

Dutch Waterways

ANTWERP TO AMSTERDAM



**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers

SPONSORED BY

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association
April 29 – May 7, 2025

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

There's much to discover on this wonderful, seven-night cruise through Belgium and the Netherlands! Unpack once aboard your first-class ship and then delight in the remarkable riches of their most historic cities and towns! Take in Amsterdam's gabled canal houses, gorgeous flowers in a stunning garden and the Old-World ambience of Bruges and Antwerp. Other ports of call introduce you to Enkhuizen, a splendid Dutch Golden Age city, and Veere, a laid-back harbor town.

You'll also choose excursions that speak to you in selected ports. Take in Enkhuizen's handsome landmarks on foot and by boat, tour the picture-perfect, 17th-century port town of Hoorn, or bike through the West Frisian countryside. See The Hague and the Mauritshuis' celebrated masterpieces, watch artisans at the Royal Delft porcelain factory or sample farm-fresh cheeses in Gouda. In Bruges, visit a chocolaterie, discover the beer culture or view fine Belgian art.

This thoughtfully designed journey features enrichment from expert guides and lecturers, along with the security and ease of group travel. Plus, you'll appreciate the camaraderie of other curious travelers and make your own discoveries during free time.

Our Dutch Waterways cruise has always proven to be a crowd-pleaser! Guarantee your spot by making your reservation today!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey
President, University of Illinois Alumni Association

The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. **The 17th-Century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam** inside the Singelgracht, Netherlands
2. **Historic Center of Bruges**, Belgium
3. **Belfries of Belgium and France**



Old Town, Bruges





A World of Discovery



Embark on a carefree cruise brimming with Old World charm and history along the intimate waterways of Belgium and the Netherlands! You'll glide down Amsterdam's iconic canals, stroll amid a sea of brilliant tulips at Keukenhof Gardens and bask in the medieval character of Bruges and Antwerp. Discover enriching details from expert guides and lecturers during your travels, plus choose from included cultural and culinary experiences in selected ports!

Top: Keukenhof Gardens | Above: Enkhuizen

Cover: Amsterdam

Mail panel: Keukenhof Gardens | Binnenhof, The Hague

Inspiring Moments



- Glide past elegant, gabled houses from the Dutch Golden Age on **Amsterdam's picturesque canals**.
- Marvel at the **glorious springtime display of tulips** and other cheerful blooms at Keukenhof Gardens.
- Delight in the romantic, cozy ambience of **canal-lined Bruges**, packed with wonderfully preserved Gothic architecture.
- Admire **Antwerp's medieval treasures** in the colorful old town.
- Take in the historic charm of beautiful **Enkhuizen** along scenic IJsselmeer Lake.
- Enjoy the relaxed pace of life in the seaside harbor town of **Veer**.
- Experience three **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.

ALUMNI CAMPUS
ABROAD®



Old Town, Delft

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Brussels, Belgium. 🌐

Day 2 | Brussels, Belgium | Antwerp

Upon arrival, transfer 🔄 to the ship in Antwerp.

Antwerp Walking Tour. Located on the Scheldt River near the North Sea, Antwerp has long been a prominent center of trade. More recently, it has become a fashion design hub. On a guided walk, appreciate its bounty of medieval architecture. See the Gothic Cathedral of Our Lady, the 16th-century town hall festooned with flags and Grote Markt square lined with narrow guild halls.

Enrichment: Contemporary Belgium.

The ship moors overnight in Antwerp.

Day 3 | Bruges | Middelburg, Netherlands | Veere

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

All excursions include a guided walk in Bruges' Old Town. See the Basilica of the Holy Blood, the medieval guild hall buildings and the Belfry Tower. Afterward, begin your selected tour.

- **Cultural Bruges.** Study fascinating artwork from the Flemish primitive and expressionist periods at the Groeninge Museum. *(Active)*
- **Bruges & Beer.** Delve into Belgian brewing traditions at the family-owned De Halve Maan Brewery. Sample their beer and enjoy the city views from the rooftop. *(Active)*
- **Bruges & Belgian Chocolate.** The Belgians have been renowned for their chocolate since the 19th century. Learn why it's so special and indulge in a sample at a chocolaterie. *(Active)*

Make your own lunch plans in Bruges, then rejoin the group to meet the ship in Middelburg. While the ship cruises to Veere tonight, gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 4 | Veere | Willemstad

Free Time: Join the half-day Elective Activity or explore on your own in Veere for the day.

🌐 **Elective | Neeltje Jans & Delta Expo.** Travel along the Zeeland coast to the artificial island of Neeltje Jans. Learn about the Delta Works, the massive dams and storm surge barriers that protect the third of Netherlands' landmass below sea level. Then, experience the impact of the devastating 1953 North Sea flood in a gripping, 4D panoramic animation.

The ship docks in Willemstad this evening.

Day 5 | The Hague • Delft • Gouda

Enrichment: The Dutch Masters.

🌐 **PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:**

- **The Hague & the Mauritshuis.** See top sites including the Binnenhof, the center of Dutch

Gouda cheese, Gouda





Old Town, Bruges

politics, and the Peace Palace, on a scenic tour. Next, view the remarkable paintings and sculptures of the famed Mauritshuis, which houses Vermeer's "Girl with a Pearl Earring."

