

AALP Alumni and Friends 2018

The Netherlands - Belgium – France: Agriculture, Tourism and Memorials

Europe has been a battleground, a place of remembrance and an envied destination for the novice and most avid traveler. This very special tour combines agricultural richness, showcasing the majesty of bygone ages, significant cultural differences and heritage centuries before North America was discovered. Come with us on the 2018 AALP Alumni journey as we experience some of the history, past and present, and very best of The Netherlands, Belgium and France.

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|-----------|--------------|---------|-------|
| Toronto | September 15 | KLM 692 | 17:15 |
| Amsterdam | September 16 | | 06:30 |

Sunday, September 16: **Arrival – Amsterdam** **(D)**
 Arrival at Amsterdam airport. Meet and greet with our English speaking tour manager. Bus transfer in a modern, comfortable tour bus to Amsterdam. Guided city walking tour in Amsterdam: Amsterdam is the multicultural capital of the Dutch kingdom, besides Den Hague where the government has its residence. Waterways, the so called “Grachten”, pervade the whole old town with many impressive, famous buildings and points of interest. Today we see the palace, Rijksmuseum, Oude and Nieuwe Kerk, art museums, small restaurants, lovely shops and encounter friendly people. Check in at our hotel in the wider Amsterdam area.
 Dinner and over-night

Monday, September 17: **Flowers – Modern Agriculture – Dutch tradition** **(B)**

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| 06.00 | Packed breakfast | |
| 06.30 | Transfer to Aalsmeer | |
| 07.00 | Visit the flower auction | |
| | The flower auction is one of the largest in the world. Daily about 20 million flowers and plants are auctioned. From the Visitor Centre, walk across a gallery through the auction complex. At the end of the gallery we arrive at the auction halls where we'll see the flowers come before the unique auction clock | |
| 08.30 | Transfer to the Lelystad region | |
| 09.30 | Visit two neighboring farms with dairy and arable production: 230 heads of dairy cattle, sugar beets, potatoes and cereals. | |
| | On our way to Lelystad we will hear about the Dutch polder system; the artificial gaining of land by locking parts from the sea and permanently pumping out the water. | |
| 12.00 | Visit the Nieuw Land Erfgoedcentrum, a modern museum explaining the history of land reclamation at Netherlands biggest Polder Flevoland | |
| | Free time for individual lunch and exploration in the area | |
| 14.30 | Transfer to the Zaandam region passing by the dam that separates the IJsselmeer and the Markermeer | |
| 15.30 | Walk through Zaanse Schans | |
| | In previous centuries the surrounding Zaan region was an important industrial area and hundreds of windmills here helped produce linseed oil, paint, snuff, mustard, paper and other products. Many of the village's characteristic houses are now museums, gift shops or workshops while others are still used as private residences | |
| 17.30 | Return to our hotel and an independent evening | |

Tuesday, September 18: **Memorial – intensive production** **(B / D)**
 Breakfast at our hotel and check-out

| | | |
|-------|---|--|
| 08.00 | Transfer to the Nijmegen region | |
| 09.30 | Visit the Groesbeek Canadian War Memorial & Cemetery | |
| | http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/overseas/second-world-war/the-netherlands/groesbeek | |
| 11.30 | Drive through the intensive horticultural Brabant / Limburg region | |
| 13.00 | Visit a working tomato farm | |

Independent time for lunch

16.00 Transfer to Eindhoven

17.30 Check in to our hotel for the evening

Dinner

Wednesday, September 19: Dairy – Cemetery – Zeeland (B / D)

08.00 Breakfast and check-out

08.30 Visit a camel milk farm. Founded in 2006 the farm is the only camel dairy in Europe. In 2012 they had 70 camels on the farm. The milk is processed for liquor, bread, chocolate, soap and creams to be sold worldwide. Here workshops, visitor programs and a restaurant are offered

10.30 Drive to Bergen-op-Zoom

11.30 Visit the WWII Bergen-op-Zoom Canadian War Cemetery

<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/overseas/second-world-war/belgium/bergen>

13.00 Round trip though Zeeland, the warmest region of the Netherland with a 650 km coast line, clean beaches and scenic villages. The delta works (storm surge) protects the inner country from disastrous floods.

