

**FLORIADE 2012 GARDEN TOUR  
HOLLAND & BELGIUM  
8 DAYS - 7 NIGHTS (April 19- 26, 2012)  
Package price per person \$3,466.00 Double Occupancy**

**FLORIADE APRIL 5TH - OCTOBER 21ST, 2012**



Floriade is a World Horticultural Expo staged once every ten years in the Netherlands. During the period from April until mid-October 2012, the sixth edition of Floriade will be organised in Venlo.

The participating countries, businesses and horticultural companies and public and semi-public bodies present visitors to Floriade 2012 with the opportunity to enjoy the world's most exquisite and exceptional flowers, plants, trees and fruit and vegetables.

But Floriade 2012 offers much more. Each day features a cultural programme of music, dance, literature, theatre and visual art from all over the world. Sustainable, pioneering architectural eye catchers, as never seen before, will be shown for the first time at Floriade 2012. With countless exciting, innovative and educational attractions and activities, Floriade 2012 is a spectacular voyage of discovery for all age groups. Various characteristic restaurants and friendly, welcoming cafes offer visitors a place to savor delicious local and international cuisine, naturally prepared with home grown ingredients. Or enjoy a picnic surrounded by flowers and trees, lounge on the banks of the water and delight in the countless shows and parades. Floriade 2012 lets you experience nature. Using the senses of sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell you can experience at first hand the influence horticulture has on the quality of our daily lives.



## PROGRAM DETAILS

THURSDAY APRIL 19TH, 2012

### Day 1 ARRIVAL DAY

Transfer by private coach and English speaking guide from Schiphol Airport to the hotel Mercure Arthur Frommer in Amsterdam.

Transfer time from the airport to the hotel will be ½ hour.

Arrival at the hotel Mercure Arthur Frommer.

#### **Mercure Arthur Frommer \*\*\***

The Hotel Mercure Amsterdam Artur Frommer is located right in the heart of Amsterdam, ideally situated in a quiet area of the town. Shops, restaurants and museums are all within walking distance, whilst the RAI congress centre and the Amsterdam "Zuidoost" Business Park are both within easy reach. The hotel has 90 tastefully designed rooms. All with modern facilities such as bathroom, hairdryer, telephone, minibar, TV with cable network safe deposit box and air-conditioning. There is also a bar, a breakfast restaurant and parking facilities.



Capacity of rooms : 90

*Remains of the afternoon at leisure*

*Time to visit the museums individually or we can decide to arrange an optional museum tour, depending on the arrival time.*

18:00 hrs

Meet and greet our English speaking guide in the lobby of the hotel  
Short walk to the pier where the private canal boat is docked.

18:15 hrs

Start private welcome dinner cruise.  
3-course dinner with drinks will be served during a 2 hours canal cruise.



20:15 hrs

End of the private dinner cruise.  
Short walk back to the hotel

20.30 hrs

Arrival at the hotel  
Overnight at the Hotel Mercure Arthur Frommer

**FRIDAY APRIL 20TH, 2012**

**Day 2 FULL DAY EXCURSION KEUKENHOF AND AMSTERDAM**

08:00 hrs Breakfast at leisure  
Meet and greet your English speaking guide in the lobby of the hotel.  
We will start our excursion with a visit to the Flower auction in Aalsmeer.  
*The earlier you visit the auction the more you can see.*

08:30 hrs Arrival at the Flower auction Aalsmeer  
Guided tour.

**Flower auction Aalsmeer**

You walk out of the Visitors Center over a gallery through the auction complex. You can see into the auction rooms where the flowers are auctioned at the clock, where the products are shown and the buyers do business from the auction gallery. The route is marked out with signs which explain in four languages (Dutch, French, German and English) what you see on your way.

09.30 hrs After the visit to the flower auction, we will continue to the famous Keukenhof  
On our way to the Keukenhof we will be inspired by the many different bulb fields we will drive along!

10.15 hrs Arrival at the Keukenhof  
Free time at the Keukenhof  
Lunch at leisure

13.30 hrs End of the visit to the Keukenhof  
Drive to Amsterdam

14.00 hrs Visit to Cisco International  
See the roof garden, designed by Jacqueline van der Kloet.

A roof terrace denoting the contrasts in the Dutch landscape: green meadows and verges full of flowers. This assignment was realised with a rather restricted assortment of perennials, planted in ever-changing combinations. Not only colour but also the different shapes of leaves and their silhouettes formed the final design: a thrilling process, changing of character all year round.

