



Agricultural Tour to Holland, Belgium and Germany with technical visits

Day 1: Arrival in Amsterdam. Meet your tour escort and private motor coach and enjoy a guided city tour of Amsterdam's highlights. Afterwards continue on to your accommodation. Welcome dinner. Overnight outside of Amsterdam.

Day 2: After early breakfast enjoy a visit to the world's largest flower auction in full swing. Enjoy the gorgeous flowers and experience the hustle and bustle of the *auktion* where more than 19 million flowers and two million plants are sold each day in a vast trade building covering more than 250 acres. Afternoon continue on to visit a traditional cheese and clog factory with tasting. You are taken back in time and get to witness how the famous Dutch Gouda cheese is still made the traditional way. Overnight outside of Amsterdam.

Day 3: The Netherlands, despite its limited land area, it is one of the leading agricultural producers in the world. A large part of their arable land is reclaimed from the sea and must be preserved through elaborate drainage systems with dikes, canals and pumping stations. Morning farm visit (milk, cattle). Afterwards lunch with farm products. In the afternoon continue on to an open air museum which acquaints you with a bygone era of the Dutch's working-class. Until the early 1900s more than 600 windmills were in use along the Zaan River, but today, merely ten of these impressive wooden machines remain in working condition. The rich history of the Dutch comes to life as you explore these windmills and observe expert craftspeople demonstrating their skills. Overnight outside of Amsterdam.

Day 4: After breakfast transfer to the Niederrhein to visit an experimental and educational centre which carries out practical trials in the areas of dairy, cattle breeding, feeding and rearing methods, grassland and organic dairy production, pasture trails and more. Afterwards factory visit of an internationally leading specialist supplier for professional arable farming. The programme comprises powerful, versatile, high-quality technology for soil cultivation, sowing and crop protection. Overnight in Niederrhein area.

Day 5: After breakfast continue on to beautiful Brussels in Belgium. Upon arrival enjoy a guided bus tour with stop for a photo op at the futuristic Atomium, drive by the Royal Palace and gardens, and see the European Parliament. Explore Brussel's *Grand Place*, a splendid market square surrounded by opulent aristocratic buildings adorned with gilded buttresses, and see the world famous Manneken Pis, a small bronze fountain sculpture of a little boy doing the unimaginable. Optional informational visit to the EU about agricultural subsidies. Belgium is famous for its beer and chocolate products. First visit to a chocolate maker with demonstration and tasting. Afterwards visit a traditional beer brewery with tasting. Alternatively visit to beer brewery museum. We recommend an evening visit to a local pub with record range of over 2000 different beers. Overnight in Brussels.





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Day 6: After breakfast continue on to Germany. Visit to Aachen. Aachen Cathedral was the first German monument to be awarded UNESCO World Heritage status. Snack on "Aachener Printen". The most famous delicacy of the town is a spicy Lebkuchen pastry, similar to gingerbread, which has been produced in the region since 1820. Or visit Cologne on the way. Cologne's geographical and spiritual heart is the magnificent Kölner Dom. With its soaring twin spires, this is the Mt Everest of cathedrals, jam-packed with art and treasures. Afternoon Rhine cruise. Between Rudesheim and Koblenz, the Rhine cuts deeply through the Rhenish slate mountains, meandering between hillside castles and steep fields of wine-producing grapes. Idyllic villages appear around each bend, their half-timbered houses and Gothic church steeples seemingly plucked from the world of fairy tales. Wine tasting to follow. Overnight Rhine Valley.

Day 7: After breakfast transfer to Mannheim for a visit to an international leading factory producing tractors and farm equipment. Afternoon visit to Heidelberg with guided walking tour. Visit to the castle. Surrounded by forest, Germany's oldest and most famous university town is renowned for its baroque Altstadt, beautiful riverside setting and evocative half-ruined hilltop castle, which draw 11.9 million visitors a year. They follow in the footsteps of the late 18th- and early 19th-century romantics, most notably the poet Goethe and Britain's William Turner, who was inspired by Heidelberg to paint some of his greatest landscapes. Overnight in Heidelberg.

Day 8: After breakfast get transferred to Stuttgart to visit the German museum of agriculture. Over an area larger than 5500 square meters, the museum shows the history of farming, food processing, motorisation, and rural life. The collections show the development of farming practice over the last 200 years. Optional visit to Mercedes Benz museum. Afternoon farm visit (crops) with traditional German coffee and cake at the farm. Transfer back to Heidelberg. Farewell dinner. Overnight in Heidelberg.

Day 9: After breakfast check out and get transferred to Frankfurt airport for your return flight home. Safe travels.

Additional options for technical visits and stops:

1. Visit to the Bayer Science crop center with tour
2. Visit to Eberbach monastery which is a former Cistercian monastery, famous for its Riesling wine. In addition to being a world heritage site, the monastery provided the interior scenes for the 1980s film, *The Name of the Rose*
3. Overnight at a hay hotel
4. Rally through a corn maze or wine rally
5. Visit of an biodynamic growing farm
6. Visit of a testing centre for agricultural machines
7. Visit of biogas farm centre
8. Get together with a local farm association
9. Workshop/lecture on a certain agricultural topic

***** Program can be adapted to your wishes. All services are subject to availability at the time of booking.**

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