

VIRTUOSO®

SYMPOSIUM

Amsterdam · March 2018

DESIGN YOUR DAY DESCRIPTIONS

[Flora Holland, Grower, Lunch with Local Family and Cheese Workshop](#)

Duration: 8 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

7:45am Meet and greet with your English-speaking guide at the River Cruise dock (Ruyterkade Oost), from where you will be taken for a 35-minute drive by luxurious private coach to Aalsmeer where you are going to visit the world's largest flower auction Flora Holland. Flora Holland compares in size to Monaco. It is also the largest commercial complex in the world!

See how this auction process works and notice a variety of millions of flowers. This can all be observed from a walkway above the ground. Did you know that on an average auction day they auction 35 million cut flowers with more than 15,000 varieties? As everybody else, you will be very amazed.

10:00am After this exciting visit we continue with a short scenic drive for an exclusive tour through a local grower. These visits are very special because, in addition to not finding them in any brochures, you normally can't visit these sights. Most of these companies are family owned. This can be a Chrysanthemum, Rose, Gerbera, Hydrangea, African Violet or any other grower with blooming flowers. The owner will be there to greet you and to guide you around the, sometimes high-tech company. You will be very much impressed.

11:30am We continue with a scenic drive to Lisse, the heart of the bulb district. Here you will be taken to the private home of the Family Verhoef where a fresh and tasty Dutch lunch will be served. Enjoy and talk with the owner and see how they live in their very nice home. If the weather permits, lunch will be held in the family garden. The family home is located opposite of the famous Keukenhof flower exhibit, which is only open 8 weeks per year and will open in 2018 on March 22. An ideal place for a quiet local lunch, rather than being at a busy, touristy restaurant at the Keukenhof.

1:15pm Fully charged, there will be a 45-minute drive to the picturesque "Land of Leeghwater", where you are going to have an exclusive workshop cheese making at, a traditional non-touristy Dutch dairy farm. This workshop, where you will make your own cheese from scratch, will take about 2 hours. Of course, you can take your cheese with you. Besides the workshop, you will also be taken for a tour through the farm including a visit to a very special milking robot. A surprising visit where you will again meet local people!

4:15pm After this exciting workshop, we will return to your ship in Amsterdam, where you will have the remainder of the day for your own leisure. You will arrive back before 5pm.

[Architecture and Water Management](#)

Duration: 8 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:00am Meet and greet with your English-speaking guide at the River Cruise dock (Ruyterkade Oost), from where you will be taken for a 60-minute drive by luxurious private coach to Rotterdam. Upon arrival, we are going to have an interesting architecture tour with a real architect. During the tour, you will get all the ins and outs of the Rotterdam architecture and its amazing sights. Buildings like the Van Nelle Factory and House Sonneveld are examples of the renewed architecture in the period right after the War. In the 80's and 90's it received its

definite status with the Cube Homes of Piet Blom, the Art Hall Museum (Kunsthal) by Rem Koolhaas and the Netherlands Architecture Institute. With a lot of courage and bravery the city began cleaning up the old harbor areas to living and work areas. Symbol is the Erasmus Bridge from 1996, which attached the harbor area "Kop van Zuid" (Head of South) to the city center. As Rotterdam keeps on developing, you can nowadays find some spectacular buildings like the Rotterdam by Rem Koolhaas (largest structure in the Netherlands), the Red Apple by KCAP Architects with the famous Dutch interior designer Jan des Bouvrie, Rotterdam Central Station (three architects) and of course the recently opened Market Hall, which of course we will visit. The spectacular Markthal is the first indoor market hall in the Netherlands. A highlight of Rotterdam that has received several awards. Stockholm, Barcelona, Valencia, Copenhagen, almost every large city has one: an indoor food market. A lively market hall, which is bursting at the seams with fresh fish, warm bread, tender meat, countless different cheeses and freshly harvested vegetables. A market where shopping is an experience and where you can go to enjoy a drink or grab a bite to eat. Open seven days a week, there will be food, food and more food under a spectacular horse shoe-shaped arch. From fresh fish to specialized poultry, from cappuccino to cheese, from Surinam to Zaandam, from ice cream to biological vegetables it is all there. Restaurants and cafes on the ground floor and the first floor, a supermarket and a spacious car park in the basement. At the Markthal there is leisure time for lunch.

