

*Belgium has an embassy in The Hague and consulates in Amsterdam, Maastricht, Nijmegen, Roosendaal, Rotterdam, Terneuzen, Vlissingen and Winsum, while the Netherlands has an embassy in Brussels and consulates in Antwerp, Ghent, Liège and Namur.*

Our springtime cruise of Holland and Belgium showcases magnificent art and architecture, spellbinding gardens, and enchanting medieval villages. Then choose from three excursions, including a trip to the world-renowned Keukenhof Gardens, where more than seven million tulips, daffodils, and other spring flowers are expected to be in bloom; an active bicycle trip in rural Waterland, an area of historical villages and wetland north of the city; or a more leisurely day featuring a guided tour of the Old Masters at the Rijksmuseum balanced with time at leisure. Take a canal cruise of Giethoorn, regarded as the most picturesque village in Holland with its abundance of interlacing canals, and explore the town of Kampen. The Hague and Delft: Cruising south, choose from two compelling day excursions. In The Hague, explore sites associated with the seat of Dutch government, including the Parliament Building and the Peace Palace, then visit the Mauritshuis Museum, which showcases a fine collection of paintings by Vermeer and other Dutch Masters. After your walk, learn about the history and production of Delft porcelain at the renowned Royal Delft Porcelain Factory. The World Heritage site of Bruges features treasured 15th-century architecture, picturesque canals, and arched footbridges. Following a walking tour, choose from three excursions that focus on Flemish art, Belgian chocolate, or Belgian beer. Your cruise concludes in Antwerp with a walking tour of this medieval city. Our April , April , departures will begin in Amsterdam and conclude in Antwerp. The tour "Waterways of Holland and Belgium" was a truly wonderful, joyous experience - the places visited were interesting and often awe-inspiring; the ship was a lovely "base" and the leaders all were marvelous - and, I might add, we had a thoroughly delightful group of fellow travelers! To see itinerary, please click on an option below. The Smithsonian Journeys Travel Director will be on board to help with suggestions for independent activities. There is time to relax and settle in. See charming bridges, canal houses, and the vibrant harbor. D Amadeus Silver III Day 3 €" Amsterdam After breakfast, let your interests be your guide and choose from a menu of three engaging shore-side excursions. Choice 1 €" Keukenhof Gardens: Explore Dutch the renowned Keukenhof Gardens, an acre paradise of tulips, hyacinths and other beautiful flowers. Enjoy a short walk around the grounds with your expert guide and learn the story of these magnificent gardens. Almost half the area consists of fen, a marshy wetland. Waterland is comprised of nine historical villages. Helmets will be provided. The Rijksmuseum is home to a remarkable display of Dutch art. Linger longer and enjoy time on your own. This evening, join the captain of the ship for a welcome reception and dinner. Board a boat and sail through several miles of quaint, picture-perfect canals. This afternoon a local speaker will offer a talk on the Dutch Masters. Later in the afternoon, a walking-tour of Kampen is planned with time free for exploring on your own. Before dinner, join friends in the Smithsonian Journeys Travelers Corner. See the Peace Palace and the Binnenhof where the national parliament meets. Visit the residential suburb of Wassenaar, home to the King of the Netherlands. Visit the Mauritshuis Museum that showcases a remarkable collection of paintings by the Dutch Masters. Choice 2 Royal Delft €" Travel to Delft where a walking tour is planned. Stroll through the Market Square and see the historic and cultural highlights of Old Delft. Continue to the Royal Delft Porcelain Factory, established in the 17th-century, and learn about the history, development, and production of Delft Blue and Royal Delft. See a master painter at work and visit the museum that has treasured antique pieces on display. After a full day, return to the ship and spend time enjoying new friends in the Smithsonian Journeys Travelers Corner. The story of the Netherlands and its battle with the sea is an epic one. During an innovative audio-video presentation, learn about the Delta Works, a series of massive dams and storm surge barriers, conceived after the destructive North Sea flood in February There is time to visit one of the storm surge barriers. Return to the ship where the remainder of the day is at leisure in Veere. Choice 1 €" Cultural Bruges: Begin with a walking tour of this storybook town, located in West Flanders, with twisting lanes, canals, and arched bridges. Visit the Groeninge Museum with its remarkable collection of Flemish and

