



CRUISE THE MAGNIFICENT  
WATERWAYS AND CANALS OF

# HOLLAND & BELGIUM

*An Exclusive Educational and Travel Experience*

**T**here is no better way to experience the beauty, history and culture of Holland and Belgium than by cruising their legendary waterways. This exciting program takes you into the heart of one of Europe's most colorful and fascinating regions with a unique program that creatively combines learning, recreation, relaxation and remarkable fellowship aboard an elegant and modern vessel, the *MS Switzerland II*. Enjoy Amsterdam, a beguiling city of canals and contrasts. Step into The Hague and feel the reverberations of political history. Glimpse the scenes Vermeer immortalized in the picture-perfect vistas of Delft. Explore the renowned Zeeland coast. In Belgium, admire the amazing architecture and art of Bruges and the unrivaled charm of the important port city of Antwerp. Watch thousands of tulips and daffodils nod in the breeze as you float down scenic waterways at a leisurely pace. Join us on the *Cruise the Magnificent Waterways and Canals of Holland and Belgium*—and enrich your life with an educational adventure you will never forget!

## EXCLUSIVE HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the waterways of Holland and Belgium aboard the **exclusively chartered *MS Switzerland II***.
- Enjoy a specially arranged presentation on the Dutch and Belgian Masters, then visit the renowned ***Mauritshuis*** in **The Hague**.
- Stroll through the famous **Keukenhof Gardens**, the world's most expansive and stunning floral display, where 70 acres of tulips and hyacinths bloom each spring.
- Visit the fascinating **Delta Project**, a tribute to Holland's 2,000-year battle against the sea.
- Experience the medieval architecture and unique ambiance of Belgium with visits to beautiful **Bruges** and **Antwerp**.
- See the art of **Rembrandt** and the scenes that inspired him.



## INCLUDED FEATURES

### Transportation

- Scheduled jet service to **Amsterdam, Netherlands**, with a return from **Brussels, Belgium**.\*
- Motorcoach transfers between the airports and ship, including baggage handling onboard the ship.\*

### Accommodations

- **Eight-day, seven-night** cruise aboard the exclusively chartered ***MS Switzerland II***.

### Meals

- **An extensive meal program**, including seven breakfasts, five lunches and seven dinners. Enjoy tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Attend a special **Welcome Reception** onboard the ship.
- Gather for a **Farewell Reception** and **Graduation Ceremony** followed by a **Farewell Dinner** onboard the ship.

### Your Exciting Travel Program

*(For full details please refer to the day-by-day itinerary.)*

- **Informative educational programs** presented by **local experts** will enhance your insight into the region.
- **All excursions.**

### Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a **Passenger Service Representative** prior to departure.
- Services of a professional **Campus Director** and expert **English-speaking local guides** throughout your stay.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist you in your planning.
- Deluxe travel wallet.
- All domestic and foreign governmental airport/departure taxes and fees.\*
- Automatic \$250,000 Flight Insurance for all passengers ticketed by AHI Travel subject to policy terms.\*

\* Provided for Air Program participants only.

# INCLUSIVE PROGRAM ITINERARY

## DAY ONE

Depart your gateway city for **Amsterdam, Netherlands**, aboard scheduled jet service. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

## DAY TWO

Upon arrival, transfer to the pier to embark the **MS Switzerland II**. (Transfer provided for Air Program participants only.)

### Educational Focus:

#### **Contemporary Holland.**

**Excursion: Canal Cruise.** This evening, enjoy a cruise through Amsterdam's picturesque ring of canals.

## DAY THREE

### Excursion: **Keukenhof Gardens.**

This morning, journey through the Dutch flower fields to the renowned Keukenhof Gardens, a 70-acre paradise of tulips and other flowers, complete with Europe's largest fountain and an amazing 700-tree labyrinth.

Enjoy some time at leisure in Amsterdam this afternoon before the ship sails on to Kampen, where it will dock overnight. Gather with fellow travelers for a *Welcome Reception and Dinner*.

## DAY FOUR

This morning, enjoy some time at leisure in Kampen and its picturesque Old Town before sailing towards Deventer.

