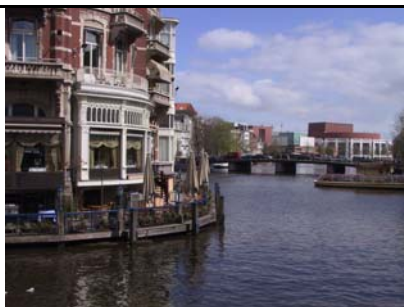


Holland & Belgium



Holland & Belgium 2006 -- Designed for garden writers or those wanting more than just garden visits

July 2nd - 10th, 2006

A European capital renowned for its indulgent atmosphere, Amsterdam is more than just a playground of sensual pleasures. Home of Rembrandt, Van Gogh, classic architecture, and, of course, the canals, this Venice of the North augments its famed 17th century glory with a thriving, cosmopolitan presence in the 21st century.

The heart of Brussels and the place to start getting to know the city is the Grand' Place (Grote Markt). This historic market square with its splendid guild houses and the impressive Gothic beauty of the Town Hall, is widely considered to be one of the most beautiful town squares in Europe.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 nights Crowne Plaza Amsterdam
- 4 nights President Centre Hotel Brussels
- Motor coach transportation on tour days
- Local Guides
- All breakfasts 5 dinners 1 lunch
- Tips & Gratuities Guides & Drivers



Sunday July 2 Arrive at Airport in Amsterdam

Arrive at airport and make your way to the hotel on your own. We meet this evening for our welcome dinner. (D)

Monday July 3 de Hortus Botanicus & De Vroomen Holland

Enjoy coffee while Andri van Proosdij - the man responsible for selecting plants - gives a talk about the history of the gardens and highlights to look out for. Enjoy gardens on our own. Visit to flower market De Vroomen Holland visit to test gardens Keukenhof Castle visit & dinner (B) (D)

Tuesday July 4 Darwin Plants & Private Gardens

After coffee and welcome at Darwin, we visit the private garden of Dick Maas, owner of a large perennials production nursery, and an avid plant collector. Visit to production nursery owned by Kees van der Aardweg supplying many perennial varieties to Darwin Plants, and others. A number of new introductions and future possibilities are to be seen here. Following lunch, we visit Kebra Perennials Production Nursery.

Campanula 'Purple Sensation' and Euphorbia 'Mini Martini' were discovered by Mark van Kesteren at Kebra Nursery. Finally Darwin Plants and we end the day with a lovely BBQ. (B) (D)

Wednesday July 5 Aalsmeer Flower Auction, Urban Home & Garden Tours

Amsterdam and De Kas - An early day as we want to be here to see the auction in motion where more than 20 million flowers and plants every day are sold. Back to hotel to rest a bit then a very special treat - Andre Ancion, a garden designer and owner of UHGT will take us on a walking tour to see canal house gardens and 1 or 2 characteristic Dutch canal house interiors. Back to hotel to get ready for a dinner at De Kas, where we will enjoy a three course dinner in the Garden Room located amongst the green of their nursery and it has its own patio. (B) (D)

Thursday July 6 Plant Publicity Holland Our first visit today will be to Jan van Zoest Clematis Nursery where we will meet Wim Snoeijer. An amazing nursery full of perfectly maintained clematis. Then we cross the street to visit Nico Rijnbeek and Son Nursery both growers and exporters of perennials...a rare combination in Holland. Then on a boat tour through some of the canals in Boskoop while we eat our box lunch. We finish day with a visit to Applied Plant Research. (B) (L)

July 7 Day of Leisure in Brussels

We checked into the President Centre Hotel last night and this morning after enjoying a wonderful breakfast the day is yours to explore. I am sure you will find something to occupy your time with! Don't forget to buy lots of chocolate to bring home - and try Kriek beer, made with cherries and refreshing in summer! (B)

Saturday July 8 Visit to Antwerp

On our arrival we will be met and guided through a walking tour of the historical areas visiting private and public gardens along the way including the Rubenshuis gardens. Rubens took his inspiration in Italy for his garden and decorations. (B)

Sunday July 9 Les Jardins d'Annevoie, Leisure Time and Farewell Dinner

After breakfast we begin our day with a visit to The Gardens of Annevoie. Designed and laid out between 1758 and 1776 by Charles-Alexis de Montpellier, the gardens are an authentic historical record and above all a living work of art. The 17th century French-style pleasure gardens at Annevoie were alone in adopting the Italianate and English styles in the 18th century. Leisure time in afternoon, farewell dinner. (B) (D)

Monday July 10 Day of Departure

Two incredible cities with distinct styles and character. I know you will leave this tour full of memories and lots of stories....until the next one! (B)

Tour Dates: July 2 - 10th, 2006

LAND ONLY €1640 (Euros)
 SINGLE supplement €467 (Euros)
 Meals: All breakfasts (B) 5 dinners (D) 1 Lunch (L)
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