1:00pm We continue the tour with a scenic drive to, and guided tour at the Maeslant Storm Surge Barrier, which tells you everything about water management. The Maeslant Barrier is a storm surge barrier on the imaginary dividing line between the Nieuwe Waterweg waterway located at Hoek van Holland and the river Scheur located along the cities of Maassluis and Vlaardingen up to the confluence of the rivers Oude Maas and Nieuwe Maas, which automatically closes when needed. It is part of the Delta Works and it is one of largest moving structures on Earth, rivalling the Green Bank Telescope in the USA and the Bagger 288 excavator in Germany. The main objective of this project was improving the safety against flooding of the Rotterdam harbor, of which the Europoort is an important part, and the surrounding towns and agricultural areas.

3:30pm After this exciting tour, we will return to your ship in Amsterdam, where you will have the remainder of the day for your own leisure. You will arrive back before 5pm.

The Hague

Duration: 8 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:00am Meet and greet with your English-speaking guide at the River Cruise dock (Ruyterkade Oost), from where you will be taken for a 60-minute drive by luxurious private coach to the Royal City The Hague. The Hague, a historical city from the 13th Century, but also the city where King Willem Alexander and his family lives, the city of government / International Courts and where you will find many world famous museums. Most consider The Hague more upscale and local than Amsterdam. A surprising city! Upon arrival you will be taken for a guided tour through the Escher Museum, which was the former winter Palace of Queen Emma. The Museum will be exclusively open to us. The Escher Museum is situated on The Lange Voorhout, the most beautiful part of The Hague. Did you know that the Lange Voorhout stood sample for the Champs-Élysées in Paris? The building was the former Palace of Queen Emma, who used it as a winter Palace. It is now a permanent museum dedicated to the work of world-famous Dutch graphic artist Escher (1898-1972). Prints, sketches and archive material are displayed over four floors of the building. You will be amazed by 'Escher's chamber', which plays games with human proportions.

10:30am We continue a short scenic walk to, and guided tour through the famous Mauritshuis Museum, one of the most prominent and oldest museums in the Netherlands or even in the world! Their collection is in the top 3 worldwide! The Mauritshuis Museum reopened in 2014 after an extensive renovation and is home to the very best Dutch Golden Age paintings. The compact, yet world-renowned collection is housed in a 17th century building. Masterpieces such as Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring, The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Tulp by Rembrandt, The Goldfinch by Fabritius and The Bull by Potter are on permanent display in the intimate rooms. More than two hundred top works from Dutch and Flemish masters are on display in the historic yet intimate interior, with its silken wall covering, sparkling chandeliers and monumental painted ceilings. Genre paintings by Jan Steen, landscapes by Jacob van Ruisdael, still lives by Adrian Coorte and portraits by Rubens offer a rich and varied representation of the best 17th century Dutch and Flemish painting.

12:30pm After this exciting visit, you will be taken to one of the local restaurants, where a typical Dutch lunch will be served.

2:00pm We continue the tour with a scenic walk through the city center, towards the spectacular Panorama Mesdag Museum. Along the way we will walk through the historical parliament buildings Inner Court with the Knights Hal, the Passage (1884), a copy of the original one in Milan and the Palace Noordeinde, the working Palace of King Willem Alexander.

3:00pm There will be a behind the scenes guided tour through the spectacular Panorama Mesdag Museum. The Panorama is a cylindrical painting, more than 14 meters high and 120 meters in circumference. The vista of the sea, the dunes and Scheveningen village where painted by Hendrik Willem Mesdag in 1881. His wife Sientje Mesdag and several other painters of The Hague School also worked on this amazing painting. It is the oldest 19th century panorama in the world in its original site. Amazing and for sure a must see in The Hague and for many the highlight of their stay in the Netherlands!

4:00pm After this exciting tour, we will return to your ship in Amsterdam, where you will have the remainder of the day for your own leisure. You will arrive back around 5pm.

City Tour Haarlem

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am –12:30pm Haarlem, the capital of the province of North Holland, is an interesting historic town on the river Spaarne and it has clung to its antique character more than any other town in this province. We will explore the city by foot starting from the 'Grote Markt' bordered by the St. Bavochurch, the town hall and the former Meat Market. This elegant building in the Renaissance style is topped by richly decorated dormer windows.

We will visit the Frans Hals museum. The Frans Hals Museum is a museum for old and modern art and holds numerous exhibitions and activities. The museum bears the name of one of the most famous Dutch painters of the 17th century and possesses at least eleven portraits and group portraits by Frans Hals. However, the museum is primarily a general art museum with a comprehensive collection: visual art and arts and crafts dating from the 16th to the 20th century. In addition to an extremely wide range of art schools and artists, exhibitions are also organized on historical and socio-cultural themes.

