

Spring Tulip Cruise

Along the Romantic Rhein

March 28 – April 5, 2008

Presented by



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM

Keukenhof Gardens with its brilliant display of over 7,000 flowering bulbs—mostly tulips—and the beautiful Rhein River, with its splendid castles, are the focal points of our cruise tour through Germany and the Netherlands next spring.

Join the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum as we sail past vineyards and castles, through the heart of Germany, to Amsterdam. We tour the Netherlands during the tulip season, where the flower fields are being cultivated for their sale in markets throughout the world. At the end of our cruise, we devote one day to visiting both the Aalsmeer Flower Auction and Keukenhof Gardens.

Our journey begins in Strasbourg, France, well-known for its ornate Gothic cathedral. A canal cruise along Strasbourg's waterways offers views of bridges with medieval watchtowers, and the old town with beautiful houses typical of the city's architecture, reflecting its German and French influences.

We'll enjoy a day trip on the Alsatian wine road, winding its way along the eastern slopes of the Vosges Mountains in France, across a succession of undulating hills, through pretty villages with narrow streets of flower-decked, half-timbered houses. These small villages are known for their production of some of France's best wines.

From Strasbourg, we'll travel the Rhein River through the well-known Rheingau region of Germany, one of the country's most famous wine-producing regions. We'll stop in Rudesheim, perhaps locating a "weinstube" before sailing on through the loveliest part of the Rhein.

From the comfort of your upper deck cabin, you can see the best of Germany's heartland. The stretch of river from Rudesheim to Köln (Cologne) is famous for its scenery, with castles surviving from times when tolls were levied on the river's traffic, with landmarks such as the Loreley and the Drachenfels. This region of the Rhein averages one castle every two miles along this route. We overnight in several German cities along the way: in Koblenz and Düsseldorf. We have an afternoon stop in Köln, with time to visit the cathedral or just to enjoy the city on your own.



Flowers at Keukenhof

Finally we arrive in the Netherlands, with its maze of waterways and its beautiful flowers. In Amsterdam, we spend two nights, with our evenings free to explore the city at leisure, and a full day devoted to the Aalsmeer Flower Auction and Keukenhof Garden.

One of the amazing facts about Keukenhof is that the garden uses layered planting to ensure a continuous display of color. Bulbs are planted on top of each other, in several layers. The late-blooming tulips are placed deepest in the ground; above them, early-blooming tulips; and above them, crocus. This way, flowers will bloom in the same spot in the park from early spring until late in the season. At the end of May, all the bulbs are pulled up, the gardens are redesigned, new bulbs are planted, and the lawns are re-sown, ready for the next year.

Your "hotel" on this journey, apart from our first night on land in Strasbourg, is the *m/s Douce France*, specifically designed for cruising on European rivers. Our deluxe cabins are on the upper deck, offering great views of the beautiful scenery along the river

This cruise tour gives you the best of Europe in the springtime—three countries, highlighted by a festival of tulips waiting for you at the end of this delightful cruise on the magical Rhein River. But don't delay—cabins are limited on this popular cruise, so you don't want to miss out. Call today to register!

MEMBER'S TOUR PRICE: \$2,795*

(*plus air taxes estimated at \$275)

Prices are per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement \$450 extra

. *Note: Non-members of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum add \$100 to the tour cost

TOUR ITINERARY

Friday, March 28 *Minneapolis/Strasbourg*
This afternoon we depart Minneapolis on an overnight flight to Frankfurt. There is meal service and in-flight entertainment on board our flights.

Saturday, March 29 *Strasbourg*
Upon arrival in Frankfurt, we are met and taken to our motor coach for the journey to Strasbourg, France. Upon arrival in Strasbourg, we check in to our hotel and have the evening free. Our hotel in Strasbourg is centrally located on a very picturesque canal, within easy walking distance of the famous cathedral, the shopping area, and many fine restaurants and cafés.

