



# A WEEK IN AMSTERDAM

## OCTOBER 10-17, 2017

As many of you are aware, I traveled to **AMSTERDAM** in March and was totally enthralled by this interesting city, its history, people and artistic treasures. Here are the details for a **WEEK IN AMSTERDAM** which I have planned for the fall. A variety of tours on foot, bus and canal boat are included as well as special guided visits to the spectacular **RIJKSMUSEUM** and **REMBRANDT'S HOUSE**. Farther afield we will visit the **HAGUE**, the **NETHERLAND'S** stately capital city and nearby **DELFT** famous for its lovely blue and white pottery. An excursion to **OTERLO**, to visit the wonderful **KROLLER MULLER MUSEUM** and **SCULPTURE GARDEN** is also on the itinerary. Dining options will include fresh fish from the **NORTH SEA** and other local fare as well as a potpourri of international delicacies from Indonesia, Turkey and more. Tickets for concerts at the renowned **CONCERTGEBAU** and other cultural events will also be available if that is your pleasure. I invite you to join me when I return to **AMSTERDAM** in October.

– Ellen Kay Coleman, President, Excursions from the Square

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10** – Early evening departure from **PHILADELPHIA**, or your home city, to **AMSTERDAM**. Dinner and breakfast will be served aboard the airplane. (D)

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11** – Upon arrival at **SCHIPOL AIRPORT**, transfer to the **RADISSON BLU HOTEL**. We will have time to explore the neighborhood this afternoon and enjoy a cruise on the city's legendary canals. Dinner is included this evening. (B,D)

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12** – On a morning stroll we will explore the city and its canals carved out of the marshy land around the River Amstel many centuries ago. In bustling **DAM SQUARE** we will see the **NIEUWE KERK**, with its elaborately carved pulpit and the **ROYAL PALACE**, a classical edifice built by Jacob van Campen, a prominent architect of the Golden Age. We will visit the **FLOWER MARKET** where you can arrange to send Holland's precious bulbs back home, and witness six centuries of architectural styles in the houses and public buildings in the center of the city. We will arrive at the **RIJKSMUSEUM** in time for lunch on your own prior to a private tour of the museum's rich collections from the **DUTCH GOLDEN AGE** of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Through art and artifacts we will observe the country's commercial, maritime and cultural history and see iconic paintings by **REMBRANDT**, **VERMEER**, **FRANS HALS** and more. You will have free time to further explore the Rijksmuseum on your own or visit the nearby **VAN GOGH MUSEUM** or the **STEDELIJK** featuring modern and contemporary art and design. (B)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13** – Aboard our bus this morning, an architectural guide will show us some of **AMSTERDAM'S** beautiful parks and neighborhoods beyond the canals and explore the form and function of modern and commercial structures that have enhanced the city in recent years. We will continue on to **OTERLO** for a visit to the **KROLLER-MULLER MUSEUM** with its vast collection of modern art including 278 works by **VINCENT VAN GOGH**. It is set in a national park where we can enjoy the colors of autumn in the **BEELDENTUIN**, a 25-acre sculpture park including works by **JEAN DUBUFFET**, **AUGUST RODIN**, **HENRY MOORE**. (B)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14** – Venture outside of **AMSTERDAM** again today for a visit to **DELFT**, dating back to 1075 when it was a center for weaving and brewing. It is now famous for its blue and white ceramics called **DELFTWARE**, an art form stemming from majolica introduced by Italian immigrants who settled there in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. We will tour **THE HAGUE** with its elegant mansions and shopping arcades and the **INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**, the principal judicial body of the **UNITED NATIONS**. Viewing the treasures of the newly renovated **MAURTISHUIS MUSEUM** is one of the highlights of our week. Their exquisite collection of Old Master Paintings includes *Girl with a Pearl Earring* by **JOANNES VERMEER**. (B)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15** – Lunch is included today after a visit to **REMBRANDT'S HOUSE**, the magnificently restored home where the artist lived between 1639 and 1658. I have arranged an optional afternoon for you to explore landmarks of Jewish interest such as the **ANNE FRANK HOUSE**, the extensive collections at the **JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY** and the **PORTUGESE SYNAGOGUE** inspired by the Temple of Solomon in **JERUSALEM**. (B, L)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 16** – You may wish to wander, shop and explore on your own on our final day in **AMSTERDAM**. My plans included an optional stroll in the **PLANTAGE DISTRICT** where there are many small and interesting museums and tree-lined streets filled with elegant 19<sup>th</sup> century mansions. The **HERMITAGE**, a branch of the State Museum of **ST. PETERSBURG** in Russia, the **ARTIS ROYAL ZOO** and the **BOTANICAL GARDEN** are all in this beautiful section of the city. You can also return to the **RIJKSMUSEUM**, **STEDELIJK**, or **VAN GOGH MUSEUMS** on the **MUSEUM PLEIN** as they are all open on Mondays. A special final dinner is included this evening. (B, D)

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17** – If you are returning home today we will make arrangements for you to return to the airport. Additional nights at the **RADISSON BLU** are available upon request. I am in the process of formulating plans for an optional extension to **PARIS** (October 17-21) following our **WEEK IN AMSTERDAM**. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested in this option. (B)

*TO LEARN MORE ABOUT AMSTERDAM, you may enjoy watching this video that aired recently on CBS THIS MORNING where host Jane Pauley partners with Russell Shorti, author of AMSTERDAM: THE WORLD'S MOST LIBERAL CITY. <http://www.cbsnews.com/videos/sunday-morning-full-episode-52-1-by-design/>*

**TOUR COST:** The cost for land arrangements is **\$2690**. The single supplement is **\$785**.

**INCLUDED IN THE LAND PACKAGE:** Accommodations for six nights at the **RADISSON BLU HOTEL** including buffet breakfast, tax and service; one lunch, two dinners; sightseeing and museum visits as listed in the itinerary; and a pre-trip reading packet. Airfare is additional. Airport transfers are not included. The trip will be escorted by a representative from **EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE**. I am also offering a complimentary space on one of our day trips (October 26, December 9 or 10) to **WASHINGTON DC** this fall to see **VERMEER** and the **MASTERS OF GENRE PAINTING** which will be on view at the **NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART**.

**AIRLINE ARRANGEMENTS:** **EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE** has blocked a limited number of seats on non-stop round-trip flights on American Airlines for a round trip fare of approximately \$700 including all fees and taxes. Fees might vary at time of ticketing. All passengers must fly together to Amsterdam, but are permitted to return from other European cities depending upon availability.

**SPACE IS LIMITED** Please completes the coupon below and mail it with a deposit of **\$1000** to **EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE**, PO Box 2189, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Final payment for land arrangements and group airfare is due no later than **TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2017**. We accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express at an additional charge of 5%. Full refund for land arrangements may be made until **AUGUST 1, 2017** less your deposit of \$1000. Thereafter, all costs are non-refundable unless a replacement is found. Airfares are subject to airline cancellation restrictions. Trip cancellation insurance is available from **EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE**. **AN EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT OF \$200 PER PERSON IS AVAILABLE IF WE RECEIVE a deposit of \$1000 BY FRIDAY, JUNE 30, 2017.**

For More Information Call **EXCURSIONS FROM THE SQUARE** at 215/732 8487 [ellenkay@prodigy.net](mailto:ellenkay@prodigy.net) – [www.squaretrips.com](http://www.squaretrips.com)

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