

# Netherlands & Belgium Discovery

Sail the Dutch and Belgian countryside amongst windmills and tulips onboard the *Avalon Tranquility II*  
April 15<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Keukenhof Gardens



Bruges, Belgium



Flanders Field, Belgium

## Highlights

### Keukenhof Gardens

Spend time at the most beautiful tulip garden in all of Europe and the largest garden in the world. With over seven million gorgeous flower bulbs planted and blooming annually across 32 hectares, Keukenhof Gardens is an invigorating display of colour and nature that is too perfect for words.

### Bruges, Belgium

With a history dating back 2000 years, the captivating city of Bruges is like stepping back in time. Admire market squares lined by splendid churches, whitewashed houses, and soaring towers, including the iconic Belfry of Bruges. A medieval fairytale, the city is filled with gothic charm.

### Brussels, Belgium

Venture into the most beautiful market square and a centre of international politics while visiting Brussels. Amble through quaint corridors on your way to the Grand Place, where the opulence and rich Baroque decor surrounds you. The energy is palpable, and it is easy to forget you are not back in the 10<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Avalon Tranquility II*

The Avalon Tranquility II embodies all of Avalon's outstanding traditions to deliver exceptional cruise experiences and service. Passengers can choose from two full decks of Panorama Suites, featuring wall-to-wall, floor-to-ceiling panoramic windows that transform the living space into river cruising's only Open-Air Balcony.

**10 cabins remain – Prices Increase October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

## Your 16-Day Journey

### Day 1 Depart for Amsterdam, Netherlands

Start your Journey with us by enjoying a private car pick up service from your home. Upon arrival at the airport, guests departing from the Toronto airport are assisted with their checkin. Meet your Journey Manager and fellow guests, and board your flights to Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Our Journey Manager travels with you to take care of all the details, allowing you to embrace your Journey.

**Overnight:** Flight

**Meals:**

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### Day 2 Welcome to Amsterdam

Known for its artistic heritage, elaborate canal system, energetic nightlife and narrow houses with gabled facades, Amsterdam is the Netherlands' mandated capital. After arriving in Amsterdam, we will enjoy a short drive through the city. After a light lunch, we will transfer to the port to board the Avalon Tranquility II, your elegant home for the next 14 days. This evening, savour the captain's welcome reception, followed by a welcome dinner.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 3 Nijmegen

This morning following a short drive from Nijmegen, our day begins in Arnhem. Visit the Airborne Museum of Hartstein commemorating the 1944 WWII Battle of Arnhem. We return to Nijmegen where we enjoy lunch onboard. In the afternoon, enjoy free time at your leisure exploring the oldest town in the Netherlands: Nijmegen. Enjoy dinner as we set sail for Maastricht.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## Netherlands & Belgium

### Day 4 Maastricht

Maastricht is a vibrant city with a deep history and culture. We arrive just before lunch and embark on a guided walking tour of this enchanting city with a cobbled old town and medieval-era architecture. Maastricht offers new surprises around every corner including the Gothic-style church Sint Janskerk, and the Romanesque Basilica of St. Servatius, which houses a significant collection of religious art. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore this one-of-a-kind city. This evening, we enjoy live entertainment on board as we sail overnight to Namur, Belgium.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 5 Namur, Belgium

In Namur, a thriving modern university sits in the shadow of one of Europe's mightiest fortresses in a dramatic symbol of Belgium itself. The city is now a university town with a vibrant student population. Experience this balance firsthand as we visit the great citadel's underground tunnels before emerging to tour its bustling old town. Following lunch, enjoy some free time in the afternoon and after dinner to stroll and explore Namur's cobblestone lanes, home to sunny cafés and bookshops. Ancient yet new, grand yet welcoming, Namur truly is a city like no other.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 6 Liège

Liège is the economic and cultural center of the Wallonia region. No city encapsulates the free-spirited citizens of Belgium quite like Liège. We take a guided tour of the "Fiery City" of Liège with its beautiful ancient quarters, peculiar alleys, and romantic streets. Then we visit Fort De Loncin, built as part of the Fortifications of Liège in the late 19th century in Belgium and destroyed during World War I. After lunch on the boat, enjoy some free time before sailing in the evening and overnight towards Antwerp.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## Netherlands & Belgium

