

AMERICAN
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY

Artistry and Floral Splendor

**Dutch Waterways by Private River Barge
Featuring 7 Nights Aboard the
17-Cabin *Magnifique II***

April 21–30, 2026

***With Host Matt Mattus,
AHS Senior Director of Horticulture***



Dear Friends,

I invite you to join the AHS as we embark on a highly customized spring cruise along picturesque Dutch waterways aboard the privately chartered river barge, *Magnifique II*. With 17 cabins, this vessel boasts an intimate and welcoming atmosphere with an impressive variety of amenities onboard.

Amidst blooming season, visit public and private gardens on expert-guided tours, including Keukenhof Gardens and the Hortus Bulborum collection garden. View antique botanical prints by special arrangement at Teylers museum and visit a working tulip farm to experience Dutch tulip cultivation firsthand. In Amsterdam, observe the business of the blooms at Aalsmeer's floral auction and learn about innovative horticultural techniques inspired by the World Food Center. On a privately arranged visit, explore an enchanting Rococo manor and the oldest landscape garden in South Holland. Discover the timeless charm of the stunningly preserved windmills at Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

While highlighting Holland's botanical wonders, the journey also showcases world-class art museums that house masterpieces of the Dutch Golden Age. At the world-renowned Rijksmuseum, marvel at works by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Van Gogh. In Haarlem, enjoy a specially arranged viewing of the botanical prints collection and admire both contemporary art and pieces by 16th- and 17th- century masters at two distinguished museums. Finally, you'll visit the Mauritshuis Museum, famous for its superb collection of Dutch Golden Age art.

Joining you on this program is Host Matt Mattus, AHS Senior Director of Horticulture. Matt is a seasoned horticulturist whose expertise in plant cultivation, design, and photography has made him an inspiring leader in the gardening community. From collecting rare botanicals to cultivating unique vegetables and flowers, his passion for plants is evident in his work and travels, which he shares through his writing and social media.

At the AHS, we are dedicated to fostering beauty, community, education, and environmental stewardship—all of which you'll discover woven throughout this enriching program. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to participate in an optional pre-trip extension in Amsterdam, featuring private access to historic homes and gardens along the Vecht River.

Limited spaces are available for this AHS journey, so I recommend making your reservation early. For your convenience, a reservation form is included in the brochure.

Most sincerely,



Suzanne Laporte
President & CEO



AHS HOST MATT MATTUS



Matt is the Senior Director of Horticulture for the American Horticultural Society. A creative design leader for the past 30 years in the corporate world, Matt is also a renaissance man in the gardening world. Matt's leadership voice in horticulture has inspired plant lovers through his combination of unique talents, which include visual design, photography, and a vast knowledge of horticulture. His enthusiastic curiosity about plants spans the full spectrum, from his lifelong love of rare and collectible botanical treasures to cultivating the most intriguing of vegetables and unusual flowers. When not working in his greenhouse and gardens, Matt is a passionate traveler. He can be found exploring plants in their native habitats, botanizing from the Himalayas to Japan and the Alps. His journeys and plant discoveries are well-known to those who follow him through his books, writing, or on social media.

Accommodations on the *Magnifique II*

The *Magnifique II* provides an ideal platform for exploring the Netherlands by boat. Painsstaking renovations by master shipbuilder Walter van Berkum transformed the barge into a pleasant and elegant commercial vessel. Accommodating no more than 30 passengers plus crew, the *Magnifique II* is designed to create a welcoming relaxed atmosphere on board.

The upper deck features a spacious salon with A/C, bar, and lounge. Meals are served in a single seating and feature fresh and tasty Euro fusion cuisine. The teak sundeck invites you to enjoy the scenery as the boat sails along and features a hot tub.

The upper deck houses junior suites with two beds next to each other hotel-style, a sitting area, and a large sliding glass window, while the lower deck houses twin cabins with two beds and fixed portholes. All cabins offer a private bathroom with shower, basin, and toilet, as well as individually regulated A/C, flat screen satellite TV, mini safe, and hair dryer. WiFi is included.



When you travel with AHS, you make a difference.

