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## **The Mystic Arts Center**

# **THE NETHERLANDS: DISCOVERING THE OLD MASTERS**

## **June 1 - 11, 2011**

**Experience the quintessential sights and sounds of Holland while exploring its artistic, cultural and historic heritage.**

A visit in blossom time is flower-lovers' heaven. In addition to the seasonal delights, you will enjoy visiting picturesque villages, a wooden shoe maker (*klompenmaker*), a cheese farm, and other particularly Dutch endeavors. Your group will discover the inland waterways of the Netherlands on an exclusively chartered barge while exploring Dutch villages off the beaten path and the landscape that so inspired the Old Masters. Join art historians for an introduction to the great masters, and visit renowned art collections in museums large and small.

**Land cost per person based on double occupancy:**

Members \$2790                  Non-Members \$2910

Single Supplement, \$750

*Singles are limited.*

**Program includes:**

- Two nights in a hotel in the heart of Amsterdam
- Seven nights on a deluxe barge
- Daily breakfast and dinner
- All entrance fees
- All coach transfers
- English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Expert lectures by art historians

*Please note airfare is not included.*

**PLEASE JOIN US TO LEARN MORE!**

**An informational meeting will be held  
On September 16 at 5:30 p.m.  
At the Mystic Arts Center**

**Please R.S.V.P. to Gretchen Higgins  
860.536.7601**



# Daily Itinerary

## **JUNE 1 DEPARTURE: OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO THE NETHERLANDS**

## **JUNE 2 AMSTERDAM: ARRIVAL / ZAAANSE SCHANS**

Arrival Amsterdam Airport. Coach to de Zaanse Schans, where you'll enjoy a visit to a wooden shoemaker and lunch at a pancake house. We continue to our hotel in the heart of Amsterdam, or Mokum, as the locals call it. Join us tonight for our welcome dinner.

## **JUNE 3 KRÖLLER-MÜLLER MUSEUM / AMSTERDAM**

Coach to the Kröller-Müller Museum and Sculpture Garden for an in-depth look at the life and works of van Gogh. This evening, returning to Amsterdam, we sample an Indonesian rijsttafel, a meal popular with the Dutch.

## **JUNE 4 AMSTERDAM: RIJKSMUSEUM**

We start the morning with a visit to the Rijksmuseum to admire Rembrandt's Nightwatch and several other Old Masters. This afternoon we'll board the barge, our home for the next seven days.

## **JUNE 5 HAARLEM: BARGING / FRANS HALS MUSEUM**

Enjoy a scenic morning cruise to Haarlem for an excursion to the Frans Hals Museum. Join an art historian for insight into the life and works of this 16<sup>th</sup> century Dutch painter. Afterward, explore his works in this charming museum.

## **JUNE 6 AALSMEEER FLOWER AUCTION / LEIDEN**

Coach to Aalsmeer to the largest flower auction in the Netherlands. We'll witness the auctioning of flowers and plants, soon destined to be on their way to worldwide customers. Our coach trip continues to Leiden, the birthplace of Rembrandt and home of the oldest university in the Netherlands.

## **JUNE 7 MAURITSHOUSE / DELFT**

Begin the day with a presentation on the artist Johannes Vermeer and enjoy a visit to the Mauritshouse for a look at some of his beautifully detailed paintings. Afterwards we cruise to Delft where we discover the art of fine porcelain making at the Porceleyne Fles, the oldest surviving factory in the Netherlands. Our exploration of Delft continues with a visit to the market square and its impressive town hall.

## **JUNE 8 ROTTERDAM: PILGRIMS CHURCH / BOIJMANS MUSEUM**

Barge to Rotterdam for an excursion to the Pilgrims Church, where the pilgrims said their last prayers before sailing for England to embark on their *Mayflower* voyage to North America. A historian will enlighten us on the history and importance of this unique site. Then, accompanied by an expert, we explore the Boijmans Museum with its fine collection of Old Masters (Van Eyck, Fabricius, J. Bosch).

## **JUNE 9 GOUDA: CATHARINA GASTHUIS / ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

A morning cruise will take us to Gouda for an exhibit featuring historic altar panels at Catharina Gasthuis. Gain insight into the restoration of 450-year-old biblical drawings used for the stained glass windows at St. John's Church. Following the introduction, we'll visit the church next door to view these magnificent windows with an historian.

## **JUNE 10 AMSTERDAM: INDEPENDENT EXPLORATION**

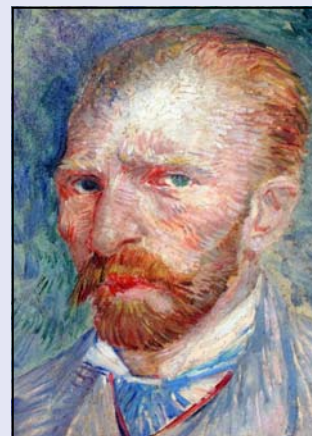
Our barging journey concludes as we return to Amsterdam. Take this final opportunity to explore one of its unique museums or simply stroll the beautiful streets prior to joining your fellow travelers for our farewell dinner.

## **JUNE 11 DEPARTURE FOR USA**

Group transfer by coach to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

## **OPTIONAL HOTEL EXTENSION**

If you wish to extend your stay before or after the tour, IBT can assist you with reservations at the Park Hotel in Amsterdam, located within walking distance to the van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank House, Heineken Brewery and other attractions.





## The Lena Maria

The barge we charter in the Netherlands, the *Lena Maria*, is a classic river barge that can carry 24 passengers in 12 cabins and has an upper deck with a spacious sitting area, dining salon, a bar and a sun deck.

Passengers are accommodated in a climate-controlled cabin with twin lower beds and a private bath, and can unpack without packing again until the last day of barging. Breakfast and dinner are taken aboard. The barge moves only during the day, never at night. Now and again she is underway during meals, producing a changing vista from the dining table.

**Questions and reservations, please contact the Tour Operator:**

### **International Barging Tours**

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#### **Enrollment Policy:**

We require a deposit of \$500 per person to secure a place on the tour. Once you have decided to enroll, please contact us and we will hold your place for one week, pending receipt of your deposit.

#### **Unaccompanied Travelers:**

If you are traveling on your own and are willing to share a room, we will attempt to pair you with a roommate of the same gender.

#### **Cancellation Policy:**

If cancellation notice is received more than 90 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$200 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received 90 to 30 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$500 per person cancellation fee. If cancellation notice is received less than 30 days before departure, all monies will be refunded less a \$1000 per person cancellation fee. In case of a no-show, or departure from a trip already in progress, no refund for any unused portion of the trip will be issued. IBT cannot make exceptions to these cancellation policies for any reason, including personal emergencies and/or weather.

**Please note:** In the unlikely event that a tour is cancelled, IBT will refund payment; however, IBT is not responsible for expenses incurred by registrants, including non-refundable tickets. As such, IBT encourages all tour participants to purchase a travel protection plan. An information brochure on travel insurance will be included in your enrollment confirmation.

A standard waiver/disclaimer will be supplied to all travelers, and must be signed at least 60 days prior to tour departure.