### Day 7 Antwerp

We embark on a morning walking tour of Antwerp, where our local guides will share this beautiful city with us, to discover the works of Peter Paul Rubens and the Cathedral of Our Lady. Sitting on the River Scheldt, Antwerp is Belgium's biggest port and second-largest city after Brussels. During our visit wander down the cobbled lanes lined by cozy cafés and quaint bars. As we return to our boat for lunch, we will set sail for Brussels. Enjoy an evening cocktail as you savour the sights of the river Scheldt.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 8 Brussels

Today, we tour Brussels, an ancient yet modern city. We take a walking tour through the quaint avenues of Belgium's capital to the 'Grand Place.' Surrounded by opulent guild halls and anchored by the magnificent City Hall and the spectacular Maison du Roi (the "King's House"), this UNESCO World Heritage Site is known for its aesthetic wealth. We will be docked in Brussels for the next 36 hours, so take the opportunity to sample Brussels hearty cuisine and famous beer.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 9 Bruges

Belgium's most beautiful jewel, Bruges is known for winding canals, cobbled streets, and medieval buildings. Its oval-shaped, historic city centre features several market squares lined by splendid churches, whitewashed houses, and soaring towers including the iconic Belfry of Bruges, a medieval bell tower overlooking Market Square.

#### Journeys Exclusive Excursion – Bruges City Tour

Join us on a Journeys by Van Dyke exclusive excursion to Bruges – Belgium's most beautiful jewel. Our all-day excursion includes a guided walking tour as well as a boat cruise through the beautiful canals of one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities. Following some free time to enjoy lunch in the Market Square, we will make a stop at the Adegem Canadian War Cemetery before returning to the ship.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## Netherlands & Belgium

### Day 10 Ghent

Ghent, "The Diamond of Flanders," is one of the country's most entrancing cities. Our morning tour of the city will take us to St. Bavo's Cathedral, which houses an impressive number of art treasures including the baroque high altar in white, black and red flamed marble, a major work by Rubens, the 'Calvary Triptych', tombs of the Ghent bishops, and the world-famous Adoration of the Mystic Lamb painted by Hubert and Jan van Eyck. Lunch will be on board, before an evening of live entertainment as we cruise to Bossuit.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 11 Flanders Field

During the First World War, Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae penned a poem in the midst of rows of poppies in Flanders field. The poppies in his poem are used today as vivid symbols of remembrance and new growth amidst the devastation of war. It is amidst poppies that our full-day is spent in Ypres. Beginning with the museum in Ypres, we learn about the invasion of Belgium and the permanent remembrance ever since. Then we visit the battlefields, cemeteries, memorials and private collections. We will enjoy a light supper, before we take part in the Last Post Ceremony. Taking place every evening under the imposing arches of the Menin Gate, the town of Ypres gathers for the sounding of the Last Post bugle call. We cruise overnight to Middelburg.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 12 Middelburg & Veere, The Netherlands

Middelburg, the capital of Zeeland, boasts one of Europe's most beautiful town halls. A monumental town, an important city during the colonial times, overflows with a wealth of historical buildings and monuments reflective of those golden times. Later, enjoy a scenic cruise to Veere, a picture-perfect town with a busy yacht harbour, arriving in time to explore with a walking tour of this former fishing village which dates back to the early 16th century. From Veere we will visit the Delta Works. The largest flood-protection system in the world, it remains one of the "Seven Wonders of the Modern World."

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## Netherlands & Belgium

### Day 13 Kinderdijk & Rotterdam

The windmill is a national symbol in Holland, and today we learn why as we tour Kinderdijk, the site of 19 windmills built in 1740. Following lunch, we will enjoy a tour of Rotterdam, the Netherlands' second-largest metropolis and Europe's busiest port. Nearly levelled during World War II, Rotterdam now stands as a beacon of resilience, with its rebuilt architecture and diverse cultures marking it as a unique, modern metropolis. Today, Rotterdam is known for its lively cultural life, top-class museums, and diverse, multi-ethnic community – truly a 21st century city.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 14 Keukenhof Gardens & Haarlem

Marvel 32 hectares of Europe's most beautiful tulip garden. After we visit Haarlem, a major flower-growing district outside Amsterdam.

