



WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

BELGIUM & THE NETHERLANDS

Brussels - Bruges - Antwerp -
Amsterdam - Keukenhof

with Women of the Midwest

April 6-15, 2025



Dear Women of the Midwest,

If you are an art admirer, a chocolate and waffle lover, a history enthusiast, and a flower-buffs like myself, then this trip is for you.

Belgium and the Netherlands - both countries are just a little larger than Maryland.

We will visit Renaissance towns and dig into the architecture and picture-perfect medieval villages with canals, tulips, bicycle paths, cows, wooden shoes, and windmills.

Belgium, with its illustrious art history, fabulous foods, a plethora of divine addictive chocolates, and more than sixty UNESCO World Heritage Sites, is also the international headquarters of the European Union (EU) and NATO.

The Netherlands offers us one of the greatest small capital cities of the world, Amsterdam, with all the plusses of a big city with a rich culture, artistic heritage, and a fantastic food scene, but without the noise, traffic, and pollution of a big city.

Highlights of this trip are Bruges, Brussels, the Ooidonk Castle, Antwerp (the world's diamond capital), Kinderdijk with its beautiful and still-in-function windmills, Delft porcelain, and the Van Gogh Museum. Our tour culminates with a full day at Keukenhof Tulip Festival.

I invite you to join me, solo or two-by-two; we will have a blast!

Lisa Anderson
Ambassador
Women of the Midwest



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

Bruges Fine Lace



April 6, 2025 - Sunday

Traveling to Brussels, Belgium

Our beautiful adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Brussels. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you embark on a trip of a lifetime.

April 7, 2025 - Monday

Welcome to Belgium! Upon arrival, we will meet our private tour guide and take a short drive to the center of Brussels for a panoramic sightseeing tour. Brussels is the capital of Europe and home to several international institutions, such as NATO and the European Commission. We will drive through the European district, pass by the European Parliament, and visit the Atomium. The tall-standing (335 ft) monument is one of the tallest structures in Belgium. Its nine 59 ft stainless clad steel spheres are connected in the shape of a unit cell that could represent an iron crystal magnified 165 billion times. It offers stunning views and is the emblem of Brussels. A delightful welcome lunch is served at a centrally located restaurant before we take a short city walk, including a visit to a local chocolaterie. Enjoy a chocolate-making demonstration and, of course, chocolate tasting! We will end our day in picturesque Bruges and check in to our hotel for a relaxing evening. B (during flight) | L | T

April 8, 2025 - Tuesday

Bruges

After breakfast, we are ready to step back in time and explore Bruges on foot. With its beautiful medieval architecture, cobblestone streets and picturesque canals, it seems straight out of a fairy tale. Often called "Venice of the North," it beckons its visitors to tour its grand squares as well as its tiny back alleys

Belgian Waffles



and discover all its beautiful charms. We will take a boat trip on the canals and visit the Lace Centre Museum. By the 13th Century, Bruges was the epicenter of Europe's textile trade. The large volume of textiles moving into and out of the area developed a rich fashion industry, which paved the way for Bruges' unique lace industry. You will have the opportunity to watch a bobbin lace-making demonstration. The remainder of the afternoon is free for shopping, more sightseeing, or simply "people-watching" and enjoying life. We will gather for dinner at a beautiful local restaurant. B | D

April 9, 2025 - Wednesday

Ghent - Antwerp

After a hearty breakfast, we will depart for Ooidonk Castle. Close your eyes and take a journey back in time. The extremely well-kept 17th-century castle's exterior is a wonderful example of the Renaissance style with a beautiful French garden. The inside is a story by itself; wait and see! A few minute's drive, and we are in Ghent, where lunch is served before we take an afternoon city walk. We will visit St. Bavo Cathedral, including the Mystic Lamb augmented reality experience. Through special glasses, we will travel back to the distant past in the cathedral's crypt and witness the tumultuous history of the Ghent Altarpiece and the cathedral as if we were right there. The masterpiece and the imposing building are brought to life down to the smallest detail. Before we depart for Antwerp, we will swing by a traditional waffle bakery to delight in heavenly mouthfuls of sweet, crisp waffles. Yum! We will arrive in Belgium's largest city in the afternoon. Antwerp has been known as the world's diamond capital for several centuries, a title which hasn't been easily earned. The diamond trade in the port started

Wooden "Klumps" Clogs



nearly 500 years ago when the first rough stones were brought over from India. The city also hosts one of the biggest ports in the world and is famous for its legacy of fine arts. Enjoy medieval streets, Renaissance monuments, and a vibrant city by night. Cycling is a popular choice for getting around this stylish Flemish city. Is anyone up for a ride? B | L

April 10, 2025 - Thursday

Antwerp

After a filling breakfast, we will take a city walk, including, of course, a visit to the Diamond and Jewelry Museum. We will follow the journey of a diamond from a raw material to a sparkling stone. Besides the diamonds, the museum also hosts a breathtaking collection of silverware. Lunch at leisure before we continue with a visit to the Red Star Line Museum. The Red Star Line was the steamship line founded in 1872 by Clement Acton Griscom, a Philadelphia Quaker. The line was a joint venture and also ran the American Line. Two million passengers traveled to America on the Red Star Line ships; one of them was Irving Berlin, who crossed the ocean to America in 1893, chasing his dream. Dinner tonight is among the locals in a traditional and centrally located restaurant. B | D

April 11, 2025 - Friday

Kinderdijk - Rotterdam - The Hague

After breakfast, we will enter the Netherlands. Our first stop is to marvel at the world-famous Kinderdijk (Children) Windmills, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The story behind the name Kinderdijk is from a legendary tale of a flood in 1421. As the floodwaters subsided, survivors discovered a floating cradle with a cat

