

# BALTIC SEA & NORTHERN EUROPE

*Holland, Germany, Poland,  
Sweden, Estonia, Denmark*

Friends,

For the past 13 years, I've led groups of friends on annual trips to destinations around the world. We've explored Paris, London, Western Europe, Russia, Peru, the Mediterranean, Baltic States, Greek Isles, British Isles, and North Africa. We've never had a malfunction or bad experience — just memorable, life-enhancing experiences.

On our 2024 trip, we'll circumnavigate the Baltic Sea. Northern Europe is one of the most pristine areas of the world. The scenery is spectacular and the cultures are interesting and accommodating.

Together, we'll explore: Amsterdam (one of the great cities in the world), Berlin, Gdansk-Poland (where WW2 started), Stockholm (including the place where Nobel Prizes are given), Tallin-Estonia (one of the best preserved medieval cities in Europe), Copenhagen-Denmark (awarded 2023 World Capital of Architecture by UNESCO), and other places.

Mary and I have visited these incredible destinations multiple times and can vouch that this trip will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

There are so many things to like about this trip:

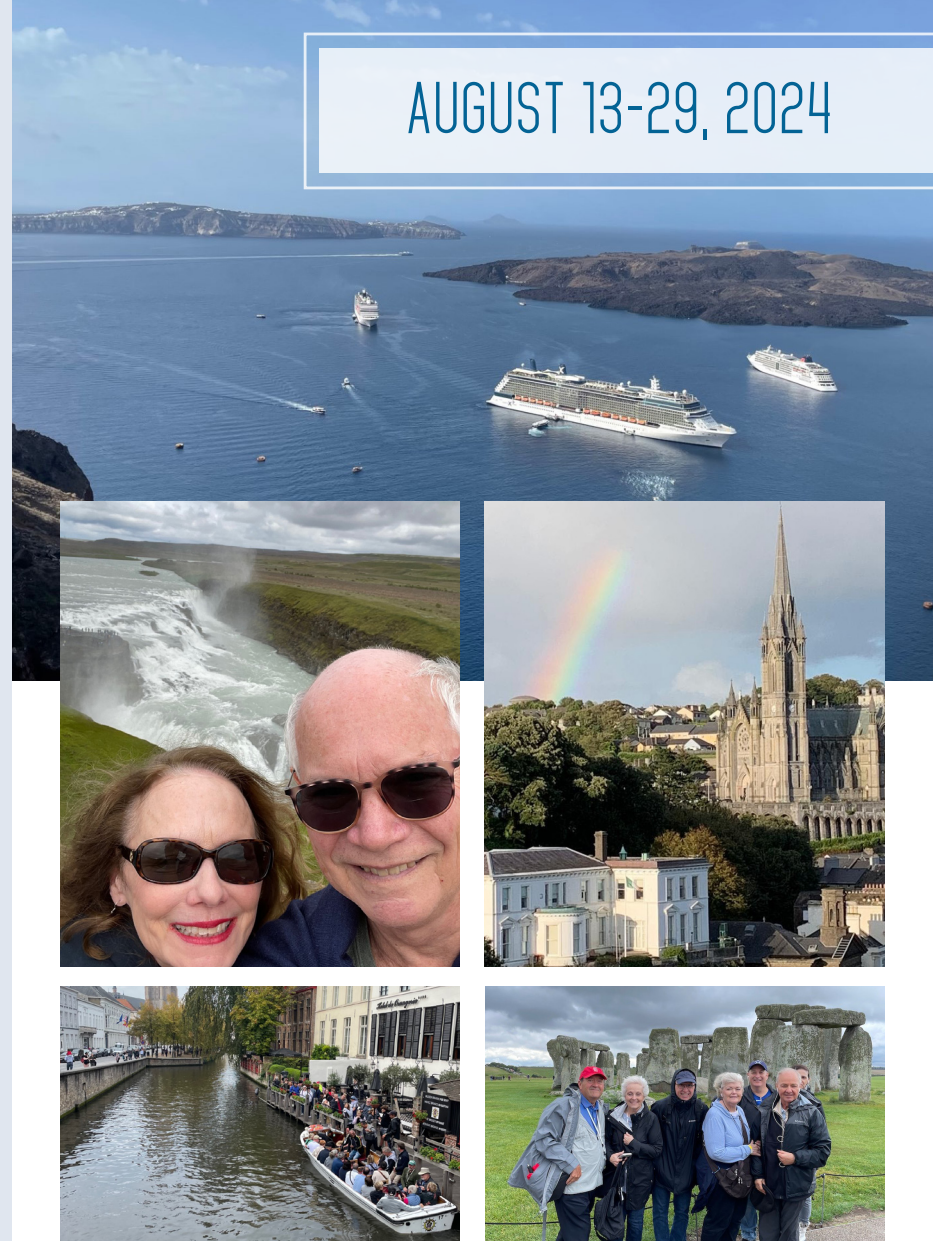
- We'll visit six countries: Holland, Germany, Poland, Sweden, Estonia, and Denmark.
- We'll sail on the 5-star Celebrity Silhouette (refurbished in 2020).
- August is the ideal time of year for travel in the Baltic States (average temperature is 48° to 64°F).
- It will be at the end of the high season for travel in Europe, so crowds will be light.

