

## RDB190325-07 TOUR DEPARTURES

**Private Canal Boat Tour and Visit to Rijksmuseum****AMS-02**

Mon Mar 25, 2019, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Duration: 4 Hours  
Price: Complimentary  
Walking: Moderate

Spend a few hours browsing through the masterworks of the world-renowned Rijksmuseum; then enjoy a boat ride through the colorful canals — the quintessential Amsterdam experience.

Amsterdam has been a great artistic center for centuries and the city is renowned for its celebrated museums. Experience one of the world's most famous — the magnificent Rijksmuseum which houses more than 8,000 works of art inside one of the Netherlands' grandest buildings. After a short transfer from the ship, enjoy both a guided tour and some free time to browse through galleries that include perhaps the world's best collection of Northern Renaissance paintings; Albrecht Dürer, Frans Hals, Hans Holbein — all the greats are here! Stand before the Night Watch, one of Rembrandt's most important masterworks. Soak in the quiet, tranquil beauty of Vermeer's The Milkmaid. You should also see one of Van Gogh's first self-portraits which he painted while in Paris. A tour in this beautiful city would not be complete without a cruise along the city's waterways. You will float through the historic canals passing graceful merchants mansions, churches and warehouses from the 16th and 17th century. Your canal boat will drop you off as close to the ship as possible.

**Important Notes:** As this excursion involves walking over uneven and cobbled surfaces, it is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. It is recommended that guests dress in warm, layered clothing and wear flat, comfortable shoes. Guests should also bring raingear in case of inclement weather. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions.

## Evening Canal Cruise

### AMS-10

Mon Mar 25, 2019, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Duration: 1.5 Hours

Price: €180,00

Walking: Very Little

You have not truly experienced Amsterdam until you explore the city's iconic waterways by boat. From this unique perspective, you will marvel at the beauty surrounding these tree-lined historic canals, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2010.

Near Central Station, Amsterdam's landmark railway station, step aboard a vintage saloon boat to experience this cosmopolitan city come alive at twilight, when lights start to twinkle and the water sparkles. Glide along illuminated canals to witness centuries-old architecture and impressive monuments like the National Maritime Museum, the town hall and the Anne Frank House.

The city's concentric network of more than 160 canals was developed in the 17th century, during the Dutch Golden Age, when Amsterdam rose to become one of the world's premier trading centers. Adorned with charming arched bridges, stately building façades and colorful houseboats, the main canals of Herengracht, Keizersgracht and Prinsengracht provide the perfect setting for your boating adventure.

Populated by wealthy merchants during its early days, the Herengracht endures today as a symbol of prestige with over 400 of its buildings considered national heritage sites. The Keizersgracht, named after the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, is the widest of the main canals and hosts the famous Emperor's Race for skaters when the winter ice permits. Prinsengracht, named in honor of the Prince of Orange, is the longest of the main canals and home to the Anne Frank House.

During your canal cruise, sit back, relax and enjoy coffee or tea as you sample a tasty slice of Dutch cake. Then, after your adventure concludes, return to your Crystal river ship.

#### **Important Notes:**

Participants must be able to climb a few steps and be able to enter and exit the boat unassisted. Weather can change rapidly, so guests should bring an umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **Keukenhof Gardens**

### **AMS-01**

Tue Mar 26, 2019, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Duration: 5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Explore one of Holland's most beautiful tulip gardens and the largest fresh flower garden in the world.

From the ship, enjoy a scenic 45-minute drive through Holland's lush lowlands dotted with farms, canals and colorful tulip fields to the town of Lisse in the Dutch Bulb Region of South Holland. This is the home of Keukenhof, the world's largest flower garden and one of the most beautiful and colorful in the country. Wander through the themed gardens and admire rare and exotic tulips as well as hyacinths and narcissi. The 77-acre park was once the "kitchen garden" (English translation for "Keukenhof") for the adjacent Teylingen Castle (now in ruins), an impressive round water stronghold dating from the early 13th century that was built to protect the Rhine dike and the road to Haarlem. Today, the annual Keukenhof Tulip Festival is the largest display of tulips in the world with over seven million blooms. Inside the gardens you'll also find the Groning Windmill, a traditional Dutch windmill surrounded by tulips. If you want you can climb the mill to have a view over the tulip fields of Lisse.

**Important Notes:** As this excursion involves continuous walking over uneven surfaces, it is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. It is recommended that guests dress in warm, layered clothing and wear flat, comfortable shoes. The order of sights visited may vary. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions. Pre-reservation of this Crystal Complimentary Adventures excursion is recommended.

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## **Private Canal Boat Tour and Visit to Rijksmuseum**

### **AMS-02**

Tue Mar 26, 2019, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Spend a few hours browsing through the masterworks of the world-renowned Rijksmuseum; then enjoy a boat ride through the colorful canals — the quintessential Amsterdam experience.

Amsterdam has been a great artistic center for centuries and the city is renowned for its celebrated museums. Experience one of the world's most famous — the magnificent Rijksmuseum which houses more than 8,000 works of art inside one of the Netherlands' grandest buildings. After a short transfer from the ship, enjoy both a guided tour and some free time to browse through galleries that include perhaps the world's best collection of Northern Renaissance paintings; Albrecht Dürer, Frans Hals, Hans Holbein — all the greats are here! Stand before the Night Watch, one of Rembrandt's most important masterworks. Soak in the quiet, tranquil beauty of Vermeer's The Milkmaid. You should also see one of Van Gogh's first self-portraits which he painted while in Paris. A tour in this beautiful city would not be complete without a cruise along the city's waterways. You will float through the historic canals passing graceful merchants mansions, churches and warehouses from the 16th and 17th century. Your canal boat will drop you off as close to the ship as possible.

Important Notes: As this excursion involves walking over uneven and cobbled surfaces, it is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. It is recommended that guests dress in warm, layered clothing and wear flat, comfortable shoes. Guests should also bring raingear in case of inclement weather. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions.

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## **Visit of Haarlem**

### **AMS-03**

Tue Mar 26, 2019, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Duration: 3.5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Explore North Holland's second largest city, a "Little Amsterdam" with its magnificent architecture, grand churches and even grander museums.

Haarlem is the capital of the province of North Holland and its second biggest city in this province. In his war against the Calvinist Reformation in 1568, Protestants threatened by the impending inquisition fled Antwerp and many settled in Haarlem. As a result Haarlem underwent an almost complete economic and social transformation, becoming an important scene for industrial (textile) and artistic development, and in the 1600s, artists, merchants and traders flocked to the city, tripling its population and placing Haarlem at the heart of the Dutch Golden Age. Flemish artists from the south of Holland and Belgium flocked here, where, struck by the city's beauty, they began to produce some of the most innovative, iconic art of the Golden Age — work which took Dutch art to new heights as artists such as Frans Hals, sought to reflect the beauty of their new surroundings. Today Haarlem is a dynamic city with charming streets, a vibrant shopping area and beautiful churches. During your city walk you'll pass beautiful gable houses on canals while your guide explains the history of Haarlem and the Netherlands. The Grote Markt (Market Square), is the town's delightful centerpiece... as it has been for 700 years. Located on the square, Haarlem's Town Hall has been the site of the city's government since about 1100.

Another highlight of your tour will be to St. Bavo Cathedral. The Gothic church with its soaring tower and magnificent stained glass windows is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Frans Hals is buried here, and it is also home to one of the world's most historically important organs built by Christian Müller (an Amsterdam organ builder). Upon completion it was the world's largest pipe organ and attracted such famous musicians as Mozart, Händel and Mendelssohn.

