

**SPRING 2023 UNIVERSITY TRIP OUTLINE: NETHERLANDS, BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG & FRANCE: MAY 2023 11 NIGHTS // 24 TRAVELERS**

- Depart US 18 MAY
- Arrive AMS (Amsterdam, Netherlands) 19 MAY in the AM

**AMSTERDAM: 3 NIGHTS, 19-22 MAY**

-On arrival at AMS airport you will be met by your drivers and assisted to waiting private vehicle(s) for the ride to your deluxe boutique property in the heart of the Canal Ring – the best part of the city with easy walking access to all you will want to see

**AMSTERDAM ACCOMMODATIONS**

**-Hoxton Amsterdam: 4-star**

This is an excellent row house property set right in the heart of the Canal Ring with design interiors and a very nice atmosphere with all the best of the city right outside.

TWELVE – STANDARD AND SUPERIOR LEVEL ROOMS, 200SQFT PER, BREAKFAST DAILY

<https://thehoxton.com/amsterdam/>

**THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN AMSTERDAM & ENVIRONS**

**DAY ONE-**

**-Private Introduction to Amsterdam:** After some time to check in and refresh I will have my native guides meet you at the hotel on your first day for an exploration of all things Amsterdam. You will visit the most important squares, see the most important sights and learn about the local culture and ways as you go – with tastings of local food and drink as well. A very nice start – I will include a canal cruise of course

-We will leave the evening unscheduled for recovery from the long flight and time zone change – I will arrange dinner reservations for those who wish

**DAY TWO-**

**-Private Rijksmuseum Visit:** this morning your escort will walk the group to the Rijksmuseum where we meet your expert guide for a skip line visit to the collection and a quick study of the Dutch Masters – a wonderful collection and important part of the Amsterdam experience

>After some time for lunch at a local restaurant in the Museum Quarter

**-Skip Line Entrances for the Anne Frank Haus:** your escort will walk the group to the Anne Frank haus for skip line entry to see the iconic home and historical site. Guides are not permitted within

-This evening perhaps an organized dinner for the group as you wish

**DAY THREE-**

**-Private Day Trip to Zaanse Schans and the Tulip Fields:** you will be collected at the hotel in the AM by your driver/guide for a ride into the Dutch countryside – the prettiest part of the Netherlands. You will visit centuries-old windmills, the towns of Volendam and Zaanse Schans, the flower fields (not always in bloom this time of year but not to worry) and some traditional workshops and crafts/ and the tulips at Keukenhof Gardens for a bit of the Dutch culture and ways. Return to Amsterdam at conclusion

-The evening is open for travelers to wander a bit and explore before moving on

*>All the local insight on where, why and how to explore the best of Amsterdam during your stay – independent time*

DEPART AMSTERDAM BY PRIVATE VEHICLE(S) TO BRUGES, BELGIUM (3 HOURS)

### **BELGIUM: 3 NIGHTS, 22-25 MAY**

-Arrive midday

#### **BRUGES ACCOMMODATIONS**

##### **-Grand Hotel Casselbergh: 4-star**

This is a traditional deluxe level property also right in the center along a scenic canal – modern interiors done with local style and a quality experience overall.

TWELVE- SUPERIOR LEVEL ROOMS, 300SQFT PER, BREAKFAST DAILY

<http://www.grandhotelcasselbergh.be/en/>

#### **THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN BRUGES & ENVIRONS**

##### **DAY ONE-**

**-Private Introduction to Bruges:** after time to check in and refresh you will be collected at the hotel by my native expert guides for an exploration of the medieval origins, layout and history of the city – the local culture and an eye toward the Gothic architecture, the local chocolate making and history of that, and the beauty of a very special place – an excellent way to touch on the local culture and get oriented to the city

-This evening I will arrange dinner reservations for those who wish

##### **DAY TWO-**

-Private Day trip to Ghent: you will be collected at the hotel in the AM for a short ride to the medieval city of Ghent where you will have a private guided introduction to the town, its role in Dutch history, trade, the art of the Dutch Masters, the Castle of Gerald the Devil, St-Bavo cathedral with Jan Van Eyck's Adoration of the Mystic Lamb and with the Belfry, the Town Hall, the Friday market, the Patershol, the Old Fish Market at the St Veerlesquare, the old harbour with St-Michael's church and a view on the famous Three Towers: the towers of St -Nicolas church, the Belfry and St-Bavo cathedral

