

# Holland & Belgium

ALONG THE DUTCH WATERWAYS



# RIVER LIFE®

## HOLLAND & BELGIUM

Behold the many beautiful sights inspiring the most striking works of art along the Dutch waterways. This nine-day, seven-night trip aboard the deluxe river boat AMADEUS CARA includes visits to six UNESCO World Heritage Sites—among them the network of authentic windmills in Kinderdijk and Amsterdam’s canal district. Admire the second-largest collection of Vincent Van Gogh’s art in the world inside a museum founded by one of the first people who truly appreciated the artist’s brilliance. Watch hardworking craftspeople create the world-renowned “Delft Blue” porcelain at the original Royal Delft factory of De Porceleynse Fles. Explore Antwerp’s carefully preserved Flemish culture, learn more about Veere’s rich history, and better understand Hoorn’s role in the Dutch “Golden Age” of economic wealth and prosperity. These stunning sights within the Dutch-speaking world certainly make for a trip to remember.



Cover Photo: Netherlands windmill and tulip field  
Current Page: Amsterdam Canals





# TEXAS EXES<sup>®</sup>

— FLYING LONGHORNS —

Dear Texas Ex:

Join us on this exclusively chartered river cruise aboard the deluxe 5-star AMADEUS CARA, one of the finest vessels to ply the waterways of Europe and the canals of this delightful land of polder. Celebrate the beauty of Holland and Flanders in blissful springtime—the ideal season for visiting, when the tulip fields are in full bloom.

Discover the true essence of RIVER LIFE<sup>®</sup> in the Low Countries. Our expert-guided tours explore six UNESCO World Heritage Sites—including Amsterdam's 16th- and 17th-century house-lined canals, the medieval Flemish jewel of Bruges, and historical belfries in the Belfries of Belgium serial property. Experience this region's pastoral idyll and fascinating history with visits to the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens, the mercantile town of Antwerp, and medieval Ghent. Visit the legendary 18th-century windmills of Kinderdijk, watch traditional craftspeople create the iconic "Delft Blue" porcelain, and discover the world-class Kröller-Müller Museum. Learn more about the modern life and cultural heritage of the Netherlands during an exclusive RIVER LIFE<sup>®</sup> forum with local residents and encounter the rich history of the Flemish-speaking county of Flanders in its main cultural centers.

This outstanding itinerary is brought to you by the Texas Exes Flying Longhorns travel program, which supports the association's mission of promoting and protecting The University of Texas at Austin and uniting its alumni around the world. While you do not have to be an alumnus of UT to travel with us, we do ask that all Flying Longhorns travelers have an active membership in the Texas Exes. Memberships start at just \$50.

The association is a huge proponent of continuing education and there is no better classroom than our world. Experience rich history and culture in the company of your fellow Longhorns! Are you ready for the adventure of a lifetime? We're standing by to answer all of your questions and/or take your reservation. Capacity is limited on this popular program and it may sell out quickly. Additional information about all Texas Exes Flying Longhorns trips can be found at [travel@texasexes.org](mailto:travel@texasexes.org)

Best regards,

Your Flying Longhorns Travel Team,  
Margaret, Janice, and Leslie

**Contact the Flying Longhorns office to secure your spot:  
1-800-594-3900 or [travel@texasexes.org](mailto:travel@texasexes.org)**



## An Artful Past

Whether it be colorful paintings or sculptures, the Dutch-speaking world has birthed many artists creating some of the most distinguished works of art. Housing the second-largest collection of Vincent Van Gogh paintings after the Van Gogh Museum, the Kröller-Müller Museum in the Netherlands holds an impressive assortment of stunning art. The museum was founded by avid art collector Helene Kröller-Müller, who is credited as being among the first to recognize Van Gogh's artistic genius. Stroll through the museum's picturesque sculpture garden bringing together art, nature, and architecture. Visit Michelangelo's iconic "Virgin and Child" marble sculpture within the medieval Church of Our Lady in Bruges, Belgium. At the Gothic St. Bavo's Cathedral, see Hubert and Jan van Eyck's "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb" altarpiece—considered the world's first major oil painting and the most frequently stolen artwork of all time. Finish your creative journey at the Royal Porceleyne Fles workshop and see how the famed blue and white Delftware is specially handmade—and even try your hand at creating the pottery yourself in Delft, the city "View of Delft" painter Johannes Vermeer called home.