Important Notes: The weather in the lowlands can change rapidly so bring umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **Living Dutch Traditions**

### **AMS-06**

Tue Mar 26, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Explore the spectacular windmill village of Zaanse Schans with its authentic crafts and houses from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Drive through the bucolic Dutch countryside in search of the traditions that have become synonymous with the Netherlands. Arriving at the countryside village of Zaandam, you will see the dignified windmills that were once an important part of Holland's industry and often the subjects of Claude Monet's best-known masterpieces. Follow your guide into the past with a visit to the Zaanse Schans Open-Air Museum. The Zaanse Schans is a residential area in which the 18th and 19th centuries are brought to life. Stroll past the bakery museum and enjoy the smell of fresh bread, or take a look at the warehouse where clogs are made. The Zaanse Schans is a unique part of the Netherlands, full of wooden houses, mills and barns. After exploring the reconstructed village, enjoy coffee or tea with a fresh pastry at the local restaurant. You will then have some free time at the Zaanse Schans before returning to the ship.

Important Notes: The weather in the lowlands can change rapidly so bring umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **Private Cheese Tasting in the Heart of Amsterdam**

### **AMS-07**

Tue Mar 26, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Duration: 3.5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Strenuous

For cheeseheads who want to sample Holland's finest product, join us on a walking tour of city center and a wine and cheese tasting at the Old Amsterdam Cheese Store.

Cheese! Glorious, wonderful, sweet, smoky, spicy, salty, savory, cheese! Like France and Switzerland, the Netherlands is a true "land of cheese", an essential staple at breakfast, lunch or any other time. grilled, melted, fried, cut into small dice for an aperitif or in sauce — especially in Amsterdam. Although not the official seat of the government, Amsterdam is widely considered the capital of the Netherlands.

Originating as a small fishing village in the late 12th century, Amsterdam became one of the most important ports in the world during the Dutch Golden Age (17th century). It was also during this age that their delicious cheeses received worldwide fame. After a short transfer to city center, you will embark on a guided walking tour of this beautiful and bustling city. Your guide will lead you past the fragrant flower market, the only floating flower market in the world. You'll visit the quiet and serene beguinage, one of Amsterdam's oldest inner courtyards — and one of the city's best known landmarks. It dates back to the fourteenth century, when it was built for the Beguines, pious Catholic women who lived and dressed like nuns, without taking formal vows. Next you will pass Dam Square with the classical-style Royal Palace, one of three palaces still used by the Royal Family. After taking in enough historical facts from your knowledgeable guide, it is time to sample some delicious Dutch cheeses. Over the course of an hour, you will savor five varieties with accompanying wines while learning more about the process and history of cheesemaking. Then cap off your 'cheese fest' with a short walk back to the ship.

Important Notes: The weather in the lowlands can change rapidly so bring umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **Van Gogh Painting Workshop**

**AMS-09**

Tue Mar 26, 2019, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Duration: 3 Hours

Price: €149,00

Walking: Very Little

Paint your own Van Gogh work of art at a workshop in the fabled Van Gogh Museum.

Board your motor coach for a short transfer to the magnificent Van Gogh Museum, a dramatic architectural marvel. The Museum consists of two buildings: the main structure designed by Gerrit Rietveld which opened in 1973, and the Exhibition Wing by Kisho Kurokawa, which was completed in 1999. The architecture of the museum is complex and stunning, a visual feast just from the outside. Step inside for a truly unique experience. You will be welcomed into the museum's studio and enjoy a short introduction to Van Gogh. Next, your workshop tutor will take you on a tour to get acquainted with Van Gogh's unique style and to inspire your own "oeuvre." Then back at the museum studio, try your hand at painting with acrylic paint and a brush, and create your own work of art on canvas. Your tutor will offer advice and assistance. At the completion of your workshop, re-board your motor coach for a scenic drive back to the ship, and be sure to take your finished canvas with you.

Important Notes: The weather in the lowlands can change rapidly so bring umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **The Hague and Mauritshuis Museum**

### **RTM-01**

Wed Mar 27, 2019, 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Duration: 3.5 Hours  
Price: Complimentary  
Walking: Moderate

The Hague, the third-largest city in the Netherlands, is the country's seat of government and home to its royal family. Among its many must-see attractions is the Mauritshuis museum, where you can marvel at masterpieces of the Dutch Golden Age of art.

Depart from your river ship for a short scenic drive to The Hague, the country's third-largest city. Along with being the home of the Dutch royal family, it is also recognized as the judicial capital of the United Nations. During your narrated panoramic tour, you will pass the Houses of Parliament, the Peace Palace, which houses the International Court of Justice, as well as several royal palaces. Your cultural discovery then continues to the Mauritshuis museum, which was originally a palace of Prince Johan Maurits. In the 19th century, it was turned into a museum and the collection today consists of masterpieces from the Dutch Golden Age, including paintings by Vermeer, Rembrandt, Jan Steen and Frans Hals. The works on permanent display provide a magnificent panorama of Dutch and Flemish art from the 15th to 17th century; ranging from Flemish primitives to sunlit landscapes, from biblical characters to meticulous still lifes, and from calm interiors to humorous genre scenes. A museum specialist will guide you through this museum's beautiful collection. Your adventure to The Hague concludes with some free time to explore the city on your own before returning to the motor coach for a short transfer back to your Crystal river ship in Rotterdam.

**Important Notes:** Participants should be aware that this excursion involves substantial walking for a distance of approximately one mile (1.6 kms). As this excursion involves continuous walking over mostly flat surfaces and inside the museum, it is recommended that guests wear flat, comfortable shoes. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions. Order of sights visited may vary.

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## **Rotterdam City Tour: Architectural Wonders**

### **RTM-02**

Wed Mar 27, 2019, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Duration: 3 Hours  
Price: Complimentary  
Walking: Strenuous

Discover this vibrant city that claims some of the world's most innovative architectural achievements. Gaze upon such fascinating structures as the cubic houses of Piet Blom and the futuristic Markthal, the first covered market in The Netherlands.

Beginning from your Crystal river ship, enjoy a guided walking tour of the beautiful city of Rotterdam. Discover how the destruction of World War II led to an intensive rebuilding effort and to Rotterdam becoming a renowned center of innovative modern architecture. Marvel at one of the most inspired projects in post-war Rotterdam, the captivating cubic houses of famed architect Piet Blom. Blom conceived his designs as abstract trees and the entire 38-cube complex as a dense urban forest. His imaginative architectural approach is one of the highlights of this tour. Continue your walk through Rotterdam's Old Harbor and pass by the central shopping area, a part of which is located below ground and was nicknamed "the sales gutter." See the few historic buildings that survived the war: the post office, town hall and Laurens Church. Another highlight is the eye-catching Markthal, the first covered market in The Netherlands, featuring fresh food and unique apartment living within a spectacular arch. Your memorable exploration of Rotterdam concludes with a walk back to your Crystal river ship.

**Important Notes:** As this excursion involves continuous walking over uneven surfaces, it is not recommended for guests with walking disabilities. Participants should be aware that this excursion involves substantial walking, at a distance of approximately three miles (4.8 kms). It is recommended that guests wear flat, comfortable shoes. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions.

