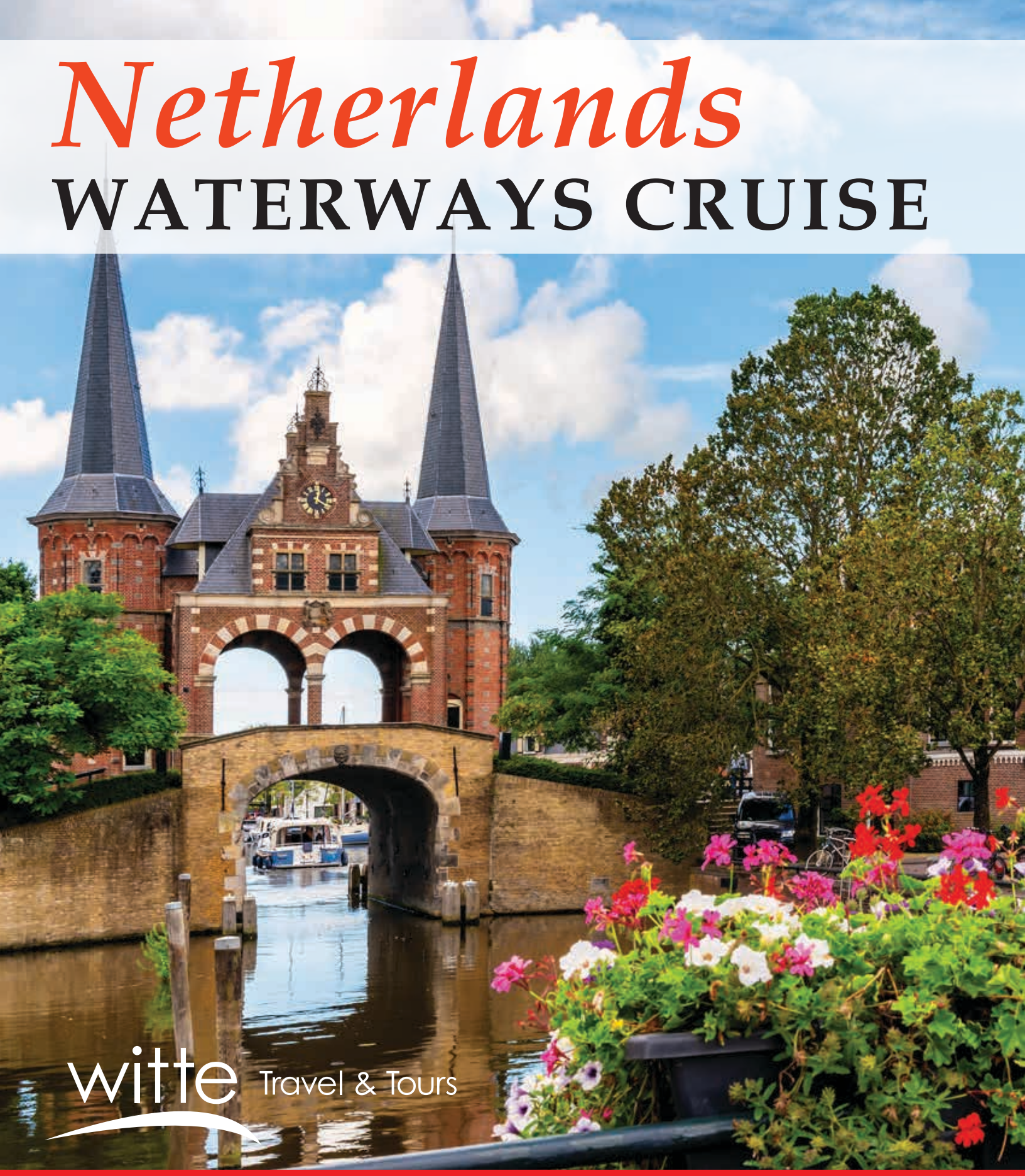
Netherlands
WATERWAYS CRUISE



with tour hosts John and Rachel Witte

APRIL 8 – 17, 2027

Showcasing Dutch Splendor

The canals and waterways of the Netherlands offer a relaxing perspective as you travel through the country. Sightseeing is supplemented with motorcoach drives, guided walking tours, and activities, creating a tour that showcases the Netherlands. City centers are often pedestrian-only and you may find yourself on a short walk before sightseeing begins. This careful preservation of historic towns adds to the charm of your experience.

