

Holland & Belgium in Springtime

SVSU SAGINAW VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

April 7 - April 18, 2024

Belgium: *Antwerp, Ghent* | The Netherlands: *Neere, Kinderdijk, Dordrecht, Rotterdam, Enkhuizen, Amsterdam*



Travel Preview & Registration

OLLI members are invited to learn about this trip during a Zoom preview with our travel provider - Grand Circle Travel.

Tuesday, April 11

8:30 a.m. Registration Begins

9:30 a.m. Travel Preview

Location: Seminar Room - D

**Registration for this trip will begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue directly following the travel preview on a first come, first served basis.*

Register early to receive a 10% discount & guarantee your seat!

Register in April and pay in full via checking account to save a full 10% off the tour cost with the Grand Circle "Good Buy Discount"



SVSU - Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

Embark on an exploration of warm and colorful Holland and Belgium, from Brussels to Amsterdam.



General Information:

Travel Providers

This educational travel experience is offered by the SVSU Osher Lifelong Learning Institute in conjunction with Grand Circle Travel, our travel partner we traveled with to Ireland, England, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Croatia, Paris, Norway, and Germany.

Registrations:

Please fill out the registration form and bring it to the OLLI office on the day of registration. Trip reservations are on first come, first served basis. A passport and Covid vaccination card is required at time of registration and must be valid through six months following the end date of the tour.

Tour Activity Level:

This tour requires more than average physical activity. You should be in good health, able to climb stairs and walk reasonable distances, 3-4 hours of physical activity per day, 1-3 continuous miles unassisted within 1-2 hours, possibly over stairs and cobblestones, getting in/out of small canal boats. Adding optional excursions may increase the total amount of walking on your tour. You should feel comfortable managing your own baggage at all times. If you have any mobility concerns or physical restrictions, please contact our OLLI office for additional information. This trip is not accessible for travelers using wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, or crutches.

About Our Lodging

We will be staying on the M/S River Harmony which is privately owned, operated, and staffed by Grand Circle Cruise Line.

Travel Protection:*

Travel protection will be included in the price of this trip and must be paid at the time of deposit upon registration and will be provided by Allianz. Details about the travel protection package terms and conditions may be found on their website at: <https://www.gct.com/ways-to-save/travel-protection-plan/benefits-and-coverage>. Please note that insurance fees are not refundable. It is the traveler's responsibility to review insurance coverage to make sure it meets your needs prior to purchase. * If you choose not to take travel protection for your trip - your registration/situation will be reviewed.

Air Details:

Our package includes round-trip air from Detroit airport, air taxes & fees/surcharges. Specific flight information will be provided at a later date. If our flight is scheduled early, we may stay the night prior to departure. If this is the case, there will be an added cost per person and these details will be forwarded to you closer to departure.

Roommates Needed:

If you are looking for a roommate please contact our office prior to registration, and we can share names of others looking for roommates. Our office will also maintain a wait-list if this trip fills to capacity with travelers.

Included in Your 11-Days:

- * 10 nights aboard a privately owned deluxe river ship, in an outside cabin
- * 29 Meals: 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches, & 10 dinners please note these are all onboard (see itinerary)

15 included features:

- * Grand Circle Professional Program Director
- * 10 tours with personal headsets & (3) Exclusive Discovery Series events: *Home-Hosted Op de Koffie, Tulip farm visit and How Netherlands Feeds the World Discussion*
- * Sightseeing in Antwerp, Ghent, Kinderdijk, Amsterdam canal cruise, Rotterdam tour, Keukenhof, Enkhuizen, Zuiderzee Museum and more.
- * Complimentary choice of house beer, house wine & soft drinks included at all times while on board ship.
- * Gratuities on your main trip for local guides
- * Round-trip air transportation from DTW airport, and ground transportation to/from SVSU to the Detroit airport.
- * Private motorcoach land travel
- * 5% Frequent Traveler credit with GCT
- * Pre-trip dinner & Post-trip gathering at SVSU

Travel Requirements:

Currently requirements include proof of vaccination, & masks may be required for multiple day travel with SVSU-OLLI & GCT. We will provide any known updates closer to departure dates.

- **Overseas Taxes & Fees:** This tour may have taxes and fees that cannot be included in your airline ticket price because you are required to pay them in person onsite. All taxes are subject to change without notice and can be paid in cash (either U.S. or local currency). *If applicable, you will receive a list of these fees with your Final Documents.*
- **Itinerary Subject to Change:** (please note activities may change on the trip due to water-level depths)

Saginaw Valley State University OLLI—Trip Reservation Form

Please provide accurate information. This will eliminate any change fees or document delays.