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## **Rotterdam Bike Adventure**

### **RTM-03**

Wed Mar 27, 2019, 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Duration: 2.5 Hours  
Price: Complimentary  
Walking: Strenuous

Go on an exciting cycling adventure to discover Rotterdam's architectural gems.

Receive your bike and briefing before embarking on your scenic cycling journey to admire the remarkable architecture of Rotterdam. Enjoy a guided tour through the heart of Rotterdam, cycling across magnificent bridges and through the impressive landscape of Europe's largest harbor. Gaze upon such places as the eye-catching Markthal, the first covered market in The Netherlands, featuring fresh food and unique apartment living within a spectacular arch; the innovative De Rotterdam, the country's largest building, conceived as a vertical city by designer Rem Koolhaas; the retro-futuristic Central Station, one of the main transportation hubs in the Netherlands, and much more. Your memorable cycling experience concludes back at your Crystal river ship.

#### **Important Notes:**

This tour is an active excursion, and is suitable only for our more agile guests who are physically fit. Guests should be experienced bike riders and have recently ridden or are confident cycling. Participants must also be comfortable with hand brakes and riding downhill. We only accept children of the age of 12 years and higher and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. It is recommended that guests dress in warm, layered clothing and wear sunglasses, sunscreen and sneakers. Guests should also bring raingear in case of inclement weather. Helmets are mandatory. The order of sights may vary. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions. All guests must sign a release waiver. The supply of eBike's & Helmets is limited, so pre-reservation of this Crystal Complimentary Adventures excursion is recommended to avoid disappointment. Please notify the day before if you will cancel as a courtesy to those how are waitlisted.

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## **The Dutch Windmills of Kinderdijk**

### **RTM-05**

Wed Mar 27, 2019, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Duration: 4 Hours  
Price: Complimentary  
Walking: Strenuous

Visit this remarkable UNESCO World Heritage Site and discover how, over centuries, the Dutch people have fought to protect their lowlands from the forces of nature by employing various technologies, including windmills.

Depart from your river ship for a drive by Crystal motor coach to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Kinderdijk, home to 19 beautifully preserved windmills. Built in the 18th century, the windmills of Kinderdijk were part of a larger water management system designed to prevent floods, which included dykes, reservoirs, pumping stations and more. Mill networks, such as the one at Kinderdijk, played a critical role in the development and survival of the Netherlands. Today they stand as enduring symbols of human ingenuity. While the windmills have been replaced with an automated water pump station, they are still in operating condition, and serve as a backup system in the event of failure of modern equipment. Your enriching adventure includes a visit to one of the windmills, currently used to grind grain to make flour for use in traditional bakeries. Here you will meet with an actual miller who will share personal insights, and reveal the mill's history and inner workings. At the conclusion of your guided tour, you'll have a chance to enjoy a local pastry with coffee or tea before boarding the motor coach for the drive back to your Crystal river ship in Rotterdam.

**Important Notes:** Participants should be aware that this excursion involves walking over uneven surfaces. It is recommended that guests wear flat, comfortable shoes. As this excursion involves climbing stairs, it is not wheelchair accessible. It is recommended that guests dress in warm, layered clothing. Guests should also bring raingear in case of inclement weather. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions.

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## **Gouda City Walk & Cheese Tasting**

### **RTM-06**

Wed Mar 27, 2019, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Renowned throughout the world for its eponymous cheese, the town of Gouda dates back to the Middle Ages, when the Van der Goude family built a fortified castle along the banks of the Gouwe River. Step back in time as you stroll the cobbled streets of Gouda and discover its history. Then, visit the Goudse Waag, the 17th-century cheese weighing house, where you'll have a chance to sample the city's famous delicacy.

Depart from your river ship and board your Crystal motor coach for a relaxed transfer to the renowned city of Gouda to begin your delicious adventure. Upon arrival in this South Holland town named after its founders, the Van der Goude family, enjoy an extensive guided walking tour, revealing its many interesting sights. In this storied city dating back to the Middle Ages, you'll stroll along lovely cobbled walkways and a central square, the Markt, from which you can spot such impressive buildings as the Stadhuis, the 15th-century town hall. A photo stop will be made at the Gothic Sint Janskerk (St. John's Church), distinguished by its magnificent stained-glass windows. At the Goudse Waag, the historic building where cheese products were once weighed and traded, you'll be treated to the city's delicious cheese. At the conclusion of your city walk and cheese tasting, enjoy a comfortable transfer by motor coach back to your Crystal river ship.

**Important Notes:** As this excursion involves continuous walking over uneven surfaces and some step climbing, it is not recommended for guests with walking disabilities. Participants should be aware that this excursion involves substantial walking, at a distance of approximately 2.5 miles (4 kms). It is recommended that guests wear flat, comfortable shoes. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions.

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## **A Glide Through Ghent via Canal Boat**

### **GNE-01**

Thu Mar 28, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Duration: 3.5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Very Little

Many travelers say you haven't truly experienced Ghent until you ply its winding canal waters by boat – and see its trademark sites from that unique vantage point. On this tour, you'll find out how right they are. And toast your discovery with Belgian beers.

After a 30-minute motorcoach transfer from your Crystal ship, begin your survey of Ghent proper with a short stint on foot as you set out from St. Michaels Bridge with its jawdropping views of the city's three glorious medieval steeples. The closest is that of the early Gothic St. Nicolas church. Behind is the Belfry dating from 1314, and in the background rises the honey-colored tower of St. Bavo's Cathedral.

Soon, your guide will lead you to the floating dock where you'll embark on a 60-minute waterborne exploration of the city by canal boat. This fun and informative cruise will carry you past enthralling highlights like the impressive Castle of the Counts, the old Fish Market, 13th century monasteries, and the ancient port of Ghent lined with picturesque mercantile houses. Along the way, you'll be treated to three delightful samples of Belgian beer, accompanied by typical Ghent snacks of cheese sausage, and famous Tierenteyn mustard (ever-faithful to its original 1790 recipe).

Once back on land, you'll have around an hour of free time to independently stroll the old city's narrow streets, many of which are car-free. Surrounded by period architecture, you'll find yourself tempted by shops offering fine chocolates, Flemish lace, and other local artisanal wares.

During the short coach ride back to your ship, you'll likely find your imagination still wandering the cobbled lanes and scenic waterways you've just left behind.

Important Notes: Rated "easy," this excursion's activity level nonetheless includes a mile or so of walking over uneven/cobblestone surfaces. A few steep steps may be encountered when entering or exiting the canal boat. Comfortable dress and appropriate footwear are recommended. Since weather in the Low Countries can change rapidly, plan to bring along both sunscreen and a raincoat.

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## **St. Bavo's Cathedral and the Museum of Fine Arts**

### **GNE-02**

Thu Mar 28, 2019, 2:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Duration: 4.5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Begin with a guided walk through old Ghent, then visit St. Bavo's Cathedral to see the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb altarpiece – a 600-year-old, multi-panel masterwork still undergoing restoration at the town's Museum of Fine Arts. You'll tour that venue, too, and learn about how the process works.