other noteworthy master painters. See the historic and cultural highlights of Bruges then visit the Brewery de Halve Maan where an expert guide will explain the process of brewing the famous Belgian beer. During the visit, you have the chance to sample the wares. This evening, get together with fellow Smithsonian Journeys travelers for dinner at an authentic Belgian restaurant in the harbor area. Afterward, stroll through the city on a walking tour to see medieval architecture, and other historic and cultural treasures of the city. The balance of the day is free of planned activities. In the late afternoon, join your Smithsonian Journeys Expert for an informative presentation. This evening, join fellow travelers for a farewell reception and dinner. B Included meals are denoted as follows: Smithsonian travelers depart the U. Today travelers will enjoy a walking excursion in the city. Stroll through Antwerp on a guided walking tour. Antwerp dates back to the 13th century and features a wealth of medieval architecture. On this tour, you will learn about Contemporary Belgium from a local expert. Afterwards, visit the Groeninge Museum that offers a rich array of Belgian artwork. Highlights include collections by Flemish primitives, various Renaissance and Baroque masters, along with pieces from the Neo-classical periods of the 18th and 19th centuries. Your guide will lead you through the narrow, twisting cobblestone streets, passing by picturesque scenes of ancient buildings, tree-lined canals, and gabled facades. The highlight is undoubtedly a visit to a well-known local brewery De Halve Maan. At the end of your brewery tour, you will have a choice to taste one of their delicious Belgian beers. Join your guide for an entertaining walk through the quaint, cobbled streets and past centuries-old buildings, including the marketplace with its impressive Guild Halls. Then, you will walk to a chocolatier where you will enjoy an informative visit and learn about the history of Belgian chocolate. This evening, get together with fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner on board. The ship overnights in Veere. After a full day, relax on board and spend time with your fellow traveling companions in the Smithsonian Journeys Travelers Corner. Visit the whimsical, car-free village of Giethoorn which seems to have materialized out of a fairy tale. Rove through the four miles of picturesque canals by boat. Afterwards, wander by foot. Soak in the scene of exquisite, 18th-century farmhouses set against the Weerribben Wieden Nature Preserve as you immerse yourself in the pleasures of small-town Dutch life. B,L,D Day 7 "Amsterdam After enjoying breakfast aboard the ship, journey into the canals for a day excursion. Board a canal cruiser for a unique tour of Amsterdam. Cruise a portion of more than 60 miles of tree-lined canals and waterways. Tonight, enjoy dinner at an authentic Dutch restaurant in Amsterdam. This evening, join the captain of the ship for a farewell reception and dinner. After an early breakfast, disembark the ship and transfer to Amsterdam for your return flight to your U.

### 2: Best of Holland, Belgium & Luxembourg Tour | Grand European Travel

*14 Day Holland, Germany, Luxembourg & Belgium with Paris, July Wonderful, well organized, no delays throughout the trip. Our tour guide Michael and bus driver Rudy were very knowledgeable and friendly.*

Travel to Europe often requires an overnight flight. Please arrange for flights to arrive on or before Day 1. Fall in love with the Lowlands, launching your vacation in the magical city of Amsterdam, whose labyrinthine canals and vibrant squares you will have an opportunity to explore on your own. Welcome Reception Day 2: Buffet Breakfast Day 3: We dive into culture during a visit to the Royal Delft Pottery workshop and admire the delicate blue and white porcelain that has made this historic town famous. We continue our journey south, arriving in the edgy port city of Rotterdam where we will enjoy an informative orientation and ascend the iconic Euromast Tower for stunning panoramic views of this city. Buffet Breakfast Day 4: Amsterdam â€” Maastricht â€” Bastogne â€” Luxembourg 2 Nights The fortified city of Maastricht, with its beautiful old churches, ancient city walls, and stunning merchant houses, takes center stage this morning. We spend some time strolling through its town center before continuing to Bastogne, the site of bloody skirmishes in the World War II Battle of the Bulge. Buffet Breakfast, Dinner Day 5: Patton, whose final resting place is the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial. Later, we embark on a leisurely walking tour of Luxembourg City with a Local Specialist. Buffet Breakfast Day 6: Luxembourg â€” Orval â€” Dinant â€” Bruges 2 Nights We begin our day with a visit to the 12th-century Cistercian Orval Abbey renowned for its distinct cheese, and for being one of the few breweries that produce Trappist beer. En route to the enchanting medieval village of Bruges, we stop in Dinant whose famous son, Adolphe Sax, is credited with having invented the saxophone. This evening, we connect with locals, joining Marc Nyssen at his 18th-century Bruges farmstead to learn about Flanders farm life and enjoy a hearty Belgian Be My Guest dinner. Buffet Breakfast, Dinner with Wine hotel: Golden Tulip De Medici Day 7: Dive into culture next and admire the delicate art of Belgian lace in the old lace school of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. Spend the rest of the day on your own, immersing yourself in the old-world allure of this town. Buffet Breakfast Day 8: Bruges â€” Ghent â€” Brussels 2 Nights Delve into centuries of trade heritage in the port city of Ghent, with its picturesque riverine backdrop. Buffet Breakfast Day 9: Brussels Free Day Embrace a full free day to explore the Belgian capital as you wish. Stroll past the Royal Palace and through the leafy lanes of Brussels Park or indulge in tasting delicious chocolate. Your Travel Director will assist you to make the most out of your free day at leisure. This evening we celebrate a memorable sojourn through three fascinating countries during a Farewell Dinner. Buffet Breakfast, Farewell Dinner We bid Belgium a fond adieu this morning as we prepare to close the curtain on a memorable vacation. Add air to your reservation Let our Air Specialists handle your air reservations.

