deluxe cruises

Cruise Details

Name:	Windmills, Tulips & Belgian Delights with Enchanting Belgium
Reference:	SCENICTUAB020428-1
Operator:	Scenic River Cruises
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	Scenic Ruby
Regions:	Dutch Waterways
Departs On:	02 Apr 28
Departs From:	Brussel (Bruxelles)
Arrives On:	12 Apr 28
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
Cruise Nights:	10
Total Vacation Days:	11

Itinerary

Day 1: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Welcome to Belgium and the city of Brussels, where your European journey of wonders begins. Over the next three days, enjoy the country’s vibrant atmosphere, well-preserved medieval architecture, world-renowned beer and exquisite chocolatiers. Upon arrival, check into your wonderfully located hotel. Transfers are only available for flights arriving into Brussels prior to 03:00 PM.

Arrives On: 02 Apr 28

Day 2: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Wake in Brussels today. The capital of Belgium and the administrative centre of the European Union, Brussels is a vibrant mix of history and cultures with world-class museums, lively outdoor markets and an ever-evolving dining scene. Though it’s known as a bureaucratic hub, it also has its own quirky character.

Join a guided walking tour of the city. Wander

Brussels’ elegant boulevards and grand squares, including the magnificent Grand Place, a World Heritage site. Admire ornate guildhalls, Art Nouveau facades, and chic boutiques, while your expert guide reveals stories of royal heritage, diplomacy and indulgent Belgian delights, from the finest chocolate to its legendary beer.

Later, transfer to the city of Bruges. Its beautifully preserved medieval centre is threaded with canals lined with gorgeous historic buildings and looks as if it has been pulled from a fairytale. Upon arrival, join a local guide for an immersive walking tour of the city. Meander through cobbled laneways to charming town squares, see sights such as the Belfry of Bruges, the medieval bell tower, and learn about the fascinating history of this ancient town.

Check in to your luxury hotel for a two-night stay.

Tonight, join your fellow travelers for an included dinner at a local restaurant featuring delicious Flemish cuisine.

Arrives On: 03 Apr 28

Day 2: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

Arrives On: 03 Apr 28

Day 3: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

This morning join a local guide for an immersive walking tour of the city. Wander through cobbled laneways to charming town squares, see sights such as the Belfry of Bruges, the medieval bell tower, and learn about the fascinating history of this ancient town.

Spend the afternoon at your leisure. If you’re feeling active, climb the 366 steps of the Belfry Tower for breathtaking city views or indulge in the irresistible flavours of Belgian waffles at a nearby eatery.

Arrives On: 04 Apr 28

Day 4: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

Spend the morning uncovering the charms of Bruges. Scenic Freechoice:
Immerse yourself in Bruges with Scenic Freechoice activities:

Canal Cruise: Delight on a cruise through the canals of Bruges and see the sights of the city from a different angle. Admire medieval architecture at its best as you gently cruise under bridges and past the idyllic swans that grace these canals.

Beer & chocolate tasting: Bruges is famous for many things, beer and chocolate chief among them. Join a local guide and gain an understanding of the city's storied history in crafting these delicacies. This afternoon bid farewell beautiful Bruges and transfer to Amsterdam to board your Scenic Space-Ship for the next part of your journey, your unforgettable European river cruise.

Arrives On: 05 Apr 28

Day 4: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Arrives On: 05 Apr 28

Day 5: Dordrecht (Netherlands)

Enjoy a relaxed morning on board before arriving in Dordrecht. As one of the oldest cities in Holland, it dates back to the 11th century. Dordrecht was once an important merchant city, drawing its wealth from wood, grain and wine. More than 1,000 historic monuments can be found in its historic centre, many of which have been reborn as restaurants, museums and theatres. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from one of the following excursions this afternoon:

Walking tour of Dordrecht: Admire the city’s picturesque streets, winding canals and historic buildings on a walking tour. Highlights include Groothoofd Quay, the Grote Kerk (Great Church) and the Old Water Tower.

Delft pottery factory visit: Delft is a charming city famed for its blue and white pottery. Enjoy a guided tour before visiting the 17th century pottery factory where master painters still decorate in the traditional manner.

Excursion to Kinderdijk: Windmills are an icon of Dutch culture and the traditional village of Kinderdjik boasts 19 of them. Explore the town and the role these World Heritage-listed windmills play in agricultural life, on an experience only available with Scenic.

Cycle to Kinderdijk: Enjoy a leisurely ride through the Dutch countryside on this easy, flat cycling route from Dordrecht to the World Heritage-listed village of Kinderdijk and its iconic windmills. Pedal along peaceful canals in an e-bike by charming villages, and picturesque dikes, taking in views of lush pastures and traditional waterways.

Arrives On: 06 Apr 28

Day 6: Veere (Netherlands)

Dock this morning in the 13th century town of Veere, considered one of the most stunning in the Netherlands. Known as the ‘Pearl of Walcheren’, it is dotted with striking heritage buildings like the magnificent Grote Kerk, the elegant Town Hall, and the unique Schotse Huizen (Scottish Houses) that represent the town’s strong history of trade with Scotland. Scenic Freechoice:
Choose from the following for your morning excursion:

Guided tour of Veere: Travel to the nearby town of Veere for a guided tour of its many charms, including the port area, Scottish merchant houses, impressive church and 15th century town hall. Enjoy some free time before returning to the ship.

Excursion to the Delta Works: This fascinating series of dams was designed to protect the population on the Delta plain from flooding. As well as being an impressive feat of engineering, it’s essential in protecting low-lying areas of the Netherlands from surges and flooding. On board later today, you can savour locally grown oysters in the ultimate 'farm-to-table' experience, with the shellfish brought directly from the icy waters of the North Sea.

