



Cruise Details

Name:	Hidden Waterways of Flanders and Holland - Northbound
Reference:	TAUCKQH202409102024
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	MS Grace
Regions:	Dutch Waterways
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Departs On:	09 Oct 24
Departs From:	Brussel (Bruxelles)
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Arrives On:	16 Oct 24
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
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Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Tour begins: 4:00 PM. A transfer is included from Brussels Airport or train station to your riverboat; check-in time is 4:00 PM.

Arrives On: 09 Oct 24

Day 2: Antwerp (Belgium)

Enjoy a day in Brussels, exploring the sights with local guides who share insider anecdotes about life here past and present on a choice of excursions. See landmark sights that speak volumes about history, from its Art Nouveau and Art Deco architecture to the Guild Houses lining Grand-Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, or experience culinary discoveries that tempt with a taste of chocolate, waffles and beer, perfected through the generations. After free time to enjoy as you wish, return to the riverboat as it sets sail for Antwerp. Dinner is at leisure tonight.

Arrives On: 10 Oct 24

Day 3: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

Belgium's largest port city, Antwerp has long been a magnet for art lovers and diamond traders. It was of Europe's most important – and one of its richest – cities in the mid-16th century when merchants traded sugar and diamonds here. Golden Age artists Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony Van Dyck and Frans Snyders called Antwerp home in the 17th century and Renaissance monuments and a still unfinished 13th-century cathedral enrich the variety of architectural styles that grace its medieval heart. Join a local guide on a sightseeing drive and walking tour that explores the historic gems of this lively town, from bustling Grote Market to medieval guild houses, baroque churches, UNESCO World Heritage Sites and atmospheric squares, or visit the newly renovated and recently reopened Royal Museum of Fine Arts to see its impressive collection of art from the 14th through the 20th century, with an impressive hall dedicated to the art of its native son, Pieter Paul Rubens Or, experience a brewery tour and tasting of the city's famous Belgian beers. Spend the afternoon exploring as you wish; a shuttle will be available to bring you back to the riverboat. Cocktails and dinner are at leisure tonight onboard ship; set sail for Bruges this evening.

Arrives On: 11 Oct 24

Day 4: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

Arrive this morning in Bruges, Belgium, for a walking tour of this fairy tale town, renowned as one of Europe's best-preserved cities. Stroll picturesque cobblestone lanes to market squares where medieval towers, churches and whitewashed alm houses reflect its storied past. Visit Old Market Square in the ancient heart of town and see the 13th-century belfry that soars over the rooftops. Enjoy lunch as you wish before enjoying a choice of excursions this afternoon. One choice offers you the opportunity to explore Ghent, the capital of the East Flanders province. The other offers a bicycle ride into the Belgian countryside through the quaint town of Damme. Have cocktails and dinner onboard as your riverboat charts a course towards Gorinchem.

Arrives On: 12 Oct 24

Day 5: Gorinchem (Netherlands)

Voted "the most beautiful fortified town in the Netherlands," Gorinchem was founded in 1,000 AD, fortified in the 13th and 14th centuries, and today boasts the largest fully intact fort in the Netherlands. A quintessentially Dutch town with flowers and windmills, it is surrounded by green polders with grazing cows. The city was originally part of the Dutch Waterline of defense and the historic city center is still a well preserved walled fortress. Join our local guide for a walking tour of its historic heart, viewing its charming canals, the well-preserved Renaissance-style and medieval architecture, and pretty parks and gardens. Explore as you wish this afternoon, before joining us for a Tauck Exclusive dinner at Slot Loevestein. Set in a nature reserve on a private island, the 14th-century castle has served as a prison, residence and toll taker; tonight it will be yours to enjoy as the island and castle are open for Tauck guests only.

Arrives On: 13 Oct 24

Day 6: Rotterdam (Netherlands)

Enjoy a choice of guided shore excursions as your riverboat is docked in Rotterdam, founded as a fishing village in the 13th century. A living monument to Holland's Golden Age until it was bombed to rubble during World War II, the city today welcomes with world-class architecture and urban design, along with surviving traces of Old Rotterdam in Delfshaven (Delft Harbor) and Oude Haven (Old Harbor). You may choose to stay in town to explore the sights with a local guide, with time at leisure to explore as you wish (one option focusing on architecture, the other focusing on the city's beer history). Or you may embark on a guided excursion to Leiden, the birthplace of Rembrandt, and home to charming architecture, canals and historic sights, including the country's oldest university. Return to the riverboat late afternoon; following dinner this evening, enjoy musical entertainment in the Lounge.

Arrives On: 14 Oct 24

Day 7: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Spend the day in the world-famous 17th century capital of Holland, known for its artistic heritage, historic canals, and narrow houses with gabled facades, living legacies of the city's Golden Age. Here, a choice of excursions offers you an opportunity to see Amsterdam as you wish. One explores Amsterdam's past, present and future, starting with a canal boat cruise and followed by a guided tour of the Rijksmuseum, seeing such works as *The Milkmaid* by Vermeer, *Self-portrait* by Van Gogh, *The Merry Family* by Jan Steen and Rembrandt's *Night Watch*, before time to explore on your own. The other is a bicycle ride to the nearby village of Volendam for a visit to a local cheese farm. Return to your riverboat for a musical performance before a farewell toast and dinner.

Arrives On: 15 Oct 24

Day 8: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Tour Ends: Amsterdam. Disembark your riverboat this morning by 9:00 AM. A transfer is included from Tauck's riverboat to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport or Centraal Station. Fly home anytime. Allow a minimum of three hours for flight check-in at the airport.

Arrives On: 16 Oct 24

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

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