

American Horticultural Society
Travel Study Program

THE GARDENS OF THE NETHERLANDS & FLORIADE EXPO 2022

AUGUST 25 – SEPTEMBER 4, 2022

WITH AHS HOSTS JANE & GEORGE DIAMANTIS
AND TOUR LEADER VERITY SMITH OF SPECIALTOURS



Dear Friends of the American Horticultural Society,

I invite you to accompany us to the Netherlands on this very special Travel Study program that is being offered exclusively to American Horticultural Society members.

From French-influenced formal to the Dutch Wave, we will explore a range of garden styles, complemented by a timeless landscape which echoes the paintings of the Old Masters. Many of the gardens we will visit are in private hands and open by special appointment – several have been created by the owners themselves, others by internationally famous landscape designers. In addition to admiring glorious gardens, we include a focus on the art and architecture of Amsterdam and smaller historic towns and villages, such as the enchanting city of Groningen.

Luxury hotels have been carefully chosen to enhance the overall experience. The accommodations for this program offer a unique blend of historic charm and contemporary comforts. The Hotel Prinsenhof, a stylish city center hotel with its own formal garden, will be our home base in Groningen. In Brummen, we will find ourselves in a grand country castle set on 250 bucolic acres – including landscaped gardens, a golf course, and even a private forest. In Amsterdam, our nights will be spent at the Pulitzer Hotel, centrally located in the heart of this historic city.

Hosting this program for the American Horticultural Society is AHS Board member Jane Diamantis and her husband, George. Both are veteran travelers and hosts of many AHS trips. Jane is an accomplished garden designer and owner of a landscape design company. George, born and raised in Greece, is an avid photographer of plants and gardens around the world. Jane and George look forward to exploring more of the Netherlands with you.

Verity Smith of London-based Specialtours will be our tour leader for this program. Many of you will know Verity who has led several AHS Travel Study Programs over the years. Working with the AHS has even inspired her to complete a garden design course last year! Drawing upon their extensive experience, Specialtours has crafted another outstanding itinerary for us and Verity is excited about sharing this delightful country and its gardens with you.

Space on this outstanding program is limited, so early reservations are advised.



Marcia Zech
Board Chair
American Horticultural Society



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Join AHS hosts Jane and George Diamantis and tour leader Verity Smith of Specialtours for this once-in-a-lifetime garden travel experience.

Itinerary Highlights

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24 – DEPART UNITED STATES

Our journey, starting in the north of the Netherlands, will take us through the Dutch countryside, visiting not only a wonderful selection of private and unique gardens but also landmark castles, palaces, and world class art collections. We begin in the picturesque region of Groningen, the Netherlands' northernmost province. From here we travel to the country's largest province, Gelderland, before continuing to Amsterdam for a four-night stay. Throughout the tour we will meet enthusiastic horticulturists and garden owners who will share with us their expertise and we will learn about the region's rich horticultural traditions.

Note: While the AHS is inclusive of all members, be advised that Gardens of the Netherlands will require walking that may be physically demanding for guests with mobility issues.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25 – GRONINGEN (L, D)

We'll arrive Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and transfer by private coach for the impressive Afsluitdijk causeway that separates the Netherlands from the sea. Stretching 20 miles, it links North Holland to the province of Friesland. Stopping for an early lunch in the charming town of Franeker, we will meet garden designer Nico Kloppenburg. Nico will join us during our exploration of Friesland and Groningen, sharing with us his passion for historic Dutch gardens and his thoughts on modern and contemporary Dutch garden design.

After lunch we will walk through a Piet Oudolf designed garden, surrounding the Martini Church in Franeker, before leaving for our first garden in the Netherlands, Lianne Pot's Siergrassen. Specializing in ornamental grasses, Lianne has created a dynamic and creative prairie show garden. During our visit, we will walk us through the remarkable nursery, which contains more than 300 different grass species and the Dutch collection of the grass family (Poaceae).

We continue to the university city of Groningen, the largest city in northern Netherlands, where we stay for four nights at the 4-star Hotel Prinsenhof. Located a short walk from the market square, heart of the city, this stylish hotel is an oasis of calm with its formal gardens.

