



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

**National Trust Tours**



**Holland & Belgium**  
**Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard *Magnifique III***

**May 26 – June 3, 2025**

## CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

**CRUISE** from **Amsterdam** to **Bruges** along Holland and Belgium's famous waterways aboard **Magnifique III**, a traditional Dutch-style riverboat with 21 contemporary cabins

**GO** behind the scenes at one of Europe's oldest hospitals in Bruges for an expert-led tour of the **Hans Memling Museum**, home to influential 15th-century works that the Early Netherlandish painter created for this setting

**MARVEL** at **Michelangelo's *Madonna and Child***, the only sculpture by the Renaissance master to leave Italy during his lifetime, in Bruges's Church of Our Lady, and learn about its dramatic history of plunder at the hands of Napoleon and Hitler

**WITNESS** the **Van Eycks' 15th-century *Ghent Altarpiece*** (*The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*), joining experts to see newly restored details of this monumental masterpiece in its original home, **St. Bavo's Cathedral**

**STEP** inside Antwerp's acclaimed yet little-known **Museum Mayer van den Bergh**, with experts introducing you to one of Belgium's most storied art collections, including Pieter Bruegel the Elder's ***Mad Meg***

**EXPLORE** the UNESCO-listed village of **Kinderdijk** with a local guide, learning how its iconic 18th-century windmills and ingenious water management systems have held back the sea for generations

**UNCOVER** the poignant World War I history in **Ypres**, Belgium, joining experts to experience the **In Flanders Fields Museum**, the preserved trenches at **Sanctuary Wood**, and **Tyne Cot Cemetery**, the world's largest Commonwealth war cemetery

**GAIN** exclusive access to the medieval **Adornes Domain** in Bruges, a 15th-century estate owned by the noble Adorno family, and enjoy a rare glimpse into their life and times over light refreshments

Kinderdijk, Holland



Dear National Trust Traveler,

Discover a place where windmills stand as monuments to human ingenuity, charming canals connect medieval cities, and artistic masterpieces created centuries ago still take your breath away. In May 2025, join the National Trust on a one-of-a-kind exploration of Holland and Belgium. Aboard the traditional Dutch-style *Magnifique III* riverboat, glide along serene canals that have defined these countries' landscapes and culture for generations.

Curators and experts will take you behind the scenes of Holland and Belgium's leading museums, hallowed halls that safeguard an incomparable art heritage. Begin at Amsterdam's famed Rijksmuseum, home to such treasures as Rembrandt's moody *The Night Watch* and Vermeer's luminous *The Milkmaid*. In Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, stand beneath 18th-century Gothic windmills and learn from a local expert how Dutch resourcefulness in water management reclaimed land from the relentless sea.

Step into Antwerp's majestic Cathedral of Our Lady to marvel at Rubens's towering *Assumption of the Virgin Mary*, a defining work of the Flemish Baroque. Explore the cobblestone streets of Bruges, once a thriving medieval center of trade and craftsmanship. During our journey, doors will open to medieval estates rarely accessible to the public. Go behind the scenes at the Adornes Domain, an estate seldom open to visitors, owned by the same noble family since the 15th century.

At Antwerp's Church of Our Lady, marvel at Michelangelo's *Madonna and Child*, astonishingly the only sculpture to leave Italy during the Renaissance master's lifetime. Witness the Van Eyck brothers' *Ghent Altarpiece*, "history's most stolen artwork," finally returned to its original home, St. Bavo's Cathedral. See long-obscured details of this influential work, uncovered after an extensive restoration. In Ypres, an important World War I battleground, visits to the In Flanders Fields Museum, Sanctuary Wood trenches, and Tyne Cot Cemetery will bring soldiers' sacrifices to vivid reality.

Join us in May for an unparalleled exploration of artistic brilliance and human resilience in this enchanting region, where the past continues to shape the present.

Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit *Arrangements Abroad's* website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels [here](#).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Meg Annacone-Perez  
Director, National Trust Tours



The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a private, nonprofit membership organization dedicated to saving historic places and revitalizing America's communities. For more information, visit the Trust's website at [www.savingplaces.org](http://www.savingplaces.org) or phone (800) 944-6847 or (202) 588-6000.

