

FLORIADE BUDGET PROGRAM 2012
7 DAYS - 6 NIGHTS
Package price per person \$2308.00 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 children. Various characteristic restaurants and friendly, welcoming cafes offer visitors a chance to enjoy 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

Day 1

ARRIVAL DAY

Transfer by private coach and English speaking guide from Schiphol Airport to your Superior Tourist Class Hotel.

Transfer time from the airport to the hotel with city orientation tour en route.

Arrival at the hotel.

13.00 hrs

Lunch is served at a nearby restaurant.

Afternoon at leisure for shopping

17:00 hrs

Meet in the lobby of the hotel.

There is a short walk to the pier where your motor launch is waiting for a dinner cruise through the historic heart of Amsterdam.

18:30 hrs

Start private welcome dinner cruise.

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

20:30 hrs

End of the private dinner cruise.

Short walk back to the hotel

20.30 hrs

Arrival at the hotel

Day 2

FULL DAY EXCURSION TO THE AALSMEER FLOWER AUCTION AND A PRIVATE GREENHOUSE NURSERY

Breakfast at leisure

07:30 hrs

visit to the Flower auction in Aalsmeer. The world's largest auction building where millions of flowers and potted plants are auctioned yearly

08:00 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.

10.00 hrs

Depart from the auction grounds. Proceed to visit a private plant and flower nursery, a greenhouse operation where the owner will show you around the greenhouses and premises and explain the logistics and details.

12.30 hrs

We stop for lunch at a local restaurant in the countryside.

14.00 hrs

We proceed to the windmills of the Zaanse Schans, a small community on the banks of the river Zaan. It is an area where over 800 windmills produced the power for over 800 windmills that formed the first industrial region of the Netherlands. Visit one of the windmills and a wooden shoe farm.

17.00 hrs

It is the end of the visit and a return to Amsterdam.

Dinner is on own arrangements.

Day 3 FULL DAY EXCURSION TO THE KEUKENHOF GARDENS AND DELFT

Breakfast is at leisure.

09.00 hrs Depart for the Keukenhof Gardens.

10.15 hrs Arrival at the Keukenhof



Keukenhof is a historic park covering an area of thirty-two hectares, full of tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and all the other spring bulbs. The floral displays in the park and unique flower shows in the various pavilions are a glorious visual feast. And in the midst of this magnificent spectacle of colour there are also exquisite works of art.

Keukenhof is an unforgettable experience for people of all ages. It has been one of the most popular destinations in the Netherlands for almost 60 years and is famous worldwide. Here you can gain inspiration while you relax in the magnificent surroundings of the park which has no less than fifteen kilometres of footpaths. For children there is an exciting playground, a large maze and an animal paddock. Keukenhof is a unique experience and guarantees the most fabulous photos. Come to Keukenhof with your family, friends and associates and enjoy the ultimate spring feeling. Taste the spring at Keukenhof!

Free time at the Keukenhof
Lunch at leisure

14.00 hrs We proceed to medieval Delft.
Delft is one of Holland's most perfectly preserved city centres which we will explore by foot. Since the 17th century Delft has acquired a world wide reputation for its hand-painted Delftware. The production process will be explained during a visit to one of the surviving factories.

There is free time in Delft for shopping in the historic centre.

17.00 hrs Return to Amsterdam

Dinner is on own arrangements.

Day 4 TRANSFER TO FLORIADE AND VISIT COSTERUS GARDENS AND PALACE TLOO

Breakfast at leisure

08.30 hrs Depart from Amsterdam, travel East via the fortified town of Naarden (stop).
10.30 hrs Visit the botanic garden of Dr. Costerus, since 70 years an educational project formed by the Costerus Foundation.
It is an oasis of color, plants, shrubs, ponds and trees which preserves species of The Netherlands.

Lunch is planned en route on your own

14.00 hrs Visit the Palace of Het Loo, the former Royal Palace of Queen Emma with its beautiful French gardens.



16.30 hrs After visiting the Palace, we proceed to Vlodrop, a small town near the FLORIADE 2012 grounds and check into our hotel.

Dinner is on own arrangements.

Day 5 FULL DAY EXCURSION FLORIADE

Breakfast is at leisure.

08:30 hrs Depart hotel for Floriade

09.00 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

19.00 hrs Dinner at the hotel

Day 6 ASPARAGUS AND MUSHROOMS

Breakfast is at leisure.

09.00 hrs Transfer to Museum of Locht

09.30 hrs 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, which is already popular in antiquity, is now 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 of Locht

Continue to Utrecht for lunch. Utrecht was founded by the Romans in the year 50 and home of the Archbishop of the province of Utrecht. The city is located in the very heart of The Netherlands. Its rich history is visible around every corner of the historic centre.

14.00 hrs Check in at the hotel in the old centre and after lunch the afternoon is free for shopping, visiting the old Dom tower or a stroll along one of the canals.

Farewell dinner this evening in a traditional restaurant in old Utrecht.

Day 7

Breakfast is at leisure.

Transfer to Schiphol airport and check in for your flight to the USA

PROGRAM PRICING

Package price per person **\$ 2308.00 Double Occupancy**
 Single supplement \$ 995.00

7days English speaking guide
3x overnight hotel Superior Tourist Class 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
Lunches and Dinners as mentioned above – all others on your own
Entrance and guided tour of Aalsmeer Flower Auction
Lunch in a local country restaurant
Entrance to the Windmills and Shoe Farm
Entrance fee Costerus Botanic Garden and Palace t'Loo
Entrance fee Keukenhof
2x overnight in Superior Tourist Class hotel in Vlodrop, including breakfast
Entrance fee and guided tour Museum de Locht
Entrance to the Windmills and Shoe Farm
Entrance fee Costerus Botanic Garden and Palace Het Loo
Entrance fee Floriade
Lunch voucher Floriade
1x overnight in Utreht in Superior Tourist Class hotel, including breakfast
Farewell dinner in old Utreht

