

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S TRAVEL PROGRAM



# Smithsonian JOURNEYS

## WATERWAYS OF HOLLAND • BELGIUM

*ABOARD THE DELUXE M.S. AMADOLCE*

APRIL 27-MAY 5, 2014



INSPIRING GENERATIONS *through* KNOWLEDGE AND DISCOVERY

**Early Booking Savings**

**Reserve by September 23, 2013 ■ Save \$2,000 Per Couple**

**SMITHSONIANJOURNEYS.ORG ■ 1-877-338-8687**

# Smithsonian JOURNEYS

Dear Smithsonian Traveler,

“God created the Heavens and the Earth, but the Dutch created Holland,” according to an old proverb. Indeed, not only did they wrest half their land from the sea, but they succeeded in building upon it an enchanted realm carpeted with flowers and lined with storied waterways unparalleled anywhere else in the world.

Come celebrate the beauty of Holland and Belgium in springtime, the optimal season for this comprehensive itinerary, where you will discover the true essence of river life in the Low Countries with an included excursion in every port. See firsthand this sublime region’s breathtaking tulip fields in full bloom and visit the engineering marvel of the Delta Works, where a complex series of dikes pushes back the North Sea. Our expert-guided tours explore three UNESCO World Heritage sites—Amsterdam’s distinctive 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>-century house-lined canals, the historic windmills of Kinderdijk and a full day in the well-preserved, medieval jewel of Bruges. Discover the rich histories and artistic legacies of the world-class Rijksmuseum and Kröller-Müller Museum and enjoy enriching lectures and the exclusive VILLAGE FORUM®, featuring local residents’ personal perspectives that provide an insider’s view of modern life and cultural heritage in Holland.

The **deluxe**, state-of-the-art M.S. AMADOLCE, one of the premier AmaWaterways ships, provides the best of **Five-Star accommodations** while cruising the canals of this delightful polder land.

Waterways of Holland and Belgium is a popular travel program and an excellent value—it includes all accommodations, meals, specially arranged excursions and exclusive CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS. You will want family and friends to join you on this tour; book now to participate in Early Booking Savings.

Sincerely,

Amy Kotkin  
Director

P.S. Space for this exclusive cruise will sell out quickly, so I encourage you to book now!

## Our Smithsonian Expert Valerie Hedquist

Valerie Hedquist is an associate professor of art history at the University of Montana. She earned her Ph.D. with honors



at the University of Kansas and has been teaching and writing for over 20 years. As a Fulbright Scholar, Hedquist researched the religious art of the Dutch 17<sup>th</sup>-century in Utrecht. During her academic life, she has continued to explore and teach the art and architecture of the Netherlands, where she has traveled with students and pursued additional scholarly work, most recently on the Plague. In addition to publications and presentations on the religious paintings of Vermeer and Rembrandt, Hedquist has written reviews and catalogue essays for museum exhibitions, broadcast radio programs, and presented papers to local, regional, and international meetings on Dutch themes. Since her first visit to the Ghent Altarpiece in 1975, she has returned to the Low Countries whenever she can to enjoy *frites* and *fietzen*—French fries and cycling.

**Book Now to  
Save \$2,000 per couple!  
Toll-free 1-877-338-8687  
SmithsonianJourneys.org**



At the heart of the newly renovated Rijksmuseum is Rembrandt’s *The Night Watch*, painted in 1642 at the height of the Dutch Golden Age.

## RIVER LIFE®

along the

# Waterways of Holland ♦ Belgium



Experience firsthand the true character and traditions of Holland and Belgium's great waterways during this comprehensive *vaart* (cruise) featuring Amsterdam and the medieval cities of Bruges and Antwerp, and the charming and historic towns of Volendam and Nijmegen. Enjoy an enriching travel experience like no other, including a specially designed excursion in every port and all accommodations and meals—an excellent value. Interact with local people and experience the rhythm of daily life in the Low Countries; explore the history and culture, art, language and cuisine; and unpack just once! This popular program is one of the VILLAGE LIFE® series that immerses you in a comprehensive and intimate travel experience at just the right pace.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS are specially arranged and available on this custom-designed itinerary:

- ♦ **Hear it from the Experts!** Guest lecturers and experienced, English-speaking local guides will accompany you throughout the program and discuss historical, cultural and contemporary Holland.
- ♦ **Engage** local Dutch *plaatselijke* (residents) during the VILLAGE FORUM® where they share their candid perspectives on daily life in Holland.
- ♦ **Meet the *molenaar*** (miller) of Kinderdijk who provides an insider's look at Holland's most famous windmills.
- ♦ **Explore** the wonders of Keukenhof Gardens; the world-famous artistic heritage of the Rijksmuseum and the marvelous medieval architecture of Amsterdam and Bruges.
- ♦ **Learn key phrases** and pronunciation to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.
- ♦ **Enjoy time on your own**—stroll along the charming boulevards of Antwerp, sample authentic Belgian chocolates made by hand in Bruges and observe the rhythms of life in Amsterdam's Dam Square.