Arrives On: 07 Apr 28

Day 7: Antwerp (Belgium)

Crossing the border this morning, you'll dock in Antwerp, Belgium's second city and one of the world's most important seaports. Despite being bombed extensively during World War II, it retains its medieval heart, cobbled lanes, riverside fortress and impressive cathedral. Today, Antwerp is famed for its vibrant fashion, entertainment, and culinary scenes. Scenic Freechoice:
These interesting Freechoice excursions are available today:

Walking tour of Antwerp: Join your local guide on a walking tour of Antwerp, known as the diamond capital of the world. Explore sights such as the impressive Cathedral of Our Lady, Steen Castle, the medieval fortress, and main square lined with extravagant buildings.

Craft beer & chocolate pairing: Belgium's culinary reputation is renowned for chocolate and beer. Find out why these two work so well together on this unique tasting journey.

Excursion to Ghent: Visit one of Belgium's most historic cities and join a local guide to explore its wealth of medieval buildings, charming canals and factories, relics of its industrial past that have been reborn as cultural hotspots.

Arrives On: 08 Apr 28

Day 8: Arnhem (Netherlands)

Arrive in Arnhem after lunch. Located at the edge of the Veluwe Nature Reserve, the city offers a beautiful landscape surrounded by dense forest, lush green parklands and riverside promenades. Arnhem also played an important role in World War II and the campaign ultimately helped bring about the end of the conflict. This evening, learn about The Netherlands' famed tulips and how they are grown during an engaging on board lecture. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore your way this afternoon with one of these excursions:

Arnhem Airborne Museum: Visit the Airborne Museum, which gives an in-depth account of the Battle of Arnhem. Follow in the footsteps of the British servicemen who parachuted into the city in September 1944 after long years of German occupation.

The Netherlands Open Air Museum: Learn about the lives and traditions of Dutch people through the ages at the Netherlands Open Air Museum. Your local guide will take you on an exploration of this fascinating 44-hectare outdoor museum, to see replicas of historic houses, mills and farmhouses.

Palais Het Loo: Art lovers will enjoy the Palais Het Loo. Dating back to 1685, it served as the royal family's summer home for centuries and is now an incredible museum showcasing the family's rich history, elaborate decor, art collection and grand gardens.

Arrives On: 09 Apr 28

Day 9: Hoorn (Netherlands)

Spend this morning in Hoorn, a prosperous trading centre from the Middle Ages to the 17th century and once a bustling Dutch East India Company port. Its main harbour, Binnenhaven, is lined with beautiful warehouses, while there are many historic buildings and monuments throughout town, including a well-preserved city gate first built in 1578. Scenic Freechoice:
Explore the region with one of today's selection of Scenic Freechoice activities:

Guided tour with tastes of Hoorn: Join a local guide for a walking tour of Hoorn and its inner harbour. You can also sample some local delicacies, such as fish and cheese.

Cheese farm: Learn the tradition of cheesemaking in the Netherlands. Meet a local producer, tour the farm and discover the secrets behind their long-standing techniques.

Ancestry of the Kitchen – traditional Dutch apple pie making class: Recipes hold a special place through the generations. Become part of the family in the kitchen today as you learn to make an authentic Dutch apple pie with a local cook.

Cycling tour of Hoorn: Join your local guide on an active cycling tour of Hoorn. See some of the key sights of the city, like the Oosterkerk (the Old Church), as you cycle towards Ijssel Lake dyke, the biggest lake in The Netherlands. This afternoon, enjoy some time at leisure as you cruise towards Amsterdam. Relax with a massage (additional cost), or head to the Salt Therapy Lounge only available on Scenic, which has natural anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties. Scenic Enrich
Fabrique des Lumierès: Experience an exclusive after-hours visit to the immersive digital art installation Fabrique des Lumierès. Sip a glass of Champagne as you step inside the former 19th century gas works, admiring the works of the world’s most renowned artists projected onto the 17 metre high walls, accompanied and complemented by a musical soundtrack.

Arrives On: 10 Apr 28

Day 10: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Today is a celebration of spring. Join your fellow guests on an excursion to the legendary Keukenhof Gardens, home to the nation’s most magnificent array of tulips. In a truly breathtaking kaleidoscope, more than seven million tulips from 800 varieties are carefully arranged into artistic patterns and vibrant displays. This is one of the most magical gardens in the world, seen at its most colourful moment.

Return to Amsterdam this afternoon for free time to explore this city steeped in history, art and cycling culture. Cruise the canals, do as the locals do and hop on a bike, visit the Rijksmuseum to see masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vermeer and Van Gogh, or take a poignant walk-through Anne Frank’s House.

Arrives On: 11 Apr 28

Day 11: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Your journey concludes this morning. After one final breakfast, transfer to Amsterdam airport for your onward journey taking with you memories to last a

lifetime. Due to new restrictions on cruise ships at Amsterdam’s city docks, your cruise is now likely to embark and/or disembark at a port outside central Amsterdam. If your ship does not have a central Amsterdam docking, Scenic will provide a central Amsterdam meeting point and transfers to your ship as required. These changes are required by local authorities and are in line with our booking terms which allow changes to berthing or dock locations and ports where operationally necessary. You will be advised of the confirmed docking location prior to departure. This itinerary is a guide only and may be amended for operational reasons such as high and low water. As such, the cruise may operate altered from that stated above. Please refer to our terms and conditions. Please note: Preview itinerary subject to change.

Arrives On: 12 Apr 28

For more information on this cruise, please call +44 (0)1202 767926.

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