Past Grand Circle Traveler: Y__ N__ If yes, full name (on account): _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ Cell Phone: _____ - _____ - _____
Email address: _____

Travel Protection:

Yes, I understand trip protection is included in my trip cost No, I decline the trip protection offered for this trip

Signature: _____

Payment Information: Please note that non-members will pay an additional \$30 (payable to SVSU) and will receive an OLLI membership through 8/31/23.

I authorize:

Full payment (including travel protection) Total: _____

Deposit of \$500 and Travel Protection payment (see pricing table) Total: _____

Single supplement \$695 and Travel Protection Total: _____

The final balance is due by December 1, 2023

Payment Method:

Electronic Transfer (automatic payment): Name on Checking Account: _____

Routing Number _____ Account Number: _____

Credit Card: Master Card Visa Discover Cardholder Name: _____

Cardholder Number: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____ CVV Code: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____/____/____

By signing above I have read and understand all the terms and conditions and accept them on behalf of myself and my party. (MM / DD / YEAR)

Traveler 1

Please ensure that your name matches what appears on your passport:

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____

First: _____ Middle: _____

Last Name: _____

Nickname (optional for name badge): _____

Passport Country of Issue _____

Passport Number: _____

Passport Issue Date: ____/____/____ (MM / DD / YEAR)

Passport Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Place of Birth: __ (state) _____ (country)

Nationality: _____

Occupation: _____

Please note: if you are retired please state retired and from what

Dietary/Medical Restrictions: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Email: _____

Are you requesting a seat upgrade/preference? If yes, what is your budget? No Yes _____ Preference: _____

Traveler 2 (only if at same address)

Please ensure that your name matches what appears on your passport:

Title: Mr./Ms./Mrs. _____

First: _____ Middle: _____

Last Name: _____

Nickname (optional for name badge): _____

Passport Country of Issue _____

Passport Number: _____

Passport Issue Date: ____/____/____ (MM / DD / YEAR)

Passport Expiration Date: ____/____/____

Place of Birth: __ (state) _____ (country)

Nationality: _____

Occupation: _____

Please note: if you are retired please state retired and from what

Dietary/Medical Restrictions: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Email: _____

Are you requesting a seat upgrade/preference? If yes, what is your budget? No Yes _____ Preference: _____

In Office Checklist: Registration Date _____ **Initials** _____

Checklist:

Passport Copy — Good Through October of 2024

Covid-19 Vaccination Copy

Emergency Form

Travel Protection

Other: _____

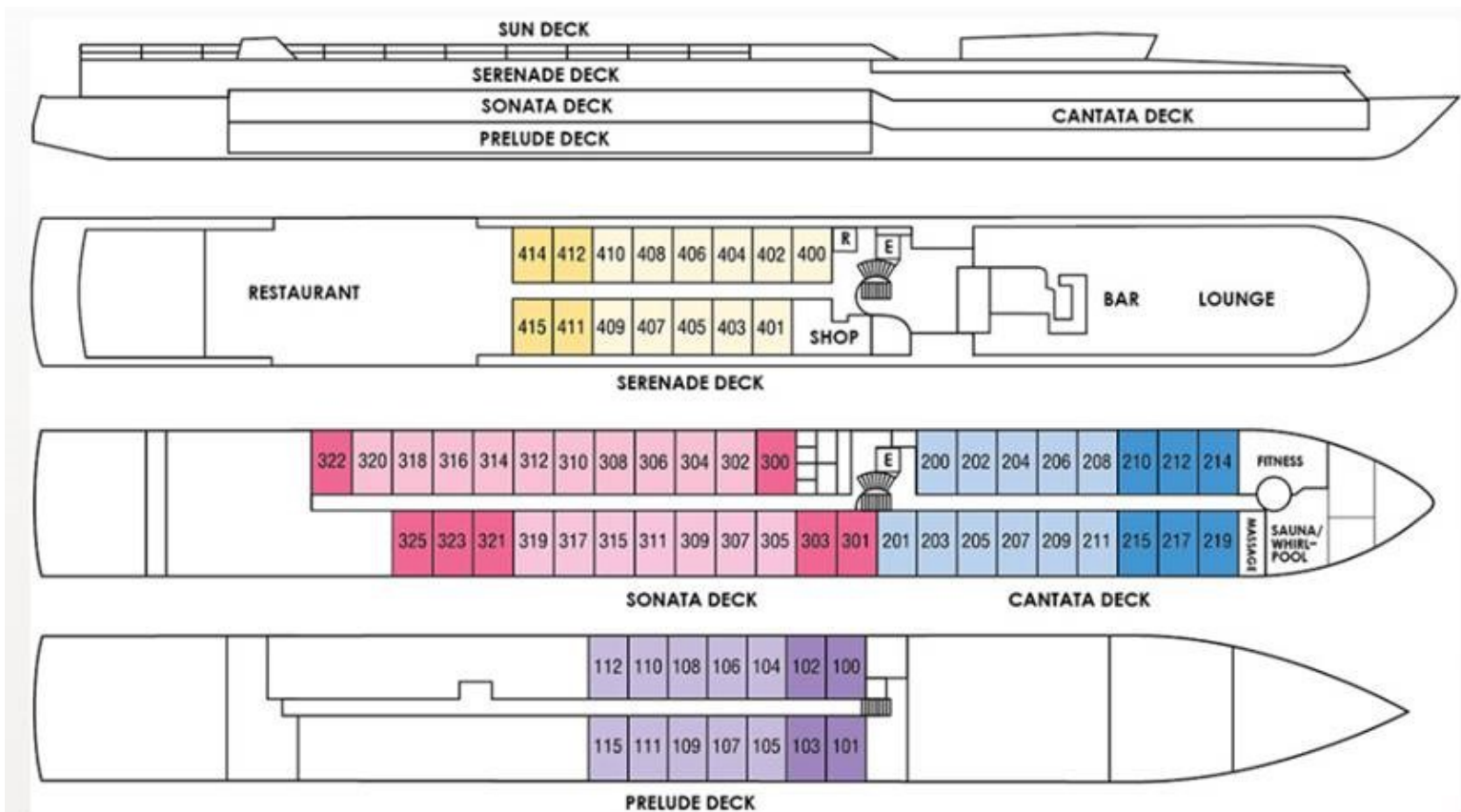
Roommate Information (if not at the same address):

