

MUSEUM
TRAVEL
ALLIANCE



Holland & Belgium

Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard *Magnifique III*

May 27 – June 4, 2024



Dear Travelers and Friends,

In May 2024, join the Museum Travel Alliance for an enriching cruise highlighting the artistic splendors of the Low Countries. Aboard the traditional Dutch-style riverboat *Magnifique III*, follow winding canals and rivers from vibrant Amsterdam to medieval Bruges, encountering soaring cathedrals, serene gardens, iconic windmills, and storybook villages. Most excitingly, a treasure trove of phenomenal art awaits, in a region that produced artists as varied and influential as Vermeer, Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Rubens, Bosch, and Hals.

The adventure begins with a scenic canal cruise in Amsterdam. Following 2023's blockbuster solo exhibition on Vermeer, the city's Rijksmuseum has invited us to experience yet another historic event in 2024: an unprecedented gathering of works by the 17th-century master Frans Hals, Holland's most revered portraitist. Enjoy a privately guided look at the first Hals exhibition in Amsterdam and the first major retrospective of his work in over 30 years. Hals's impressionistic style profoundly influenced later artists such as Manet, Monet, and Van Gogh.

Embark the charming *Magnifique III* and cruise to Dordrecht, Holland's oldest city, stepping ashore to explore hundreds of historic monuments on a guided walking tour. Behold Pieter Bruegel the Elder's mesmerizing *Mad Meg* in Antwerp, Belgium, along with Fouquet's ethereal *Madonna* and works by Rodin, Memling, and Ensor at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp, reopened after an 11-year, multimillion-dollar renovation.

After cruising or biking to Ghent, witness the Van Eyck brothers' monumental Ghent Altarpiece in its original home at St. Bavo's Cathedral, and see this masterpiece restored to its full glory after ten years of meticulous work. Conclude your immersive art experience in atmospheric Bruges, admiring Michelangelo's renowned *Madonna and Child*, Hans Memling's intricate St. Ursula Shrine, and the works of Flemish masters at the Groeninge Museum.

You may join an optional prelude in Amsterdam, with exclusive access to the newly reopened Rembrandt House Museum, the artist's home for decades, and the Van Gogh Museum's unparalleled collection.

Cruise in the company of members from the Vanderbilt Alumni Association and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. We invite you along on this spectacular voyage through the pastoral landscapes of Holland and Belgium, where you will experience how natural beauty has inspired enduring traditions of superlative art.

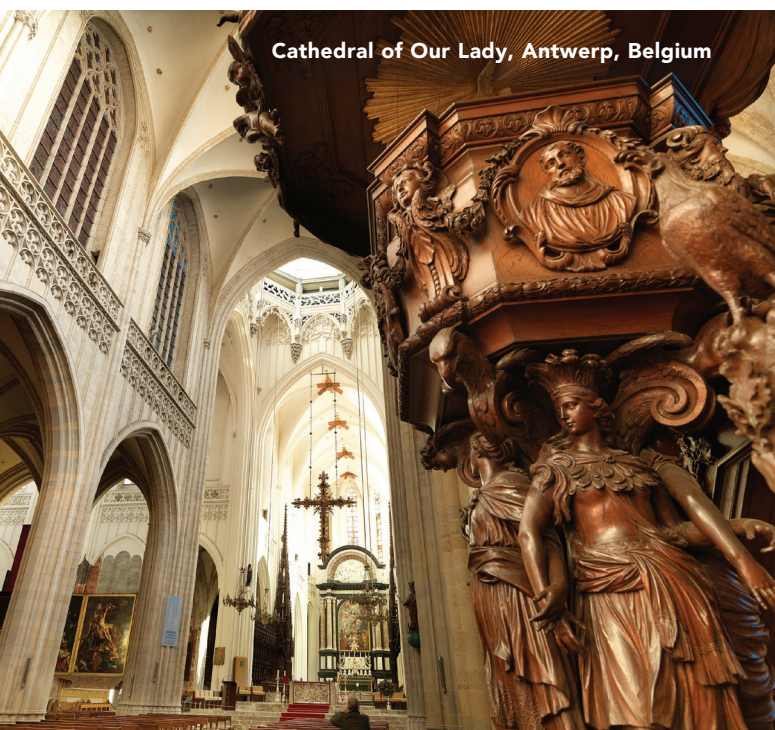
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim".

Jim Friedlander
President, Museum Travel Alliance



Flanders
State of the Art





CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

CRUISE along Holland and Belgium's famous waterways, discovering UNESCO-listed windmills, towering cathedrals, charming villages, and incredible art collections

ADMIRE works by Rubens, Michelangelo, Anthony van Dyck, Hans Memling, the Van Eyck brothers, and other masters on expert-guided tours of Holland and Belgium's museums and churches

EXPERIENCE the Rijksmuseum's historic solo exhibition dedicated to Frans Hals, the preeminent Dutch Golden Age portraitist, an unprecedented cultural event following the museum's blockbuster 2023 Vermeer exhibition in Amsterdam

TRAVEL to picturesque Kinderdijk, a Dutch village known for its impressive UNESCO-listed row of 19 large windmills

SEE the treasures of Antwerp's Museum Mayer van den Bergh or opt for a visit to the Museum Plantin-Moretus to discover the world's oldest printing presses

VIEW Fouquet's *Madonna* and other masterpieces at Antwerp's Royal Museum of Fine Arts, reopened after a \$105-million, 11-year renovation

IMMERSE yourself in the history and culture of the 15th century during a special visit to an authentic medieval estate in Bruges

ENJOY the friendly atmosphere created by the Dutch captain and crew aboard *Magnifique III*, a boutique riverboat with 21 contemporary cabins

Holland & Belgium

Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard *Magnifique III*

May 27 – June 4, 2024



An optional prelude in Amsterdam, featuring private visits to the Rembrandt House Museum and the Van Gogh Museum, is offered from May 26–28, 2024.

