

Dutch Waterways

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers

AMSTERDAM TO ANTWERP

SPONSORED BY



ALUMNI

University of Illinois Alumni Association

April 11-19, 2026

I ALUMNI

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

There's much to discover on this wonderful, seven-night cruise through the Netherlands and Belgium! 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 stately landmarks on foot and see history come alive at the Zuiderzee Museum; 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

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**



Bruges



Belfry, Bruges



Discovery begins here



Embark on a carefree cruise brimming with Old World charm and history along the intimate waterways of the Netherlands and Belgium! 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: Gouda cheese, Gouda

Cover: Amsterdam

Mail panel: Enkhuizen | 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.
- Meander through the charming squares of **Antwerp's colorful old town** and admire its grand medieval treasures.
- Take in the historic charm of **beautiful Enkhuizen**, an important 17th-century port along scenic IJsselmeer Lake.
- Enjoy the relaxed pace of life in **Veere**, a picture-perfect seaside town.
- Experience three **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**.



Delft

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Amsterdam, Netherlands. 🌐

Day 2 | Amsterdam, Netherlands

Upon arrival, transfer 🔄 to the ship at the pier.

Enrichment: *Contemporary Netherlands.*

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

The ship moors overnight in Amsterdam.

Day 3 | Amsterdam

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

Free Time: Explore Amsterdam independently. Gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 4 | Enkhuizen • Hoorn

Arrive in Enkhuizen, set on the banks of the IJssel and 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 lovely highlights on a stroll.

- **West Frisian Bicycle Tour.** Ride through the breathtaking countryside near Enkhuizen, and pedal past little villages, churches and the pastoral dikes of the IJssel, the Netherlands' largest man-made lake. *(Active)*

Return to the ship for lunch.

Free Time: See more of Enkhuizen after lunch.

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 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



"Girl with a Pearl Earring," Mauritshuis



Bruges

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.

Return to the ship for lunch and an afternoon of cruising toward Veere.

Day 6 | Veere

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 remains in Veere overnight.

Day 7 | Bruges, Belgium | Antwerp

Enjoy a scenic drive to Bruges, Belgium.

🕒 **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.** Cocoa beans



Windmill near Veere



Belgian chocolate



were introduced here in the 17th century. Learn what makes this chocolate unique and try samples at a chocolatier's shop. *(Active)* Make your own lunch plans in Bruges. Later, rejoin the group and meet the ship in Antwerp, where it will dock overnight.

Day 8 | Antwerp

Enrichment: Contemporary Belgium.

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.

Free Time: Spend the afternoon pursuing your own interests in Antwerp. Tonight, share in a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner to commemorate your journey.

Day 9 | In Transit

Transfer ➡ to the Brussels 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.

Activity Level

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

Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

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

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.

Cathedral of Our Lady, Antwerp





EXTEND YOUR STAY



Amsterdam | 2 Nights

{ Elective PRE-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 hotel and ship; and all taxes and service charges.

\$1,095 per person, double occupancy | \$1,540 single occupancy



Antwerp | 2 Nights

{ Elective POST-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 ship and hotel; and all taxes and service charges.

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

2026 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates  **April 11-19, 2026**

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

Tour dates* **April 12-19, 2026**

* 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	Special Savings Price*
E-Haydn (Mid Aft)	\$4,245	\$3,495
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$4,445	\$3,695
C-Strauss (Midship)	\$5,045	\$4,295
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$5,245	\$4,495
A-Mozart	\$5,645	\$4,895
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$6,345	\$5,595

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$750 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.

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

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

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/1969A?schoold=69>.

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



MS Amadeus Queen

MS Amadeus Queen

Cruise in exceptional comfort and style aboard this sophisticated, 81-cabin ship reminiscent of a grand European hotel while enjoying warm hospitality and personalized attention from its seasoned crew. The ship features tastefully appointed public spaces with large windows for expansive, scenic views and an indoor pool with a retractable roof. Savor delicious breakfast and luncheon buffets and indulge in expertly prepared, regionally inspired dinners. 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 Travel Expertise



Travel Consultants assist with the reservation process.

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

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

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

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

Book your journey today!

844-414-0369

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



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