Sunday, March 30 *Strasbourg/Wine Road*
This morning we have a city tour of Strasbourg, with a visit to the cathedral included. This tour is a combination walking tour of the old city followed by a panoramic coach tour. We'll stop at the Botanical Garden in Strasbourg. We then head out towards the Alsatian Wine Road, with a stop en route for lunch. This route has become famous all over the world for the exceptional beauty of the scenery. The Alsace Wine Road winds its way north to south for more than 100 miles along the eastern foothills of the Vosges. Our guide will take us through a region of undulating hills, through pretty villages with narrow streets of flower-decked, half-timbered houses clustered around the church steeple. We'll make sure we stop at one of the *weinstuben* along the route to sample some tasty Alsatian wine. Upon our return to Strasbourg, the evening is free to explore Strasbourg on your own. **B L**

Monday, March 31 *Strasbourg*
Today we have a very leisurely day in Strasbourg, with a chance for you to enjoy the ambience of a very lovely Alsatian town. In the afternoon, we are picked up at our hotel and taken to our cruise ship, the *m/s Douce France*, for embarkation. Dinner is on board tonight, followed by an optional tour of the old town of Strasbourg by canal boat. After departure from Strasbourg, we stop for overnight at Iffezheim. **B D**

Tuesday, April 1 *Strasbourg/Koblenz*
Our ship departs Iffezheim early in the morning. We cruise past the towns of Speyer, Worms, Nierstein, Mainz and Wiesbaden, before arriving in Rudesheim. We have time for a short visit in Rudesheim this afternoon before heading towards Koblenz, through the most beautiful part of the Rhein Valley. Here you will admire many castles, vineyards, and the well-known Loreley rock. We overnight in Koblenz. After dinner you have time to wander through this charming city on your own. **B L D**

Wednesday, April 2 *Koblenz/Düsseldorf*
Departing Koblenz this morning, we sail past Bonn and into Köln, where we stop for a visit. In Köln, there are optional tours available to tour the cathedral or the town while we're here. Or you may wish to enjoy the city on your own, perhaps finding a nice café along the river where you can enjoy a glass of Rhein wine or sample the local brew – *Kölsch*. Afterwards we depart the city and continue on the river towards our overnight destination of Düsseldorf. **B L D**

Thursday, April 3 *Düsseldorf/Amsterdam*
Sailing in the morning from Düsseldorf, we cross into the Netherlands and navigate towards Amsterdam, arriving in the late afternoon. Depending on our arrival time, there may be time to explore a little bit of Amsterdam before dinner. After dinner, there is an optional tour of the city by night, with a tour through the canals on a canal boat. We overnight in Amsterdam on board our ship. **B L D**

Friday, April 4 *Aalsmeer & Keukenhof*
After breakfast, we depart for the famous flower auction of Aalsmeer, where the flowers of Holland are bought and sold for delivery to floral shops around the world. Following our visit here, we have a short drive to Keukenhof Gardens, where we spend the rest of the day. You can enjoy lunch (on your own) in the gardens, with many choices of fine specialty foods of Holland. We return to the ship later in the afternoon. After dinner on board ship, there is an opportunity to take a walking tour of Amsterdam, led by one of our guides. Otherwise, the evening is free for you to discover Amsterdam on your own. **B D**

Saturday, April 5 *Flights Home*
This morning our river journey ends. We disembark and depart for Schipol Airport and our return flights home. A mid-morning departure is scheduled from Amsterdam. **B**

Note: B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner





Our ship, the m/s Douce France

This outstanding value includes the following:

- Round-trip air transportation to Frankfurt, returning from Amsterdam
- Five-night cruise on the Rhein River in an upper cabin
- Two night's hotel accommodation in Strasbourg
- Breakfasts and one lunch in Strasbourg
- All meals while on board ship
- Sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary
- Pre-departure information
- Port charges and service charges
- A \$200 tax-deductible contribution to the Arboretum
- Led by experienced Arboretum tour leader

Not included in the tour

- *Gratuities to driver and guides*
- *Gratuities on board ship*
- *Items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone calls, etc.*

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Deposit due with booking: \$500 per person

Final payment due: January 31, 2008

Cancellation Notice - All cancellations must be in writing and are effective upon receipt in our office.

Cancellation fees are as follows:

95+ days prior to departure	\$250.00 per person*
94 – 60 days prior	\$500.00 per person*
59 – 30 days prior	\$1,000.00 per person*
Within 30 days of departure	NO REFUND

*Plus any airline-imposed cancellation penalties

Trip cancellation insurance is recommended. Contact Macy's Group Travel for details.