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, and marvel at works by Rembrandt, including the world-famous *The Night Watch*, as well as Vermeer, Frans Hals, and other masters. Afterwards, embark *Magnifique III* and enjoy a welcome dinner as we cruise to Vianen. L,D



Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Holland

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29: VIANEN / 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. B,L,D

THURSDAY, MAY 30: DORDRECHT / ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Step ashore for a guided tour of Dordrecht's historic harbors, ancient warehouses, and busy merchant streets, as well as a historic city center that is home to about 1,000 monuments. Continue to Antwerp, a city renowned for its medieval and modern architecture and impressive art collections. Following lunch, see Antwerp's 16th-century Cathedral of Our Lady, where Rubens's famous *Descent from the Cross* is on display. Then admire the treasures of the Museum Mayer van den Bergh, whose collection includes Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *Mad Meg*. Dinner is at leisure. B,L



Museum Mayer van den Bergh, Antwerp, Belgium



Museum Plantin-Moretus, Antwerp, Belgium

FRIDAY, MAY 31: ANTWERP / SINT-AMANDS

Start your day at the recently renovated Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp, which features drawings, sculptures, and paintings from the past 600 years, including works by Van Eyck, Memling, Rubens, and Rodin. Stand next to Fouquet's *Madonna* and view the world's largest collection of James Ensor works. After lunch, admire the world's oldest printing presses at the UNESCO-listed Museum Plantin-Moretus, a Renaissance-era publishing house and one of the most significant landmarks in the history of the book, printing, and entrepreneurship. This evening, rejoin the ship in Sint-Amands and enjoy a private concert onboard. B,L,D

SATURDAY, JUNE 1: SINT-AMANDS / GHENT

In the morning, cruise or bike to Ghent, one of Europe's best-kept secrets. After lunch, enjoy a tour through the city's medieval center, including the magnificent St. Bavo's Cathedral, in use for more than 1,000 years. View its greatest treasure, the restored 15th-century *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* (Ghent Altarpiece) by the Van Eyck brothers, known as "history's most stolen artwork," now returned to its rightful home. B,L,D



Ghent Altarpiece (detail), St. Bavo's Cathedral, Ghent, Belgium

Bruges, Belgium



SUNDAY, JUNE 2: GHENT / BRUGES

Begin your day with a visit to Ghent's Museum of Fine Arts, Belgium's oldest museum, and view more than 400 masterpieces of European art, spanning from Impressionist paintings to Modernist works. Continue to Bruges, known as the "Venice of the North," a UNESCO-listed medieval gem laced with canals and gardens, where the ship remains docked overnight. 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 same family since the early 15th century, in the heart of Bruges, followed by light refreshments (*pending confirmation*). Then discover the collections at the Hans Memling Museum, including his famous *St. Ursula Shrine*, housed in St. John's Hospital. After lunch at leisure, you may enjoy a free afternoon. You can also choose to visit Bruges's Church of Our Lady, featuring one of the highest brick church towers in the world, and see Michelangelo's celebrated *Madonna and Child* and/or the Groeninge Museum, featuring Renaissance and Baroque masters, including 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

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of The Museum Travel Alliance. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php>. © 2023 Museum Travel Alliance Inc. All Rights Reserved.

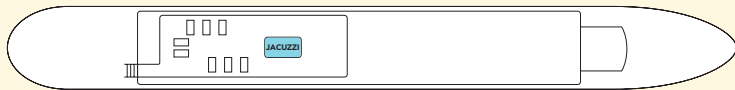
MAGNIFIQUE III



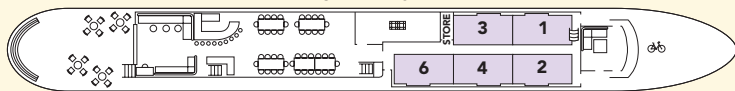
Magnifique III

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.

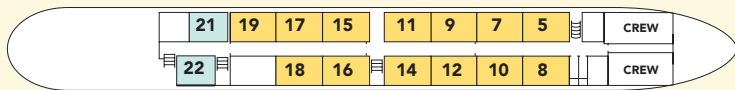
TOP DECK



UPPER DECK



LOWER DECK



CRUISE RATES

Cabins	Decks	Double	Single
21 & 22	Lower Deck	N/A	\$7,499

Single accommodations. One twin bed with portholes

5, 7 to 12 & 14 to 20	Lower Deck	\$6,499	\$9,749
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Standard, twin beds with portholes

1 to 4 & 6	Upper Deck	\$9,999	Inquire
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Suites, twin beds, small sitting area, French balcony with ceiling-to-floor sliding glass doors

RATES INCLUDE

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

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; optional Amsterdam prelude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Bruges, Belgium



MUSEUM TRAVEL ALLIANCE HOLLAND & BELGIUM MAY 27 – JUNE 4, 2024 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please call Museum Travel Alliance at 212-324-1893 or 855-533-0033, fax: 212-344-7493; email: trips@museumtravelalliance.com; or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) to *Museum Travel Alliance*. Mail to: Museum Travel Alliance, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home)

(business)

Fax

E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Magnifique III cabin preference (1) _____ (2) _____

I wish to share a room/cabin with

OPTIONAL AMSTERDAM PRELUDE

I/we would like to join the Optional Amsterdam Prelude
Hotel Room Preference One bed Two beds Single

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Museum Travel Alliance*)
 Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code

Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see <https://museumtravelalliance.com/faq.php> to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment by check, wire transfer, or credit card 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required)

Date

Signature (required)

Date

Front cover: Windmills, Holland.
Highlights page: Ghent, Belgium

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