The Netherlands Waterways Cruise is your chance to see the Netherlands in its springtime glory. Each year, tulip season runs from the end of March to the middle of May, inspiring locals and visitors alike. This is your chance to venture off the beaten path as you sail rivers, canals, and through locks inaccessible to many ships. From the smallest village in Friesland to the metropolis of Amsterdam, the Netherlands Waterways Cruise introduces you to everything Holland has to offer.

Your Hosts

John and Rachel Witte

John and Rachel are native West Michiganders. John grew up in the Witte Travel family and currently serves as the Dean of Students at Calvin University where he's worked for more than 30 years. Rachel works part-time in the accounting department at Home Repair Services in Grand Rapids and is the bookkeeper at their home church. They have three adult children and an adorable mini goldendoodle. As past tour leaders, they love exploring the Netherlands and ensuring the best experience for Witte Travel group members!

For more information, contact John and Rachel at wittefamily5@gmail.com.

Inclusions

- Roundtrip motorcoach transfer from Grand Rapids to Detroit
- Roundtrip air from Detroit to Amsterdam
- Accommodations onboard the *MS Salvinia*
- Breakfast, lunch, and dinner daily
- Two experienced European tour managers from arrival until departure
- Sightseeing and admissions fees as indicated in the itinerary
- Tipping and taxes on all included services

Cruise Itinerary

April 8 – 17, 2027

8, Thursday

Depart the US

Meet in West Michigan for the motorcoach transfer to Detroit Metro Airport. Other departure cities available upon request. Check in at the airport for the overnight flight across the Atlantic.

Register by AUG. 1, 2026 to qualify for a $100 per person early-booking discount!**

09, Friday

Arrive Amsterdam, Board the *Salvinia* in Amsterdam

Welcome to the Netherlands! After going through passport control and customs, we meet our tour managers. We board the waiting motorcoaches and, time permitting, head to Gouda for an opportunity to stretch our legs and soak in the local beauty. Following, we return to Amsterdam, where we board the *MPS Salvinia* and meet our crew for the week. Settle in and enjoy a Welcome Aboard dinner. (L, D)

10, Saturday

Amsterdam, Kinderdijk, Arnhem, Doesburg

Following breakfast on board, we meet our local guides for a walking tour of Amsterdam, a must-see city with a rich history steeped in religion, art, engineering, and horticulture. After getting to know the capital, we start the drive to Kinderdijk. Enjoy a packed lunch on the way. Kinderdijk is a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring 19 working windmills. We watch a short film before visiting one of the windmills. After our visit, we meet the ship in Arnhem and have dinner on board while we sail to our port for the night, Doesburg. (B, L, D)

11, Sunday
Zutphen, Kroller-Muller, Kampen

Over breakfast, we sail through the province of Gelderland, stopping in charming Zutphen, one of the oldest towns in the Netherlands. You have your choice of activities today. There is the option to attend a local morning Mass, in Dutch, at a church in town, followed by coffee and fellowship for those who want to stay and enjoy lunch aboard. Enjoy scenic cruising on the IJssel River past Deventer and Zwolle into Kampen OR depart for the Kröller-Müller Museum directly following the church service. This national art gallery and sculpture park inspired Frederick Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, MI. Here, find the largest Van Gogh collection outside of the Van Gogh Museum, and a stunning modern art sculpture park to peruse. Take in the park astride a bicycle available free of charge or stop in the museum's lovely shop and café for a bite to eat. A packed lunch is provided. We meet the rest of the group in Kampen this evening for an organ concert followed by dinner. (B, L, D)

12, Monday
Giethoorn, Dwingeloo, Sneek

After breakfast, we travel by coach to Giethoorn. Enjoy a boat ride through the canals of this village, famous for not allowing cars in the town. There is a brief stop to walk through the fairytale-like village and take in the parallel bridges down the canal. We continue to Dwingeloo to savor a group lunch together at a local restaurant before reuniting with our ship in Sneek. With time to spare before dinner, browse the souvenir shops and street-side cafes. After dining, join the guided walk to the historic Water Gate and admire its reflection on the water. (B, L, D)