De Zaanse Schans with VIP Demonstration

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am –12:30pm We will start this tour with a small drive to the windmill village of the Zaanse Schans, a characteristic living and working area on the River Zaan, with wooden houses and windmills dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth century. In museums, workshops and windmills you can experience something of how the Zaan-siders lived and worked. The Zaanse Schans is a fully inhabited, open-air conservation area and museum located 9 miles north of Amsterdam.

A special VIP welcome from the miller Mr. Piet Kempenaar, including coffee and tea. His windmill was built in 1781, an octagonal mill with a rotating cap and external gallery. Since its restoration and partial rebuild in 1960 it has been fitted out to grind coloring materials. Around 1900 the mill was used to grind chalk and later coal. The powdered coal was sieved and sent off to the iron foundries. The color mill has one of the largest ranges of coloring materials in the Netherlands. The miller will invite you into the Zaan room for a demonstration and explanation about his collection of pigments.

Dutch Beverage Tour

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am –10:00am Behind the New Church on Dam square you find Amsterdam's oldest tasting room: "De Drie Fleschjes". The building dates from 1650 -the highlight of the Golden Age -when Rembrandt van Rijn and Michiel de Ruyter demanded a leading role. De Drie Fleschjes serves a wide range of Dutch Gin (Jenever), including Corenwyn from Lucas Bols and a variety of liquors such as "Half and Half" and "Bitter Cookies". The owner will be glad to give you an explanation about 367 years history of De Drie Fleschjes and afterwards a tasting with a variety of Jenever. Soft drinks and juices are available as well.

10:30am –12:30pm Heineken Experience Explore Amsterdam's original Heineken brewery, closed for production in 1988 when it could no longer meet the high production demand. Start with a guided tour through the old brewery. Learn the history of the Heineken Company. Hear about the 4 natural ingredients used to make the beer, and discover the full brewing process. Learn how Heineken partners with high profile brands for maximum exposure, such as the James Bond franchise. Afterwards a Heineken connoisseur will take you to an exclusive room within the brewery to sample 5 premium beers, along with some famous Dutch cheeses and "Bitterballen" snacks.

[Explore Dutch Fisherman's Villages Volendam & Marken](#)

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

Close to Amsterdam you will find many historic Dutch villages worth visiting. During this tour you visit Volendam, an old picturesque village on the shore of the former "Zuidersea". Step back in time and enjoy the folklore of this remarkable town. Experience the process of eel smoking and let the craftsman unveil the secret smoking process that has been in fashion for generations.

Continue by ferry to Marken, a former island, now connected to the mainland by a dike. A unique place to visit featuring elevated houses on pillars, traditional green painted houses with steep roof and white windows and folkloristic costumes. Walk along the small bridges and little alleys and admire the historic houses. Along the way visit a wooden shoe factory with a demonstration of the handmade process of the wooden shoe.

[Explore museum Escher at the Palace and Mauritshuis in The Hague](#)

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am – 10:20am The first stop will be at Museum Escher at the Palace, which is dedicated to the work of Holland's most famous graphic artist M.C. Escher (1898-1972). Nearly all his prints are exhibited. See how Escher changed fishes into birds and made water flow upstream. Optical illusion is "key" in his work. This former Palace was purchased and extensively altered by Queen Emma in 1896, the great-great-grandmother of today's King of the Netherlands Willem Alexander. Queen Emma moved into the palace in 1901. Her successors – Queen Wilhelmina, Juliana and Beatrix – used the Palace as their main office. The scenes of the royal family waving from the little golden balcony are well known to the Dutch.

10:30am – 12:30pm The Mauritshuis features a world-famous collection from Hollands' "Golden Age". At this unique 17th-century mansion you will see the famous "Girl with a Pearl Earring" by Vermeer, "The Goldfinch" by Fabritius and "The Anatomy Lesson" by Rembrandt. Return to Amsterdam at 11.40 hrs.

[Gassan Diamond VIP Tour](#)

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am -12:30pm We would like to invite you for a brilliant arrangement. Gassan Diamonds is delighted to offer you a special VIP tour and welcome you to join the world of diamonds! Observe the diamond polishers at their craft, while multilingual guides explain where diamonds are found and how rough diamonds turn into dazzling brilliants. In the VIP showroom loose, polished diamonds are shown as well as an elaborate jewelry collection.

