

HOLLAND & BELGIUM CRUISE: GOLDEN AGE TO VAN GOGH

13 – 20 APRIL 2026

FROM
£3,495
PER PERSON

Tour Leaders: Douglas Skeggs & Joanna Worsley


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY



Take a delightful spring cruise with Guest Lecturer Douglas Skeggs and Tour Leader Joanna Worsley along the intricate net of waterways that wind through Holland and Belgium aboard the elegantly luxurious MS Amadeus Riva. The tour encompasses not only the art, history, culture, food, and wine of the region but also iconic views of lazily spinning windmills, blossoming foliage and sleepy riverside towns. Shore excursions will be organised exclusively for our group, guided by Douglas Skeggs, who will also give a series of captivating onboard lectures on the Dutch and Flemish masterpieces.

After embarking in Amsterdam, our first stop is Arnhem, site of the famed 1944 battle immortalized in the film *A Bridge Too Far*, and the nearby Kröller-Müller-Museum which houses the second-largest collection of Van Gogh paintings in the world. We continue to the picturesque city of Middleburg and on to Ghent, before driving to Bruges, 'Venice of the North' and one of Europe's most beautiful cities with its historic marketplace, maze of winding, cobbled alleys and romantic canals.

Our next stop is Antwerp where we visit the city's beautiful Cathedral hung with paintings by Rubens. Following an excursion from Rotterdam to the delightful historic town of Brielle, we end back in Amsterdam and the magnificent Rijksmuseum with its art collection from the 'Golden Age' when Dutch painting was at its most prolific. For those that have been to the Rijksmuseum with Douglas before, there is the alternative option of a walking tour to explore Amsterdam's network of canals and beautiful 17th century architecture.



Rubenshuis, Antwerp



Middelburg

8-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 13 APRIL 2026

13 April London / Amsterdam

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 434 departing London Heathrow at 12.25 hrs arriving Amsterdam at 14.45 hrs.

On arrival, group transfer to the dock in Amsterdam to board the luxury MS Amadeus Riva and embark on a seven-night cruise on the Dutch and Belgian waterways. Captain's drinks followed by a welcome dinner on board.

14 April Arnhem

This morning arrive in Arnhem and depart by coach for a private visit to the Kröller-Müller Museum, guided by Douglas Skeggs. The Museum is famous for its second largest collection of Vincent van Gogh paintings, such as the *Potato Eaters* and the *Café Terrace at Night*. It also features works by Piet Mondrian, Paul Gauguin and Pablo Picasso. Continue for a drive through the city of Arnhem, known for the World War II battle operation 'Market Garden'. In September 1944, the British 1st Airborne Division and the Polish 1st Independent Parachute Brigade were given the impossible task of securing the bridge at Arnhem. Drive past various spots associated with this event.

Lunch on board. The remainder of the day is spent on the ship as it cruises towards Middleburg. Enjoy afternoon tea and dinner on board.

15 April Middleburg

This morning arrive in Middleburg, capital of the province of Zeeland and one of the centres where the Dutch East India Company flourished in the 17th century. Private guided tour with a local guide to see the historic

merchant houses and storefronts lining the city's canals, the impressive Abbey and the late-gothic Town Hall. Much of the city centre was rebuilt having been bombed during the Second World War.

Lunch on board. The remainder of the day is spent on board, where you will have a wonderful view of the passing spring landscapes as your cruise ship travels towards Ghent in Belgium where the ship will dock overnight. Tea and dinner on board.

16 April Ghent & Bruges

Depart by private coach for Bruges, the enchanting capital of the province of West Flanders with its cobbled streets, crooked bridges, meandering canals and World Heritage-listed medieval buildings. Walking tour with Douglas Skeggs with visits to St. John's Hospital and Pharmacy with masterpieces by Hans Memling and St. Salvator's Cathedral also with a fine collection of medieval Flemish paintings.

Lunch at a local restaurant in Bruges. Return to Ghent and option to visit St. Bavo's Cathedral to see the Ghent Altarpiece by Hubert and Jan van Eyck. Tea and dinner on board.

17 April Antwerp

This morning arrive in Antwerp, the second largest city in Belgium and famous for its diamond trade. Depart on foot with a local guide for a walking tour of the Old Town with its Flemish Renaissance architecture. Walk past the Rubenshuis, the former home and workshop of Baroque artist Peter Paul Rubens, and visit the Cathedral of Our Lady, the largest Gothic church in the country, with paintings by Rubens.

Lunch on board. Afternoon at leisure as the ship returns to the Netherlands. Tea and dinner on board.

18 April Rotterdam & Brielle

This morning arrive in Rotterdam and depart by private coach for the historic and charming fortified town of Brielle which played a crucial role in the Eighty Years War between the Dutch and their Spanish Habsburg rulers. Walking tour with a local guide past sights such as the Windmill, the Sint-Catherijnkerk and the Arsenal.

Lunch on board. Afternoon at leisure. Tea and dinner on board.

19 April Amsterdam

This morning arrive in Amsterdam. Depart by private coach to visit the Rijksmuseum guided by Douglas Skeggs. This museum has an incomparable collection of Dutch paintings, with major works by all the important painters of the Dutch school and Rembrandt's most celebrated painting *The Night Watch*. Alternatively take a private guided tour of Amsterdam with a local guide on foot and by local tram.