Tour 18<sup>th</sup>-century windmills, the perfect examples of innovative Dutch engineering, at Kinderdijk.  
Inset above right: Cheese porters move sleds of Gouda through a traditional Dutch cheese market.

## ITINERARY

### Day

AMSTERDAM® PRE-CRUISE OPTION

- 1 Depart from the U.S.
- 2 AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS (D)
  - ◆ Private cruise of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Canal Ring®.
  - Embark m.s. AMADOLCE.
- 3 AMSTERDAM/VOLENDAM (B,L,D)
  - ◆ Volendam walking tour.
  - CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
    - ◆ Rijksmuseum guided tour.
    - ◆ Exclusive VILLAGE FORUM®.
- 4 ARNHEM/NIJMEGEN (B,L,D)
  - ◆ Walking tour of Nijmegen.
  - CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS:
    - ◆ Kröller-Müller Museum guided tour.
- 5 ANTWERP, BELGIUM (B,L,D)
  - ◆ City tour featuring masterpieces by Peter Paul Rubens.
- 6 GHENT/BRUGES® (B,L,D)
  - ◆ Walking tour of Bruges.
  - ◆ Private cruise of Bruges' canals.
- 7 WILLEMSTAD/KINDERDIJK® (B,L,R,D)
  - ◆ Tour of the amazing Delta Works.
  - ◆ Visit the windmills of Kinderdijk.
  - CULTURAL ENRICHMENT:
    - ◆ Meet Kinderdijk's *molenaar*.
- 8 UTRECHT/AMSTERDAM (B,L,D)
  - ◆ Visit Keukenhof Gardens.
- 9 AMSTERDAM (B)
  - Disembark ship.
  - Return to the U.S.



## Amsterdam, The Netherlands

A private canal cruise offers a unique firsthand look at the integral role waterways have played for centuries in the life of this city. Amsterdam's canal district, a UNESCO World Heritage site ringed by concentric canals lined with 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>-century merchant row houses, charming houseboats and world-renowned museums, is brimming with history and artistic wealth. Enjoy a guided tour of the Rijksmuseum's prestigious collection of Dutch master paintings.

## Volendam

Quaint 18<sup>th</sup>-century houses, historic canals and a picturesque waterfront typify the beauty and charm of the Dutch fishing port of Volendam, where many residents still don the traditional dress of the region. Built along the top of a dike, the village's



On your canal cruise of UNESCO-designated Bruges, discover the city's medieval architecture and look for the landmark 13<sup>th</sup>-century belfry, which houses a 48-bell carillon and employs a full-time carillonneur to play it.



*Ghent's historic inner city offers a superb collection of medieval façades along winding, picturesque canals.*

primary thoroughfare is lined with colorful cafés and purveyors of fresh fish, handmade cheeses and a myriad of traditional crafts.

## Kröller-Müller Museum

Located in the picturesque De Hoge Veluwe, The Netherlands' largest national park, the world-class Kröller-Müller Museum is lauded for its chronological collection of Van Gogh's masterpieces. The museum also exhibits works by Picasso, Renoir and Manet as well as captivating late 19<sup>th</sup>- to 21<sup>st</sup>-century sculptures in its unique 60-acre garden.

## Nijmegen

Scenic Nijmegen is widely regarded as the oldest city in The Netherlands and was settled in the first century B.C. The Valkhof Hill downtown features an impressive ninth-century Carolingian chapel overlooking the River Waal. Among the well-preserved historic buildings are the 15<sup>th</sup>-century town hall and Latin school, the 16<sup>th</sup>-century, Renaissance-style *Waag* (weighing hall) and a series of quaint 17<sup>th</sup>-century houses.

## Antwerp, Belgium

Antwerp preserves its Flemish culture and charm in its Old Town. A labyrinth of squares and narrow passages leads into the spectacular Grote Markt, where beautifully preserved guildhalls once bustled with Antwerp's 17<sup>th</sup>-century merchants and tradesmen. In the Cathedral of Our Lady, the pride of Belgium with a remarkable 49-bell carillon and soaring 404-foot, delicately ornamented spire, you will see the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Baroque masterpieces of the city's native son, Peter Paul Rubens' paintings of the *Assumption of the Virgin Mary*, *The Raising of the Cross* and *The Descent from the Cross*.

## Bruges

Timeless Bruges is a UNESCO World Heritage site of treasured architecture, virtually untouched since the 15<sup>th</sup> century and one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. It is built around a double ring of picturesque canals and connected by charming arched foot bridges. From the Market Square to the Chapel of the Holy Blood, see Bruges' magnificent, deftly crafted stone guildhalls and opulent churches from the very best perspective—aboard your private canal cruise.

