

MS Lord Tennyson



Karol Fletcher Presents “ TRAVEL WITH YOUR TRAVEL AGENT” APRIL 22-29, 2021

Join Karol on the Riviera River Cruises Bruges, Medieval Flanders, Amsterdam & The Dutch Biubfields.



Rates

Ruby Deck Suite (French Balcony) \$2979.00 per person

Diamond Deck Suite (French Balcony) \$3229 per person

***** Airfare, Transfer and Insurance not included *****

NON-refundable Deposit of 400.00 per person to confirm your reservation.

Cancellation conditions: From deposit to 91 days prior – \$400 per person deposit , From 90 to 61 days prior – 50% , From 60 to 31 days prior – 75% , From 30 to 16 days prior – 85% ,15 days or less prior – 100%

Cancellation Insurance is optional – ask for details

Final Payment is due by 15 January 2021.

Contact Karol Fletcher at 281-487-4800 Ext. 1

kffairmont@hotmail.com

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Overview

Experience more with so much included

Tour of Amsterdam, one of the world's most unique cities

Walking tour of Bruges, one of Europe's most perfectly preserved medieval towns

Visit to Arnhem, famous for the 1944 battle vividly depicted in the film 'A Bridge Too Far'

Tour of Antwerp, the city of Rubens and the 'Flemish Masters'

Walking tour of Ghent, the 14th century's largest city in Western Europe

Visit to Ypres and the First World War Battlefields

Visit to the stunning Keukenhof Gardens - the heart of the Dutch Bulbfields

Your Itinerary

Bruges, Medieval Flanders, Amsterdam & the Dutch Bulbfields River Cruise

DAY 1 - EMBARK IN AMSTERDAM

Embark the ship in Amsterdam and familiarise yourself with your firstclass floating hotel. The dedicated crew welcomes you aboard, ensuring you settle in to your extremely comfortable and well-appointed cabin. There's time to familiarise yourself with your first-class floating hotel before experiencing the chef's specially chosen menu for your first dinner on board.

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DAY 2 - AMSTERDAM & HOORN



Breakfast is an on-board institution and you're always assured of an enticing range of choices. We're moored in the heart of delightful Amsterdam, and there's no better way to explore than taking a classic glass-topped boat tour through the network of canals that infuse every aspect of life here. The tour brings a real insight into the history and everyday life of Amsterdam, a maritime, financial and cultural powerhouse uniquely located facing both the sea and the heartlands of Europe. As we glide over the calm canal waters, you'll see a fascinating variety of typically Dutch narrow gabled buildings, bustling streets and historic bridges immortalised by the great artists, and learn about its famous canalside residents, from the tragic Anne Frank, who wrote her diaries hidden in a merchant's house, to Rembrandt, the Dutch Old Master.

A splendid buffet lunch awaits our return as we slip away from the quayside towards the IJsselmeer, the enormous inland lake created when the Zuiderzee was cut off from the North Sea by a series of dykes and dams. Our port of call is Hoorn, once a prosperous port of the Dutch East India Company. Reminiscent of another age, it's a charming mix of imposing buildings dating from the 15th century onwards, brickbuilt warehouses, cobbled squares and twisting alleys. Hoorn's ships traded the world over, with one sailor even naming the southern tip of South America after his home town – Cape Horn. There's time to explore this intriguing spot and its boat-filled harbour, dominated by the distinctive 16th-century Head Tower, before returning to our cruise ship to enjoy dinner and maybe a nightcap in the lounge.

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DAY 3 – ARNHEM



One of the delights of river cruising is the enchanting experience of waking somewhere new, the water gently lapping as the ship glides almost imperceptibly along. We're now deep in the heart of Holland, passing flower-bedecked houseboats, flocks of wildfowl and, of course, windmills! We soon arrive in Arnhem, synonymous with the ill-fated 1944 aerial assault depicted in the film *A Bridge Too Far*. We visit the battle HQ of the British 1st Airborne Division at Oosterbeek, now an excellent museum, and the Commonwealth War Cemetery, the final resting place of so many. Back on board, we continue our passage along the mighty River Rhine, one of Europe's most important arterial waterways, before enjoying another sumptuous dinner on board, as distant lights glint on the waterfront as we silently slip by.

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DAY 4 – ANTWERP



This morning there's a chance to marvel at the Captain's skill as he calmly navigates the busy River Scheldt and moors in Antwerp, birthplace of the Baroque master Peter Paul Rubens. This morning we enjoy a tour led by a local guide taking in its numerous highlights and lesser-known features. Once part of the Spanish Empire, Antwerp grew wealthy during its 16th-century Golden Age, when it was Europe's largest port north of the Alps, with profits invested in the city's Flemish art and architectural heritage, and later it became the world's diamond trading centre. At its heart is the captivating main square – the Grote Markt – dominated by ornately gabled guildhouses, the Renaissance town hall and opulent Brabo Fountain.