## 3: Recent Added Items - European ANTIQUES & DECORATIVE

*The Heart of Belgium & Holland was a very good tour for me, a perfect balance of the history and art between both countries. Everyone forgets that Belgium and The Netherlands are two separate countries with a common history.*

Flint knives discovered in Belgian caves On Belgian territory Neanderthal fossils were discovered at Engis in 1868 and elsewhere, some dating back to at least 50,000 BCE. The Belgian LBK is notable for its use of defensive walls around villages, something which may or may not have been necessary because of the proximity of hunter gatherers. One notable archaeological site in this region is the Neolithic flint mines of Spiennes. The LBK and Blicquy cultures disappeared and there is a long gap before a new farming culture, the Michelsberg culture, appeared and became widespread. Hunter gatherers of the Swifterbant culture apparently remained in the sandy north of Belgium, but apparently became more and more influenced by farming and pottery technology. Although it is felt that there was a continuing human presence, the types of evidence available make judgement about the details very difficult. To the north and east, in the Netherlands, a semi-sedentary culture group has been proposed to have existed, the so-called Vlaardingse-Wartburg-Stein complex, which possibly developed from the above-mentioned Swifterbant and Michelsberg cultures. In the last part of the Neolithic, evidence is found for the Corded Ware and Bell Beaker cultures in the south of the Netherlands, but these cultures also do not seem to have had a big impact in all of Belgium. The population of Belgium started to increase permanently with the late Bronze age from around 1000 BCE. Three possibly related European cultures arrived in sequence. First the Urnfield culture arrived for example, tumuli are found at Ravels and Hamont-Achel in the Campine. This is because historical Greek and Roman records from areas where this culture settled show Celtic placenames and personal names. From BC Celtic tribes settled in the region and traded with the Mediterranean world. Celtic and Roman periods[ edit ] Main article: Gallia Belgica When Julius Caesar arrived in the region, as recorded in his *De Bello Gallico*, the inhabitants of Belgium, northwestern France, and the German Rhineland were known as the Belgae after whom modern Belgium is named, and they were considered to be the northern part of Gaul. The region of Luxembourg, including the part of the Belgian province of Luxembourg around Arlon, was inhabited by the Treveri, who were not listed by Caesar as Belgae, although the Romans later placed them in the province of the Belgae. The exact nature of the distinction between the Belgae to the North and the Celts to the south, and the Germani across the Rhine, is disputed. It seems clear that Celtic culture and language were very influential upon the Belgae, especially those in modern France. On the other hand, linguists have proposed that there is evidence that the northern part of the Belgic population had previously spoken an Indo European language related to, but distinct from, Celtic and Germanic, and among the northern Belgae, Celtic may never have been the language of the majority. See Belgian language and Nordwestblock. The Menapii and northern Germani lived among low thorny forests, islands and swamps, and the central Belgian Nervii lands were deliberately planted with thick hedges, in order to be impenetrable to cavalry. There is also less archaeological evidence of large settlements and trade in the area. According to Tacitus, writing a generation later, the Germani cisrhenani who included the Eburones were in fact the original tribe to be called Germani, and all other uses of the term extended from them, though in his time the same people were now called the Tungri. Modern linguists use the word "germanic" to refer to languages but it is not known for sure whether even the Belgian Germani spoke a Germanic language, and their tribal and personal names are clearly Celtic. This is in fact also true of the possibly related tribes across the Rhine from them at this time. Archaeologists have also had difficulty finding evidence of the exact migrations from east of the Rhine which Caesar reports and more generally there has been skepticism about using him in this way due to the political motives of his commentaries. But the archaeological record gives the impression that the classical Belgian Germani were a relatively stable population going back to Urnfield times, with a more recently immigrated elite class who would have been of more interest to Caesar. These Roman provinces were broken into civitates, each with a capital city, and each representing one of the major tribal groups named by Caesar. At first, only one, Tongeren capital of the Tungri, was in modern Belgium. The Nervian capital was in the south of the territory in modern France, at

