

# Holland & Belgium in Bloom Emerald Waterways

By

Hank Schrader

Europe River Cruise Expert

# Map from Emerald Waterways



# Your Cruise Includes:

- 7 nights on board an Emerald Cruises Star-Ship
- Airport transfers to and from your Star-Ship
- The services of an Emerald Cruises cruise director
- Port taxes and charges
- All tipping and gratuities

# Included Excursions:

- Tour to Zaanse Schans windmills
- Guided tour to the Hague & a visit to Mauritshuis
- Guided walking tour of Antwerp
- Visit to Paleis Het Loo
- Visit to Keukenhof Gardens

# EmeraldPLUS

- Clog Painting on board
- Architectural tour of Rotterdam

# EmeraldACTIVE

- Guided bike tour to Waterland
- Guided bike tour in Willemstad
- Guided bike tour of Arnhem

# Dining Highlights:

- 20 delectable meals including 7 breakfasts (B), 6 lunches (L), 7 dinners (D)
- Including a Welcome and Farewell Reception & Dinner
- Complimentary wine, beer and soft drinks served with lunch and dinner on board

# Day 1 - Amsterdam

- Welcome to Amsterdam, where you'll be greeted by one of our Emerald Cruises representatives and transferred to your contemporary Emerald Cruises Star-Ship.
- **Meals Included:** Dinner



# Day 2 - Amsterdam – Zaanse Schans

- This morning, you will have the opportunity to visit one of Holland's main attractions as you venture to Zaanse Schans.
- Historic windmills, distinctive wooden houses, and artisan workshops make up this quintessentially Dutch town, where the smell of freshly baked goods and the sight of spinning windmills offers a truly memorable experience.
- Alternatively, enjoy a guided bike tour to Waterland, passing picturesque scenery and iconic fields of tulips.
- Relax on board your Star-Ship this afternoon, as we welcome a local clog painter on board for a demonstration. As part of our EmeraldPLUS program, you'll have the opportunity to try your hand at this unique craft.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Clog painting on board
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour to Waterland
- **Included Excursion**
- Tour to Zaanse Schans windmills
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Visit to the flower auction at Royal FloraHolland in Aalsmeer (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 3 - Rotterdam

- Rotterdam is a unique example of a Dutch city.
- Following the air raids of WWII, reconstruction efforts utilized a patchwork of architectural styles, forever altering the skyline.
- Today, you'll have the opportunity to explore this contemporary city, which currently boasts the tallest commercial and residential buildings in the Netherlands.
- The reputation as the city of high rises has historical roots, beginning with the construction of the 45-metre-high office building, the Witte Huis, which, for quite some time, was the tallest office building in Europe.
- **EmeraldPLUS**
- Architectural tour of Rotterdam
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Cycling and tasting tour of Rotterdam
- **DiscoverMORE**
- Visit to Delft pottery factory (extra expense)
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 4 - The Hague

- Today, you will visit the royal and administrative capital of the Netherlands, the Hague.
- Situated on the North Sea coast, the city is home to a thriving cultural and culinary scene, a lengthy coastline, and several historical monuments.
- It's also famously home to the Peace Palace housing the United Nations International Court of Justice, sometimes known as the World Court.
- Within your guided tour, you'll visit the beautiful Mauritshuis museum, home to the best of Dutch painting from the age of Rembrandt and Vermeer.
- In the afternoon, those feeling more active can enjoy a guided bike tour through the Dutch countryside.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour
- **Included Excursion**
- Visit to Mauritshuis & orientation walk in the Hague
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## Day 5 - Antwerp

- This morning, you'll arrive in Belgium's largest port, Antwerp.
- Located on the River Scheldt, the city's large harbor provides a link to the sea.
- Home to the famous Baroque artist Pieter Paul Rubens, Antwerp attracts art-lovers from all over the world.
- Enjoy a guided tour of the city center, with its café-lined cobbled lanes.
- Admire the Renaissance city hall and Hat Steen, a medieval fortress that was built during the early Middle Ages and one of the oldest buildings in Belgium.
- Afterwards, enjoy free time to explore Antwerp at your leisure.
- **Included Excursion**
- Walking tour of Antwerp
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Antwerp, Hat Steen Belgium Castle





# Antwerp, Belgium Town Hall in the Grote Markt



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

**Barbo statue.** According to the legend, a terrible giant, called Druoon Antigoon, lived on the banks of the river Scheldt. He demand tolls, when refused he cut off the hands of offending sailors. A Roman soldier, Silvius Brabo, killed the giant and by cutting his hand off, he ended his reign of terror.





# Antwerp, Belgium Guild Houses

Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)





# Antwerp Belgium Waffles



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Shop



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Display



# Day 6 - Arnhem

- Relax in the comfortable surrounds of your Star-Ship this morning as you sail along the Dutch waterways, passing quaint, time-honored villages.
- Visit the Paleis Het Loo, which once served as the summer residence of the Dutch royal family.
- Today, the palace stands as a magnificent museum.
- The palace's decorations and its gardens are bound to stun.
- Alternatively, embark on a guided bike tour of Arnhem, famous for its postcard-worthy streets, scenic parks, and fine museums.
- **EmeraldACTIVE**
- Guided bike tour
- **Included Excursion**
- Visit to Paleis Het Loo
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

# Day 7 - Amsterdam

- Experience traditional Holland today during a visit to the beloved Keukenhof Gardens.
- Nestled in the middle of the region's tulip farms, where row-upon-row of technicolor flowers stretch as far as the eye can see, the gardens boast incredible displays of millions of bulb varieties, all perfectly assembled by an expert landscape architect.
- **Included Excursion**
- Visit to Keukenhof Gardens
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



# Keukenhof Gardens



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Keukenhof Gardens



Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Keukenhof Gardens



Photo Anne Schrader

[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Keukenhof Gardens



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Keukenhof Gardens



Photo Anne Schrader [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)



# Keukenhof Gardens



Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)





# Keukenhof Gardens

Photo Anne Schrader  
[www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

## Day 8 - Amsterdam

- After breakfast, it's time to bid farewell to your fellow guests as you disembark your Star-Ship for your transfer to the airport, taking memories of wooden windmills and blossoming flowers with you.
- This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions for further information.
- **Meals Included:** Breakfast

# Visit Dream Destinations

## *Your Journey Begins Here!*

*Dream Destinations*



*Your journey begins here!*

- **We want to be your travel consultants!**
- **Please contact us at:**
- [aschrader@dreamdestinations.com](mailto:aschrader@dreamdestinations.com) or
- [hschrader@dreamdestinations.com](mailto:hschrader@dreamdestinations.com) or
- [hschrader@visitdd.com](mailto:hschrader@visitdd.com)
- Call us at:
- 832-244-0215 (Anne cell); 713-397-0188 (Hank Cell)
- Or visit at [www.dreamdestinations.com](http://www.dreamdestinations.com)

**Let Us Plan your next vacation!**

Call Hank (713-397-0188) or  
Anne (832-244-0215)

