



RIVER CRUISING

800-788-7885 or your travel agent

October 2024



# Hidden Waterways of Flanders and Holland - 2025

Start in Brussels Belgium - End in Amsterdam Netherlands

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# Hidden Waterways of Flanders and Holland



## Full Itinerary

Be as active as you like as you venture off-the-beaten rivers to charming inland waterways in Belgium and the Netherlands.

Here daily life unfolds in leisurely bicycle rides along country lanes, guided walking tours in quintessential Dutch villages steeped in history and cultural riches, a beer tasting at a Belgian brewery, a visit to the newly opened Royal Museum of Fine Art in Antwerp, a canal boat cruise in Amsterdam and an unforgettable dinner at a 14th-century castle on a private island open just for Tauck guests.

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# Itinerary

## ONLY WITH TAUCK

- Experience the storied 650-year history of Slot Loevestein, set on an island reserve that's yours to explore during an exclusive Tauck dinner
- Visit the quintessentially Dutch town of Gorinchem, alive with flowers and windmills and surrounded by polders where doe-eyed cows graze, on a locally guided tour

## TAUCK VALUE INCLUDES

- Tour the recently remodeled and reopened Royal Fine Arts Museum in Antwerp seeing works by the Old Dutch Masters in an art collection that spans the 14th through the 20th centuries
- All private Tauck shore excursions – \$2,190 Value!
- Enjoy a choice of guided excursions in Bruges, including a walking tour of its historic heart with a local expert or an active bicycle excursion out into the countryside led by an expert guide
- 20 meals (7 Breakfasts, 6 Lunches & 7 Dinners)

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## DAY 1

Arrive Brussels / Embark riverboat

**Tour begins: 4:00 PM.** A transfer is included from Brussels Airport or train station to your riverboat; check-in time is 4:00 PM. Join us aboard your riverboat for a welcome reception followed by dinner.

- **MEALS:** Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship

## DAY 2

Explore Brussels

Enjoy a day in Brussels, exploring the sights with local guides who share insider anecdotes about life here past and present on a choice of excursions. See landmark sights that speak volumes about history, from its Art Nouveau and Art Deco architecture to the Guild Houses lining Grand-Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, or experience culinary discoveries that tempt with a taste of chocolate, waffles and beer, perfected through the generations. After free time to enjoy as you wish, return to the riverboat as it sets sail for Antwerp. Dinner is at leisure tonight.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #1 - Brussels City Tour
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #2 - Art Nouveau Tour

## DAY 3

Architecture and Ale in Antwerp

Belgium's largest port city, Antwerp has long been a magnet for art lovers and diamond traders. It was of Europe's most important – and one of its richest – cities in the mid-16th century when merchants traded sugar and diamonds here. Golden Age artists Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony Van Dyck and Frans Snyders called Antwerp home in the 17th century and Renaissance monuments and a still unfinished 13th-century cathedral enrich the variety of architectural styles that grace its medieval heart. Join a

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local guide on a sightseeing drive and walking tour that explores the historic gems of this lively town, from bustling Grote Market to medieval guild houses, baroque churches, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and atmospheric squares. Following a morning of exploration in Antwerp proper and lunch aboard your ship, you'll be met with a choice of excursions this afternoon! One option offers you a visit to the newly renovated and recently reopened Royal Museum of Fine Arts for a look at its impressive collection of art from the 14th through the 20th century, with an impressive hall dedicated to the art of its native son, Pieter Paul Rubens. Another takes you on brewery tour across the city highlighted with tastings of the city's famous Belgian beers at local establishments. Your final choice offers you additional time to spend the afternoon exploring as you wish in Antwerp; a shuttle will be available to bring you back to the riverboat. Cocktails and dinner are at leisure tonight onboard ship; set sail for Bruges this evening.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #2 - Royal Fine Arts Museum
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Belgian Beer Tour & Tasting
- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Free Afternoon in Antwerp

