Choice on Tour

One of the ways we encourage you to make your journey your own is with Choice on Tour, letting you decide how to experience a destination or site based on your unique interests. It's your choice! Included in your itinerary, there may be a day, or days, featuring a choice of two (or more) activities during a designated time. You may have selected your preferred option(s) when booking your tour. In most cases, your selection may be made upon arriving on tour and discussing it with your Tour Manager. If no selection is made during the booking process, the default option is assumed.

Choice on Tour

While in Kinderdijk, you have the choice between two ways of viewing the area. Your first choice is discovering the charming canals, medieval architecture, rich history of Delft on a walking tour that passes by the 13th and 14th-century Old and New

Churches where several members of the Dutch royal family have been laid to rest. Afterwards, enjoy free time to explore on your own-perhaps visiting the Renaissance -style City Hall of the Prinsenhof, an urban palace built in the Middle Ages. The Activity Level of this choice is a level 2. Your second choice is exploring the third-largest city in the Netherlands, The Hague, home to the Dutch government and the royal family. See the Binnenhof, a 13th century Gothic castle on Hofvijver lake, and the Peace Palace, home to prestigious institutions like the United Nations' International Court of Justice. Afterwards, enjoy some free time to explore this vibrant city on your own. The Activity Level of this choice is a level 2.

Culinary Experiences

You're in for a real treat as you explore countries known for both delicious food and the drinks! Both the Netherlands and Belgium are famous for beer. In fact, Belgium produces over 500 varieties of beer. The Trappist beer of the Abbey of Westvleteren has repeatedly been rated the world's best beer. The biggest brewer in the world by volume is Anheuser Busch, based in Leuven. In addition to beer, the Netherlands and Belgium are also famous for chocolate, waffles, and French fries. Contrary to popular opinion, French fries originated in Belgium. The national dishes are "steak and fries" and "mussels with fries." Dishes in the Netherlands are shaped by the practice of fishing and farming. Traditionally, Dutch cuisine is simplistic with many vegetables and little meat. Distinctive Belgium dishes include beef stew, croquettes, sausage, ham and endive gratin, and waterzooi. Brands of Belgian chocolate and pralines, including Callebaut, Côte d'Or, Neuhaus, Leonidas, Guylian, Gallery and Godiva are world-renowned and widely sold. The Netherlands is well-known for its variety of cheeses, including the famous Edam and Gouda.

Cultural Insights

The Dutch consider it rude to speak while chewing gum. Remember to cover your mouth while yawning to be polite. The Dutch are very conscious of environmental concerns and wish to avoid wasting food. In light of this, take small portions and eat mindfully so that you leave a clean plate. Both the Dutch and Belgians consider it respectful to keep one's hands above the table and elbows off it until everyone has finished eating. There are two primary cultural groups in Belgium: the Dutch-speaking Flemish in the north and the French-speaking Walloons in the south. Keep your location within Belgium in mind to help you determine which language to use. When in doubt, use English, as many will be able to understand the basics. Snapping your fingers, scratching, putting your hands in your pockets, yawning, and slapping someone on the back are all considered offensive in Belgium. Avoid resting your feet on furniture, as this is also considered impolite.

Currency

It used to be when traveling abroad, you had to go to a bank to exchange your home currency for that of the country you were visiting. Thanks to technology, those days are gone. Now you can use your bank card at any ATM in almost any city around the world just like you would at home. There may be a fee for this convenience, but it makes getting local currency quick and easy. You can find ATMs in airports, hotels, and banks. Fees tend to be lower at hotels or within cities than they are at the airport. There is no ATM or currency exchange available on the ship. You may need some local currency for gratuities and small items you wish to purchase. You can also pay with a credit card when travelling. The price will automatically be converted to your home currency by the system. Some merchants charge a fee for this service, but it adds an extra guarantee on your purchase, so it's a nice option. If you have a credit or debit card with a chip in it, it is recommended you use it rather than a card with a magnetic stripe. The chip adds an extra layer of protection against fraud. Many of our tours include optional excursions that are available for purchase. If you decide to go on one of these during your trip, please note, the credit card you use for payment must have an expiration date greater than 30 days from the start of the tour. If you choose to review exchange rates or exchange currency before you depart for your trip, the currency accepted in this region is the Euro.

