



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



Holland & Belgium

Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard *Magnifique III*

May 25 – June 2, 2026

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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. Experience 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, beginning at Amsterdam's famed Rijksmuseum. Behold Rubens's towering *Assumption of the Virgin Mary* in Antwerp's majestic Cathedral of Our Lady; Michelangelo's *Madonna and Child*, the only sculpture to leave Italy during the Renaissance master's lifetime; and the Van Eyck brothers' *Ghent Altarpiece*, "history's most stolen artwork," finally returned to its original home, St. Bavo's Cathedral.

In UNESCO-listed Kinderdijk, Holland, stand beneath 18th-century Gothic windmills, a testament to Dutch resourcefulness in water management. In Ypres, an important World War I battleground, expert-guided visits to the In Flanders Fields Museum, Sanctuary Wood trenches, and Tyne Cot Cemetery will bring soldiers' sacrifices to vivid reality.



Kinderdijk, Holland (top); map of the region (above)

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- 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, including Amsterdam's famed Rijksmuseum
- 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
- View Fouquet's *Madonna* and other masterpieces at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp, reopened after a \$105-million, 11-year renovation
- Gain exclusive access to Bruges's medieval Adornes Domain, a 15th-century estate owned by the noble Adorno family, and enjoy a rare glimpse into their life and times over light refreshments
- Experience Jan and Hubert van Eyck's meticulously restored *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, now returned to its original home, St. Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent, Belgium
- Enjoy the friendly atmosphere created by the Dutch captain and crew aboard *Magnifique III*, a premium ship with 21 contemporary cabins



Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, photo by Erik Smits

MONDAY, MAY 25: DEPARTURE

Depart on an overnight flight to Amsterdam.

TUESDAY, MAY 26: 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 27: 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. 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 28: 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 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



Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp



Ghent, Belgium

FRIDAY, MAY 29: ANTWERP / SINT-AMANDS

Step into the vivid imaginations of Van Eyck, Rubens, Rodin, and Ensor at the **Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp**. 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 30: 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, MAY 31: 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.



Tyne Cot Cemetery, Ypres

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 1: 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*).

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.



Hans Memling Museum, Bruges, © Femke den Hollander & Stad Brugge
Museum Brugge

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 2: BRUGES / DISEMBARK / BRUSSELS / RETURN

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

DISCLAIMER: This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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Cover photo: Drijver Canal, Bruges, Belgium

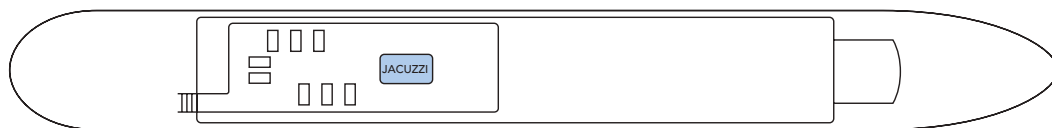


Adornes Domain, Bruges

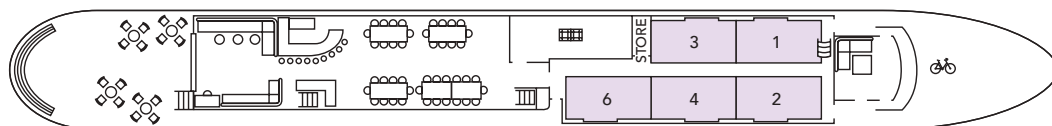
CRUISE RATES

Cabins	Decks	Double	Single
21, 22 Single cabin. One twin bed with portholes	Lower Deck	—	\$7,999
5, 7 to 12, 14 to 20 Twin beds with portholes	Lower Deck	\$6,499	\$9,999
1 to 4, 6 Suites, twin beds, small sitting area, French balcony with floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors	Upper Deck	\$10,999	Inquire

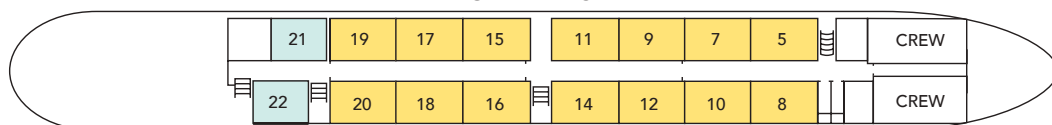
TOP DECK



UPPER DECK



LOWER DECK



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. 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.



Photos clockwise from top left: Restaurant, Magnifique III and Upper Deck Suite with French Balcony (above)

RATES INCLUDE

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

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; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.