Holland & Belgium
Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard Magnifique III
May 27 – June 4, 2024
Holland & Belgium
Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard Magnifique III
May 27 – June 4, 2024

Experience the magic of Holland and Belgium as you sail aboard the charming riverboat Magnifique III. Your journey begins in Amsterdam with a walking tour and a visit to the famous Rijksmuseum, which houses masterpieces such as Rembrandt’s The Night Watch and Vermeer’s The Milkmaid. Then board the intimate Magnifique III, a boutique river vessel with just 20 cozy cabins. As you cruise along meandering rivers and canals, you’ll have the opportunity to admire the perfectly aligned Dutch windmills of Kinderdijk up close and visit Antwerp in Belgium to see the incredible Descent from the Cross by Rubens. In Ghent, you’ll explore the city’s beautiful Saint Bavo’s Cathedral and marvel at its most spectacular treasure, the Van Eyck brothers’ Adoration of the Mystic Lamb. Your adventure ends in the fairytale city of Bruges, where you’ll discover an authentic medieval estate and see Michelangelo’s celebrated Madonna and Child.

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

— Admire works by Rubens, Michelangelo, Anthony van Dyck, Hans Memling, the Van Eyck brothers, and other masters
— Travel to picturesque Kinderdijk, a Dutch village famous for its impressive UNESCO-listed row of 19 large windmills
— In Antwerp, see the treasures of the Museum Mayer van den Bergh or opt for a visit to the Museum Plantin-Moretus to discover the world’s oldest printing presses
— Immerse yourself in the history and culture of the 15th century during a special visit to an authentic medieval estate in Bruges
— Experience the Low Countries as the locals do, on optional cycling tours along gentle, even terrain
— Enjoy the friendly atmosphere created by the Dutch captain and crew aboard Magnifique III, a premium ship with 20 contemporary cabins
MONDAY, MAY 27: DEPARTURE
Depart on an overnight flight to Amsterdam.

TUESDAY, MAY 28: AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND / EMBARK MAGNIFIQUE III
Arrive in Amsterdam and transfer for a canal cruise with lunch on board. Then visit Amsterdam’s Rijksmuseum, the State Treasury of Dutch art. Embark Magnifique III and enjoy a welcome dinner as we cruise to Vianen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29: VIJNEN / KINDERDIJK / DORDRECHT
This morning, travel to picturesque Kinderdijk, a village famous for its impressive UNESCO-listed row of 19 large windmills, a delight to see up close. Continue to a unique country estate, surrounded by one of the oldest English landscape gardens in the area (pending confirmation). Rejoin the ship in Dordrecht, one of the Netherlands’ oldest cities.

THURSDAY, MAY 30: DORDRECHT / ANTWERP, BELGIUM
Step ashore for a guided tour of Dordrecht’s historic harbors, ancient warehouses, and busy merchant streets. Continue to Antwerp, a city renowned for its medieval and modern architecture and impressive art collections.

FRIDAY, MAY 31: ANTWERP / SINT-NIKLAAS / SINT-AMANDS
Start your day at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp, which has undergone an extensive renovation. Continue to Sint-Niklaas, a tiny city near the birthplace of the 16th-century cartographer Gerardus Mercator. Discover how he changed the course of history when you visit the Mercator museum, which has preserved two of his priceless globes. This evening, rejoin the ship in Sint-Amands and enjoy a private concert onboard.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: SINT-AMANDS / GHENT
In the morning, cruise or bike to Ghent. After lunch, enjoy a tour through the city’s medieval center, including the magnificent Saint Bavo’s Cathedral. View its greatest treasure, the restored 15th-century Adoration of the Mystic Lamb (Ghent Altarpiece) by the Van Eyck brothers, and take a tour of its dedicated museum in the cathedral. Dinner is at leisure.
SUNDAY, JUNE 2: GHENT / BRUGES
Begin your day with a visit to Ghent’s Museum of Fine Arts. Continue to Bruges, a medieval gem laced with canals and gardens, where the ship remains docked overnight, and delight in a visit to the private garden of a distinguished Belgian landscape architect. This evening, you may wish to join an optional stroll to see Bruges’s medieval buildings illuminated. B,L,D

MONDAY, JUNE 3: BRUGES
Enjoy a morning visit to the Adornes Domain, an authentic medieval estate in the heart of Bruges, followed by light refreshments (pending confirmation). Then discover the collections at the Hans Memling Museum, housed in Saint John’s Hospital. After lunch at leisure, you may enjoy a free afternoon. You can also choose to visit the Church of Our Lady and see its celebrated Madonna and Child and/or the Groeninge Museum, with its works by Jan van Eyck and other great Flemish artists. Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner. B,D

TUESDAY, JUNE 4: BRUGES / DISEMBARK / BRUSSELS / RETURN
Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the Brussels airport for flights home. B
Launched in 2018 as a beautiful passenger barge, Magnifique III features 21 contemporary cabins. The upper deck has five spacious suites (172 sq.ft.) with two separate single beds, a small sitting area, and a “French balcony” featuring ceiling-to-floor sliding-glass doors. The lower deck has fourteen beautiful twin cabins (129 sq.ft.) with two separate single beds and two single cabins. The upper deck has a large, tastefully furnished salon with a restaurant area, a nice bar, and a lounge area with cozy sitting corners, a wide screen TV, and large panoramic windows. On the top deck, the barge has a whirlpool/Jacuzzi and some deckchairs to relax and enjoy the scenery while cruising.

**Rates Include**

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard Magnifique III
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; wine/beer at dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Taxes, service, and porterage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers

**Not Included in Rates** International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.