At the hotel we'll meet for drinks, followed by our welcome dinner.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26 - GRONINGEN (B, L)

Leave the hotel by coach for Oostwold, to visit the private garden of Tuinfleur. Owners Pieter and Rika van Delden will take us through a series of 10 garden rooms, a fine display of design can be seen with a colorful planting scheme in the borders, a collection of rare shade plants and also more than 600 different types of hosta. Continue to the garden and nursery of Tuingoed Foltz, a fascinating four hectares that includes the national collections of salvias and echinaceas, and a garden that leads onto surrounding natural areas. The various gardens display the planting possibilities of this spectacular collection, with a focus on natural style design.

Following lunch nearby, we return to Groningen to visit the garden of the Museum De Buitenplaats Eelde. In contrast to our previous visit, the museum garden is a combination of formal and naturalistic, with displays of modern sculpture, a sunken garden, and an apple orchard. The three rooms, framed by yew trees and boxwoods, reflect and complement the organic lines of the modern building.

We will return to the hotel for some time at leisure before an early evening out-of-hours private visit to the Groninger Museum, with its eclectic collections and modern wing designed by architects Alessandro Mendini, Philippe Starck, and others.

We'll dine independently tonight with a choice of Groningen's fine restaurants.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27 - GRONINGEN (B, L)

We'll leave by coach for nearby Zuidhorn to visit the restored farmhouse and the private garden of Pabema. The owners have created a neo-classical style garden with distinctive lime hedges ingeniously pruned in geometric shapes. There is an orchard with apple and pear varieties dating from 1766 that are mentioned in John Lindley's *Pomologia Britannica*. The farm has received awards for being the most beautiful repurposed farm in the Netherlands.



We continue north to Dekema State in Jelsum, one of the oldest estates in Friesland dating back to the 14th century. The garden, restored in 1990s, has a wonderful orchard with varieties of old fruit trees, expertly espaliered in 19th-century shapes. We will walk through the gardens with horticulturist Wim Hoogendam who carried out the restoration. As well as the beautiful berceau (arched trellis) of grapes and pear, we will see the estate kitchen garden, the formal garden and shell paths leading to landscaped parkland beyond, from which the Frisian landscape can be admired.

We drive West to Leeuwarden, for lunch in the garden at Hotel-Paleis Stadhoudelijk Hof and a walk in the quintessentially Friesian town. Nico will guide us through the scenic canals and historic buildings and we will see the garden of Sint Anthony Gasthuis, which Nico has recently restored.

From Leeuwarden, we continue to the historic village of Mantgum, to visit Nico's own private garden. A modern design in a historical setting, the front garden has high towering hornbeam columns surrounded by lush plantings. The house, which adjoins the village church, opens out onto a Mediterranean garden that drops through a path of 'hairpin' bends bounded by hornbeams, to the lower level of the garden, which opens out with naturalistic planting. Nico will kindly offer us refreshments before we return to the hotel.

Tonight we will dine independently in Groningen.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28 - GRONINGEN (B, L, D)

Our first stop today is Warffum, to visit the private garden of Els de Boer. Over a period of 40 years, the garden of Breituin was organically created with rooms on different levels, each with their own theme or color (gravel, herb, blue, red and orange, etc). A 'braided' knot garden in two colors of foliage and topiary is featured with an amusing boxwood 'pig conference'.

Next we visit the castle and gardens at Kasteel Menkemaborg. With canals on each side, these historic gardens have a clear symmetry and simplicity, in keeping with the original plans of 1705 and featuring compartments of clipped boxwoods with 18th-century plant species. The garden is divided into traditional areas, with a beautiful pleasure garden in front of the tea house and a long border with boxwood hedges, where the plants stand in symmetry between the yew cones. There will be time to explore the large hornbeam maze with the old plane tree in the middle and on the east side there is a fruit garden with a great diversity of heirloom varieties and a stunning ancient pear berceau. We will soak up the atmosphere and have lunch at Restaurant 't Schathoes in the garden at Menkemaborg.

We then return to Groningen for an afternoon at leisure, and for those with lots of energy we can climb St. Martin's Tower, with 260 steps and 62 bells, for views across the city. Tonight, we dine together in a restaurant in Groningen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 29 - BRUMMEN (B, L, D)

We'll depart by coach with luggage for Gelderland. Before leaving Groningen, we will visit the award-winning modern public garden at Stadstuin Kempkensberg designed by Lodewijk Baljon. This large urban garden with beautiful prairie plantings surrounds the government office complex. Offering a green haven for office workers, it is planted on the roof of a parking garage. A natural meeting space, it is cleverly constructed with a radial design of green screen wind breakers, within an open space of long vistas of perennials and 40,000 flower bulbs.

