



# FROM TULIPS to TCHAIKOVSKY



April 27-May 4, 2024

## SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

Depart DFW for Amsterdam

- Recommended flights
  - AA#204 from Philadelphia – Amsterdam
  - AA#1995 from DFW - Philadelphia OR AA#1310 from DFW – Philadelphia
  - *Do not book any airfare until your reservation is confirmed.*

**Land at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport by 8am, April 28<sup>th</sup>.** Various airlines and schedules make this possible.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

**8:30am** Meet our driver at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, Marcus Schiphol Lounge.

Drive by luxurious private vehicle to **Hotel Sofitel Legend The Grand**. The drive, depending on traffic takes about 30 minutes. To be determined: early checkin and access to our rooms upon arrival.

**11.30am** Meet in the hotel lobby for private transport to the Concertgebouw for lunch and the **2:15pm Tchaikovsky concert** conducted by the DSO's former musical director, **Jaap van Zweden**. We have orchestra seats. A private, brief meet and greet following the concert with Conductor Zweden is expected.

**5:30pm** Return to the hotel where we'll check in if not before.

**Early, casual Welcome dinner** and receive a summary of the upcoming week with time to answer questions.

## MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2024

**Breakfast at the hotel, included**

**8.30am** Meet our guide in the hotel lobby, from where you will be taken for a scenic drive to, and guided tour of the famous **Rijksmuseum**.

**11.15am** We continue the tour with a short scenic walk to, and guided tour of the **Van Gogh Museum** where you will step into Van Gogh's world.

**1pm** Lunch at the museum's restaurant, Le Tambourin

**2.30pm** Local and fun tram ride to the city center, where we continue with an interesting walking tour of the historic city center.

**4.15pm (time TBC)** The walk will end at the famous **Anne Frank House**, which we will visit next.

**5.30pm** From here, there will be a scenic walk back to your hotel, where you will have the remainder of the day for your own leisure. You will arrive back before **6pm**.

**Casual dinner at a local restaurant.**

## TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024

**Breakfast at the hotel, included**

**9.15am** Meet our guide in the hotel lobby, from where you will be taken for a 25-minute drive by luxurious private vehicle to the picturesque village **Loenen aan de Vecht**, where you will board a **private historical saloon boat** for a spectacular cruise on the **River Vecht**. A cruise on the Vecht means cruising past beautiful

estates and tea pavilions. We will go through picturesque villages such as Nieuwe Maarsen where they will open up their bridges just for us.

**12.15pm** The cruise will end at **Brasserie Oud Zuilen** in **Oud Zuilen**, where you will have leisure time for lunch. The restaurant is beautifully situated, with a spectacular view over the River.

**1.30pm** We continue with a short scenic drive to, and a guided tour of **Slot (Castle) Zuilen**, which is one of the oldest castles along the River Vecht.

**3pm** Return to the hotel where you have the remainder of the day for your own leisure.

**7.00pm** In front of your hotel (boat dock) you will board a historic **Saloon Boat** for a private cruise through the Amsterdam canals, the most relaxed way to get to know Amsterdam with a VIP treatment! Along the way, a progressive **3-course fresh and tasty dinner (from three excellent restaurants)** will be served onboard including coffee and tea. There is a **full bar onboard at an additional cost**. Your captain will tell you everything about the sights you will see along the way.

**10.00pm** The cruise will end back at our hotel.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

### Breakfast at the hotel, included

**7.45am** Meet our guide in the hotel lobby, from where you will be taken for a 30-minute drive by luxurious private vehicle to, and guided tour of the World's largest flower auction, **Flora Holland**. Did you know that on an average auction day they auction 30 million cut flowers in more than 30,000 varieties?

**9.45am** We continue with a short drive to a **local grower, for an exclusive tour**. The owner will be there to greet us in person, answering our questions. The colors cannot be described in words.

**11.15am** From here, there will be a scenic drive to picturesque village **Lisse**, the heart of the bulb district. We will enjoy a tasty **home-made lunch in a local private 'modern' home in an upscale residential area**. Enjoy and talk with the owners and see how the Dutch live. If the weather permits, lunch will be served in the family garden.

**1.15pm** The day continues with a visit to the famous **Keukenhof Gardens**, located at a stone's throw from the lunch location. The Keukenhof gardens cover 70 acres on which roughly 8 million bulbs are planted every year. Every garden has a specific design and character.