After a brief coach ride from your Crystal ship, savor the medieval atmosphere of a stunningly preserved Flemish city as you stroll past steeply gabled guild houses and over St Michael's Bridge with its spectacular views of Ghent's famous "Row of Three Towers" – St Nicholas' Church, the Belfry, and St Bavo's Cathedral. It's no surprise this was the most powerful city outside Paris during the 16th Century. Even today, it's still a hugely important Renaissance art center – and nowhere is that more apparent than when you enter St. Bavo's Cathedral and encounter its divinely radiant altarpiece painted in the 1400s by the brothers Van Eyck. The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb is an absolutely knockout, and has been called "the world's most coveted masterpiece." In fact, it's been partly or fully stolen on six different occasions. Over the last few years, a major restoration of the artwork has been underway, removing centuries of dirt and varnish to reveal brilliant color and more than a few revelations about its content. Your guide will share some of these stories with you bask in the altar's dazzling beauty, and later you'll actually travel by coach to the MSK Museum of Fine Arts where the panel-by-panel restoration is still underway. There you'll learn more about how this exacting work is done and what techniques are used. If the timing is right, you might even be able to watch the restorers themselves, laboring on the painting behind a special window in the museum. It's a labor of love, if ever there was one.

Important Notes: This excursion's "Moderate" activity level includes approx. two miles of walking, sometimes over uneven/cobblestone surfaces. Comfortable dress (though respectful to the church) and appropriate footwear are suggested. Since weather in the Low Countries can change rapidly, plan to bring along both sunscreen and a raincoat.

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## **Medieval Ghent: Walking Tour with Gravensteen Castle Visit**

### **GNE-03**

Thu Mar 28, 2019, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Duration: 4 Hours  
Price: Complimentary  
Walking: Strenuous

Take a guided walk into the Middle Ages along the cobbled streets of what was once one of Europe's most powerful cities. See canals and guildhalls, tour a 1,000-year old crusader fortress known as the Castle of The Counts, and spend awhile just soaking up Ghent's incomparable atmosphere.

if you admire medieval history and architecture, this Ghent tour is not to be missed. After a 15-minute motorcoach transfer from your Crystal ship, arrive at the bottom of St. Michael's Bridge in the pedestrianized heart of this impeccably restored city. The breath-taking starts immediately, as you ascend the bridge to view an unbroken array of landmarks including the Old Port with its gabled guild houses, the famous 'Row of Three Towers' (St. Nicholas' Church, the Belfry, and St. Bavo's Cathedral), and the bastions of imposing Gravensteen – the Castle of the Counts. Making your way to the Castle, you'll learn about the wool and weaving fortunes amassed in Ghent's long-ago heyday, and the many tumultuous battles fought here over the centuries. But all that imagining pales to the reality of visiting Gravensteen, where you'll tour some of the very towers and chambers where the Counts of Flanders once held court and kept an iron grip on the locals. (Don't skip your vitamins today: this hour-long romp involves climbing some 480 stairs.) A walk toward St Bavo's Cathedral follows, with further key sights seen and a refresher stop at a local cafe. Then, it's 45 minutes' free-range time for shopping or wandering the Sint-Baafsplein area before re-gathering for the brief ride back to your ship. And the current century.

Important Notes: This excursion's activity level is fairly strenuous, with some 1.5 miles of walking over uneven surfaces and cobblestone streets – plus all those steps at the Castle of the Counts. Please wear comfortable dress and appropriate footwear. Since weather in the Low Countries can change rapidly, be sure to bring along both sunscreen and a raincoat.

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## **Best of Bruges: A Guided Walk and Canal Boat Ride**

### **GNE-04**

Thu Mar 28, 2019, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Duration: 6 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Surrender to the powerful charms of a fairy-tale city where tree-lined canals, cobbled market squares, and a centuries-old skyline all carry you back to medieval times in the blink of an eye. Bruges is a UNESCO World Heritage wonderland you won't soon forget.

An hour's drive from atmospheric Ghent, another equally atmospheric city awaits your discovery. On this informative excursion to Bruges, you'll be introduced to its most famous landmarks, transported along a few of its idyllic waterways, and left with time to wander awhile at leisure – shopping, lunching, or whatever else strikes your fancy. To begin, your expert guide will lead the way on a thorough ramble through Bruges' warren of narrow, winding streets – past a seemingly endless parade of centuries-old structures still standing as proudly as the day they were built. Highlights include flamboyantly opulent City Hall (its sculpted façade will floor you), the Chapel of the Holy Blood (steeped in legend and decorated in spectacular Renaissance style), and the city's signature 13th-century Belfry that still lords over bustling Grote Markt square with commanding presence. Once aboard the canal boat, you'll view the city from a very different vantage point as you enjoy a 30-minute cruise along waterways linking areas you'd never see on foot. After disembarking in the heart of the old city, you'll have 90 minutes free to wander Bruges at will. Mouthwatering mussels and other savory lunch options abound; look for places off the main tourist path. Or indulge in a spot of shopping – the chocolate here is superb, and the lace is delicate. Maybe even go all-out and climb the 366 steps up to catch the legendary view from the top of the Belfry. Rejoining your guide, you'll walk back to the coach for the hour-long return to your Crystal ship – waiting patiently for you back in Ghent.

**Important Notes:** This excursion involves approx. two miles of walking, some of it over cobblestone streets and uneven surfaces. Stairs will be encountered when entering and exiting the canal boat. Comfortable dress and appropriate footwear are suggested. Since weather in the Low Countries can change rapidly, we recommend bringing along both sunscreen and a raincoat.

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## **A Taste of Ghent for Beer Lovers**

### **GNE-08**

Thu Mar 28, 2019, 8:30 PM - 10:30 PM

Duration: 2 Hours

Price: €79,00

Walking: Moderate

This beer tasting experience will introduce you to some of Belgium's finest brews while you enjoy a guided walking tour of Ghent at night, when thousands of lights illuminate the beauty of this historic city and the local pubs and cafés you'll visit.

A brief transfer by motor coach delivers you to the historic center of Ghent. Considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe, when night falls, Ghent shines with an award-winning lighting plan created by renowned lighting designer Roland Jéol. As you enjoy the enchanting interaction of light and shadow during your guided walking tour, you will visit some of Ghent's trend-setting cafés and pubs to sample three different Belgian beers. Here you'll gain an appreciation for Belgium's standing as one of the world's premier beer-brewing nations. Along with your beer tasting, sample such local specialties as cheese and sausage with savory mustard. After your beer-tasting adventure, board your motor coach for the short transfer back to your Crystal river ship.

Important Notes: Guests must be at least 18 years old to participate in this excursion. There will be some walking over uneven surfaces and cobblestone streets. Please wear flat, comfortable shoes. This tour will operate in all weather conditions.

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## **Discover Antwerp and Rubens**

### **ANR-01**

Fri Mar 29, 2019, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Duration: 4 Hours  
Price: Complimentary  
Walking: Strenuous

Take a guided walk into the character-filled city that Rubens called home, and find many parts little changed from his 17th-century heyday. Tour the Rubens House and admire his masterworks enshrined in an ancient cathedral.

Like most medieval cities, Old Antwerp is best toured on two feet. Your guide will lead you through the historic quarter surrounding Grote Markt (Great Market Square) – home to an extravagantly ornate Town Hall, ranks of gabled guild houses, and the mythically-inspired Brabo fountain. Hidden nearby, discover Vlaaikengang (Pie alley) – a tiny actual street you enter via inconspicuous medieval front doors opening onto other streets. Just beyond, find yourself gazing in awe at one of the most impressive Gothic edifices in Northern Europe: the Cathedral of our Lady, dating back well over six centuries. Your guide will lead you inside this towering landmark to see several of the world's greatest Rubens paintings, including his Elevation of the Cross and Descent from the Cross. For an even more intimate view of the life of this master, you'll saunter across Groenplaats Square (once the city's main cemetery!) to the house where Pieter Paul Rubens lived, worked, and entertained prominent guests from 1610 to his death in 1640. Even from the outside, it's palatial – and your inside tour of its period-furnished rooms reveals a museum's worth of magnificent original paintings. Rubens' adjoining studio is every bit as arrayed in art, and steeped in art history. At tour's end, it's a pleasant 15-minute walk back to your Crystal ship.