#### Journeys Exclusive Excursion – Keukenhof Gardens

This morning, we visit the most beautiful tulip garden in Europe – Keukenhof. With over seven million flower bulbs planted and blooming annually over 32 hectares, this splendid floral display is one of the world's largest flower gardens. On our return to the ship, we enjoy lunch, before an afternoon visit of Haarlem, a major flower bulb growing district outside of Amsterdam. Following our return on board, delight in an evening of river cruising as we return to Amsterdam.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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### Day 15 Amsterdam

Floating down Amsterdam's canals is one of the most memorable ways to discover the city's sights and attractions. Everything in Amsterdam seems a bit more magical when viewed from a boat. We explore Amsterdam's UNESCO protected canal ring before returning to the ship for lunch, and an afternoon of free time to enjoy your final moments of our time in Amsterdam. This evening on board, join your fellow guests and toast to your Captain and crew at our farewell dinner.

**Overnight:** Avalon Tranquility II

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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## Netherlands & Belgium

**Day 16**                      **Home**

Today we bid “tot ziens” to our new friends and make our way to the airport for our flight home. Enjoy our private car to your home.

**Overnight:**                      Home

**Meals:**                              Breakfast

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*All information contained in this itinerary is correct at time of printing and is subject to the terms and conditions as listed on our web site at [www.jerryvandyke.com](http://www.jerryvandyke.com) or available from our office on request. We must reserve the ability to make improvements.*

## Netherlands & Belgium

### Your Journey Includes

#### First Class Accommodation

Cruise	MS Avalon Tranquility II	14 nights
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#### Included Flights

Airline:	Air Canada
Outbound:	Toronto (YYZ) - Amsterdam (AMS)
Inbound:	Amsterdam (AMS) - Toronto (YYZ)
Class of Service:	Economy <i>Premium Economy and Business are available on request</i>
Note:	Fly from select Canadian gateways for only \$100 <i>For additional gateways and further information, contact us for details.</i>

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#### Journeys by Van Dyke Inclusions

Journey Manager	Services of a professional Journey Manager throughout the journey
Home-Pickup Service	Private car home pick-up & return service (where available) or a credit or
Hotel Overnight	Hotel overnight near Toronto Pearson International Airport
Gratuities	Tips included for all intermediaries: all ship staff, Journey Managers, local sightseeing guides, coach drivers, porters, etc.
Porterage	Porterage for one piece of baggage
Visas & Fees	All fees, visas, port & service charges
Gift with Every Journey	Branded overnight carry-on bag or backpack
Taxes	All taxes incl. HST, PST, VAT

## Netherlands & Belgium

### Journey Specific Inclusions & Experiences

- Complete pre-trip information & assistance
- 14 breakfasts, 14 lunches, 14 dinners
- Wine and beer included with all lunches & dinner on board the Avalon Tranquility II
- All sightseeing & entrance fees as listed
- Airborne Museum of Hartstein
- Maastricht Walking Tour
- Namur City Tour
- Liège Discovery
- Antwerp City Tour
- Brussels Guide Tour
- **Bruges City Tour**
- Ghent Walking Tour including St. Bavo's Cathedral
- Ypres Discovery including - Flanders Field Museum and Las Post Cemetery.
- Middelburg Walking Tour
- Delta Works Visit
- Kinderdijk Windmills
- Rotterdam Architecture
- Harlem, flower bulb district
- **Keukenhof Gardens**

### Fares

Cabin	Double Occupancy	Single Occupancy
E – Deluxe Stateroom	\$10,990 CAD	\$15,990 CAD
D – Deluxe Stateroom	\$11,490 CAD	\$16,590 CAD
B – Panorama Suite	\$13,990 CAD	\$20,490 CAD
P – Panorama Suite	\$14,490 CAD	\$21,290 CAD

*Fuel Surcharges - These journey fares include the current known fuel surcharges. Additional supplier fuel charges and or government fees may apply at final payment date.*

## *MS Avalon Tranquility II*



Christened in 2015, the Avalon Tranquility II joins Avalon Waterways' growing fleet of Suite Ships. With over 50 suites on board, it sails along the Danube, Rhine and Main rivers as well as the Dutch and Belgian Waterways. Like its prominent predecessors, this boat continues orientation to high quality river cruises in Europe.

All Panorama Suites blur the line between the outside and in with Avalon's Open-Air Balconies. These 200 sq ft rooms, 30% larger than the industry standard, are equipped with wall-to-wall and floor-to-ceiling windows that open wider than any other in river cruising. With the beds placed to face the window, you've never seen Europe like this!