## DAY 4

### Discover the best of Flanders on a choice of excursions

You're off on a choice of excursions this morning. One brings you to Flemish city of Bruges, known as "the Venice of the North," for its canals and tiny medieval streets; have lunch in town. On your walking tour in cobblestoned, fairy tale-like Bruges, you'll feel like you've walked into a painting by Jan Van Eyck, who captured life in the city during its heyday in the 15th century. The hike up the stairs of the medieval bell tower is well worth the effort; you'll be rewarded with wonderful panoramic views. The other choice brings you to another Flemish city, Ghent, for walking tour through its Old Town; the pedestrian-friendly cobblestoned town center feels like an outdoor museum of early Flemish architecture. Think about climbing to the top of the 14th-century belfry, crowned with a dragon, for the view – Ghent laid out before you is a visual feast of castles, churches, and historic merchants' houses. Be sure to try the local specialty, Ghent noses, a traditional raspberry candy sold at stands on the street – or a warm waffle with sugar or honey. Your final choice is a bicycle ride into the Belgian countryside alongside a local guide. Have cocktails and dinner onboard as your riverboat charts a course towards Gorinchem.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship

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- **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #1 - Walking Tour of Ghent
  - **EXCURSION CHOICES:** Choice #3 - Damme Bike Ride

## DAY 5

### Gorinchem & a castle dinner

Voted "the most beautiful fortified town in the Netherlands," Gorinchem was founded in 1,000 AD, fortified in the 13th and 14th centuries, and today boasts the largest fully intact fort in the Netherlands. A quintessentially Dutch town with flowers and windmills, it is surrounded by green polders with grazing cows. The city was originally part of the Dutch Waterline of defense and the historic city center is still a well preserved walled fortress. Join our local guide for a walking tour of its historic heart, viewing its charming canals, the well-preserved Renaissance-style and medieval architecture, and pretty parks and gardens. Alternatively, visit the home of Hendrick Hamel, a Dutch sailor who provided the first Western account of Korea. Explore as you wish this afternoon, before joining us for a Tauck Exclusive dinner at Slot Loevestein. Set in a nature reserve on a private island, the 14th-century castle has served as a prison, residence and toll taker; tonight it will be yours to enjoy as the island and castle are open for Tauck guests only.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship

## DAY 6

### Leiden or Rotterdam

Enjoy a choice of guided shore excursions as your riverboat is docked in Rotterdam, founded as a fishing village in the 13th century. A living monument to Holland's Golden Age until it was bombed to rubble during World War II, the city today welcomes with world-class architecture and urban design, along with surviving traces of Old Rotterdam in Delfshaven (Delft Harbor) and Oude Haven (Old Harbor). You may choose to stay in town to explore the sights with a local guide, with time at leisure to explore as you wish; embark on a guided excursion to Leiden, the birthplace of Rembrandt, and home to charming architecture, canals and historic sights, including the country's oldest university or get to know Rotterdam on a beer tour across the city. Return to the riverboat late afternoon; following dinner this evening, enjoy musical entertainment in the Lounge.

- **MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **ACCOMMODATION:** Tauck Ship

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- EXCURSION CHOICES: Choice #1 - Rotterdam Architecture Tour
  - EXCURSION CHOICES: Choice #2 - Walking Tour of Leiden
  - EXCURSION CHOICES: Choice #3 - Rotterdam Beer Tour

## DAY 7

### The artful life in Amsterdam

Spend the day in the world-famous 17th century capital of Holland, known for its artistic heritage, historic canals, and narrow houses with gabled facades, living legacies of the city's Golden Age. Art masterpieces hang in its acclaimed museums, including the Van Gogh Museum and the Rijksmuseum, where the Old Masters hold court. Bicycles and canal boats are key to the city's character; gardens bloom with Dutch bulbs; and its cultural treasures are among the most significant Europe. You have a choice of excursions today, each offering great insight into Dutch life. One takes you on a guided tour of the Rijksmuseum, seeing such works as *The Milkmaid* by Vermeer, *Self-portrait* by Van Gogh, *The Merry Family* by Jan Steen and Rembrandt's *Night Watch*. The other brings you to the nearby city of Volendam for a bike ride past dikes, windmills and small bridges on your way to a local farm for a cheese-making lesson. Return to your riverboat for a musical performance before a farewell toast and dinner.

- MEALS: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- ACCOMMODATION: Tauck Ship
- EXCURSION CHOICES: Choice #1 - Canal Cruise & Rijksmuseum Visit
- EXCURSION CHOICES: Choice #2 - Volendam Bike Tour

## DAY 8

### Journey Home

**Tour Ends: Amsterdam.** Disembark your riverboat this morning by 9:00 AM. A transfer is included from Tauck's riverboat to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport or Centraal Station. Fly home anytime. Allow a minimum of three hours for flight check-in at the airport.