Designed for garden enthusiasts who love to explore horticultural wonders around the world, AHS Travel offers exceptional programs that include many exclusive experiences and unique insights. Your participation in an AHS Travel program supports the AHS's nonprofit work to increase knowledge among gardeners, inspire passion for plants and the natural world, and encourage responsible stewardship of the earth.

ITINERARY

DAYS 1 & 2: TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21-22

Amsterdam

Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight to Amsterdam. Upon arrival, transfer to the luxurious Conservatorium Hotel, conveniently located in Amsterdam's cultural epicenter. In the evening, take a private canal cruise of the city with a welcome reception onboard.

Conservatorium Hotel (R)

DAY 3: THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Amsterdam / Zaandam

Visit the world-renowned Rijksmuseum, which houses artistic masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Van Gogh. Next, stroll to the colorful Bloemen Market, the city's famous floating flower market dating back to the 17th century. Admire a variety of beautiful and fragrant flowers and plants displayed in barge shops along the Singel canal before embarking *Magnifique II*. Relax in the evening and enjoy a welcome reception and dinner while cruising to Zaandam.

Magnifique II (B,R,D)

DAY 4: FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Keukenhof / Alkmaar

Take a guided walk through the manicured landscapes at Keukenhof Gardens during blooming season. Also known as "the Garden of Europe," Keukenhof is most famously known for its tulip collection. A magnificent variety of flowers including daffodils, lilies, roses, irises, carnations, and hyacinths can also be found here. Next, explore the Hortus Bulborum collection, home to over 4,000 different bulbous cultivars, species, and varieties in bloom as well as a special collection dedicated to the preservation of heirloom bulbs. Embark on an optional evening walking tour in the historic city of Alkmaar after dinner.

Magnifique II (B,L,D)

DAY 5: SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Haarlem

In Haarlem, admire 16th- and 17th-century art collections, as well as modern and contemporary works at the Frans Hals Museum before continuing to Teylers Museum for a specially arranged viewing of antique botanical prints. Later this afternoon, attend a concert at St. Bavo's cathedral, featuring an organ formerly played by Mozart.

Magnifique II (B,L)

DAY 6: SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Alphen aan den Rijn

Enjoy a morning lecture onboard, then depart for a visit to a working tulip farm to learn firsthand about tulip growing and harvesting, while observing farm operations during blooming season. Continue to the Orangerie Elswout for lunch, then wander amongst the heritage trees in the adjacent parkland. Dine in the evening onboard en route to Alphen.

Magnifique II (B,L,D)



Photos (from top):
Trip Overview
Zaanse Schans windmills;
Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem (Timurk)

DAY 7: MONDAY, APRIL 27

Gouda

Visit the 19 working windmills at Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built in the early 18th century for land drainage, this beautifully preserved mill network still operates to this day. Enjoy a privately arranged visit to a delightful Rococo manor and the oldest landscape garden in South Holland. Return to the barge in Gouda for a choice between a bike excursion or time at leisure before dinner onboard.

Magnifique II (B,L,D)

DAY 8: TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Oude Wetering

In Den Haag, view an exquisite collection of Dutch Golden Age art, including works by Rembrandt and Vermeer at the Mauritshuis Museum. Continue to a 36-acre greenhouse complex awarded worldwide for horticultural innovation and sustainability near Delft.

Magnifique II (B,D)

DAY 9: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Amsterdam

Take an excursion to the Flora Holland auction house in Aalsmeer where blooms are purchased and shipped worldwide, then visit the World Food Center to learn about the program's efforts to sustainably address the global demand for food. In the evening, rejoin the ship for a farewell reception and dinner.

