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16 Delightful Days **Brussels to Berlin**

Brussels to Berlin - Chocolate, Canals & Culture

Discover the hidden treasures of Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany's north

Explore medieval towns and charming cobblestoned villages

Embark on a captivating exploration of the lesser-known gems in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany's vibrant north, where palaces, medieval towns and charming cobblestoned villages await your discovery.
Be absorbed by Brussels, visit Waterloo, relax in Ghent's beautiful town squares, amongst Bruges' ornate gabled merchant houses, and visit the sobering WW1 battlefields of Flanders and Ypres. Cruise through Rotterdam's port, drive along the massive Delta dykes, stay in the heart of charming Utrecht, cruise along Amsterdam's canals and explore the astonishing Palace of De Haar.
(Our late April departure includes tickets to visit the world famous Keukenhof Tulip Flower Festival!)
Now complete the picture with six further nights in Germany's vibrant North. In Papenburg, witness some of the world's biggest passenger cruise liners being built, visit the UNESCO Heritage listed Bremen Town Hall and cruise along the River Wesser. Explore the Hanseatic city of Hamburg, visit the stunning, UNESCO listed Schwerin Castle and to cap it all off, see Berlin's Checkpoint Charlie, visit the famous Reichstag and Potsdam's Palaces.

Travel in a first-class air-conditioned touring coach

A complimentary glass of wine, beer or soft drink with all included dinners
22 meals including breakfast daily (B) and 7 evening meals (D)
Welcome drink on Day 1

Hotel porterage of 1 bag per person (where available)
15 nights specially selected hotel accommodation
Free WiFi at most hotels (where available)

Personal audio system whilst on tour (where available)
ALL tips for your Tour Manager, Driver and Local Guides
Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Manager
Local guides as described in the itinerary

Hand Selected Albatross Inclusions : Boat rides in Ghent, Rotterdam, Amsterdam and Bremen, visit the Waterloo Battlefield and Museum, special Flanders Fields tour and the delightful Zaanse Schans historical windmill village. Drive along the Delta Project Dykes, visit Papenburg's shipbuilding site, Bremen's beautiful Town Hall, Potsdam's Palaces and Schwerin Castle!
ALL excursions, scenic drives, sightseeing and entrances as described


Denmark
Hamburg 1
Schwerin
Groningen
Papenburg
2 Bremen
Berlin 3
Potsdam
Zaanse Schans
Volendam
Amsterdam
Keukenhof
4 Utrecht
De Haar
North Sea
Rotterdam
Germany
Delta Works
The Netherlands
Peilerdam
Bruges
Belgium
Flanders
Tyne Cot
3
2 Brussels
Ypres
Ghent
Waterloo
France
Czech Republic
Tour commences
3 Nights
Included excursions

Brussels welcome

Day 1 | **Pillows City Hotel Brussels Centre** | **D**

Your tour commences this evening in Belgium's cosmopolitan capital city, Brussels. Join us tonight for a welcome drink before dinner in a local restaurant. This is an ideal chance to meet, and get to know, your Tour Manager and fellow travellers.

Brussels Grand Place and Galeries Royales

Day 2 | **Pillows City Hotel Brussels Centre** | **B**

This morning we are joined by a local guide who takes us on a walking tour through the old city. From the Grand Place - Grote Markt, with its dominating tower, surrounded by beautiful 300-year-old buildings, we take you to the famous Manneken Pis & Jeanneke Pis, to Mary's Chocolate shop in the beautiful Galeries Royales – a timepiece shopping centre recently nominated for UNESCO Heritage inclusion. After a tasting of Mary's famous chocolate, the rest of the day is free. This evening make sure you stroll back to the Grand Place, which is right on your hotel doorstep; the evening illuminations are delightful. Time to discover your own restaurant or lively pub in the nearby, winding cobblestoned streets.

Waterloo and a boat ride through Ghent

Day 3 | **Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof** | **B,D**

We spend the morning outside of Brussels on the site of the Battle of Waterloo. We have included entrance to all three major attractions that commemorate the final defeat of Napoleon in 1815. For the energetic, take the stairs to the top of the Lion's Mound topped by a massive cast iron lion. At the foot of the mound is the Rotunda with its huge 360 degree painting of the final battle. There is also a brilliant underground museum, filled with colourful uniforms, memorabilia of the time and a brilliant cinematic battle re-enactment. Early afternoon we arrive into the glorious city of Ghent, where we stay the next three nights. On arrival, a local guide will take us on a walking tour through this wonderful, historic city. Between the 11th and 16th centuries Ghent was one of the most important cities in Europe. The 900-year-old Castle of the Counts and the Graslei and Korenlei (Grass and Corn) riverside quays are surrounded by beautifully ornate, gabled merchant's houses that are evidence of the massive wealth this trading city generated. In St Bavo's Cathedral you will find the famous 15th century 'Ghent Altarpiece', attributed to the van Eyck brothers. The Belfort (Belfry tower) is the tallest in Belgium. Scattered around the old town are alfresco cafés, lively bars and restaurants. Perfect for your 'My Time'. Late afternoon, we have included a short boat cruise along the canal, followed by dinner.

