

Floriade 2012

with

Brussels and the Begonia Flower Carpet

August 10 - 17, 2012

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum is offering a second tour to the 2012 Floriade in the Netherlands, a unique flower exposition, held only once every ten years. This tour is combined with the Begonia Festival, held every two years in Brussels, where for three days a beautifully designed flower carpet made entirely of begonias is displayed in the heart of Brussels, in the Grand Place – one of Europe's most beautiful squares, an open market area surrounded by medieval guild buildings – an architectural delight!

We've visited the Floriade in 2002, and this international exposition is extremely interesting.. it promises to be a grand spectacle, featuring gardens from all over the world with dozens of countries participating. Once every decade this show is a must see event for gardeners and garden lovers worldwide. Nature, water and woodlands are combined to underscore our relationship with nature. The exposition runs from April to mid-October in 2012. We'll spend two nights at our hotel near the Floriade to be able to spend a full day at the Floriade. Our hotel is located in the Kasteel Bossen, on an idyllic lake in the south of the country, near the German border.



After we've visited the Floriade, we're off to Brussels. For nearly four decades, Brussels has been celebrating its favorite flower – begonia. This year, on 12th – 15th August, the city will once again present its blooming wonder – the begonia. Since 1971, Brussels has hosted a very colorful and energizing festival to celebrate the begonia. Every two years, a stunning carpet of flowers is created here, each time honoring a different theme, which attracts considerable tourist attention. Naturally, the artistic talent of local horticulturists is complemented by other performances and events, creating a fantastic festival.



Officially, the tradition of laying the Floral Carpet started in 1971 on the Grand-Place in Brussels. However, before then, there were many such carpets created before all over Belgium. The tradition was perfected by a floral architect, E. Stautemans. He adored begonias as he believed they were perfect – they came in a variety of colors and shades, were easy to work with and lasted long. His reputation spread and invitations poured in. Mr. Stautemans presented his floral creations all over Belgium, as well as in other cities around the world.

The themes and plans for this year's carpet have been under consideration for nearly a year. The preparations start with scale models and careful development. The amount of flowers used is astonishing. Each square yard of the carpet is made up of about 300 individual flowers, creating an astonishing carpet of 700,000 flowers.

So this tour combines two floral events not seen every year, and that is what makes this tour so special – the once every 10 year Floriade and the every other year celebration of the Brussels Flower Carpet at the Begonia Festival. So hurry, as we have limited space and we know that this tour is going to be in high demand from the outset. Come and join Peter on this wonderful tour! It's a dream trip for all garden enthusiasts. And if you make your reservation and deposit by October 1, you can save \$100 off the price of the tour as well!

Tour Price: \$2,395 land only

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT--\$2,295 if you book by November 15

Tour cost is exclusive of airfare, airline taxes and fuel surcharges.

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

TOUR ITINERARY

Friday, August 10

Depart on your overnight flight from U.S. to Brussels.

Saturday, August 11

Upon arrival in Brussels, we begin our tour with a leisurely drive into the south of Holland, to our hotel for the next two nights outside Venlo. En route, we visit the Castle Gardens of Arcen, one of the most beautiful gardens in Holland.. Lunch is included at the Castle Gardens. Upon arrival at our hotel, the balance of the day is at leisure to relax and rest. Dinner is on your own at our hotel tonight. **L**

Sunday, August 12

Today we are taken to the Floriade grounds, where we spend the full day enjoying this spectacular exposition. Held only once every ten years, this is the first time that it's been held in the south of the Netherlands. We have round-trip transfers from our hotel to the fair and return. Lunch is on your own at the grounds today, with many restaurants and food stands available for you to enjoy the Dutch cuisine. We return to our hotel this evening, where the balance of the day is at leisure. Dinner tonight is on your own. **B**

Monday, August 13

After breakfast today, we depart from our hotel and return to Brussels. En route to Brussels we'll stop at Waterloo, where Napoleon was defeated by Wellington at in 1815, putting an end to his grandiose plans for European domination. Following lunch we have an afternoon city tour of Brussels. Brussels is a delightful city to visit, a mixture of Flemish and French culture, with both languages spoken in the city. We'll see the Atomium, the symbol of the 1958 World's Fair held in Brussels, the Mannequin Pis, the Grand Place along with the King's palace and other sights of this interesting city. Our hotel is centrally located near the Grand Place, with many fine restaurants nearby. And Brussels is well known for its outstanding cuisine. Dinner is on your own tonight. **B L**