Magnifique II (B,L,R,D)

DAY 10: THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Amsterdam/Home

Disembark this morning and transfer to Schiphol Airport for flights home. (B)

EXTENSION:

APRIL 19–22, 2025 | OPTIONAL PRE-VOYAGE EXTENSION

Amsterdam

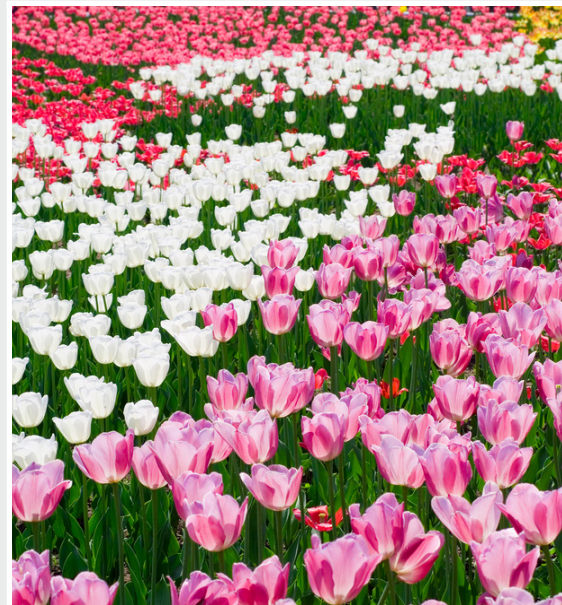
On this pre-voyage extension, tour the Leiden Botanical Garden, one of the world's oldest gardens. Founded in 1590, this garden was instrumental in sharing plant specimens and knowledge with Asia during the Dutch Golden Age. Before joining the main program, enjoy a private day cruise on the Vecht River where special access has been arranged to visit historic private homes and gardens created by wealthy Amsterdam merchants.

Conservatorium Hotel (2B, 2L, D)

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

AHS  **SOJOURNS**

This custom trip is part of the AHS Sojourns travel program collection. For more information, visit ahsgardening.org/travel



Photos (from top):
Keukenhof Flowers & Cottage;
Haarlem

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Admire the manicured and renowned gardens of Keukenhof and visit a working tulip farm.
- Enjoy a gardener-led walk through one of Holland's oldest remaining private landscape gardens.
- Access rare horticultural prints not available to the public by special arrangement at one of the oldest museums in the Netherlands.
- Delve into the history and cataloguing of bulbs at the Hortus Bulborum.
- Observe the business of the blooms at Aalsmeer's floral auction, which sends blooms worldwide in a flurry of activity.
- View artistic masterpieces of the Dutch Golden Age at the Rijksmuseum, Frans Hals, and Mauritshuis Museums.
- Relax and enjoy a specially arranged organ concert in Haarlem.
- Explore the preserved windmills at Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Photos (from top):
Trip Overview
Flower Market (Amsterdam);
Holland Canal; St. Bavo Church



Floral Splendor and Artistry Dutch Waterways by Private River Barge

April 21–30, 2026

General Information

AHS TRAVEL

FLORAL SPLENDOR AND ARTISTRY

APRIL 21–30, 2026

This custom AHS Travel program has been created uniquely for AHS members and is offered in collaboration with Criterion Travel.

TOUR COST

Lower Deck:

Double (118 sq ft.), per person, sharing \$7,490
Premium (140 sq ft), per person, sharing \$7,990
Single (118 sq. ft.) \$11,440

Upper Deck:

Double Junior Suite (156 sq. ft.), per person, sharing \$9,490
Single Junior Suite (156 sq. ft. \$12,940

AHS Travel programs are designed to offer immersive experiences and often involve long days filled with exploration and extensive walking on uneven terrain. To participate in a program, it is recommended to be in good physical condition and prepared to walk for a minimum of two miles each day.

GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to 30 participants.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, please email Criterion Travel at res@critteriontravel.com or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005, or fax to (650) 560-6400. Balance of payment is due December 22, 2025. After December 22, 2025, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card (credit card payments will incur a processing fee of 2%).

FLIGHTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Participants are responsible for their own air arrangements. Please do not purchase airline tickets until the operation of the tour is confirmed by Criterion Travel. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants. When it is time to make flight arrangements, the AHS’s flight and travel services provider, Cranky Concierge, provides optional flight and travel arrangement services for a seamless travel experience, including proactive flight monitoring and travel disruption assistance: www.crankyconciierge.com/ahsgardening. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

PASSENGER CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After December 22, 2025 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. NOTE: Criterion Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Upon receipt of registration, Criterion Travel will send registrant a Terms and Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause detailing the full terms and conditions for this tour. This document must be signed and returned to Criterion Travel before participant’s registration is considered complete and any arrangements can be confirmed.

