

HOLLAND TO HOLLAND: *Tour Through the Netherlands*



Windmill Island
GARDENS



HOLLAND, MICHIGAN
CONVENTION + VISITORS BUREAU



Holland Tasting Tours

October 12 – 21, 2026

Hosted by Linda Kaiser and Matt Helmus

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We are excited to launch the 'Holland to Holland' tour!

While there are many trips available to the Netherlands, we are excited to offer one that focuses on the Dutch roots of West Michigan. Whether you've been to the Netherlands or not, this will be a unique experience with something new for all travelers. This tour is brought to you in partnership with the Holland Visitors Bureau, Windmill Island Gardens, and Holland Tasting Tours.



Inclusions:

- Round-trip airport transfers from Holland to Grand Rapids
- Round-trip airfare from Grand Rapids (other departure cities available)
- Motorcoach transportation
- Local European tour manager to accompany the group
- Breakfast daily, four lunches, and three dinners
- All sightseeing admissions in accordance with the itinerary
- All tips and taxes

Tour Cost

\$4,780 per person from Holland via motorcoach with flights from Grand Rapids, based on double occupancy

Hosted by

Linda Kaiser and Matt Helmus

Linda shares her passion for Dutch history as the owner and operator of Holland Tasting Tours. She is also a veteran tour guide for bus groups and Tulip Time. Matt is immersed in all things Dutch as the manager of Windmill Island Gardens over the last decade. He has also been involved with the Dutch International Society and the Dutch Heritage Coordinating Council.

Matt and Linda look forward to sharing their Dutch connections with you and showcasing the modern and historic links between the Netherlands and West Michigan. As part of the tour, you'll be invited to an orientation session prior to departure to meet your hosts and fellow travelers, as well as to receive background information on the sites you'll be visiting.

ITINERARY

Meals included: B-breakfast, L-lunch, D-dinner

OCTOBER 2026

12, Monday

Depart from Holland to Holland!

Today's the day! We board our motorcoach in Holland to transfer to Gerald R. Ford International Airport for our flights to the Netherlands. (D in-flight)

13, Tuesday

Welkom! Enkhuizen

Welcome to the Netherlands! We collect our luggage and meet our tour manager to begin our journey. We start with an immersion into Dutch maritime heritage at the Zuiderzee Museum in Enkhuizen. See where historic ships and traditional village life set the tone for the generations ahead. Next, we check into our hotel for a one-night stay, before gathering for a welcome dinner this evening. (B-in flight, D)

REGISTER ONLINE AT

bookings.wittetravel.com

use booking code

101226HELM

or complete and return the printed registration form.



14, Wednesday
Friesland:
Leeuwarden & Groningen

Today we explore the heart of Friesland with a visit to Leeuwarden, the provincial capital. We enjoy a guided walking tour and time at the Fries Museum to discover the region’s unique language, customs, and history. After lunch on your own, we continue to the University city of Groningen. Enjoy a walking tour of the area before checking into our hotel for a two-night stay. The remainder of the evening is at leisure. (B)

15, Thursday
Van Raalte’s Turf:
Drenthe & Overijssel

Albertus van Raalte, the founder of Holland, spent most of his Dutch life in the rural areas of the Netherlands including Overijssel and Drenthe. Today, we’ll follow in his footsteps. We start at the Ellert & Brammert Museum where regional history comes to life. We’ll continue with stops including Ommen where van Raalte preached and ran a seminary. Of course, we can’t spend time in this area without a meal at the Olde Posthuus in Ruinen, the building that served as a model for the Posthouse at Windmill Island Gardens. We return to Groningen or a group dinner this evening. (B, L, D)

Tour Pace

ACTIVE – Travelers considering this tour must be aware of existing challenges in the Netherlands for those with mobility, balance, and respiratory issues. While picturesque landscapes and cultural experiences await, navigating cobblestone streets, uneven terrain and narrow pathways pose difficulties. Passengers who require any mobility device, must be accompanied by a physically able companion who enables them to keep pace with walking tours on this trip. Taxis or other transportation used to “catch up” to the group are at the passenger’s expense. Activity levels vary from day-to-day. Sightseeing is often a brisk walk ranging from three to ten miles each day on uneven ground. Your safety and comfort are our top priorities. We are committed to ensuring an inclusive and enjoyable experience for all travelers.



