



2023 Grand Expedition



Amsterdam,
Luxembourg,
Brussels

2023 Grand Expedition

Saint James the Greater Travelers

April 10 – 19, 2023

Bruges Trip Extension

April 19-21, 2023

Grand Expedition Includes

- Round-trip airfare and airport transfer
 - Multilingual Tour Director
 - 8 nights accommodations
 - 3 three course dinners w/beer or wine, breakfast daily, 2 beer tastings
 - Private deluxe motor coach
 - Guided sightseeing and select entrance fees



Amsterdam



NETHERLANDS



BELGIUM

+ Bruges Extension

Brussels

Maastricht



Bastogne

Luxembourg City

Overnight Stays

- Handpicked Accommodations
- 3 nights - Amsterdam
- 2 nights - Luxembourg
- 3 nights - Brussels
- 2 nights - Bruges



Expected Weather



Average Temperatures

Highs: 56°-59°

Lows : 42°-45°



Amsterdam, Netherlands



TulipsInHolland



VAN GOGH Museum

Vincent van Gogh's famous paintings and drawings and the work by his artist friends and contemporaries.



Anne Frank House

(Optional Tour – Ticket Extra)

The Anne Frank House is a writer's house and biographical museum dedicated to Jewish wartime diarist Anne Frank.



Keukenhof Gardens

(Optional Excursion)

Tulips everywhere. At Keukenhof, you'd think you were adrift on a sea of flowers. Also known as the Garden of Europe, it's one of the world's largest flower gardens.



Amsterdam Canal Cruise & Dinner *(Optional Excursion)*

Cruise along the canals of Amsterdam on a houseboat. Your cruise will take you through the center of the city as you enjoy dinner by lantern light.



Delft *(Optional Excursion)*

Visit the world-famous flower market at Aalsmeer and look at Holland's best-known exports: its brilliant tulips. Enjoy free time, have lunch, explore the town, perhaps visiting the former home of the artist, Vermeer.



Delft Old & New Churches

The Old Church dates from 1246. The church is known for the beautiful pulpit dated from 1548, the leaning tower and special stain glass windows.

The New Church of Delft is closely associated with the Royal Family. This church holds the crypt of the Orange family.



Maastricht, Netherlands

Travel south to the mountainous province of Limburg. Stop in the capital, Maastricht, and see its Old City walls. It's known by way of the Maastricht Treaty, as the birthplace of the European Union.





LUXEMBOURG



Luxembourg City

Enter the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial, the World War II Monument to National Unity in the New Town.

Travel through the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Citadel of the Holy Spirit

Built by Vauban, the brilliant French military engineer, in the 17th century on the site of a former monastery, the Citadel has typically wedge-shape fortifications. The "prow" affords wraparound views of the three spires of the cathedral, the curve of the Alzette, and the glass towers of the Kirchberg plateau beyond.



Notre Dame Cathedral

This magnificent Gothic structure was constructed between 1613 and 1621. It holds the royal family vault and the huge sarcophagus of Count of Luxembourg John I of Bohemia ("John the Blind"; 1296-1346), in addition to a remarkable treasury (which can only be viewed on request).



Grand Ducal Palace

This magnificent palace evokes all the opulence of the Grand Duchy's medieval splendor. The oldest part of this interesting and recently renovated building dates back to 1572 (its "new" right wing dates from 1741). Next door is the Chamber of Deputies (Luxembourg's Parliament).



Trier, Germany

(Optional Excursion)

Cross over the border into Germany for a day in Trier, explore its rich history – the ancient Roman ruins, medieval buildings and birthplace of Karl Marx. Then, enjoy a beer with the group and walk the city with free time and dinner on your own.





Brussels, Belgium



The Ardennes

The Battle of the Ardennes was one of the opening battles of World War I. It took place from August 21–23, 1914, part of the Battle of the Frontiers. WWII Battle of the Bulge (16 December 1944 – 25 January 1945) was the largest and bloodiest battle fought by the United States in World War II.



