

The Dutch Travel advisor

Travel in Style



The Holland Journal - Newsletter for Travel Advisors

February 11, 2021

Welcome to the first edition of the new year! Even though Corona is still dominating the news and there are still lockdowns and curfews everywhere, we are very confident that by the time we will have reached the end of this year, things will have returned to a situation close to normal.

We hope that you are noticing that your clients are now starting to think about travelling again. We have seen a few careful signs that this indeed is the case.



All we can say is let them come! Let us know how we can help you and what kind of information you need from us, know that we are there for you. In the meantime, below, some information on both the Netherlands and Belgium.

COVID-19 Update the Netherlands – Full Lockdown Continues

The number of new positive cases in the Netherlands is declining and the pressure on hospitals is gradually easing. But new variants of the virus are gaining ground quickly. This is cause for concern because these new variants are more infectious and can cause a new wave of infections. The Dutch government has therefore decided to extend the current lockdown. However, primary schools and childcare centers have reopened on February 8. Also, shops will be allowed to offer customers the option of collecting goods that they have ordered in advance, at pre-agreed times.



For the rest, all restaurants, bars and cafés, non-essential shops, museums, theatres, cinemas etc. will remain closed. This lockdown, and the current curfew (from 9pm to 4.30am), will last until March 3.

For a full overview, please visit our website: www.thedutchtraveladvisor.com/news

Grand Holland Tour 2022

This magnificent twelve-day group tour will show your clients the best of the best of the Netherlands! The organizing party is Mary Lou Yeager of Royal Travel Center (McCabe World Travel). In cooperation, The Dutch Travel advisor has designed an exclusive group tour for a maximum of 16 participants. The dates are July 7 - 18, 2022.

The itinerary will start in Amsterdam where, among others, the famous Rijksmuseum and Van Gogh Museum will be visited, Also, a private canal cruise will showcase the historic canal belt district.

Tours outside of Amsterdam will include a private guided tour of the horticulture/agriculture **Floriade**, which is very special because it only takes place once every 10 year; a private cruise on the river Vecht in combination with a tour of Castle Slot Zuylen; participants will learn all about Dutch flowers of course; and the group will spend a few days in the oldest city of the Netherlands: Maastricht, located in the very south-east of the country.

While in Maastricht, in addition to seeing the surrounding countryside with its rolling hills and touring the Velvet Caves, the group will attend (VIP) an open-air concert by world-famous violinist **André Rieu**. This outdoor concert will take place on the Vrijthof Square in the heart of historic Maastricht.

The last few days will be spent in Royal The Hague, the seat of our government, home to our King and the famous 'Girl with the Pearl Earring'.

For a full overview of the itinerary, please click on the link below:

<https://travefy.com/trip/6yw9rqtsnbdsqz2alk7cz9m23ppgtna>

For more information on pricing, and/or if you have clients whom you think might be interested, please contact Mary Lou directly: marylou@royaltravelcenter.com



Renovation Dutch Parliament

In 2021, the Dutch House of Representatives is to be temporarily relocated. The historical Binnenhof (Inner Court) building complex is in need of a large-scale renovation, which will take five and a half years to complete. For the duration of that period, all current users of the Binnenhof complex will be moving to the building of the former Ministry of Foreign Affairs. After the completion of the renovation, the House will return to the Binnenhof.

A walk past and through the Binnenhof is always a part of our walking tour in The Hague. It is still unknown what will remain visible of the outside of the complex during this renovation.



The Binnenhof is a centuries-old monumental building complex, which has been suffering from quite a few technical and structural defects, such as wood rot, leaking roofs and outdated technical installations. The state of the Binnenhof causes (fire) safety risks. Moreover, modern security requirements as well as the ever-increasing numbers of visitors demand adaptations. After the renovation, the building will meet the present-day requirements. That is how the Binnenhof can be preserved for future generations as the center of our parliamentary democracy.

