

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S TRAVEL PROGRAM



Smithsonian JOURNEYS

DUTCH & FLEMISH LANDSCAPES

A LUXURY CRUISE TO HOLLAND & BELGIUM ABOARD M.S. *AMALYRA*

APRIL 13-23, 2013



INSPIRING GENERATIONS *through* KNOWLEDGE AND DISCOVERY

FEATURING AN OPTIONAL PRELUDE TO BRUSSELS

SmithsonianJourneys.org ■ 1-877-338-8687



Dear Smithsonian Traveler:

In Holland, one of Europe's great treasure houses of art and architecture, spring is heralded by daffodils and tulips — flowers that appear in the still-life paintings of the Dutch Golden Age. We cordially invite you to join us on a voyage along Dutch and Belgian waterways that promises to be a rich tapestry of art and gardens.

Begin with two days in The Hague, where we will see an outstanding collection of modern art at the Gemeente Museum. Visual delights await us at the famed Keukenhof Gardens and in the charming town of Haarlem, where we will view works by Frans Hals at the museum that bears his name.

Embark the elegant M.S. *AmaLyra* for a seven-night river cruise. Step ashore in Rotterdam to admire its contemporary architecture, and explore Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. See Zeeland, a region of dikes and neatly kept farms, and a collection of 16th-century tapestries at Middelburg's Zeeuws Museum. In Ghent, visit the Cathedral of St. Bavo with its greatest treasure, the Van Eyck brothers' Ghent Altarpiece. Travel to Bruges, where the Early Netherlandish master Hans Memling lived and worked. Then cruise on to Antwerp to discover the 17th-century house of the great Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens. From Arnhem, drive through the lovely countryside to spend an afternoon at the Kröller-Müller Museum. We conclude in Amsterdam with a visit to the Rijksmuseum.

Enriching our journey will be commentary on important places and painters in Holland and Belgium by Inés Powell, a popular lecturer at The Metropolitan Museum of Art for more than thirty years. We will also enjoy a chamber music concert aboard *AmaLyra* by one of Europe's exciting quartets.

For those who wish to explore cosmopolitan Brussels, the center of the most splendid court in 15th-century Europe, an optional prelude is offered.

We will travel in the congenial company of members of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Harvard Alumni Association. Please join us next spring when the cities and villages of Belgium and Holland come alive with floral displays.

Sincerely,

Amy Kotkin
Director

P.S. Book early to ensure your preferred cabin at SmithsonianJourneys.org or call toll free at 1-877-338-8687.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Immerse yourself in the rich art history and cultural traditions of Belgium and Holland.
- Stroll in Keukenhof Gardens, where a million flowering bulbs create a vast carpet of brilliant color.
- Enjoy a seven-night river cruise aboard the elegant M.S. *AmaLyra*.
- Listen to an onboard concert by one of Europe's exciting quartets.
- View the 15th-century Ghent Altarpiece by the Van Eyck brothers at St. Bavo's Cathedral.
- Savor a gourmet lunch at the Duc de Bourgogne, overlooking the canals of Bruges.
- Experience the Kröller-Müller Museum, a treasure trove of modern art with a fine sculpture park.

EXTRAORDINARY SPEAKER

Inés Powell was still in graduate school at the Institute of Fine Arts in 1981, when she conducted her first Gallery Talk at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Since then, Inés has developed a particular passion for teaching art history, and her entertaining talks at the Met have gained a large following of regular attendees. While her field of specialization is Seventeenth-Century European Painting, Inés frequently speaks about different areas of the Met's collection and on special exhibitions.

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April 13–23, 2013

NEW YORK

Saturday, April 13 Depart New York on an overnight flight to Amsterdam.

AMSTERDAM ■ THE HAGUE, HOLLAND

Sunday, April 14 Upon arrival this morning, drive to The Hague and the elegant Hotel Des Indes, where we will stay for two nights. A short introduction to this historic city, seat of the Dutch government and residence of the Queen, includes the Parliament and royal structures. Gather at the hotel for a festive welcome reception and dinner.



Amsterdam canal.