14.30 hrs End of the visit, continue to the city centre

15.00 hrs Start home and garden tour Amsterdam  
During the walking tour a coffee stop is included.

**Amsterdam home and garden tour (walking tour)**

Discover the hidden treasures behind the facades of impressive houses.

Guided walking tour of 3 hours with a professional garden designer or art historian. We start in a beautiful 17<sup>th</sup> century canal house with the magnificent neo- Louis XVI ballroom, dining room, 18<sup>th</sup> century garden room and kitchen. We also visit the formal French garden at the back of the house with the box 'parterres de broderie'. Included in each tour are visits to a range of gardens and coach houses in 'the Golden Bend' the most exclusive part of the Herengracht. Coffee with a syrup waffle will be served in the kitchen of the Geelvinck Hinlopen private home.

17.00 hrs End of the walking tour  
Transfer back to the hotel

17.15 hrs Arrival at the hotel

Evening at leisure.  
*The Van Gogh Museum is open until 22.00 hrs!*

## SATURDAY APRIL 21st, 2012

### Day 3 HALF DAY EXCURSION FLOWER PARADE & TRANSFER TO LIMBURG

Breakfast at leisure.

Check out

08.00 hrs Meet and greet your English speaking guide in the lobby of the hotel.  
We will start our excursion with a visit to the annual Flower Parade that starts in Noordwijk, along the coast of Holland.  
*The transfer time will be 45 minutes, but it will be busy on the roads.*

09.00 hrs Arrival in Noordwijk

09.30 hrs Start Flower Parade

#### Flower Parade 2012

On Saturday April 21st at 9.30 hours, the annual Flower Parade will leave Noordwijk to travel its 40-km route, along the main roads, to arrive in Haarlem at about 21:00 hours. The procession will comprise of 20 large floats and more than 30 decorated luxury cars, interspersed with marching bands. There will be plenty of space on the roadside for the hundreds of thousands of spectators who always congregate along the route.

10.30 hrs End of the visit to the Flower Parade in Noordwijk.  
Continue tour to the hotel Chateau De Raay in Baarlo.  
On our way to Limburg, we will visit the Appeltern gardens.

12.00 hrs Arrival at the Gardens of Appeltern  
Lunch buffet will be served.



## Tuinen van Appeltern

De Tuinen van Appeltern has been designed and laid out to help you, to inspire you and to let you enjoy. We have been planting and building for nearly twenty years now and the park gets bigger and bigger and better and better. And we've no plans of stopping yet. Over the next few years our park will double in size. We hope you enjoy your visit and that you will come again!

What does De Tuinen van Appeltern have to offer?

- More than 200 model gardens
- The largest collection of plants in the Netherlands
- Delightful restaurants and outdoor cafés
- Informal advice at weekends
- A vast sculpture garden
- A charming plant market
- A treasure trail for the little ones
- The latest garden trends
- Natural decorations
- All information about products, plants, horticulturalists and designers

De Tuinen van Appeltern is an objective garden information centre. We are supported by all the independent and central horticultural and green organizations.

*Please note that Jacqueline van der Kloet also has a project in these gardens.*

13.00 hrs	Start guided garden tour
14.30 hrs	End of visit to the garden of Appeltern Continue to Baarlo
15.30 hrs	Arrival at the hotel Chateau De Raay in Baarlo Check in
	Remains of the afternoon at leisure.

## Sandton Château De Raay... experience history



Sandton Château De Raay is a unique, totally restored castle hotel abounding with luxury, ambiance and art. The knights' castle was built around 1256 and is situated on a country estate reminiscent of a still life. Already in the Middle Ages, a family of nobility was the owner of the castle. It was renovated in 1850; the owner at that time created a roof timber construction in the form of a chalet. From 1937 the beautiful estate served as a monastery. When the clergy left it behind it was left empty until the International Art Center and Château De Raay established themselves on the old and unique estate in 1999. In four years' time, and with great international élan, the castle and its interior were totally restored, down to the smallest details. Sandton Château De Raay is one of the most special hotels in the Netherlands and Europe.

### A visit in luxury

The old vaulting, original banisters, wooden beams, authentic ornaments and the age-old natural stone floors have been carefully and tastefully preserved and reused with craftsmanship. The hotel rooms, which have been restored to prime condition, are full of atmosphere and boast a pure and very luxurious ambiance. The spacious bathrooms are surprisingly stylish for a hotel. With the artistic contribution from the International Art Center, with its art gallery, ceramic workshop and world-famous silkscreen printing shop on the estate, the 50 deluxe hotel rooms are decorated with beautiful artwork. A number of rooms have even been designed and completed down to the smallest details by famous artists. And with its cosy ambience, the hotel is unique. As soon as you turn into the long driveway of the estate and walk up to the imposing Winter Garden, with artistic objects flanking the water gardens, you feel as if you were in another world.