Bavay , and later moved to Cambrai. Trier , the capital of the Treveri, is today in Germany, near Luxembourg. The northeastern corner of this province, including Tongeren and the area of the earlier Germani, was united with the militarized Rhine border to form a newer province known as Germania Inferior. Belgica Prima and Belgica Secunda. Belgica Prima was the eastern part and had Trier as its main city, and included part of the Belgian province of Luxembourg. It became one of the most important Roman cities in Western Europe in the 3rd century. Christianity was also first introduced to Belgium during the late-Roman period, and the first known bishop in the region Servatius taught in the middle of the Fourth century in Tongeren. Early Middle Ages[ edit ] Saint Servatius , bishop of Tongeren and one of the first known Christian figures in the region. As the Western Roman Empire lost power, Germanic tribes came to dominate the military, and then form kingdoms. Coastal Flanders, the old territory of the Menapii, became part of the " Saxon Shore ". In inland northern Belgium, Franks from the Roman frontier in the Rhine delta were allowed to re-settle in Toxandria in the 4th century. Wallonia, dominated by a bands of forests and poor farming land, remained more heavily Romanized, although eventually became subject to Franks in the 5th century. Franks remained important in the Roman military, and the Romanized Frankish Merovingian Dynasty eventually took over northern France. Clovis I , the best-known king of this dynasty, first conquered Romanized northern France, later called Neustria , then turned north to the Frankish lands later referred to as Austrasia , which included all or most of Belgium. He converted to Catholicism , followed by many followers. Christian missionaries preached to the populace and started a wave of conversion Saint Servatius , Saint Remacle , Saint Hadelin. Southern part of the Low Countries with bishopry towns and abbeys c. Abbeys were the onset to larger villages and even some towns to reshape the landscape. The Merovingian dynasty was succeeded by the Carolingian dynasty , whose family power base was in and around the eastern part of modern Belgium. The Vikings raided widely throughout this period, but a major settlement that had caused problems in the area of Belgium was defeated in by Arnulf of Carinthia in the battle of Leuven. The Frankish lands were divided and reunified several times under the Merovingian and Carolingian dynasties, but eventually were firmly divided into France and the Holy Roman Empire. The parts of the County of Flanders stretching out west of the river Scheldt Schelde in Dutch, Escaut in French became part of France during the Middle Ages, but the remainders of the County of Flanders and the Low Countries were part of the Holy Roman Empire, specifically they were in the stem duchy of Lower Lotharingia , which had a period as an independent kingdom. Through the early Middle Ages, the northern part of present-day Belgium now commonly referred to as Flanders was a Germanic language-speaking area, whereas in the southern part people had continued to be Romanized and spoke derivatives of Vulgar Latin. As the Holy Roman Emperors and French Kings lost effective control of their domains in the 11th and 12th centuries, the territory more or less corresponding to the present Belgium was divided into relatively independent feudal states, including:

#### 4: Waterways of Holland and Belgium | Smithsonian Journeys

*This trip, true to its moniker, gives you all the best of the Netherlands and Belgium. Start among Amsterdam's canals, see the seaside by The Hague, and check out Rotterdam's busy nightlife. In.*

#### 5: Belgium and the Netherlands swap land " because it 'makes sense' | World news | The Guardian

*Netherlands & Belgium. The Netherlands and Belgium have much to offer, but it's their shared maritime heritage on the North Sea that gives these neighboring "Low Countries" a special place among European nations.*

#### 6: The Difference between Holland & the Netherlands " CGP Grey

*Holland & Belgium at Tulip Time (Amsterdam to Brussels, ) 8 day river cruise tour through Brussels, Antwerp, Maastricht and 7 other destinations in 2 different countries destinations.*

### 7: Holland & Belgium at Tulip Time | Europe River Cruise | Uniworld River Cruises

*The Difference Between Holland, the Netherlands (and a whole lot more) The correct name for this tulip growing, windmill building, hagelslag eating, container ship moving, ocean conquering nation is the Netherlands.*

### 8: History of Belgium - Wikipedia

*Holland & Belgium Set sail on our day itinerary through the inland waterways of The Low Countries - Holland and Belgium. Enjoy scenic cruising through the vast.*

### 9: best Belgium / Holland images on Pinterest | The netherlands, Belgium and Holland

*The tour "Waterways of Holland and Belgium" was a truly wonderful, joyous experience - the places visited were interesting and often awe-inspiring; the ship was a lovely "base" and the leaders all were marvelous - and, I might add, we had a thoroughly delightful group of fellow travelers!*

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