TOUR PRICE INCLUSIONS

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including **one hotel night and seven nights aboard *Magnifique II*** • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • **Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides, and drivers** • **Gratuities to shipboard personnel** • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners and onboard *Magnifique II*** • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Professional tour manager throughout the program.

TOUR PRICE EXCLUSIONS

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

Floral Splendor and Artistry

Dutch Waterways by Private River Barge

April 21–30, 2026

General Information

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel Insurance is not included in the tour cost, but participants are strongly encouraged to purchase a travel protection plan in conjunction with this tour, including coverage of trip cancellation, trip interruption, emergency evacuation/repatriation, medical expenses, lost or damaged baggage, and other expenses and/or losses incurred due to unexpected situations. One travel insurance provider to consider is USI Affinity Travel Insurance Services. For more information on the plan for AHS travelers, visit www.ahsgardening.org/travel. Information is also available at this link regarding optional flight and travel arrangement services.

HEALTH

At AHS Travel, ensuring the health and safety of our guests is our top priority.

All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Criterion Travel, local staff, and host country laws. All participants should be in good health and able to keep up with an active group of travelers without assistance from tour staff. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend purchasing travel insurance. We encourage you to carefully review the various travel insurance options available and select a policy that best suits your needs. Be sure to consider factors such as coverage limits including COVID-19 coverage, medical expenses, trip cancellation/interruption coverage, baggage loss or delay, and other travel-related contingencies.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

Complete Terms and Conditions including a Statement of Responsibility will be made available at the time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

AHS PROGRAM CONTENT

The AHS and its travel partners reserve the right to take photographs, videos, and audio ("Program Content") during the Travel Study program for editorial, promotional, and commercial use by the AHS or authorized third parties. By making a reservation on an AHS Travel program, the participant agrees to allow his/her likeness to be used by AHS or AHS-authorized third parties without compensation to the participant. AHS reserves the right to crop, alter, or combine the Program Content with other images, text, or media at its sole discretion and to use the Program Content in any medium or format, including but not limited to print, digital, or online media. This authorization grants AHS and/or authorized third parties the right to use the photographs, videos, and audio worldwide and in perpetuity, without further consent or compensation. Participants who prefer that their voice and/or image not be used must notify AHS in writing prior to the beginning of the program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

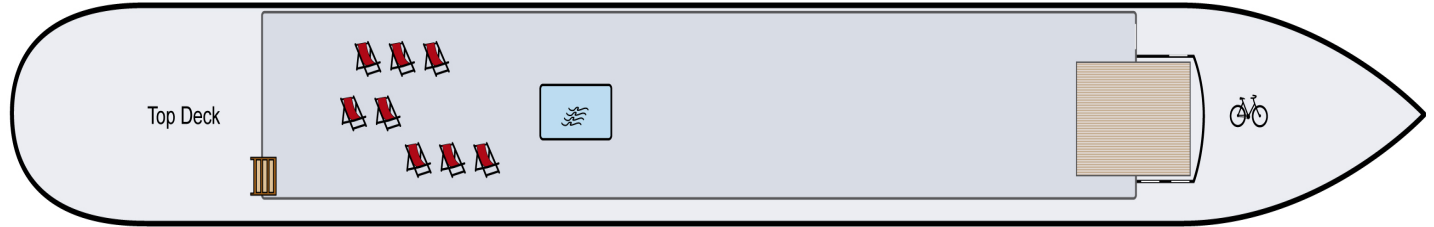
Please call: (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089. To reserve, please complete and return this form by email to res@critteriontravel.com. If paying by check, please return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel, to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.