Independent lunch – here we suggest a nice fish restaurant due to the fresh quality in the area

16.00 Transfer to Ghent

17.00 Arrival and check in at our hotel for a three night stay

Dinner and overnight

Thursday, September 20 Brussels & European capital (B)

Breakfast

08.00 Transfer to Brussels

09.00 Meet with a representative of the European Agri-commission responsible for the rural zones in Europe

11.00 Visit to the “Parlamentarium”, The European Parliament's Visitors' Centre (90-minute modern interactive multimedia tour)

Open time in Brussels for an independent lunch and exploration

15.00 Guided city tour of Brussels

Apart from its famous chocolates and beer there are many attractions that most visitors cannot begin to imagine. Brussels is a centre of European culture, officially nicknamed ‘the European Village’, with almost 90 museums, beautiful parks, fascinating walks, trendy restaurants and bars. Small Manneke Piss statue and shining Atomium, the symbol for peaceful use of nuclear power built for the Expo '58, are not to be missed attractions

Visit a local brewery including tasting

Some free time in Brussels to enjoy the city

18.00 Return to Ghent

Independent evening

Friday, September 21 Mare's Milk – University – Bruges (B / D)

Breakfast in our hotel

08.30 Visit a private mare's milk dairy with a big Haflinger horse herd kept on 30 ha grassland

10.00 Presentation on Belgian agriculture at Ghent University

Independent lunch

14.00 Transfer to Bruges

14.30 A guided walk through beautiful Bruges

If you set out to design a fairy-tale medieval town it would be hard to improve on central Bruges – the capital and largest city in the province of West Flanders. Picturesque cobbled lanes and dreamy canals link exceptionally photogenic market squares lined with soaring towers, historic churches and old whitewashed almshouses

Time for individual exploration

17.00 Dinner in a local restaurant with typical, unique specialties (likely a brewery restaurant)

19.00 Return to Ghent and overnight

Saturday, September 22: Potato – WWI memorials (B / D)

07.30 Transfer to the Kortrijk region

08.30 Visit to an important potato farmer. Belgium is the world's second largest exporter of potatoes and potato products, especially deep frozen

11.00 Transfer to Vimy region

Independent lunch on the way

13.30 Visit the Canadian National Vimy Memorial
The memorial site is dedicated to the memory of WWI Canadian Expeditionary Force members and serves as a testament commemorating WWI Canadian soldiers killed or presumed dead in France but with no grave. The monument is the centrepiece of a 100 ha preserved battlefield park

17.00 Transfer to the Arras region

17.30 Check in to our hotel for dinner and overnight

Sunday, September 23: Reims – Champagne – Paris (B / D)

09.00 Transfer to Reims

11.30 Guided city tour of Reims and visit the Notre-Dame Cathedral
The Gothic art masterpiece where the kings of France were crowned was one of the first monuments registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Yearly it welcomes one million visitors. Erected between 1211 and 1516, in accordance with an architectural program of immense artistic richness, the Cathedral of Reims survives as one of the most beautiful examples of Gothic art

Independent lunch

14.30 Visit of a Champagne producer including tasting
The wine region Champagne consists of historical Champagne, Picardie and île-de-France with about 34.000 ha of vineyards, mostly white varieties. The traditional champagne production was founded in the 17th century

16.00 Transfer to Paris

19.00 Check in at our hotel for a two night stay

Monday, September 24: Food wholesale – Paris (B / D)

OPTION (additional cost EURO 82 p.p.)

A very early morning today

04.30 Visit the world's largest wholesale food market "Rungis" including breakfast at the market restaurant: 232 ha in total, 72 ha built, 30.000 employees and buyers, 24.000 vehicles per day; 1290 enterprises are located here, 520 of which are wholesalers; sold goods (sales halls): vegetables (9), meat (7), milk and dairy products (5), fish and sea food (1) with additional halls for flowers

Breakfast at our hotel

09.30 Guided tour in the French capital: Paris
Paris boasts magnificent buildings and statues including the Eiffel tower (Tour Eiffel), the cathedral Notre Dame and also modern buildings - the Centre Pompidou or the glass pyramid in the centre court of the Louvre. Each quarter has its special charm and attractions

Following our tour you will have free time today for museum visits, a private Seine river cruise or shopping

19.30 Farewell dinner in a good local restaurant

Tuesday, September 25: Paris – departure (B)

Breakfast and hotel check-out with our final transfer to the international airport.