[History and Dutch culture tour](#)

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am –12:30pm Today you will learn everything about the Dutch history and culture. The Dutch Costume Museum shows the craftsmanship, artistry and passion that created the Dutch traditional costume. The collection encompasses a cross-section of local traditional dress and folk art per region. Each region has its own garb, with variations in different villages or stages of life, such as marriage and mourning after a death.

The museum houses seven rooms, each room decorated with motives and in colors characteristic for a specific region. In every individual room, the people wearing the folk costume tell stories, giving an explanation on the function of their clothes. Amongst others, the different costumes come from Volendam, Marken, Hindeloopen, Staphorst, Spakenburg, Urkand Zeeland. You will be welcomed with coffee or tea including typical Dutch sweets. After the tour through the museum a group picture will be made.

Continue to the Museum of the canals. The Amsterdam canals make the city. For centuries here, money has been earned, art created, feasts celebrated, and life enjoyed. This is the story that the Museum of the Canals brings to life.

[Local Art Tour by Amsterdam Based Artist and Designer Mariska Meijers](#)

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

Renowned for her vibrant colors and bold patterns Amsterdam artist and designer Mariska Meijers is dedicated to creating original, uplifting designs, propelling her art into everyday life. Based on her hand painted designs her collections are authentic, welcoming and distinctive. Mariska strives to create modern classics with a twist that can be effortlessly combined. Craftsmanship using high quality materials is key. Meijers Amsterdam collection is sold through luxury retailers as well as specialty, interior design and museum stores like Barneys NY, Selfridges, Le Bon Marché, Gracious Home and Wynn Las Vegas.

8:30am Welcome with morning tea and coffee with a selection of cakes from Holtkamp at the Mariska Meijers Amsterdam store on Leliegracht 42 with a look behind the scenes of a boutique lifestyle brand. The location features the entire collection of pillows, trays and tray tables and is also the testing ground for exciting new designs before they are launched to market.

9:00am Workshop: creating your dream home. Mariska's home, art and designs are often featured in the international press. She will share her insider knowledge, decorating secrets, and tips and tricks of the trade that will enable you to create seductively stylish spaces overflowing with personality. Get inspired, pick Mariska's brains and discover all you need to know to create your dream home.

10:00am -12:30pm Guided tour along Mariska's favorite art galleries, ateliers and stores in the neighborhood.

Magnificent Castle Tour

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am -12 30pm Drive along the scenic river Vecht with its many mansions and estates in the green heart of Holland to the village of Haarzuilens. Visit the castle "de Haar" a medieval, moated fortress with towers and ramparts, gates and drawbridges. The castle was restored and partially rebuilt in the late 19th century and it rises like a real fairy-tale castle from a park with impressive trees, surrounded by gardens and ponds. Enjoy a 45 minutes guided tour through the castle including the visit to the basement, the ground floor where the ballroom, knight room, dining room and library are located. Continue to the medieval, moated castle 'Muiderslot', an old brick fortress with robust corner towers, dating back to the beginning of the 13th century.

This castle is one of Holland's finest preserved medieval castles. Around 1280 Count Floris V built a fort in the middle of the river Vecht to protect and control the mouth of the river. In the 14th century the castle was rebuilt. The present interior and decoration of the castle reflects the grandeur of the 17th. century when writer, poet and historian P.C. Hooft used the castle as his residence. Since that time the castle lost its function as a defense fortress.

Rotterdam, City of Architecture

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am –12:30pm On this tour you will be driven to Rotterdam. Rotterdam attracts international interest as city of modern architecture. First you will be welcomed in the Hotel New York for a coffee/tea and cake. The former headquarters of the Holland America Cruise line has been transformed in a hotel and restaurant.

Enjoy a walk through the architectural inner city of Rotterdam with a specialized guide. For years, the question was always 'where or what is Rotterdam's inner city?'. The historical stadsdriehoek? The renovated center surrounding the Lijnbaan? You could say that Rotterdam used to be a city without a heart! But that has all changed! Nowadays, Rotterdam has a massive beating heart. In 2 hours, you'll walk from the spectacularly renewed Rotterdam Central along Weena's high rise buildings via the renovated architecture of the shopping district straight into the historic downtown. Rotterdam history isn't laid bare on the street, yet there are clues hidden everywhere. Eclectic architecture and historical street names are small reminders of Rotterdam's history yet in a modern twist. For instance, the Markthal is an ancient concept in a contemporary building. This walk isn't a nostalgic trip through the history of Rotterdam, but an adventure to grasp the complexity of the city.

