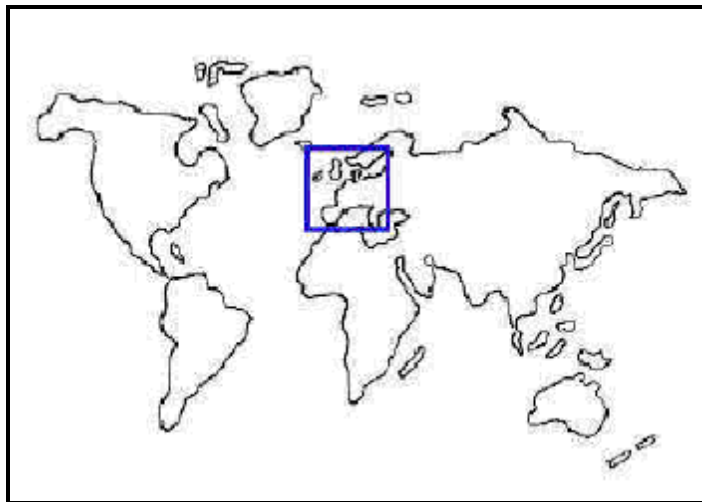


**FLOWERS, WINDMILLS AND MUSEUMS - THE BENELUX COUNTRIES:**

**Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands: 13 days**

Tulip Fields, Canals, Windmills, Beautiful Towns, and Museums -- The Benelux Countries are simply remarkable. Since the Middle Ages this part of Europe has been far more influential than its size would warrant. And the products of its peoples' artistry and industry are waiting to be enjoyed by you: the canvases of Rembrandt and Van Gogh, the cityscapes of Bruges and Amsterdam, the lovely countryside of Flanders and Luxembourg:

Three Countries, Three Jewels!



The World



Europe



„Flowers, Windmills and Museums“

**Features:**

Sight seeing with local guide in

- Brussels (Belgium)
- Antwerp (Belgium)
- Bruges
- Luxembourg
- Amsterdam (Netherlands)

**Inside visits to:**

- Groeninger Museum Bruges (Belgium)
- Historical Center Bastogne (Belgium) (self explanatory, film in English showing)
- Kroeller-Mueller Museum Arnhem
- Rijksmuseum Amsterdam (Netherlands)

**Included Highlights:**

- Welcome Dinner in Brussels (Belgium)
  - Excursion to Waterloo (Belgium)
  - A full day in Antwerp (Belgium)
  - Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
  - Delft Porcelain manufactory (Netherlands)
  - The Hague (Netherlands)
  - Windmills and Volendam (Netherlands)
  - Canal cruise in Amsterdam (Netherlands)
  - Farewell Dinner in Amsterdam (Netherlands)
- 

**Day 1 Depart USA**

Overnight transatlantic flight to Brussels

**Day 2 Arrival in Brussels**

Meet your European Tour Director at the airport of Brussels. In the afternoon sight seeing of Brussels with all the highlights the Lower and the Upper city offer – such as the Grand Place with the guild halls and the Hôtel de Ville (town hall), the Royal Square, the cathedrals, the Palace of the Nations and the “Atomium”, the symbol of our modern age and reminder of the 1958 World Fair.

Welcome dinner and overnight in Brussels



Europe Commission in Brussels

### Day 3 Excursion to Waterloo

A new area of European history began in Waterloo: the combined English-Dutch-Prussian forces put an end to Napoleon's attempt to unite all of Europe under his leadership.

The afternoon is free for independent activities in Belgium's capital and your Tour Director will be happy to give you ideas and suggestions.

Overnight in Brussels



### Day 4 Brussels – Antwerp – Bruges

On the way you will stop in Belgium's second largest city, Antwerp, with a very charming typical Flemish center. A local guide will tell you about the mysterious origins of Antwerp, its Golden Age and about today's life. Then you may want to browse through the old center, visit a Diamond factory (the traditional industry and trade), the house of the well-known Baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens or just savor the unique atmosphere of the city.