Mauritshuis Museum First Gigapixel Museum in the World

As of November 2020, you can now experience the Mauritshuis Museum in a new lifelike virtual environment. The museum is the first in the world to have been fully digitized in gigapixel format*. By combining this with the Mauritshuis's already existing Second Canvas app, the wonderful stories behind the paintings are now revealed and you can zoom in on the brushstrokes. No fewer than 36 masterpieces, including all the Vermeers, four Rembrandts, three Jan Steens, Fabritius's Goldfinch and The Bull by Paulus Potter, can all be enjoyed in exquisite detail.



Second Canvas

The Second Canvas tour in gigapixel format allows you to wander through the rooms of the former city palace and explore the museum right down to the smallest details. After the Prado in Madrid, the Mauritshuis was the first museum in the world to launch a Second Canvas app in 2016 to make the collection more accessible from outside the museum.

Gigapixel format

Paintings in gigapixel format are nothing new, but an entire museum digitized in gigapixel format is a world first. During the first lockdown of spring 2020, the images of the museum and its paintings were taken with 360-degree cameras. To create the high-quality, razor-sharp images. Every centimeter, skirting board and wall hanging in the rooms was mapped by a digitization robot. The results of the 360-degree gigapixel photography means that online visitors can see the Mauritshuis collection in extremely high resolution. And discover the smallest details.

Visitors can find the virtual museum on the Mauritshuis website or via the Mauritshuis Second Canvas app. The app is free to download from the App Store and Google Play. www.mauritshuis.nl/en/

**Gigapixel format is a gigapixel image of 1000 megapixels, more than 100 times the size of images that can be produced by a smartphone.*

Floriworld

A magical experience route past flowers and plants.

FloriWorld is an enchanting interactive attraction where you can experience the magic of real and virtual flowers. The building has a colorful façade representing the Dutch flower fields and is a true eye-catcher in Aalsmeer. Come and be immersed in an amazing, colorful sea of flowers. Participate in an auction game and bid on your favorite bouquet!



Upon arrival, you will receive a wristband that will allow you to personalize many shows. Do you love yellow tulips, or do you prefer pink lilies, perhaps? Your preferences will appear everywhere - even as wallpaper in the living room of an Amsterdam canal house! But there is much more to see and do during your experience route. Watch 'Daan the Movie', for instance, a short film about a groom who seems to have forgotten the bridal bouquet on the way to his wedding. Or take a selfie in a flower and plant decor, be immersed in a colorful sea of flowers and admire the artful creations of top florists. Meanwhile, over 5,000 daily fresh flowers pass on rails throughout the attraction and at the end of the tour, you can bid on a bouquet in the auction room! How fun is that? <https://floriworld.nl/en/>

Zuiderzee Museum

Visit the Zuiderzee Museum and admire the vast collection of objects, clothing and ships in the Indoor Museum. Find out all about the past, but also about contemporary art and culture based on the rich forms and traditions of the Zuiderzee area. Not only does the Zuiderzee Museum bring the past to life, it also provides a link with the present. In the Zuiderzee Museum you will find objects, traditional costumes and buildings that together tell the great story of the Zuiderzee.



Stories of a rich culture

The Museum brings stories of the people who once lived on the shores of the Zuiderzee to life. See, hear, feel, taste and smell everyday life round the Zuiderzee as it was before the Afsluitdijk (the great IJsselmeer Barrier Dam) turned the former inland sea into what we now know as the IJsselmeer, in 1932. The Zuiderzee Museum focuses on the history, current situation and future of the region. Themes such as water, crafts and communities occupy center stage. These stories are visualized the Outdoor Museum with its historic buildings, and in the Indoor Museum through thematic exhibitions.

