

# GARDEN TOURS



**Floriade 2012 – World Horticultural Expo Garden Tour  
Including Keukenhof**

April 19th – 27th, 2012

## THAILAND



## FLORIADE 2012 – WORLD HORTICULTURAL EXPO GARDEN TOUR INCLUDING KEUKENHOF

Come along on this once every ten year tour! Holland is so beautiful this time of year and you will discover that for yourself! Our hotel in Venlo is a five minute walk from Floriade!

### HIGHLIGHTS

- 8 nights 4 star hotels in Deluxe & Tower Rooms
- All Breakfasts
- 3 Dinners
- Entrance to Alsmeer, Hortus Bulborum, Van Gogh, Hortus Botanicus, Het Loo Palace
- Full Day Keukenhof
- Full Day Floriade
- 100 Highlights Canal Cruise
- Visit to Bloememarkt
- English speaking Guide
- Coach and Driver
- Tips for Guide and Driver

Floriade is a unique World Horticulture Fair organized once every ten years. The next fair will be held in 2012. The central theme of the Floriade is: Be part of the theatre in nature; get closer to the quality of life. The five overriding themes of Floriade 2012 will be:

- Relax & Heal – the importance of horticulture for healthy lives
- Green Engine – horticulture as an economic engine and supplier of green energy
- Education & Innovation – the interaction between horticulture, education, and innovation
- Environment – the importance of a durable society and of green (work) surroundings and gardens for our well-being
- World Show Stage – horticulture as an inspiration source for art, culture, and entertainment

The name Floriade originates from the Latin word "floriat," which means designing flowers. The Northern Limburg region, to which Venlo belongs, is the second largest horticultural region of The Netherlands. Visitors to Floriade 2012 Venlo will first pass through a colorful, magical Welcome Garden, then enter the impressive Nature's Theatre, which will act as the central Floriade hub. From there, guests will have the option of visiting multiple "Experience Zones," touching upon a variety of topics including life, local and world connections, the seasons, and community. You will enjoy gardens from Indonesia, the UK, Yemen, Tunisia, Nepal, India and Pakistan to name a few...there will be so many to see that we will give you the whole day to see the show...it is that big. Products from the tree nursery, fruit & vegetable, professional gardening and landscaping, flower bulb and floristry sectors will be displayed in all their glory throughout the park.

Floriade is not only what you will enjoy on this tour, as it is filled with very unique visits beginning with Hortus Bulborum.

It is the only museum garden in the world where you can find over 3,700 different tulip, hyacinth, daffodil and other bulbous cultivars, species and varieties in bloom. Nowhere on this globe will you find such a fine selection of old bulbs in one place. At Alsmeer we will show you what happens when cut flowers arrive...amazing...and then they disappear to be in a flower shop in another country in a matter of hours!

The Hortus Botanicus is a wonderful garden to visit and right in the center of Amsterdam! One of the oldest botanical gardens in the world, you will discover much behind those 300 year old doors. Palais Het Loo is over 300 years old and breathes an atmosphere of elegance from their 17th century origin – flowers here are planted individually rather than in groups so that each species can be properly seen in all its beauty and because they were so very expensive back then.

We also take time out to visit the Van Gogh Museum containing the largest collection of Van Gogh's paintings in the world as well as other artists. We board a boat for a wonderful canal cruise where the City of Amsterdam takes on a totally different look and feel from the water and walk through Bloememarkt, a very lively, fun and exciting place to see the latest in garden accessories...hold on to your wallets as I am sure you will each find something to take home...a wooden tulip perhaps!

Come along on this once every ten year tour! Holland is so beautiful this time of year and you will discover that for yourself! Everyone who is registered on this tour will receive regular updates on what is happening at Floriade in preparation for this exciting tour. Yes, the tour is up early, but with limited tickets and especially hotel rooms, we must make sure we have rooms for all.