THE HAGUE

Monday, April 15 Following a morning lecture, view the *Panorama Mesdag*, an enormous circular canvas depicting the fashionable seaside resort Scheveningen as it looked in the 1880s. Drive to the famed Keukenhof Gardens for a stroll through this breathtaking park, where more than a million flowering bulbs create a vast carpet of color. Dinner this evening is at a restaurant in The Hague.

THE HAGUE ■ HAARLEM, HOLLAND ■ M.S. AMALYRA

Tuesday, April 16 At the Gemeente Museum, tour the outstanding collection of modern art, including a significant number of paintings by the Dutch artist Mondrian, as well as



Cube Houses by Piet Blom, Rotterdam.

highlights from the Mauritshuis Museum during its closure for renovation. Continue to the charming town of Haarlem and visit the Frans Hals Museum. At teatime, board the M.S. *AmaLyra* in Amsterdam for our seven-night cruise. Gather this evening for the captain's welcome reception and dinner.

ROTTERDAM ■ DELFT, HOLLAND

Wednesday, April 17 Step ashore in Rotterdam, largely rebuilt after World War II and justly famous for its cutting-edge architecture. A morning architectural tour takes us past buildings by Renzo Piano, Piet Blom, and Rem Koolhaas. Then visit the Boijmans Van Beuningen Museum, showcasing works by Rembrandt, Rubens, and Van Gogh. Alternatively, you may wish to discover the nineteen perfectly aligned Windmills of Kinderdijk. After lunch, travel to Delft, birthplace of Vermeer. Admire the vibrant market square, tree-lined canals, and gabled homes before a visit to the Lambert van Meerten Museum with its priceless Dutch tiles and early Delft pottery. Rejoin the ship in time for dinner.



Keukenhof Gardens.

Book Today! Call toll-free 1-877-338-8687 or visit SmithsonianJourneys.org



Rubens House, Antwerp.

MIDDELBURG, HOLLAND ■ GHENT, BELGIUM

Thursday, April 18 Arrive this morning in Zeeland, a region of dikes and neatly kept farms that is mostly below sea level. Early risers may wish to take a horse-drawn carriage ride through the quaint village of Veere. In Middelburg, with its charming houses and 15th-century town hall, a visit to the Zeeuws Museum highlights its unique collection of 16th-century tapestries. In the afternoon cruise to Ghent, where we will visit the magnificent Cathedral of St. Bavo to see the 15th-century *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* (Ghent Altarpiece) by the Van Eyck brothers.

BRUGES, BELGIUM

Friday, April 19 Bruges, which is our focus today, is a medieval gem laced with canals and gardens. Visit the Cathedral of Our Lady with its celebrated *Madonna* by Michelangelo and view the collections at the Hans Memling Museum, housed in the Hospice of St. John. After lunch at Duc de Bourgogne, which overlooks the waterways, tour the Groeninge Museum and stroll in this enchanting town. This evening, attend a special onboard concert of chamber music performed by one of Europe's exciting quartets.



The Sower by Van Gogh, the Kröller-Müller Museum.

ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Saturday, April 20 This morning in Antwerp, visit the 17th-century Rubens House and the cathedral, where the painter's justly famous *Descent from the Cross* is on display. After lunch, you may wish to see the Plantin-Moretus House, the 16th-century home and workshop of a great printing family with a Renaissance garden. Later this afternoon, enjoy a cruise through the lovely countryside of central Holland.



The Jewish Bride (1665) by Rembrandt, the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam.

ARNHEM, HOLLAND

Sunday, April 21 From Arnhem, remembered for its World War II battles, drive into the Hoge Veluwe National Park, whose moors, forests, and open fields are often depicted in Van Gogh's drawings and paintings. Experience the Kröller-Müller Museum, a treasure house of modern art with a sculpture park that the late art critic John Russell called "the best of its kind in the world." Celebrate a memorable voyage at a farewell dinner hosted by the captain.

AMSTERDAM

Monday, April 22 Be on deck this morning as we cruise into Amsterdam, passing gabled houses and mansions. Board a canal boat for an architectural tour of the city. Then discover the Rijksmuseum, the State Treasury of Dutch paintings. During an afternoon at leisure, you may wish to visit the Hermitage Amsterdam or stroll to the Singel, site of a colorful floating flower market.