# KEUKENHOF GARDENS

Known around the world as the “Garden of Europe,” Keukenhof is a breathtaking tapestry of color and fragrance when its more than 1,000 floral varieties reach full bloom between mid-April and early May. Meticulously landscaped with tranquil ponds, placid streams, and winding, tree-shaded paths, this vibrantly hued oasis originally formed part of the Teylingen Castle estate, where the early 15th-century Countess Jacoba of Bavaria tended an herb and vegetable garden. The gardens of Keukenhof (translating to “kitchen garden”) was re-designed in 1857 by Jan David Zocher of Vondelpark fame and his son Louis Paul Zocher, paving the way for the gardens as we know it today. Leading flower bulb growers and exporters then created the plan in 1949 to use the estate to exhibit spring-flowering tulips and the park was an instant success when it opened to the public in 1950, drawing in 236,000 visitors during the first year alone. The nearly 500-acre Keukenhof has since developed into a world-famous display of bulbs adored by many anthophile visitors every year.

## INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



## 9-DAY/7-NIGHT ITINERARY

### Depart Home City

#### Day 1

Depart your home city and board an overnight flight.

### Amsterdam, the Netherlands/ Embark

#### Day 2

Embark the deluxe river boat AMADEUS CARA once you arrive in Amsterdam—known for the legacies of the city’s Golden Age. Later, attend the Captain’s Welcome Reception with your fellow passengers and enjoy dinner onboard. (L,R,D)

### Nijmegen for Kröller-Müller Museum

#### Day 3

Visit the world-class Kröller-Müller Museum, most lauded for its collection of 90 Vincent van Gogh paintings

and 180 of his drawings. See works by Pablo Picasso, Claude Monet, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, and Édouard Manet. Enjoy a walking tour of Nijmegen, a university town layered with more than 2,000 years of history and originally settled by the Romans in the first century B.C. Explore an array of pristinely preserved structures, including the turreted 15th-century De Waag—formerly one of the city’s gates and currently Amsterdam’s oldest secular building. (B,L,D)

### Kinderdijk/ Delta Works

#### Day 4

In Kinderdijk, see the UNESCO-inscribed network of 19 authentic windmills built between 1722 and 1761.

Visit one of the mills among the largest assembly of such in the Netherlands. You will have the option to either discover the Delta Works, an impressive feat of hydraulic engineering hailed as one of the Seven Wonders of the Modern World, or explore Veere, Netherlands, once known for its rich history as the center of the Scottish wool trade. (B,L,D)

### Bruges, Belgium/Ghent

#### Day 5

A scenic drive through Flemish countryside takes you to Bruges, where you’ll enjoy a walking tour to the Gothic Town Hall, the famous and UNESCO-inscribed octagonal belfry and tower, and the Church of Our Lady, with a visit to see Michelangelo’s “Virgin and Child” marble sculpture housed at the church.



Bruges market square





Stroll through Ghent, replete with medieval and classical architecture. Admire the windows and Gothic steeples of St. Bavo's Cathedral and see Hubert and Jan van Eyck's magnificent altarpiece "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb"—the most frequently stolen artwork of all time. See the Belfry of Ghent, the tallest belfry in Belgium and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B,L,D)

### **Antwerp** **Day 6**

Discover the Old Town of Antwerp, which preserves its distinct Flemish culture while still maintaining its distinction as the commercial center of Belgium and an established diamond trading center. Visit the UNESCO-inscribed belfry

at Cathedral of Our Lady and see 17th-century Baroque masterpieces by the city's native son, Peter Paul Rubens. (B,L,D)