Name: _____

Roommate Phone Number: _____

Notes: _____

Copy of Registration Form Returned to Traveler



Description of Cabin Categories:

- A - Private Balcony & Close Proximity to Reception Areas** - Located on Serenade Deck, Rooms 400-410
- B - Private Balcony & Close Proximity to Reception Areas** - Located on Serenade Deck, Rooms 411-415
- C - Picture Window** - Located on Sonata Deck, Rooms 302, 304-320
- D - Picture Window** - Located on Sonata Deck, Rooms 300-301, 303, 321-325 (no 324)
- E - Split Window & Close Proximity to Fitness Areas** - Located on Cantata Deck, Rooms 200-209, 211
- F - Split Window & Close Proximity to Fitness Areas** - Located on Cantana Deck, Rooms 210, 212, 214, 215, 217, 219
- G - Two Porthole Windows** - Located on Prelude Deck, Rooms 104-112, 115
- H - Two Porthole Windows** - Located on Prelude Deck, Rooms 100-103

Trip Cost:			
Cabin Categories	Base w/Air	Travel Protection	Total Cost
A	\$ 5,195.00	\$ 599.00	\$ 5,794.00
B	\$ 4,995.00	\$ 599.00	\$ 5,594.00
C	\$ 4,595.00	\$ 549.00	\$ 5,144.00
D	\$ 4,495.00	\$ 549.00	\$ 5,044.00
E	\$ 4,395.00	\$ 499.00	\$ 4,894.00
F	\$ 4,295.00	\$ 499.00	\$ 4,794.00
G	\$ 4,095.00	\$ 499.00	\$ 4,594.00
H	\$ 3,695.00	\$ 449.00	\$ 4,144.00
*Non-Members will pay additional \$30 to SVSU-OLLI for Membership good through 8/31/2023			

Cabin Preference:	
<i>Please list your top three cabin choices below:</i>	
1st:	
2nd:	
3rd:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single Room - Limited (\$695) * Please note that the single supplements request may increase your travel protection cost.	

Roommates Needed: If you are looking for a roommate please contact our office prior to registration, and we can share names of others looking for roommates. Our office will also maintain a wait-list if this trip fills to capacity of travelers.



Day 1: Depart SVSU

We'll travel to the Detroit airport via motorcoach from SVSU, and fly to Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands.