Onboard amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi access, an expanded Fitness Center, an elevator, alternative light dining options in the Panorama Bistro or al fresco grill lunch at the Sky Bistro, and an expansive Sky Deck with whirlpool, premium lounge chairs, a shade system, and deck games.

Year Built:	2015	Length:	361 feet
Passenger Capacity:	128	Beam:	38 feet
Crew Members:	37	Gross Tonnage:	2,022
Number of Decks:	4	Maximum Speed:	12 knots

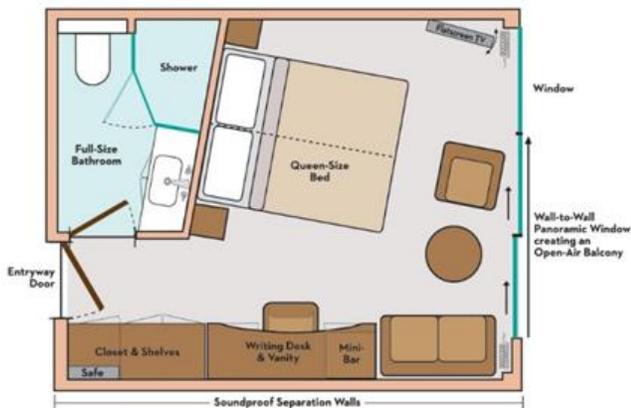
# Netherlands & Belgium

## Stateroom Features

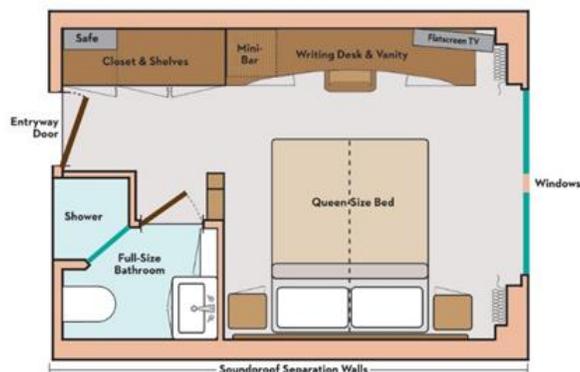
- Comfort Collection Beds<sup>SM</sup>
- Egyptian super-combed cotton linens
- Soft & firm pillows
- Choice of bed configuration
- Bedside tables with reading lamps
- L'Occitane bath products
- Easy under-bed luggage storage
- Alarm clock
- Bathrobes & slippers
- Complimentary filtered water
- Individual climate control
- Large mirror in bathroom
- USB Ports
- Full shower with glass door
- Vanity and lighted makeup mirror
- Luxurious mattress toppers
- European-style duvets
- Extra blankets
- Nightly turn-down service
- Hairdryer
- Spacious 3-door closets with shelves for ample storage
- Flatscreen satellite TV with English-speaking channels & over 100 free movie options
- Direct-dial telephone
- Well-stocked minibar
- In-room safe
- Elegant, contemporary design
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Two windows
- Writing desk and chair

### Panorama Suite (Cat A, B) 200 sq. ft.

*including wall-to-wall panoramic window, open-air balcony and six-person sitting area*