**4pm** From here, the drive back will take us through the spectacular and colorful bulb fields and we will make stops (where possible and allowed) for pictures within the fields. You will arrive back around **5.15pm**.

**Casual dinner.**

## THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

### Breakfast at the hotel, included

**8.30am** Meet In the hotel lobby and travel to medieval **Delft**.

Before we make a visit to the historical city center, there will be a stop at the last remaining Delftware factory from the 17th century, **Royal Delft**. The world renowned Royal Delft blue is still produced according to centuries-old traditions. Discover all about the history, craftsmanship and innovation of this royal company.

**10.45am** We continue with a short scenic drive to the **medieval city center**. Stroll along the canals and discover the most beautiful spots of historic Delft. Known as miniature Amsterdam, the city center is one of the best-preserved examples of a medieval Dutch town. It is a city with rich historic and cultural heritage.

**12.30pm** Enjoy lunch at **Restaurant Old Postoffice**, where they serve delicious food made with local products.

**1.30pm** From here, it is only a 20-minute drive to the 'Royal City' **The Hague**, where you will be taken on a guided walk of the historical city center. The Hague is a historical city from the 13th Century, but it is also the city where King Willem Alexander lives and where you will find many world-famous museums.

**2pm** Upon arrival, you will be taken for a guided of the spectacular **Panorama M** tour. The Panorama is a cylindrical painting, more than 14 meters high and 120 m in diameter. The view of the sea, the dunes and Scheveningen village were painted by Hendrik Willem Mesdag in 1881.

**2.45pm** We'll take a **scenic walk of the city center including a stop at the Palace Noordeinde**, the working Palace of King Willem Alexander. There will be a walk in the oldest part of The Hague, the medieval parliament buildings 'Inner court' with the Knights Hall from the 13th century.

**3.30pm** There will be a guided tour of the famous **Mauritshuis Museum**, one of the most prominent and oldest museums in the Netherlands or even in the world! Their collection is in the top 3 world-wide. The Mauritshuis Museum is home to the very best Dutch Golden Age paintings. More than two hundred top works from Dutch and Flemish masters are on display in the historic yet intimate interior, with its silken wall covering, sparkling chandeliers and monumental painted ceilings.

**5pm** Back to the hotel with an arrival by 6pm.

**Casual dinner near the hotel.**

## **FRIDAY, MAY 3, 2024**

**Breakfast at the hotel, included**

**8.45am** Meet in the hotel lobby and drive to a guided backstage tour of the **Maeslant Storm Surge Barrier**, which explains everything about water management. In a country that is at least 1/3 below sea level, the Barrier is part of the Delta Works and it is one of largest moving structures on Earth. The main objective of this project was improving the safety against flooding of the Rotterdam harbor, and the surrounding towns and agricultural areas. The tour will be conducted by an engineer.

**11.45am** We continue the tour with a 45-minute drive to **Restaurant Venneper Lodge in Nieuw Venneper**, where there is leisure time for lunch.

**2pm** From the Lodge, it is a short drive to 'Royal' **Patisserie Chocolaterie Vermeer** for a private workshop chocolate praline making. When entering the patisserie, the delicious pastries, chocolates, wedding cakes, desserts and savory specialties immediately draw your attention. The owner Robin Peereboom himself is a Dutch Pastry Champion and he even came second at the World Pastry Championship. Learn all about the origins of chocolate, the different types of chocolate and how chocolates are made. At the end of the workshop you can **take all the delicious chocolates that you have made, to be enjoyed at a later time!**

**4.15pm** From here, you will be taken back to your hotel in Amsterdam, where you will have the remainder of the day for your own leisure. You will arrive back around **5pm**.

**FAREWELL DINNER: A very special "Secret" location**

## **SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024**

Breakfast at the hotel, included

**Time TBC but approximately 7:00-7:30am** After breakfast and check out, private transportation will take us to **Amsterdam Schiphol Airport** for **flights leaving no earlier than 11:00am**. The drive, depending on traffic takes about 30-minutes. Various airlines and schedules make the journey back to Dallas or other cities for those extending their trip, easily accessible.

**\*\*Schiphol Airport advises arriving at the Airport 3 hours prior to your flight for European flights, and 4 hours for all other flights.**