Day 2: Arrive in Amsterdam & Embark Ship

Today we will arrive in the Netherlands capital, home of the Dutch. We will be greeted at the airport and transferred to the M/S River Harmony. You will have some time to settle into your cabin, then you have the option to relax onboard or go for a stroll around the neighborhood where the ship is docked. There will be a light lunch available onboard. In the afternoon, we will gather for our first port talk in the lounge for an informative ship embarkation and safety meeting. During our cruise we will gather for briefings about the port area and town. We will then have dinner onboard the ship in the dining room. Then you have the freedom to spend the rest of your evening as you wish - perhaps you'll enjoy a nightcap at the bar or relax in the lounge. **(D)**

Day 3: Explore Amsterdam

After breakfast, we'll begin our day with an Amsterdam canal cruise. While traversing these 400-year-old canals—a UNESCO World Heritage Site - you'll view such landmarks as the 17th-century Royal Palace and the Mint Tower, which has retained its name even though gold and silver coins were minted here for only a couple of years. You'll also see the wooden double drawbridge, known as the "Skinny Bridge," that may remind you of Van Gogh's paintings. Following lunch, the afternoon is free for your choosing—ask our Program Director for recommendations such as joining a local guide for a guided walk of the city's Jordan neighborhood, also known as its Jewish quarter. Later in the afternoon join travel companions and the ship's crew for a Welcome Drink followed by the Captain's Welcome Dinner. Then in the lounge join for an impactful Exclusive Discovery Series conversation: "Netherlands Networks: Trafficking and Trading". **(B/L/D)**

Day 4: Enkhuizen (pronounced "enk-HOW-zen")

In the later morning we will cruise to Enkhuizen, giving you more opportunity for reveling in the springtime scenes that line the riverbanks. Upon arrival we will set off on a walking tour to explore Enkhuizen, established between AD 1000 and 1200. Enkhuizen became a city in 1355, prospering due to its herring fishing industry and trade from the East and West India companies. Enkhuizen reached its peak in the 17th century when it boasted the largest herring fleet in Holland. The thriving port sat on the edge of the Zuiderzee, an inlet of the North Sea, until it was enclosed in 1932. Now, Enkhuizen sits on the IJsselmeer, the large inland lake created by the damming of the sea outlet.

Day 4 Continued

With a population of about 16,000, this historic city retains its old charms, and its harbors attract thousands of pleasure boats. You'll also see the Drommedaris, an old defense tower at the entrance to the harbor, and the many warehouses originally used by both the East and West India Company. Dinner will be onboard in the ship's dining room and the evening is yours to spend as you wish. **(B/L/D)**

Day 5: Enkhuizen • Home-Hosted Op de Koffie

This morning we will enjoy a visit with a local family, an Exclusive Discovery Series event. They'll be your hosts for coffee, cake, and conversation, during a Home-Hosted Op de Koffie. Along with a friendly intercultural exchange, you might enjoy tasting a stroopwafel—a thin, waffle-like sandwich cookie with a sweet, chewy center. In the afternoon we will delve deeper into this city's rich maritime history during an included visit to the Zuiderzee Museum, an open-air complex that depicts life in this region in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The evening is yours to spend as you wish. **(B/L/D)**

Day 6: Kinderdijk

Today explore Kinderdijk, and its famed 19 windmills. Stroll around the site, with plenty of time to take photos of these nostalgic, yet pragmatic creations. These well-preserved, historic structures became protected by UNESCO in 1997. Kinderdijk takes its name from a 16th-century legend involving a baby (or *kinder*), a cradle, and a cat that all survived being tossed into raging waters. For centuries, the Dutch were at the mercy of frequent floods. Around 1740, 19 windmills were built in the village of Kinderdijk, innovative structures that drain the excess water from polders—the reclaimed land that is situated below sea level—and pump it into nearby rivers and canals. This helps to evenly distribute water levels and lessen the threat of devastating floods. Nowadays, modern engines do the job of turning the paddle wheels, forcing them to scoop up the water, yet the country still has a unique bond with, and affection for, its many windmills. Next, we will dock in either the medieval town of Schoonhoven or Dordrecht, then set off on a brief walking tour with your Program Director. The rest of the afternoon is yours to explore Schoonhoven at your leisure—ask our Program Director for recommendations. **(B/L/D)**

Day 7: Rotterdam • Optional Tour of Delft

After breakfast the choice is yours: Either begin the morning on a walking tour of Rotterdam, which was almost completely destroyed during World War II. The reconstructed city is now known for its crisp, modern architecture. **Or**, join the optional tour of Delft's famous porcelain factory. One of the member cities of the Dutch East India Company, Delft is known for its blue-and-white pottery (called Delftware). Visit a local porcelain factory and enjoy a short walking tour of Delft. Following the walking tour, you will enjoy lunch in a local restaurant. No matter the morning activity that you choose, enjoy the afternoon to make your own discoveries in Rotterdam. Following dinner, head to the lounge to enjoy live entertainment from local musicians. **(B/D)**



