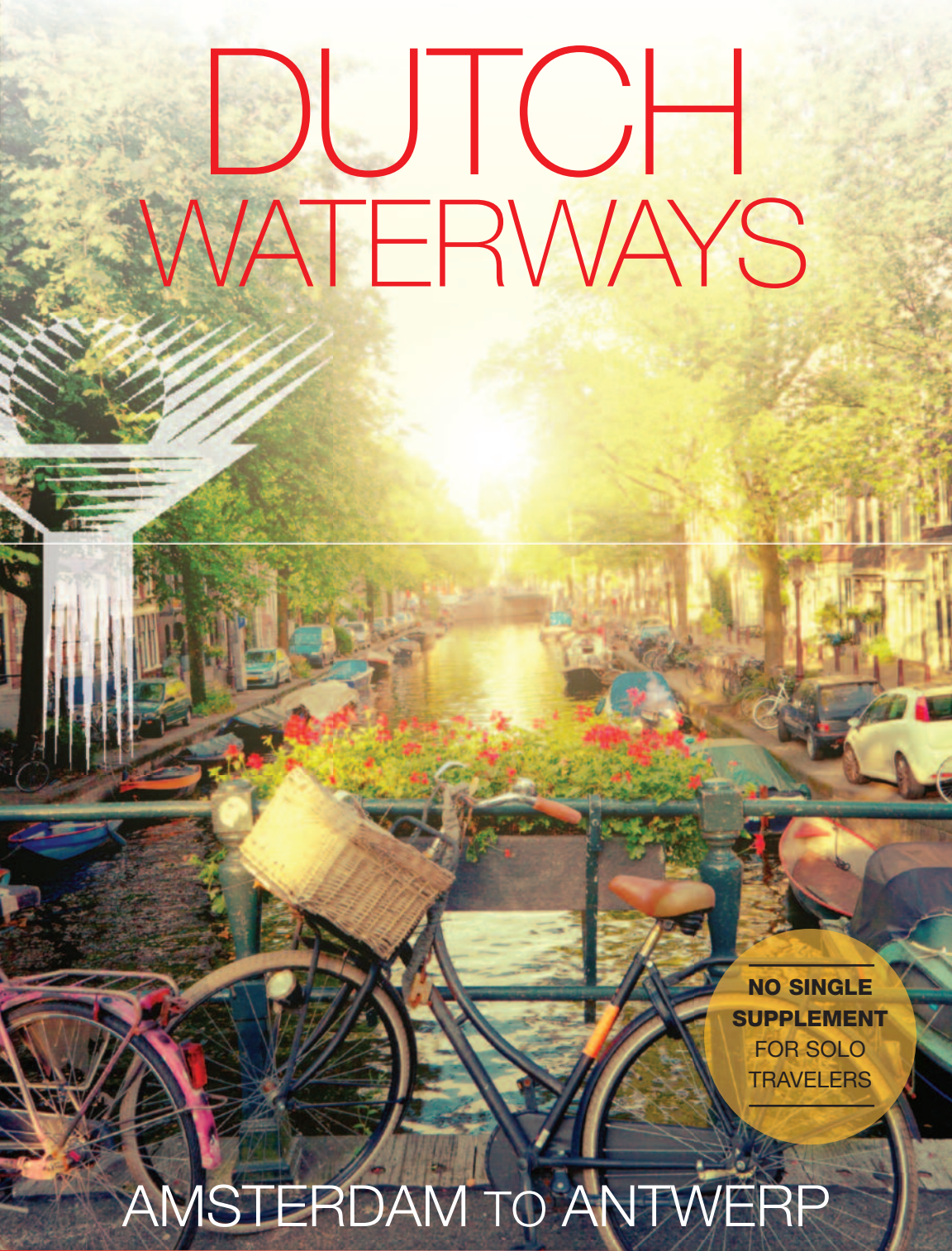


# DUTCH WATERWAYS



NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT  
FOR SOLO  
TRAVELERS

AMSTERDAM TO ANTWERP

SPONSORED BY



**VirginiaTechforlife**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

**APRIL 24-MAY 2, 2017**

**Other dates available upon request**



# A World Apart

The story of travel involves more than a ticket and a passport. It should weave together discovery, education and humanity, the best elements of any compelling tale. Your personal travel story begins with our commitment to delivering authentic experiences with local people.