### Hotel

The hotel rooms, which have been renovated to the highest standard, are full of character, natural and with sumptuous furnishing. The spacious bathrooms are extremely stylish for hotel standards. The 50 luxury rooms are furnished with beautiful art provided by the artistic contributions of Art Center de Raay. A number of rooms have even been designed and finished in detail by renowned artists. The hotel is accessible for disabled guests.

### Room

Each and every one of the rooms at Château De Raay features all the modern comforts. A minibar, safe for the guest(s), make-up mirror, shower, (and/or bath), hairdryer, coffee & tea facilities, desk, Internet connection, TV (choice of films), deluxe table and chairs and atmospheric lighting are standard. With the beautiful Egyptian bed linen, the excellent beds, a 'real' quality down quilt and pillows of the best quality offered in the hotel branch, you will experience total sleeping comfort. Combined with the very deluxe soft furnishings, you will find the rooms to be absolutely beautiful *and* comfortable.

*Alternative hotel:*

### **Bilderberg Château Holtmühle**



In the green valley of the river Maas in Tegelen, in the province of North Limburg, lies Bilderberg Château Holtmühle. Nearby Venlo, close to Düsseldorf International Airport and lively Maastricht. In this majestic, recently completely renovated castle, grandeur and Burgundy go hand in hand with serenity and pure luxury.

Bathe in pure luxury and relax in the delightful and appealing setting of our castle. The 66 spacious and fully equipped rooms are situated in either the castle or the lake wing. Need even more comfort? In one of the authentic castle rooms or charming superior rooms, you will enjoy many attractive extras. Admire the cellar vaults during a culinary dinner in the restaurant Die Alde Heerlickeijt, a delightful discovery for real gourmets. What could be better than to start a perfect dinner with an aperitif by the fireside in the attractive bar & lounge or on one of our beautiful terraces overlooking the castle moat?

19.00 hrs                      Dinner in a private style room at the hotel

21.00 hrs                      End of dinner

Overnight at the hotel Chateau De Raay

## SUNDAY APRIL 22ND, 2012

### Day 4 HALF DAY EXCURSION

Breakfast at leisure.

Morning at leisure.

13.00 hrs Meet and greet your English speaking guide in the lobby of the hotel. We will start our half day excursion to the "Vergeten Groente" (garden with forgotten vegetables) in Beesel.



Beside the organic cultivation, the garden with historic vegetables shows you the flavors of the forgotten vegetables.

You will see how the vegetables look like in all her shades and leaf shapes. And of course you will be overwhelmed with fun stories and anecdotes about the vegetables.

13.30 hrs Arrival at "Vergeten Groenten"  
Guided tour through the garden  
After the tour coffee and pie will be served

15.00 hrs End of visit  
Continue to Venlo

15.30 hrs Arrival of Museum Van Bommel van Dam

#### **Museum Van Bommel Van Dam**

After the Second World War Maarten and Reina van Bommel - van Dam began collecting art. In the following years they bought hundreds of works by mainly Dutch artists. By 1969 they had outgrown their home in Amsterdam, forcing them to donate their collection of approximately 1200 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures to the town of Venlo. Maarten and Reina van Bommel - van Dam stipulated that the local council house the donated collection in a museum. This happened in 1971. If you like a varied selection of temporary exhibitions about painting, drawing, sculpturing and photography, then this museum is a must.



16.30 hrs End of the visit to the museum Van Bommel Van Dam  
Continue to Maastricht

*Remains of the afternoon at leisure*

17:00 hrs Arrival at the hotel  
Evening at leisure

18.30 hrs Meet and greet our English speaking assistance in the lobby of the hotel  
Transfer by private coach from the hotel to the restaurant Jochumshof at the Botanic gardens in Steyl.

### Botanical garden Jochumshof

Botanical garden Jochumshof, named after keen botanist Father Jochum. Southeast of Venlo, on the banks of the Maas, lies the little town of Steyl, with the Jochum Hof botanic garden. In addition to hothouses with tropical and subtropical plants there are a Regional Garden, which presents a cross-section of the flora of northern Limburg, and the Tiglien Garden, which seeks to reconstruct the prehistoric landscape of the region.



