



# Benelux Itinerary 2011

■ Sept. 4 - 16 • Group size limited to 16

- Comfortable hotels and charming inns – all with private bath
- Transportation in comfortable van or mini-bus • Outstanding cuisine
- Stately **Amsterdam**'s atmospheric canals • Fortress of **Vianden**
- Fine art (**Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Vermeer, Michaelangelo, Bosch**)
- Lovely, medieval **Brugge** (Bruges) • pretty **Gent's** canals & cathedral
- **Holland's** polders, reclaimed from the North Sea • Lively **Antwerp**
- The outstanding royal palace of **Het Loo** • Vest-pocket **Luxembourg City**
- The **Kröller-Müller Museum**, with a large collection of Van Gogh works
- Tranquil, pretty **Delft**, handsome **Leiden**, and the town of **Haarlem**

Tour cost – \$3,895\* per person sharing for land arrangements (airfare not included) • Singles add \$450

## TOUR

### SUMMARY

Tour begins & ends  
in Amsterdam

*FLY FROM U.S. – Leave Sept. 2, arrive Sept. 3 (overnight, Hotel Delphi, Amsterdam)*

*TOUR BEGINS – 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 4, in the lobby, Hotel Delphi, Amsterdam*

*TOUR ENDS – Sept. 16, in the morning, at the Hotel Herbergh, near Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam (you will fly home today)*

*12 NIGHTS • TOUR MEALS – Breakfast daily + eight other meals (lunches & dinners)*

## ■ Day 1 (Sunday, September 4)

The tour group gathers today in the lobby of the **Hotel Delphi, Amsterdam**. After an orientation to our tour and the amazing, historic countries of **Netherlands, Luxembourg** and **Belgium**, we set out to explore Amsterdam. On foot and by tram, we get to know this exciting, civilized and lovely city. In the afternoon, join us for a signature Amsterdam experience – a boat tour of its extensive canal network. In the evening, we have **DINNER. OVERNIGHT – AMSTERDAM**

## ■ Day 2 (Monday, September 5)

Amsterdam is a cultural, artistic and archeological gem. On our agenda today is a visit to the moving memorial to **Anne Frank**, whose tale of hiding from the Nazis still resonates today; and the magnificent **Rijksmuseum**, home to an exceptional collection of Dutch masters, including **Rembrandt** and **Vermeer**. Again this evening, we have **DINNER** together. **OVERNIGHT – AMSTERDAM**

## ■ Day 3 (Tuesday, September 6)

Join us today for an optional day trip to **Haarlem**, only 20 minutes from Amsterdam by train. Here, stroll the streets of the delightful Dutch town, which enjoys an atmosphere of tranquility and elegance. Admire the architecture and visit the outstanding **Frans Hals Museum**, boasting paintings by the Dutch master **Frans**

**Hals** as well as furnishings, silverware, drawings and a large collection of modern art. **OVERNIGHT – AMSTERDAM**

## ■ Day 4 (Wednesday, September 7)

Let's make the most of our last day in Amsterdam. Come along as we visit the **Van Gogh Museum**, which has the largest collection of Van Gogh paintings in the world. After **LUNCH**, enjoy free time to explore some of the attractions we haven't had time for. Your *Intimate France* guide will be happy to make suggestions based on your interests. **OVERNIGHT – AMSTERDAM**

## ■ Day 5 (Thursday, September 8)

Today we leave Amsterdam, headed east. In mid-morning we arrive at the magnificent royal palace of **Het Loo**, beautifully furnished and ornamented. After visiting this palace, we move on to the small town of **Hoenderloo**, where we check into our hotel, the **Buitenlust**. After lunch it's off to **Hoge Veluwe National Park** and one of the art treasures of Western Europe – the **Kröller-Müller Museum**, home to a remarkable collection of 19th- and 20th-century paintings, including the second largest collection of works by **Van Gogh**. Returning to our hotel, we enjoy **DINNER. OVERNIGHT – HOENDERLOO**

## ■ Day 6 (Friday, September 9)

By motorway today we arrive in the southern Dutch town of **Maastricht**, full of authentic

medieval architecture and an exuberant character due to its many university students. After lunch we enter tiny **Luxembourg**, making our way to the picturesque town of **Vianden**, its old houses clinging to the slopes above the **Our River** and overlooked by a 12th century castle. There will be time late in the day to enjoy the views and the medieval ambiance. **OVERNIGHT – VIANDEN**