The incomparable value of your journey lies in the personalized care you receive from your Travel Director and the knowledge you gain from expert guides and lecturers who call this area home.

By eliminating logistical worries, your multilingual Travel Director allows you to immerse yourself comfortably in your surroundings. This high-caliber professional makes you feel safe and important by creating a convivial, welcoming atmosphere.

The other important characters in this story are the guides and lecturers, whose regional expertise shines in their insider perspective and commentary.

With these specialists at your side, become intimately engaged in the rhythm of the communities along these waterways, adding a memorable chapter to the rich story of your life.

## Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Glide along **Amsterdam's captivating canals**, built during the Dutch Golden Age.
- ▶ Witness a rainbow of natural beauty **during Holland's renowned tulip season**.
- ▶ Float along narrow canals through the **delightful Dutch village of Giethoorn**.
- ▶ Stroll through the **romantic medieval center of Delft**, filled with scenic waterways and remarkable architecture.
- ▶ Savor the ambience and history of the **charming cities of Bruges and Antwerp**.





## Dear Alumni and Friends,

Please join us as we embark on an enthralling seven-night cruise through Holland and Belgium to delight in the incredible charm of their most historic cities and towns. Unpack once on the intimate MS Amadeus Silver, designed specifically for river cruising, and have more time and freedom to savor each day's adventures while traveling in comfort.

Travel experts have meticulously planned this exciting program to combine the region's best attractions and memorable experiences with your quest for enrichment and learning. You'll enjoy a choice of engaging included excursions in select ports of call, along with an exclusive educational component that gives you a deeper understanding of the people and the culture.

This exceptional cruise also combines the security, ease and value of group travel with ample opportunity for independent exploration. You'll appreciate the camaraderie of traveling with a group, and during your free time, feel the thrill of making your own special discoveries.

This popular program fills quickly, so be sure to make your reservations today because space is limited!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Gwen Harrington'.

Gwen Harrington  
Director of Travel Programs  
Virginia Tech Alumni Association

**800-323-7373**

**vatech.ahitravel.com**





Experience the beauty, history and culture of Holland and Belgium on a unique river cruise along their legendary waterways that combines learning, recreation and fellowship.

During your journey, soak up lovely scenery as you relax onboard, then simply step off the elegant Amadeus Silver right into the heart of Holland and Belgium's most picturesque towns and cities.

Wander through Amsterdam, which beguiles you with its lovely canals filled with bobbing boats and cobbled streets lined with narrow gabled houses. Step into The Hague, an elegant city that's home to the Dutch government and royal family, and stroll through Delft, birthplace of Vermeer and Royal Delft porcelain. In Belgium, admire the amazing architecture and art of Bruges and the unrivaled charm of the port city of Antwerp. Travel along these breathtaking waterways on an unforgettable adventure of a lifetime!

#### DAY ONE

##### IN TRANSIT

Depart your gateway city for Amsterdam, The Netherlands. ⬆

#### DAY TWO

D

##### AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS

Upon arrival, transfer ⬆ to the pier and embark the MS Amadeus Silver.

**Excursion: *Canals of Amsterdam*.** Glide through the canals of Amsterdam this evening to see some of the city's major landmarks.

#### DAY THREE

B I L I D

##### AMSTERDAM | KAMPEN

**Educational Focus: *Contemporary Holland*.**

Review the current state of affairs in the Netherlands.



**PYC | Choose one of these excursions:**

• ***Keukenhof Gardens*.** Journey to the Keukenhof Gardens, an 80-acre paradise of tulips, hyacinths and other beautiful flowers, for a guided walk.

### YOUR INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE

Free time means something different to every traveler. Some people like to linger in a cozy café, while others prefer to stay on the go. That's why we have designed an itinerary to allow you to craft your individual travel experience.



#### PERSONALIZE YOUR CRUISE | PYC | Included

Choose from a variety of excursions in selected ports based on your interests.