You may also elect to extend you stay in Europe.

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|-------|
| Paris (CDG) | September 25 | Air France 356 | 13:50 |
| Toronto | | | 16:10 |

Tour Includes:

- Return air to / from Europe as detailed including all taxes
- Accompanied by Rob Black, former Officer with the Rural Ontario Institute
- 9 x Accommodation in excellent 3*** hotels
- 9 x Breakfast
- 7 x Dinners without beverages indicated as D in the itinerary
- 14 x technical and tourism visits
- 11 days with qualified English speaking tour manager / guide
- Transport in a modern, comfortable tour bus

Tour does not include:

- Porterage
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than listed above
- Anything listed as "optional" and "facultative"
- Any tips
- Baggage handling at hotels

Strictly Limited Availability:

Our program is strictly limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to ensure the quality of our tour, this program is limited to a maximum of 30-participants.

As with the tour itself, wait lists will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Total tour cost based on double / twin occupancy: Canadian \$4,150
Total tour cost based on single occupancy: Canadian \$4,890

LAND ONLY COST*: based on double / twin occupancy: Canadian \$3,300
based on single: Canadian \$4,040

* Transfers to / from the start and end of the tour are provided as group transfers only.

Deposit Requirement: CAD \$750
Final payment due: July 06, 2018

Cancellation Penalties:

From date of booking to July 05, 2018 loss of deposit paid
From final payment date to departure 100% non-refundable

In the event that we are able to find a replacement from wait-lists or other requests received for the land tour between date of booking and 31-days prior to date of departure, a flat \$50.00 p.p. administration charge will be accessed. Within 31-days prior, we regret that all payments become non-refundable with or without a replacement. We cannot guarantee a replacement for any cancelled passenger regardless of the date the cancellation is received in our office.

Air Arrangements / Land Only Pricing

The tour includes air transportation Toronto. We are happy to provide competitive air quotes from any departure city. Should individuals wish to make their own air arrangements to and from the start of the tour a land only cost is available. In the event that clients make their own way to the start and end of the tour, transfers are only provided based on the group arrivals / departures or on arrival and departure at a similar time.

Insurance

We strongly recommend adequate travel insurance and provide details of OPTIONAL insurance coverage at the time of initial booking.

Exclusive reservations through:



572 Weber Street North, Unit 1

Waterloo, Ontario N2L 5C6

Phone (519) 745 – 1860 ext 303

Fax (519) 745 - 5694

Toll Free:(800) 578 – 8958

Please contact Scott Allen to confirm your place on this special tour at the above phone number or through e-mail to: scotta@ftwaterloo.com

You can also register on-line at: www.worldwide.on.ca/AALPAumni2018

Meet Rob Black

Former Officer at Rural Ontario Institute

Rob will be the tour leader for this project and looks forward to a rewarding trip this September

Rob Black was the Chief Executive Officer of the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) in Ontario for many years. In this role, he directed the activities of the Institute in accordance with the policies and vision of the Board of Directors. Rob is an accomplished speaker, trainer and workshop leader and has worked in the rural, agricultural and leadership arenas and with organizations for much of his working career. He readily admits that he wouldn't be where he is today, but for his early involvement in 4-H and other leadership development opportunities. Rob was the recipient of a Queen's Jubilee medal in June 2012 in recognition of his contributions to 4-H across Canada.

Rob is a past president of the Canadian 4-H Council; the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association; and the Wellington County Historical Society.

Most recently Rob was successful in his first bid for political office in October 2014 and currently sits as a ward representative on Wellington County Council. He chairs the Information, Heritage & Seniors Committee on Council and sits as Councilor on the County Social Services Committee.

Rob and his wife Julie live north of Fergus, ON and have four grown children and one grandson.