Lunch on board. Afternoon at leisure for shopping or optional visit to Rembrandt's House. Captain's Farewell Gala Dinner.

20 April Amsterdam / London

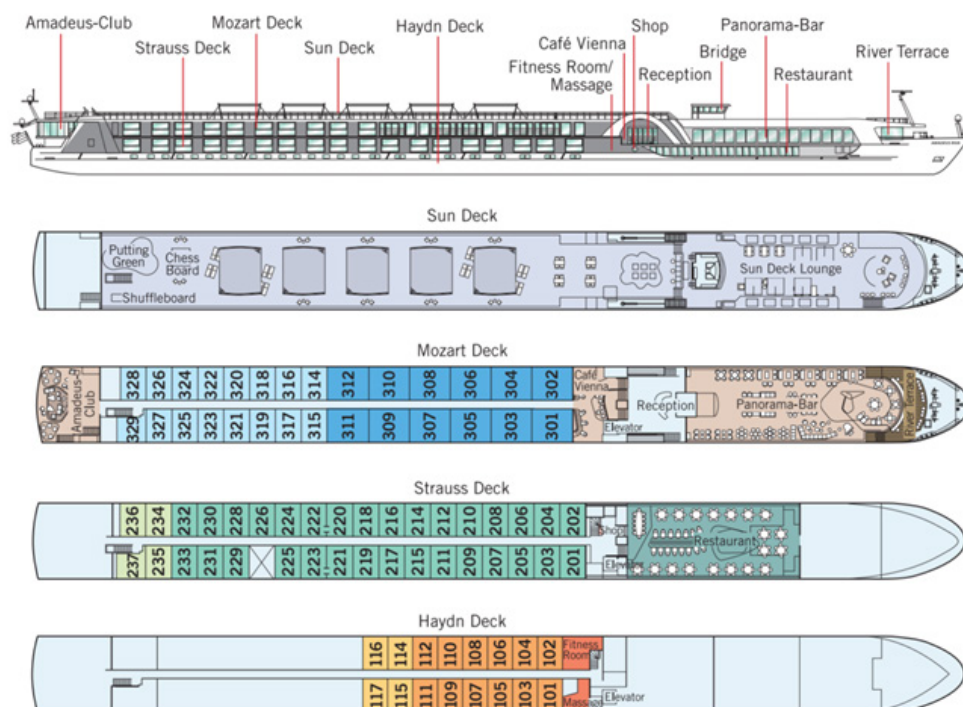
This morning disembark and group transfer to Amsterdam Airport for suggested flight (not included) British Airways BA 431 departing Amsterdam at 11.50 hrs arriving London Heathrow at 12.10 hrs.



MS AMADEUS RIVA

This new vessel enjoys Amadeus' elegant interiors. The popular concept of spaciousness has been maintained. This includes not only generous public areas but also spacious cabins: 12 large suites impress with an outdoor balcony and a cosy reading corner whilst the 67 standard cabins mainly have panoramic window fronts which can be automatically lowered and luxurious bathrooms.

The 67 cabins and 12 suites of the Amadeus Riva offer spacious accommodation for passengers on the vessel. While cabins on all decks have panoramic windows that provide stunning views of the passing scenery; the cabins on the Mozart and Strauss decks have special drop down panoramic windows, and the 12 suites offer a walk-out exterior balcony that offer unimpeded views of the charming countryside. All cabins include modern hospitality amenities such as a comfortable bed, flat-screen TV, separate area for WC/shower, walk in wardrobe and a safe to secure valuables. All staterooms and suites offer a choice in bed configuration – please specify your preference on booking.



TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Haydn Deck C1 Cabin: £3,495*

Single Supplement: £280

Strauss Deck B1 Cabin: £3,945*

Single Supplement: £995

Mozart Deck A1 Cabin: £4,235*

Single Supplement: £1,285

Mozart Deck Suite: £4,585*

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

*Price includes early bird discount which must be booked by 30th November 2025

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Full board including daily breakfast, lunch, dinner, and midnight snack
- Coffee, tea and ice water with all meals on board
- Free flowing regional red and white wines, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner on board
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- Gratuities to staff onboard
- Gratuities to guide/s
- Gratuities to bus driver/s
- Portage
- Services of a professional cruise director
- The services of your tour leader and guest lecturer throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 18/03/25



YOUR TOUR LEADERS



JOANNA WORSLEY

After leaving school, Joanna travelled extensively through Asia working in Hong Kong and Delhi and developing a passion for India. She then spent several years in Los Angeles producing film and music videos. Being half-Greek she has a particular love for Greece too and has a house on the island of Skyros. She has previously led several tours to India for The Ultimate Travel Company.



DOUGLAS SKEGGS

Douglas Skeggs read fine art at Magdalene College, Cambridge and since 1980 has been a lecturer on the history and techniques of painting. He has made several art documentaries and written and advised on many more. An accomplished painter in his own right, he has held three one-man exhibitions of his work. His biography of Monet, *River of Light: Monet's Impressions of the Seine*, sold 65,000 copies, and he has also written several novels.



020 3411 4595 | ENQUIRY@THEULTIMATETRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK | THEULTIMATETRAVELCOMPANY.CO.UK
25-27 VANSTON PLACE LONDON SW6 1AZ