Indoor Museum

The Indoor Museum is the treasure house of the Zuiderzee; here the various collections are presented with a modern approach. Dive into a *Sea of Stories* and experience life on the former Zuiderzee in this interactive and completely revamped exhibition. Find out in *Fine birds make fine feathers* what was involved in making and maintaining clothes, admire the magnificent and sometimes moving result, and get to work yourself to give your clothes a longer life. Also admire the large collection of historic boats in the *Ships' Hall*.

Outdoor Museum

Stroll along the cobbled streets of the Outdoor Museum and go back in time! With over 140 historic buildings from places in the former Zuiderzee region, the Outdoor Museum is a village of its own. Visit the post office, meet residents from the former island of Urk and give a hand with old crafts. Feeling peckish? Tuck into fresh-smoked fish at the fish-smoking shed or descend on the Café Hindeloopen to enjoy the wonderful view of the IJsselmeer. www.zuiderzeemuseum.nl/en

Culinary Walk Brussels

During this culinary walking tour, you taste local products. The guide will take your clients for a Belgian flavors' tasting experience! Typical cafés, waffle shops, chocolate studio's, delicatessen, boutiques, and more...

With over 800 types, Belgium beers offer such a varied palate of colors, aromas, flavors, presentations and styles that they rival any other beer producing country. Belgium produces 172,000 tons of chocolate per year with more than 2,000 chocolate shops throughout the country. Mussels rule the tables along the Belgian coast and all the way to Brussels! They are always served with the famous Belgian fries and mayonnaise! And last but not least, participants shall be treated to the world-famous Belgian waffles.



Chocolate Workshops

The Dutch Travel advisor now offers its clients three opportunities to have a chocolate experience in the form of a workshop: one in Holland and two in Belgium.

In Holland, the workshop will take place at 'Royal' **Patisserie Chocolaterie Vermeer**, a well-known Patisserie Chocolaterie in the bulb-growing region and far beyond. When entering the patisserie, the delicious pastries, chocolates, wedding cakes, desserts and savory specialties immediately draw your attention. The owner Robin Peereboom himself is a Dutch Pastry Champion and he even came second at the World Pastry Championship.



In Belgium we offer this workshop both in Brussels and in Bruges.

In Brussels, we can arrange a private workshop chocolate praline making at famous chocolatier **Neuhaus**. Neuhaus is a notable Belgian chocolatier which manufactures and sells luxury chocolates, chocolate truffles, biscuits and ice cream. The company was founded in 1857 by Jean Neuhaus, a Swiss immigrant, who opened the first store in the Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert in central Brussels. In 1912, his grandson, Jean Neuhaus II, invented the chocolate praline, a decadent chocolate cream ganache center inside a chocolate shell, the original filled chocolate. Today, Neuhaus has over 1,500 selling points in 50 countries.

In Bruges, the private workshop chocolate praline making and tasting takes place at the **Chocolate Museum**. The museum is composed of three parts, telling the story of the origin and evolution of chocolate through a unique collection of almost a thousand objects. Besides the history, the museum also reveals how chocolate is made, with special attention for the variety of raw ingredients and the development of the production process.

Contact us if you wish to book the **Brussels Culinary Walk** or a **Chocolate Workshop** in Holland or Belgium.

Hôtel Solvay Will Become a Museum

The Hôtel Solvay in Brussels, considered one of Art Nouveau architect Victor Horta's greatest masterpieces, has been opened to the public. While previously the mansion was open only during certain festivals or for guided group tours, it is now open to individual visitors.

Horta built the townhouse at the end of the 19th century for the rich industrialist Armand Solvay and his wife. Working with a near unlimited budget and in close contact with the couple, Horta incorporated all of his innovations in architecture - a utilitarian use of light, free-flowing spaces and the incorporation of steel, a relatively new material at the time, for both structure and aesthetics.

He combined all of this with the richly organic embellishments for which Art Nouveau is famous. The Solvay House really has it all - domes of stained-glass, stacked bay windows, glazed oak doors, wrought-iron parapets. <https://hotelsolvay.be>