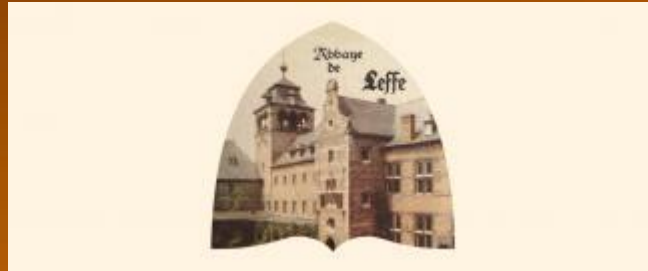
Bastogne, Belgium

Travel north through the forested Ardennes on the way to Brussels. Visit the Bastogne War Museum, which pays tribute to the American soldiers who defended Belgium in World War II during the Battle of the Bulge.



LEFFE, A Beer Tradition since 1240

- The Leffe history has its origin in Notre-Dame de Leffe, an abbey of Premonstratensian canons founded in 1152. The Premonstratensian canonical Norbertines, like monks, live in community and according to certain rules. However, the canons have a very open vision and like to engage with the people around them. That is why it is not surprising that, since the foundation of the abbey, the Norbertines were known for the special attention they paid to welcoming guests and pilgrims.



Brussels

Tour Brussels, headquarters of the European Union. Drive past Brussels Park and the Royal Palace. Stroll through the city's historic center, stopping at the Grand-Place Market for a chocolate tasting.



St. Michael and St. Gudula Cathedral

The St. Michael and Gudula Cathedral in Brussels is named for the patron saints of Belgium and is the primary church of the country. After the Cathedral of St. Michael was completed circa 1047, the Duke of Brabant transferred the relics of Saint Gudula here. Very little is known about this daughter of a 7th-century Carolingian nobleman, but her relics are still sheltered in the cathedral.



Palais du Justice

The Palace of Justice or Law Courts of Brussels is the most important court building in Belgium and the biggest courthouse in the world. It was built between 1866 and 1883.



Belgian Chocolate Workshop and Beer Tasting

(Optional Excursion)

For Chocolate lovers Belgium is a dream land! You will get a behind-the-scenes look at how the treat is made. You will follow the process, then craft homemade chocolate in a class and pair your creation with Belgian Beer!



A Day in Antwerp

(Optional Excursion)

Explore historic and vibrant Antwerp, Flanders. Our tour will stop at the Renaissance-era City Hall and Great Market Square. Stroll through the Green Square, a setting for festivals, then enter the Cathedral of Our Lady to admire its singular bell tower.

Free time for lunch, relaxing, shopping.



The Cathedral of Our Lady

The Cathedral contains a number of significant works by the Baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens. Where the cathedral now stands, there was a small chapel of Our Lady from the 9th to the 12th century, which acquired the status of parish church in 1124. The belfry of the cathedral is included in the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



Bruges, Belgium – 2-Day Extension



From its winding canals to its medieval architecture, there's no denying Bruges' storybook appeal. Stroll down cobbled streets, visit a bustling market, stop into a chocolate shop (or two), and experience the city's fairytale charm up close.

Bruges *(Optional Trip Extension)*

Board the train to continue the tour in the city of Bruges. Take in the sights, sounds and flavors of this charming city. Get an overview of Bruges on a panoramic tour of its most famous sites.



Church of Our Lady – Bruges

Michelangelo's Madonna - In the sacrament chapel in the right wing of the church is the famous Madonna by Michelangelo. This beautiful marble sculpture is the only sculpture by the great Italian artist that can be seen in the Low Countries. It was made for the cathedral of Sienna, but two merchants from Bruges brought it to Bruges after one of their business trips to Italy in 1506.



Minnewater – Lake of Love

Minnewater used to be a mooring place for barges which ensured a regular connection between Bruges and Ghent. Nowadays this is one of the most romantic spots in Bruges. The place-name Minnewater or 'water of the water sprite' is derived from the medieval popular belief in 'minnen' or water sprites, which preferably dwelled under bridges.



Beguinage

Beguinage was founded in 1245. This little piece of world heritage was once the home of the beguines, emancipated lay-women who nevertheless led a pious and celibate life. Nowadays, the Beguinage is inhabited by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict.



A Tasting Tour of Historic Ghent, Belgium

(Optional Excursion)

Journey to the historic city of Ghent for a tasting tour with a local guide. Sample specialties of the region, including ganda ham, pralines and cheese. You'll visit a famous Tierenteyn mustard shop and the Great Butchers' Hall, which dates back to the 15th century.



Free time for lunch
along the canals.

Departure

All too soon our Grand Expedition comes to an end. The memories of the experience, the friends we make on the way, will last a lifetime!

... And our next
adventure?

