



National Trust *for* Historic Preservation

National Trust Tours



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

May 17 – 26, 2026

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These names are etched in our collective consciousness: Rembrandt. Vermeer. Bruegel. Memling. Van Gogh. Van Dyck. Some of history's most gifted and important artists emerged from Belgium and Holland. During the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, these lands' wealth and prosperity fostered an environment where creativity could thrive. Join experts and curators to experience the windmill-dotted landscapes, cultural monuments, charming medieval villages, and towering Gothic cathedrals that inspired all of this superb art.

With Dutch tulips in bloom in early May 2026, celebrate these Dutch and Flemish masters on a spellbinding cruise aboard *Magnifique III*, a boutique, Dutch-style riverboat with 21 contemporary cabins. Cruise along Belgium and Holland's famous canals and waterways from Bruges to Amsterdam. At Belgium and Holland's most acclaimed museums, including Amsterdam's famous Rijksmuseum, enjoy curator-led viewings of Dutch and Flemish masterpieces.

Witness legendary works within centuries-old churches, including the breathtaking, 15th-century *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* by the Van Eyck brothers, now returned to its original home at Ghent's St. Bavo's Cathedral and restored to illuminate long-obscured details. Stand before Kinderdijk's UNESCO-listed windmills and much more.

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

- Cruise from Bruges to Amsterdam 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
- Discover the Groeninge Museum in Bruges, home to a celebrated collection of Flemish masterpieces by Jan van Eyck, Hans Memling, and Hieronymus Bosch, on a private tour
- 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



Map of the region

- 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*
- Celebrate Dutch tulip season with an expert-guided tour of Keukenhof Gardens, where millions of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths burst into bloom each spring
- Stand in the presence of Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*, Vermeer's *The Milkmaid*, and other Dutch art treasures at Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, where a guided tour will help you appreciate these masterpieces in a new light



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

SUNDAY, MAY 17: DEPARTURE

Depart on an overnight flight to Brussels.

MONDAY, MAY 18: BRUSSELS, BELGIUM / BRUGES

Arrive in Belgium's capital and transfer to **Bruges**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the world's most enchanting medieval cities. After check-in at our hotel, 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. Memling condenses the complex story of Saint Ursula, a Breton princess and martyr, into six scenes.

Then experience the city's rich medieval heritage firsthand. On a privately guided 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 families. Enjoy light refreshments before your walk through the grounds.

Learn about the noble Adorno family, who came to fame as merchants, diplomats, pilgrims, and art patrons. Anselm Adornes, a notable family member, traveled to the Holy Land, inspiring him to create the Jerusalem Chapel. See how he modeled this sacred site after Jerusalem's Church of the Holy Sepulchre, with its octagonal design, cupola, and turrets. Enjoy dinner at the hotel. D

TUESDAY, MAY 19: BRUGES / EMBARK MAGNIFIQUE III

Take a privately guided look at the **Groeninge Museum's** acclaimed, comprehensive collection. Revel in a treasure trove of Flemish masterpieces and Early Netherlandish paintings, including 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). You'll also see later paintings from Flemish Expressionists alongside modern artworks by René Magritte and Fernand Khnopff.

Stop in **Bruges's Church of Our Lady** to see **Michelangelo's *Madonna and Child***, his sole work to leave Italy in his lifetime. This marble sculpture has an intriguing provenance, facing plunder by Napoleon and Hitler before returning to Bruges. Savor lunch at the private residence of an aristocratic Belgian family (*pending confirmation*).

Time permitting, take a leisurely walk through **Bruges's tranquil medieval *béguinage*** (women's living community), founded in 1245 and continuously inhabited ever since. As you stroll through this UNESCO-recognized complex of 37 residential houses, a monastery, a church, and green spaces, gain insight into the lives of the Béguines, a lay sisterhood who found independence and purpose within these walls. Transfer to *Magnifique III*, where you will gather for a welcome reception and dinner this evening. B,L,R,D

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20: BRUGES / GHENT

After cruising past picturesque canals and charming villages this morning, arrive in **Ghent**, one of Europe's most prosperous medieval cities. This afternoon, a guided tour of lively Ghent will reveal diverse architectural styles, from soaring 12th- and 13th-century Gothic, elegant Renaissance, and ornate Baroque buildings to imaginative Art Nouveau and a growing number of contemporary cutting-edge buildings.