AMSTERDAM ■ DISEMBARK AMALYRA ■ NEW YORK

Tuesday, April 23 Disembark in the morning and transfer to the airport for the flight home, arriving in the afternoon. ■

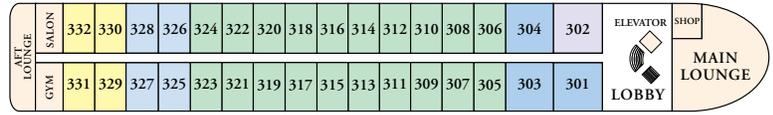


The Amalyra (top), the dining room (center), and a stateroom on Violin Deck (bottom).

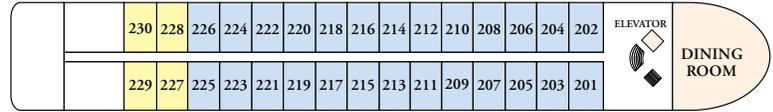
Cruise the waterways of Holland and Belgium aboard the elegant M.S. *AmaLyra*, christened in 2009. From her sun deck, enjoy a panorama of some of Europe's loveliest scenery. Relax in the two lounges and experience fine international cuisine in the dining room. The ship also features an elevator, whirlpool, wellness area, and bicycles for your use ashore. Retire each evening to your spacious and well-appointed cabin. All accommodations have air-conditioning and an entertainment system with television and Internet access. Staterooms on Violin and Cello Decks boast floor-to-ceiling French doors.

M.S. AMALYRA

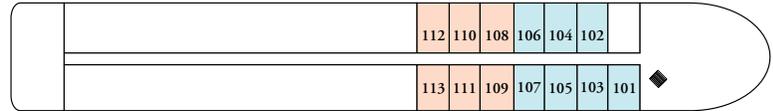
VIOLIN DECK



CELLO DECK



PIANO DECK



LAND | CRUISE RATES (Per Person, Double Occupancy)

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| 108 to 113 | Piano Deck | \$4,995 |
| 101 to 107 | Piano Deck | \$5,295 |
| 227 to 230 & 329 to 332 | Cello & Violin Decks | \$6,695 |
| 201 to 226 & 325 to 328 | Cello & Violin Decks | \$7,895 |
| 305 to 324 | Violin Deck | \$8,995 |
| 302 | Violin Deck | \$9,195 |
| 301, 303 & 304 | Violin Deck | \$9,495 |

Single supplement of \$395 for accommodations on Piano and Cello Decks.

RATES INCLUDE

- Two nights accommodations at the Hotel Des Indes, The Hague
- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard M.S. *AmaLyra*
- All meals during the cruise. On land portion: breakfast daily and two dinners. Wine with dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and special events
- Escorted sightseeing by motorcoach and entrance fees for visits
- Airport / hotel / pier group transfers and portage
- Taxes, service, and port charges; gratuities to guides and drivers

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES Airfare; passport fees; customary shipboard gratuities; alcoholic beverages other than wine at dinners; personal items and expenses; airport transfers for those not on group flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; trip insurance; optional prelude in Brussels; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

PRELUDE IN BRUSSELS \$1,975 per person. Single supplement \$415. Includes three nights at the Hotel Amigo; breakfast daily, one lunch, and two dinners; sightseeing as noted.

Full terms and conditions for this tour are available on our website, SmithsonianJourneys.org

OPTIONAL PRELUDE IN BRUSSELS

April 10–14, 2013

\$1,975 per person, double occupancy.
Single supplement \$415.

Enjoy three nights at the five-star Hotel Amigo, well located just off the Grand Place. At the Museum of Fine Arts, view one of the world's finest collections of Flemish paintings; and at the Musée René Magritte, see more than 200 works by Belgium's iconic Surrealist painter. We are invited for a special visit to the David and Alice van Buuren House, with wonderful Art Deco interiors, an impressive collection of 15th- to 20th-century paintings, and lovely gardens designed by René Péchère. A highlight is a private visit to the landmark Hotel Sôlvay, a restored Art Nouveau home designed by Victor Horta. ■



Art Deco interior of the David and Alice van Buuren House.

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