### Educational Focus: **The Dutch Masters.**

**Excursion: Deventer.** Enjoy a walking tour of this historic town that features the cathedral, church towers and many other quaint stone buildings. This evening, set sail for Arnhem.

### Educational Focus:

#### **The Hanseatic League.**

## DAY FIVE

### Excursion: **Historic Cities of The Hague and Delft.**

Discover two historic cities: The Hague, site of the royal residence and world-class museums, and Delft, the home of Vermeer and lovely canal houses. In The Hague, enjoy a tour of the renowned Mauritshuis, which houses a number of Rembrandt's and Vermeer's finest works. Visit Delft, and stroll its Market Square admiring the many sights of Old Delft, including the palace Prinsenhof. Rejoin the ship in Schoonhoven, and sail past the iconic windmills of Kinderdijk. You'll overnight in Willemstad.

## DAY SIX

### Educational Focus and Excursion:

#### **The Delta Project: Holland's**

**Battle against the Sea.** Enjoy the morning sailing towards Veere. After lunch, travel along the Zeeland coast to the *Delta Expo on Neeltje Jans Island*. Learn about the Delta Works, the massive dam and flood barriers called storm surge barriers, which took 20 years to build. These 65 enormous gates can be slammed shut on the North Sea when powerful storms strike—an engineering masterpiece that now protects the quarter of Holland's land mass below sea level. This evening, spend some free time in Veere.

## DAY SEVEN

This morning, depart Veere.

**Excursion: Bruges.** Once nicknamed the *Venice of the North*, Bruges is a picturesque labyrinth of ivy-clad canals and cobble streets. Discover charming medieval buildings and impressive art collections. See the colorful shops and cafés of the Markt and Burg Central Square. Rejoin the ship in Antwerp, where it will overnight.

## DAY EIGHT

### Educational Focus: **Belgium—Yesterday and Today.**

**Excursion: Antwerp.** This morning, leisurely stroll through Antwerp, one of Europe's leading art centers. Home of painter Peter Paul Rubens and the School of the Southern Netherlands, this diamond capital of the world dates back to the 13th century and features a wealth of medieval architecture. The afternoon is at your leisure to pursue independent interests.

Tonight, gather for your *Farewell Reception and Graduation Ceremony* followed by your *Farewell Dinner*.

## DAY NINE

Disembark the ship, and transfer by motor-coach to Brussels for the return flight(s) to your gateway city. (Provided for Air Program participants only.)

*NOTE: This cruise may operate in the opposite direction. Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Many excursions on this program involve an element of walking as some of the finest attractions on this program are located in areas not accessible by motorcoach.*

**Front page bottom photo:**  
Little Dutch girl; Kinderdijk, Holland

# ACCOMMODATIONS



## MS SWITZERLAND II

The second of a new generation of Swiss cruise ships, the **MS Switzerland II** has offered countless passengers unforgettable holiday memories. This modern vessel combines the highest standards of quality, safety and service. Its sleek design and state-of-the-art technology make it one of Europe's finest river cruisers. The *MS Switzerland II* is staffed by a friendly, professional and multilingual international crew. It features a luxuriously furnished observation lounge with a bar and dance floor, perfect for casual conversation and recreation as the onboard pianist provides entertainment. Enjoy international cuisine at the ship's elegant restaurant, or relax in the coffee corner of the spacious lobby. Each intimate cabin faces outward and affords sweeping views of the passing panoramas. All rooms are air conditioned and feature a television, radio, safe, mini-bar, hair dryer and private, modern bathroom.

## EXCLUSIVE CRUISE EXTRAS

### **This AHI Cruise features:**

- Deluxe river cruise ships providing all outward-facing accommodations; friendly, personalized service; limited capacity; and exclusively designed sailing itineraries.
- Pleasant dining aboard ship featuring special extras such as morning coffee, afternoon tea, local wines and expertly prepared culinary specialties of the region.
- Expert local guides leading thoughtfully designed excursions to enrich your experience of the area.
- A comprehensive, illustrated guide book created exclusively for your program describing, kilometer-by-kilometer, the storied culture and history of the towns, villages and landmarks along the river.



AHI Travel  
6400 Shafer Court  
Rosemont, IL 60018