It's been said that one of the joys of traveling is not only where you go but who you go with and who you meet along the way. This trip will be limited to 50 interesting ladies and gentlemen who travel well—people who enjoy exploring great places.

Travel takes time and money, but it's worth the investment. You'll be stretched and challenged, and you'll learn more about the world in which we live and the life you live in that world. I hope you'll join me on this memorable trip.

Don McMinn • [djmcminn@msn.com](mailto:djmcminn@msn.com)

AUGUST 13-29, 2024



TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS

# 17-DAY TRIP ITINERARY

- August 13** Fly DFW (or other gateway city) to Amsterdam
- August 14-15** Tour Amsterdam
- August 16** Drive to Rotterdam and board the 5-star Celebrity Silhouette
- August 17** At sea
- August 18** Warnemunde, Germany (port city for Berlin)
- August 19** At sea
- August 20** Gdansk, Poland
- August 21** Visby, Sweden
- August 22** Tallin, Estonia
- August 23** Stocholm, Sweden
- August 24** At sea
- August 25-26** Copenhagen, Denmark
- August 27** At sea
- August 28** Disembark ship and enjoy a tour of the Dutch countryside; check into airport hotel
- August 29** Fly Amsterdam to DFW on American Airlines direct flight



*Better to see something once  
than hear about it a thousand times.*  
- ASIAN PROVERB

## THREE DAYS IN AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam, capital city of the Netherlands and one of the great cities of Europe, is known for its artistic heritage, elaborate canal system, and narrow houses with gabled facades—legacies of the city's 17th-century Golden Age. Its Museum District houses three world-class museums: the Van Gogh Museum, the Rijksmuseum which showcases the Dutch masters including works by Rembrandt and Vermeer, and modern art at the Stedelijk Museum.

It's called "Venice of the North" because 60 miles of canals wind through the old city (Venice, in comparison, has 38 miles of canals). It is the bicycle capital of the world (there are more bicycles than residents). We'll also visit the Dutch countryside to see windmills, cheese farms, and a clog factory.