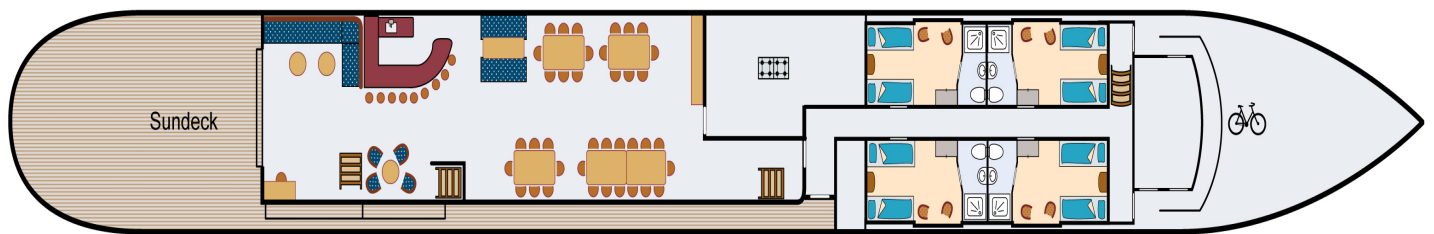
Floral Splendor and Artistry Dutch Waterways by Private River Barge

Magnifique II
Deck Plan & Pricing

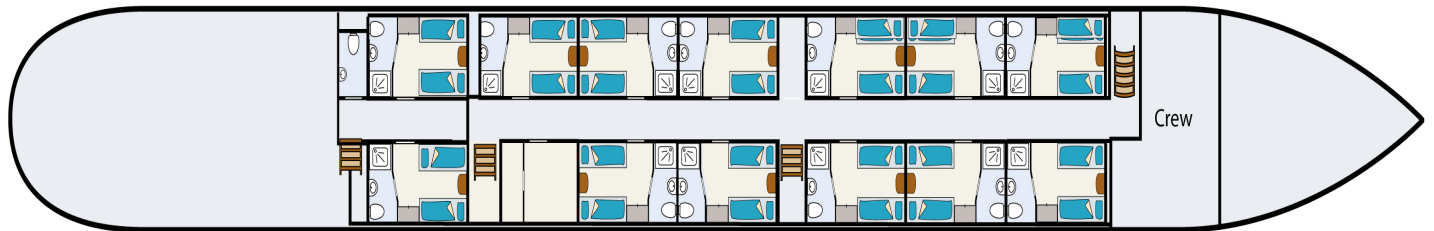
April 21–30, 2026



TOP DECK



UPPER DECK AND SUN DECK



LOWER DECK



Sun Deck



Junior Suite



Dining Room

PROGRAM RATES

LOWER DECK:

Double (118 sq. ft.), per person, sharing	\$7,490
Premium (140 sq. ft.), per person, sharing	\$7,990
Single (118 sq. ft.)	\$11,440

UPPER DECK:

Double Junior Suite (156 sq. ft.), per person, sharing	\$9,490
Single Junior Suite (156 sq. ft.)	\$12,940



Floral Splendor and Artistry Dutch Waterways by Private River Barge

April 21-30, 2026

Registration Form

Name - Participant 1

Name - Participant 2

Preferred Name (For Name Tag) - Participant 1

Preferred Name (For Name Tag) - Participant 2

Address

CityState

Zip

Home Phone

Cell Phone

E-mail Address - Participant 1

E-mail Address - Participant 2

ROOMING OPTIONS: (please select)

- Double Occupancy, I will share a room with _____
 - We prefer separate beds
- Single Occupancy
 - I would like a roommate but will pay the single supplement if one cannot be found

TOUR DOCUMENTS:

Criterion Travel will send all documents pertaining to the tour by email to the email address listed above.

- If you wish to receive hardcopy versions of the tour documents by post as well, please check this circle. Paper documents will not be sent to your home address unless circle is checked.

DEPOSIT (\$1,000 per person):

_____ #of persons _____ Amount Enclosed

- Visa Mastercard American Express Check (make check payable to Criterion Travel)

Card Number

Exp. (mm/yy)

Name as it appears on card

CVV Security Code

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN

By registering and paying the deposit for this tour, registrant acknowledges he/ she has carefully read and understands all information contained in the tour brochure, recognizes and accepts any risks therein, agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions above.

Signature - Participant 1 / Date

Signature - Participant 2 / Date

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Criterion Travel
4250 SW Hall Blvd.
Beaverton, OR 97005
or by email at res@criteriontravel.com

TO REGISTER EMAIL:

res@criteriontravel.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AHS TRAVEL PROGRAM

Please contact (703) 768-8801
information is also available at www.ahsgardening.org/travel.