

2024

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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HOLLAND & BELGIUM

Amsterdam to Bruges Aboard *Magnifique III*

April 29–May 7, 2024



HARVARD
Alumni Travels



Kinderdijk, Holland (above); Cover: Ghent

Holland & Belgium

During tulip season in the Low Countries, follow meandering rivers and canals through storybook villages, idyllic green countryside, and multicolored fields of spring flowers. Witness the spellbinding art of Dutch and Flemish masters, explore stunning medieval architecture, and savor the local cuisine, all while cruising aboard the delightful, intimate riverboat *Magnifique III*.

Begin in Amsterdam with a walking tour and see timeless works by Dutch masters such as Rembrandt at the Rijksmuseum. Then embark *Magnifique III*, stopping in towns like Kinderdijk, Holland, with its perfectly aligned, UNESCO-recognized windmills. Call at Antwerp, Belgium, to see Rubens's *Descent From the Cross* and visit the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp.

Explore Ghent, including the magnificent Saint Bavo's Cathedral housing the 15th-century *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* (Ghent Altarpiece) by the Van Eyck brothers. Conclude in Bruges, the "Venice of the North," where a highlight will be a behind-the-scenes look at an authentic ancestral medieval estate.

Activity Level 3:

A LITTLE MORE TO IT

This active program involves extensive walking and standing during tours. Comfortable walking shoes are essential. Please note that the *Magnifique III* does not have an elevator. The temperatures should range from the low-50s to upper 60s F, with coastal cities like Antwerp and Bruges potentially being a little cooler. We suggest you bring a lined raincoat and a folding umbrella for potential rain showers, plus layered clothing. If you choose to participate in an optional biking excursion from Sint-Amands to Ghent comfortable riding attire is suggested. Casual dress is appropriate most of the time. For welcome and farewell dinners, jacket and tie is customary for gentlemen, with comparable attire for ladies. Smart casual clothing is suggested for other onboard dinners.

Study Leader

As this brochure goes to print, we have not yet confirmed the faculty study leader for this program. We intend, however, that you will be joined by a Harvard lecturer who will enhance your travel experience. You will discover that our lecturers are not only first-rate scholars and teachers but also friendly traveling companions, eager to share their insights through conversation as well as in scheduled presentations.



Michelangelo's Madonna & Child, Bruges, Belgium, photo by Ger and Audrey

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL



Regional map (left) and Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Holland (right)

Schedule by Day

MONDAY, APRIL 29

Departure

Depart on an overnight flight to Amsterdam.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Amsterdam, Holland / Embark *Magnifique III*

Arrive in Amsterdam and transfer for a canal cruise with lunch on board. Then visit Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, the State Treasury of Dutch art, and marvel at works by Rembrandt, including the world-famous *The Night Watch*, as well as paintings by Vermeer, Frans Hals, and others. Afterwards, embark *Magnifique III* and enjoy a welcome dinner as we cruise to Vianen. L,D

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Vianen / Kinderdijk / Dordrecht

This morning, travel to picturesque Kinderdijk, a village famous for its impressive UNESCO-listed row of 19 large windmills, a delight to see up close. The site's canals, mills, and pumping stations have preserved the area's soil for more than 700 years. Continue to a unique country estate, surrounded by one of the oldest English landscape gardens in the area (*pending confirmation*). Rejoin the ship in Dordrecht, one of Holland's oldest cities. B,L,D

THURSDAY, MAY 2

Dordrecht / Antwerp, Belgium

Step ashore for a guided tour of Dordrecht's historic harbors, ancient warehouses, and busy merchant streets, as well as a historical city center that is home to about 1,000 monuments. Continue to Antwerp, a city renowned for its medieval and modern architecture and impressive art collections. Following lunch, see the 16th-century Cathedral of Our Lady, where Rubens's famous *Descent from the Cross* is on display. Then admire the treasures of the Museum Mayer van den Bergh, whose collection includes Pieter Bruegel the Elder's *Mad Meg*. B,L,D

FRIDAY, MAY 3

Antwerp / Sint-Amands

Start your day at the recently renovated Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp, which features drawings, sculptures, and paintings from the past 600 years, including works by van Eyck, Memling, Rubens, and Rodin. Stand next to Fouquet's *Madonna* and view the world's largest collection of James Ensor works. After lunch, admire the world's oldest printing presses at the UNESCO-listed Museum Plantin-Moretus, a Renaissance-era publishing house and one of the most significant landmarks in the history of the book, printing, and entrepreneurship. This evening, rejoin the ship in Sint-Amands and enjoy a private concert onboard. B,L,D

SATURDAY, MAY 4

Sint-Amands / Ghent

In the morning, cruise or bike to Ghent, one of Europe's best-kept secrets. After lunch, enjoy a tour through the city's medieval center, including the magnificent Saint Bavo's Cathedral. View its greatest treasure, the restored 15th-century *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* (Ghent Altarpiece) by the Van Eyck brothers, which has been partially or fully stolen as many as seven times before returning to its rightful home. Tour the cathedral's dedicated museum as well. Dinner is at leisure. B,L