### ■ Day 7 (Saturday, September 10)

On a day trip, we visit **Luxembourg City**, the capital of this vest-pocket country, built on a wooded plateau surrounded by ravines. Wander the old town, on its sandstone bluff high above two rivers, and explore the **Casemates du Bock**, a defensive labyrinth created in the 1700s. **LUNCH** in Luxembourg City. **OVERNIGHT – VIANDEN**

### ■ Day 8 (Sunday, September 11)

From Vianden we head into **Belgium**. By noon we have arrived in bustling **Brussels**, the nation's capital and a center of European Union activity. If you wish, visit one of the city's fine museums, such as the **Musee d'Art Ancien**, with an outstanding collection of Flemish paintings, including works by **Brueghel the Elder** and **Rubens**. Whatever you do, don't miss the central square, the **Grand'Place**, lined with baroque guildhalls. Later we arrive in **Brugge** (we know it as **Bruges**), our home for the next three nights. After checking into our centrally located hotel, we enjoy **DINNER**. **OVERNIGHT – BRUGGE**

### ■ Day 9 (Monday, September 12)

This morning we set out to explore Brugge, considered Belgium's most beautiful town and one of the most magnificent and well-preserved medieval cities in Europe. Let's start with a boat ride on the shady canals, lined with stately mansions. Later, there will be time to visit two repositories of priceless art: the **Bruggemuseum Onze Lieve Vrouwekerk**, a church boasting a *Madonna and Child* sculpture by **Michaelangelo** (as well as other works); and the **Groeninge Museum**, sheltering an outstanding collection of Flemish primitive paintings (**van Eyck**, **Memling**, **Pourbus** and **Bosch**). **OVERNIGHT – BRUGGE**

### ■ Day 10 (Tuesday, September 13)

We take the train today to **Gent (Ghent)**, steeped in history and rich in sumptuous architecture. We explore the city on a canal cruise; admire the magnificent cathedral, with its enormous **Adoration of the Mystic Lamb Altarpiece** by **Jan van Eyck**; and wander the medieval streets

lined with fine houses. If you like, climb the lofty town belfry for a panoramic view of the city. We have **LUNCH** here. **OVERNIGHT – BRUGGE**

### ■ Day 11 (Wednesday, September 14)

Leaving Brugge, we arrive in **Antwerp**, one of Belgium's most beautiful cities. In our three hours of free time, have lunch and visit the cathedral, the largest in Belgium, studded with many priceless works of art, including several paintings by **Rubens**. In mid-afternoon we move on to pretty **Delft** and check into our canalside hotel. After a short walking tour and free time to enjoy the peaceful streets and squares, we have **DINNER**. **OVERNIGHT – DELFT**

### ■ Day 12 (Thursday, September 15)

Today, after morning free time in Delft, we make our way back north, soon arriving in the Dutch capital, **Den Haag (The Hague)**. Here we find the renowned **Mauritshuis** museum, home to a collection of paintings considered among the finest in the world. Enjoy works by **Rembrandt**, **Rubens** and **Vermeer** (his *Girl with a Pearl Earring* hangs here). After lunch and a visit to the handsome Dutch town of **Leiden**, we at last come to our comfortable hotel near Amsterdam's **Schiphol Airport**. **OVERNIGHT – AMSTERDAM AIRPORT**

### ■ Getaway day (Friday, Sept. 16)

It's time to say goodbye to the **Benelux** countries as you fly home from Amsterdam.

## Notes

**MEALS** – Tour includes breakfast every day, as well as eight other meals (lunches and dinners), as indicated in **BOLD CAPS** on the itinerary.

## OUR HOTELS

**Hotel Delphi**, Amsterdam

**Hotel Buitenlust**, Hoenderloo, Netherlands

**Hotel Heintz**, Vianden, Luxembourg

**Hotel Biskajer**, Brugge, Belgium

**Hotel Emauspoort**, Delft, Netherlands

**Hotel Herbergh**, Amsterdam airport

**HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS** – Subject to change according to availability.

**ITINERARY** – Details of this preliminary itinerary could change.

\* **TOUR PRICE** – Price of \$3,895 is an estimate only as fluctuations in foreign currency rates may make a surcharge necessary. Call us for details – (800) 676-1247. Price quoted is for land arrangements only – airfare is not included.