Day 8: Rotterdam • Keukenhof Flower Park • Tulip Farm Visit

Today we will enjoy a quintessential Netherlands in springtime experience this morning—the Keukenhof Flower Park. Set in the heart of the western Netherlands' tulip-growing region, and once the kitchen garden of a medieval castle, today it is known as the "greatest flower show on Earth," featuring more than seven million tulips and a variety of other flowers in both indoor and outdoor exhibits. You'll have the opportunity to stroll through the park's 70 acres of lovely, tree-shaded grounds with ponds, winding paths, streams, and fountains; then enjoy a boxed lunch at Keukenhof Flower Park. In the afternoon we'll meet with a local family and learn about the daily life of modern tulip farmers during this Exclusive Discovery Series. *(B/L/D)*

Day 9: Province of Zeeland, the Netherlands

Depending on our docking location, we will visit one of two villages: artist-friendly Veere or, the medieval town of Zierikzee. Our Program Director will share information about the town as we stroll, each one charming and rich with over a thousand years of history. Then there will be some free time before returning to the ship for lunch. The remainder of the day is yours to choose, either relax aboard the ship or explore the area at your own pace. *(B/L/D)*

Day 10: Ghent, Belgium

Today we will visit one of Belgium's oldest cities and its fourth largest, Ghent, "the jewel of Flanders." Enjoy an included walking tour here that will immerse you in the city's rich history. Medieval and Renaissance buildings tell the story of Ghent's past reign as a textile capital from the eleventh century onward, both more populous and wealthier than London for several centuries. When the people of Ghent were under Spanish rule and rose up against Charles V to protest taxes, he punished the city by making its nobles parade before him wearing nooses around their necks. This led to the term *stroppendragers*—noose-wearers—becoming the nickname for Ghent-dwellers since. Enjoy free time in this Flemish treasure before returning to the ship. The afternoon is free for your own discoveries. In the late afternoon, we will have another onboard Exclusive Discovery Series conversation—"Belgium Today." The evening is yours to enjoy. *(B/L/D)*

Day 11 Antwerp • Captain's Farewell Dinner

This morning, we will leave the ship and board our private motorcoach for the 15-minute drive into town. Then, set off on a walking tour of Antwerp. Located on the banks of the Schelde River, Antwerp is Belgium's major port and has been commercially important in European trade since the eleventh century. Like Amsterdam, it is one of the world centers for diamond trading. In spite of damage suffered during both World Wars, Antwerp remains a city full of beautiful historic architecture dating back to the 16th century. We'll explore Antwerp's well-preserved Old Town, built around the *Grote Markt* (Town Square), and graced by the lovely old Town Hall and guild houses, then stroll along the *Meir* (Antwerp's main shopping street), lined with wonderfully elaborate historic buildings. The afternoon, is free for your own discovery. Later this afternoon, return to the ship for an Exclusive Discovery Series conversation about the complicated history of Belgian colonialism and the effects of racism today. Following the talk, join our ship's captain for a Farewell Drink and Dinner in the dining room. *(B/L/D)*

Day 12 Antwerp • Disembark Ship • Brussels • Return to U.S.

Following breakfast, we will be transferred to the airport in Brussels for our return flight home. *(B)*

Registration and Preview Details:

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

- **8:30 a.m.** - Registration begins. Registration is done on a first come, first served basis. Bring a completed registration form, cabin preferences selected, your passport, Covid vaccination card, and form of payment.
- **9:30 a.m.** - Preview begins - what to expect when traveling with OLLI. Learn about travel enhancements when traveling with OLLI, including classes, motorcoach transfers to and from airport.
- **10 a.m.** - Travel Preview with our provider, Grand Circle Travel. Join us via Zoom with Patrick Phelan. This is a great time to ask questions about the trip itinerary

Trip Optional Excursions

Customize your experience:

Customize your tour by adding an optional excursion. You will register for this excursion on site during your trip.

Day 7: Delft*

Dating back to the 13th century, Delft was a longtime home port to the Dutch East India Company. It is well known for its blue-and-white pottery called Delftware, which was first produced in the 17th century and styled after imported Chinese porcelain. You'll learn more about the unique pottery during a visit to a local porcelain factory. You'll also enjoy a brief walking tour of the city.

\$60 per person (departs in the morning)

Cancellations:

All cancellations must be in writing to the OLLI office and are subject to a cancellation fee of \$50. Grand Circle Travel's cancellation policies will prevail.