13, Tuesday
Sloten, Hindeloopen, Harlingen, Franeker

Today, we explore Friesland by coach. In Sloten, Friesland's smallest city, the narrow streets and tiny houses bordering the canal make for terrific photos. The next stop is in charming Hindeloopen, a city with a rich arts and crafts history that is still evident today. Souvenir shop for all things Friesland related, or pop into a café for a warm drink. Following, we continue to Harlingen to visit Friesland's only seaport. After time to explore and take in the sights, we head to Franeker to meet the ship. (B, L, D)

14, Wednesday
Franeker, Scenic Cruising, Medemblik, Enkhuizen

This morning we visit Franeker's amazing, handmade 18th-century planetarium, which still operates today. Then we have some free time to explore The Weigh House Museum, the town hall, and the Gothic Martinikerk. Lunch is served on board as we cruise into the shallow Wadden Sea, through the locks to enter the IJsselmeer. The locks are part of the Enclosure Dike, a 20-mile-long dike built in the early 20th century to protect the many villages and towns around the Zuiderzee from flooding. We arrive in Medemblik, where we take a ride in WWII army trucks into the tulip fields for the Tulip Liberation tour, immersing ourselves in history and learning about the harvesting of the flower's bulbs. We return to the ship for dinner and evening cruising to Enkhuizen. (B, L, D)

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CRUISE COSTS

Air from Detroit, with motocoach transfers from Grand Rapids. Other departure cities available upon request.

$4,595 Main Deck Cabin, based on double occupancy

$4,895 Promenade (upper) Deck Cabin, based on double occupancy

$500 Single Supplement for either deck using a single cabin

$800 Single Supplement for either deck using a double cabin as a single

**Discount will be added to your account after we process your registration. This will appear on your confirmation statement, sent by email, within two weeks of your registration.

15, Thursday

Enkhuizen, Zaandam

Our day begins in Enkhuizen, a picturesque historic fishing village. Much of the city's prosperity stems from its 17th-century herring trade. Both the Dutch East India Company and the West India Company had regional offices in Enkhuizen. Here, we visit the Zuiderzee Museum, which details the region's rich maritime history. Following, we set sail for Zaandam while enjoying the scenery. There is free time to explore this lovely modern town, with unique architecture and a plethora of shops, where Claude Monet once lived and painted. Back aboard, we celebrate our week together at the Captain's Dinner. (B, L, D)