Important Notes: This excursion includes approximately 2.5 miles of walking over mainly flat and cobblestone streets. Weather in the Low Countries can change rapidly, so bring along an umbrella and sunscreen. Remember to dress appropriately for entering the Cathedral. Order of tour stops may vary.

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## **Discover Antwerp and Rubens**

### **ANR-011**

Fri Mar 29, 2019, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Strenuous

Take a guided walk into the character-filled city that Rubens called home, and find many parts little changed from his 17th-century heyday. Tour the Rubens House and admire his masterworks enshrined in an ancient cathedral.

Like most medieval cities, Old Antwerp is best toured on two feet. Your guide will lead you through the historic quarter surrounding Grote Markt (Great Market Square) – home to an extravagantly ornate Town Hall, ranks of gabled guild houses, and the mythically-inspired Brabo fountain. Hidden nearby, discover Vlaaikengang (Pie alley) – a tiny actual street you enter via inconspicuous medieval front doors opening onto other streets. Just beyond, find yourself gazing in awe at one of the most impressive Gothic edifices in Northern Europe: the Cathedral of our Lady, dating back well over six centuries. Your guide will lead you inside this towering landmark to see several of the world's greatest Rubens paintings, including his Elevation of the Cross and Descent from the Cross. For an even more intimate view of the life of this master, you'll saunter across Groenplaats Square (once the city's main cemetery!) to the house where Pieter Paul Rubens lived, worked, and entertained prominent guests from 1610 to his death in 1640. Even from the outside, it's palatial – and your inside tour of its period-furnished rooms reveals a museum's worth of magnificent original paintings. Rubens' adjoining studio is every bit as arrayed in art, and steeped in art history. At tour's end, it's a pleasant 15-minute walk back to your Crystal ship.

Important Notes: This excursion includes approximately 2.5 miles of walking over mainly flat and cobblestone streets. Weather in the Low Countries can change rapidly, so bring along an umbrella and sunscreen. Remember to dress appropriately for entering the Cathedral. Order of tour stops may vary.

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## **A City Excursion to Brussels**

### **ANR-02**

Fri Mar 29, 2019, 8:45 AM - 3:45 PM

Duration: 7 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

An hour's coach ride from Antwerp, Belgium's cosmopolitan capital city awaits. Enjoy a full-day Brussels tour that combines panoramic drives, a guided walk, free time, and visits to the Magritte Museum and famous Atomium site.

Upon arrival in Brussels, your luxury coach will proceed on a panoramic city drive that takes in sights like the classic King Baudouin Stadium and stepped Centennial Expo Center before stopping for a photo visit at the shimmering Atomium building – icon of the 1958 World's Fair here. Enroute to the city center, you'll encounter many other landmarks including the atmospheric Chinese Pavilion and Japanese Tower adjacent to the Royal Castle of Laeken, official residence of the Belgian Royal Family. Your sense of Surrealism will be tickled by an hour-long visit to the Musée Magritte, home to over 200 of works by the artist known for his mind-bending compositions. Continuing awhile in on-foot touring mode, you'll walk through Old Town to admire the St Hubert Arcades (considered the world's earliest shopping mall), café-lined Butchers' Street, and on to magnificent Grand Place market square – surrounded by Baroque guild houses and a Town Hall that's stood here since the 15th century. Nearby is Brussels' best-known little boy – the bronze Manneken Pis statue – who's been relieving himself unabashedly for nearly as long. An interval at leisure will enable some free-style wandering – perhaps to sample a few of Belgium's famously savory beers or search for the perfect chocolate or lace souvenir. Rejoining your guide a bit more than an hour later, you'll walk back to the coach for a scenic return drive to Antwerp – passing yet more Brussels must-see's like the European Parliament and NATO building along the way.

Important Notes: This day trip includes some 2.5 miles of walking over mainly flat and cobblestone streets. Weather in the Low Countries can change rapidly, so bring along an umbrella and sunscreen. Order of tour itinerary and stops may vary.

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## **Tour of Breendonk Prison Camp**

### **ANR-03**

Fri Mar 29, 2019, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Duration: 3.5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Travel by coach to the outskirts of Antwerp to tour one of Europe's best-preserved prison camps. This chilling venue shows how even Belgium was not spared the horror and brutality of the Nazi concentration camp program.

Built in 1909 on the site of an ancient Roman fort, Fort Breendonk was intended as part of the port of Antwerp's outer defensive ring. The moated fortress ended up being surrendered to German hands after only a seven-day siege early in WW1. At the start of WW2, Belgium's King Leopold III brought Breendonk back into service as headquarters for the Flemish command. But, once again, the fortress' fortunes were not rosy – it was soon abandoned in the face of Germany's relentless advance. By this point militarily obsolete, the fort was used by the Nazis for darker purposes: the SS established it as a prison camp. Some 3,500 reluctant guests – dissidents, freedom fighters, Jews in transit to Nazi death camps elsewhere – were subjected to the "Hell of Breendonk." Thanks to this life of forced labor, vicious beatings and wanton executions, half of them never left. After Liberation in 1944, the allies operated Breendonk as an internment camp for Flemish collaborators. Today, it serves as a national museum – and a vivid, well-preserved reminder of the horrors of war. In tribute to those whose lives were so darkened here, a commemorative floral crown will be placed on a monument sacred to Breendonk's victims during your two-hour guided tour, led by a local historian.

Important Notes: This tour's activity level is considered "Moderate" and includes about 800 yards of walking over surfaces that are at times uneven (cobblestones and pebbles). Weather in the Low Countries can change rapidly, so bring along an umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **Antwerp with Belgium Waffles**

### **ANR-05**

Fri Mar 29, 2019, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Duration: 3 Hours  
Price: Complimentary  
Walking: Moderate

Enjoy Belgium waffles and chocolates in a culinary walk around the old city of Antwerp.

Indulge during your visit to Antwerp with two of Belgium's most famous specialties: waffles and chocolates. On a guided city walk from the ship, you will visit the old town area around the Marketplace with its Town Hall, gabled guild houses, cafés and famous Brabo statue in front of the Town Hall, depicted after his duel with a giant called Antigoon. According to popular etymology, Antwerp got its name from Antigoon who lived near the Scheldt River. He exacted a toll from passing boatmen, and for those who refused, he severed one of their hands and threw it into the river. Eventually the giant was slain by the young Silvius Brabo, who cut off the giant's own hand and flung it into the river. Hence the name Antwerpen, from Dutch hand werpen. The hand symbolizes the free waterway which was vital for the city's survival. Continue to Vlaaikensgang ("Pie alley"), a medieval alley dating from 1591. Stop for a moment to admire the massive Our Lady's Cathedral, Antwerp's major landmark and the largest Gothic church in Belgium. Notice the bronze statue of Peter Paul Rubens in the center of the Groenplaats city square. Rubens was one of Antwerp's most famous native sons. A true Belgium delicacy comes next: a mouthwatering Belgium waffle. Relax with a cup of coffee or tea as you savor this feather-light confection. Through the window of the waffle house you can observe how the waffles are made. Then for a sweet finale, enjoy two chocolate pralines in a chocolate shop on your way back to the ship.

