

HCS TOUR TO THE NETHERLANDS Thursday 27- Monday 31 July 2017

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - THURSDAY 27 JULY - TRAVEL TO THE NETHERLANDS

According to Jan Adriaanszoon Leeghwater, the engineer responsible for draining the polders in the 17th century, De Rijp was 'the most beautiful village in Holland'. Today its architecture is still wonderfully unspoiled. The former town hall, the great church and the wooden houses bear witness to wealth gained by herring fishing and whale hunting.

Time	Activity	Further Info
7.00	Coach arrives at Church of St Alban, North Harrow	
7.45	Depart Harrow	
10.10	Arrive Dover	Check in P&O Ferries.
11.10	Depart Dover	LUNCH ON FERRY (INDEPENDENT ARRANGEMENTS)
13.40	Arrive Calais (local time)	
19.30	Arrive De Rijp. Check in Hotel De Rijper, Eilanden www.derijpereilanden.nl	Informal buffet dinner in the hotel for all guests. Time tbc



DAY 2 - FRIDAY 28 JULY - ALKMAAR/MONNICKENDAM

Alkmaar is famous for its traditional **kaasmarkt** (cheese market), held every Friday morning. Porters sporting colourful hats carry the cheeses off on sledges to the **waaggebouw** (public weigh-house). The street layout has barely changed over the centuries. Old merchants' houses and small courtyards can be seen along the canals.

Time	Activity	Further Info
7.30	Breakfast in hotel	
10.00	Depart De Rijp	
10.30	Arrive Alkmaar	FREE TIME SUGGESTIONS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biermuseum de Boom • Vismarkt (Friday 9-noon) • Boat trip (from the jetty on Mient) - own cost • the Waag Weighing House on main square • Kaasmarkt (Friday 10 - noon) LUNCH (INDEPENDENT ARRANGEMENTS)
14.30	Depart Alkmaar	
15.15	Arrive Monickendam	
15.30	Rehearsal in Monickendam Grote Kerk	After the rehearsal, time for an EVENING MEAL (INDEPENDENT ARRANGEMENTS) before the performance
19.30	Concert	
21.00	Depart Monickendamm	
21.30	Arrive De Rijp	Bar will be open for drinks



DAY 3 - SATURDAY 29 JULY - AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam offers all the advantages of a world city in combination with the charm and character of a large village. The city contains approximately 45 unique museums, including the **Van Gogh Museum** (containing the largest Van Gogh collection and other works by painters of his era), the **Rijksmuseum** (the largest museum in the Netherlands) and the **Anne Frank House**, offering a wealth of art, culture and history. **Online pre-booking highly recommended, particularly for the Anne Frank House.** The city's layout is determined by its canals - the historical centre dating from the 13th century is surrounded by five concentric canals which were dug in the 17th century. With its antique houses, cobbled street, humpback bridges and tree-lined canals, **Amsterdam** is very attractive.

Time	Activity	Further Info
7.30	Breakfast in hotel	
9.00	Depart De Rijp	
9.45	Arrive Amsterdam	FREE TIME SUGGESTIONS: Optional guided tour (own cost) Amsterdam Diamond Centre Anne Frank Huis Van Gogh museum LUNCH (INDEPENDENT ARRANGEMENTS)
13.30	Rehearsal in Noorderkerk	
15.00	Concert	After the concert, FREE TIME and DINNER (INDEPENDENT ARRANGEMENTS)
21.00	Depart Amsterdam	
21.45	Arrive De Rijp	Bar will be open for drinks



DAY 4 - SUNDAY 30 JULY -HOORN/MEDEMBLIK/ENKHUIZEN

Hoorn's rich past, as the capital of the ancient province of West Friesland and one of the great seafaring towns of the Golden Age, has produced many beautiful buildings. The late Gothic Oosterkerk has a marvellous Renaissance facade, just like the St Jans Gasthuis. **Hoorn's** historic past is set out in the Westfries Museum.

Medemblik, founded as early as the 9th century, lies on the west shore of the IJsselmeer (a huge freshwater lake reclaimed from the sea). In the past **Medemblik** was an important trading harbour as seen in its old merchant houses, warehouses and churches.

Enkhuizen is still one of Holland's major ports. Its many fine buildings are evidence of the wealth of the Golden Age. The most famous building is the Drommedaris, dating back to 1540, used to keep watch over the entrance to the old port. The city walls also date back to the 16th century. **Enkhuizen** has two splendid churches, the Westerkerk and the Zuiderkerk. The Flessenscherpjes (ships in bottles) Museum located in the 17th century sluice house is also unusual.

Time	Activity	Further Info
7.30	Breakfast in hotel	
9.00	Depart De Rijp	
9.30	Arrive Hoorn	
10.40	Steam train from Hoorn to Medemblik	
12.00	Arrive Medemblik	LUNCH (INDEPENDENT ARRANGEMENTS)
13.20	Depart Medemblik by boat	
14.40	Arrive Enkhuizen	FREE TIME
15.00	Rehearsal in Westerkerk	
17.00	Concert	
19.00	Depart Enkhuizen	
19.45	Arrive De Rijp	
20.30	CELEBRATORY GALA BUFFET in hotel	



DAY 5 - MONDAY 31 JULY - TRAVEL TO THE UK

Time	Activity	Further Info
7.30	Breakfast in hotel and check out	
9.15	Depart De Rijp	LUNCH EN ROUTE (INDEPENDENT ARRANGEMENTS)
15.00	Arrive Calais. Check in P&O Ferries	
16.05	Depart Calais	
16.35	Arrive Dover (local time)	
19.30	Arrive Harrow	