Bruges, Belgium



# Holland & Belgium

## Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard *Magnifique III*

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In response, the Dutch designed a system of windmills, pumps, and water basins to remove water from the polders and keep the land above sea level. Marvel at Kinderdijk's octagonal, Brabantine Gothic-style windmills, engineering wonders built in the mid-18th century and unparalleled for their size. 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 29: DORDRECHT / ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Step ashore for a guided tour of Dordrecht, strolling through cobblestone streets lined with more than 950 monuments, from medieval houses to picturesque canals. See its historic city center, harbors, enchanting alleyways, and 17th-century merchants' houses and warehouses. Continue to Antwerp, a city renowned for its medieval and modern architecture and extensive art collections.

Following lunch, join an expert to explore Antwerp's tallest building, the city's Cathedral of Our Lady, where you'll be awestruck by its sheer scale and grandeur. As you approach the cathedral, you'll be immediately drawn to its soaring 400-foot-tall spire, which, upon its completion in 1518, made it the tallest building in the Low Countries for several centuries. Inside this masterpiece of Brabantine Gothic architecture, enjoy a guided look at major paintings by Peter Paul Rubens, including his 1626 achievement *Assumption*

### MONDAY, MAY 26: DEPARTURE

Depart on an overnight flight to Amsterdam.

### TUESDAY, MAY 27: AMSTERDAM, HOLLAND / EMBARK *MAGNIFIQUE III*

Arrive in Amsterdam and enjoy lunch at a local favorite. Then visit Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, the State Treasury of Dutch art. Take a guided look at its incredible collection of masterpieces like Rembrandt's legendary *The Night Watch*, which astounds with its dramatic chiaroscuro. Behold Vermeer's *The Milkmaid* and *Lady Reading a Letter*, which demonstrate his mastery of light and color. Behold some of Van Gogh's bracing self-portraits, Hals's group portraits, Brueghel's flower paintings, and much more. Afterwards, embark *Magnifique III* and enjoy a welcome dinner as we cruise to Vianen. L,D

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 28: VIANEN / KINDERDIJK / DORDRECHT

Transfer from Vianen to the village of Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Join an expert for a guided tour of Kinderdijk's 19 windmills and cutting-edge water management system. The site emerged from the Dutch efforts to turn swampland into productive land over a thousand years. Early settlers dug ditches and built dikes to create dry land called polders. As these areas drained, they sank deeper, increasing flood risks from nearby rivers and the sea.



Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Holland, photo by Erik Smits



of the Virgin Mary. This painting measures a staggering 16 feet in height and 10 feet in width, with Rubens's dynamic, spiraling composition filling the vast canvas.

Then join a guided look at Antwerp's Museum Mayer van den Bergh, one of Belgium's most highly regarded yet less-visited art collections. Take a private perusal of the acquisitions of the noted collector Fritz Mayer van den Bergh (1858–1901), including works by Jan van Eyck, Hans Memling, and Pieter Bruegel the Elder. The museum's most famous work is Bruegel's vivid *Mad Meg*, his 1563 depiction of a frenzy surrounding Dulle Griet, a figure from Flemish folklore, as she leads a female army on a mission to pillage Hell. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

#### **FRIDAY, MAY 30: ANTWERP / SINT-AMANDS**

Step into the vivid imaginations of Van Eyck, Rubens, Rodin, and Ensor at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, known as KMSKA. Join an expert guide to explore the museum's 600 years of creative treasures charting art's evolution in the Low Countries, from 15th-century Flemish portraits to 20th-century Belgian Expressionist canvases.

After lunch at leisure, discover some of the world's oldest printing presses at the UNESCO-listed Museum Plantin-Moretus, the sole surviving Renaissance and Baroque-era printing workshop and publishing house globally. This evening, enjoy dinner onboard. B,D

#### **SATURDAY, MAY 31: SINT-AMANDS / GHENT**

In the morning, cruise to Ghent, one of Europe's best-kept secrets. After lunch at leisure, enjoy a tour through the city's medieval center. A highlight will be St. Bavo's Cathedral, where you'll come face to face with Ghent's greatest treasure—the 15th-century *Ghent Altarpiece* (*The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*).

One of history's most influential masterworks, this monumental polyptych was completed in 1432 by the Flemish painters Jan and Hubert van Eyck, and it has now returned to its original home. Scholars and art lovers have marveled at this altarpiece, known as "history's most stolen artwork," for centuries. Recently, a major restoration project has uncovered long-hidden details and shed new light on the Van Eycks' remarkable mastery. With expert guidance, appreciate its breathtaking beauty and profound symbolism firsthand. B,D

#### **SUNDAY, JUNE 1: GHENT / YPRES / BRUGES**

Transfer from Ghent to the historic town of Ypres, one of the most thriving medieval cities in Flanders. The medieval Market Square, the Gothic spires of the Cloth Hall, and the 13th-century Cathedral of St. Martin will transport you to the city's zenith, when Ypres prospered as a center for clothmaking. During World War I, Ypres was the site of three devastating battles along the British lines of the Western Front, and you will delve into that poignant history today.