Disclaimer

If you plan to enter or leave the EU carrying the equivalent of €10,000 or more in cash, you must declare it at customs. Cash includes currency notes, coins, bankers' drafts, checks, and travelers' checks. If you do not declare the cash, customs authorities could take away your money, and you may receive a fine of as much as €8,000.

Disclaimer

IMPORTANT: All claims arising out of or in relation to the damage suffered as a result of the death of or personal injury to a passenger and the loss or damage to luggage if the incident which caused the damage so suffered occurred in the course of the carriage and was due to the fault or neglect of the River Carrier or of his servants or agents acting within the scope of their employment, shall be brought before the court of the place of permanent residence of place of business of the River Carrier and subject to the provisions of his national law and of the hereafter mentioned specific contractual provisions.

Electricity & Adapters

When traveling to another country, you may need an adapter and/or electric converter to plug your electrical devices and

appliances into the local power grid. An adapter changes the plug so it fits into the outlet. A converter changes the voltage coming out of the outlet. To determine what you need, first verify if the plugs on your devices fit the outlet of your destination. In Europe, the plug type is C, which has two round pins. If your plugs do not match this description, you will need an adapter. Next, verify the voltage of each device you intend to bring. You can find this information on the cord, plug, or on the device itself. Many devices are dual-voltage. For those, you do not need a converter. If your device is not dual-voltage and it differs from the voltage of your destination, you will need a voltage converter. In Europe, the voltage is 220v-230v. If necessary, make sure to get a converter that converts to this voltage. If you plan to bring a sleep apnea machine, please remember to bring an extension cord along with the adapter and voltage converter as not all hotels have sockets next to the bed.

Elevation

The highest elevation encountered on this tour is 1,000 feet/305 meters.

Free Time Suggestions

Due to varied flight schedules and arrival times of our tour guests, there are no scheduled activities prior to dinner on arrival day. Should your flight schedule allow for an early arrival, a hospitality room at the Maritim Hotel Amsterdam has been provided for you to store your luggage and relax. You also may enjoy this opportunity for some independent exploration.

Free Time Suggestions

Should you have some extra time before your tour begins to explore, you'll find plenty to do in beautiful Amsterdam! Perhaps take a leisurely stroll to Dam Square or the harbor front to take in the lovely views. You might visit one of the various museums including the Rijks Museum, the Hermitage or the Van Gogh Museum.* Amsterdam is famous for its pubs, restaurants, art galleries and shops. We highly recommend a stroll through the winding streets of the old town lined with shops and cafes. Get a sneak preview of the famous Red Light District or visit the Anne Frank House* before boarding your ship in the afternoon. *If you wish to visit the Van Gogh Museum or Anne Frank House, we recommend that you purchase tickets online in advance as the ticket availability is very limited.

Get Ready

Get excited – and get ready for your upcoming tour! As you look ahead to your tour, you'll probably have some questions. Our team of travel experts assembled this booklet packed with answers so you can feel ready for your upcoming journey. Before you go, take time to review and get familiar with what to expect throughout your tour, and keep this information on hand during your travels. By booking a guided tour, all the details of your trip are covered so you can make the most of every moment. You'll join your tour group (a maximum of 44 people) to experience an expertly planned itinerary. Being part of a group tour is a great opportunity to meet new people and to share the adventure. You'll also be accompanied by your Tour Manager, an expert guide who can answer questions and offer advice along the way. Get ready to see the sights, taste the cuisine, and explore the world – with all the logistics handled and in good company.

Gratuities Recommendations

Tipping is a great way to show your appreciation for the people who help keep your tour running smoothly. But it can be confusing who to tip, when to tip, and how much. Tipping is discretionary and should be on an individual basis. Gratuities for hotel housekeeping staff, local sightseeing guides, transfer drivers, on-tour motor coach drivers, and your Tour Manager are not included in the price of your tour. The suggestions below are provided in US Dollars to help you budget for your trip. Plan to convert the total US Dollar amounts into the equivalent local currency, which is generally the preferred option. Personal checks should not be used. Tour Manager: equivalent of \$10 US Dollars per person for each travel day, given at the end of your tour. Local Guide: equivalent of \$2-3 US Dollars per person, given at the end of your day or time with them. On-Tour Motor Coach Driver: equivalent of \$5 US Dollars per person for each travel day, provided at the end of your tour or time with your driver. Hotel Housekeeping: equivalent of \$1 US Dollar per day, per room, left each morning. Cruise Personnel: \$16 US Dollars (15 Euros) per person for each day for the entire cruise staff. This is evenly divided by all crew members. It is best to make a single payment in US Dollars, Euros, or via credit card at the front desk at the end of your voyage. Please note, the Cruise Manager is not included in cruise personnel tipping, so if you wish to express your appreciation, the equivalent of \$2-3 US Dollars per person per day is suggested. Airport Transfer Driver: If your airport transfer is included in your package or purchased from Collette, gratuities might already be included. Please reference the transfer information section for confirmation. If gratuities are not mentioned, the suggested amount is typically \$3 US Dollars (or equivalent in local currency) per person.

