



Vermeer at the Rijksmuseum & the art of the Netherlands



Arranged with Travel Editions Group Travel for The Arts Society Dorking

17 May – 22nd May 2023 - 6 days from *£1,349pp

As the Dutch Republic came of age in the 17th century, its northern provinces led the way in a new style of painting that revolutionised Western art and continues to fascinate art lovers to this day. One of these artists was Johannes Vermeer, whose art is being bought together at the Rijksmuseum in a dedicated retrospective exhibition for the first time in history. With loans from all over the world, this promises to be the largest Vermeer exhibition ever. Our superb tour will include a visit to this exhibition as well as the Mauritshuis in the Hague, Haarlem, Leiden with a canal cruise, Rotterdam, the iconic Kinderdijk Windmills and our base, Delft, Vermeer's birthplace and one of the Netherlands' most beautiful towns.



This holiday is operated by Travel Editions Group Travel

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*Based on 25 passengers. An initial deposit of £300 per person, due by 15th October 2022



The Milkmaid, Vermeer, Rijksmuseum

Itinerary

Day 1 - Coach transfer from Dorking to St Pancras then travel by Eurostar from St Pancras direct to Rotterdam. On arrival transfer by coach to Delft for check in for five night stay. Welcome drink and dinner with wine at the hotel.

Day 2 Delft and the Kinderdijk Windmills

It isn't hard to see why Delft is one of the most popular attractions for visitors to the Netherlands – firstly

there's Vermeer, then the town's famous blue and white ceramics and last but certainly not least the gorgeous centre – a jumble of old tiled houses, tree-lined canals, and lovely little bridges, though it's the feeling of the place that holds most of the appeal. This afternoon we visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of the Kinderdijk collection of 19 windmills which encapsulates Dutch history in a single image. Used to drain water from the Alblasserwaard, they are situated where the Noord and Lek converge and serve as an historic reminder of how Holland began. Dinner at a local restaurant.

Day 3 The Hague including the Mauritshuis and Panorama Mesdag

The Hague is the home of the Dutch government and Parliament and is a pleasant, spacious seaside town. With its multitude of parks, squares and gardens interspersed



The 'Night Watch', Rembrandt, Rijksmuseum

with elegant boulevards lined with mansions; it is a stately place with an air of being well kept and well moneyed. The Hague has plenty of excellent museums and entrance is included to the Mauritshuis, which retains its intimate atmosphere and has an outstanding collection of Rembrandt, Van Dyck and Rubens. Entrance is also included to the incredible Panorama Mesdag, the largest painting in the Netherlands at 120 metres long and 14 metres high. Dinner at a local restaurant.



Leiden



Amsterdam

Day 4 Leiden and Haarlem

Home to one of Europe's most prestigious universities and the birth place of Rembrandt, Leiden is a vibrant and appealing city. It's beautiful and historic old town, crisscrossed by ancient canals and full of lovely antique buildings, is best explored on foot, with its historic, riverside botanic gardens a particular delight at this time of year, enhanced by a short cruise on its picturesque canals. A relaxed pace of life and lovely historic centre makes Haarlem a delightful town to explore. A former centre of cloth-making, in the 17th century Haarlem became the place to be for a flourishing school of painters, much of whose work is displayed in the excellent Frans Hals Museum. Housed in a former almshouse, where Hals himself lived the last years of his life, the museum's collection consists of works by Hals and a sample of

Dutch paintings from the 15th century to the present day. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 5 Amsterdam including the Rijksmuseum and Vermeer exhibition

Reopened after renovation in early 2013, the Rijksmuseum is one of the world's greatest galleries. The tour dates are timed to coincide

with the museum's major Vermeer exhibition, bringing together pieces from around the world. There will be time to enjoy the exhibition as well as other masterpieces throughout the museum and free time to explore some of the myriad of sights in one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Farewell dinner with wine at local restaurant in Delft.



Delft



Cube houses, Rotterdam

Day 6 Rotterdam and return to the UK

This morning we will have time to visit Rotterdam, the Netherlands's second largest city housing one of the largest ports in the world. Time will be given for personal exploration before transferring by coach to Rotterdam station for the return Eurostar to St Pancras and coach transfer back to Dorking.

Please note: Running order of itinerary may change according to availability of Vermeer exhibition tickets which are not available until late 2022.

Where you stay

Hampshire Delft Centre Hotel, Delft

The family-owned three-star Delft Centre Hotel is located - as its name suggests - in the heart of Delft just behind the New Church, so within a few minutes' walk of the main square and all the main sights. Facilities here include bar, restaurant, waterfront terrace, wi-fi and comfortable bedrooms with private bath/shower, air-conditioning, TV, telephone and tea/coffee making facilities.

Included in the price

- Return standard class Eurostar from St Pancras to Rotterdam
- Return coach travel from Dorking
- Five nights' accommodation on bed and breakfast basis at the three-star Hampshire Delft Centre Hotel in the heart of Delft, based on shared occupancy of a twin room. Double rooms are available on request and an additional supplement
- Five dinners as specified
- Full coach touring itinerary including entrance fees and transfers as detailed
- Tour manager throughout
- Whispers head sets throughout the tour

Not included

- Holiday insurance
- Single room supplement £275
- Upgrade to Standard Premier on Eurostar £160
- Personal items such as meals (other than those mentioned) drinks, laundry, telephone calls etc
- Portage and Gratuities not specified



Hampshire Delft Centre Hotel