RESPONSIBILITY: Macy's Group Travel acts only as agent or the suppliers named in your itinerary or brochure. We are not responsible for their acts or omissions. Macy's Group Travel shall not be responsible for breach of contract or any intentional or careless actions or omissions on the part of such suppliers, which result in any loss, damage, delay or injury to you or your travel companions or group members. We have no special knowledge regarding the suitability for disabled persons of any portion of any tour, unsafe conditions, health hazards, weather hazards or climate extremes at locations to which you may travel. For information concerning possible dangers at international destinations, we recommend contacting the Travel Advisory Section of the U.S. State Department at 202-647-5225. For medical information, we recommend contacting the Centers for Disease Control at 404-332-4559. You hereby release us from any claims of liability or harm resulting in whole or in part from causes not within our control. ARC/IATA carriers used in connection with tours/packages are not to be held liable for any act, omission or event during the time the passengers are not on board their aircraft or conveyances. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the carrier and the purchaser of airline tickets or tour/packages. Macy's Group Travel reserves the right to change the itinerary, class of service, and the method of transportation, all without prior notice, to the extent that such services and accommodations offered cannot be supplied due to delay or other causes beyond the control of Macy's Group Travel and further reserves the right to withdraw the trip prior to the date of departure. Further, Macy's Group Travel reserves the right to decline to accept or retain any participant (and the other members of his or her party) should such person's health or deportment impede the operation of the trip or enjoyment of any other participant. In such case, no refund will be made for unused land tour services should such person (and party) be required to depart the trip. Macy's Group Travel reserves the right to make changes that might become necessary or that are in the best interests of the tour members. No refunds will be made for any unused portion of the tour.

TOUR PRICE: Tour price is based on exchange rates in effect as of the printing date of this brochure, and is subject to change. Airfare and air tax is subject to change until ticketed. Should numbers fall below a minimum of 15 participants, Macy's Group Travel reserves the right to reprice or cancel the tour.

Member's Tour Cost:
\$2,795* per person, double occupancy
\$450 per person, single supplement
 *Plus air departure taxes est. at \$275 per person
 Note: Non-members of the Arboretum add \$100

Note: In order to qualify for the member's price, each traveler must be a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum organization. For information on becoming a member, contact 952-443-1440.

OUR HOTEL IN STRASBOURG

Novotel Strasbourg Centre Halles

Our hotel in Strasbourg is located in the heart of the city, on the banks of the Ill River, a few minute's walk from the historic Petite France area and the cathedral. The Novotel Centre Halle is located in the Les Halles shopping centre in Strasbourg, a few minutes from the new TGV train station, and with a tram stop opposite the hotel. There are many nice restaurants, bars and cafés within walking distance of the hotel.

All rooms have satellite/cable TV, wireless internet access, minibar, and hair dryer.

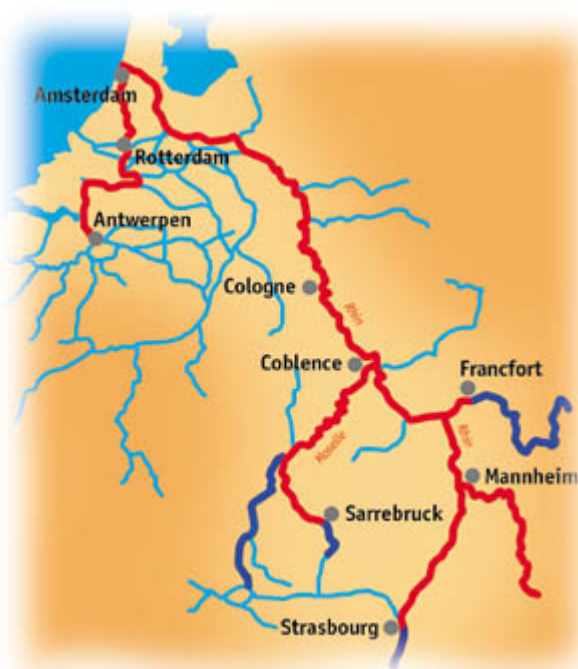
OUR CRUISE SHIP ON THE RHEIN RIVER

m/s Douce France

Built in 1997, the *m/s Douce France* is a modern river cruise ship, with a lounge bar, restaurant and sun deck. There are 79 cabins located on three decks, each with picture window, shower and toilet facilities, hairdryer, safe, TV, central heating and air-conditioning.

All of the cabins are outside cabins, located above the water level, with a panoramic view of the landscape.

Our Cruise Itinerary



On the Rhein River from Strasbourg to Amsterdam



Typical cabin on m/s Douce France

To register for this tour, please contact:
Macy's Group Travel
700 On the Mall, MS-750
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 375-2881 or (800) 533-0324
email: jglad@macystravel.com