

Come With Me Tours
GARDEN PLUS TOUR OF BELGIUM & NETHERLANDS, INCLUDING FLORIADE
April 30th-May 10th, 2022

Both of these two countries are among the most densely populated in the world, and they have, therefore, produced garden designers who are past masters at creating beauty in small spaces. Many are at the cutting edge of garden design. There are plenty of good ideas on this tour which will give us inspiration for our own gardens. For art lovers there is Memmling, Rubens, Van Gogh, and much more.

29th April: Departure from the United States.

30th April: Arrival at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport. We transfer directly to central Amsterdam. Today we take a canal tour of Amsterdam, certainly the best way to see this city, built on water. The remainder of the day will be free to explore or relax. Overnight at Inntel Hotel in the heart of the city. Dinner included at a nearby restaurant, just a few steps away from the hotel.

1st May: Morning visit to Hortus Botanicus, the botanical garden of Amsterdam, within walking distance of our hotel. This exceptional garden, founded in 1638, is not a run-on-the-mill boring plant collection. Plenty to do and see here, including a very nice café. The Portuguese synagogue is close by, and is usually open to visitors. This afternoon we visit the charming little town of Weesp, which is the home to the garden designer Jacqueline van der Kloet. Her small, but well stocked garden is well worth a visit. Overnight Inntel Hotel. Dinner on your own tonight. There are many wonderful restaurants withing walking distance of the hotel.



2nd May: Departure from Amsterdam. Today's first visit is to the Clingendael Japanese Garden, in the suburbs of The Hague. The world- renowned garden is only open for eight weeks in the year, usually in May and October. We then visit The Kinderdyke, a working windmill museum, with 19 windmills, mostly built in the 18th century to drain the "polder," creating rich agricultural land. Great photo ops of these iconic landmarks. We then cross into Belgium, to the historic city of Bruges. Overnight NH Hotel, just minutes' walk from the main square. Dinner included at the hotel.



*Image courtesy of
kkmarals/Flickr*

3rd May: This morning we take a leisurely boat ride to the typical Flemish village of Damme. There are several cafés and restaurants here for lunch. This afternoon we visit the gardens of Oostkerke Castle, the home of Baron & Baroness Van der Elste. The gardens, designed by the renowned Dutch garden

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designer Mien Ruys, are strictly private, but they have kindly agreed to open



for us. As there is no dinner included at the hotel this evening, the remainder of the day and evening is free to explore this beautiful city. There are many restaurants, ranging from the simple to the gastronomic. Overnight NH Hotel, Bruges.

4th May:

This is our day to visit Brussels, not only the capital of Belgium, but also the HQ of the European Union. En route we visit the National Botanic Garden of Belgium. This is not just a collection of plants, but a beautiful park. The centrepiece of Brussels is the Grand Place, with its perfect 17th century architecture, and just minutes away on foot, the Manneken Pis, possibly one of the most photographed little boys in the world. Belgium is renowned for its hand-crafted lace, are some specialist shops close by. It's an easy item to pack and take home. Dinner on your own tonight. Overnight NH Hotel, Bruges.



5th May:

Two private gardens today. The first is a small private garden called Topiary, in a suburban street in the small town of Zedelgem. The centrepiece is the spectacular topiary chessboard, with its topiary chess pieces. Garden designer Chris Ghyselen professionally designed it. Our second garden, Valkenhof, is also a topiary garden, the fantasy creation of the owner, Willy Goovaerts-Tourne. Dinner on your own tonight. Overnight NH Hotel.

6th May:

Just one garden visit today, the private garden of Chris Ghyselen, the designer of Topiary garden that we visited yesterday. There are many styles within this



one garden, and it is evident that the owner is a professional. This afternoon will be free to explore Bruges, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Dinner and overnight NH Hotel.

7th May:

We leave Bruges this morning and head to the port city of Antwerp. The house and garden of the 17th century artist Peter Paul Rubens. He was not only a great artist; he was also a diplomat. Our final garden visit before leaving Belgium is the Kalmhout Arboretum. This is not just a collection of trees, but also a beautiful garden. The 12 hectares contain some 7000 trees, many of

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them rare, and some dating back to its foundation in the 19th century. We then cross back into The Netherlands, to the city of Utrecht, which, like Amsterdam is criss-crossed with a network of canals. Dinner and Overnight at the Anthony Hotel, Utrecht.

8th May: This is our Floriade day. This iconic flower show, held only once every ten years, is staged each time in a different city. This year it is the turn of Almere, near Amsterdam. The theme will be a celebration of green and sustainable technology. More than forty countries are represented. This is rated as an A1 category exhibition by the International Association of Horticultural Producers. There will be some fabulous photo ops here. Here is some information from the Floriade (<https://floriade.com/en/about-floriade/>) website:

Floriade Expo 2022

- The International Horticultural Exhibition is a thematic variation on a World Expo, registered by the AIPH & recognized by BIE
- This is the 7th edition of the International Horticultural Exhibition Floriade
- Floriade Expo is held once every decade
- Almere is centrally located in the Amsterdam Metropolitan area, along the A6 motorway, 25 minutes from Amsterdam Schiphol Airport/Amsterdam Central railway station

14 April - 9 October 2022

- The site measures 600,000 m²/60 hectares
- Prognosis: 2 million consumers (85%) & professionals (15%)
- The theme for 2022: Growing Green Cities
- Sub-themes: Greening the City, Feeding the City, Healthyng the City, Energizing the City
- Open daily from 14 April – 9 October 2022

On your own for dinner this evening. Overnight Anthony Hotel, Utrecht.

9th May: We have only one garden visit today, and it is quite a long way from the hotel. However, this is one not to be missed. The garden is that of the late Mien Ruys, the leading Dutch garden designer of the immediate post-war years. She was considered to be one of the world's top ten landscape designers. We have an earlier than usual return to Utrecht as tomorrow will be the transfer to the airport. Dinner and overnight Anthony Hotel, Utrecht.

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10th May: Return to the United States or continue visiting on your own.

Questions? Contact: Chris Adams, Come With Me Tours, LLC
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website: www.comewithmetours.com

COST

The cost of the trip will include bed & breakfast & some dinners as noted above, travel by touring coach, garden visits as mentioned (entrance fees included), services of a specialist tour manager/guide, all taxes. **Air fare to Europe not included.** All hotels, tours and garden visits are subject to availability. Cost for **Garden Plus Tour Of Belgium & Netherlands, Including FLORIADE with Chris Adams and Michael Smith - 2022** trip \$4,350.00 (airfare not included), \$1,000.00 single supplement. A \$500.00 deposit will hold your spot! Final payment due in 2 payments due in early 2022. Discount (\$200) available for early booking.

INSURANCE

It is recommended that you speak with your travel agent about trip cancellation and baggage insurance. You can research options on websites like **www.insuremytrip.com**.

TOUR DOES NOT INCLUDE: Airfare; charges for excessive baggage; cancellation, health, accident or baggage insurance; charges for room service; items of a personal nature (i.e., laundry and phone bills); meals, unless noted; liquor, wine, soft beverages, bottled water; **end-of trip tip to tour manager or guides.**

Fitness Level is moderate: Participants must be able to carry their own luggage, climb and descend stairs, be in good health, mobile and able to participate in 3-5 hours of physical activity per day, the equivalent of walking up to 3-4 miles on uneven ground. Gardens often have uneven paths and slopes to negotiate and often limited hand rails. Belgium and the Netherlands are quite flat, unlike some of our previous trips.

Please use your best judgment on your fitness and discuss any concerns with me.

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