- 1 Enkhuizen
 - 2 Groningen
 - 3 Franeker
 - 4 Leeuwarden
- Cover: Amsterdam



Highlights include:

- Following in the footsteps of Holland's founder, Albertus van Raalte – including his hometown of Wanneperveen, his university town of Leiden, and Ommen, where he preached and had a seminary.
- Visiting Vinkel - the last home of Holland's de Zwaan windmill. The town now has a newly built sister mill which we'll tour.
- Discovering how the ancestors of many West Michiganders lived through visits to locally-focused museums in Drenthe, Friesland, Zeeland and North Holland.
- Learning about West Michigan's modern connections with the Netherlands including where the City of Holland procures its tulips and touring a Delftware business with locations in both Hollands.
- Making your way all around the country including at least 9 of the 12 Dutch provinces!

16, Friday Heading South: Putten & Arnhem

This morning, we travel south through the famous lake district, pausing in Wanneperveen where Van Raalte was born. You may recognize our next stop from their storefront on 8th Street in downtown Holland - it's the renowned Heinen Delftware workshop. This company continues to create traditional blue-and-white ceramics as well as more modern iterations. Next, we head to Arnhem for the Netherlands Open Air Museum, where history comes to life through historic structures including the model for the Dutch drawbridge at Windmill Island Gardens. Following this, we check into our hotel in Arnhem for a one-night stay before enjoying the city including dinner on your own. (B, L)

17, Saturday Immigration Stories: Vinkel & Rotterdam

We spend the morning in the village of Vinkel, the past home of Holland's De Zwaan windmill. We tour the town's new mill, a replica opened in 2020. We then venture to the port city of Rotterdam where many immigrants spent their final hours in the Netherlands. We'll discover how the city center looks much different after being destroyed during World War II. Enjoy a walking tour of Rotterdam, stopping at Holland Amerika Lijn quay, before ending at the Markthal where there are many spots to choose from for an independent dinner this evening. (B, L)





18, Sunday
Down South:
Zeeland & Dordrecht

Today, we have the option to attend a local church service in the morning. Alternatively, enjoy some of Rotterdam’s modern architecture and grab lunch before hopping on the bus. We’ll head to the archipelago province of Zeeland to visit the provincial museum in Middelburg. On the way home, we stop in Dordrecht – famous for its connections to Dutch royalty and the Synod of Dordt. (B)



19, Monday
The Original Tulip Towns:
Leiden & Lisse

Today we’ll discover how tulips arrived in the Netherlands and how we get them to Holland. Stopping in Leiden, we’ll see the garden of Carolus Clusius, the man who brought tulips to Europe. Historical Leiden is also home to the first Dutch university and is the city where the Pilgrims spent time before heading to Massachusetts. In the afternoon, we drive to Lisse to visit UNEX, the company who has helped the City of Holland procure its tulips for the past decade. Following this we head north to settle into Amsterdam where we spend our last two nights. (B, L)

20, Tuesday
The Heart of Holland:
Amsterdam

We begin the day with a guided walking tour of Amsterdam, discovering its canals, gabled houses, and historic districts. In the afternoon, enjoy an optional half-day excursion to visit Zaanse Schans, known for its traditional windmills and workshops. You may instead choose to enjoy popular attractions such as the Anne Frank House or Van Gogh Museum independently, with advance individual reservations. We celebrate our final evening with a scenic dinner cruise this evening. (B, D)

21, Wednesday
Return

Enjoy some free time in the morning before we transfer to Schiphol Airport for our return flights to Grand Rapids. Upon arrival in Grand Rapids, we board a motorcoach to return to Holland. (B, L-in flight)



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- ❶ Netherlands Open Air Museum, Arnhem
 - ❷ Molen De Zwaan, Vinkel
 - ❸ Dordrecht
 - ❹ Leiden



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