## The Delta Works

In the southern Netherlands, see one of the most impressive feats of hydraulic engineering in the world, the famous Delta Works. Developed over the past 60-plus years, this vast and complex system of locks, sluices, channels, bridges, slides and storm-surge barriers was built to protect the southwestern Netherlands from the encroaching North Sea and to reclaim polder lands, otherwise below sea level.

## Kinderdijk

A national monument and a UNESCO World Heritage site, Holland's greatest concentration of traditional windmills provides an opportunity to see firsthand the internal workings of an authentic windmill. Little has changed here since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, when 19 tall, wooden windmills were erected side by side at Kinderdijk to drain the Alblasserwaard, one of many regions in The Netherlands located below sea level. Though no longer used to monitor water levels, the windmills are still one of Holland's most picturesque sights and represent examples of the exceptionally advanced achievements of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch engineering.



*Step back in time in the charming port of Volendam, a traditional Dutch fishing village.*



## M.S. AMADOLCE

The deluxe M.S. AMADOLCE sets a new standard in European river cruising and offers grand comfort and style while providing the finest onboard service of any river cruise line.

All of the staterooms are deluxe river-view accommodations with private bathroom; most feature a French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors with iron railings).

Each stateroom is appointed

with the fine amenities of a deluxe hotel including plush bedding and bathrobes, individual temperature control, the most comprehensive “Infotainment” system in the industry, a computer and complimentary high speed Wi-Fi Internet access (also available throughout the vessel), a safe and hair dryer. Complimentary bottled water is replenished daily in your stateroom.

The M.S. AMADOLCE’s dining room accommodates all guests in a single, unassigned seating. Chaîne des Rôtisseurs menus feature regional cuisine prepared with fresh meat, cheese and produce. Buffet breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and a four-course dinner are served daily. Complimentary house wines produced by local vintners are served with lunch and dinner. Coffee and tea are available 24 hours.

There is a tastefully appointed, spacious Main Lounge with floor-to-ceiling windows, a bar, a quieter Aft Lounge, an expansive Sun Deck with lower Sun Deck and teak Front Deck, elevator, a whirlpool, a massage and beauty salon and a spa and fitness center. Performers come onboard to provide evening entertainment.

Bicycles are available on board free of charge when the ship is in port for passengers to ride along riverside paths. Audio headsets are provided during excursions.



*Standard Stateroom*

## Amsterdam Pre-Cruise Option

The historic heart of Amsterdam, laced with tree-shaded canals and stately 16<sup>th</sup>- and 17<sup>th</sup>-century merchant houses, is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, and is the perfect prelude to your cruise.

A guided city tour acquaints you with its landmarks and famous monuments. Walk through Jordaan, the most picturesque neighborhood in Amsterdam and a center for art, music and antiques; and visit the impressive Anne Frank House museum. Enjoy time at leisure in this city known for its vibrant culture and friendly people.

**Five-Star accommodations** for two nights are in the RENAISSANCE AMSTERDAM HOTEL.



*Pre-Cruise Option is available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

## What Is Included:

- ◆ Seven-night cruise aboard the deluxe M.S. AMADOLCE.
- ◆ Expertise of a Study Leader, Program Director and local guides throughout the tour.
- ◆ All accommodations (based on double occupancy).
- ◆ Meals, including special Farewell Reception, as noted in the itinerary.
- ◆ Complimentary house wine is served with lunch and dinner and complimentary bottled water is replenished daily in your stateroom.
- ◆ All sightseeing, visits and exclusive CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS as noted in the itinerary.
- ◆ Pre-tour information including a reading list.
- ◆ Gratuities to guides and drivers.
- ◆ All on-tour transportation unless otherwise noted.
- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for all participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Emergency evacuation insurance (up to \$50,000) and access to emergency assistance service.

## What is Not Included

- ◆ Taxes and passport fees.
- ◆ Personal items such as wines, liquors, à la carte orders, meals other than specified.
- ◆ Gratuities to ship and hotel staff.
- ◆ Expenses incurred by our tour operators in making travel arrangements in conjunction with the tour.
- ◆ Airfare and air and departure taxes.
- ◆ Other items not specifically mentioned as included.

**On The Web ▶**

**SmithsonianJourneys.org**

Go online to find a photo slide show and reading list for *Waterways of Holland and Belgium*.

Also, go to our website for full **Terms & Conditions** for this tour.

## Keukenhof Gardens

A brilliant and breathtaking tapestry of colors and fragrance when in full bloom, the gardens of Keukenhof are deservedly known as the “Greatest Flower Show on Earth.” Our program has been planned during the height of Holland’s spectacular spring flower season, when more than seven million flowers are expected to be in bloom across this 77-acre wooded park in a dazzling display of color, weather permitting.

