

From
€3,736 EURSingle Room
€4,291 EURTwin Room
€3,736 EURPrices valid until
30th December 2022**7 days**

Duration

The Netherlands

Destination

**Level 1 - Introductory to
Moderate**

Activity

Dutch Tulips | Netherlands Small Group Tours

Apr 16 2023 to Apr 22 2023

Dutch Tulips Small Group Tour

Spend 6 nights in The Netherlands on this specialist small group Dutch tulip tour. Our trip provides us with a taste of the country's many delights, with special focus on the world-famous Keukenhof Flower Garden.

The Keukenhof garden has some 7 million bulbs planted each year to present a truly spectacular festival of colour every year at tulip time. This blend of varieties of tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths fills over 32



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hectares of flower gardens with colour and fragrance on an almost unimaginable scale.

The Dutch Tulip tour also views the main sights of old Amsterdam, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, first on a walking tour with local guides, followed by a barge tour along its 17th-century canals. We also make sure to visit the iconic Zaanse Schans Windmills.

Dutch Tulips Tour Itinerary

Our exploration of Dutch gardens includes the **Hortus Botanicus**, an impressive university garden. Founded in 1594, this is the oldest botanic garden in the Netherlands and one of Europe’s oldest as well. It was here that botanist Carolus Clusius planted the first tulip bulbs. This planting eventually led to ‘Tulip Mania’ that gripped the country in the 1600s.

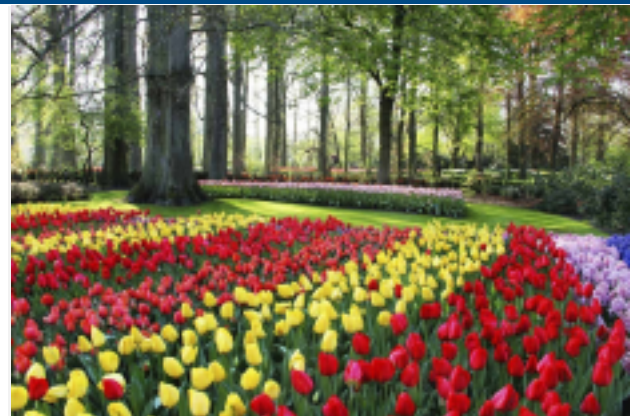
Travelling onto Utrecht we join a boat cruise through the city’s medieval heart. We visit the ancient wharves, warehouses, bridges and historical buildings. This lesser-known city is regarded by some as Europe’s most beautiful city – a hidden gem.

Our guided tour continues on to **De Hoge Veluwe National Park**. The park houses a highly unusual landscape of woodlands and heaths with a fascinating natural history that we explore. Located within the park is the **Rijksmuseum’s Kröller-Müller Museum** housing the world’s second-largest Van Gogh collection of 90 paintings and 180 drawings. Here we will also find paintings by Claude Monet and Pablo Picasso. Walking in the garden, we will see over 160 sculptures by iconic artists, such as Auguste Rodin and Henry Moore.

This trip also explores, with our local tour guide, the **Het Loo Palace (Paleis Het Loo)** built by the House of Orange-Nassau. Its first inhabitants were King William III and his wife Queen Mary II. The palace now serves as a museum, and is surrounded by fountains and Baroque-style gardens with its perfect symmetry, axial layout and radiating gravel walks, parterres, fountains, basins and statues. ***The palace is closed until 2021 for renovations, but the Stable Square,***

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museum restaurants, palace roof, and gardens remain open until 29th September.

The Dutch Tulip small group tour also visits the village of Nunspeet where we explore Kijktuinen Garden. This is not one garden but many and is well worth a visit. It includes borders in striking colour combinations, as well as classic rose gardens, pergolas, arbours, water and herb gardens. Our Netherlands tours also make time to enjoy breakfast, lunch, or dinner at a local restaurant each day, so that you can have an authentic experience of the local food culture.

There is plenty to do on this tour of the Netherlands during tulip time. To learn more, check out Odyssey's blog about [the history and culture of tulips in The Netherlands](#), or these external articles on the [history](#) and the [meaning](#) of tulips in the Netherlands. Should you wish to learn more about [the Netherlands](#) itself, visit our country page where all the other tour departures are listed as well.

For more details, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, [please call](#) or [send an email](#). Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

Other Garden Tours offered by Odyssey Traveller

This is a fully escorted 7 day program for a small group and appeals to a couple or single traveller with a particular interest in gardens. The Dutch Tulip Tour allows travellers to join the Chelsea Flower show that immediately follows the conclusion of this program. Odyssey has a collection of [small group garden tours](#) offered each year. Our garden tours seek to educate travellers and provide them with opportunities to explore some of the truly great gardens of Europe. Odyssey seeks to pick the best time to examine each garden and often the associated



houses.

Tour Notes

- The Keukenhof Gardens will be open from 21 March to 10 May 2020.
- The 2021 dates are subject to change until the garden opening dates are announced at the final day of Keukenhof season 2020.