SUNDAY, MAY 5

Ghent / Bruges

Begin your day with a visit to Ghent's Museum of Fine Arts, the oldest museum in Belgium, and view more than 400 masterpieces of European art, featuring impressionists, surrealists, and modernists. Continue to Bruges, known as the "Venice of the North," a medieval gem and UNESCO World Heritage site laced with canals and gardens, where the ship remains docked overnight. Delight in a visit to the private garden of a distinguished Belgian landscape architect (*pending confirmation*). This evening, you may wish to join an optional stroll to see Bruges's medieval buildings illuminated. B,L,D



Bruges, Belgium

MONDAY, MAY 6

Bruges

In the heart of Bruges, enjoy a morning visit to the Adornes Domain, an authentic medieval estate in the same family since the early 15th century, followed by light refreshments (*pending confirmation*). Then discover the collections at the Hans Memling Museum, including his famous *St. Ursula Shrine*, housed in Saint John's Hospital.

After lunch at leisure, you may enjoy a free afternoon. You can also choose to visit the Church of Our Lady, featuring one of the highest brick church towers in the world, and see Michaelangelo's celebrated *Madonna and Child*. You can alternatively visit the Groeninge Museum, featuring Renaissance and Baroque masterpieces including works by Jan van Eyck and other great Flemish artists. Gather this evening for a festive farewell dinner.

B,D

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Bruges / Disembark / Brussels / Return

Disembark after breakfast and transfer to the Brussels airport for flights home. B



Ghent Altarpiece, Ghent, Belgium (left) and Bruges, Belgium (right)



Magnifique III

Launched in 2018 as a beautiful passenger barge, *Magnifique III* features 21 contemporary cabins. The upper deck has five spacious suites with two separate single beds, a small sitting area, and a “French balcony” featuring ceiling-to-floor sliding-glass doors. The lower deck has fourteen beautiful twin cabins with two separate single beds and two single cabins. The upper deck features a large, tastefully furnished salon with a restaurant area, a nice bar, and a lounge area with cozy sitting corners, a wide screen TV, and large panoramic windows. On the top deck, the barge has a whirlpool/Jacuzzi and some deckchairs to relax and enjoy the scenery while cruising.



Magnifique III

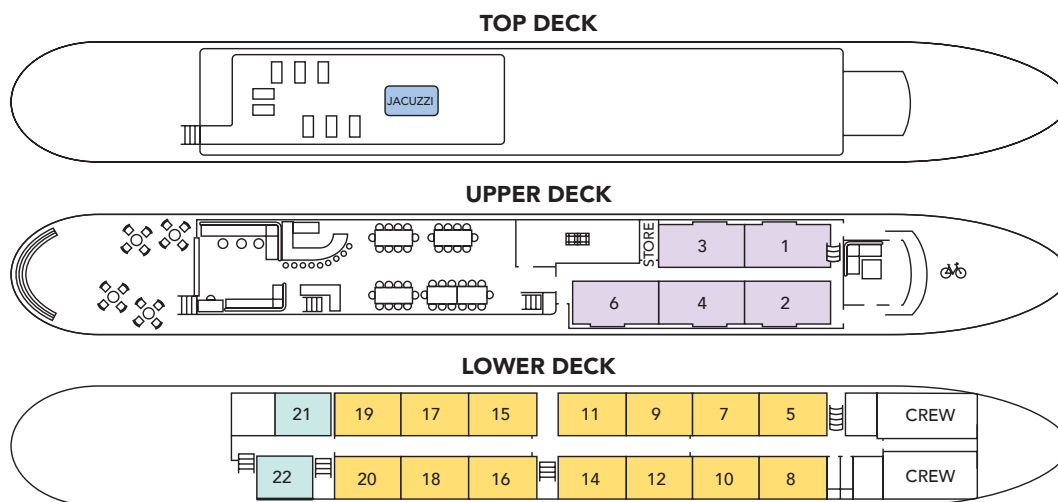
Rates Per Person

CATEGORY/DECK	DOUBLE RATES	SINGLE RATES
21, 22	—	\$7,499
Single cabin. One twin bed with portholes.		
5, 7-12, 14-20	\$6,999	\$10,499
Twin beds with portholes.		
1-4, 6	\$9,999	Inquire

Suites, twin beds, small sitting area, French balcony with floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors.



Upper Deck Suite with French Balcony



Rates Include

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Magnifique III*
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; wine/beer at dinners
- Airport/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits

- Taxes, service, and portage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

Not Included: International airfare passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



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Antwerp, Belgium (top) and Vianen, Holland (bottom).

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