

Mystical Norwegian Fjords

AMSTERDAM PRE-CRUISE VACATION PACKAGES



olivia™

<http://www.happygaytravel.com>

reservations@happygaytravel.com

Amsterdam by night



Known for its artistic heritage, elaborate canal system and narrow houses with gabled facades, and legacies of the city's 17th-century Golden Age, Amsterdam is also Netherland's capital city. The small scale of the buildings and the intimacy of the streets, canals, and squares create an atmosphere that is so unique, you'll find yourself enamored by its charm. Adding to this city's unique culture is cycling which is key to the city's character and part of its allure with numerous bike paths. Of course, the Van Gogh Museum, works by Rembrandt and Vermeer at the Rijksmuseum, and modern art at the Stedelijk are some of the stars of Amsterdam's museum district.

With so many sights and things to experience and do, Amsterdam is truly a delightful city which should be given due time to visit.

THREE-NIGHT AMSTERDAM PACKAGE (JUNE 6 - 9, 2018)

\$879 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - STANDARD ROOM
\$1259 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - STANDARD ROOM

\$999 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - EXECUTIVE ROOM
\$1469 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - EXECUTIVE ROOM

INCLUDED

- Three nights at the Double Tree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station, inclusive of a full buffet breakfast
- Hotel check-in is at 3 pm (June 6)
- Red Light District Walking Tour (June 6)*
- Half day Walking, Tasting & Canal Cruise Tour (June 7)
- Full-day tour to cheese market in Alkmaar, windmills, Edam and Volendam, inclusive of lunch (June 8)
- Rijksmuseum Tour with transfer to the port in Rotterdam (June 9)
- Hotel dates are June 6 -9, 2018, with checkout on June 9
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Round-trip hotel luggage portorage
- Olivia staff assistance throughout

NOT INCLUDED

International air, transfer from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS) to hotel, meals where not listed

**The Red Light District Walking Tour will depart the hotel at 4 pm on June 6. To participate in this tour, you must arrive to the hotel prior to the tour departure time of 4 pm.*

ACTIVITY LEVEL REQUIREMENTS - IMPORTANT

This pre-package does require a high level of mobility as most of the tours require extensive walking (on cobblestone streets, uneven ground, up and down stairs) and standing for long periods of time. If you do have limited mobility and feel that you are still able to do the activity level requirements, you are required to travel with someone who can assist you.

TWO-NIGHT AMSTERDAM PACKAGE (JUNE 7 - 9, 2018)

\$629 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - STANDARD ROOM
\$879 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - STANDARD ROOM

\$749 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY - EXECUTIVE ROOM
\$1019 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY - EXECUTIVE ROOM

INCLUDED

- Two nights at the Double Tree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station, inclusive of a full buffet breakfast
- Hotel check-in is at 3 pm (June 7)
- Red Light District Walking Tour (June 7)*
- Full-day tour to cheese market in Alkmaar, windmills, Edam and Volendam, inclusive of lunch (June 8)
- Rijksmuseum Tour with transfer to the port in Rotterdam (June 9)
- Hotel dates are June 7 - 9, 2018, with checkout on June 9
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Round-trip hotel luggage portorage
- Olivia staff assistance throughout

NOT INCLUDED

International air, transfer from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (AMS) to hotel, meals where not listed

**The Red Light District Walking Tour will depart the hotel at 4 pm on June 7. To participate in this tour, you must arrive to the hotel prior to the tour departure time of 4 pm.*

ABOUT YOUR TOURS

RED LIGHT DISTRICT WALKING TOUR (WITH TWO- & THREE-NIGHT PACKAGES)

Today, after you arrive at the hotel from the airport and have a chance to get a bite to eat and freshen up, you will meet in the lobby of the hotel for your walking tour of the infamous Red Light District.

You will experience the history, the legends and the iconic sights of Amsterdam's oldest and most controversial neighborhoods. The Red Light District has been a special area of Amsterdam since the city's earliest history. This medieval part (old town) of the city with remarkable buildings, centuries-old churches, and the prostitution industry as the main attraction has a fascinating history.

A major trading harbor since the Middle Ages made Amsterdam a magnet for the world's oldest profession. As early as the 1300s, women carrying red lanterns (due to their flattering light) met sailors near the port, and bars, clubs and risqué entertainment venues flooded into the area. But prostitution wasn't legal until 1810, and brothels weren't legalized until 2000.