Important Notes: This tour involves Moderate walking over flat, gravel and cobblestone terrain. There are some steps involved.

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## **Visit of 'De Koninck' brewery**

### **ANR-06**

Fri Mar 29, 2019, 2:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Duration: 3.5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Learn the science of beer-making in a 360° experience with a variety of interactive media and audio-visual effects; then try a 6-step beer-tasting with a true connoisseur.

When people get together in Antwerp, they do so with a Bolleke (glass) Koninck in their hand, a classic Belgian Pale Ale-style beer that is virtually synonymous with Antwerp. This thirst-quenching\ tour will give you the opportunity to discover the true taste of the town. After your transfer from the ship to the brand new brewery, you'll embark on an interactive, behind-the-scenes tour that will fully immerse you in the origin of the iconic de Bolleke Koninck. Explore ten rooms and discover the history de Koninck and its unique connection with the city. The brewery ensures a 360° experience with a variety of interactive media and audio-visual effects. Different theme areas will reveal the many aspects of Belgian beers in general, Antwerp as a beer city, and the entire brewing process. After your informative, and fun-filled tour, join your fellow beer lovers in the brewery's beautiful cellar where a true connoisseur will highlight features of the six different beers you'll taste and help you pair the right appetizers with the right beers. After your beer-tasting, a coach awaits to take you back to the ship.

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## **Brussels & Antwerp: Cultural Discovery**

### **ANR-10**

Fri Mar 29, 2019, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Duration: 8 Hours

Price: €339,00

Walking: Strenuous

Discover the best of Brussels and Antwerp in a full day tour with authentic Flemish lunch.

After a one hour transfer (approx.) to Brussels in a small van, you'll begin a panoramic tour of the city that takes in a cache of the city's major landmarks including the King Boudewijn Stadium, which was inaugurated on August 23 1930 just days after Belgium's 100th anniversary, the Royal Castle of Laeken, the official residence of the Belgian King and Queen, and the Chinese Pavilion and Japanese Tower which were inspired by the 1900 Universal Exhibition in Paris. There will be a quick stop for a photo shoot at the iconic Atomium Statue depicting an iron molecule. The world-renowned monument was erected in 1958 to celebrate the World's Fair. Then begin a guided walking tour into the heart of the Old City and the magnificent Grand Place or Grote Markt, surrounded by opulent guildhalls. After a delicious 3-course Flemish lunch at a nearby restaurant, continue past the Town Hall and the glass-roofed St. Hubert's Gallery, a luxury shopping arcade, to Butcher's Street, home to many popular restaurants and cafés. Your walking tour ends at one of Brussels' most famous sights, Manneken-Pis. This bronze statue is of a young boy whose irreverence epitomizes the spirit of Brussels. Returning to Antwerp, your guide will lead you on a city tour through the old town area from Rubens' House to the Market Square. Along the way, you'll have a chance to step inside the e largest Gothic Cathedral in Belgium, the magnificent Our Lady's Cathedral, where you can view step inside to see some of Rubens' greatest paintings, then cap off your Antwerp visit with a short walk through medieval Vlaaikensgang (Pie alley), originally a street of shoemakers dating from 1591.

Important Notes: The weather in the lowlands can change rapidly so bring umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **Antwerp, City of Fashion**

### **ANR-11**

Fri Mar 29, 2019, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: €69,00

Walking: Strenuous

Haute Couture and Diamonds await in the fashion center of Belgium and the diamond center of the world.

The Royal Academy of Fine Arts is undoubtedly one of the world's leading schools in fashion design. It is the birthplace of the Antwerp Six, a fashion collective from the 1980s, that thrust Antwerp into fashion stardom, and changed the international fashion scene, bringing a radically distinct aesthetic to catwalks worldwide. You will be accompanied by a professional and knowledgeable fashionista who will talk about the visions and ideas of these acclaimed designers who still captivate the industry. You'll learn about Haute Couture and walk past Antwerp's largest historical or fashion-themed landmarks. There will also be a stop at the Antwerp Diamond Pavilion. Antwerp's ties to diamonds date back 550 years, and at the Diamond Pavilion you will learn more about its rich history and cultural influences.

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## **Middelburg Tapestry: An Artistic and Architectural Walking Tour**

### **MID-01**

Sat Mar 30, 2019, 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Duration: 3.5 Hours  
Price: Complimentary  
Walking: Strenuous

Enjoy the colorful and creative sides of Middelburg as you explore the city center and its grand structures and art museum on foot.

As the provincial capital of Zeeland, Middelburg is a hub of creativity and expression that showcases the influences of its past. Traces of the town's former connections with the Dutch East India Company are evident throughout, while the city's architecture ranges from late Gothic to sleek and modern. Departing your Crystal ship on foot, you'll make the short walk to the city center, where your first stop will be the Zeeuws Museum. This museum houses a comprehensive collection of diverse pieces that showcase Middelburg's cultural flavor, focusing on work, religion, science and art. Fashion and traditional costumes are displayed in a narrative exhibition, while 16th century tapestries hang imposingly in the halls. Archaeological and natural history are also depicted in dedicated showrooms, which will bring Middelburg through the ages to life. Next, carry on to Middelburg's Town Hall, created in the aforementioned late-Gothic style. The structure, begun in 1452, is considered one of the finest representations of this style in all of the Netherlands. Like most of the region and the Old Town of Middelburg, World War II bombardments of the Town Hall were devastating, destroying many artworks and rare documents housed within. The reconstruction was painstakingly executed in the original Gothic style and were completed in the late 20th century. Continue through the town's historical center and visit another, smaller art gallery, as you explore the diverse array of architectural styles along the alleyways. Return to your Crystal ship with your appetite for creativity satisfied.

#### **Important Notes:**

If cancellation of this Experience is made within 30 days of arrival in the excursion port, there will be a 100% cancellation fee charged to the guest's shipboard account. In the event guests cancel their river cruise within 30 days of arrival in the excursion port, this cancellation fee will be charged through the Crystal River Cruises corporate office. All Experiences with Special Cancellation Conditions can only be cancelled in writing to Crystal River Cruises.

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## **Biking the Bunker Route Among the Windmills**

### **MID-02**

Sat Mar 30, 2019, 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Duration: 2.5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Strenuous

Take in the expansive coastline of Zeeland on your e-Bike, as you navigate a route among the iconic windmills of Holland and Very Little, rolling sand dunes.

Following an approximately 45-minute motor coach transfer from your Crystal ship in Middelburg, you'll arrive at the shores of the North Sea in Zeeland. After receiving your helmet and a safety briefing, you will be on your way in one of the most beautiful and bike friendly provinces of Holland on your e-Bike. Along your route, you will ride among iconic Dutch windmills and undisturbed sand dunes that overlook the sea. While Zeeland's coastline is serene against the sparkling sea, this part of Holland wasn't always the picture of peace that it is today. During World War II, the Germans built at least 80 bunkers here as part of the Atlantic Wall, a series of fortifications that ran from Norway to the Spanish border. The heavily defended bunkers in Zeeland served to block access to the deep-water port of Antwerp. Many of the bunkers still stand as a reminder of the devastation of the war and the heroics of the troops that liberated the Netherlands. As you bicycle by the concrete bunkers, you will marvel at just how entrenched in the area the Germans were. Enjoy refreshments at a local café along your ride before you return to your motor coach and your Crystal ship.