We continue our journey south, with lunch in the courtyard garden of a charming restaurant in Dedemsvaart, and a private visit to the gardens of the late Mien Ruys. A fascinating collection of 30 show gardens demonstrates the developing design ideas of this influential Dutch garden designer. The

gardens showcase her experiments in design, plants and materials from 1925 to the 1990s, with her distinct architectural style complemented by naturalistic and experimental planting. The gardens are a lifetime's work of one of the most important garden architects of the 20th century.

Next, we continue to Brummen, to stay two nights at the 4-star Hotel Kasteel Engelenburg. Stunningly set in 250 acres of landscaped gardens and woodland, the historic castle offers refined rooms with views over the garden or the golf course. Dinner tonight will be in the private dining room of the castle.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30 - BRUMMEN (B, L, D)

We leave by coach for Vorden, for a private visit to the magical gardens of Kasteel de Wiersse. On arrival we will be received by a member of the family for refreshments in the coach house. Within the coach house is the extraordinary 17th-century Spanish Leather Hall, relocated from the family's home in The Hague. Generations of the family have contributed to the development of this unique historic garden. Laid out around the moated manor house, the garden is linked to the surrounding woodland and landscape with vistas and a clever play of classical formality and romantic informality. Walking through the sequence of gardens there is intrigue and surprise, with an 18th-century pleasure garden, a French style rose garden, English sunken garden, and extensive vegetable garden. The spaces are linked by pergolas, fountains and even a serpentine tunnel of beech.

Lunch today is in the picturesque village of Bronkhorst, known as the smallest city in the Netherlands with only 150 residents and medieval city rights. We return to the hotel for some time at leisure to relax or enjoy a walk through the hotel gardens and woodland.

In the early evening, we leave by coach for nearby De Steeg, to visit the privately owned gardens of moated Kasteel Middachten. The estate has been in the same family for 25 generations and the impressive 17th-century castle is authentically preserved with the family's collection of furniture. Before entering, we will take a walk through the formal gardens. Originally laid out in the 18th-century, with clear influence of the gardens at Versailles, they were restored in the 1980s to their original design. As we stroll around the gardens, you'll notice a constant progression from space to enclosure, with rolling lawns, rare tree species, a rose garden and even an open-air green theatre of yew hedges. Dinner in the castle dining room.



WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31 – AMSTERDAM (B, D)

We'll leave by coach with luggage for Apeldoorn and visit the newly renovated Royal Palace of Het Loo. Accompanied by a conservator, Renske Ek, we'll see the formal 17th-century parterre gardens, influenced by the French, that have undergone a major restoration project based on the original drawings. The elaborate parterre - with broderies, fountains, statuary and a symmetric axis - makes this a formal garden par excellence! Due to blight, the boxwood has been replaced with Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*). For the rest of the morning, we will explore the royal treasures of the Palace independently.

Next, we'll continue by coach to the 75-acre De Hoge Veluwe National Park, which surrounds the Kröller-Müller Museum and its sculpture garden. There are superb works by Vincent van Gogh (the second-largest collection after the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam), Braque, Cézanne, Fantin-Latour, Gris, Klee, Leger, and Monet, collected by Helene Kröller-Müller. Enjoy exploring the fantastic sculpture collection by artists such as Rodin, Henry Moore, Antoine Bourdelle, and Medardo Rosso positioned in natural surroundings amongst the trees.

Afterwards we head to Amsterdam to stay four nights at the 5-star Hotel Pulitzer centrally located in the Nine Streets shopping quarter between two of Amsterdam's most gracious canals. Originally 25 town houses, the hotel has many original features but with a contemporary atmosphere. Once settled into the hotel, we will walk to a nearby restaurant for dinner.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 - AMSTERDAM (B, D)

We leave on foot for an orientation walk through the canals of Amsterdam, this harmonious mercantile city where the stately brick and gabled 17th-century houses lining the main canals are reminiscent of scenes painted by the Netherlands' finest artists. In the 17th century, the city, a hub of world trade, entered what became known as its 'Golden Age'. Along with the economic success came important cultural activity. Artists such as Rembrandt van Rijn made their finest paintings here, and architecture also soared to new heights, to which the city still bears witness. We continue by coach to the Rijksmuseum for a guided tour. The grandiose neo-Gothic museum houses one of the finest collections in Europe, and we will be shown the highlights including masterpieces by Vermeer, Frans Hals, Cuyt, Jan Steen, and Rembrandt, followed by some free time to admire the extensive collection – and perhaps browse the shop!