#### ELECTIVE EXPERIENCES | At an additional cost

Further your experience by immersing yourself in specially designed activities and extensions.

**Check out our itinerary for more details. We've done the legwork. Now the choice is yours.**

Left: *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, Vermeer



The Hague cityscape



Rijksmuseum



Canals of Giethoorn

•**Waterland Bicycle Ride.** Explore Holland like a local and bike through lush Waterland with its quaint fishing villages and stunning views.

•**Dutch Art.** Visit the Rijksmuseum with its outstanding collection of masterpieces, featuring works by 17th-century Dutch masters Rembrandt, Vermeer and Frans Hals.

Cruise to Kampen this evening.

Tonight, join the Captain’s Welcome Reception and Dinner.

DAY FOUR

B I L D

KAMPEN | GIETHOORN

**Excursion: *Giethoorn.*** Laced with footpaths and narrow canals traversed by wooden, arched bridges, the car-free village of Giethoorn seems to have materialized out of a fairy tale. Roam through the four miles of canals by boat.

**Educational Focus: *The Dutch Masters.***

Learn how these Golden Age artists forever changed the art of painting with their techniques.


**Independent Exploration:** Spend free time in the historic city of Kampen.

DAY FIVE

B I D

THE HAGUE | DELFT

Very early this morning, the ship docks in Utrecht.

 **PYC | Choose one of these excursions:**

•***The Hague and Delft.*** Travel to The Hague, the seat of the Dutch government. Enjoy a panoramic tour of The Hague, including the parliament buildings, the Peace Palace and Wassenaar, a residential area that also is home to the Dutch king. Visit the Mauritshuis, the museum that contains Vermeer’s “Girl with a Pearl Earring.” Continue to Delft for a guided walking tour of the old town’s sights.

•***The Hague and Royal Delft.*** Take a similar panoramic tour of The Hague, then continue to Delft, and stroll through Old Delft. Visit Royal Delft, a porcelain factory that is the last of its kind, to learn about this craft and see a master painter at work. Continue to a museum with an impressive collection of Delft porcelain. Rejoin the ship in Schoonhoven and cruise to Willemstad.

DAY SIX

B I L D

VEERE

**Independent Exploration:** Make your own plans in the port town of Veere, considered one of the prettiest in the Netherlands, with



Delft



Antwerp



Chocolate shop, Bruges

impressive houses and public buildings lining its inviting streets.

**ELECTIVE** | *The Zeeland Coast and the Dutch Battle Against the Sea.* Travel along the Zeeland coast to the artificial island of Neeltje Jans and its Delta Expo. Learn about the Delta Works, a series of massive dams and storm surge barriers, conceived after the 1953 North Sea flood and built over a period of 30 years. These 65 enormous gates can be slammed shut on the North Sea when powerful storms strike — an engineering masterpiece that now protects the third of the landmass of the Netherlands that sits below sea level. An unforgettable new panoramic 3D exhibit allows you to experience how the North Sea waves wiped out part of the country in January 1953. The ship will remain in Veere overnight.

DAY SEVEN

B I D

## BRUGES, BELGIUM | ANTWERP

The ship cruises to Middelburg in the Netherlands this morning.

**PYC** | Choose one of these excursions:

- **Cultural Bruges.** Visit this romantic city interwoven with beautiful canals, and stroll along winding cobbled lanes and across tiny arched bridges on a guided walking tour. Continue to the Groeninge Museum, home to a collection of Flemish Primitive and neoclassical works.
- **Bruges and Beer.** Enjoy a similar tour of Bruges, but instead of the museum, visit the De Halve Maan Brewery, and learn about this family business and the history of Belgian brewing. Admire a panoramic view of Bruges from the roof of the building and then enjoy a beer.
- **Bruges and Belgian Chocolate.** After the tour of Bruges, walk to a chocolatier's shop, where you will learn about the art of




## MS Amadeus Silver

The stylish MS Amadeus Silver and its experienced crew provide the highest levels of service and comfort. Relax in a lounge chair on the sun deck or treat yourself to a soothing massage. If you'd like to be more active, practice your golf game on the putting green or exercise in the fitness room. Savor international cuisine at the restaurant's delicious breakfast and lunch buffets, and enjoy regional specialties served with wine at lunch and dinner. At the end of each day, return to the comforts of your cabin, appointed in bright, modern décor and featuring a river view, a satellite TV and a private bathroom with a shower. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available, but access may be limited.

making Belgian chocolate. Talk with chocolate experts and enjoy a sample.