- MEALS: Breakfast

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# Book This Trip



call **800-788-7885**  
or your travel agent  
and book today

## Have Information Ready

- Tour Name and Departure Date Desired
- Traveler Name(s): Please have first and last names as they appear on the passport or driver's license.
- Traveler's Address(es)
- Traveler's Phone Number(s)
- Emergency Contact Information: This would be a relative or friend whom we could contact during the tour in the event of an emergency. Please provide their name and phone number(s).
- Interest in purchasing a travel protection product (US and Canada)
- Interest in extending your trip by staying in a Tauck recommended hotel before your trip begins or after it ends
- Interest in our specially negotiated airfares.

## Book Your Trip

**For reservations, call 800-788-7885 or contact your travel advisor to book today!**

## Deposit Date

Upon your request, we will hold space tentatively for you and give a "Deposit Due Date," by which a deposit must be received or space is automatically released.

## Special Requests

We will be happy to advise hotels of any special requests, provided we receive them at time of booking. We regret that requests cannot be guaranteed.

## Final Payment

Final Payment is due to Tauck **120** days before departure for cruises and rail journeys. If your deposit was made by credit card, final payment will be automatic unless you opted out at time of booking. Bookings without full payment at this time may be subject to cancellation without notice. Failure to

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make payment will be a considered a cancellation by the guest and all applicable cancellation fees will apply.

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Although it is not necessary for you to exchange money prior to your trip, it may be useful to have a small amount of local currency with you when sightseeing. If upon arrival you require local currency, you may visit one of the many currency exchange facilities at the airport or use an ATM. Currency can be exchanged at the hotel in Brussels. The riverboat does not exchange currency, but does accept euro, American Express, MasterCard and Visa as methods of settling shipboard accounts.

In the Netherlands and Belgium, the official currency is the euro. Major credit cards and travelers' checks are widely accepted, although fees may be charged, and ATMs are found at most tourist sites.

To obtain the most current exchange rates for all national currencies, you may want to check your local newspaper or log on to *oanda.com* by clicking [here](#).

All customary gratuities for the ship staff, local guides, drivers, Tauck Directors and Tauck Cruise Director are included.

**Cruise prices are per person.** All riverboat accommodations, motor coach transportation, port charges, land excursions, admissions, entertainment, special dinners, beverages aboard the riverboat (including unlimited soft drinks, regional wine, beer and premium spirits), sightseeing, portage, services of the ship staff, the local guides and motor coach drivers, the Tauck Director and the Tauck Cruise Director and all customary gratuities for the ship staff, local guides, drivers, Tauck Directors and Tauck Cruise Director are included. Transportation from Brussels National Airport, Brussels Midi Train Station or Brussels Central Train Station to the riverboat is included, provided you have furnished us with accurate flight arrival information at least three weeks prior to your departure date. If you choose to arrive earlier than the cruise departure date and arrange with us for additional night(s) at the Tauck-designated pre-tour hotel, we will provide you with transportation from the airport/train station to the hotel and also from the hotel to the riverboat on the first day of the cruise. Transportation from the riverboat to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam Central Train Station or the Tauck-designated post-tour hotel is also included at the conclusion of your cruise. Those guests who extend their stay at the Tauck-designated hotel will also receive a transfer to the airport or the train station at the conclusion of their hotel stay. Transportation to and from airports and train stations may be shared with other Tauck guests. If you are staying at a hotel other than the Tauck-designated hotel before or after your tour, contact Tauck regarding your various transfer options.

To avoid jet lag and possible flight delays, you may wish to make hotel arrangements for the nights preceding or following your tour or cruise. As a service, we will book additional nights for you on a space-available basis using special rates only available through us. Hotel room charges will be added to the tour or cruise cost. Transfers for these extended stays are included (as noted). If you wish to spend additional nights, please consult Extend Your Stay in the Accommodations section and discuss it with your reservations sales consultant or your travel advisor when you book your tour or cruise.

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We pledge to make every effort to operate all tours as advertised. We reserve the right to alter or curtail the itinerary, or substitute sightseeing, hotels, and/or conveyances as deemed necessary. Any savings realized by these changes will be refunded to you. Any resultant added expense will be covered by us. Although not expected, prices on this website may be modified due to unexpected significant external factors not forecast at the time of publication.