Overnight in Bruges

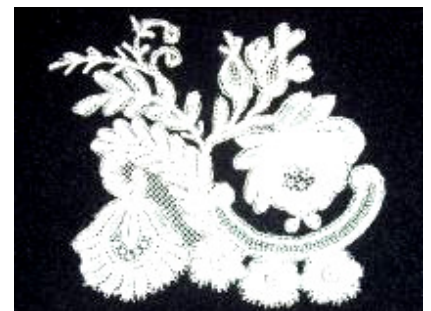


Antwerp, Grote Market

### Day 5 Bruges

You'll be delighted by the medieval atmosphere of Bruges. On the sight seeing enjoy bridges, palaces, the Old Market square, the Begijnhof or "Convent of the Vine" and the final highlight: a guided tour of the Groeninge Museum. In the afternoon you may want to watch the lace makers or enjoy some more art works in the Memling Museum

Overnight in Bruges



Lace

### **Day 6 Bruges – Gent – Luxembourg**

Ghent is a traditional Flemish university town, where Emperor Charles V was born. In the St. Bravo Cathedral you will have time to admire the superb „Adoration of the Mystic Lamb“, a masterpiece by Jan van Eyck. Past Namur you drive into the Duchy of Luxembourg, where you will stay in a beautiful Spa-Hotel.

Dinner and overnight in Luxembourg



Luxembourg flag

### **Day 7 Luxembourg**

This day is dedicated to a visit to the capital of the Duchy, also called Luxembourg, perched on top of a sandstone outcrop, and skirted by two rivers. A local expert shows you the old and modern sights of the city, and will take you to the Casemates, an extended network of underground passages created in the 18th Century. The remainder of the day is free to relax in your Hotel.

Overnight in Luxembourg



Palace entrance

### **Day 8 Luxembourg – Bastogne – Maastricht – Arnhem**

In Bastogne the „Battle of the Bulge“ took place – you will learn all about it in the Bastogne Historical Center. See the Mardasson Memorial before driving into the Netherlands. Maastricht is the first stop after the border. Enjoy the almost Mediterranean atmosphere of this little university town. Next destination is Arnhem, capital of Gelderland and the city of "A Bridge too Far".

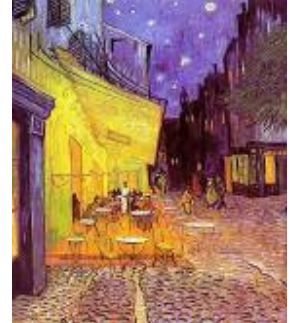
Overnight in Arnhem



Mardasson Memorial

**Day 9 Arnhem and the Kroeller-Mueller Museum**

It is only a short distance to the Hoge Veluwe, the largest nature reserve in the Netherlands, home of the prestigious Kroeller-Mueller Museum and Sculpture Park: A wonderful example of bringing art and nature together so that both are enhanced. An expert will explain the 19th and 20th century paintings and Europe's largest sculpture garden. You'll have time to explore at your own pace the works by Henry Moore, Auguste Rodin, van Gogh and many more. Overnight in Arnhem



Van Gogh: Cafe Terrace at Night

**Day 10 Arnhem – Delft – The Hague – Amsterdam**

Learn all about the tin-glazed Delftware with its remarkable lightness and shiny aspect (it has been made here for over 300 years). Admire the Peace Palace in the Hague. Thanks to Andrew Carnegie's generous donation it houses the Court of Arbitration and a remarkable library. Overnight in Amsterdam



**Day 11 Amsterdam**

Sight seeing of Amsterdam features not only the Royal Palace, the ancient Stock Exchange and many more monuments in the center, but also a guided tour through the treasure house of the Netherlands, world-renowned Rijksmuseum, noted for Rembrandt's masterpiece the "Night Watch". Then a different view point of the city: on a glass-enclosed boat you glide through the canals past lovely old houses and colorful house boats. Overnight in Amsterdam



**Day 12 Excursion to Aalsmeer, Volendam and Zaanse Schans**

Early morning visit to nearby Aalsmeer where a unique flower auction takes place daily. Then you travel back in time: Zaanse Schans with its old windmills and typical houses. Taste delicious Dutch cheese and watch the sailing boats in the old fisher village of Volendam. The afternoon is free for more individual sight seeing in Amsterdam, last minute shopping and packing!  
Farewell Dinner and overnight in Amsterdam



**Day 13 Departure**

Transfer to Schipol, Amsterdam's airport – the only one in the world that is below sea level!  
Check in and then say "Good Bye" to your Tour Director and to these small but beautiful countries !