**Important Notes:** It is recommended that guests wear comfortable clothing and footwear suitable for biking. This excursion is not recommended for guests in wheelchairs or with physical limitations. Guests must be at least 12 years old to participate in this excursion. Space is limited.

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## **Delicious Dutch Traditions: Cheese Farm and Grain Windmill**

### **MID-03**

Sat Mar 30, 2019, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Duration: 3 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Strenuous

Taste the flavor of one of Holland's richest traditions, cheese making, at a working farm on the countryside, and visit one of the iconic windmills that tower above the flower fields.

The tradition of cheese making in the Netherlands is as rich as the flavors of the Gouda, Edam, smoked, and goat's cheeses themselves. Just a short 15-minute motor coach drive from your Crystal ship takes you to the Dutch countryside, resplendent in its postcard-perfect beauty and the setting of your farm visit for the day. During a personal tour of the working farm from the farmer and cheesemaker himself, you'll explore the multi-faceted process of creating these flavorful favorites. Visit the "cow houses" and learn how to churn the milk into cheese using the traditional method, then, of course, sample the resulting prize. Following your farm visit, another short drive through the countryside takes you to Graanhalm, a charming windmill set in the midst of yet another postcard. The quintessential symbol of the Netherlands, the windmill is actually a practically functional landmark. During your visit, you'll explore the attics and learn how grain is pressed into flour, again, using the time honored methods. Enjoy insights about the windmill from the owner himself, then board your motor coach for the brief return trip to your Crystal ship.

**Important Notes:** Due to the strenuously active nature of this excursion, it is not recommended for guests in wheelchairs or with physical limitations. Participants should wear flat, comfortable footwear that is suitable for walking in a farm and natural outdoor setting.

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## **Fruits de Mer: A Culinary Experience in Yerseke**

### **MID-04**

Sat Mar 30, 2019, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

The seaside town of Zerseke is the epicenter of Netherlands oyster and mussel farming, where your mouthwatering visit offers a glimpse into the fishing trade of the area, and a taste of its specialties.

Past the beautiful sprawling green landscape of coastal Zeeland lies a small fishing village called Zerseke. This charming gem is the heartbeat of the mussel and oyster farming in all of Holland. Guided by a true 'Zeeuw,' a resident of Zeeland, you'll enjoy an insider's perspective on life in this hardworking town during an approximately 2 ½-mile walking tour, as you meet and mingle with some of the local fishermen. So robust is the fishing trade in this region that oysters can be bought and sold fresh virtually year-round. Visit the Oyster Ponds, where the days' catches have been stored until market since the 1870's. You'll then indulge in the Fruits de Mer with a smorgasbord of chilled mussels, cockles, razor clams, lobster, amandes, shrimp and, of course, oysters. Filled with refreshing sea air and fresh seafood, board your motor coach for the return to your Crystal ship.

Important Notes: Due to the walking distance included in this excursion, guests are recommended to wear flat, comfortable footwear. This tour is not accessible for guests in wheelchairs or with physical limitations.

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## Explore the Dutch Delta Works of Zeeland

### MID-05

Sat Mar 30, 2019, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: €259,00

Walking: Moderate

Holland's lowlands are mostly situated beneath sea level. Discover the inner workings of the engineering masterpiece that protects the surrounding communities and prevents flooding.

Just a 45-minute motor coach drive from your ship's position in Middelburg is the unique town of Zeeland, the westernmost and least populated province of the Netherlands, located at the mouth of the English Channel and the North Sea. The picturesque destination is distinct in that it lies nearly entire under sea level. This is not to say that Zeeland is an underwater community, thanks to years of innovative engineering that has resulting in the town's legendary Delta Works. As soon as people inhabited the area the struggle against the water began. In the early Middle Ages, the first dikes appeared, but not a century went by when the land was not flooded. In 1953, the Dutch were once again confronted with the power of the sea. A colossal disaster happened in February of that year, claiming 1,835 human lives. To ensure that such a travesty never happened again, the Delta plan went into motion in the form of a series of constructions projects. In the initial stages of the project, the odds of flooding were estimated at once every 80 years. Thanks to the storm surge barrier, this risk has now been reduced to less than once in 4,000 years. The storm surge barrier of the Eastern Scheldt tested the limits of contemporary engineering. New techniques were tested in laboratories. Ships were designed and built especially for the construction of the barrier. The techniques used set new benchmarks and attracted national and international interest. Your visit to the Delta Works includes a comprehensive exploration of the construction sites, inside and on the surrounding grounds. You will be surrounded by concrete with a 200-year guarantee, boasting 45-meter-wide steel doors that are raised to let the tides rush through below them. Learn about the detailed recorded history behind the construction and storm surge barrier, with viewing of Delta Expo and the Delta Finale film. Following your discovery of the fascinating components of this engineering marvel, return to your motor coach and your Crystal ship.

**Important Notes:** It is recommended that guests wear flat, comfortable footwear, as there is approximately one mile of walking on mostly flat, occasionally uneven terrain included in this excursion. This tour is not recommended for guests in wheelchairs or with physical limitations.

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## **Keukenhof Gardens**

### **AMS-01**

Sun Mar 31, 2019, 8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Duration: 5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Explore one of Holland's most beautiful tulip gardens and the largest fresh flower garden in the world.

From the ship, enjoy a scenic 45-minute drive through Holland's lush lowlands dotted with farms, canals and colorful tulip fields to the town of Lisse in the Dutch Bulb Region of South Holland. This is the home of Keukenhof, the world's largest flower garden and one of the most beautiful and colorful in the country. Wander through the themed gardens and admire rare and exotic tulips as well as hyacinths and narcissi. The 77-acre park was once the "kitchen garden" (English translation for "Keukenhof") for the adjacent Teylingen Castle (now in ruins), an impressive round water stronghold dating from the early 13th century that was built to protect the Rhine dike and the road to Haarlem. Today, the annual Keukenhof Tulip Festival is the largest display of tulips in the world with over seven million blooms. Inside the gardens you'll also find the Groning Windmill, a traditional Dutch windmill surrounded by tulips. If you want you can climb the mill to have a view over the tulip fields of Lisse.

**Important Notes:** As this excursion involves continuous walking over uneven surfaces, it is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. It is recommended that guests dress in warm, layered clothing and wear flat, comfortable shoes. The order of sights visited may vary. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions. Pre-reservation of this Crystal Complimentary Adventures excursion is recommended.

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## **Private Canal Boat Tour and Visit to Rijksmuseum**

### **AMS-02**

Sun Mar 31, 2019, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Spend a few hours browsing through the masterworks of the world-renowned Rijksmuseum; then enjoy a boat ride through the colorful canals — the quintessential Amsterdam experience.

Amsterdam has been a great artistic center for centuries and the city is renowned for its celebrated museums. Experience one of the world's most famous — the magnificent Rijksmuseum which houses more than 8,000 works of art inside one of the Netherlands' grandest buildings. After a short transfer from the ship, enjoy both a guided tour and some free time to browse through galleries that include perhaps the world's best collection of Northern Renaissance paintings; Albrecht Dürer, Frans Hals, Hans Holbein — all the greats are here! Stand before the Night Watch, one of Rembrandt's most important masterworks. Soak in the quiet, tranquil beauty of Vermeer's The Milkmaid. You should also see one of Van Gogh's first self-portraits which he painted while in Paris. A tour in this beautiful city would not be complete without a cruise along the city's waterways. You will float through the historic canals passing graceful merchants mansions, churches and warehouses from the 16th and 17th century. Your canal boat will drop you off as close to the ship as possible.

