

# Best of Holland



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## Day 1 | Welcome to Amsterdam



What better place to start your jaunt through the Netherlands than Amsterdam! Spend your day strolling through its pretty streets beside tree-lined canals, stopping to enjoy coffee and speculaas along the way. Join your Travel Director and fellow travellers this evening on a scenic canal cruise, including a light meal and welcome drinks, admiring the centuries-old gabled façades of canal houses.

**Meals:** Dinner

**Hotel:** Bilderberg Garden

## Day 2 | Explore Amsterdam's Art and Architecture



Delve into the Dutch Golden Age and its extraordinary art, architecture and history. Dive Into Culture and enjoy a Small Group Sightseeing tour of the Rijksmuseum, featuring the works of great Dutch masters, including Rembrandt's 'The Night Watch'. Spend the rest of the day exploring the city your way. Visit the floating flower market or stroll along the canals to admire Amsterdam's pretty gabled façades. This evening perhaps join an Optional Experience to enjoy a meal in the Dutch countryside.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Bilderberg Garden

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

**Hidden Amsterdam** - We'll pay a visit to The Royal Palace in Amsterdam with our Local Specialist. Built in 1648, it originally served as the Town Hall and is still in use by the Dutch Royal Family today. It has also been a Napoleonic Palace, before its current role. Its rich history and the interior of this magnificent building in the heart of Amsterdam make this a must see.

Adult: 56.00 EUR

**Van Loon Museum** - In the heart of the canal district lies Museum Van Loon, a magnificent private residence built in 1672. The former residence of the artist Ferdinand Bol, the 18th-century interior still evokes the splendour of the Golden Age. With our Local Specialist, we'll discover the large collection of paintings, fine furniture, precious silver and porcelain from several centuries. A short walking tour in the heart of the city gives a glimpse behind the façades of Amsterdam's world-famous canals and immerses you in an authentic Amsterdam experience.

Adult: 49.00 EUR

**Muiderslot, a Genuine Castle** - We'll take a short drive with our Local Specialist to the imposing Muiderslot Castle, for a real taste of Dutch history. It's part of Amsterdam's Defence Line and features on the UNESCO World Heritage List. During your guided tour through rooms refurbished in 17th-century style, it's easy to picture yourself in a Rembrandt painting, as it evokes the period when Pieter Corneliszoon Hooft, known as the "Dutch Shakespeare", occupied the castle. We'll also enjoy a garden tour and a refreshment in a typical Dutch Inn.

Adult: 65.00 EUR

**Monnickendam Dinner & Dutch Countryside** - A beautiful countryside drive brings us to historic Monnickendam, the small fishing village that was formerly a major Dutch port. A walk along the wonderful streets and past lovely gabled houses brings us to the town's former cheese weigh-house, now an atmospheric restaurant, for a delicious three-

course dinner with wine, beer and soft drinks.  
Adult: 68.00 EUR

### Day 3 | Journey to Aalsmeer/Keukenhof, The Hague and Rotterdam



We rise with the birds this morning to visit Aalsmeer and its vibrant flower auction, filled with the vividly-hued blooms for which Holland is so famous. Alternatively, during the flowering season (late March until mid-May), we'll enjoy an included visit to the tulip gardens of Keukenhof. The mesmerising sight of millions of flowering bulbs planted across 32 hectares will leave you awestruck. This afternoon, we travel via The Hague to the historic town of Delft and Dive Into Culture at the Royal Delft Pottery workshop where we'll gain insights into the production of this delicate hand-painted blue and white porcelain. We continue to edgy Rotterdam, which was rebuilt from the ground up after being destroyed during World War II. Your orientation tour will reveal an innovative city with architectural treasures worth capturing on camera and a vibrant multicultural scene around every turn.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Bilderberg Parkhotel

### Day 4 | Onwards to Arnhem and Oosterbeek



Enjoy a morning at leisure, or perhaps consider joining an Optional Experience to visit the UNESCO World Heritage-listed village of Kinderdijk, famous for its 19 monumental windmills. Later we travel east to Arnhem to see the John Frost Bridge, so named as a tribute to the commander of the British forces that held the bridge for four days with a mere 750 soldiers, during the World War II Battle of Arnhem. Learn about this famous battle, inspiration behind the film 'A Bridge Too Far', on an included visit to the Airborne Museum at Oosterbeek.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Hotel De Bilderberg.

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Kinderdijk Exploration and Boat Ride*** - Join us to discover the spectacular straight line of 19 working windmills at the Kinderdijk. Part of a UNESCO Cultural Heritage site and situated below sea-level, they were built around 1740 to pump water out of the reclaimed 'polder' lands. You'll also admire the classic Dutch landscape between the Rhine river branches of the delta, during a relaxing boat ride.

Adult: 44.00 EUR

## Day 5 | Off to Stunning Zwolle and Groningen



Today we head north to the beautiful Hanseatic city of Zwolle, where we'll join our Local Specialist for a walking tour through its historic centre. Later we continue to Groningen, where the rich history and peculiar dialect will certainly be a highlight for culture and history buffs alike. Dive Into Culture and explore this university city the way the locals do on a guided walk with a Local Specialist along its medieval canals and streets.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Leonardo Groningen

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Holland's Green Venice Unveiled*** - Join us on a visit to the charming village of Giethoorn, popularly known as 'Holland's Green Venice'. This village without roads is famous for having only waterways and quaint hump-backed bridges that lead to traditional thatched houses. Due to its unique qualities, Giethoorn was included on the World Edition of the Monopoly board game, sharing space with cities like Taipei, Montreal and Sydney. We'll explore the town by boat and then enjoy some typical Dutch specialties in a local cafe.

Adult: 56.00 EUR

## Day 6 | Venture to Volendam and Return to Amsterdam



Embark on a beautiful drive through Friesland en route to Volendam, a former fishing port on the edge of IJsselmeer. Dive Into Culture and learn about the craft of wooden clog making and Dutch cheese. Then meet Tom, miller of Katwoude, for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Visit the mill and learn about the important role the mill plays in managing rising water levels. This evening, enjoy a celebratory Be My Guest Farewell Dinner with the Pauw family as you connect with locals over a traditional Dutch meal.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Mercure City

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Discover the Zuiderzee*** - Step back in time to experience what life was like a century ago on the shores of the historic Zuiderzee, or 'Southern Sea'. Stroll along cobbled alleys past authentic houses, shops and workshops, with craftsmen and artisans at work and 19th century 'locals' going about everyday life. See, hear, feel and taste everyday life as it was before the Great Barrier Dam turned this former inland sea into a freshwater lake in 1932.

Adult: 43.00 EUR



## Day 7 | Farewell Amsterdam



For now we say a fond tot ziens to Amsterdam and our newfound friends, closing the door on a memorable Dutch experience.

**Meals:** Breakfast