Cruise Details

Name:	Yuletide Spirit: Brussels to Amsterdam - Northbound
Reference:	TAUCKRYX202608122026
Operator:	Tauck
Cruise Type:	River
Cruise Rating:	Luxury
Ship:	MS Grace
Regions:	Dutch Waterways
Departs On:	08 Dec 26
Departs From:	Brussel (Bruxelles)
Arrives On:	15 Dec 26
Arrives At:	Amsterdam
Cruise Nights:	7
Total Vacation Days:	8

Itinerary

Day 1: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Tour begins: 4:00 PM, Brussels. A transfer is included from Brussels Airport or Brussels Central Train Station to Tauck's riverboat where embarkation begins at 4:00 PM. Settle into your cabin and join us tonight for a welcome reception followed by dinner.

Arrives On: 08 Dec 26

Day 2: Brussel (Bruxelles) (Belgium)

Wake up for a tour of the city that visits the enchanting cobblestoned square, Grand-Place, surrounded by ornately gilded 17th-century guildhouses, and the festive holiday markets of Winterfest, infused with the joys and spirit of the season. Time at leisure this afternoon lets you experience winter's wonders in Brussels as you wish. Your riverboat cruises to Antwerp tonight.

Arrives On: 09 Dec 26

Day 3: Antwerp (Belgium)

Sugar and diamond trading put Antwerp on the map in the mid-16th century when it was one of Europe's most important cities. Today it is also famous for being the home of Flemish painter Peter Paul Rubens, inviting you to walk in the artist's footsteps and see his masterpieces where he painted them. Traditionally held every December, the Antwerp Christmas Market is spread over different squares of the city, within walking distance of the Grote Markt and other landmarks you'll see today. Guided sightseeing showcases the highlights of Antwerp this morning before time at leisure to explore on your own. Return to the riverboat by shuttle at your convenience and enjoy musical entertainment onboard ship tonight after dinner.

Arrives On: 10 Dec 26

Day 4: Brugge (Bruges) (Belgium)

Your day today consists of one simple choice: Bruges or Ghent? For those that choose Bruges, you'll be whisked away for a full day excursion to the fortified medieval city, nicknamed "The Venice of the North" for its countless canals, on foot, meandering past its canals, magnificent squares, and narrow cobblestone lanes. Alternatively, those that choose Ghent, will be off on a full day excursion to the capital and largest city of the East Flanders province. Return to your riverboat for dinner in the Compass Rose this evening.

Arrives On: 11 Dec 26

Day 5: Rotterdam (Netherlands)

A choice of shore excursions today includes a locally guided walking tour of Rotterdam or a visit to Delft's porcelain factory. In Rotterdam, view world-class architecture and urban design, along with outdoor sculptures randomly placed, and as you make your way to the city's covered Markthal; topped with sought-after glass-walled apartments, the market is lined with some 96 stalls enticing with a taste of Dutch culinary specialties under an arched fruit-and-vegetable muralled ceiling. Little changed since Golden Age artist Johannes Vermeer lived here in the 17th century, the historic center of Delft is a veritable time capsule of medieval treasures and Golden Age glories. Tour the city's Royal Delft factory to learn more about the distinctive blue and white Delftware pottery first introduced by local artisans in the 17th century. The rest of the day is yours to do as you wish. Dinner tonight is back aboard your riverboat.

Arrives On: 12 Dec 26

Day 6: Gouda (Netherlands)

Today, arrive in Den Haag, "The Hague," a city of regal elegance and artistic treasures. Begin with a Tour Director-led orientation walk through the historic center, passing the King's Palace and notable landmarks. Enjoy free time to explore independently – choose from visiting the Royal

Christmas Fair (seasonal), admiring the art masterpieces at the Mauritshuis, or discovering M.C. Escher's acclaimed works at the Escher in the Palace exhibit. Midday, gather for a Taste of the Town lunch, where you'll savor local flavors in a relaxed setting. Later in the afternoon, depart for Rotterdam, returning to the ship with lasting memories of The Hague's rich cultural charm—its stately palaces, world-class art, and the unique atmosphere of a city where history and modernity blend seamlessly. Tonight, join us for a special chef's signature dinner in the Compass Rose.

Arrives On: 13 Dec 26

Day 7: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Arrive early this morning in Amsterdam. Today, you have a choice of excursions. One offers you the opportunity to visit the famed, Rijksmuseum. Housing over one million objects of different arts, crafts and artifacts created the years of 1200 – 2000 A.D. (8,000 of which are displayed publicly), the Rijksmuseum is home to some of the greatest historical and artistic masterpieces in the world, including a collection of paintings from the likes of Dutch Masters such as Rembrandt, Vermeer and Hals; your other option offers a visit to the Zaanse Schans neighborhood to get an idea of what life was like in 17th- and 18th-century Holland; see the historic windmills and green wooden houses from the period. Nicknamed the "Venice of the North" for the sheer number of canals (165 to be exact) found throughout the city proper, they'll be on full display this afternoon during some free time to explore Amsterdam as you please. Illuminated artwork and sculptures lining the canals add a special glow to the city's winter landscapes at night, and are a highlight of this evening's festive canal cruise.

Arrives On: 14 Dec 26

Day 8: Amsterdam (Netherlands)

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

Arrives On: 15 Dec 26

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