Floriade 2012 – World Horticultural Expo Garden Tour -- Including Keukenhof

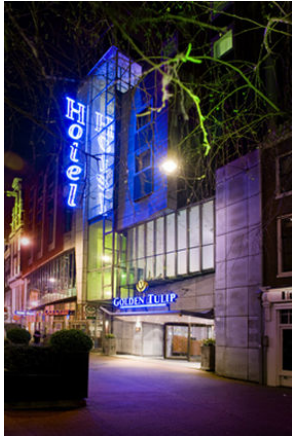
### April 19th, 2012 Day 1

Arrival to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. Guests arrive individually at the hotel

On leaving the baggage reclaim area, you enter Schiphol Plaza, and you can follow the sign posts to find the trains, taxis and shuttle buses.

Train is the cheapest and perhaps the most convenient. They run 24 hours a day and take about 15 minutes. Train tickets can be bought at ticket counters or the yellow ticket vending machines in Schiphol Plaza. A single train ticket from the airport to Amsterdam Central in 2010 is about 4.00 Euros.

The next 5 nights, your hotel ...  
Inntel Hotels Amsterdam Centre



Inntel Hotels Amsterdam Centre is situated in the historical heart of the city. Within walking distance you'll find many shopping streets and department stores. Because of the unique location at a traffic free square, you will enjoy an undisturbed goodnight sleep. All air-conditioned rooms are modern, warmly decorated, and equipped with facilities what you need to enjoy your stay. Your Deluxe room will include: hair dryer, coffee and tea making facilities, mini bar, safe with personal code, colour television, bathroom and free wireless internet. Breakfast each morning is Continental consisting of different types of bread, rolls, pastries, cereals, fruit, yoghurts, cheeses and something warm like sausages and scrambled or boiled eggs



<http://www.inntelhotelsamsterdamcentre.nl/Inntel-Hotels-Amsterdam-Centre.html>

Welcome Dinner – 3 course with tea or coffee

#### April 20th, Day 2



This morning means a very early start for you because you will experience something very special. When you think of The Netherlands, Dutch tulips are likely among the first things that come to mind. But how about roses, gardenias, gerbera daisies and lilies? Just 10 miles from Amsterdam is a small town called Aalsmeer, whose claim to fame is that it's home to the largest flower auction in the world. Those flowers at your local grocery store? Those bouquets at the corner shop? Chances are, they've journeyed from Aalsmeer and were bid on just hours earlier. The auction has always owed its strong position to the clock. This method of selling is known as the 'Dutch auction'. A very wide and deep assortment of flowers and plants is available though the auction clocks on a daily basis. Every day, 39 auction clocks are in operation at center. This means 125,000 auction transactions every day. In other words, 12 billion cut flowers and over half a million plants a year.

Interesting facts:

- Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer sells more than 20 million flowers and plants every day;
- 7000 specialized growers from all over the world offer their flowers and plants via Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer every day;
- The auction has an essential 'break-bulk' function: large lots are sold within a couple of hours and divided into smaller lots;
- The customers who are situated at the auction (wholesalers and exporters) products can be on their way to the consumer, anywhere in the world, within a few hours;
- With its more than 1 million sq. metres, the auction building is one of the largest commercial buildings in the world.
- Bloemenveiling Aalsmeer turns over EUR 6 million every day.



This morning you will travel north from Amsterdam to the village of Limmen. There you will visit Hortus Bulborum. It is the only museum garden in the world where you can find over 4,200 different tulip, hyacinth, daffodil and other bulbous cultivars, species and varieties in bloom. Nowhere on this globe will you find such a fine selection of old bulbs in one place. Every spring the Hortus transforms into a treasure trove full of dazzling colours, beautiful shapes and overwhelming fragrances at the foot of the picturesque, parish church in Limmen village, near the historic city of Alkmaar.