Highlights

1. Enjoy a canal cruise in the cities of Amsterdam and Utrecht.
2. See the glorious gardens and palace of Het Loo.
3. See the most beautiful spring garden in the world at Keukenhof.
4. Take an early morning visit to the world's largest plant and flower auctions.
5. Visit Hortus Botanicus, one of the world's oldest botanic gardens.

Itinerary

Day 1

Locations: Amsterdam

Overview:

Arrive in Amsterdam and make your own way to the hotel. Meet your Odyssey Programme Leader in the hotel for a tour briefing before dinner at a local restaurant.

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Accommodation:

3 nights at Westcord Hotel or similar.

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Day 2

Locations: Amsterdam

Overview:

We spend the morning on a guided tour exploring the World Heritage listed historical heart of Amsterdam and taking in the fascinating architecture of the luxurious houses with their gabled facades, built by wealthy merchants during the Dutch Golden Age. We join a canal cruise that provides us with a unique perspective of the city.

Then, travelling north through idyllic landscapes we visit the Country Estate at Beekestijn for a guided tour of its English landscaped garden, the geometric designs of its Baroque style garden, and its herb and rose gardens all dotted with ponds and sculptures. We also stop to explore a famous and highly photogenic collection of windmills at Zaanse Schans.

Accommodation:

Westcord Hotel or similar

Day 3

Locations: Amsterdam

Overview:

An early morning departure allows us to view the famous Aalsmeer flower auctions, the largest in the world, and the frenetic activity on the 'shipping floor'. Travelling via the bulb fields we proceed to the highlight of our tour – the Keukenhof Flower Garden. Set amongst glorious woodlands and water gardens we explore the spectacular colours of the seven million tulips planted each year. As well, the world's largest lily show is housed in one of the pavilions; while in another hundreds of orchids are displayed in the most artistic exhibitions.

Accommodation:

Westcord Hotel or similar

Day 4

Locations: Utrecht

Overview:

Leaving Amsterdam, our first stop is the historic Hortus Botanicus, at Leiden. Founded in 1594, this is the oldest botanic garden in the Netherland's and one of Europe's oldest as well. It was here that botanist Carolus Clusius planted the first tulip bulbs leading to the 'Tulip Mania' that gripped the country in the 1600s. Many fortunes were made and lost during the obsession of the Dutch people with the tulip.

Following free time to explore Leiden we travel on to Utrecht and join a canal cruise through the city's mediaeval heart from which we view ancient wharves, warehouses, bridges and historical buildings. This lesser-known city is regarded by some as Europe's most beautiful city – a hidden gem.

Accommodation:

1 night at Star Lodge or similar.

Day 5

Locations: Zwolle

Overview:

De Hoge Veluwe National Park houses a highly unusual landscape of woodlands and heaths with a fascinating natural history that we will explore at the Museonder. Also located within the park is the Rijksmuseum Kröller-Müller, that houses the world's second-largest Van Gogh collection of 90 paintings and 180 drawings. Also found here are paintings by Claude Monet and Pablo Picasso. Distributed throughout its garden are over 160 sculptures by iconic artists, such as Auguste Rodin and Henry Moore.

The Palace of Het Loo was built in 1686 for William and Mary who later became King William III and Queen Mary II of England, serving as the hunting lodge and summer residence of members of the House of Oranje, the current Dutch royal family, until 1970. The palace displays original furniture, objects and paintings of the House of Orange-

Nassau. The palace is a rijksmonument or national monument.

The glorious Baroque garden with its perfect symmetry, axial layout with radiating gravel walks, parterres, fountains, basins and statues was designed by the nephew of André Le Nôtre, the most famous French garden designer of all time.

Accommodation:

1 night at Best Western Hotel Zwolle, or similar.

Day 6

Locations: Amsterdam

Overview:

We travel to Nunspeet where we explore Kijktuinen Garden, not one garden but many including borders in striking colour combinations, a classic rose garden, pergolas, arbors, water and herb gardens and the recreation of an old Dutch Square.

Later we take in the delights of Vollendam a traditional fishing village with quaint, uniquely gabled, green-painted wooden houses. Vollendam is well known for its traditional and colourful costumes which we may be lucky enough to see.

We visit a cheese factory with an unbelievable and delectable array of cheeses and accompaniments!

Our Programme Leader will guide us on a short walk through the delightful small town of Edam, the original home of Edam cheese, to view its attractive alleys, tree-shaded canals, canal bridges and locks. Some say it is like entering a Dutch Master painting.

Late this afternoon we return to Amsterdam.

Accommodation:

1 night at Westcord Hotel or similar

Day 7

Locations: Amsterdam

Overview:

Our tour finishes after breakfast at the hotel.

Inclusions / Exclusions

What's included in our Tour

- 6 nights of accommodation.
- 6 breakfasts and 2 dinners.
- Entrances and tipping.
- All travel is in modern, air-conditioned coaches if not listed otherwise.
- Services of a Tour Leader for the duration of tour.

What's not included in our Tour

- Comprehensive international travel insurance.
- International flights.
- Items of personal nature such as table drinks, laundry, telephone calls, and medical expenses.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.