

Tulip Time in Holland and Belgium

Avalon Waterways

By

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Europe River Cruise Expert

Map From Avalon



Overview

- If you've dreamed of a view filled with windmills and blooming fields of color in Holland and Belgium, it all comes true on your European river cruise from Amsterdam to Brussels!
- Cruise on the Rhine River to visit Nijmegen—the oldest city in the Netherlands. Choose a visit to Arnhem's WWII Airborne Museum or a bike ride. In Maastricht, tour the old cobblestoned university town.

On to Belgium for a sightseeing tour of medieval Namur and free time to browse its ancient architecture, charming cafes, and bookshops.

- In Liège, see the ancient quarters of the “Fiery City” as well as its romantic streets, steps, and tiny alleyways.
- Next, you'll explore the city of Antwerp—birthplace of the master painter Pieter Paul Rubens. Stroll its cobbled lanes amid 16th-century guildhall houses and the cathedral's stunning altarpiece paintings by the famous artist on your guided tour of the diamond capital.
- In Brussels, you'll find landmark buildings of Town Hall with a collection of cafes and shops on the Lower Town streets on your guided tour.
- This river cruise through Holland and Belgium will bloom in your memory for seasons to come!

Day 1 Amsterdam

- Welcome to Holland. Your Suite Ship® is Ready for Boarding. Flights into Amsterdam must arrive by 2 pm. Guests must be on board ship by 5 pm.
- Your day in Amsterdam is free to explore at your leisure.
- Optional Tours
- You may take a Guided Optional Excursion to Keukenhof gardens— with more than seven million tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths, as well as other bulbs, planted each year.
- **Medieval Muiderslot Castle**
- From Golden Age paintings to 13th-century arms and armor, discover the wonders of Muiderslot Castle, one of Holland's most beautiful medieval castle fortresses, on this captivating half-day guided tour.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO NIJMEGEN

Keukenhof Gardens



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Day 2 Nijmegen

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore the beautiful landscape of lush fields and blue water on a bike ride through The Ooijpolder Nature Reserve, OR:
- **DISCOVERY EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Nijmegen— the oldest town in the Netherlands. Learn how this city was first built more than 2,000 years ago by the Romans and see the archaeological Roman-era ruins in the city that was also damaged in WWII, OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of the Airborne Museum of Hartenstein commemorating the 1944 WWII Battle of Arnhem.
- **Optional Tour (Extra Cost)**
- **Nijmegen Brewery Tour**
- Go behind the scenes on a guided tour and tasting in the oldest craft beer brewery in the Netherlands.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO MAASTRICH**

Nijmegen Cobblestone Street



Photo Anne Schrader
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Nijmegen Town Hall & Grote Markt



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Nijmegen Grote Markt Tunnel Entrance



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Nijmegen St. Stephens Church



Photo Anne Schrader
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Cheese Store Nijmegen



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Airborne Museum



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Airborne Museum



Airborne Museum



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Day 3 Maastricht

- Enjoy an early morning sailing to Maastricht.
- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Maastricht's charm awaits, Follow your Adventure Host for a walk in this lovely town., OR:
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Discover this vibrant university town with its lovely cathedrals, old houses, and historical buildings, and impressively cobblestoned town center.
- Later enjoy live entertainment on board.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO NAMUR**

Day 4 Namur Belgium

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Namur's countryside by bike with your Adventure Host, (Extra Cost):
- **Biking in Namur with your Adventure Host**
- Explore Namur's countryside by bike with your Adventure Host.
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of the picturesque old-town, fortress citadel, and medieval architecture.
- **EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO LIÈGE**

Day 5 Liège

- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Sightseeing Tour of the “Fiery City” of Liège with its beautiful ancient quarters, peculiar alleys, and romantic streets. Don’t miss sampling authentically sweet Liège Waffles.
- Optional Tour (Extra Cost):
- **Chateau Modave - Hidden Gem in the Belgian Ardennes**
- Explore the majestic, 13th-century Château de Modave, Belgium's famed "Little Versailles", on this enjoyable excursion into the Hoyoux River Valley.
- EVENING/OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO ANTWERP

Day 6 Antwerp

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** Explore Antwerp by bike with your Adventure Host, OR:

Optional Tour (Extra Cost)

- **Biking in Antwerp with your Adventure Host**
- Explore Antwerp by bike with your Adventure Host.
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Take a Guided Tour of this sophisticated city to visit the central Grote Markt, lined with 16th-century guildhall houses. You'll also see the beautiful city hall, the Cathedral of Our Lady with its stunning altarpiece paintings by Rubens.
- Enjoy cocktail or coffee aboard your ship as you sail to Brussels this afternoon.
- Later, enjoy dinner and live entertainment.
- **OVERNIGHT CRUISE TO BRUSSELS**

Antwerp, Belgium Castle

Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com



Antwerp, Belgium Town Hall in the Grote Markt



Photo Anne Schrader 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



Antwerp Belgium Waffles (Optional)



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Shop



Photo Anne Schrader www.dreamdestinations.com

Antwerp, Belgium Chocolate Display



Day 7 Brussels

- **ACTIVE EXCURSION:** See Brussel's Aquaculture farm on bike with your Adventure Host, OR
- 2 Optional Tours (Extra Cost):
- **Biking in Brussels with your Adventure Host**
- See Brussel's Aquaculture farm on bike with your Adventure Host.
- **Charms of Mechelen with Canal Cruise**
- Experience the impressive highlights of Mechelen, named a top European City of the Future by the Financial Times, on this half-day guided walk featuring a cruise along the scenic canals!
- **CLASSIC EXCURSION:** Join a Guided Tour of Brussels, see the Town Hall with its landmark buildings and discover the many local bars, cafés and shops of the Lower Town Streets.
- The afternoon is free to explore Brussels at your pace.
- **OVERNIGHT DOCKING IN BRUSSELS**

Brussels Grand Place

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Market Square

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Municipal Museum in King's House



Brussels Mannekan Pis



Day 8 Brussels

- Your cruise ends with breakfast this morning.

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