



# Christmas Markets of Amsterdam, Luxembourg & Brussels

10 days | 12 days with Bruges extension

Wander past historic landmarks, meandering canals, and gabled houses as you marvel at the storybook atmosphere of Christmas markets in the Netherlands, Luxembourg, and Belgium. Immerse yourself in the winter festivities as you delve into Amsterdam's laid-back culture, stroll along Luxembourg's cobbled streets, and explore Brussels, the unofficial capital of Europe.



## Your tour package includes

- 8 nights in handpicked hotels
- 8 breakfasts
- 3 dinners with beer or wine
- 2 beer tastings & 1 wine tasting
- 1 tasting
- 3 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Christmas markets from Amsterdam to Brussels
- Amsterdam's canals
- Bloemenmarkt
- Van Gogh Museum
- Maastricht
- Luxembourg's Old Town
- Grand-Place in Brussels

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1 hour daily across moderately uneven terrain, including cobblestone streets and paved roads, with few hills or stairs.

## Group size

15-38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Amsterdam today.

## Amsterdam → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Amsterdam

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to the Netherlands! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Amsterdam

*Included meals: breakfast*

Today's walking sightseeing tour introduces you to Amsterdam's iconic canals and unique character.

- Begin the day in Rokin with a stop at the Bloemenmarkt, the city's famous flower market
- Then, make a stop at a local cheese stop to explore a variety of local cheeses
- Stroll by the canals and bridges, taking in the houseboats that dot the banks
- Enter the Van Gogh Museum to admire the largest collection of Vincent Van Gogh's masterpieces, including the famous *Sunflowers*

*Please note: You'll be divided into groups of 20 people or less for the walking portion of the sightseeing tour. Each group will have their own local guide.*

Enjoy a free evening in Amsterdam or add an excursion.

+ Canal Cruise & Dinner

### Day 4: Free day in Amsterdam

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Amsterdam or add an excursion.

+ A Day in Charming Delft

## Luxembourg Region → 2 nights

### Day 5: Luxembourg Region via Maastricht

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Travel south to the mountainous province of

Limburg. Stop in its capital, Maastricht, where your Tour Director will show you the Old City walls. Then, enjoy free time to take in the festive spirit at the Vrijthof Square Christmas market, which is home to an illuminated Ferris wheel and ice skating rink. After exploring the many stalls, cross into the tiny principality of Luxembourg, where you'll sit down for an included dinner with your group.

### Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Luxembourg City & Christmas market visit

*Included meals: breakfast*

A local guide leads today's tour of Luxembourg City, the country's capital.

- Enter the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial
- View the World War II Monument to National Unity in the New Town
- See the Citadel of the Holy Spirit, Notre-Dame Cathedral and Grand Ducal Palace
- Travel through the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Enjoy the best of the season as you stroll through festive Christmas markets in the main square, where you'll stop for a mulled wine tasting at a market stall

Enjoy a free afternoon in the Luxembourg region or add an excursion.

+ Historic Germany: A Day in Trier

## Brussels → 3 nights

### Day 7: Brussels via Bastogne

*Included meals: breakfast, beer tasting*

Travel north through the forested Ardennes on your 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
- Stop in Dinant for a guided sightseeing tour of the Leffe brewery and enjoy a beer tasting

### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Brussels & Christmas market visit

*Included meals: breakfast, beer tasting, tasting*

Join a local guide for a panoramic tour of Brussels, the unofficial capital of Europe and headquarters of the European Union.

- Drive past the Cathedral of St. Michael and St. Gudula, a Gothic church dating back to the Middle Ages
- Pass by Brussels Park, the Royal Palace and the Palais de Justice, the largest court building in Brussels
- Stroll through the city's historic center, stopping at the Grand-Place market for a chocolate tasting
- Take free time to view the Manneken Pis statue before exploring Brussels' Christmas markets, where the season comes to life amid soaring Christmas trees and quaint chalets

Enjoy a free evening in Brussels or add an excursion.

+ Belgian Chocolate Workshop & Beer Tasting

### Day 9: Free day in Brussels

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Spend a free day in Brussels or add an excursion. Celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers at a farewell dinner this evening.