16, Friday

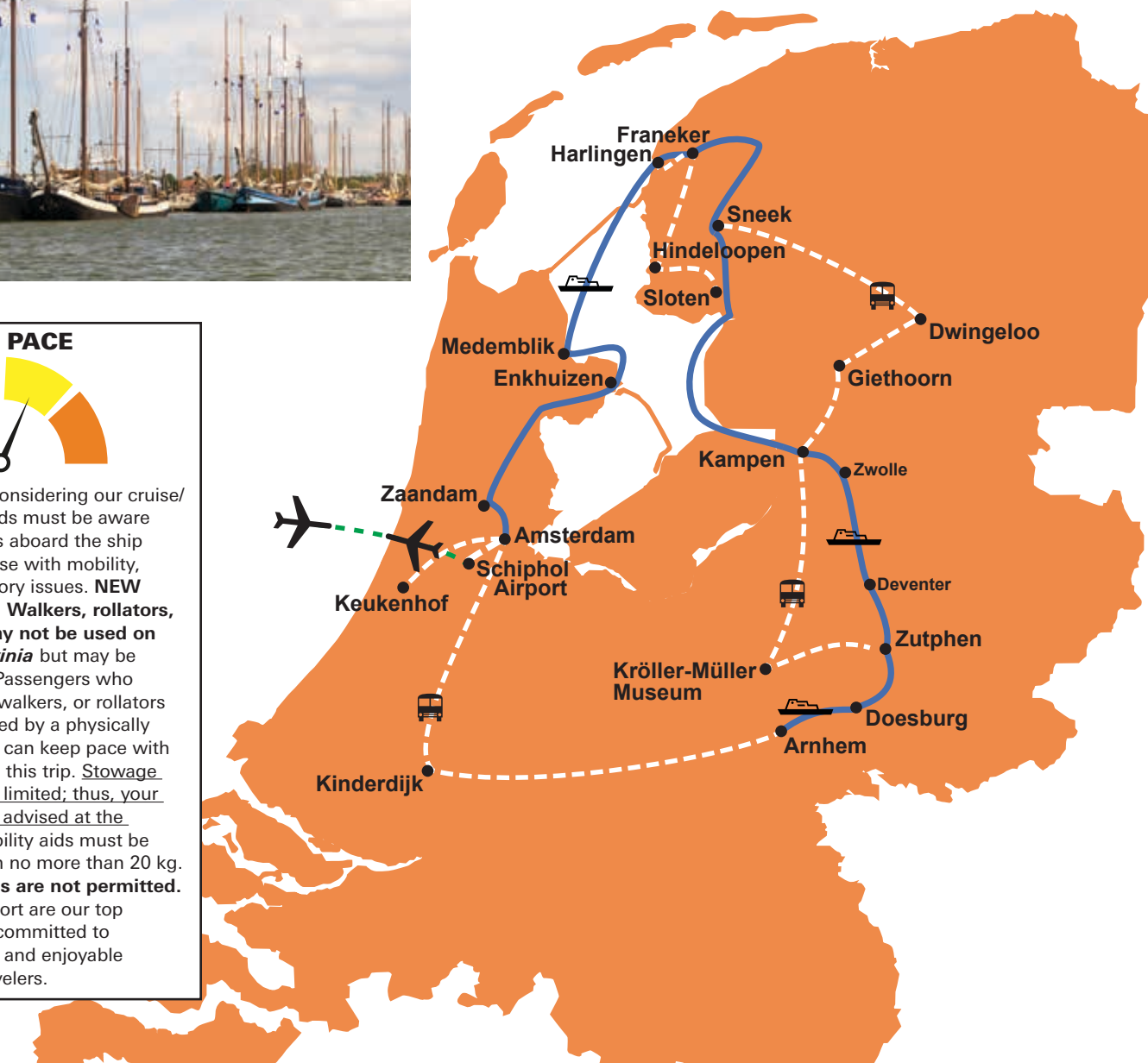
Keukenhof, Amsterdam

Today, we familiarize ourselves with the capital of the Netherlands through a canal cruise in Amsterdam. After seeing the city from a different perspective, we set off for the highlight of springtime in the Netherlands - the Keukenhof Gardens. The annual spectacle of color and creativity showcases the Netherlands' iconic tulips, among other flowers. Stroll through the themed gardens, greenhouses, and pavilions, plus enjoy a picnic lunch in the serene landscaping. There is a bit of time at leisure to explore the vibrant streets of Amsterdam. In the evening, we return to our ship for a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

17, Saturday

Return

All too soon, it's time to say goodbye, or "tot ziens," to the Netherlands. We transfer back to Schiphol Airport for our return flights this morning. (B)



TOUR PACE

ACTIVE – Travelers considering our cruise/tour of the Netherlands must be aware of existing challenges aboard the ship and in Europe for those with mobility, balance, and respiratory issues. **NEW 2027 safety update: Walkers, rollators, and wheelchairs may not be used on board the *MPS Salvinia*** but may be used on excursions. Passengers who require wheelchairs, walkers, or rollators MUST be accompanied by a physically able companion who can keep pace with the walking group on this trip. Stowage of mobility devices is limited; thus, your requirement must be advised at the time of booking. Mobility aids must be collapsible and weigh no more than 20 kg. **Electric mobility aids are not permitted.** Your safety and comfort are our top priorities, and we're committed to ensuring an inclusive and enjoyable experience for all travelers.

Belgium & France Extension

April 17 – 23, 2027

17, Saturday
Brugge

For those of us joining the optional extension, we depart the Salvinia and board a motorcoach for the drive to Brugge, Belgium. Brugge is built on a system of canals and is considered one of the best-preserved medieval cities in Europe. We have free time to explore the city before an early evening hotel check-in followed by dinner. (B, D)

18, Sunday
Brugge

This morning, we take a guided tour of the city, including sights like the Market Square, Town Hall, and the massive 13th-century belfry. We stop at the Onze-Lieve Vrouwekerk and our tour concludes at the Begijnhof. Those who would like to see the only piece of Michelangelo's work to have permanently left Italy, the *Madonna and Child*, may choose to return to the Vrouwekerk after the tour to see the statue for an additional cost. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure. (B)

