

Amsterdam

PRE-RIVERBOAT VACATION STRETCHERS
OCTOBER 2021



olivia™



Welcome to Amsterdam!

Known for its artistic heritage, elaborate canal system, and narrow houses with gabled facades—some of the legacies of the 17th-century Dutch Golden Age—Amsterdam is also the Netherlands' 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 totally enamored by its charm. Adding to this city's unique culture and character is cycling—bicycles are everywhere (it's estimated there are 30,000 more bicycles than Amsterdammers!), and the orderly procession of bicyclists along the numerous bike paths certainly adds to the city's appeal. Of course, Amsterdam is also known for its art, and the Van Gogh Museum, the Rijksmuseum (where you'll find works by Rembrandt and Vermeer), and the Stedelijk (where you'll find modern art galore) 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 that should be given due time to visit.

3-NIGHT AMSTERDAM VACATION STRETCHER (OCTOBER 1-4, 2021)

\$1,199 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY—EXECUTIVE ROOM

\$1,699 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY—EXECUTIVE ROOM

INCLUDED

- 3-night stay at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station** (October 1-4)
- Hotel check-in is at 3 pm on October 1; checkout is at 12 pm on October 4
- Half-day City Walking Tour (October 2)
- Full-day Windmills, Cheese, and Volendam tour, with lunch (October 3)
- Rijksmuseum Tour with transfer to the ship (October 4)
- Full buffet breakfast at the hotel on October 2, 3, & 4, and meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Hotel luggage portorage
- Olivia staff assistance throughout

NOT INCLUDED

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

ACTIVITY LEVEL: IMPORTANT

This pre-cruise Vacation Stretcher package requires a **high level** of mobility without the use of a wheelchair or scooter as most of the tours entail extensive walking (on cobblestone streets, uneven ground, and up and down stairs) and standing for long periods of time. If you have limited mobility but feel that you are still able to meet the activity level requirements, you are required to travel with someone who can assist you when necessary.

2-NIGHT AMSTERDAM VACATION STRETCHER (OCTOBER 2-4, 2021)

\$899 PP DOUBLE OCCUPANCY – EXECUTIVE ROOM

\$1,299 PP SINGLE OCCUPANCY – EXECUTIVE ROOM

INCLUDED

- 2-night stay at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station** (October 2-4)
- Hotel check-in is at 3 pm on October 2; checkout is at 12 pm on October 4
- Full-day Windmills, Cheese, and Volendam tour, with lunch (October 3)
- Rijksmuseum Tour with transfer to the ship (October 4)
- Full buffet breakfast at the hotel on October 3 & 4, and meals as indicated on the itinerary
- Hotel luggage portorage
- Olivia staff assistance throughout

NOT INCLUDED

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

ACTIVITY LEVEL: IMPORTANT

This pre-cruise Vacation Stretcher package requires a **high level** of mobility without the use of a wheelchair or scooter as most of tours entail extensive walking (on cobblestone streets, uneven ground, and up and down stairs) and standing for long periods of time. If you have limited mobility but feel that you are still able to meet the activity level requirements, you are required to travel with someone who can assist you when necessary.

ABOUT YOUR TOURS



CITY WALKING TOUR (3-night package)

After breakfast at the hotel, you will take in the highlights of Amsterdam. Your journey starts with walking through the historic center of Amsterdam and past (or over!) the approximately 165 canals that cut through Amsterdam. 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's canal system measures more than one hundred kilometers long, cutting the city into about 90 islands and crossed by approximately 1,500 bridges. The three main canals, Herengracht, Prinsengracht, and Keizersgracht, were dug in the 17th century during the Dutch Golden Age and form concentric belts around the city known as the Grachtengordel.

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 neighborhood. Originally inhabited by working-class folks, the Jordaan has over time, through gentrification, 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. We'll spend enough time in the Jordaan to make sure you really get to see, feel, and learn all about this district.

Just east of the Jordaan district, we will visit the Homomonument, dedicated to all gay men and lesbians who have been subjected to persecution because of their sexuality, and the 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 final stop on your walking tour before you are returned to the hotel.

The rest of the day and evening is yours to explore Amsterdam on your own and is a perfect opportunity to visit either the Anne Frank House (you must make reservations in advance to avoid the longest queues) or the Van Gogh Museum.



WINDMILLS, CHEESE, AND VOLENDAM, WITH LUNCH (2- and 3-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 is situated below sea level and consists of land that was reclaimed from the sea through the use of dikes and dams (*polder* land); the name "Netherlands" means "lower land." North of Amsterdam will amaze you with wonderful landscapes and long patches of grass and water, and today, you will visit its most beautiful sights.

First, you'll make your way by coach to the windmill village Zaanse Schans, which is an open-air museum of historic working windmills and distinctive green wooden houses, barns, and shops that were relocated here in 1961 to recreate the look of an 18th- and 19th-century village.

In the Dutch Golden Age, the Zaan region developed into an industrial area on a scale never seen before, with 600 active windmill-powered factories. Many tasks were executed in those small factories with the aid of wind energy, including sawing wood, pressing oil for food and paint, and grinding materials such as spices, flour, and cocoa powder. In Zaanse Schans, we'll visit a working windmill, and cheese making and wooden clog carving shops.

Next, we'll head to Edam, a beautiful village well known for its famous cheese. Here you will explore the 18th-century cheese warehouses and, of course, try this quintessentially Dutch delicacy yourself. The cheese warehouses keep the memory of the colorful, fragrant past alive. You will explore the well-preserved historical heritage—quiet canals and old streets that can easily evoke what life was like here several centuries ago.

In Edam, you will also enjoy lunch at L'Auberge Damhotel, in a building that has served as a hotel since the 1500s—including as both a tavern and a butter market for dairy merchants who came from all over the country to sell their goods.

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, most of them elderly, continue to wear the costume as part of their daily lives.

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 RIVERBOAT (2- and 3-night packages)

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

The Rijksmuseum (literally “imperial museum”) is the greatest museum in the world for seeing Dutch art. Its most famous painting—Rembrandt van Rijn's *The Night Watch*—is also, naturally, its top attraction. While making your way to this masterpiece, you can enjoy other Golden Age paintings, including works by Vermeer, Steen, and Hals. After enjoying the most famous Dutch works, you will have free time for lunch on your own before being transferred to your riverboat, where your adventure will continue as you sail down the Rhine and Moselle Rivers.

ABOUT YOUR HOTEL

DoubleTree by Hilton Centraal Station



SkyLounge



Executive Room



THE DOUBLETREE 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. Enjoy Apple iMac PC/TV and complimentary wifi in every room. Dine in the Eastwood Beer & Grill and enjoy delicious meals prepared by Master Chef Marcel de Leeuw.

In-room amenities include Apple iMac PC/TV and complimentary wifi, coffee maker, hairdryer, and refrigerator. Hotel amenities include two restaurants, two bars/lounges (one with a rooftop terrace), a coffee shop, complimentary wifi in the lobby, fitness center, and a coffee/tea station in a common area.

NEED MORE INFO? READY TO BOOK?

Our Travel Consultants can be reached: reservations@happygaytravel.com . Due to high demand, our Vacation Stretchers sell out very quickly! **DEADLINE TO BOOK IS MAY 7, 2021 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 nonrefundable. 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.

While we do our best to confirm hotels and itineraries in advance, they are always subject to change.