Ypres, Flanders Fields and Menin Gate

Day 4 | **Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof** | **B**

Your morning is free – 'My Time' to enjoy the beauty of Ghent. Your afternoon will be fascinating as we are joined by a specialist military historian who will immerse us into the battlefields, heartbreak and drama that was the infamous Passchendaele. We have included entrance to the Passchendaele Memorial Museum, with its amazing exhibits and replica trenches. We will also visit the pivotal sites and cemeteries including Tyne Cot, with its endless lines of white grave stones and the 5th Australian Division Memorial at Polygon Wood. Contrasting this we pay our respects at the German war cemetery at Langemark, which sits in the shadows of old oak trees. Later you will have free time to explore the beautiful town of Ypres. Completely flattened in WW1, it has been lovingly re-built, exactly the way it was. The Cloth Hall, lording it over the main square, is an incredible piece of Gothic architecture. In the evening we will join the crowds gathering under the Menin Gate to witness the soulful, sounding of the Last Post, which is still commemorated every night. It will be one of the most moving experiences as you listen to... no... feel the haunting bugle echoing around and above you in the towering Menin Gate, whilst surrounded by the engraved names of 53,000 Commonwealth Soldiers – young men and boys, who died in just Belgium alone, and all who sadly have 'no known grave'. Later, we return to Ghent.

Delightful Bruges

Day 5 | **Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof** | **B**

A very leisurely start. Late morning, we visit the 'Venice of the North' - Bruges. So named because Bruges is riddled with canals, bridges and quiet back streets. On arrival we are joined by a local guide for a walking tour around the quaint and picturesque cobblestoned centre. Later, take time to relax in one of the pavement cafés on the glorious old market square. This evening, back in Ghent, your evening is free amongst the cafes, lively bars and restaurants near your hotel.

3 Massive dykes and Rotterdam port cruise

Day 6 | **Grand Hotel Karel V, Utrecht** | **B,D**

Heading into the Netherlands we take the dramatic western route – a fascinating journey across three enormous dykes that form Holland's incredible Delta Project. We will make a mid-morning stop at Topshuis to enable you to walk to see the actual flood barrier and take photos of the flood barriers and sluice gates. The first dyke, the Peilerdam, is an astonishing 9 kms long, and our journey takes us along the actual top of the enormous flood barriers that hold back the North Sea. An extraordinary engineering achievement! On the second dyke, Brouwersdam, we will make a short photo stop beside the broad sandy beach. On a windy day there are literally hundreds of kite surfers in action offshore.
Reaching the dynamic city of Rotterdam, we board a cruise boat to follow the river with its city sights and gigantic, modern port – the world's biggest. Lunchtime will be spent at leisure in the ultra-modern design Market Hall. The giant curved ceiling is one enormous mural of painted flowers, colourful butterflies, fruit and vegetables. Beneath are dozens of specialist food stalls, gourmet eateries and shops. Late afternoon we reach the historical city of Utrecht where we stay four nights. Utrecht is often called 'Amsterdam without the crowds'. Beautiful, with canals, narrow gabled merchant houses, and humped back bridges it makes a superb base for our unique 'hub and spoke' style touring. Your 5-star hotel for the next four nights has a rich history. Even Knights once lodged here! It is superbly located right in the very heart of town, with the canals, shops, cafes and bars right on your doorstep. Dinner is included this evening.

Cheese and windmills

Day 7 | **Grand Hotel Karel V, Utrecht** | **B**

This morning we explore Zaanse Schans. This historical 'open air museum' village was created by relocating and preserving 18th and 19th century wooden houses, barns, workshops, and of course a number of giant windmills! So much to see and enjoy. Perhaps visit the cheese factory or have lunch in the Pancake Restaurant De Kraai – once an 18th century Zaan granary? Later we enjoy an afternoon stroll through the pretty fishing port of Volendam. The remainder of your afternoon and evening is at leisure in Utrecht.

**Please note, the late April departure includes tickets to Keukenhof and does not visit Volendam.*

'My Time' in fabulous Utrecht, De Haar Castle & Haarzuilens

Day 8 | **Grand Hotel Karel V, Utrecht** | **B**

Your entire morning is free. 'My Time' relaxing in the heart of historical, beautiful Utrecht. In the afternoon we will visit the nearby moated castle of De Haar Castle. In a simply stunning setting, this gem of a palace is set romantically amongst waterways, parklands and beautiful gardens. Just around the corner, we also visit the quaint Dutch village of Haarzuilens. With traditional white and red painted window shutters you get the feeling you are strolling through a village of toy houses. Returning to Utrecht, your evening is at leisure.

