



## Brussels to Amsterdam Belgium & Holland, Cobblestones & Windmills

### Discover the hidden treasures of Belgium & Holland

**Relax on a boat ride through Ghent's delightful canals & sample chocolate in the beautiful Galeries Royales.**

Embark on a captivating exploration of the lesser-known gems in Belgium and Holland, where medieval towns and charming cobblestoned villages await your discovery. Cruise down canals, walk through field of tulips, relax in beautiful town squares amongst ornate gabled merchant houses and explore astonishing villages and windmills. Join us on our special departure in late April to experience the world famous **Keukenhof Tulip Flower Festival!**



Travel in a first-class air-conditioned touring coach



A complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink with all included dinners  
15 meals including breakfast daily (B) and 5 evening meals (D)  
Welcome drink on Day 1



Hotel portorage of 1 bag per person (where available)  
10 nights specially selected hotel accommodation  
Free WiFi at most hotels (where available)



Personal audio system whilst on tour (where available)  
ALL tips for your Tour Manager, Driver and Local Guides  
Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager  
Local guides as described in the itinerary



Hand Selected Albatross Experiences including special boat rides in Ghent, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, visit the Waterloo Battlefield and museum, special Flanders Fields tour and the delightful Zaanse Schans historical windmill village.  
ALL excursions, scenic drives, sightseeing and entrances as described



## Brussels welcome

Day 1



**Pillows City Hotel Brussels Centre**



D

Your tour commences this evening in Belgium's cosmopolitan capital city, Brussels. Join us tonight for a welcome drink before dinner in a local restaurant. This is an ideal chance to meet, and get to know, your Tour Manager and fellow travellers.

## Brussels Grand Place and Galeries Royales

Day 2



**Pillows City Hotel Brussels Centre**



B

This morning we are joined by a local guide who takes us on a walking tour through the old city. From the Grand Place - Grote Markt, with its dominating tower, surrounded by beautiful 300-year-old buildings, we take you to the famous Manneken Pis & Jeanneke Pis, to Mary's Chocolate shop in the beautiful Galeries Royales – a timepiece shopping centre recently nominated for UNESCO Heritage inclusion. After a tasting of Mary's famous chocolate, the rest of the day is free. This evening make sure you stroll back to the Grand Place, which is right on your hotel doorstep; the evening illuminations are delightful. Time to discover your own restaurant or lively pub in the nearby, winding cobblestoned streets.

## Waterloo and a boat ride through Ghent

Day 3



**Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof**



B,D

We spend the morning outside of Brussels on the site of the Battle of Waterloo. We have included entrance to all three major attractions that commemorate the final defeat of Napoleon in 1815. For the energetic, take the stairs to the top of the Lion's Mound topped by a massive cast iron lion. At the foot of the mound is the Rotunda with its huge 360 degree painting of the final battle. There is also a brilliant underground museum, filled with colourful uniforms, memorabilia of the time and a brilliant cinematic battle re-enactment. Early afternoon we arrive into the glorious city of Ghent, where we stay the next three nights. On arrival, a local guide will take us on a walking tour through this wonderful, historic city. Between the 11th and 16th centuries Ghent was one of the most important cities in Europe. The 900-year-old Castle of the Counts and the Graslei and Korenlei (Grass and Corn) riverside quays are surrounded by beautifully ornate, gabled merchant's houses that are evidence of the massive wealth this trading city generated. In St Bavo's Cathedral you will find the famous 15th century 'Ghent Altarpiece', attributed to the van Eyck brothers. The Belfort (Belfry tower) is the tallest in Belgium. Scattered around the old town are alfresco cafés, lively bars and restaurants. Perfect for your 'My Time'. Late afternoon, we have included a short boat cruise along the canal, followed by dinner.

## Ypres, Flanders Fields and Menin Gate

Day 4



**Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof**



B

Your morning is free – 'My Time' to enjoy the beauty of Ghent. Your afternoon will be fascinating as we are joined by a specialist military historian who will immerse us into the battlefields, heartbreak and drama that was the infamous Passchendaele. We have included entrance to the Passchendaele Memorial Museum, with its amazing exhibits and replica trenches. We will also visit the pivotal sites and cemeteries including Tyne Cot, with its endless lines of white grave stones and the 5th Australian Division Memorial at Polygon Wood. Contrasting this we pay our respects at the German war cemetery at Langemark, which sits in the shadows of old oak trees. Later you will have free time to explore the beautiful town of Ypres. Completely flattened in WW1, it has been lovingly re-built, exactly the way it was. The Cloth Hall, lording it over the main square, is an incredible piece of Gothic architecture. In the evening we will join the crowds gathering under the Menin Gate to witness the soulful, sounding of the Last Post, which is still commemorated every night. It will be one of the most moving experiences as you listen to... no... feel the haunting bugle echoing around and above you in the towering Menin Gate, whilst surrounded by the engraved names of 53,000 Commonwealth Soldiers – young men and boys, who died in just Belgium alone, and all who sadly have 'no known grave'. Later, we return to Ghent.



### Delightful Bruges

Day 5



**Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof**

QΨ B

A very leisurely start. Late morning, we visit the 'Venice of the North' - Bruges. So named because Bruges is riddled with canals, bridges and quiet back streets. On arrival we are joined by a local guide for a walking tour around the quaint and picturesque cobbled centre. Later, take time to relax in one of the pavement cafés on the glorious old market square. This evening, back in Ghent, your evening is free amongst the cafes, lively bars and restaurants near your hotel.