Kinderdijk Windmills



Delft Porcelain Painting Class



Amsterdam Canal Boat Tour



balancing on the edges and a happy baby nestled inside. From then on, the location was referred to as the "Child's Dike." Nearly all the mills are inhabited by at least one person possessing a miller's degree. They are authorized to use these impressive machines for actual milling. Next, we drive to Rotterdam to take in this pretty city on foot. We will also stop for a traditional Dutch coffee and apple cake and take a boat tour through the harbor. In the afternoon, we will reach The Hague, situated on the North Sea coast. Dinner is served at our hotel tonight. B | T | D

April 12, 2025 - Saturday

The Hague - Delft

This morning, we will take a half-day tour of the Hague. It is known as the international city of peace and justice. For more than a century, it has been the place where countries gathered in peace conferences and international courts to foster peace through justice rather than through war and conflict. The Hague is perhaps best known for its beaches, monuments, and bustling shopping district, but secretly, this city has more to offer. You will find a wide variety of museums and an abundance of welcoming restaurants. Enjoy the best people-watching; over 180 different nationalities live in The Hague. We will pay a visit to the Mauritshuis Museum, home to the best Dutch paintings from the age of Rembrandt and Vermeer. Admire the masterpiece "Girl with a Pearl Earring," also called the 'Mona Lisa of the Low Countries.' No visit to the Netherlands without learning about the beautiful Delft porcelain. We are off to the picturesque city of Delft, a canal-ringed city known as the manufacturing base for Delftware, hand-painted blue-and-white pottery. You will have the opportunity to decorate

your own tile. We will take a walking tour of the city and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. The evening is yours in The Hague; stroll the seaside, people-watch, and enjoy life. B | L

April 13, 2025 - Sunday

Amsterdam

Breakfast is served, and a short 50-minute drive takes us to Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands. With over 800 years of history to discover, Amsterdam is rich in fascinating attractions and sights. From old castles to beautiful museums and charming secret courtyards to picturesque, cobbled streets; this capital city is a feast for the eye, and it's not for nothing that it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will enjoy a day in the company of Van Gogh and Anne Frank, and take a wine- and cheese canal cruise in the evening. You will have time for shopping and to enjoy an abundance of boutique-style cafes. The Van Gogh Museum is home to the world's largest collection of works by the maestro himself. With more than 200 paintings, 500 drawings, and 700 letters, the museum provides an intimate look into the life and mind of the artistic genius. See his masterpieces, such as Sunflowers, Almond Blossom, and self-portraits. Don't miss the museum shop; you will find the prettiest souvenirs and gifts to bring back home. We will also visit the Anne Frank House. Lunch is at leisure today (we have some great recommendations!). We will return to The Hague in the late evening for a good night's rest. B | D (cruise)

April 14, 2025 - Monday

Keukenhof - Tulips, Tulips, Tulips!

One of the biggest highlights of our journey is about to happen! After a filling breakfast,

we will take a short drive to Keukenhof. People from all over the world come to enjoy the 32-hectare beautiful Keukenhof Tulip Garden and explore the tulip fields. We will have a full day to admire the gardens and the more than seven million bulbs planted to produce this flower extravaganza. But the park provides more than a backdrop for its 7 million spring-flowering bulbs; it is also a beautiful location for sculptures and other works of art that give the park an added dimension. Keukenhof is collaborating with 25 artists. The combination of a flowering park and visual art is amazing. Spend as much time as you wish to explore the Organic Garden, the Tropical Beach Garden, the Pink Tea Garden, the Graffiti Garden, and the Red Romance Garden. There are plenty of restaurants where you can enjoy lunch. You will also find a gift shop with beautiful souvenirs to bring back home. Should you find yourself purchasing bulbs, be sure they are certified and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). We will return to The Hague in the late afternoon. We will have fun at our farewell dinner, cheers to a great group, and a beautiful journey through Belgium and the Netherlands. B | D

April 15, 2025 - Tuesday

Traveling Home

All too soon, your vacation has ended. Transfer to Amsterdam airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across The Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B | Meals during flights

The itinerary is subject to change.

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch,
T = Tasting, D = Dinner



To register contact:



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www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

Via our website www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys

Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$4,495

Per person in a single room: \$5,495

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share"-service. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. Deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on December 9, 2024, and is non-refundable. The balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% fee.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:

Register at least eight (8) months prior to departure and receive a **\$200 DISCOUNT!**

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking (city sightseeings by foot), some stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. We walk between 4-5 miles over the course of a day. Add to this the walking you do outside the group activities. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travel Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travel Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

Group airfare: Becomes available by the end of May 2024.

Hotel Accommodation (announced 30 days in advance):

Bruges - Dukes Palace or similar

Antwerp - NH Collection Centre Antwerpen or similar

The Hague - Marriott Den Haag or similar

Included:

- 8 nights during the tour at local 4- and 5-star hotels
- 8 x breakfast
- 3 x lunch
- 4 x dinner
- 1 x wine and cheese cruise
- Tastings of local products as per itinerary
- Delft tiles painting class as per itinerary
- All transfers and motor coach services (35-seater) as per itinerary
- Porterage at hotels (one bag per person)
- Admissions to sites mentioned in the itinerary
- English-speaking professional tour director in Belgium and the Netherlands
- Step-on guides where required
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, April 6-16, 2025
- Detailed travel documents, handed out three weeks prior to departure (hard-copy and electronic)
- All local taxes and fees as of February 22, 2024

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Airline baggage fees for your second checked bag (the first checked piece up to 50 lbs is free)
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals & beverages other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Gratuities (estimate \$15 per day in total)
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at the time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

A wholly-owned division of Executive Travel Inc.

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

2/22/2024