

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

A LIFE OF MAKING MEMORIES

PRIVATE JOURNEY

The Dutch Grand Experience

*“Rembrandt and Van Gogh, working windmills, the silent canals of Giethoorn
and Vermeer’s Girl with a Pearl Earring”*

10

DAYS

2

UNESCO SITES

19

WINDMILLS AT KINDERDAM

7

MILLION BULBS AT THE KEUKENHOF

FROM

\$11,200

PER PERSON

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Overview

A journey through the Netherlands — from the elegant canals of Amsterdam to the peaceful waterways of Giethoorn, from Rotterdam's cutting-edge architecture to the UNESCO-listed windmills of Kinderdijk, and finally to the royal charm of The Hague and Delft. Golden Age art, engineering the sea itself, and a country that has been arguing with water for eight hundred years.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Five nights at the Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam, across six canal palaces on the Herengracht
- The Van Gogh Museum: 200 paintings, 500 drawings and 700 letters
- The Jordaan, the 14th-century Begijnhof courtyard and the Nine Streets
- The Keukenhof in season, with seven million bulbs across 32 hectares
- Kinderdijk — nineteen windmills of 1740, still standing and still lived in
- The Rijksmuseum — Rembrandt's Night Watch, Vermeer and the Dutch Golden Age
- A private canal cruise through the UNESCO-listed Grachtengordel
- Zaanse Schans — working windmills, cheesemaking and a clog workshop
- Giethoorn by private electric boat, on canals with almost no roads
- Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring at the Mauritshuis

Rembrandt and Van Gogh, working windmills, the silent canals of Giethoorn and Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring

The Itinerary

01

AMSTERDAM

Day 1 | Arrival in Amsterdam

Land at Schiphol and transfer to the Waldorf Astoria, which spans six 17th- and 18th-century canal palaces on the Herengracht inside the UNESCO-listed canal district, and has the largest private garden in the city behind it. The evening starts at Dam Square, where the city began — the site of the original dam on the Amstel that gave Amsterdam its name. The Royal Palace beside it was built in the 17th century as the town hall, at a scale intended to make a point about Golden Age wealth. Then the Nieuwe Kerk, Kalverstraat and the narrow lanes of the Grachtengordel. Dinner is Dutch: bitterballen, Gouda and aged farmhouse cheese, herring with onions, stamppot, and apple pie with a thick buttery crust.

- Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam
- Dinner

02

AMSTERDAM

Day 2 | Canals & the Old City

A private walking morning through the parts of Amsterdam that reward slowness. The Jordaan was built in the 17th century for labourers and artisans and is now the most desirable address in the city, all narrow streets, independent shops and hidden courtyards. The Begijnhof is one of the oldest inner courtyards in Amsterdam, dating to the 14th century, once home to the Beguines — a community of religious women who took no formal vows — and still improbably silent a minute from the shopping streets. Then the Nine Streets, and the canal ring itself. The afternoon is a private canal cruise, which is genuinely the right way to understand the city: gabled merchant houses, houseboats and the Skinny Bridge, with the Golden Age explained from the water it was built on. Dinner beside the canals.

- Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam
 - Breakfast, Dinner
-

03

AMSTERDAM

Day 3 | The Dutch Masters

The Rijksmuseum first, and the Gallery of Honour: Rembrandt's Night Watch at the end of it, with Vermeer, Frans Hals and the rest of the Golden Age either side. The building itself is a Gothic Revival masterpiece, and the collection runs to more than eight thousand objects, from Delftware to dolls' houses. Then the Van Gogh Museum, holding the largest collection of his work anywhere: over 200 paintings, 500 drawings and 700 letters, arranged as a life rather than a gallery — from the dark Dutch years through to the Sunflowers, Almond Blossom and the Bedroom. The afternoon is the Museumplein, with the Stedelijk and the Concertgebouw around it. The evening is free.

- Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam
- Breakfast

04

ZAANSE SCHANS & VOLENDAM

Day 4 | Windmills & the Zaan

A private countryside day. Zaanse Schans is an open-air museum where the 18th and 19th centuries are kept running — the Zaandam region once held over a thousand windmills, and several here still work, grinding spices, sawing timber and pressing oil and paint. The green-and-white timber houses of the Zaan region stand alongside them, with traditional cheesemaking at the Catharina Hoeve farm and a clog workshop where the carving is demonstrated rather than described. Then Volendam, a fishing village on the IJsselmeer with coloured houses, a working harbour and traditional costume still worn by some of its older residents. If time allows, Marken — a former island of houses built on stilts, connected to the mainland by causeway since 1957.

- Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam
- Breakfast, Lunch

05

THE KEUKENHOF

Day 5 | Tulips, or Haarlem

In season, this is the Keukenhof at Lisse, in the heart of the bulb-growing region and one of the most famous flower gardens in the world. Seven million bulbs are planted across 32 hectares, arranged into themed pavilions and colour fields, with the commercial bulb fields stretching to the horizon beyond the fence. What is out depends on when you come — crocuses and daffodils in March, the main tulips in April, late tulips and alliums in May. A bicycle through the surrounding fields is the best possible use of an afternoon. Outside the eight-week season, the day becomes Haarlem instead: the Grote Markt, the hidden hofjes almshouses, the Frans Hals Museum, and the flower-growing country around the town. Back to Amsterdam in the evening.