+ A Day in Antwerp

## Flight Home

### Day 10: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home or continue your tour in the city of Bruges.

## + Bruges extension

Continue your trip to Bruges, a medieval city so well-preserved, it's like walking right into a fairy-tale scene. Explore some seriously charming cobbled streets on a sightseeing tour with a local guide.

## Bruges → 2 nights

### Day 10: Transfer to Bruges, sightseeing tour & Christmas market visit

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to Bruges, where you'll have plenty of opportunities to take in the sights, sounds and flavors of this charming city. Get an overview on a panoramic tour of its most famous sites.

- See Burg Square and the Church of Our Lady
- Enjoy the view of romantic Minnewater, the "Lake of Love"
- Visit the Beguinage, a UNESCO World Heritage site and home to an order of Benedictine nuns
- Pop into some of the many chocolate shops for tastings
- Step inside the 14th-century City Hall, which is built in the Gothic style and is distinguished as one of the oldest city halls in the Benelux region

This evening, walk through the famous Bruges Christmas Market with your Tour Director, followed by free time to enjoy the festivities on your own.

#### **Day 11: Free day in Bruges**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Bruges or add an excursion.

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

+ A Day in Ghent: Tasting Tour & Canal Cruise

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## **Flight Home**

#### **Day 12: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the Brussels airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/ABC](https://goaheadtours.ca/ABC) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 3: Canal Cruise & Dinner

\$179CAD/\$189CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Cruise along the canals of Amsterdam on a houseboat, enjoying the view of row houses lit up for the night. Your cruise will take you through the center of the city as you enjoy dinner by lantern light.

## Day 4: A Day in Charming Delft

\$175CAD/\$185CAD\* (8 hours, departs in the morning)

Pay a visit to the world-famous flower market at Aalsmeer for a close-up look at one of Holland's best-known national exports: its brilliantly hued tulips. Continue to Delft, a charming town of canals, cobbled alleyways and medieval architecture. Visit the Old and New Churches on a guided tour, and then enjoy free time to grab lunch and explore the town, perhaps visiting the former home of the famous painter, Vermeer. Please note: A visit to the Hague will replace the flower market on days when the market is closed.

## Day 6: Historic Germany: A Day in Trier

\$125CAD/\$135CAD\* (6 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Set out from Luxembourg and cross over the border into Germany for a day in Trier, one of the country's oldest cities. With your guide, explore its rich history as you make your way past ancient Roman ruins, medieval buildings, and the birthplace of Karl Marx. Then, enjoy a beer with the group before you head out into the city for free time and dinner on your own.

## Day 8: Belgian Chocolate Workshop & Beer Tasting

\$175CAD/\$185CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)

For chocolate lovers, Belgium is a dreamland. Today, get a behind-the-scenes look at how the country's famous treat is made during a visit to a Belgian chocolate workshop. Here, you'll follow the chocolate-making process from sourcing the raw ingredients through production. Then, try your hand at crafting hand-made chocolates during a cooking class before pairing your creations with Belgian beer.

## Day 9: A Day in Antwerp

\$175CAD/\$185CAD\* (6 hours, departs in the morning)

Spend the day exploring historic and vibrant Antwerp, the largest port city in Flanders. On your guided tour, you'll learn more about the life and work of iconic artist Peter Paul Rubens during a visit to the Rubens House. This museum once served as Rubens' own home and is where he created many of his finest paintings in the 17th century. After admiring the museum's impressive interior, walk to the old city center. View the Renaissance-era City Hall in the stately Great Market Square and pass the Gothic Cathedral of Our Lady, marveling at its soaring bell tower. Then, stroll through the Green Square, a popular setting for festivals and market stalls. End your visit with free time to enjoy lunch and explore the city's museums on your own. Please

note: A visit to the Museum Plantin-Moretus will replace the Rubens House while it is closed for renovations.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 11: A Day in Ghent: Tasting Tour & Canal Cruise

\$159CAD/\$169CAD\* (7 hours, departs in the morning)

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, as you walk through this university city. Enjoy free time for lunch by Ghent's picturesque canals, perhaps trying Roomer, an elderflower liqueur, or the famed local Gruut beer. Then, get a different perspective of the city during a scenic canal cruise.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)