The UNESCO World Heritage city of Bruges

Tuesday, August 14

We travel today to visit Bruges, whose historical city center has been carefully built since the Middle Ages and is remarkably preserved today. It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city can tell its own story through all the monuments, churches, historic buildings and markets. Bruges is an example of medieval settlement, which has preserved original buildings of centuries, and Gothic buildings are part of the city's identity. As one of the commercial and cultural capitals of Europe, Bruges developed cultural links with different cities around the world associated with the school of Flemish primitive painting. Modern architecture is rare in the center of Bruges, and typical medieval cobblestone streets are still preferred to asphalt. The historical buildings and monuments are protected by the city council, and any renovation or restoration must be made in accordance with the original style of the building. We'll spend the day in Bruges, visiting, touring and shopping. Lunch in Bruges is included today. We return to our Brussels hotel in the late afternoon. Dinner is on your own this evening. **B L**

Wednesday, August 15

Today we have a full day tour to eastern Belgium, where a World War II battle of great significance took place, in the Ardennes forest. On our way there we'll stop at the Annevoie Gardens and visit the gardens at Freyr Chateau and Gardens. After a lunch stop, we'll continue on to Bastogne. This is one of the sites of the Battle of the Bulge, Germany's final thrust against the Allied Forces in the winter of 1944-45. We return to our hotel in Brussels in the late afternoon. Dinner is on your own this evening in Brussels. **B L**

Thursday, August 16

Today we'll make our way to the Grand Place, a very short walk from our hotel, where we'll enter the viewing platform of the City Hall to have an overview of the beautiful floral carpet prepared for this celebration. We'll spend the day in the area of the festival, as there are many shops to visit, and you can visit the guild halls as well while you're there. You'll have your own free time to wander the streets and alleyways of the center of Brussels today. In the evening, we have a farewell dinner at a local restaurant in Brussels. **B D**

Friday, August 17

After breakfast today we depart our hotel for the airport in Brussels for our return flights home.

B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; D = Dinner

This outstanding value includes:

- 6 nights deluxe hotel accommodation
- Buffet Breakfast daily
- One dinner
- Four lunches
- Sightseeing as indicated in the itinerary
- Local tour guide throughout
- Pre-departure information
- All taxes and service charges while on tour
- \$200 tax-deductible donation to the Arboretum
- Escorted by Peter Olin

Not included in the tour

- Airfare from home city to Brussels
- Airline departure taxes and fees
- Gratuities to driver and guides
- Personal expenditures—laundry, phone, etc.
- Items not specifically mentioned as included.



The cable car at the Floriade 2012

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Deposit due with booking: \$500 per person
Final payment due: April 1, 2012

Member's Tour Cost: (land only)
\$2,395 per person, double occupancy
\$2,295 if booked and on deposit by Nov. 15
\$450 additional, single supplement
 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. For information on becoming a member of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, please contact the Arboretum membership office at 952-443-1440.*

AIR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS TOUR

With enough travelers from one destination we can offer group air space for this tour. However you are free to arrange your own air flights, but please contact Glad To Travel to discuss your arrival and departure times in Brussels to ensure your transfer between the airport and the hotel as a group. If you would like assistance in making your air arrangements, please contact Glad To Travel and we will help you with this detail.

OUR HOTELS

Parkhotel Horst

The Parkhotel Horst has 78 rooms, with many having a panoramic view over the large lake of Kasteelse Bossen. Rooms are equipped with in-room bath and shower, hairdryer, flat screen TV, free Wi-Fi, large desk and sitting area. There is a restaurant and a bar in the hotel.

NH Hotel Grand Place Arenberg - Brussels

NH Grand Place Arenberg offers an ideal location in the historical and commercial center of Brussels. The famous Grand Place and the Central Station, with local and international lines, are within a five-minute walk from our hotel. The Parc de Bruxelles (Waranderpark) with the Royal Palace and the museum of Belgium's master of surrealism, Rene Magritte, are 10 minutes away.

The hotel has 155 air-conditioned guest rooms, with minibar, satellite TV, wi-fi access and in-room safe.



Villa Flora at the Floriade 2012

To register for this tour, contact Jim Glad at:

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