Amsterdam cruise and 'My Time'

Day 9 | **Grand Hotel Karel V, Utrecht** | **B,D**

We will spend the day in nearby Amsterdam. First up we board a canal boat for a cruise through this amazing city. Later we are joined by a local guide who will take us by coach and on foot around all the major city landmarks. Your afternoon is entirely free to relax, with 'My Time' to shop, explore and visit some of the many world class museums. Returning to Utrecht later this afternoon, we have included dinner in a local restaurant.

Picturesque Groningen and the astonishing shipyards of Papenburg

Day 10 | **ATLANTIC Grand Hotel, Bremen** | **B,D**

Mid-morning we will reach the picturesque city of Groningen, in the north of the Netherlands. Here you will enjoy time at leisure to explore its historic city centre with its central Grote Markt square, home to the centuries-old Martinitoren clock tower. Maybe climb the 250 steps to the top and take in the excellent views, or instead stroll past the 28 listed buildings along the warehouses and quays of Hoge der A and Lage der A.

In the afternoon we have included something very special - a visit to the enormous Meyer Werft shipbuilding yards in Papenburg. The biggest passenger cruise liners ever made are built here inside gigantic warehouse workshops. Not only that, constantly in action, the very biggest ships are assembled inside just one building, side by side, TWO at a time! Imagine the size of this building... calling it enormous is an utter understatement! Here we have included a private guided tour through the museum and onto the viewing platforms inside this monstrous building. Looking down on to the world's biggest passenger ships, being assembled side by side right in front of you, is a mesmerizing experience! Later we continue the short distance to Bremen where we stay for two nights.

Bremen, river cruise and 'My Time'

Day 11 | **ATLANTIC Grand Hotel, Bremen** | **B**

Bremen is an absolute delight. In the Middle Ages, throughout Central and Northern Europe, a commercial and defensive network of merchant guilds and market towns formed the Hanseatic League. Bremen was one of the most influential of these cities, and its wealth and importance is plain to see in the fabulous pedestrian heart of the city. We have included a local guide for a walking tour. One of highlights of your stay in Bremen will be visiting the Market Square, considered one of the most beautiful in Europe! Here we have included entrance to visit inside the spectacular UNESCO Heritage listed Town Hall. After free time for lunch, we have also included a relaxing cruise along the River Wesser, seeing Bremen's harbour, parks and archaeological heritage from the waterside.

The rest of your day and evening is free – 'My Time' to explore and do as little or as much as you want. Bremen is such a walkable city and a great place to relax is along the delightful river promenade lined with pubs and restaurants, or the nearby Schnoor Quarter, Bremen's oldest district, a maze of lanes lined with lovingly restored, colourful little 15th and 16th century houses. A great place to settle in for dinner!

Buzzing Hamburg and 'My Time'

Day 12 | **Renaissance Hotel, Hamburg** | **B**

After a very leisurely start we drive to the nearby city state of Hamburg, to enjoy maximum 'My Time' in this glorious Hanseatic city. Sitting on the River Elbe, Hamburg is the second largest city in Germany. Arriving late morning we will be dropped off in town near the Altstadt (old town), home to the opulent, neo-Renaissance, Hamburger Rathaus (Hamburg City Hall) with its soaring tower. Make sure you take a look inside to see the fabulously ornate ceilings and maybe enjoy the free exhibitions.
The heart of Hamburg is very easy to stroll around. The Town Hall is surrounded by extensive pedestrian walkways, hundreds of canals crossed by hundreds of bridges, all leading to the pretty Alster lake which is dotted with boats and surrounded by cafes. The shopping here is as good as you get anywhere, and with its outstanding museums Hamburg has it all, and we ensure you have plenty of free time to explore at leisure.
Mid-afternoon we check in to our centrally located hotel, and after settling in the remainder of the afternoon and evening is free. Hamburg also boasts Germany's most famous party mile and remember this is where the Beatles first made their mark during the 1960s!