The garden has a seasonal display of thousands of heirloom bulbs, some of which are no longer in commercial production. Certain tulips originated in the 16th century. The *Fritillaria persica* on display was already in cultivation as early as 1577, while the oldest narcissus is several centuries older yet. The garden, therefore, provides a fascinating overview of these immensely popular spring bloomers grown through the centuries. Thanks to headmaster

Pieter Boschman who started the collection in 1924, the visiting public has the pleasure of enjoying such legendary tulips as the 'Duc van Tol Red and Yellow' (1595), 'Zomerschoon' (1620) and very popular during the Tulipmania (1635-1637) period or the exotic parrot tulip 'Perfecta' (1750) and many other fascinating examples.

The aim of Hortus Bulborum is to preserve these cultivars to safeguard them for the future. They are also a genetic resource for the professional breeding of bulbs in order to obtain better cultivars.

One of the things I found most interesting is that the older tulips were on very short stems with shorter leaves, similar in a lot of ways to a hosta leaf and I thought with today's way of gardening, that they would fit perfectly around ponds and on the edges of beds rather than the tall varieties we mostly find now. They also maintain an historical Hippeastrum collection here.  
<http://www.hortus-bulborum.nl/eng/home-english.html>

Overnight stay at your hotel.  
Dinner on your own

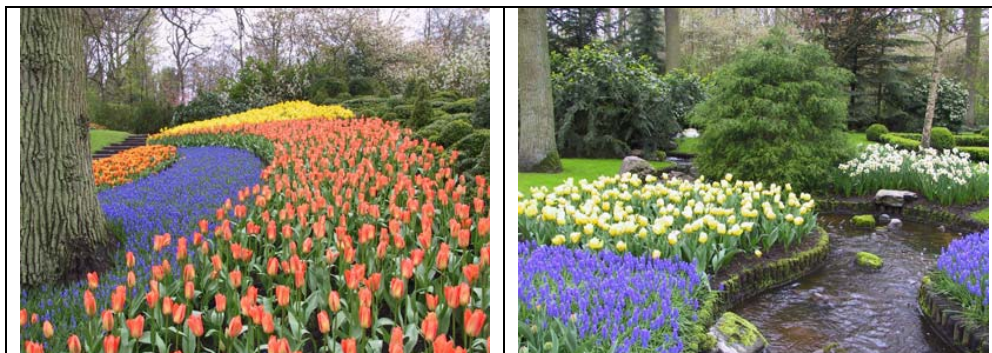
### April 21, Day 3



The inspirational gardens at Keukenhof are the ideal place for visitors to not just gaze in admiration but also be inspired and encouraged to use flower bulbs in their own garden.

The seven gardens vary in size and each have their own individual character and theme. The sizes are based on the average Dutch garden and vary from around 50 to 120 m<sup>2</sup>. Each garden has a permanent basic framework of trees, shrubs, hedges and wooden walls or fences, but the rest of the planting with perennials and flower bulbs is changed each year. Besides this, each spring, containers and garden furniture are used to create a totally different character.

Keukenhof presents a permanent floral abundance of unprecedented beauty, in three specially designed pavilions. This year there are about sixteen permanent and varying indoor shows. They promise visitors a genuine 'spring experience', with thousands of delightful flowers and colours in classic, contemporary and futuristic arrangements. Thanks to these indoor shows Keukenhof is always attractive: You will experience the Historical garden – a formal garden enclosed by walls featuring old to ancient bulbs. The Nature Garden features a combination of perennials, bulb plants and tuberous plants, overlooked by blooming shrubs and a coppice of oaks. The Music Garden, Theme gardens, flower arrangement workshops, and pavilions full of plants finish off the offering.



The Keukenhof estate has a long history ... during the 15th century it was part of a region covered by forests and dunes. It was the hunting ground for the little community of residents at Teylingen castle, which lies in ruins today. From 1401 – 1436 the land belonged to Countess Jacoba van Beieren. It was her home, her hunting grounds and her garden from which to gather herbs for the castle kitchen. Her passion for herbs is where Keukenhof derived its name, which literally translated means 'kitchen courtyard'. The basic design for the park was done in 1830 and in 1949 a group of prominent bulb growers and exporters came up with a brilliant new idea: an open air museum for flowers. It was to serve as a window display for the bulb growing industry. That year 40 businesses participated and today there are around 100. In total seven million bulb flowers cover this spectacularly designed park.