- Waldorf Astoria Amsterdam
- Breakfast, Lunch

06

GIETHOORN

Day 6 | Amsterdam » Giethoorn

Northeast to Giethoorn, which is called the Venice of the Netherlands and for once deserves the comparison. The village grew where peat was dug out centuries ago, leaving pools that were joined into canals; the houses sit on small islands, there are very few roads, and the main transport is a boat. You explore by private electric boat, which is close to silent, passing under the wooden footbridges and along the thatched farmhouses that line the water. On foot, the paths between the canals are just as good. The village sits inside the Weerribben-Wieden National Park, and the evening is exactly as quiet as it sounds.

- De Dames Van De Jonge
- Breakfast, Dinner

07

ROTTERDAM

Day 7 | Giethoorn » Rotterdam

South to Rotterdam, which was almost entirely destroyed by bombing in 1940 and rebuilt as something no other Dutch city resembles. Check in at the Mainport on the waterfront, with a Finnish panorama sauna on the eighth floor looking over the skyline. The afternoon is architecture: the Markthal, a horseshoe of apartments wrapped around a market hall with an enormous fruit-and-vegetable mural across its inner ceiling; Piet Blom's Cube Houses, tilted 45 degrees and meant as a village within the city; the Erasmus Bridge, nicknamed the Swan; and the Oude Haven, where the old and new sit side by side. Dinner is modern Dutch.

- Mainport Hotel Rotterdam
- Breakfast, Dinner

08

KINDERDIJK

Day 8 | Kinderdijk

A private excursion to Kinderdijk, in the Alblasserwaard polder where the Lek and the Noord meet. Nineteen windmills built around 1740 to drain the polder still stand where they were put, and are still lived in by millers and their families. You go inside three of them, each furnished to a different period, and you see the wider system they belonged to — the Wisboom pumping station of 1868 and the J.U. Smit station that succeeded it. This is the longest-standing water management system still in operation anywhere, and it is why a third of this country is not under the sea. A boat along the waterways gives the view the mills were designed to be seen from. Back to Rotterdam in the evening.

- Mainport Hotel Rotterdam
- Breakfast, Lunch

09

DELFT & THE HAGUE

Day 9 | Delft & The Hague

Delft first — a smaller, quieter Amsterdam, with canals, medieval streets and the blue-and-white pottery that carries its name. A workshop shows how Delft Blue is actually made, and the Nieuwe Kerk holds the tombs of the Dutch royal family. Then The Hague, seat of government and of international law. The Peace Palace houses the International Court of Justice; the Binnenhof is among the oldest parliamentary complexes still in use anywhere. The Mauritshuis is the reason to linger: a small museum with an outsized collection, and Vermeer's Girl with a Pearl Earring in it. Finish at Scheveningen, the city's seaside resort, with its pier and its North Sea beach. Farewell dinner in The Hague.

- Hotel Des Indes
- Breakfast, Dinner

10

DELFT & THE HAGUE

Day 10 | Departure

Breakfast at Hotel Des Indes, a city palace of 1858 that became a hotel in 1881 and has hosted everyone from Tsar Nicholas II to Churchill. Private transfer to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport.

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- Breakfast

INVESTMENT

Pricing & Inclusions

PER PERSON SHARING

\$11,800

SINGLE TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT

On Request

Pricing is an estimate subject to confirmation based on season, room category, and final accommodation selection.

SEASONAL PRICING

Nov – Feb	BEST VALUE	\$11,200
Quiet museums and Christmas markets		
Mar – May	TULIP SEASON	\$13,800
The Keukenhof and the bulb fields in bloom		
Jun – Oct	SHOULDER SEASON	\$12,400
Long light, canals at their best		

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- » Private transfers throughout, including airport arrival and departure
- » 9 nights accommodation across four properties
- » First-class rail Amsterdam – Rotterdam and Rotterdam – The Hague
- » Daily breakfast, plus meals as detailed in the itinerary
- » Private licensed guides in Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Delft and The Hague
- » Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum timed entry
- » Private canal cruise through the Amsterdam Canal District
- » Private Amsterdam walking tour: the Jordaan, the Begijnhof and the Nine Streets
- » Private countryside excursion to Zaanse Schans, Volendam and Marken
- » Keukenhof entry in season, or Haarlem and the bulb region outside it
- » Private electric boat in Giethoorn

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights to and from Amsterdam
- City tourist taxes, payable at each hotel
- Bicycle hire
- Lunches and dinners not listed in the itinerary
- Gratuities for guides, drivers and hotel staff

FINDERS & KEEPERS SAFARIS

Tell us what you have in mind.

This itinerary is a starting point, not a fixed departure. The pace, the lodges, the length, the dates and the party travelling can all be reshaped around you.

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The Dutch Grand Experience