Royal Delft Tour with Delft Blue Tile Painting Workshop

Duration: 3 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am Drive through the old center of Delft along canals and historic almshouses. Visit The Royal Dutch Delftware factory “De Porceleyne Fles”. The factory was established in 1653 and is the last remaining Delftware factory from the 17th century. The world famous Royal Delftware is still entirely hand-painted according to a centuries old tradition.

9:30am -10:15am When visiting the Royal Delft Experience, discover the complete history and the production process of Delft Blue in an audiovisual presentation. Meet the master painter at work and visit the factory.

10:15am -11:15am After a guided tour of the Royal Delft Blue museum and factory you are invited for an inspiring and creative workshop. Paint your own Delft Blue plate (18cm), under the guidance of a professional painter. The plates can only be used as decoration. With paint brushes and special Delft Blue paint you create your own wonderful souvenir and have a unique experience at the same time. Coffee, tea and sweets will be served during the workshop. The pieces cannot be taken home immediately as they need to be glazed and finished off in the oven. It will take 5 to 7 working days for the products to be ready to be send to your home address. The postage costs will be charged separately and can be paid on the spot.

11:15am -12:30pm In the showroom of the factory a comprehensive collection of hand painted earthenware by Royal Delft and a collection of souvenirs is showcased, great for shopping! Return to Amsterdam by coach at 11.30 hrs.

[Sneak preview Keukenhof gardens](#)

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am -12:30pm Specially for the 2018 Virtuoso Symposium the Keukenhof Gardens will open one day prior the official opening so you can have a “sneak preview” of the famous flower exhibition where millions of bulbs are displayed in the perfection of artistry all over a lovely park.

In the gardens you will see a presentation including an introduction movie followed by a guided tour through the park by a special guide

[Tour Broek in Waterland with Dutch pancakes and Wine Tasting](#)

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

In de Kraai you will stop for a refreshment but not before you have seen the characteristic wooden houses this village proudly owns. Famous people like the French philosopher Victor Hugo, Emperor Alexander of Russia and Napoleon visited this small village. Visit one of the best pancake places of the area and no chance to leave without tasting one! Proceed to Zuiderwoude for a wine tasting.

Wine tasting in Holland...? Yes! In the tiny little community of Zuiderwoude, wine expert Ben van Leeuwen runs a wine tasting shop in a private setting; his own house. Ben’s 40-year hobby and profession is wines and he is a great storyteller too. Here is your chance to meet a local and share his passion; great wines and good food. Life can be very simple and so much fun! All it takes is a good glass of wine, tasty bites, a pleasant chat and you will forget everything else for a while and... a stone-throw away from Amsterdam!

[Visit Kröller Müller Museum](#)

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8.30am - 12.30pm Drive through the green heart of Holland to Holland’s largest National Park “De Hoge Veluwe”. Driving distance from Amsterdam is around 1 –1,5 hours. You will be welcomed with coffee or tea in the Kroller Muller museum You will enjoy a guided tour through the museum, which offers a collection of fine art, mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries. World famous are the extensive range of work by Van Gogh. The museum is surrounded by an open-air exhibition of modern sculptures, showing some exceptional pieces

[“Dress Like You Mean It” Workshop and Personal Shopping Tour](#)

Duration: 4 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

What impact does clothing have on you and other people? How do you want to be seen? Within seconds, an image is formed about you. What you wear says who you are. This workshop gives practical insight into the effect of clothing. In an informal way, you will be challenged to think about what impression you make.

Discover the psychology of color and how to use it to your advantage. Learn how you can experiment with your outfit and make subtle changes to convey different messages. The workshop is fun, light and educational. It is a combination of theory and practice and is illustrated with slides, garments, fabrics and accessories. Materials and handouts will be given after the workshop.

After the workshop discover exclusive shops and hotspots during the personal shopping tour at the 9 picturesque little streets. While shopping you get inspiration and ideas for making refreshing combinations that suit you and personal styling tips as well.