**Independent Exploration:** Enjoy free time to linger over lunch and explore Bruges at your leisure.

 **ELECTIVE | Dinner on the Town.** Savor a wonderful multi-course dinner at an authentic Belgian restaurant in Antwerp's old harbor area.

DAY EIGHT

BILD

### ANTWERP

**Educational Focus: Contemporary Belgium.** Discover the unique history of this bilingual country, located at the historical crossroads of major trading routes.

**Excursion: Antwerp.** Stroll through Antwerp, one of Europe's leading art centers, on a guided walking tour. Home of painter Peter Paul Rubens, Antwerp dates back to the 13th century and features a wealth of medieval architecture. Antwerp is also well-versed in gems of all sorts: more than 80% of the world's rough diamonds pass through the city's Diamantkwartier, making it the largest diamond district in the world.

**Independent Exploration:** Your final afternoon is at leisure in Antwerp. Tonight, gather for a Graduation Ceremony and a Farewell Reception and Dinner.



DAY NINE

B


### IN TRANSIT

Disembark the ship in Antwerp. Transfer to the Amsterdam airport for the return flights to your gateway city. †

**Note:** Itinerary may change due to local conditions. Walking is required on many excursions, and surfaces may be uneven or unpaved. The sequence of the above itinerary, including the elective extension, may not reflect the actual direction of your cruise date, which may sail in the opposite direction. A trip specific preliminary itinerary will be sent along with your confirmation packet.

† Provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

BILD denotes included breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

 Elective experiences available at an additional cost.



**Herengracht Canal**



| **ELECTIVE** |

## **PRE-TRIP EXTENSION IN AMSTERDAM**

Begin your adventures with two nights in picturesque Amsterdam before you embark on your Dutch Waterways river cruise. Your first-class hotel right in the heart of the city is the ideal base for exploring Amsterdam's lively neighborhood streets and scenic canals as well as its world-class museums and attractions. Enjoy a guided walking tour of one of the most beautiful and upscale canals, the Herengracht. Get to know Amsterdam more intimately with extra days of exploration. Includes two nights at the Double Tree by Hilton Amsterdam Centraal Station; two breakfasts; and the services of an expert guide and an AHI Travel Director.

**Price: USD \$695 per person, double occupancy; USD \$1,090 single occupancy**



# Reserve your Dutch Waterways cruise today!

**Trip #:3-22932W**

Send to: Virginia Tech Alumni Association  
c/o AHI Travel  
International Tower-Suite 600  
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60631



Please contact AHI Travel at **800-323-7373** with questions regarding this trip or to make a reservation.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

(1) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_  
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Home: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Sharing with \_\_\_\_\_ (Form sent separately)

## Two-Night Pre-Trip Extension in Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations for me/us on the Amsterdam Elective Pre-Trip extension.

**I/we authorize you to make my/our reservations as follows:**

Cabin Category Desired: 1st choice \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice \_\_\_\_\_

### Land/Cruise Program and AHI FlexAir

I/we reserve the Land Program and request the round-trip AHI FlexAir to and from Amsterdam, The Netherlands, to depart from:

Departure City

Please contact me regarding air options.

Please send me information on upgrading my flights.

### Land/Cruise Program

I/we will make my/our own air arrangements and transfers.

### Single Accommodations

I prefer single accommodations (supplement waived, limited availability).

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by **February 8, 2017** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by personal check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. Make checks payable to AHI Travel.

Enclosed is a deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$600 pp required) to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s).

Accept my check made payable to **AHI Travel**.

Charge my:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover  Amex

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expires \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

(Signature as it appears on credit card)

**Please note:** Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out herein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

**NOT INCLUDED:**Fees for passports and, if applicable, visas, entry/departure fees; personal gratuities; laundry and dry cleaning; excursions, wines, liquors, mineral waters and meals not mentioned in this brochure under included features; travel insurance; all items of a strictly personal nature.