19, Monday
Amiens, Caen

We depart Belgium this morning and head through stunning countryside to France. Our first stop is in Amiens, famous for its 13th-century Gothic Cathedral. While here, we have time for exploration and an independent lunch. After our visit, we continue to Normandy and on to Caen. On arrival, we check into our hotel and share a group dinner. (B, D)

20, Tuesday
Normandy Beaches, Caen

After breakfast, we begin our sightseeing of the Normandy Beaches. Our first stop is in St. Mere Eglise, the first French town liberated in WWII. It was near here that the U.S. 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions were air-dropped to protect Utah Beach during the D-Day invasion. We continue to Utah Beach and the American Military Cemetery. Following, we return to Caen for an independent evening. (B, L)

21, Wednesday
Versailles Palace, Paris

Today we visit Chateau de Versailles. As a symbol of the French monarchy during its peak, the famed castle was established in the early 17th century as a royal hunting lodge. Then we head into Paris with a stop at Trocadero Gardens for views of the Eiffel Tower. The evening is at leisure for an independent dinner. (B)

22, Thursday
Paris

Our day begins with a panoramic motorcoach tour of Paris. We see the iconic Arc de Triomphe, Place de la Concorde, La Madeleine, and more. The afternoon is at leisure to discover all Paris has to offer. This evening, we gather for a farewell dinner, followed by an evening Seine River cruise, to conclude a wonderful tour. (B, D)

23, Friday
Return

After breakfast, we depart for Charles de Gaulle Airport for our return flights. (B)

Extension Cost

$2,085 per person, double occupancy
Single occupancy $550

The Ship

The charming *MPS Salvinia* is your floating hotel.

Your home for the week, the *MPS Salvinia*, is smaller and more nimble than many river cruise vessels, accessing rivers, waterways and locks that larger and longer ships cannot. The ship cruises through seven provinces and along rivers, canals, and seas, a one-of-a-kind itinerary featuring the full variety of waterways in the Netherlands.

Relax in style and comfort as glorious views of the Dutch landscape ease by. The *MPS Salvinia* bridge is open to passengers, allowing you to chat with the captain and observe the ship's navigation at close range. Other communal areas are found on the ship's three decks. The Observation Deck offers a lounge that opens onto the Sun Deck. The dining room and lobby are on the Promenade Deck. The whirlpool and sauna are found on the Main Deck. The decks connect by an elevator and stairs. Between the three decks, the welcoming staff, complimentary Wi-Fi, and the newly renovated ship, enjoy the amenities of the *MPS Salvinia*.

Passenger cabins are located on the Main and Promenade Decks. All double cabins are furnished with two single beds, one of which converts to a sofa during the day. Cabins also include en suite bathroom, a safe for your valuables, flatscreen TV, and individually controlled air-conditioning. Promenade Deck cabin windows are larger than those on the Main Deck. The cabins are comparable in size. All windows open to let fresh air into the cabins.

Throughout the cruise, enjoy a traditional Dutch menu. Early risers find freshly brewed coffee in the lounge before breakfast. Breakfast and lunch are buffet-style meals. Choose from fresh breads, local cheeses, eggs, and meats. Delicious three-course meals are served at dinner. Be prepared for the potato, a Dutch staple! Each day a new specialty is served. Try croquettes, herring, and other wonderful delicacies. Seating at meals is not pre assigned—use the opportunity to move around and make new friends.

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Cruise Costs & Options

Cruise Costs | April 8 - 17, 2027

With departure from West Michigan by motorcoach transfer to Detroit Metro Airport. Other departure cities are available upon request. If you are requesting a different departure city, please specify on the registration form, in the Special Arrangements section.

Main Deck Cabin based on double occupancy $4,595

Promenade Deck upper deck cabin based on double occupancy $4,895

Single Supplement for either deck using a single cabin* $500

Single Supplement for either deck using a double cabin as a single $800

**A limited number of single cabins are available per deck.*

Optional Extension | April 17 - 23, 2027

Belgium & France – per person based on double occupancy

Double occupancy $2,085

Single occupancy $2,635

All prices are per person.

REGISTER ONLINE AT

netherlandswaterwayscruise.com

or complete and return the printed registration form.

witte Travel & Tours

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**Discount will be added to your account after we process your registration. This will appear on your confirmation statement, sent by email, within two weeks of your registration.

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