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 the most influential masterworks in art history, this monumental polyptych was completed in 1432 by the Flemish painters Jan and Hubert van Eyck. Scholars and art lovers have marveled at this altarpiece for centuries, despite its tumultuous history of dismantling, theft, damage, and restoration attempts.



Béguinage, Bruges

Recently, a decade-long 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. This evening, enjoy dinner at leisure in Ghent and an optional walking tour under the lights. B,L

THURSDAY, MAY 21: GHENT / DENDERMONDE / SINT-AMANDS

Continue exploring Ghent this morning before transferring to **Dendermonde**, a medieval Flemish city that flourished as a vital center of trade and textile making. As you walk through the city, picture the merchants and artisans who flocked to Dendermonde, drawn by its strategic location at the meeting point of the Dender and Scheldt rivers. Imagine the bustling activity around the 14th-century cloth hall and belfry on the Grote Markt.

After lunch, step inside the Gothic, 14th-century **Church of Our Lady** in Dendermonde. Discover its masterpieces by celebrated Flemish Baroque artists, including Antony van Dyck's intimate 1631 *Adoration of the Shepherds*. As you further explore the church, see a skillfully carved wooden pulpit, likely dating back to the 17th or 18th century; an elegant marble high altar; and precious 11th-century Romanesque murals.

The church's highlight is **a baptismal font made from the distinctive black Tournai stone**. Crafted in the 12th or 13th century in the Tournai region of Flanders, this font features carvings that illustrate biblical narratives. Made from the dense, durable Tournai stone, these long-lasting baptismal fonts are highly sought after for their age and rarity. This evening, rejoin *Magnifique III* in Sint-Amands and enjoy a private concert on board. B,L,D

FRIDAY, MAY 22: ANTWERP

Travel to **Antwerp**, where you'll be following in the footsteps of the great Flemish Baroque masters who transformed this city into a premier artistic center. During the Renaissance and Baroque periods, an influx of wealth sparked a cultural revolution, with renowned artists like Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony van Dyck, and Jacob Jordaens establishing large workshops in the city.

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 dynamic 1626 achievement ***Assumption of the Virgin Mary***, a staggering 16 feet in height and 10 feet in width. Rubens rendered the earthly realm in rich, earthy tones, while the heavenly realm above is suffused with brilliant, luminous light as Mary ascends, surrounded by a celestial choir of cherubs.



Museum Mayer van den Bergh, Antwerp

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. Wander the exhibits of more than 1,000 meticulously curated pieces primarily from the Northern Renaissance.

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. Alternatively, visit the newly renovated, 17th-century Rubens House to view some of the Flemish painter's famous works. B,L,D

SATURDAY, MAY 23: ANTWERP / DORDRECHT, HOLLAND

Venture to **Dordrecht**, considered Holland's oldest city, whose origins harken back to the 11th century. Its cobblestone streets proudly display its history, with more than 950 monuments spanning from medieval houses to picturesque canals.

Stop for a private look at the **Grote Kerk**, one of Holland's largest and most imposing churches, constructed in the Brabantine Gothic style between 1284 and 1470. Peruse its distinctively colorful windows, two remarkable organs (the Kam-organ and the Bach-organ), and notable works of art, including Renaissance frescoes and 16th-century choir stalls made by master woodcarvers.

Alternatively, take an inside look at one of Holland's oldest art museums, the **Dordrecht Museum**, which hosts a rich collection of Dutch paintings spanning six centuries, featuring masterpieces by renowned artists like Jan van Goyen, Ferdinand Bol, Abraham van Strij, and Ary Scheffer. Then venture to **a unique country estate** for light refreshments and enjoy one of the oldest English landscape gardens in the area. *Magnifique III* remains docked in Dordrecht overnight. B,L,R,D

SUNDAY, MAY 24: DORDRECHT / KINDERDIJK / SCHOONHOVEN / VIANEN

Arrive in the village of **Kinderdijk**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site renowned for its 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.

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. These octagonal, Brabantine Gothic-style windmills, built in the mid-18th century and unparalleled in the world for their size, are engineering wonders, pumping water from low-lying polders.