**MOBILITY AND FITNESS TO TRAVEL:**The right is retained to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of this trip who, in the opinion of AHI Travel is unfit for travel or whose physical or mental condition may constitute a danger to themselves or to others on the trip, subject only to the requirement that the portion of the total amount paid which corresponds to the unused services and accommodations be refunded. Passengers requiring special assistance, including without limitation those who permanently or periodically use a wheelchair, must be accompanied by someone who is fit and able to assist them, and who will be totally responsible for providing all required assistance.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:**The price of air transportation offered by AHI Travel is based on Advance Purchase Excursion fares. After tickets are issued, penalties up to 100% of the ticket price may be levied. If connecting flights are requested, special promotional fares may be used, in which case penalties of as much as 100% may be assessed by the airlines if reservations are changed or canceled after ticketing. After departure, if the reservations are changed, you will be charged the higher, all year Economy class fare. **VARIATIONS TO THE GROUP ITINERARY MUST BE REQUESTED NO LATER THAN 60 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE.** Passengers who choose to make their own airline reservations independently will be wholly responsible for any airline fees or penalties incurred as a result of program cancellation and/or change in travel dates, or airline schedule(s).

**BAGGAGE:**Baggage restrictions vary according to the airline policy and the class of service flown. Details will be provided with your pre-departure information. Baggage allowances are subject to change by the carrier without notice. Excess baggage charges for additional or oversized/overweight pieces are expensive and not included in your trip price; plan your wardrobe accordingly. Transport of baggage and personal effects is at the owner's risk throughout the travel program.

**AUTHORITY TO USE IMAGES AND AUDIO RECORDINGS:**On occasion, AHI Travel obtains, from its staff, or from trip participants, photographic or video images of passengers and trip activities. By participating in this travel program, you authorize AHI Travel, without providing compensation to you, or obtaining additional approvals from you, to include photographic and video recordings of you, as well as voice recordings included with any videos, in AHI Travel's sales, marketing, advertising, publicity and/or training activities.

**RESPONSIBILITY:**AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association do not own or operate any entity which provides goods or services for this program, and act only as agents for the independent suppliers of travel conveyance, transport, accommodations or other services. All such persons or entities are independent contractors. As a result, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not liable for any negligence or willful act of any such person or entity or any third person. In addition and without limitation, AHI Travel and the Sponsoring Association are not responsible for any delays, delayed departure or arrival, missed carrier connections, loss, death, damage or injury to person or property or accident, mechanical defect, failure or negligence of any nature howsoever caused in connection with any accommodations, transportation or other services or for any substitution of hotels or of common carrier equipment, with or without notice, or for any additional expenses occasioned thereby. Dates, Program Details and Tour costs, although given in good faith and based on tariffs, exchange rates and other information current at the time of printing, are subject to change at or before the time of departure. No revisions of the printed itinerary or its included features are anticipated; however, the right is reserved to make any changes, with or without notice, that might become necessary, with the mutual understanding that any additional expenses will be paid by the individual passenger. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. If the entire program is canceled for any reason, participants shall have no claim other than for a full refund. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers and accepts the terms of this contract set out herein and in more specific pre-departure passenger information. The airlines and other transportation companies concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event, during the time passengers are not on board their conveyances. The passage contract in use, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the company(ies) and the passenger and/or purchaser of this trip.

**CANCELLATION:**All cancellations for any reason will be subject to a \$250 per person administrative fee. You may choose, at the time of cancellation, to apply the withheld administrative fee to a future AHI Travel program that will operate in the current calendar year or year following. Cancellation from 120 days to 76 days prior to departure will result in forfeiture of 10% of the entire cost of the trip per person; 75-30 days, 50% of the trip cost per person; cancellation from 29 days up to the time of departure will result in 100% forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Trip Cancellation insurance is available, go to [www.alumni.ut.edu/travel/](http://www.alumni.ut.edu/travel/) to find out more. All cancellations must be submitted in writing to AHI Travel. **CANCELLATION OF TRIP OPTIONS:**Purchases of optional excursions, trip extensions and additional hotel nights become fully non-refundable 45 days prior to departure. Air transportation and private transfer purchases are subject only to penalties assessed by the airlines and transfer suppliers.