- 18.45 hrs                      Arrival at the restaurant Jochumshof  
3-course dinner will be served in the private room.  
Drinks during dinner will be included.
- 21.00 hrs                      End of dinner  
Transfer back to the hotel by private coach.
- 21.15 hrs                      Arrival at the hotel  
Overnight at hotel Chateau de Raay

### MONDAY APRIL 23RD, 2012

#### Day 5                              FULL DAY EXCURSION FLORIADE

Breakfast at leisure.

- 09:00 hrs                      Transfer by private coach and English speaking guide from the hotel to  
Museum de Locht in Horst.
- 09.30 hrs                      Arrival at Museum the Locht  
Guided tour at the museum  
After the tour of 45 minutes coffee and pie will be served. in a private room.

#### Farmstead "De Locht"

Farmstead "De Locht" was built in 1859. Extensions have been added in the following decades until it got its present 120-yard-long façade. The predecessor of the farm was already mentioned as "De Locht" in 1423. The museum that is now housed in this farm depicts farm-life as it used to be in these parts. The farmstead has been restored to its original state as closely as possible.



### The National Asparagus- and Mushroom Museum

The museum is housed in an old barn that was originally built elsewhere and rebuilt here in the traditional way. It shows the old and modern methods of cultivating these products. Historical, biological, economic and culinary aspects are also dealt with. The exhibition is elaborately illustrated by texts and videos. In the museum you will find an auction-clock which can be operated from the auction-benches.

The north of Limburg is Holland's most important region for the production of both asparagus and mushrooms. The sandy soil is very suitable for asparagus. This vegetable -already popular in antiquity- is harvested in the months of May and June. The asparagus museum shows how the vegetable is grown and various special tools and implements used in the production and harvesting. Crop improvement is also dealt with.

11.00 hrs                      End of visit at Museum the Locht  
Transfer to De Floriade by private coach

11.20 hrs                      Arrival Floriade

One hour tour through the Floriade with an English speaking guide

Free time at the Floriade  
Guests will receive a lunch voucher which is valid in all restaurants on the Floriade

16.30 hrs                      End of the visit to the Floriade  
Transfer back to the hotel by private coach and English speaking guide

17.00 hrs                      Arrival at the hotel  
  
Diner and evening at leisure.

### **TUESDAY APRIL 24TH, 2012**

#### **Day 6                              HALF DAY EXCURSION ARCEN AND TRANSFER TO BELGIUM**

Breakfast at leisure.

09:30 hrs                      Transfer by private coach and English speaking guide from the hotel to the castle gardens of Arcen.

10.00 hrs                      arrival at Castle garden Arcen  
Guided tour Castle gardens Arcen  
The tour will end with coffee and pie

Free time in the gardens

12.30 hrs                      End of the visit to Castle gardens Arcen  
Continue to restaurant Alt Arce for lunch

12.45 hrs                      Arrival restaurant Alt Arce  
2-course lunch will be served  
2 drinks and 1 coffee are included

14.00 hrs                      End of lunch  
Continue to Belgium, Brussels by private coach

16.00 hrs                      Arrival at the hotel in Dominican Brussels

## The Dominican Hotel

The Dominican Hotel is poised to become a destination for elegance in the centre of Brussels. Located behind the theatre La Monnaie, off the Grand Place, our Brussels design hotel offers stylish rooms, a private courtyard and bustling Grand Lounge that combine to ensure indulgent hospitality. The award winning architects of FG Stijl have created an eclectic mix of design in both the interior and exterior - resulting in an array of new styles and experiences.

All rooms are non-smoking and have been individually designed to produce a unique atmosphere; their layout around a central courtyard focusing the intimacy of the hotel at its very heart. Use of luxurious textiles and rich colours have been applied throughout our luxury Brussels accommodation.



### Alternative hotel:

#### Le Plaza \*\*\*\*\*

This 5 star hotel recently has been restored to its old glory and offers now a beautiful mix of the historic interior and deluxe decorations. The hotel offers entirely renovated guestrooms and suites each personalised with refined furniture, combine tradition and modernity for the comfort of today's travellers. The breakfast room and restaurant are decorated in classical deluxe style. The rooms are not remarkable but peacefully classic and spacious. Located in the heart of the centre of Brussels between the Brussels Nord station (place Rogier) and the Grand Place. The old theatre which is now a part of the hotel can be used as conference or ball room.



### Capacity of rooms: 193

19.00 hrs Dinner in a private room at the hotel

21.00 hrs End of dinner

Overnight at the hotel Dominican

### WEDNESDAY APRIL 25TH, 2012

#### Day 7 FULL DAY EXCURSION BRUSSELS AND GARDENS

Breakfast at leisure.