Local Expertise

In order to enhance your experience on tour, six local guides will accompany the group in specific locations. These guides come from the region and have a deep understanding of the people and culture. They are joining the tour to share their knowledge with you. Please refer to your Tour Manager for the cities these guides will join your tour and refer to the Gratuity

Local Language

Common Greetings in Dutch: • Hello/ Good Morning = (hallo / Goedemorgen • Good Night/Evening = (goedenavond) • Goodbye = (Tot ziens) • Do you speak English? = (Spreekt u Engels?) • I don't understand = (Ik begrijp het niet) • I do not speak Dutch = (Ik spreek geen Nederlands) • Nice to meet you = (Leuk u te ontmoeten) • How are you? = (Hoe gaat het met u?) • Good = (goed) Bad = (slecht) • So so = (gaat redelijk) • Response = (antwoord) Polite Expressions • Yes = (Ja) No = (Nee) • I don't know = (Dat weet ik niet) • Excuse me = (neem me niet kwalijk) • Please = (Alstublieft) • Thank you very much = (heel erg bedankt) • You're welcome = (ju bent welkom) • No Problem = (geen probleem) • I'm Sorry = (Het spijt me.) Shopping • Do you accept credit cards? = (accepteert u credit cards?) • How much does this cost? = (hoeveel kost dat?) • I'm just looking, thank you. = (Ik kijk even rond, dank u wel) • The bill, please = (De rekening astublieft) • Open = (open) Closed = (gesloten) Getting Directions • Where is... = (waar is ...?) • the restroom? = (het toilet) • the Post Office = (het postkantoor) • the Police Station = (het politiebureau) • the bank = (de bank) • the hospital = (het ziekenhuis) • the pharmacy = (de apotheek) • the hotel... = (het hotel) • Straight ahead = (recht door) • Up = (omhoog) Down = (beneden) • Far = (ver) Nearby = (in de buurt) Dining • Breakfast = (ontbijt) • Lunch = (lunch) • Dinner = (diner) • Please bring the check/bill. = (wilt u mij de rekening brengen) • Bread = Butter = (boter) • Salt = (zout) • Pepper = (peper) • Beverage = (drank) • Coffee = (koffie) • Tea = (thee) • Wine = (wijn) • Beer = (bier) • Water = (water) • Juice = (sap) Signs • Pharmacy = (apotheek) • Bank = (bank) • Market = (markt) In Case of Emergency • Help! = (Help!) • Stop! = (Stop!) • Call an Ambulance = (Bel een ambulance!) • Call the Police! = (bel de politie!) Numbers • 1 = (een) • 2 = (twee) • 3 = (drie) • 4 = (vier) • 5 = (vijf) • 6 = (zes) • 7 = (zeven) • 8 = (acht) • 9 = (negen) • 10 = (tien)

Luggage Guidelines

Remember the 3-1-1 rule: Each airline traveler is allowed to bring 1 quart-sized bag containing no more than 3.4 ounces (100 milliliters) of any liquids, gels, and aerosols in their carry-on bag. Any liquids, including water bottles, that don't fit in the one quart-sized bag or are larger than 3 ounces will be discarded by security. Common items that must comply with this rule include toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, and lotion. For a complete list of what is allowed and not allowed to bring on a plane, visit www.tsa.gov.