If you are interested in making independent travel arrangements before and/or after this program, please contact **AHI Travel** at **800-323-7373** no later than **60 days prior to departure** and they will be happy to assist you with your reservations. *A nonrefundable service fee and additional air/land charges based on reservations apply.*

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# LAND/CRUISE PROGRAM

**April 25-May 2, 2017**

Category-Deck	Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price
E-Haydn (Aft)	\$2,745	\$250	<b>\$2,495*</b>
D-Haydn (Midship)	\$2,845	\$250	<b>\$2,595*</b>
C-Strauss (Aft)	\$3,145	\$250	<b>\$2,895*</b>
B-Strauss (Midship)	\$3,245	\$250	<b>\$2,995*</b>
A-Mozart (Aft)	\$3,545	\$250	<b>\$3,295*</b>
Suite-Mozart (Midship)	\$3,845	\$250	<b>\$3,595*</b>

*Suites feature a balcony. Categories A, B, and C feature a drop-down panoramic window. Categories D and E feature a window.*

\*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.

Value Added Tax (VAT) and Port Tax supplement is an additional \$395 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated). **Single supplement waived for solo travelers!**

This offer is limited, capacity controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

*Let us arrange your flights!*

**April 24-May 2, 2017**

✈ **AHI FlexAir** | Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- ▶ a **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- ▶ arrival and departure transfers on most flights
- ▶ flexibility to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- ▶ discounted prices for business-class upgrades
- ▶ assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- ▶ flight insurance worth up to USD 250,000, subject to policy terms

**Travel stress free  
with AHI FlexAir.**

| UNESCO |

Two UNESCO World Heritage sites are featured in this comprehensive program:

1. **The 17th-century Canal Ring Area of Amsterdam inside the Singelgracht, The Netherlands**
2. **Historic Center of Bruges, Belgium**



**800-323-7373**

**vatech.ahitravel.com**

# | INCLUDED FEATURES |

## ACCOMMODATIONS

(With baggage handling.)

- Seven nights aboard the first-class MS Amadeus Silver.

## MEALS

- Enjoy an **extensive meal program**, including seven breakfasts, four lunches and seven dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with lunch and dinner.
- Take advantage of leisure time to try the local cuisine independently.
- Attend a Captain's Welcome Reception and Dinner.
- Gather for the Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner.

## YOUR EXCITING TRAVEL PROGRAM

- **Informative educational programs**, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word from your expert, English-speaking guides.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- **The following excursions:**
  - Cruise the canals of Amsterdam.
  - Wend your way through enchanting Giethoorn by boat.
  - Explore vibrant Antwerp along its cobblestone lanes.
- Choose from **a selection of Personalize Your Cruise excursions** in these cities:
  - Amsterdam
  - The Hague
  - Delft
  - Bruges



## AHI TRAVEL EXPERTISE

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

*Before you go:*

- ▶ **TRAVEL CONSULTANTS** | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.
- ▶ **PASSENGER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE** | Once you have reserved your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who will help you with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.
- ▶ **TRAVEL INFORMATION** | Receive extensive destination information and travel tips compiled by our travel-savvy team to prepare you fully for your journey.

*Once you arrive:*

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. From suggesting the best café or pub to sharing a laugh over the stories of the day, our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

- ▶ **TRAVEL DIRECTOR** | Throughout your journey, you will be in the care of a seasoned AHI travel professional who will manage all the logistics, allowing you to relax and simply soak up the ambience. Resourceful, knowledgeable and attentive, your Travel Director helps to ensure you enjoy an unforgettable travel experience.
- ▶ **EXPERT GUIDES** | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed and enthusiastic local professional guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.
- ▶ **LECTURERS** | Coming from all walks of life, our entertaining local lecturers open your eyes to history and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.



**VirginiaTechforlife**  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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Bruges

**Experience the charms of this unique river cruise along scenic waterways!**

**Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.**

**AHI Travel's** mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural travel programs that delight travelers.

**With AHI you can rely on:**

- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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