### Deluxe Stateroom (Cat D, E) 172 sq. ft.

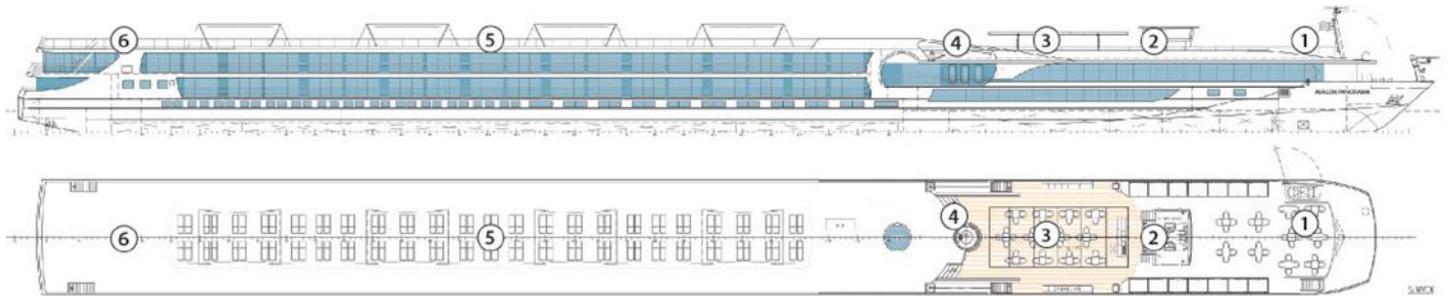


305 King Street West  
Suite 1004  
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1B9

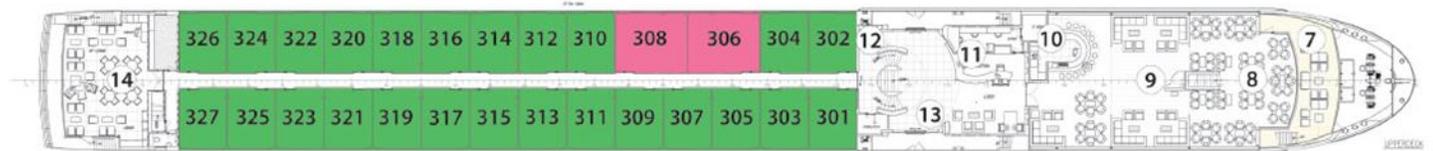
519.653.3500 or 1.800.265.8174  
journeys@jerryvandyke.com  
jerryvandyke.com

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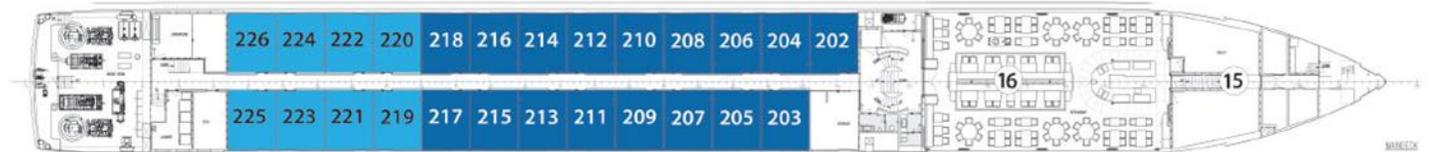
## SKY DECK



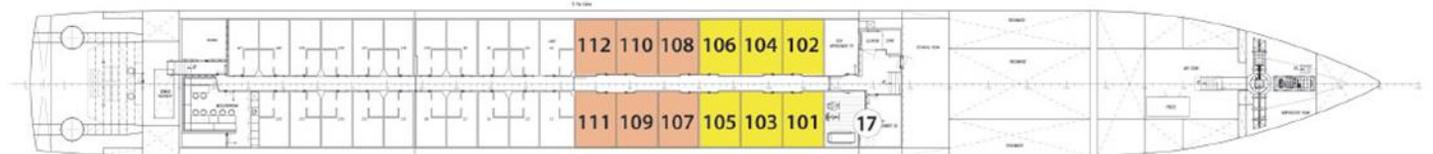
## ROYAL DECK



## SAPPHIRE DECK



## INDIGO DECK



### DECK PLAN

- |   |                      |                   |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Sky Lounge                                    | 6 Deck Game Area     | 12 Elevator       |
| 2 Navigation Bridge                             | 7 Observation Lounge | 13 Lobby          |
| 3 Sky Grill                                     | 8 Panorama Bistro    | 14 Club Lounge    |
| 4 Whirlpool                                     | 9 Panorama Lounge    | 15 Galley         |
| 5 Premium Lounge<br>Chairs and Shade<br>Awnings | 10 Bar               | 16 Dining Room    |
|   | 11 Reception         | 17 Fitness Center |

### CATEGORIES

- Royal Suite** Royal Deck | Royal Suites
- Cat. P** Royal Deck | Panorama Suites
- Cat. A** Sapphire Deck Forward | Panorama Suites
- Cat. B** Sapphire Deck Aft | Panorama Suites
- Cat. D** Indigo Deck Aft | Deluxe Staterooms
- Cat. E** Indigo Deck Forward | Deluxe Staterooms

305 King Street West  
Suite 1004  
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 1B9

519.653.3500 or 1.800.265.8174  
journeys@jerryvandyke.com  
jerryvandyke.com

Netherlands & Belgium

Personal Notes & Questions