Luggage Guidelines

Your day of departure is almost here, and it's time to think about what to pack. We have a few guidelines to help you. But before you pack anything, you must check with your airline for any luggage fees or restrictions. These can vary widely depending on your carrier and destination. Let's begin. The first thing to consider is how many bags to bring. Your tour package includes luggage handling for one checked bag per person. You will be responsible for your backpack or tote bag as you travel between destinations. It's very important you keep this in mind. We have limited space on our buses, so limiting the bags ensures there's room for everyone's luggage. Your larger bag can't be more than 62 in/157 cm in length, height and width and cannot weigh more than 50lb/23kg. Your carry-on should be a size that you can carry comfortably. You will use this bag to hold your personal items during sightseeing trips. Please note that if you bring more than one checked bag and one carry-on, we cannot guarantee there will be room for them on the bus. You'll need to store or ship any additional luggage at your own expense. If there is room for your additional luggage, we will charge a fee of 10 USD per bag per hotel. We recommend you consider using a TSA-approved lock, as a theft prevention measure during transit and during your tour. It's also very important that all your bags be labeled clearly. In your packet you will find a luggage tag. Please attach it to the bag you plan to check. The name on this tag should match the information on your reservation exactly, so the Tour Manager and all baggage handlers can properly identify the bag as yours. This will ensure the bag is delivered to you quickly and efficiently. Finally, we recommend you purchase travel insurance to ensure peace of mind while you're on tour. We cannot assume liability or accept claims for loss or damage to luggage and personal effects due to breakage, theft or normal wear and tear that results from hotel, airline and group carrier handling. But we offer comprehensive "No Worries Travel Protection" for your convenience. With insurance, you'll be able to focus on creating wonderful memories, not worrying about your luggage. Please note, some attractions do not allow large backpacks into their sites, so you may need a smaller bag for sightseeing.

Luggage Guidelines

Travelers flying to the United States from all international destinations will require extra screening when carrying powdered products weighing 12 oz./ 350 ml or more in carry-on luggage for security reasons. This added security measure will apply to all powders, with the exception of baby formula and medications. For your convenience, please consider packing any non-essential powders in your checked bag. Items that cannot be verified by a TSA officer risk being confiscated. Please visit www.tsa.gov for more information.

Meals

Special Diet North America offers diverse dietary options due to ingredient availability and acceptance of alternative diets. However, traveling abroad may pose challenges as menus reflect local tastes, alternative diets may not be common, and

medical conditions requiring dietary adjustments may not be understood. Group meals typically offer a pre-fixed menu that cater to diverse travelers. It's important to note that while some dietary requests can be accommodated, options may be limited.

Meals

The food people eat is a window into their history, traditions, and values, and sharing food brings people together. One of the many wonderful aspects of travel is to experience as much of the regional cuisine as possible. Your tour includes all the meals onboard the ship on this itinerary, and the menu includes as much of the regional cuisine as possible including local ingredients and regional flavors. If you wish to try some of the local restaurants, your Tour Manager will be happy to recommend eateries and local businesses that best fit your taste and needs. The average price for meals in this region ranges from 15 to 25 US Dollars for lunch and 30 to 45 US Dollars for dinner. All menus onboard the ship include as much of the regional cuisine as possible including local ingredients and regional flavors. During your river cruise, wine, beer and soft drinks are offered with dinners at no additional cost, along with coffee and tea. Hard alcohol is not included with lunch or dinner and must be purchased at an additional cost. An open bar is not offered on your river cruise. Please let your Tour Manager know of any food allergies or dietary needs you may have at the beginning of your tour.

Name Badges

Included in your tour documents bundle is your personalized name tag. We ask that you put this on before your first gathered event and wear it throughout your tour. This helps your fellow travelers get to know you and for your Tour Manager to better identify you in large groups.

On-Tour Transportation

Transfers We are pleased to provide you with complimentary airport to ship and ship to airport transfers at the beginning and end of an escorted tour when you purchase an air-inclusive tour. Land-only clients who have purchased round trip transfers will be accommodated at the same times as air inclusive clients. Arrival meeting locations and transfer departure times are provided on your document booklets. On some programs there may be a waiting period at the airport due to varying flight schedules of other arriving guests. If you have secured your own transfer, you may meet your Tour Manager at the ship.

Motorcoach Information: We do not own or operate vehicles. We charter quality coaches that are temperature controlled vehicles. Coach size may vary based upon the number of tour patrons. In certain countries, lavatory equipped motorcoaches are not available or the lavatory is for emergency use only. Frequent stops will be made en route for comfort and convenience.