First, join your expert guide at the In Flanders Fields Museum, uncovering WWI artifacts and personal accounts that make the soldiers' experiences feel visceral and palpable. The rusted rifles and bullet-riddled helmets paint a picture of the challenges they faced, while also highlighting their bravery and sacrifice. At Sanctuary Wood (*pending confirmation*), walk through preserved trenches and see the lasting impact of the war on the landscape.

Following lunch, visit Hill 60, a man-made hill, 60 meters (197 feet) high, formed from the earth excavated during the construction of the nearby railway. Here, gain a unique perspective on the region's strategic importance during the war, with its history of mining operations. British, Australian, and German forces fought intense underground battles using tunnels and mines, resulting in massive explosions and heavy casualties. Now Hill 60 serves as a memorial site for WWI soldiers.



Conclude your tour at Tyne Cot Cemetery, the world's largest Commonwealth war cemetery, where nearly 12,000 soldiers are laid to rest. The rows of white headstones and the memorial bearing the names of almost 35,000 missing soldiers offer a powerful reminder of the human cost of war. As you return to Bruges for dinner at leisure, you'll have the opportunity to explore the city's charming streets on an optional evening walk. B,L

### MONDAY, JUNE 2: BRUGES

Experience the city's rich medieval heritage firsthand. On a privately guided morning tour of the 15th-century Adornes Domain, an authentic medieval estate. Have a rare glimpse into the lives of one of Bruges's most prominent dynasties, the noble Adorno family, who've owned the estate since its beginnings. Enjoy light refreshments before your walk through the grounds (*pending confirmation*).



Hans Memling Museum, Bruges, Belgium,  
© Femke den Hollander and © Stad BruggeMuseum Brugge

Tyne Cot Cemetery, Ypres, Belgium



Then venture to the 12th-century St. John's Hospital, one of Europe's oldest surviving hospital complexes. For centuries, the hospital served as a refuge for the poor and ill, offering care to all regardless of their status. Hans Memling (c. 1430–1494), an influential Early Netherlandish painter from Bruges, created works expressly for the hospital, which has housed his creations since the 15th century. Inside the former hospital, join an expert for a guided tour of what is now the Hans Memling Museum. A highlight will be Memling's stunning *St. Ursula Shrine*, a wooden reliquary shaped like a miniature chapel that mimics the appearance of a gilded metal shrine.

After lunch at leisure, you may enjoy a free afternoon. As an option, experience Bruges's Church of Our Lady, featuring one of the world's highest brick church towers. Inside, see Michaelangelo's celebrated *Madonna and Child*, the master's only work to leave Italy during his lifetime. This marble sculpture has an intriguing provenance, facing plunder by Napoleon and Hitler before returning to Bruges.

Alternatively, revel in a treasure of Flemish masterpieces and Early Netherlandish paintings on a tour of the acclaimed Groeninge Museum. Highlights include Jan van Eyck's *The Madonna with Canon van der Paele* (1436); Hugo van der Goes's noted *The Death of the Virgin* (c. 1472-1480); and Hieronymus Bosch's *The Last Judgment* (1486). Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner. B,D

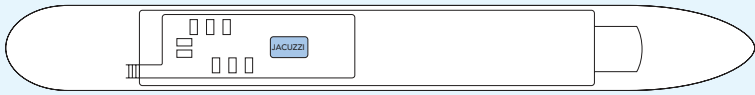
### TUESDAY, JUNE 3: BRUGES / DISEMBARK / BRUSSELS / RETURN

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the Brussels airport for flights home. B

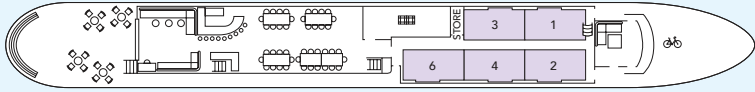
**DISCLAIMER:** *The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of National Trust Tours and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at [www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms](http://www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms).*

## MAGNIFIQUE III

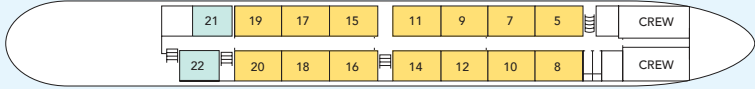
### TOP DECK



### UPPER DECK



### LOWER DECK



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. Shipboard Wi-Fi is available. 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 widescreen 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.