This afternoon is free to explore as you wish, perhaps visiting Rubens' extravagant former home and studio, the magnificent Gothic cathedral or even the painstakingly restored train station, of such architectural splendour it is often called the 'Railway Cathedral'.

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DAY 5 - GHENT & YPRES



Today we awake in picturesque Ghent, once Western Europe's second largest city after Paris. Fortunate to escape the ravages of the 20th century and often overlooked by tourists, Ghent is a medieval gem we explore in the company of an experienced guide. Highlights include a gorgeously unspoilt waterfront, the 13th-century skyline punctured by soaring belfries, the 12th-century Gravenstein fortress towering above the river, and one of the world's foremost art treasures – the van Eyck brothers' Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, the altarpiece adorning Saint Bavo's Cathedral.

After lunch on board, there's the option to spend the afternoon in Ghent, maybe taking a horse-drawn carriage ride or finding a cosy spot in a quintessential Flemish café.

Alternatively, you can join our tour to Ypres, a name synonymous with the horrors of the Great War. Almost totally destroyed during a series of battles, Ypres is now a place of peace, reverence and reflection. You may wish to visit the award-winning In Flanders Fields Museum that tells the haunting story of the conflict, providing a thought-provoking insight into the extraordinary lives of the soldiers and civilians; it's located in the Cloth Hall in the heart of Ypres' beautifully restored town centre. Nearby are many battlefields synonymous with the horrors of trench warfare, including Passchendaele, where around 600,000 perished. In addition we visit Tyne Cot, the largest Commonwealth war cemetery in the world. Ypres is also the home of the Menin Gate, the deeply moving memorial to the missing where the 'Last Post' is played every evening.

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DAY 6 – BRUGES



After breakfast we take the short drive to Bruges and have a guided walk of this beautiful town, which really does carry its remarkable medieval legacy with charm and to perfection. The atmosphere here is pure romance and its streets are crammed with fascination. Exquisitely compact, its entire historic centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site made up of serene canals, narrow cobbled streets, romantic gabled houses, exquisite churches and myriad shops selling artisan goods – including its legendary chocolate! Its main square is dominated by the soaring Belfry, whose 47 bells chime to create an idyllic atmosphere. It's a 366-step climb to the top, but the breathtaking views are well worth it. You'll also see the City Hall and the Basilica of the Holy Blood, home to a venerated relic – a phial of Jesus's blood reputedly brought back from the Crusades. Another must is the Church of Our Lady, where you can see Michelangelo's Madonna and Child, a work of incomparable beauty carved in white Carrara marble. You'll be reluctant to leave this enchanting place, although the promise of more first-class dining in the ship's restaurant will lure you back.

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DAY 7 - KEUKENHOF & AMSTERDAM



Early risers discover the ship making effortless progress along the delightful waterways and you experience the somewhat surreal effect of cruising above the surrounding reclaimed polders – it's almost like flying! Today we visit Keukenhof, the heart of the glorious Dutch bulbfields. On arrival, nothing prepares you for the dazzling spectrum of colours stretched out before you in the world's largest flower garden, covering nearly 80 acres. The art of flower planting reaches breathtaking heights at Keukenhof, a gardener's heaven created by more than seven million tulips, daffodils and other blooms set among a beautiful landscape of shimmering lakes, ancient trees, flowering shrubs and water gardens.

We re-join our ship in Amsterdam and after lunch you're free to explore as you wish. Amsterdam is an art-lover's dream. The Rijksmuseum is an architectural marvel itself, but it holds a magnificent collection of works by Dutch masters such as Rembrandt and Vermeer, while admirers of Post-Impressionism might prefer the Van Gogh Museum, housing the world's greatest collection of works by this genius of a man. Or relax in a pavement café, absorbing Amsterdam's special atmosphere over a rich Dutch coffee, browse the many shops or perhaps just stay on board to catch up on some reading. Tonight there's another culinary highlight – the Captain's Dinner, when the chef prepares his superb 'signature' dishes for you to enjoy in the splendid surroundings of the ship's restaurant, with a chance to reflect on the fascinating places you have discovered, poignant stories you have heard and the new friends you have made.

DAY 8 - DISEMBARK IN AMSTERDAM

After breakfast this morning your friendly crew bid you farewell before you disembark.

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