Seat Rotation: Due to different coaches used at different ports of call (at times there is no coach used at all), seat rotation is not offered on this cruise.

Packing Tips

When you're deciding what to bring on your trip, we have a few suggestions for you. In regards to clothing, think layers. It's much easier to maintain a level of comfort if you can add or remove a layer at a time, especially if you're traveling to a destination where the temperature can vary widely. So always bring a light jacket or sweater. Fleece or wool is best. We recommend staying away from cotton sweaters or jackets as they won't keep you warm if they get wet. Comfortable footwear is crucial. Make sure you bring a pair of shoes that fit well and give you the necessary support. If you decide to purchase new shoes for your trip, we suggest you wear them a number of times before you leave to break them in. Your feet will thank you. Be prepared for all types of weather. For warm, sunny weather, pack sunscreen, a hat or a bandana/scarf to protect your neck from sunburn. For cool, rainy weather, pack a light raincoat, travel umbrella, waterproof shoes and a thin pair of gloves. For your toiletries, pack anything that could leak in plastic bags or a waterproof case. In addition, you might want to bring a washcloth or two. Not all hotels provide them. If you take prescription medication, make sure to bring enough for your entire tour plus a few additional days in the original prescription containers. Medication should be packed in your carry-on bag, never your checked luggage; this is in case your luggage is delayed. You don't want to be without your medication. You could also bring extra medication in a separate bag in case any gets lost. In general, we recommend not packing anything of value in your checked bag. You'll want to take pictures of everything, so make sure to bring a camera as well as extra memory cards and batteries for your entire trip. If you decide to bring a video camera, don't forget an extra battery for it plus a charger. Be sure to pack chargers and cords for all your electronic equipment. It's also a good idea to bring a travel alarm clock, a travel sewing kit, a portable scale to weigh luggage, and some hand sanitizer for when soap and water aren't readily available. If you are travelling with a companion, we suggest dividing the contents of your suitcase with them, that way if one bag is delayed, some of your belongings are still available to you both. If that is not an option for you, you could put a change of clothing in your carry-on if there's room. That will give you something to wear if your checked luggage is delayed as well. Last but certainly not least, leave room! You'll need it to fit all the souvenirs you want to bring home.

Packing Tips

As you prepare to explore the Netherlands and Belgium, enjoy a casual dress style and be sure to pack comfortable walking shoes. It is recommended to bring clothing that may be worn in layers that may be added or removed as the temperature

changes. The weather in this region is generally temperate in the spring. The region can be rainy at times; therefore, rain gear is suggested such as a raincoat and a collapsible umbrella. For dressy evenings a dress or pantsuit for ladies and a jacket and tie are suggested for the gentlemen. There are two formal dinners onboard the ship.

Planning for Specialized Needs

The Americans with Disabilities Act does not apply outside of the United States. We will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the special needs of our travelers. However, if you require individual assistance you must be accompanied by a companion who is capable of, and totally responsible for, providing the necessary assistance. Neither our personnel nor the personnel of our destination partners may physically lift or assist clients onto transportation vehicles at any time while on tour. We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a traveler who has special mobility or other like needs.

Pre & Post Night Stays

If your schedule allows, you may have selected to give yourself the advantage of an additional day or more in the starting or ending destination of your tour by booking a Pre-Night or Post-Night and arranging your flights accordingly. (Please note: A Tour Manager is not present during Pre-Night or Post-Night Stays.)