<http://www.keukenhof.nl/>

Overnight stay at your hotel.

Dinner on your own

#### April 22, Day 4

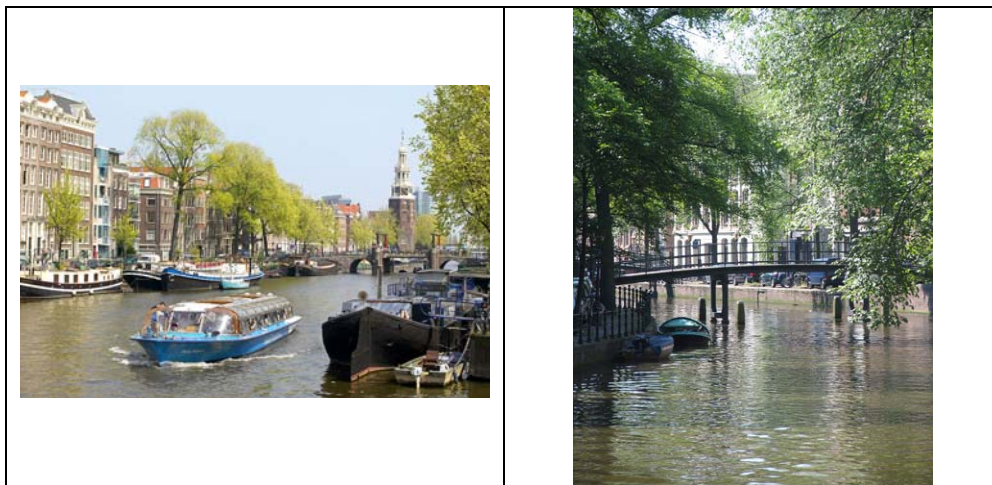


After breakfast you will meet your coach and depart for the Van Gogh Museum

A visit to the Van Gogh Museum is a unique experience. The museum contains the largest collection of paintings by Vincent van Gogh in the world. It provides the opportunity to keep track of the artist's developments, or compare his paintings to works by other artists from the 19th century in the collection. The museum also holds an extensive offer of exhibitions on various subjects from 19th century art history.

<http://www.vangoghmuseum.nl/vgm/index.jsp?lang=en>

In the afternoon you will enjoy a cruise along Amsterdam's picture perfect canals - something not to be missed! This cruise takes you along several canals and past the city's most spectacular spots. As you glide through the historic city centre you'll see elegant merchants' residences, churches and warehouses, dating from the Golden Age and steeped in history.



Enjoy the best cruise through 17th century Amsterdam. Holland's capital has 160 canals and 1000 bridges. Experience Amsterdam from the water. Cruising through a number of Amsterdam's canals, this cruise passes along some of the city's most beautiful spots. While gliding through the old centre of the city you see elegant merchants' mansions, carillon-crowned churches and the warehouses with their rich history from Holland's Golden Age.

Then a visit to the Bloememarkt



The Bloemenmarkt at several hundred meters long, is a favorite tourist attraction but you can tell that they also do serious business here.. Founded in 1862, it is a treasure trove of delight awaiting you. Since you are here early in your tour, pick up some flowers to take back to your room. I always have flowers in my hotel rooms while on tours and here you can buy them for a song!



Eastern Cape giant cycad.

In the afternoon you will enjoy a visit of the Botanical Gardens of Amsterdam. The Hortus Botanicus Amsterdam is one of the oldest botanic gardens in the world. Today, there are more than 4,000 plant species growing in the garden and greenhouses. The Hortus is located in the Plantage district on the edge of the hectic center of Amsterdam. Behind the 300-year-old gates, however, the bustle of the city seems to disappear. Originally, the Hortus was a medicinal herb garden, founded in 1638 by the Amsterdam City Council. At that time, herbs were of vital importance as the basis of medicines and the city had just experienced a plague epidemic. Doctors and pharmacists trained in the preparation of prescriptions at the Hortus.