09:00 hrs Meet and greet English speaking guide in the lobby of the hotel.  
Start Panoramic City Tour of Brussels by private coach.

10.00 hrs End of the city tour, continue to the Chateau de la Hulpe



### **Chateau de la Hulpe**

Nearby the village center, the Solvay Château stands gloriously out on a hill in the heart of a magnificent 220 ha park of vast lawns, great spruces, azaleas and rhododendrons, a genuine botanical garden which is open all year round. The Château itself, used for receptions and exhibitions, is named for the last private owners the Solvay family of industrialists who presented the estate to the Government.

Several films have been made in this lovely decor.

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 10.30 hrs | Arrival at Castle and gardens of Chateau de la Hulpe.<br>Free time in the gardens           |
| 11.30 hrs | End of the visit to Chateau de la Hulpe<br>Continue to the Chateau de Seneffe               |
| 12.10 hrs | Arrival at the Chateau de Seneffe<br>Lunch will be served<br>Free time to visit the gardens |

### **Chateau de Seneffe**

The estate consists of a château or stately home in the neo-classical style, built in the 18th century, which is home to the finest silverware collection in Belgium, a theatre, an orangery, an aviary, an English-style park extending over 22 hectares with a French-style garden, and a lake with an island which can be reached by a highly romantic bridge.



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|-----------|--|
| 14.30 hrs | End of visit to the gardens of Seneffe<br>Continue to Beloeil for a visit to fantastic garden of Chateau de Beloeil                      |
| 15.15 hrs | Arrival at Chateau and gardens de Beloeil<br>Free time to visit the gardens  |
| 16.30 hrs | End of the visit<br>Transfer back to the hotel in Brussels   |
| 17.45 hrs | Arrival at the hotel in Brussels<br><br>Time to freshen up   |
| 19.00 hrs | Meet and greet the English speaking assistance in the lobby of the hotel<br>Short walk to the restaurant for a very nice farewell dinner |
| 19.20 hrs | Arrival at the restaurant Aux Armes des Bruxelles<br>3-course dinner will be served  |

### Restaurant Aux Armes de Bruxelles

Right in the heart of Old Brussels, and just a stone's throw from the Grand-Place and numerous hotels, 'Aux Armes de Bruxelles' has become a household name in the historic quarter of 'l'Ilot Sacre'. The banqueting room, which can seat from 15 to 160 people, is ideal for receptions and business dinners. The restaurant offers a full menu combined with the latest technology, everything to ensure a successful banquet or private dinner.

The tasteful decor, long established tradition of Belgian cuisine and a service of high quality have since 1921, helped make the 'Armes' one of the more exclusive restaurant of Brussels.



21.30 hrs                      End of dinner  
Short walk back to the hotel

21.50 hrs                      Arrival at the hotel  
  
Overnight at the hotel

### THURSDAY APRIL 26TH, 2012

#### Day 8

#### DEPARTURE DAY

Breakfast at leisure.

Morning at leisure

Meet and greet English speaking guide in the lobby of the hotel.  
Transfer by private coach to Saventum Airport



**Package price per person \$3,466.00 Double Occupancy**  
**Single supplement \$ 870.00**

This package includes the following items:

8 days English speaking guide
2x overnight hotel Mercure Arthur Frommer in Amsterdam including breakfast
Private dinner cruise for two hours, including 3-course dinner and drinks
All transfers by private coach and English speaking driver as mentioned in the above program
Entrance fee Keukenhof
Entrance fee Home & Garden tour (2 hours)
Entrance fee gardens of Appeltern
Lunch buffet Appeltern
Guided tour Appeltern
3x overnight Chateau de Raay, including breakfast
3-course dinner at chateau de Raay
Entrance fee and guided Tour Vergeten Groente
coffee and pie in Vergeten Groente
visit to the museum Van Bommel van Dam
3-course dinner restaurant Jochemhof with drinks
Entrance fee and guided tour museum de Locht
Coffee and pie at Museum de Locht
Entrance fee Floriade
Lunch voucher Floriade
Entrance fee Castle Gardens Arcen
coffee and pie at Castle gardens of Arcen
Lunch and drinks at restaurant Alte Arce in Arcen
2x overnight Hotel Dominican Brussels, including breakfast
3-course dinner at the hotel with drinks
Entrance fee and guided tour Chateau and gardens de la Hulpe
Entrance fee and guided tour Chateau and gardens de Seneffe
Lunch at Chateau and gardens de Seneffe
Entrance fee and guided tour Chateau and garden de Beloeil
3-course dinner restaurant Aux Armes des Bruxelles

