2026 - Best of Holland & Belgium

7-NIGHT CRUISE

Immerse yourself in a feast for the senses as you travel through the Netherlands and Belgium. Taste rich Belgian chocolates. Listen to the distinctive clanks and charms of mechanical instruments at Utrecht's Museum Speelklok. Admire the beautiful architecture and artistry of castles that include Utrecht's de Haar, Brussels' Gaasbeek Castle and Ghent's Caste of the Counts of Flanders. Inhale the aroma of freshly pressed Belgian waffles and street fries. Cruise along the iconic Amsterdam canals. As a diverse array of knowledgeable and gracious local guides share each destination's unique history with you, you'll return from this cruise having experienced the best of Holland and Belgium!

OVERVIEW:

DAY	DESTINATION	ACTIVITIES
1	AMSTERDAM	EMBARKATION
2	AMSTERDAM	Amsterdam Canal Cruise
		Scenic cruising
		Walking tour with Museum Speelklok (organ museum) visit
		OR Castle de Haar visit
		OR Castle de Haar bike tour
3	DELTA	Scenic cruising
		Zierikzee "Medieval Harbor Town" walking tour
		OR Delta Works and Flood Museum tour
		OR Traditional Dutch flat-bottom boat visit
		OR Haringvlietdam bike tour
4	GHENT	Ghent "Capital of East Flanders" walking tour
		OR Full-day Bruges "Capital of West Flanders" walking tour and Church of Our Lady visit*
		OR Bike tour
		Highlights of Bruges tour
		OR Castle of the Counts of Flanders
5	BRUSSELS	"Capital of Belgium" tour
		OR Belgian chocolate tasting
		OR Laeken Bike tour
		Gaasbeek Castle visit
6	ANTWERP	"City of Diamonds" walking tour and cathedral visit
		OR Bike tour
		Belgian beer tour
		OR Flavors of Belgium
		OR Bike tour with Red Star Line Museum
7	DORDRECHT	"Holland's Oldest City" walking tour
		OR Rotterdam tour and Delfshaven
		OR Bike tour
		Kinderdijk UNESCO Windmills

		OR Kinderdijk bike tour
8	AMSTERDAM	DISEMBARKATION

ITINERARY DETAILS:

Day 1, AMSTERDAM. Board the ship in Amsterdam for your Best of Holland & Belgium cruise.

Day 2, AMSTERDAM - UTRECHT. There are 165 canals in Amsterdam, and you'll get to enjoy some of them on your canal cruise. Later in the day, enjoy a scenic cruise through the IJsselmeer to Utrecht, the religious center of the Netherlands since the 8th century and a far-reaching city boasting a medieval old town, canals and a beautiful Gothic cathedral, some of which you may see on your walking tour, which includes a visit to the whimsical collection of automatically playing musical instruments at Museum Speelklok. Alternatively, marvel at the largest castle in Holland, De Haar on a walking or biking tour. Straight out of your fairytale dreams, this castle inspires awe with its turrets, moats and suspension bridges as well as its luxurious interior. (B,L,D)

Day 3, DELTA - HELLEVOETSLUIS. Enjoy a scenic morning cruise through the delta before arriving in Hellevoetsluis, an island metropolis of South Holland. During your tour of this medieval harbor town, you may see enchanting sites such as its iconic working De Hoop windmill and witness the charming wharf houses. Later in the day, you may discover the intriguing history of how the Delta Works, a unique storm surge barrier, came to be while visiting the Flood Museum. More than half of the Netherlands lies below sea level and the Delta Works were built to prevent a recurrence of the 1953 flood disaster. Alternatively, visit a traditional Dutch flat-bottom boat and learn about the history of this unique type of vessel. For those who prefer an active adventure, pedal from Hellevoetsluis, with its cobblestone streets and charming harbor, across the Haringvlietdam and back. (B,L,D)

Day 4, GHENT. There are several choices of excursions in Ghent, depending on your interests. Stroll through the Capital of East Flanders, learning about its unique history on your walking tour, or pedal through the spellbinding town on a guided bike tour. Alternatively, visit Bruges, one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe, on a full-day excursion that includes the renowned Church of Our Lady, home to the beautiful Carrara marble Madonna and Child sculpture by Michelangelo. If you prefer a shorter excursion in Bruges, visit the town later in the day or spend your afternoon at Ghent's moated Castle of the Counts, which boasts an eye-catching design as well as a ghoulishly interesting collection of medieval torture devices. (B,L,D)
**Not combinable with other tours on this day.*

Day 5, BRUSSELS. Explore Belgium's captivating capital on your guided walking tour or pedal through Brussels on a guided bike ride that takes you into Laeken Park, where you will see the unique architecture of the Far East Museums as well as the jaw-dropping iron molecule sculpture known as the Atomium. Alternatively, delight your palate with a very special Belgian chocolate tasting. In the afternoon, visit Gaasbeek Castle, a 13th-century fortified castle built to defend the Duchy of Brabant against the County of Flanders. (B,L,D)

Day 6, ANTWERP. Explore Belgium's trendy "City of Diamonds" on a walking tour where you'll see Antwerp's Steen Castle, Grote Market and Brabo Fountain, along with the UNESCO-designated Cathedral of Our Lady. Active travelers may prefer instead to bike through Antwerp. Later in the day, beer enthusiasts will appreciate a tasting of the local brew while foodies may prefer our excursion to sample some of Belgium's culinary delights such as its fresh and fluffy waffles. An afternoon bike tour is also available for those who prefer to get their heart beating later in the day, and it includes an opportunity to visit the Red Star Line Museum, highlighting the historic shipping line responsible for transporting three million immigrants to America. (B,L,D)

Day 7, DORDRECHT. Established in 1220, Holland's oldest city was virtually destroyed by a devastating flood in the 15th century that essentially created the city's wetlands. Learn more about Dordrecht's fascinating history on your walking tour, or visit Rotterdam, the "Gateway to Europe," as well as Delfshaven, where, on August 1, 1620, the Pilgrim fathers departed on their epic journey aboard the Speedwell. Stopping in Southampton, many then boarded the Mayflower and concluded their journey at Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts. If you prefer to venture off the beaten path, go on an architectural bike tour through Rotterdam. In the afternoon, venture to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinderdijk, a lovely village renowned for having the country's greatest concentration of windmills, all dating from the 18th century. You may also pedal past the windmills from the seat of a bike. (B,L,D)

Day 8, AMSTERDAM. Disembark your ship and bid farewell to Amsterdam as you prepare for your return flight home. (B)

(B,L,D) – Indicates Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner are included on this day.