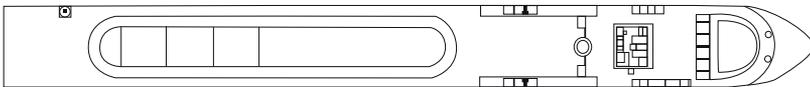
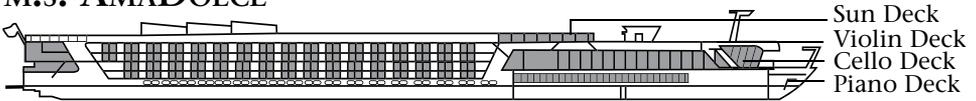
“Keukenhof” translates to “kitchen garden” and was inspired by the early 15<sup>th</sup>-century Countess Jacoba of Bavaria, who resided in a nearby castle and tended an herb garden on this site. Today a showcase for Dutch bulb growers, Keukenhof Gardens features more than 1,000 varieties of tulips, daffodils and hyacinths, which are meticulously planted and landscaped amidst an idyllic setting complete with tranquil ponds, gently flowing streams and winding, tree-shaded paths.



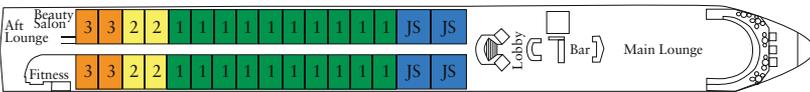
# WATERWAYS OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk through the extraordinary gardens of Keukenhof, where millions of tulips, daffodils and other flowers bloom each spring.
- Grasp the breadth of the region's artistic legacy with guided tours of world-renowned museums including the Rijksmuseum and the Kröller-Müller Museum.
- Learn about the Low Countries' fascinating architectural heritage from a unique perspective during private canal cruises in Amsterdam and Bruges.
- Explore the exquisite medieval architecture and priceless artistic treasures of the charming Flemish cities of Ghent and Antwerp.
- Discover picturesque Old Dutch towns like Volendam, whose character has remained unchanged since the height of the Dutch Golden Age in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- Enjoy exceptional accommodations aboard one of Europe's most elegant river ships, the deluxe M.S. AMADOLCE, as you cruise along the tranquil canals of the Low Countries.

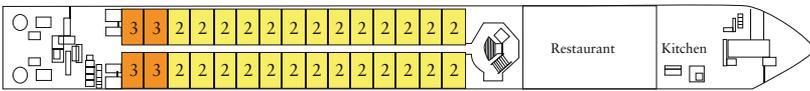
## M.S. AMADOLCE



Sun Deck



Violin Deck



Cello Deck



Piano Deck

### LAND/CRUISE TARIFF *(per person, based on double occupancy)*

Stateroom Category*	Description- All accommodations are outside with two twin beds or one queen bed, private bathroom with shower, air conditioning, Infotainment System, safe and hair dryer.	Early Booking Price through September 23, 2013	Regular Price after September 23, 2013
5	Two small fixed windows. <i>Piano Deck.</i>	<b>\$3,295</b>	\$4,295
4	Two small fixed windows. <i>Piano Deck, forward.</i>	<b>\$3,995</b>	\$4,995
3	French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door with railing). <i>Cello and Violin Decks, aft.</i>	<b>\$4,195</b>	\$5,195
2	French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door with railing). <i>Cello and Violin Decks.</i>	<b>\$4,595</b>	\$5,595
1	French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door with railing). <i>Violin Deck.</i>	<b>\$5,395</b>	\$6,395
Junior Suite	Larger stateroom, French balcony (floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door with railing), bathroom with bathtub and shower, sitting area with a sofa and two chairs, and mini-fridge. <i>Violin Deck.</i>	<b>\$6,195</b>	\$7,195

◆ Singles are available in category 2 at \$8,395 and in category 1 at \$9,595 on or before September 23, 2013. Add \$1,000 for reservations made after September 23, 2013.

◆ Taxes are an additional \$195 per person and are subject to change.

\*M.S. AMADOLCE has been specially contracted for this tour, and the applicable deck plan is available on request from Gohagan & Company and reflects the only valid cabin categorization of the vessel.

**BOOK EARLY  
AND SAVE \$2,000  
PER COUPLE!**

# Waterways of Holland • Belgium

*aboard the deluxe*

*M.S. AMADOLCE*

*April 27-May 5, 2014*

**Smithsonian Journeys** are designed to engage travelers in Smithsonian's mission – “the increase and diffusion of knowledge”. Like the Institution, our tours enrich our guests' lives and satisfy their curiosity about the world. Your participation benefits the work of Smithsonian's 19 museums, the National Zoo and nine research centers, helping to preserve our national treasures and shape the future through science, research, and exhibitions.

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