Then celebrate Dutch tulip season. Join a special expert-led tour of **Keukenhof**, a beloved botanical destination that springs to life during its annual tulip festival. The 79-acre Keukenhof opens its gates for a mere eight weeks from late March to mid-May, showcasing more than seven million tulips (*pending seasonal conditions*) alongside the fragrant daffodils and hyacinths. Wander through English landscape gardens, find solace in the Japanese country gardens, and browse the historical gardens.

After dinner, take a stroll in **Vianen**, a small town near Utrecht. During the French Revolution, the Marquis de Lafayette fled France and found refuge in Vianen in the late 18th century. Explore the town's history dating to the Middle Ages, including remnants of its original fortifications and a moat. B,L,D



Kinderdijk



The Milkmaid (detail), by Vermeer, Amsterdam

MONDAY, MAY 25: VIANEN / AMSTERDAM

Cruise to our final stop, **Amsterdam**, which rose as a major maritime and economic force in the 17th century. The city's affluent traders and burghers avidly collected paintings, allowing artists like Rembrandt, Vermeer, Frans Hals, and Jacob van Ruisdael to flourish by serving the tastes of the burgeoning middle-class market.

Experience the Dutch capital from a magical perspective. Glide along Amsterdam's picturesque canals on **a spectacular cruise aboard an elegant salon boat**. Enjoy lunch as you admire historic sights, including the Anne Frank House and the famous narrow, multi-story gabled houses from the 17th and 18th centuries.

This afternoon, enjoy a guided tour of the **Rijksmuseum**, the State Treasury of Dutch paintings spanning centuries. Encounter masterpieces like **Rembrandt's legendary The Night Watch**, which astounds with its dramatic chiaroscuro. Behold **Vermeer's The Milkmaid and Lady Reading a Letter**, paintings that 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. Alternatively, you may wish to explore Amsterdam at your own pace. This evening, celebrate a memorable voyage at a festive farewell dinner. B,L,D

TUESDAY, MAY 26: AMSTERDAM / DISEMBARK / RETURN

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the Amsterdam 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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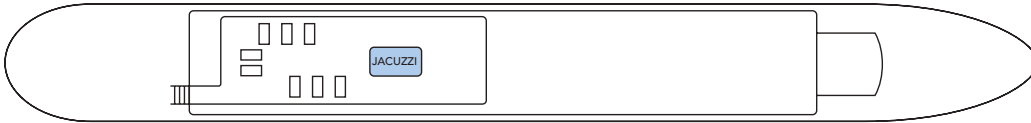
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Cover photo: Ghent

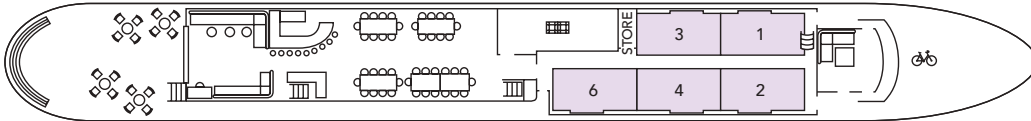
CRUISE RATES

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

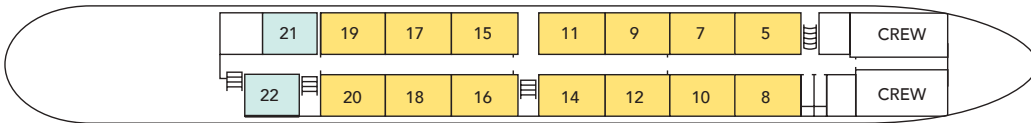
TOP DECK



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. 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.



Upper Deck Suite with French Balcony



Magnifique III

HOTEL DUKES' PALACE, BRUGES

Former residence of the Burgundian aristocracy and a unique five-star hotel in Flanders, the Hotel Dukes' Palace features elegant suites and luxury rooms combining contemporary comfort with authentic 15th-century elegance.



Hotel Dukes' Palace, Bruges

RATES INCLUDE

- One night hotel accommodations at the Hotel Dukes' Palace in Bruges; seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Magnifique III*
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; house wine at included lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel/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 what is 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.



Bruges, Belgium

RESERVATION INFORMATION

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

A deposit of \$2,000 per person (of which \$1,000 is non-refundable for administrative fees) is required.



Amsterdam, Netherlands