# COST & DETAILS

TRIP COST: \$6,850 PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

## *Includes*

- Roundtrip airfare from DFW (If you provide your own airfare, subtract \$1,200 from the price listed above.)
- Two nights at the 4-star [Park Plaza Victoria](#) hotel in Amsterdam
- Twelve-night cruise in a balcony cabin (taxes and fees included)
- Private coach and tour guides in Amsterdam, Berlin, Gdansk, Visby, Tallinn, Stockholm, and Copenhagen
- Entry fee to major sights
- All gratuities for local tour guides and bus drivers
- Transportation to and from airports, cities, and ship

*Note:* During Covid, to entice travelers to sail on their ships, cruise companies offered a free package that included gratuities, beverage package, and wi-fi. Near the end of Covid, the cruise lines began charging \$600 for the three perks. Now that travel is in great demand, ships are charging \$1,000+ per person for the package and both guests in the cabin must pay for the perks (\$2,000 per cabin). I've done the math and it's just no longer financially beneficial to pay for the perks, so I'm not offering that as an option. If you want the +3 package, contact me and I'll add that to your cost. I have negotiated a \$600 per cabin onboard credit, which will help offset the three expenses.

*Note for single travelers:* Ideally, you can find a friend who will be your roommate, or, on most of my trips I've been able to find a roommate for single travelers. But if not, you'll need to pay a single supplement of \$2,800.

## *Does Not Include*

- One dinner in Amsterdam and lunches on most shore excursions
- Gratuities and personal charges on the ship
- Trip insurance. Numerous companies offer trip insurance which cover cancelled trips, medical emergencies, and other issues. Options include [Generali Global Assistance](#) ([generalitravelinsurance.com](http://generalitravelinsurance.com)), [Travel Guard](#) ([travelguard.com](http://travelguard.com)), and [Travelex](#) ([travelex.com](http://travelex.com)). If you think an insurance policy would be beneficial, pursue this on your own.

*Note:* The cost of the trip stated in this brochure is good until May 1, 2024. After that, the price may go up if cruise and airfare fares change.



*Investment in travel is an investment in yourself.*

-MATTHEW KARSTEN

# COST & DETAILS (CONTINUED)

## PAYMENT SCHEDULE/CANCELLATIONS/REFUNDS

- Deposit - \$600 per person (nonrefundable). The trip is limited to the first 50 people who make a deposit and submit a trip registration form.
- First payment of \$1,700 due January 15, 2024 (\$1,000 of this payment is nonrefundable for a total of \$1,600 nonrefundable.)
- Second payment of \$2,650 due March 15, 2024 (\$1,000 of this payment is nonrefundable for a total of \$2,600 nonrefundable.)
- Final payment of \$1,900 due May 1, 2024 (on this date, the entire cost of the trip is nonrefundable)

*Make checks payable to Travel with Friends  
and mail to 2322 Creekside Cir. South, Irving, TX 75063*



*Travel because life is short and the world is huge.  
-ANONYMOUS*





# TRIP REGISTRATION

## TRAVELER INFORMATION

1. Your name exactly as it appears on your passport

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

3. Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

4. Your passport number \_\_\_\_\_

5. Date passport issued \_\_\_\_\_

6. Date passport expires \_\_\_\_\_ (must be valid through February 2025)

7. Best email address \_\_\_\_\_

8. Cell number \_\_\_\_\_

9. Your roommate \_\_\_\_\_

10. Preferred name for name badges \_\_\_\_\_

11. Mailing address

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

*Please double-check the accuracy of your information. Inaccuracy will create problems with reservations and tickets.*

### Airfare (Please check one.)

☐ I will make my own international airfare reservation (roundtrip from your city of departure to Amsterdam). If your arrival or departure times don't correspond to the group's schedule, you'll be responsible for transportation from and to the airport.

☐ I will fly with the group from DFW to Amsterdam. (Cost of trip includes airfare in Main Economy. You'll be able to choose your seat and/or pay for upgraded seats.)

### Pre-Trip Opportunities

1. Mary and I will host two group dinners at my house before we leave so we can get to know one another and talk about trip logistics. Out-of-town guests can join via Zoom.
2. I'll compile a pictorial directory so we can learn our fellow guests' names and biographical information before the trip begins.
3. Your trip will be enhanced by learning more about our destinations, so I'll recommend books to read and videos to watch.

*Covid Protocol:* As of November 2023, there are no Covid requirements that would affect the trip.

For more information, contact Don:  
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