### 3 Massive dykes and Rotterdam port cruise

Day 6



**Hotel Mitland Utrecht, The Netherlands**

QΨ B,D

Heading into the Netherlands we take the dramatic western route – a fascinating journey across three enormous dykes that form Holland's incredible Delta Project. We will make a mid-morning stop at Topshuis to enable you to walk to see the actual floor barrier and take photos of the flood barriers and sluice gates. The first dyke, the Peilerdam, is an astonishing 9 kms long, and our journey takes us along the actual top of the enormous flood barriers that hold back the North Sea. An extraordinary engineering achievement! On the second dyke, Brouwersdam, we will make a short photo stop beside the broad sandy beach. On a windy day there are literally hundreds of kite surfers in action offshore.

Reaching the dynamic city of Rotterdam, we board a cruise boat to follow the river with its city sights and gigantic, modern port – the world's biggest. Lunchtime will be spent at leisure in the ultra-modern design Market Hall. The giant curved ceiling is one enormous mural of painted flowers, colourful butterflies, fruit and vegetables. Beneath are dozens of specialist food stalls, gourmet eateries and shops. Late afternoon we reach the historical city of Utrecht where we stay our final four nights. Utrecht is often called 'Amsterdam without the crowds'. Beautiful, with canals, narrow gabled merchant houses, and humped back bridges it makes a superb base for our unique 'hub and spoke' style touring. After settling into our hotel, you will have dinner at the hotel restaurant.

### Cheese and windmills

Day 7



**Hotel Mitland Utrecht, The Netherlands**

QΨ B

This morning we explore Zaanse Schans. This historical 'open air museum' village was created by relocating and preserving 18th and 19th century wooden houses, barns, workshops, and of course a number of giant windmills! So much to see and enjoy. Perhaps visit the cheese factory or have lunch in the Pancake Restaurant De Kraai – once an 18th century Zaan granary? Later we enjoy an afternoon stroll through the pretty fishing port of Volendam. The remainder of your afternoon and evening is at leisure in Utrecht.

\*Please note, the late April departure includes tickets to Keukenhof and does not visit Volendam.

### Het Loo Royal Palace, De Haar Castle & Haarzuilens

Day 8



**Hotel Mitland Utrecht, The Netherlands**

QΨ B,D

This morning we will visit the Dutch Royal Palace of Het Loo. Entrance is included to the Palace, gardens and stables. This afternoon, after 'My Time' relaxing back in historical Utrecht, we will visit the nearby moated castle of De Haar Castle. In a simply stunning setting, this gem of a palace is set romantically amongst waterways, parklands and beautiful gardens. Just around the corner, we also visit the quaint Dutch village of Haarzuilens. With traditional white and red painted window shutters you get the feeling you are strolling through a village of toy houses. We enjoy dinner in a local restaurant.

### Amsterdam cruise and 'My Time'

Day 9



**Hotel Mitland Utrecht, The Netherlands**

QΨ B

We will spend the day in nearby Amsterdam. First up we board a canal boat for a cruise through this amazing city. Later we are joined by a local guide who will take us by coach and on foot around all the major city landmarks. Your afternoon is entirely free to relax, with 'My Time' to shop, explore and visit some of the many world class museums. Your evening is at leisure in Utrecht.

Delft, Royal Museum and My Time

Day 10



Hotel Mitland Utrecht, The Netherlands



B,D

This morning we visit Delft, a charming canal-ringed town with historical monuments and medieval architecture, famous for The Porcelain Fles (Royal Delft) which dates back to 1653, and the painter Johannes Vermeer. Entrance to the Royal Delft Museum is included. Using audio guides you will discover the origins, history and splendour of the hand painted Delft Blue pottery. Lunchtime is at leisure amongst the historical old town of Delft, with its churches, canals and townhouses. Arriving back in Utrecht your afternoon is at leisure. This evening we have included a farewell dinner.

To Amsterdam

Day 11



Hotel Mitland Utrecht, The Netherlands



B

Your tour ends today after breakfast with a morning group transfer to Amsterdam airport and city centre. We recommend you book flights or trains that depart Amsterdam after midday.

Hand Selected Experiences

These are just a few of the very special hand selected experiences that will really make your touring experience exceptional and unique, and don't forget, with Albatross they are always included.



Amsterdam  
Local guide & canal boat cruise



Battle of Waterloo  
Entrance to the major museums



Flanders Fields  
Tour of the battlefields and museums



Glorious city of Ghent  
Boat trip



Zaanse Schans  
Historical windmill village



De Haar Castle  
Visit this moated Castle



Delta project  
See enormous dykes



Het Loo Royal Palace  
Visit Dutch Royal Palace of Het Loo



Bruges  
Visit the 'Venice of the North'

Dates and Prices

Correct as of 11:00 on 20th May 2024

Start Date	End Date	Twin Price	Solo Price	
26 Apr 2025	06 May 2025	TBC	TBC	● Pre-Register

22 Jun 2025

02 Jul 2025

TBC

TBC

● Pre-Register

\* The itinerary and hotels featured are based on 2025 tour departures and may be subject to change. If you are travelling in 2024 please refer to your specific booking Itinerary. Any questions, please contact our European Tour Specialists for further details.

## Tour Suitability

**We visit a number of beautiful towns and sites on foot.**



In mid-summer, the heat may be energy sapping.



There are a number of beautiful towns and sites we visit which require exploring on foot.

Please refer to our Tour Suitability section for more information.

## Terms & Conditions

- Information provided is true and correct at time of issue. Airfares not included. For further details please contact your consultant or full terms and conditions may be found at [www.albatrosstours.com.au/booking-conditions](http://www.albatrosstours.com.au/booking-conditions). Albatross Tours ABN 45 010 585 143. ATAS Accreditation No: A11341. CATO Accreditation No. 69562707