Stunning Schwerin Castle and vibrant Berlin

Day 13 | **The Westin Grand Hotel, Berlin City Centre** | **B,D**

This morning, we have included a very special treat for you, as we visit the UNESCO Heritage listed Schwerin Castle!
Regarded as one of the most important pieces of Romantic architecture in Europe, Schwerin is sometimes nicknamed the 'Neuschwanstein of the North'. It is enormous! Looking more like a striking, multi-towered Fairytale Palace sitting proudly on a lake, Schwerin is enthroned on its own beautiful island surrounded by parks, gardens and walkways. Visually stunning both outside and inside, we have included entrance with an audio guide for you to explore at your own pace. We have allowed plenty of time here, so make sure you take a relaxing walk around the outside of the castle and grab lunch in the old town with its hundreds of historic half-timbered houses, cobblestoned streets lined with small boutiques, shops and cafes. As they say, "everything here in Schwerin has a touch of elegance".
In the afternoon we continue to vibrant Berlin where we spend our last three nights.

Berlin's Reichstag and wonderful 'My Time'

Day 14 | **The Westin Grand Hotel, Berlin City Centre** | **B**

This morning, we are joined by an expert local guide for a panoramic tour to see all the major sights from the famous Brandenburg Gate, Unter den Linden and the Victory Column in the Tiergarten, Potsdamer Platz, Checkpoint Charlie and remaining sections of "The Wall'. A highlight will be your visit to the rebuilt Reichstag* – the meeting place of the Bundestag (German Parliament). Walking around inside the giant glass and mirrored dome is a truly wonderful experience.
Your afternoon and evening are entirely at leisure. The shopping is amazing and the city brims with world class sights. Perhaps visit one of the five world class museums on the UNESCO Heritage listed Museumsinsel (Museum Island), or the riveting Checkpoint Charlie Museum and moving Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.
This evening discover your own local restaurant for dinner. Maybe dine 'al fresco' in Gendarmenmarkt square, dramatically flanked by two beautiful cathedrals and the Berlin Concert Hall.
**Visit subject to opening times and Parliament sittings*

Potsdam's Palaces and Gardens

Day 15 | **The Westin Grand Hotel, Berlin City Centre** | **B,D**

Imagine, a full day amongst the UNESCO Heritage listed glorious palaces and gardens of Potsdam! On our way to Potsdam we make a photo stop on the famous Bridge of Unity – more famously known as the 'Bridge of Spies'. Arriving in Potsdam, we visit the astounding Neues Palais with its newly restored palatial rooms, including the Gottensaal (Grotto Hall) and Marmorgalerie (Marble Gallery).

After 'My Time' for lunch in Potsdam's pretty Dutch Quarter, we enjoy a guided visit to Fredrick the Great's elegant Sanssouci Summer Palace & Gardens. Built between 1745 and 1747, Sanssouci was not just a summer residence. It is rumoured to have been Frederick's favourite place to stay. The palace retains its charm today - the twelve rooms still have their original elegant designs and furnishings. As a UNESCO World Heritage site, it is recognised as "an outstanding example of architectural creation and landscaping" and "a cultural property of exceptional quality".

Tonight, we enjoy a Farewell dinner.

Berlin

Day 16 | **The Westin Grand Hotel, Berlin City Centre** | **B**

Your tour ends today after breakfast.

Hand Selected Inclusions

These are just a few of the very special hand selected inclusions that will really make your touring experience exceptional and unique, and don't forget, with Albatross they are always included.



Glorious Ghent
Guided Walking Tour and Canal Cruise



Waterloo
Visit the Site of the Battle of Waterloo



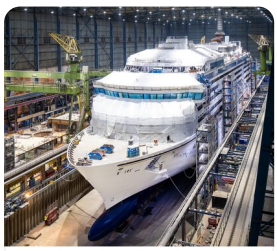
Ypres
Flanders Fields & the Menin Gate



Delta Project
3 Massive Dykes



Rotterdam
Port Cruise



Papenburg
Meyer Werft Shipbuilding Yards



Bremen
UNESCO listed Town Hall



Potsdam Palaces
UNESCO Heritage listed palaces



Schwerin Castle
The 'Neuschwanstein of the North'

Dates and Prices

Correct as of 01:32 on 03rd November 2026

Start Date	End Date	Twin Price	Solo Price

12 Jun 2027	27 Jun 2027	AUD$13,987	AUD$17,787	Space Available
20 May 2028	04 Jun 2028	TBC	TBC	Pre-Register

* The itinerary, inclusions and hotels featured are based on 2027 tour departures and may be subject to change. Any questions, please contact our European Tour Specialists for further details.

Tour Suitability

We visit a number of beautiful towns and sites on foot.

- In mid-summer, the heat may be energy sapping.
- There are a number of beautiful towns and sites we visit which require exploring on foot.

Please refer to our Tour Suitability section for more information.

Terms & Conditions

- Information provided is true and correct at time of issue. Airfares not included. For further details please contact your consultant or full terms and conditions may be found at www.albatrosstours.com.au/booking-conditions. Albatross Tours ABN 45 010 585 143. ATIA Accreditation No: A11341. CATO Accreditation No. 69562707