Magnifique III

Upper Deck Suite with French Balcony



Restaurant



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**RESERVATION FORM**

### RESERVATION INFORMATION

To secure your cabin, please call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785**.

A deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees) is required.



## CRUISE RATES

Cabins	Decks	Double	Single
21, 22	Lower Deck	———	\$7,999
Single cabin. One twin bed with portholes			
5, 7 to 12, 14 to 20	Lower Deck	\$6,499	\$10,499
Twin beds with portholes			
1 to 4, 6	Upper Deck	\$10,999	Inquire
Suites, twin beds, small sitting area, French balcony with floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors			

### RATES INCLUDE

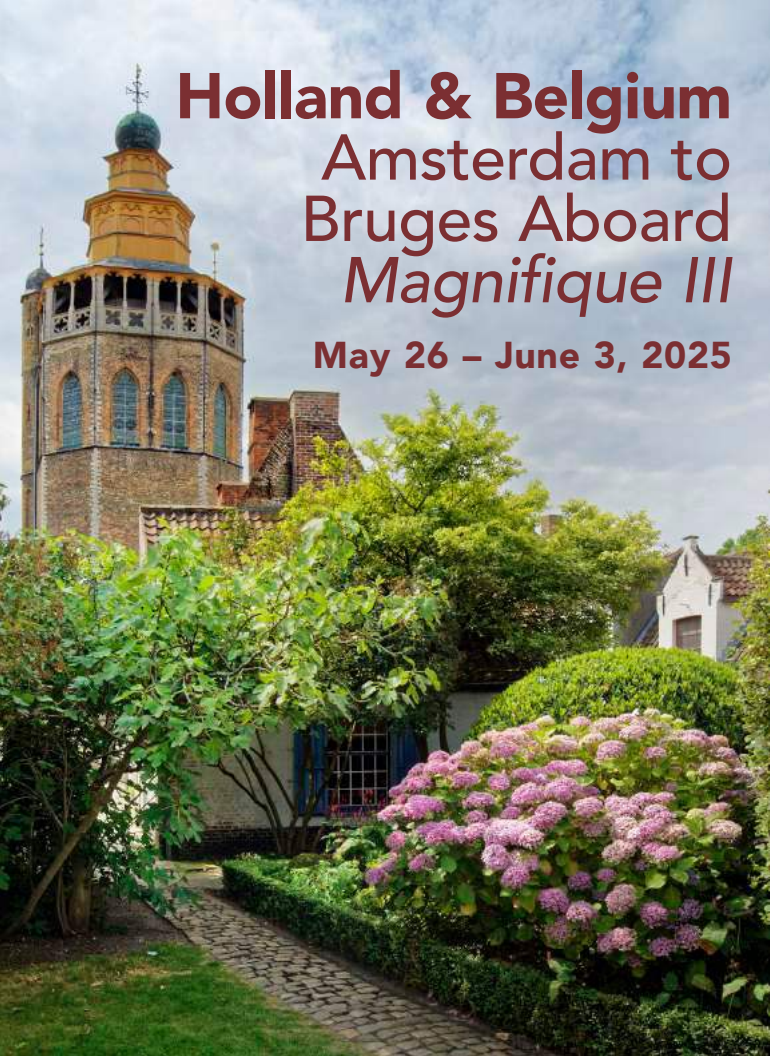
- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Magnifique III*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; wine/beer at dinners
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested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

**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; customary shipboard gratuities: trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

**INSURANCE:** National Trust Tours strongly suggests the purchase of travel insurance. For more information on policy options, visit <https://my.travelinsure.com/nationaltrust/plan/> or call 1-800-937-1387.

Amsterdam, Netherlands





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May 26 – June 3, 2025



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**National Trust Tours**

1155 15th Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
(888) 484-8785 or (202) 588-6300  
[www.nationaltrusttours.com](http://www.nationaltrusttours.com)  
[info@nationaltrusttours.com](mailto:info@nationaltrusttours.com)

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Front cover: Dijiver Canal, Bruges, Belgium  
Back cover: Adornes Domain, Bruges, Belgium (top) and Ypres, Belgium (bottom).  
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