Important Notes: As this excursion involves walking over uneven and cobbled surfaces, it is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. It is recommended that guests dress in warm, layered clothing and wear flat, comfortable shoes. Guests should also bring raingear in case of inclement weather. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions.

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## **Living Dutch Traditions**

### **AMS-06**

Sun Mar 31, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Explore the spectacular windmill village of Zaanse Schans with its authentic crafts and houses from the 18th and 19th centuries.

Drive through the bucolic Dutch countryside in search of the traditions that have become synonymous with the Netherlands. Arriving at the countryside village of Zaandam, you will see the dignified windmills that were once an important part of Holland's industry and often the subjects of Claude Monet's best-known masterpieces. Follow your guide into the past with a visit to the Zaanse Schans Open-Air Museum. The Zaanse Schans is a residential area in which the 18th and 19th centuries are brought to life. Stroll past the bakery museum and enjoy the smell of fresh bread, or take a look at the warehouse where clogs are made. The Zaanse Schans is a unique part of the Netherlands, full of wooden houses, mills and barns. After exploring the reconstructed village, enjoy coffee or tea with a fresh pastry at the local restaurant. You will then have some free time at the Zaanse Schans before returning to the ship.

Important Notes: The weather in the lowlands can change rapidly so bring umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **Private Cheese Tasting in the Heart of Amsterdam**

### **AMS-07**

Sun Mar 31, 2019, 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Duration: 3.5 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Strenuous

For cheeseheads who want to sample Holland's finest product, join us on a walking tour of city center and a wine and cheese tasting at the Old Amsterdam Cheese Store.

Cheese! Glorious, wonderful, sweet, smoky, spicy, salty, savory, cheese! Like France and Switzerland, the Netherlands is a true "land of cheese", an essential staple at breakfast, lunch or any other time. grilled, melted, fried, cut into small dice for an aperitif or in sauce — especially in Amsterdam. Although not the official seat of the government, Amsterdam is widely considered the capital of the Netherlands.

Originating as a small fishing village in the late 12th century, Amsterdam became one of the most important ports in the world during the Dutch Golden Age (17th century). It was also during this age that their delicious cheeses received worldwide fame. After a short transfer to city center, you will embark on a guided walking tour of this beautiful and bustling city. Your guide will lead you past the fragrant flower market, the only floating flower market in the world. You'll visit the quiet and serene beguinage, one of Amsterdam's oldest inner courtyards — and one of the city's best known landmarks. It dates back to the fourteenth century, when it was built for the Beguines, pious Catholic women who lived and dressed like nuns, without taking formal vows. Next you will pass Dam Square with the classical-style Royal Palace, one of three palaces still used by the Royal Family. After taking in enough historical facts from your knowledgeable guide, it is time to sample some delicious Dutch cheeses. Over the course of an hour, you will savor five varieties with accompanying wines while learning more about the process and history of cheesemaking. Then cap off your 'cheese fest' with a short walk back to the ship.

Important Notes: The weather in the lowlands can change rapidly so bring umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **Van Gogh Painting Workshop**

**AMS-09**

Sun Mar 31, 2019, 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Duration: 3 Hours

Price: €149,00

Walking: Very Little

Paint your own Van Gogh work of art at a workshop in the fabled Van Gogh Museum.

Board your motor coach for a short transfer to the magnificent Van Gogh Museum, a dramatic architectural marvel. The Museum consists of two buildings: the main structure designed by Gerrit Rietveld which opened in 1973, and the Exhibition Wing by Kisho Kurokawa, which was completed in 1999. The architecture of the museum is complex and stunning, a visual feast just from the outside. Step inside for a truly unique experience. You will be welcomed into the museum's studio and enjoy a short introduction to Van Gogh. Next, your workshop tutor will take you on a tour to get acquainted with Van Gogh's unique style and to inspire your own "oeuvre." Then back at the museum studio, try your hand at painting with acrylic paint and a brush, and create your own work of art on canvas. Your tutor will offer advice and assistance. At the completion of your workshop, re-board your motor coach for a scenic drive back to the ship, and be sure to take your finished canvas with you.

Important Notes: The weather in the lowlands can change rapidly so bring umbrella and sunscreen.

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## **Private Canal Boat Tour and Visit to Rijksmuseum**

### **AMS-02**

Mon Apr 01, 2019, 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Duration: 4 Hours

Price: Complimentary

Walking: Moderate

Spend a few hours browsing through the masterworks of the world-renowned Rijksmuseum; then enjoy a boat ride through the colorful canals — the quintessential Amsterdam experience.

Amsterdam has been a great artistic center for centuries and the city is renowned for its celebrated museums. Experience one of the world's most famous — the magnificent Rijksmuseum which houses more than 8,000 works of art inside one of the Netherlands' grandest buildings. After a short transfer from the ship, enjoy both a guided tour and some free time to browse through galleries that include perhaps the world's best collection of Northern Renaissance paintings; Albrecht Dürer, Frans Hals, Hans Holbein — all the greats are here! Stand before the Night Watch, one of Rembrandt's most important masterworks. Soak in the quiet, tranquil beauty of Vermeer's The Milkmaid. You should also see one of Van Gogh's first self-portraits which he painted while in Paris. A tour in this beautiful city would not be complete without a cruise along the city's waterways. You will float through the historic canals passing graceful merchants mansions, churches and warehouses from the 16th and 17th century. Your canal boat will drop you off as close to the ship as possible.

Important Notes: As this excursion involves walking over uneven and cobbled surfaces, it is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. It is recommended that guests dress in warm, layered clothing and wear flat, comfortable shoes. Guests should also bring raingear in case of inclement weather. This excursion will operate in all weather conditions.

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## **Evening Canal Cruise**

### **AMS-10**

Mon Apr 01, 2019, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Duration: 1.5 Hours

Price: €180,00

Walking: Very Little

You have not truly experienced Amsterdam until you explore the city's iconic waterways by boat. From this unique perspective, you will marvel at the beauty surrounding these tree-lined historic canals, designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2010.

Near Central Station, Amsterdam's landmark railway station, step aboard a vintage saloon boat to experience this cosmopolitan city come alive at twilight, when lights start to twinkle and the water sparkles. Glide along illuminated canals to witness centuries-old architecture and impressive monuments like the National Maritime Museum, the town hall and the Anne Frank House.

The city's concentric network of more than 160 canals was developed in the 17th century, during the Dutch Golden Age, when Amsterdam rose to become one of the world's premier trading centers. Adorned with charming arched bridges, stately building façades and colorful houseboats, the main canals of Herengracht, Keizersgracht and Prinsengracht provide the perfect setting for your boating adventure.

Populated by wealthy merchants during its early days, the Herengracht endures today as a symbol of prestige with over 400 of its buildings considered national heritage sites. The Keizersgracht, named after the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I, is the widest of the main canals and hosts the famous Emperor's Race for skaters when the winter ice permits. Prinsengracht, named in honor of the Prince of Orange, is the longest of the main canals and home to the Anne Frank House.

During your canal cruise, sit back, relax and enjoy coffee or tea as you sample a tasty slice of Dutch cake. Then, after your adventure concludes, return to your Crystal river ship.

#### **Important Notes:**

Participants must be able to climb a few steps and be able to enter and exit the boat unassisted. Weather can change rapidly, so guests should bring an umbrella and sunscreen.

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