-Dinner reservations for those who wish in Bruges

##### **DAY THREE-**

-Today we focus on the town with a **Private Boat Cruise:** along the canals to explore every corner of Bruges from the water with views and insight you would not otherwise have

-Then a visit to the famous **Belfry** to climb the tower and see the town and the region from above – skip line entrance

-In the afternoon the group will likely wish to have some time to enjoy local food, visit the market, and take photos in what is a photographer's dream location

*>Bruges is such a beautiful place I am sure you will want one day free to take a canal cruise, walk the paths and parks, visit the chocolate museum and just be. It is lovely*

DEPART BRUGES BY PRIVATE VEHICLE(S) TO LUXEMBOURG CITY (3 HOURS)

## **LUXEMBOURG: 2 NIGHTS, 25-27 MAY**

-Arrive midday

### **LUXEMBOURG CITY ACCOMMODATIONS**

#### **-Sofitel Luxembourg Le Grand Ducale: 5-star**

The Sofitel is a luxury property set between the two halves of Luxembourg city with short walk access to both and a much higher level of accommodation and experience than the smaller properties in the area along with greater access, comfort and ease for the group on this short stay.

TWELVE- SUPERIOR ROOMS, 400SQFT PER, BREAKFAST DAILY

[https://all.accor.com/hotel/5555/index.en.shtml?utm\\_campaign=seo+maps&utm\\_medium=seo+maps&utm\\_source=google+Maps](https://all.accor.com/hotel/5555/index.en.shtml?utm_campaign=seo+maps&utm_medium=seo+maps&utm_source=google+Maps)

### **THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN LUXEMBOURG & ENVIRONS**

#### **DAY ONE-**

**-Private Introduction to Luxembourg Haute Ville:** after some time to check in and refresh you will meet your native guides for an exploration of the old town – the most beautiful part of the city and the country with all manner of hidden beauty, medieval architecture, the palace, the fortress, bridges and squares, market streets and landmarks. Luxembourg is a hidden part of Europe with a very different atmosphere and setting than the capitals and larger countries you will be visiting. A stay in Luxembourg is very unique and brings a local charm and smallness that is the point of being there

#### **DAY TWO-**

**-Private Day Trip to the Wine Region:** you will be collected at the hotel in the AM for an exploration of some small towns outside the capital including Echternach and Wasserbillig, local vineyards and a winery cave for tastings of crémant (the local vintage) and a day out in the Grand Duchy countryside to see life of another time. Return to Luxembourg City at conclusion

*>All the local insight and guidance you wish from food to wandering to independent time. Luxembourg is famed for its dense collection of high level restaurants and cuisine. I will arrange reservations for any who wish to sample*

DEPART LUXEMBOURG CITY BY PRIVATE VEHICLE(S) TO RAIL STATION, THEN FIRST CLASS RAIL TO PARIS (2 HOURS – MUCH FASTER THAN A VEHICLE JOURNEY)

## **NORMANDY: 3 NIGHTS, 27-30 MAY**

-On arrival at Gare de l'Est you will be met by your private driver and assisted to a waiting vehicle for the ride north and west into Normandy (3 hours)

-Arrive Bayeux early afternoon

### **BAYEUX ACCOMMODATIONS**

#### **-Chateau de Bellefontaine: 4-star**

This is an 18<sup>th</sup> century chateau property located just outside Bayeux proper. It is very well done and set in a park on a stream. The atmosphere is very beautiful and it is the best in the area.