Read, Watch, & Be Inspired

Check out the following book and movie recommendations that will immerse you into the destination long before your arrival. Let this set the scene for you as you prepare for the trip of a lifetime and get excited about all that is to come! Books: *Why the Dutch are Different* by Ben Coates - An exploration of the heart and history of the Dutch people from a modern perspective. *A View Across the Rooftops* by Suzanne Kelman - Based on true events, this novel tells a story of enduring hope and friendship in the bleak world of Nazi-occupied Amsterdam. *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier - Tracy Chevalier seamlessly blends history and fiction to transport readers to 17th century Delft, where Griet, a young maid immortalized in Vermeer's celebrated painting, undergoes an artistic and sensual coming of age when she secretly becomes the artist's muse and inspiration. *The City of Belgium* by Brecht Evens - Three friends have a series of misadventures after diving into Belgium's nightlife. *The Squire of Revenge Resistance* by Anita Shreve - Novel set in a village in Nazi-occupied Belgium, where the wife of a resistance fighter shelters a downed American bomber pilot. *Amsterdam* by Geert Mak - Imaginative examination of Amsterdam's history and spirit which doubles as both a chronicle of the city's evolution from a small town of sailors and merchants into a flourishing metropolis and a travelogue showcasing the allure and eccentricities of this Dutch capital of grand architecture and grisly uprisings, whose citizens' ideals of tolerance faltered tragically under Nazi occupation. Movies: *If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Belgium* (1969) - Comedy featuring a group of travelers from the US racing through seven countries in 18 days on a bus tour. *The Monuments Men* (2014) - Action-drama recounting a WWII platoon's mission to rescue Nazi-stolen art treasures — including Bruges' Michelangelo piece *Madonna and Child* and the Ghent Altarpiece. *The Forgotten Battle* (2020) - During World War II, the lives of a Resistance recruit, a Nazi soldier, and a glider pilot intersect at the Battle of the Scheldt. *Faithfully Yours* (2022) - Two friends occasionally sneak away to the Belgian coast have an affair, but their husbands get involved when one of them goes missing. *The Rotterdam Bombing* (2012) - In 1940, a poor man falls for a girl in tragic circumstances as the German Blitz enters the Netherlands.

Ship & Crew Information

The itinerary is also subject to change due to unforeseen changes in water levels, delays at the locks, and other circumstances that may arise along the waterways. These changes may include items being missed during the trip; however, every effort will be made to substitute for another attraction if possible.

Ship & Crew Information

All purchases made while onboard the ship will be charged to your cabin account, and you will settle this account at the end of the cruise, with the exception of the Pre-Sold Options that you may purchase with your Tour Manager. On some ships, there are a limited number of single rooms. Double rooms usually consist of 2 beds. Embarkation time for the ship will take place upon arrival. However, please note that cabins will not be ready for check in until after 3:00 p.m. Depending on your arrival time, there may be a delay in gaining access to your cabin. Disembarkation will take place by 9:00 a.m. on the morning of departure. As part of the embarkation process, the ship will collect passports from all passengers and store them in a secured lock box. This is to address European Union Waterways laws. Your passport will be returned at the end of the cruise.

Ship & Crew Information

Please be aware of the following when embarking and disembarking from your cruise: 1.) The gangway to embark and disembark the ship is quite steep and narrow, with metal stoppers to prevent slipping – this means you must be able to walk by yourself without a rollator/walker/walking frame over the gangway. 2.) There is an elevator on board, but it only connects the Mozart, Strauss and Haydn decks where the cabins are – there are 12 steps from the Mozart deck to the Sun deck, with no

elevator. 3.) Sometimes, due to mooring requirements, two ships will be tied up alongside each other. For you to disembark, you will have to walk up the stairs to the Sun deck, walk over to the other ship using the gangway, walk downstairs to the exit, then use the other ship's gangway to disembark.

Shopping & Souvenirs

One of the best parts of traveling is coming back home with souvenirs that really reflect the place you've just been. As you explore the beautiful Netherlands, you'll find so a plethora of vibrant flowers, along with cheese and handicrafts such as wooden shoes -- which all make for lovely souvenirs. Dutch cigars, gin, pewter and antiques are not to be missed. Belgium enjoys an international reputation for its fine dipped chocolate, lace and porcelain. The region is famous for cheeses and organic seeds, works of art, and of course, diamonds.

Smoking Restrictions

Our tours are non-smoking throughout. If you require a smoking room, please let your Client Care agent know when you book your tour. Please note we cannot guarantee your request as many hotels prohibit smoking in rooms and on property. Please be mindful of other locations where smoking is not allowed. These include the motor coach, at dining venues, and any other restricted areas on tour. Travelers are responsible for any fines they incur for failing to comply with smoking regulations.