Most important to note is that there's more to the Red Light District than its salaciousness. It is a warren of medieval alleyways making up the inner-city area locally known as De Wallen –just southeast of Centraal Station, on and around the parallel neon-lit canals and home to the district's main LGBT area.

In addition, Project 1012, named for the area's postal code, encourages fashion studios, art galleries, cafés and other creative enterprises to set up here. In 2013, the council raised the minimum age for prostitutes from 18 to 21 and introduced mandatory red-light window closing hours between 6 am and 8 am.



The smallest house is also a must see. Some call it the "Smallest House of Europe", 6 feet 8 inches wide and 16 feet 5 inches deep. With its distinctive spout gable, this house represents a miniature version of a typical Amsterdam canal house and is registered as a national heritage site.

One of the highlights is the Café 't Mandje, opened in 1927 by lesbian Bet van Beeren. Although often presented as the first gay bar this is not entirely true as it was more a tolerant place where prostitutes, pimps, seamen and lesbians came together.

After taking your walk back in time, you will walk back to the hotel where your tour will end. You will have the evening free to explore Amsterdam on your own.

WALKING, TASTING & CANAL CRUISE TOUR (WITH THREE-NIGHT PACKAGE ONLY)

After breakfast at the hotel, you will take in the highlights of Amsterdam. Your journey starts with a canal cruise where you'll board your exclusive boat at the hotel.

Due to their historic value and beauty, the canals were placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2010 and are contributing to Amsterdam's fame as the "Venice of the North".

The city of Amsterdam has more than one hundred kilometers of canals, about 90 islands and 1,500 bridges. The three main canals, Herengracht, Prinsengracht, and Keizersgracht, dug in the 17th century during the Dutch Golden Age, form concentric belts around the city and are known as the Grachtengordel.

After taking in Amsterdam from the canal side, you will dock in the city center to start our walking tour. First you'll visit the "Begijnhof", one of the oldest courtyards in Amsterdam built as a charity by private citizens for elderly people to live.



Next, you will walk past the famous flower market, one of Amsterdam's most colorful and fragrant attractions. Founded in 1852, the flower market is the world's only floating flower market.

Continuing your walk alongside the beautiful canals you will make your way to the famous Jordaan. Originally a working-class neighborhood and due to gentrification, the Jordaan has become one of the most expensive, upscale locations in the Netherlands. It is home to many art galleries, particularly for modern art, and is also home to specialty shops and restaurants.

You will start your time in the Jordaan in a relaxing pace to make sure you really get to see, feel, and learn all about this district. You will pass by the Homo Monument and statue of Anne Frank which is next to the beautiful West Church (westerkerk) and around the corner from the Anne Frank house.

The final leg of the tour is through the Haarlemmerstraat, filled with local shops and voted to be nicest shopping street in the Netherlands. This hip and trendy street is a perfect end to your walking tour prior to arriving back at the hotel.

The rest of the day and evening is yours to explore Amsterdam on your own and is a perfect opportunity to try and visit the Anne Frank House (you should make reservations in advance for 3 pm or later on this day) or the Van Gogh Museum.

PLEASE NOTE

Along the way, you will stop at a few different shops to have a tasting of some typical Dutch delights!

CHEESE MARKET IN ALKMAAR, WINDMILLS, EDAM AND VOLENDAM, INCLUSIVE OF LUNCH (WITH TWO- AND THREE-NIGHT PACKAGES)

Today you will be off for a full day to explore the northern part of the Netherlands. North Holland is a broad peninsula for the most part, located between the North Sea, Markermeer and the IJsselmeer. More than half of the province consists of reclaimed polder land situated below sea level. North of Amsterdam will amaze you with wonderful landscapes and long patches of grass and water. Today, you will visit the most beautiful sights of the province.

First, you will visit the world-famous cheese market of Alkmaar! The cheese market is a spectacle well worth seeing. The entire square is filled with thousands of Gouda cheeses. You will see how the cheese was handled, weighed, and transported in earlier times, and still is! Every week the cheese market is open to the peels of the bells, in the tradition by the servant of the guild and often in the presence of a special guest. Market traders and farmers negotiate the cheese price through the cheese bargaining method of clapping hands.



You can see how the cheese is extensively tested and placed on carts. The cheese carriers run towards the huge ancient scales in the Waagtoeren (Weighing House). This is where the cheese is weighed by the 'tasman' (purse man) under the watchful eye of the 'Waagmeester' (weighing master).