### **Rotterdam** **for Delft and** **Keukenhof Gardens** **Day 7**

Saunter through historical Delft, where Johannes Vermeer painted his famous "View of Delft" from 1660 to 1661. Visit the original Delft factory of Royal Porceleyne Fles and watch craftspeople create the iconic "Delft Blue" porcelain. Enjoy lunch at the world-famous Keukenhof Gardens and stroll through its tableau of blooming tulips meticulously landscaped with tranquil ponds, placid streams, and tree-shaded paths. Attend the Captain's

Farewell Reception and Dinner on board the ship this evening. (B,L,R,D)

### **Horn/Amsterdam** **Day 8**

Discover Hoorn, which rapidly grew to become a major harbor town during Holland's "Golden Age" and was an important home base for the Dutch East India Company. Enjoy a private cruise through the charming and picturesque canals of Amsterdam, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B,L,D)

### **Amsterdam/Return to** **Home City** **Day 9**

After breakfast, continue on to the post-program, or transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)

*The Golden Age harbor town of Hoorn*





**AMADEUS CARA** The elegant and meticulously crafted AMADEUS CARA, launched in 2022, features all the comforts of a refined and traditional hotel. The English-speaking, international crew provides warm hospitality. The AMADEUS fleet has earned the “Green Globe Certificate” of environmental sustainability. The 82 stylish staterooms and suites are among the most spacious of any European river boat (172 to 284 square feet). Suites include a private balcony, and select staterooms feature a unique floor-to-ceiling window that lowers to French-balcony height at the touch of a button. Accommodations have two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, sitting area, private bathroom with shower, and a minibar.



**2024 DEPARTURE DATE: April 26 to May 4** (Embarkation: April 27 at 11:00 am)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Early Booking Rate through Dec. 13, 2023	Rates after Dec. 13 2023
C4	Stateroom with small panoramic window. <i>Haydn Deck, midship.</i>	<b>\$3,505</b>	\$3,895
C1	Stateroom with small panoramic window. <i>Haydn Deck, midship.</i>	<b>\$3,685</b>	\$4,095
B4	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to <b>French-balcony</b> height. <i>Strauss Deck, aft.</i> (limited availability)	<b>\$4,045</b>	\$4,495
B1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to <b>French-balcony</b> height. <i>Strauss Deck, aft and midship.</i> (limited availability)	<b>\$4,225</b>	\$4,695
A1	Stateroom with floor-to-ceiling panoramic window that lowers to <b>French-balcony</b> height. <i>Mozart Deck, aft and midship.</i> (limited availability)	<b>\$4,675</b>	\$5,195
Suite	Suite with <b>private balcony</b> (sliding glass doors with railing), sofa and bath robes. <i>Mozart Deck, midship.</i>	<b>\$5,125</b>	\$5,695

Single supplements apply to categories C1 & C4 at 160% of the per person double price and subject to availability. All other categories are at 200%.

Port taxes are an additional \$75 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment.

This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

Final payment due December 28, 2023

**To secure your spot, Contact the Flying Longhorns office: 1-800-594-3900 or [travel@texasexes.org](mailto:travel@texasexes.org)**

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## PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

### Amsterdam

**April 24 to 27, 2024** (Tour Begins: April 25)

Immerse yourself in historical Amsterdam on a two-night itinerary that includes opportunities to see the Rijksmuseum's Dutch Master collection, including famous paintings by Rembrandt. Visit the exquisite 17th-century Our Lord in the Attic museum and explore its narrow corridors and exceptional attention to detail in its historically-accurate furnished rooms. Enjoy accommodations in the 5-star DOUBLETREE CENTRAL STATION AMSTERDAM HOTEL.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*      **\$820**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*      **\$1,205**



## POST-PROGRAM OPTION

### The Hague

**May 4 to 6, 2024** (Tour Ends: May 5)

Conclude your journey with a two-night tour of The Hague, showcasing stately municipal buildings and structures long adored by the Dutch royal family. Visit the Mauritshuis, a 17th-century Neoclassical mansion featuring a world-renowned Dutch and Flemish art collection, including Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring." Enjoy luxury accommodations in the deluxe HOTEL DES INDES.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*      **\$985**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*      **\$1,315**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

**EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS UP TO \$1,140 PER COUPLE**

*Amsterdam canals along arched bridges*



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