



# London & Amsterdam

May 30 - June 6, 2008

## A Tale of Two Cities

London is rightly considered to be the theater capital of the world, but there is also more to London than the theater. We'll introduce the city with a panoramic sightseeing tour, accompanied by a local guide, designed to give you an overview of the major sites and how they relate to one another along with some historical background to the major events that have shaped the city's character. Free time will then allow you to explore on your own those places that spark your interest for a more in-depth visit, be it an exhibition at the Royal Academy, a tour of the Tate Modern, a ride on the London Eye or a boat trip down the river to Greenwich.

From London it is a short, convenient flight to Amsterdam, the captivating city of quaint canals, Van Gogh, and Vermeer.

Here is the Amsterdam of your imagination—languid, dreamy canals reflecting crisp 17<sup>th</sup>-century town houses and cobbled streets, an image that is picture-postcard-perfect, but still utterly authentic. This latticework of canals leads you deep into the historic heart of one of the world's most intriguing and vivacious cities and its assortment of attractions, from impressive architecture to world-class museums, all clustered in a charming center.

From its beginnings as a fishing village at the mouth of the Amstel River, Amsterdam developed in stages, each marked by the digging of new canals. We'll begin our visit with an orientation tour by canal boat (enclosed and heated) that highlights the city's major landmarks and culminates in a visit to the treasures of the Rijksmuseum, including an outstanding selection of Rembrandts. An early start on another morning may take you to the lively Aalsmeer Flower Auction, which ships flowers around the world. In your free time you'll also have an opportunity to stroll the streets, take in the remarkable Van Gogh museum with its 200 paintings, visit The Hague and Vermeer's *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*, or explore Anne Frank's house and the first-rate Jewish Historical Museum.



Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum

The cost of this itinerary, per person, double occupancy is:

Washington Dulles departure:	<b>\$2450</b>
Land Only (Lon-Ams airfare incl.):	<b>\$1720</b>
Single supplement:	<b>\$390</b>

*Airfares are available from many other U.S. cities. Please call for details.*

The following services are included:

- Airfare:** Roundtrip air from Washington Dulles to London and from London to Amsterdam. All airport taxes and customs fees included.
- Hotels:** 6 nights accommodation in superior tourist class hotels. All hotel taxes and service charges included.
- Meals:** Breakfast daily; 2 dinners.
- Couriers:** Services of *Discover Europe* tour leader throughout.
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary.
- Guides:** Local guides for sightseeing in London and Amsterdam.
- Entrances:** All entrance fees to sites featured in the itinerary.
- Insurance:** Comprehensive travel and cancellation insurance.





**Friday, May 30th**

Evening departure from the U.S. for your overnight flight to London.

**Overnight: Plane**

**Saturday, May 31st**

Upon arrival at either of London's airports, you'll be met for the transfer to your London hotel. There will be time to unpack, relax, and have lunch before we depart on a panoramic sightseeing tour designed to give newcomers an overview of this great city and reacquaint returning travelers with its many charms. From Trafalgar Square to the Tate Modern, London is bursting with energy, and your guide will ensure that you are aware of the latest happenings as well as all the old favorites. This evening, dinner at the hotel brings the group together in a warm welcome to London. **(D)**

**Overnight: London**

**Sunday, June 1st - Monday, June 2nd**

Two completely free days to explore London. As Dr. Samuel Johnson said, "The man who is tired of London is tired of life, for in London there is all that life can afford!" Explore the galleries and museums of the city, enjoy shopping along Oxford Street, or join the crowds in the markets of Covent Garden or Camden Lock. Why not pay a visit in the afternoon to the half-price ticket booth in Leicester Square and see what is available at the theater this evening? Alternatively your courier can arrange a day trip to Canterbury by train for those interested. The evening will be free for dinner at one of London's fantastic restaurants. **(B)**

**Overnight: London**

**Tuesday, June 3rd**

Today we fly to Amsterdam. On arrival our coach will be waiting to transport us to our city-center hotel. Dinner is included this evening. **(B, D)**

**Overnight: Amsterdam**

**Wednesday, June 4th**

A wonderful opportunity to see the city from a different perspective as we explore Amsterdam by canal boat on an orientation tour that highlights the major landmarks. Our sightseeing ends with a guided visit to the Rijksmuseum, an enormous arts collection that contains one of the most comprehensive selections of 17th century Dutch paintings in the world, including 20 or more Rembrandts and a fine assortment of Vermeers, in addition to an outstanding selection of medieval sculptures. The afternoon and evening are free to explore the city on your own. Art lovers may choose to continue their art tour in the Museum Quarter—where the Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum, and the Stedelijk Museum (modern and contemporary art) are clustered together. Nearby Vondelpark, Amsterdam's loveliest park, offers an enticing landscape that

**Overnight: Amsterdam**



*London's National Gallery*

includes more than 100 species of trees and a network of ponds and waterways. In the evening you're free to sample one of the city's many fine restaurants. **(B)**



*Rembrandt's Night Watch*

**Thursday, June 5th**

A free day in Amsterdam. An early start would enable you to visit the lively Aarlsmeer Flower Auction. You view the entire operation from raised galleries that look into each of the five auction halls. The interplay of color, sound, and movement is extraordinary as flower carts, once purchased, are quickly moved to reach their worldwide destinations in a timely manner. The day is free to explore the city on your own, crossing canals, and strolling along the Damrak, which once divided the "Old Side" of the medieval city from the "New Side." The Kloveniersburgwal forms one of the most beguiling parts of the Old Center, with a medley of handsome old houses lining a beautiful canal. From here, it's a short walk to the Rokin, a shopping boulevard that leads to the Muntplein and the floating flower market. And you'll not want to miss Dam Square, flanked by two of the city's

**Overnight: Amsterdam**

most impressive buildings, the Royal Palace and the Nieuwe Kerk, built in early 15th century Gothic style, or the Anne Frank House, one of the city's most powerful and poignant destinations. In the evening, why not sample some rijsttafel—a selection of six or eight Indonesian dishes (Amsterdam is acclaimed for the best Indonesian food outside Indonesia!). **(B)**

**Friday, June 6th**

Morning transport to the airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B)**

**Overnight: Home**



*An Amsterdam Canal*