Off The Beaten Path Amsterdam

Duration: 8 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

8:30am Meet and greet with your English-speaking guide at the River Cruise dock (Ruyterkade Oost), from where you will be taken for a short scenic drive by luxurious private coach to the city center, where you will be taken for a special walking tour through the city center. During this tour we are going to make guided tours through two 17th century canal house mansions, these are not open to the general public. Discover the hidden treasures behind the facades of Amsterdam's most impressive mansions and gardens. See and learn more about 17th - 20th century gable architecture, interiors, garden history and how the merchant families lived. The huge gardens behind some of the (private) mansions are Amsterdam's best-kept secret! We will make an exclusive guided tour through two 17th century mansions, those that are not open to the general public. The two mansions we will visit are owned by the elite monument organization Hendrik de Keyser (HDK) and will give a good view of how the rich merchants lived in the 17th century. Huis Van Brienen, built in 1620 on the Herengracht (Gentlemen's Canal) was converted into a patrician style mansion in the Louis XIV style in 1728. The interior of this 18th century mansion is ranked in the top 100 of most important interiors of the Netherlands. Here, time seems to have stood still. Huis Bartolotti, also located on the Herengracht was built in 1617 by Willem van den Heuvel tot Beichlingen, one of the richest inhabitants of Amsterdam at the time. Huis Bartolotti was one of the largest merchant's mansions within Amsterdam in the early 17th century.

11:15am The walk will end in front of the off the beaten path Museum of Bags and Purses. Here you will be taken for a tour through the spectacular 17th century mansion on the Herengracht, the best part of Amsterdam. This unique museum is showing the history of the (hand)bag in Western culture from the late Middle Ages to the present day, including the work of contemporary designers. The collection reflects the cultural history of the (hand)bag over a period of 500 years. The museum is the only museum of handbags in Europe and the largest of its kind in the world, with a collection of more than 5.000 bags, pouches, suitcases, purses and other matching accessories such as compacts, shoes and hats. It all started with one single handbag. This one bag turned owners Hendrikje and Heinz Ivo into passionate collectors – and soon connoisseurs – of handbags. Over the years, they gathered a private collection of such exceptional quality that they wanted to share it with the rest of the world. This was the start of the Museum of Bags and Purses. At the end of the tour, there is an opportunity to buy your own designer bag!

12:45pm In front of the Museum of Bags and Purses, you will board a historic Saloon Boat for a private two-hours cruise through the Amsterdam canals. The most relaxed way to get to know Amsterdam with a VIP treatment! During the cruise a fresh and tasty Dutch lunch will be served including coffee and tea. From the beginning of the 20th Century until the early thirties salon boats were built in the west of the Netherlands and in the province Friesland. These boats shared a couple of features like a load water line; an elegant body and a beautiful build of teakwood and mahogany. The design of a salon boat was entirely made to measure and initiated by the constituent. These boats were used to transport people on the Frisian lakes, the river Vecht and the Amsterdam canals. Salon boats were nicknamed notary-boats or doctors-boats because the first owners, and often constituents were well to do citizens like doctors, notaries or lawyers. The boats were an easy and classy way to get to their clients or patients. It did not take long to find out it was a great pleasure to invite friends and family on board for a relaxing trip or to cruise the canals and rivers in the weekend to impress the crowd. Times have changed, but the charm of the salon boats remains. The boats are still providing the same service as in 1920, the year of its construction, plus a great deal more. Its narrow shape and low structure allow the beautifully refurbished vessel to go anywhere, from the narrow canals of the Amsterdam "Jordaan" to the heart of the famed red-light district.

2:45pm Fully charged, the cruise will end in front of the well-known Anne Frank House. The former hiding place, where Anne Frank wrote her diary, is a well-known museum and one of the top sights in Amsterdam. The museum tells the history of the eight people in hiding and those who helped them during the war. Anne Frank's diary is among the original objects on display. After a detailed explanation you will be taken inside where you can walk, leisurely through the house and annex.

4:30pm From here we will return to your ship, where you will have the remainder of the day for your own leisure. You will arrive back before 5:00pm.

Culinary Walking Tour with Dutch Treats

Duration: 3.5 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

Discover Dutch delicacies while browsing through a maze of Amsterdam's many food stalls. During this walking tour you learn how local delicacies are made and enjoy them at the same time. Visit secret eateries that are off the map and experience a combination of tastes and aromas of Amsterdam's finest local specialties!

Through the Eyes of Vincent van Gogh

Duration: 3 hours

Transfer pick up, private charter bus, guided tour

An art historian takes you to the Van Gogh museum to learn more about the different styles of painting by Vincent van Gogh. The museum features the world's largest collection of paintings by Vincent van Gogh. The museum shows the artist's developments during his turbulent, creative years and tracks a comparison with his fellow impressionist painters from this late 19th century era.

After the guided tour you follow the masters in his footsteps during a painting workshop in the museum. Van Gogh became world famous for his distinctive brush strokes and his special sense of color. The best way to understand his style is to try it yourself. Position yourself behind an easel and create your own impressionist masterpiece!