We will take lunch independently and the afternoon is at leisure – you might choose to visit the Van Gogh Museum or walk in the Vondel Park. Later, we will meet back at the hotel to take a private vintage boat through the canals of Amsterdam. Accompanied by a guide and with drinks served on board, we will see the city from the water where we can admire the distinctive architecture of the terraced townhouses.

This evening we will leave the hotel on foot for a special out-of-hours visit to the beautiful Huis van Loon, a uniquely preserved residence in its original condition. Designed in the 1670s, it is now a museum with immaculate rooms of portraits, furniture, fine silverware, and porcelain from the different centuries. Behind the house is a small formal 17th-century secret garden. Dinner will be in the dining room at the Huis van Loon.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 – AMSTERDAM (B, L)

Early this morning there will be the option to visit the plant and flower auction at Aalsmeer. The dealing is fast and furious, and the turnover staggering, with many plants and flowers arriving in florists' shops throughout Europe on the same day. A total of 19 million cut flowers and two million pot plants are sold every day. Roses are the greatest seller followed by tulips, chrysanthemums, gerberas, and carnations.

We continue by coach to visit a specialist dahlia grower in Noordwijkerhout and see the growing fields, where hundreds of varieties of dahlias will be in bloom. We will be joined by a Dutch garden designer and cut flower expert.

We will take lunch at a nearby restaurant before returning to Amsterdam mid-afternoon. The remainder of the day is yours to allow further exploration of this delightful city. Dinner will also be independent.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 – AMSTERDAM (B, L, D)

Today we leave the hotel by coach for Almere, to visit the Floriade Expo 2022, the unique international horticultural exhibition and celebration of green living, held once every 10 years. On arrival, we'll meet our expert horticultural guide for an introduction to the Floriade Park. The Expo displays a wealth of Dutch and international exhibitors - over 40 pavilions - focusing on green cities, experimental urban and country gardens, and sustainable horticulture. We will have some time at leisure to view the exhibitions before meeting for lunch. In the afternoon we will have more time to explore before returning to Amsterdam.

We will drive to Restaurant de Kas, a stylish restaurant that has been created out of the old city greenhouses with a seasonal menu of homegrown fare.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4 (B)

This morning we'll bid farewell, 'Tot Ziens', to The Netherlands as we leave with luggage for Schiphol Airport and our return flights home.

While revisions of this itinerary are not anticipated, the AHS and its travel partners reserve the right to make changes, with or without notice, which may become necessary.



Announcing an American Horticultural Society Travel Program



100
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August 25 – September 4, 2022

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JOIN US FOR THIS EXTRAORDINARY TOUR, INCLUDING THESE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Explore the gardens of Northern Netherland with garden designer Nico Kloppenburg.
- Visit privately the gardens of Castle Middachten followed by dinner.
- Visit the newly restored gardens of the Royal Palace of Het Loo with the garden conservator.
- See world class art collections at The Rijksmuseum and the Kröller-Müller Museum.
- Enjoy the dahlia growing fields with a garden designer and cut flower expert.
- Floriade Expo 2022, the international horticultural exhibition held once every 10 years.
- A private dinner at the 17th century Huis van Loon, Amsterdam.

THE OUTSTANDING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THIS PROGRAM:

- Hotel Prinsenhof in Groningen, has a charming garden and located a short walk from the market square, in the city this stylish hotel is an oasis of calm.
- Hotel Kasteel Engelenburg, is a historic castle, set in 250 acres of landscaped gardens and woodland.
- Hotel Pulitzer has original townhouse features but with a contemporary luxury atmosphere. In the Nine Streets shopping quarter of Amsterdam, it is set between two of the most gracious canals.



Please refer to the enclosed reservation form for pricing and instructions for reserving your place on this AHS Travel Study Program tour. For more information about Travel Study Program tours, please contact development@ahsgardening.org or (703) 768-5700, ext. 127. Information is also available at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.

Designed with the garden-travel connoisseur in mind, the American Horticultural Society Travel Study Program offers exceptional itineraries that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation benefits the work of the American Horticultural Society and furthers our vision of “A land of sustainable gardens, cultivated by a diverse population with a common passion for plants.”