Thanks to the ships of the Dutch East India Company (Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie, VOC), the Hortus expanded quickly in the 17th and 18th Centuries. The VOC ships brought not only herbs and spices, but also exotic ornamental plants. In fact, a few of the Hortus' 'crown jewels' date from that time, e.g. the 300-year-old

Although the Hortus is just 1.2 hectares in size, the number of plants is enormous. In fact, there are more than 6,000 plants (>4,000 species) in the garden and 7 greenhouses. Each greenhouse represents a different climate: i.e., the temperature and humidity are especially adjusted. In this way, the garden and greenhouses can accommodate plants from no less than 6 different climates.

The Outdoor Garden looked much different in 1682 than it does today. The straight beds contained medicinal plants, while the ornamental flowers were grown in symmetric arches. The present design (dating from 1863) is characteristic of the Romantic Movement: the curving paths and round shapes are supposed to make the visitor forget the surrounding city.

It is lovely and if you have the time, sit and have a cup of coffee in the Orangery.

<http://www.dehortus.nl/informatie.asp>

Overnight stay at your hotel.

Dinner on your own

#### **April 23, Day 5**

Today you will enjoy a free day for leisure in Amsterdam. Within ten minutes of the hotel are the \* the Palace on the Dam \* The Westertoren \* The Nieuwe Kerk (this is where Crown-Prince Willem Alexander married Princess Maxima) \* The Vondelpark, The Musiektheater, the Flower Market, \* the Albert Cuyp market \* antique and flea markets \* Kalverstraat \* De Bijenkorf \* PC Hooftstraat \* and many trendy shops \* delightful restaurants \* cafés and bars aplenty. Enjoy a quiet leisurely breakfast and then go out and explore...the best thing you can do is to just walk. There is so much to discover. Watch for bikes on the paths, and do not walk on those paths. There are pedestrian paths and bike paths.

## April 24, Day 6



This morning you will depart for Venlo. On our way we will stop and visit Paleis Het Loo. The Palace is more than three hundred years old, right in the heart of the Netherlands, close to the town of Apeldoorn. The former royal residence has been open to the public since 1984 after undergoing substantial restoration work. The sumptuously furnished interiors give an impression of how the Dutch royal family lived here for three centuries. The reconstructed gardens breathe the atmosphere of their seventeenth century origin with their fountains and elegantly box-lined parterres. The palace's setting in one of Holland's most beautiful nature areas makes a visit a real delight at any time of year.

Stadholder William III, great grandson of William of Orange, purchased the medieval castle Het Oude Loo, with the intention of constructing an adjacent hunting lodge. The site is an ideal spot for a garden with waterworks because of the natural sources of water in the surrounding hills. The characteristic feature of the formal 17th century garden is the strict symmetry of the layout. Paleis Het Loo garden is an excellent example. A number of parterres are grouped around the central axis and these are planted with closely trimmed box hedges in decorative scroll patterns hence the name broderie parterres. The edging bands or rabatten are filled with a choice selection of annuals and perennials interspersed with topiaried juniper berry bushes so typical of the local Veluwe area. The often rare species were brought from all over the world by the West India and East India companies for William and Mary.

A garden like this must be viewed as a seasonally changing flower and plant exhibition. That's the reason why the flowers are planted individually rather than in groups so that each species can be properly seen in all its beauty.

At the side of the palace are William and Mary's private gardens: the King's garden and the Queen's garden. Mary's garden has a serious collection of century-old citrus trees which are on display in tubs between May and October. Their inflorescence, their oranges and orange blossom are a symbol of the House of Orange.

Though the gardens at Het Loo were of modest proportions compared to those of Versailles, the waterworks enjoyed great renown for permanently spouting fresh groundwater diverted from the surrounding higher lying hills. Moreover, the King's Fountain at the rear of the Upper garden rising to 13 metres was the highest spouting fountain in Europe. The fountains play from April to October.