- **Old Delft & the Porcelain Factory.** Take a guided stroll in Delft's old town, then tour the Royal Delft Porcelain Factory, founded in 1653. Watch a master artisan hand-paint the famous blue-and-white pottery and view a fine collection of antique Delft earthenware.
- **Gouda – City of Cheese.** See the bustling market square and the 15th-century town hall before admiring the exquisite, 16th-century painted-glass windows inside Sint Janskerk. Finish with a tasting of fresh Gouda cheeses.

Windmill near Veere



After lunch on board, cruise this afternoon toward Enkhuizen on the banks of the IJssel.

Day 6 | Enkhuizen • Hoorn

Arrive today in Enkhuizen, filled with impressive architecture from the 16th and 17th centuries.

PYJ | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Enkhuizen Walking Tour & Zuiderzee Museum.** See Enkhuizen's stately landmarks from the Dutch Golden Age, and learn about daily life by the sea at Zuiderzee's recreated village of more than 140 historic buildings.
- **Historic Hoorn Walking Tour.** Hoorn was a major Dutch East India Company port in the 17th century. In its heyday, ships returned here from around the world with valuable cargo such as pepper, nutmeg and cloves. Relish its charming highlights on a stroll.
- **West Frisian Bicycle Tour.** Pedal through the breathtaking countryside near Enkhuizen, and ride past little villages, churches and the pastoral dikes of the IJssel, the Netherlands' largest manmade lake. *(Active)*

Town Hall, Antwerp



Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- Unpack once and sail for **7 nights** aboard the **exclusively chartered**, first-class MS Amadeus Imperial.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 5 lunches and 7 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine, beer or soft drinks with lunch and dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **Personalize Your Journey | PYJ |** A choice of excursions in selected locales.
- **Electives** and free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.



Relish a delicious lunch on board the ship.

Free Time: Explore Enkhuizen on your own. The ship sails toward Amsterdam this evening.

Day 7 | Amsterdam

Enrichment: *Contemporary Netherlands.*

Canals of Amsterdam. Get a delightful perspective of this romantic city on a guided cruise along its vibrant, leafy canals.

Savor lunch aboard the ship.

Free Time: Create your own plans in the city.

Day 8 | Amsterdam

Keukenhof Gardens. Revel in the enchanting beauty of this 80-acre garden overflowing with tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and other blooms.

Return to the ship for a refreshing lunch.

Free Time: Spend the afternoon at leisure.

Tonight, share in a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner to commemorate your journey.

Day 9 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer  to the airport for the return flight  to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

 Flights and  transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

 PYJ experiences are included.

 Elective experiences available at an additional cost.

Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats



Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp

EXTEND YOUR STAY



Antwerp | 2 Nights

{ Elective PRE-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Delight in the intriguing museums and tantalizing food of this inviting, walkable city! This extension includes two nights at the first-class Hilton Old Town Antwerp; daily breakfasts; a guided tour of medieval Ghent; deluxe motor coach to/from Ghent; gratuities for guide and driver; the services of an AHI Travel Director and AHI Hospitality desk; baggage handling between the hotel and ship; and all taxes and service charges.

\$995 per person, double occupancy | \$1,390 single occupancy



Amsterdam | 2 Nights

{ Elective POST-Trip Extension at an additional cost }

Explore alluring Amsterdam's lively districts and world-class museums! This extension includes two nights at the centrally located, first-class Amsterdam Marriott; a guided walk and visit to the National Maritime Museum; daily breakfasts; the services of an AHI Travel Director and AHI Hospitality desk; guide gratuities; baggage handling between the ship and hotel; and all taxes and service charges.

\$995 per person, double occupancy | \$1,470 single occupancy

Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,
please call our AHI Travel Experts
at **844-414-0369** or
visit **<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**.

Program Dates

Travel dates †

April 29 – May 7, 2025

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates*

April 30 – May 7, 2025

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Cruise Program

Category-Deck	Full Price	Early Booking Special Price*
E-Haydn (Mid Aft)	\$4,240	\$3,490
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$4,440	\$3,690
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$4,840	\$4,090
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$5,040	\$4,290
A-Mozart	\$5,540	\$4,790
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$6,040	\$5,290

Early Booking Special Price includes \$750 special savings.

*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

Suite category features a balcony. Categories A, B and C feature a drop-down panoramic window. Categories D and E feature a panoramic window.

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

VAT & Port Charges in the amount of \$395 per person is included in the above prices. All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1871A?schoolId=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

MS Amadeus Imperial



Aboard this stylish, 84-cabin ship, reminiscent of a grand European hotel, cruise in exceptional comfort and style while enjoying warm hospitality and personalized attention from its seasoned crew. The beautifully appointed public spaces feature large windows for expansive views of the unfolding scenery. Savor delectable breakfast and luncheon buffets and indulge in sophisticated, regionally inspired dinner menus. Wine, beer and soft drinks complement both lunch and dinner. Each evening, relax in your inviting cabin or suite, which includes a private bathroom with a shower, satellite TV and complimentary Wi-Fi.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Belfry, Bruges

AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

Travel Consultants stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators each offer their personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



De Halve Maan Brewery, est. 1856, Bruges



Belgian chocolate

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association
EXPLORERS Office
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
601 S. Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

ABHOLBEL25 77

844-414-0369

<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>



Savor carefree cruising and ever-changing panoramas!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

With AHI you can rely on:

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

Presorted Std.
U.S. Postage
Paid
AHI Travel