Tell Us All About Your Tour

We Want to Hear From You! • A few days after you return home, you'll receive an email from us with a survey asking you about your experience. Your feedback is important to us and we use it to continually refine our tours to bring you more of what you want when you travel. • Be on the lookout for our email when you get home. • We look forward to seeing you on tour soon! Download the Collette Compass smartphone app and enhance your tour with this easy-to-use digital companion that never leaves your side. Find Your Way Around • Easily navigate your destination like a local with detailed maps and offline turn-by-turn directions, all without using Wi-Fi or cellular data. Plan Your Free Time • Discover exciting activities, dining options, and local attractions during your free time, ensuring you make the most of every moment. Stay Informed • Review your daily itinerary, on-tour inclusions, as well as information on your hotels and transfer services. Record the Fun • Create your own trip journal as you travel, including text and photos. Share it with friends and loved ones back home! Live Flight Tracking • Check in online* for your flights and stay up to date on your schedule with real-time** tracking of your flight status, gate changes, and delays. *Online check-in subject to availability **Requires Wi-Fi or Cellular Data

Time Zone

All countries on this tour are 6 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time and 5 hours ahead during Daylight Saving Time.

Tour Manager

Peace of mind for our travelers is our number one priority. When you're on tour with us, your only thoughts should be to immerse yourself in creating lifelong memories. Your Tour Manager is a destination expert on the people, places, history, and culture and ensures that you will have the best experience with us. Please utilize your Tour Manager's expertise for any concerns or questions you may have while on tour.

Transfers

We offer full-service transfers from start to finish. So when you arrive at the airport of your destination, arrangements will have been made to transfer you to your ship on the tour. If you purchased our air-inclusive tour package, you will enjoy this service free of charge. If you purchased your air ticket on your own (our land-only tour package), you may purchase a round-trip transfer for a fee. Meeting locations and times will be set up to accommodate your transfer arrival and departure schedules, which will be provided to you in your documents packet. If you decide to arrange your own transportation to the port, please make sure to check in with your Tour Manager once you arrive upon embarkation. If your flight arrives in the morning, we have a meeting room and refreshments at a local hotel, as the expected embarkation onboard the ship is after 3:00 p.m.

Travel Savvy Tips

As an added measure of confidence while traveling internationally, visit www.travel.state.gov. The U.S. State Department offers a "Smart Travelers Enrollment Program" (STEP), which you may individually choose to enroll in. This allows the U.S. to better assist with lost passports or in the event of any emergency abroad.

Travel Savvy Tips

Here is a list of entities we recommend you contact before you depart on your tour: 1.) Your cell phone/mobile carrier if you are planning on using your device. You will want to confirm you will have access in the area(s) you will visit and inquire about any charges you may incur. 2.) Your credit card company for any card(s) you plan to use. Make sure the card company knows when and where you will be traveling to avoid any charges being declined. 3.) Your bank, so you can use your ATM/debit card worry-free. If you are travelling to another country, your bank will be able to tell you if your card will work at the ATM machines to dispense local currency, including if your PIN will be accepted. Also, indicate if you plan to use your debit card as a credit card if your card has that option. Your bank will advise you of any charges for each transaction as well. Leave a copy of your itinerary, hotel list (included in your tour documents bundle) and a contact number with a designated person in case an emergency comes up while you're away and someone needs to reach you. We recommend you leave a copy of your passport at home in a secure location and bring an additional copy with you as a precaution. During your flight, make sure to stand up and walk around as much as possible, and drink plenty of water. These simple suggestions will help you stay comfortable, particularly during long flights.

What's Included on Your Tour

At the beginning of your tour, the cruise company will provide you with a personal radio and headset. You should wear them on sightseeing tours to make sure you can hear your guides clearly at all times. Please bring them with you every day. You are responsible for returning these devices and will be charged a replacement fee should you fail to do so.

What's Included on Your Tour

Thank you for choosing to travel with us and allowing us to guide you along this adventure! From the moment you step out your door, we strive to provide a comprehensive, stress-free, and unforgettable travel experience. To that end, the following features are included with your tour: accommodations, cruise luggage handling (porterage), meals, admission to attractions as outlined in your itinerary, and gratuities for bellmen and wait staff. Please note customary gratuities for housekeeping, local guides, drivers and your Tour Manager are not included.

Wi-Fi on Tour

Wi-Fi access has improved, with free or cheap internet available in many public spaces. Some restaurants, cafes, and hotels offer complimentary Wi-Fi, though at times it may not reach rooms in hotels. Wi-Fi may not be available onboard motorcoaches or other modes of transportation used during your tour.