The garden statues - gods and goddesses from the Greek myths, all have to do with the growth and flourishing of the garden and are dedicated to celebrating the achievement of creating such a oasis of delight in an originally arid heath land. Venus, the goddess of love, takes centre stage as the driving force behind it all.

Some of the plants at Het Loo change every year, both in the spring and in the summer. The aim is to achieve the most accurate possible reconstruction of the original garden.

<http://www.paleishetloo.nl/templates/frontpage/page.asp?iPageId=0&iLangId=2>

On your way to Venlo you will enjoy a stop in Nijmegen.

Arrive in Venlo and check into your Venlo area hotel for the next two nights.



This hotel is set in the beautiful Maasduinen nature park in the Dutch province of Limburg, not far from the German border. Your Tower Room includes: TV, minibar, safe, telephone and hairdryer.

Dinner - 3 course with tea or coffee

April 25, Day 7



When an event only happens once every 10 years it must be big, and Floriade, the largest horticultural fair in the world, is no exception. BRC Imagination Arts is honored to have been entrusted by the Netherlands Horticulture Council to develop the overall concept design, theme and unifying story for Floriade 2012.

Spanning well over 100 acres, BRC's master plan envisions Floriade 2012 as a captivating "green experience" event that champions progressive, entrepreneurial horticulture as a key to improving the quality of life for people in The Netherlands and around the world. From a colorful and magical Welcome Garden, to a multi-screen media show that highlights the drama and power of the natural world. Giant LED screens on the floor, walls, and ceiling will immerse visitors to Floriade 2012 in the underlying theme, "Nature as Theatre." Multiple "experience zones," touching upon a diversity of topics, including the role of innovation in the flower and garden business, and horticulture as a "green" engine for change will ensure a lasting a memorable visit for everyone

<http://www.brcweb.com/brand/floriade.html>

Today you will experience the famous Floriade. The participating countries, businesses and horticultural companies and public and semi-public bodies present visitors to Floriade 2012 with the opportunity to enjoy the world's most exquisite and exceptional flowers, plants, trees and fruit and vegetables. But Floriade 2012 offers much more. Each day features a cultural programme of music, dance, literature, theatre and visual art from all over the world. Sustainable, pioneering architectural eye catchers, as never seen before, will be shown for the first time at Floriade 2012. With countless exciting, innovative and educational attractions and activities, Floriade 2012 is a spectacular voyage of discovery.

Overnight at your hotel.  
Dinner on your own

#### April 26, Day 8

Today your journey takes you back north to Amsterdam where you will be able to enjoy another free afternoon of last minute shopping or just walking about the City.

Farewell Dinner – 3 course with tea or coffee and overnight stay in your hotel in Amsterdam (Intel Hotels Amsterdam Centre)

#### April 27, Day 9

Sadly it is time to leave the Netherlands today. After breakfast you will make your way independently to Schipol Airport and depart for home.

**Your land package includes:**

- 8 nights 4 star hotels in Deluxe & Tower Rooms
- All Breakfasts
- 3 Dinners
- Entrance to Almeer, Hortus Bulborum, Van Gogh, Hortus Botanicus, Het Loo Palace
- Full Day Keukenhof
- Full Day Floriade
- 100 Highlights Canal Cruise
- Visit to Bloememarkt
- English speaking Guide
- Coach and Driver

Tour

Carlson Wagonlit Travel | Journeys of Discovery Exclusive Travel Agent on this Tour

**Tour Dates: April 19th – 27th, 2012**



**LAND only** €2,400 Euros p/p sharing  
**SINGLE Supplement** €717 Euros

See **Highlights Box** for all inclusions on this tour.

**Note** – Minimum of 20 tour registrants required for this tour to run. Do not book air until you have been notified that tour is ready to book air. Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Journeys of Discovery - Exclusive Travel Agent on this tour. CWT can look after your air as well as insurance.

Email: [donna@icangarden.com](mailto:donna@icangarden.com)

Toll Free – 1-866-642-7120

Subject to change without notice – May 15, 2010