

Floriade Tour: 6 days 5 nights Available mid-April to June 1 2012 barbara@luxurytoursforless.com featuring Amsterdam, Keukenhof and the Floriade

\$2795 per person double occupancy.

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Day 1 Evening Depart USA for Amsterdam: - We will be happy to assist you with your international flight arrangements as well as your Travel insurance needs. Meals: on flight

Day 2 Arrive Amsterdam in the morning transport and check into the 5 star Grand Hotel Amrath Amsterdam located: Prins Hendrikkade 108, Amsterdam 1011 AK, The Netherlands +31 (0)20 5520

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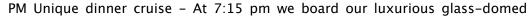
Afternoon; free so that you can catch up on your sleep from your international flight.

PM; Tour and Welcome Dinner- Before dinner we will take a 2hr. tour appropriately named "Amsterdam after Dark." The excursion starts at a prostitute information center, where you can have a drink. A former prostitute will explain the system and you can ask any questions you may have. The visit to "Wallen" the Red Light District is perhaps the most interesting part of this tour. There you can see for yourselves the oldest profession in the world. The tour continues passing monuments through old streets, one of which is the well-know "Zeedijk". In the past, this was one of the most dangerous streets of Amsterdam, where seamen could be found looking for local amusement. Nowadays, because of the disappearance of the harbor, you will

find lively Dutch pubs and restaurants, instead of the shady bars of yester-year. Certainly it's not dangerous anymore. The Zeedijk meaning sea dike, is part of Amsterdam's Chinese district, and also marks one of the boundaries of the Red Light District. We'll have our welcome dinner in this area then head back to our Hotel for a good night's sleep.

HOTEL; AMRATH AMSTERDAM - TRANSPORT; TAXI OR PRIVATE MINI BUS - FOOD; B FLIGHT / LUNCH ON **OWN /WELCOME DINNER**

Day 3 Morning walking tour of Amsterdam - Get your bearings in Amsterdam on this comprehensive, 2.5-hour introductory tour. Perfect for first-time visitors, the tours run in the morning leaving you free time to explore Amsterdam on your own in the afternoon or to just relax. See all the famous highlights of Amsterdam including the Royal Palace, National Monument, bridges, market and traditional gabled houses. As an extra we will visit the Van Gogh Museum before returning to the Hotel for some free time.







boat and enjoy an introductory alcoholic or non-alcoholic drink, followed by a 4 course gourmet dinner, rounded off by coffee or tea, biscuits and a glass of liqueur. Don't forget to bring your camera on our dinner cruise! We will go past most of the floodlit sights of Amsterdam, including the Skinny Bridge, Westerkerk, Anne Frank House, the countless illuminated vaulted bridges, The Mint Tower, picturesque 17th century merchant houses and much more. An unforgettable evening out in Amsterdam

After our Dinner Cruise we will stop by the "Ice Bar" for a night cap. Located in the heart of Amsterdam

the Ice Bar is a specialist bar entirely made of ice. The ice sculptures in the bar are contributed by artist from around the World.

HOTEL; AMRATH AMSTERDAM – TRANSPORT; TAXI OR PRIVATE MINI BUS – FOOD; B FLIGHT / LUNCH ON OWN /DINNER CRUISE

Day 4

After breakfast this morning we leave Amsterdam for a 3 day private tour traveling by luxury mini bus. Our first stop is about 10 miles outside of Amsterdam where we'll

find a small town called Aalsmeer. This place holds the largest flower auction in the world known as the Aalsmeer Flower Auction. Covering a floor space of 10.6 million square feet the building is said to be the second largest building in the world. You can find different kinds of tulips, roses, lilies, daisies and many other kinds of flowers being traded daily in the Aalsmeer facilities. These flowers came from different parts of Europe, Africa and South America.

We'll enjoy lunch in a small borough along the river Maas.



Next stop a traditional clog maker who will demonstrate the art of making Dutch wooden shoes. Dutch clogs or "klompen" originated in antiquity, from the shoes worn by European

peasants during Roman times. Due to the swampy landscape of the Netherlands, however, the shoes caught on more quickly there. An upturned toe made them comfortable for walking and standing for long periods.