Next, you will make your way to visit an authentic windmill. Prior to entering the windmill, you will be shown a short video on how the Dutch battled against the water, as well as the use and importance of windmills to the Dutch people. You will explore this windmill and see how the family used to live here while making sure the windmill did its task.

After this exciting and interesting morning, you will board your coach for Edam, another beautiful village well-known for its famous cheese. Here you will enjoy lunch at the Auberge Damhotel Restaurant, a hotel that has been around in different buildings on the same land since the 1600s. Merchants from over the whole country came to Edam to sell their goods from under the shed of the "Lancaster". The Damhotel offered overnight stays especially for dairy merchants who travelled from far away.

After lunch, you'll board your coach for the last stop of the day, the famous fishing village of Volendam. Volendam is located on the Markermeer Lake, northeast of Amsterdam. It's known for its colorful wooden houses and the old fishing boats in its harbor, which is lined with seafood vendors. Traditional clothing is still worn by some residents in this village. The women's costume of Volendam, with its high, pointed bonnet, is one of the most recognizable of the Dutch traditional costumes, and is often featured on tourist postcards and posters, although it is believed that fewer than 50 women continue to wear the costume as part of their daily lives, most of them elderly.

You will have some time to go to the Volendam Museum, featuring paintings, sculptures, and pottery from 1800 to the present and a gallery of traditional costumes and mosaics made from millions of cigar bands, or to do a little shopping before boarding your coach to go back to the hotel.

Tonight, will be your last night to explore and enjoy Amsterdam on your own.

RIJKSMUSEUM TOUR & TRANSFER TO SHIP IN ROTTERDAM (TWO- AND THREE-NIGHT PACKAGES)

Today after breakfast, you will leave the hotel one last time and board your coach for the Rijksmuseum before being taken to Rotterdam to embark on your next adventure.

...continued on next page...



The Rijksmuseum (literally Imperial Museum) in Amsterdam is the greatest museum in the world to see Dutch art. Its most famous painting - Rembrandt van Rijn's *The Night Watch* - is also its top attraction. While making your way to this masterpiece, you can enjoy other Golden Age paintings including works by Vermeer, Steen, and Hals. Upon arrival, you will receive a headset for the guided tour through the museum.

After enjoying the most famous Dutch works, you will have free time for lunch before being transferred to Rotterdam to board your ship where your adventure will continue through the Norwegian Fjords.

ABOUT YOUR HOTEL



THE DOUBLE TREE BY HILTON CENTRAAL STATION HOTEL

Set in the heart of Amsterdam and near many sites, attractions and restaurants, the Double Tree by Hilton will allow you to really take in all that Amsterdam has to offer. Explore the city by bike using their in-house bicycle rental service. Enjoy the SkyLounge Amsterdam rooftop terrace, a stylish meeting place with baristas, cocktail experts, and a live DJ daily. From the top floor, guests enjoy a breathtaking 360-degree view of the city and historic old town. Relax in your room with floor-to-ceiling windows framing views of Amsterdam's historic city center, courtyard, or IJ River. Dine in the Eastwood Beer & Grill and enjoy delicious meals prepared by Master Chef Marcel de Leeuw. Hotel amenities include two restaurants, two bars/lounges (one with a rooftop terrace), a coffee shop, complimentary Wi-Fi in the lobby, fitness center, and a coffee/tea station in a common area.

In-room amenities for Standard rooms include Apple iMac PC/TV and complimentary Wi-Fi, coffee maker, hairdryer, and refrigerator. Executive rooms have the same amenities and also have guaranteed city views and its guests will have access to the Executive Lounge that serves complimentary breakfast in the morning and drinks and appetizers in the afternoon.

NEED MORE INFO? READY TO BOOK?

Our Travel Consultants can be reached at reservations@happygaytravel.com Due to high demand, our vacation stretchers sell out very quickly!

DEADLINE TO BOOK IS DECEMBER 15, 2017 OR UNTIL SOLD OUT.

Cancellation Policy: Olivia Companies, LLC is required to honor their contractual agreements with hotels, ground operators, and other outside vendors; therefore, the following cancellation fees apply: All Vacation Stretcher packages are non-refundable. A handling fee of \$75 will be charged for any name changes to hotel and tour packages. Your booking/payment for vacation stretchers with Olivia Companies, LLC indicates your compliance with the above policies.