TWELVE STANDARD AND DELUXE LEVEL ROOMS, 175-225SQFT PER, BREAKFAST DAILY

[http://www.chateau-hotel-bayeux.com/GB\\_chateau.html](http://www.chateau-hotel-bayeux.com/GB_chateau.html)

## THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN THE NORMANDY/BRITTANY REGIONS

### DAY ONE-

**-Private Introduction to Bayeux:** after some time to check in and refresh you will meet your native guide in the old town for an exploration of a very charming old world Norman town with its famous cathedral and *tapestry*, canals, old mill, medieval architecture and wonderful atmosphere

### DAY TWO-

**-Private D-Day Tour:** you will be collected at the hotel in the AM for the ride north to the coast with guided visits to the landing beaches, the American cemetery, Point du Hoc, St Mere Eglise, many battle sights and landmarks from the invasion and the war overall - and the invasion museum which has an amazing collection of items from the period – a great experience and a wonderful day spent

### DAY THREE-

**-Private Day Trip to Mont St Michel:** you will be collected at the hotel in the AM for the ride west to the Brittany coast where you will find an amazing medieval monastery set atop a giant rock base surrounded by quicksand during low tide and the sea during high tide on the coast of Brittany just beyond the shoreline so that when the tide is out the town - very special place

-Tonight a final dinner for the group

*>All the local insight and guidance you wish from food to wandering to independent time*

DEPART BAYEUX BY PRIVATE LUXURY VEHICLE(S) TO CDG AIRPORT FOR YOUR FLIGHT HOME – 30 MAY

### THE TOTAL RATE FOR ALL LISTED ABOVE AS OF NOW (LAND ONLY) IS:

**\$4275 per person for everything you see including US tax (based on 24 travelers/double occupancy)**

**SINGLE TRAVELERS WILL BE A BIT HIGHER AT: \$4895**

ADD-ON

### LOIRE VALLEY: 3 NIGHTS, 30 MAY-2 JUNE

-Arrive midday

### LOIRE VALLEY ACCOMMODATIONS

**-Hotel Chateau Belmont Tours: 4-star**

This is a great traditional chateau property with a parklike setting, elegant interiors, extras like indoor pool, spa and a high-quality restaurant, bar etc.

TWELVE- STANDARD ROOMS, 200SQFT PER, BREAKFAST DAILY

<https://www.chateaubelmont.com/en/>

## THINGS TO SEE AND DO IN THE REGION

### DAY ONE-

**-Private Introduction to Tours:** after some time to check in and refresh you will be collected at the hotel by your private guide(s) for an exploration of the old town from the cathedral of St Gatien, the Archbishop's Palace, half-timbered homes, Charlemagne's Tower, Les Halles – the culture and local ways. A great entry into the Loire Valley region

*>This evening a private tasting experience at the chateau with local wines to sample prior to dinner*

### DAY TWO-

**-Private Loire Valley Chateaux Experience:** you will be collected at the hotel in the AM by your private driver/guide for a visit to two of the most famous and impressive chateaux in the world – Chambord and Chenonceau each with guided skip line entry – a day in some of the most beautiful places in France

**DAY THREE-**

**-Private Vineyard Exploration Day:** you will be collected at the hotel in the AM for tastings at 2-3 local vineyards, beautiful countryside and villages and local foods and lunch as well

*>All the insight and guidance you wish as always*

DEPART TOURS BY PRIVATE VEHICLE TO CDG AIRPORT. EN ROUTE I WILL ARRANGE A GUIDED VISIT TO THE CHATEAU FONTAINEBLEAU – A BEAUTIFUL HISTORIC CASTLE AND HOME TO FRENCH ROYALTY FOR MANY CENTURIES – THEN ON TO CDG AIRPORT FOR THE EVENING

**CDG AIRPORT: 1 NIGHT, 2-3 JUNE**

-Arrive late afternoon

**AIRPORT ACCOMMODATIONS**

**-Novotel Paris Roissy CDG: 4-star**

I choose this option since it a solid deluxe property right at the airport, but I can also arrange it to include dinner, breakfast and shuttle to the terminal in the AM

TWELVE- SUPERIOR ROOMS, 300SQFT PER , BREAKFAST DAILY

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/5418/index.en.shtml>

WALK TO THE TERMINAL FOR YOUR FLIGHT HOME – 3 JUNE

**THE OPTIONAL EXTENSION COMES TO: \$1775 per person for all you see listed (based on 24 travelers)  
SINGLE TRAVELERS WILL BE A BIT HIGHER AT: \$1995pp**

**AS AN INDEPENDENT ADD-ON EXPERIENCE HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING  
YOUR STAY IN THE LOIRE VALLEY WITH TRANSFERS TO AND FROM THE HOTEL -\$375pp**

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