Straw was used to cushion the foot from the stiff wood of the sole. Today some farmers in Holland continue to wear wooden shoes.

Last visit of the day is the medieval

castle at Ammersoyen, for a tour that will take you back in time. Kasteel Ammersoyen is an impressive 14th century moated castle

with great hall, privy chambers, and tower rooms, reached by centuries-old staircases within its walls. Contrary to other medieval castles of the time Ammersoyen was built in 1350 according to a fixed plan by Dirk van Herlaer along a branch of the river Maas. Four wings were erected around an inner court with heavy towers at the corners. This complex had a gatehouse was surrounded by a moat, and was considered to be an ideal defensive structure. The castle changed hands several times in the next 500 years finally sold to the Roman Catholic Church In 1873, who converted the castle into a convent. The Second World War





brought an end to the convent period when the village population found shelter in the castle during the bombardments. The castle was then used as a village hall until it was bought by the Gelderland Castle Trust in 1957, who completely restored Ammersoyen to its medieval splendor which you will enjoy today.

We travel on to Den Bosh where we'll spend the next 2 nights at the charming Stadshotel Jeron.

HOTEL; DEN BOSH STADSHOTEL JERON – TRANSPORT; PRIVATE MINI BUS – FOOD; B HOTEL / L and D on tour



Day 5

This morning we travel from Den Bosch to Venlo a distance of about 16 miles to spend a full day at the once-a-decade festival, The Floriade World Horticultural Show. This celebration of flowers, song and dance takes place on an environmentally friendly 163-acre park where you can also enjoy a



bird's eye view of the park from the 30-metre-high cable-car system. This year's theme;

"Be part of the theatre in nature and get closer to the quality of life".

Floriade 2012 will feature five themed areas; these zones will cover the different aspects of the relationship between the consumer and the horticultural sector.

The 5 different sections are:

- **Green Engine** portrays horticulture as the green engine of the economy.
- Education & Innovation relates the story of horticulture while exploring the future.
- Environment the importance of greenery at home, on the streets and in the working environment.
- Relax & Heal focuses on health, physical wellbeing, food and enjoying the true flavor of products.
- World Show Stage events will show how







international art, culture and entertainment inspire the horticultural sector and vice versa.

There are many wonderful places to stop enjoy a coffee or lunch at your leisure as you stroll through these beautiful surroundings. We return in the evening to the Stadshotel Jeron.



HOTEL; STADSHOTEL JERON – TRANSPORT; PRIVATE MINI BUS – MEALS; B HOTEL / L ON OWN AT FLORIADE / D PART OF TOUR

Day 6

We leave our hotel early today and head back towards Amsterdam stopping on the way for a visit to the Keukenhof. An unprecedented wealth of spectacular floral displays planted in endless varieties awaits us.

Keukenhof is unique, world famous and it has been photographed millions of times. For lunch we visit a

dairy farm. Taste homemade cheese and other products. Next we put on our hiking boots for 2 miles – 2 hour walk through a magnificent landscape, passing – still functioning windmills, sheep, and cows. The scenery will make you feel like you are in the middle of a Rembrandt or Vermeer painting. Afterwards we return to Amsterdam. Note: for those who do not wish to participate in this walk transport will be provided.





HOTEL; AMSTERDAM – TRANSPORT; PRIVATE MINI BUS – MEALS; B HOTEL / L PART OF TOUR $\,/\,$ D ON OWN

Day 7

Return to USA or Take one of our extensions. May we suggest our Chelsea tour to complete your Garden Lovers excursion or a 6 day Scandinavian tour with cruise covering Stockholm, Sweden – the UNESCO World Heritage site of Tallinn, Estonia and the glories of St. Petersburg, Russia? Or perhaps you would rather visit Paris, Rome or Venice. Where would you like to go? We can accommodate you.



What we offer on this tour:

Floriade Tour - 6 days/5 nights - travel; mid-April until June 1st 2012 - \$2795 per person double occupancy. Minimum of 10 paying clients - Escorted by a Luxury Tour Specialist For more info, group pricing and special offers contact me:



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