

Theme:

The 17th Century – the Dutch Golden Age

Main Focal Points:

- Paintings:
 - Rijksmuseum Amsterdam: Rembrandt's "Night Watch" and other Golden Age treasures – e.g. Vermeer, De Hoogh, Hals, Hobbema, Bols
 - Museum Mauritshuis, The Hague: Rembrandt, Vermeer, Breughel the Elder, Jan Steen, Bosschaert
 - Frans Hals-museum, Haarlem
- Architecture:
 - Royal Palace, Amsterdam by Jacob van Campen – with impressive 'Burgerzaal' + sculptures by Quellinus
 - Museum "Het Loo", Apeldoorn – country seat of William III, built by Daniel Marot

Other Activities – choice of:

- Museum Van Loon
- canal tour
- visit to Delft: unspoiled cityscape; porcelain manufacture

Accommodation

There is a wide selection of 5, 4 and 3 star Hotels available in Amsterdam. Many are in charming canal-side locations, others in quieter, greener parts of town. It should not be difficult for your operations department to select a suitable venue.

Travel from/to UK

British Airways: return flights from London Heathrow or Gatwick.

KLM fly direct from 19 UK airports – so more choice of UK departure locations can be offered – e.g. London, Birmingham and/or Manchester, Glasgow and/or Edinburgh.

Sample Itinerary:

Day One:

- travel from UK
- transfer to Hotel
- visit Royal Palace in Amsterdam – formerly 17th C. Town Hall

Day Two:

- trip to The Hague – Royal Residence + seat of Government since the Dukes of Holland
- visit rich collection of Museum Mauritshuis – housed in 17th C. Dutch-classicist style building by Jacob van Campen and Pieter Post
- visit Frans Hals-museum in Haarlem, located in 17th C. former Old People's Home
- dinner on Canal boat

Day Three:

- trip to Museum "het Loo" – country seat of King William III and Queen Mary
- visit Museum van Loon, Amsterdam

Day Four:

- see Rembrandts + other Dutch masters in Rijksmuseum
- return flight to UK

Background Notes

Royal Palace, Amsterdam

This building was originally the Town Hall. As a major example of Dutch Classicist architecture, it projects the confidence and wealth of the 17th C. Burghers of Amsterdam. It has been beautifully restored.



Mauritshuis, The Hague

This impressive building is located next to the old parliament buildings and is adjacent to the office of the Dutch Prime Minister – right in the centre of Dutch Government.



It is also a surprisingly spacious and effective Museum, containing paintings originally held in the Royal Cabinet Collection.

Among the highlights of the Mauritshuis are Rembrandt's "Anatomical Lesson of Prof. Tulp", Vermeer's "View on Delft", and a number of (very Dutch) flower paintings, including by Bosschaert, De Gheyn, Van Ast and others.



Frans Hals-museum, Haarlem

A charming and deceptive museum in the old centre of Haarlem, with rich holdings of



paintings from the Dutch Golden Age. These include not only works by Frans Hals, who lived and died in Haarlem, but also landscapes by Van Goyen, church interiors by Saenredam and other works representative for the period.

Het Loo Palace, Apeldoorn

This was originally a modest Hunting Lodge, acquired by William III when he was still only the



Governing Prince of the Netherlands. He had a new building constructed, which he expanded considerably after he moved across the Channel and was crowned King of England.



It has been used by his descendants the Dutch Royal family until the time of Queen Wilhelmina who reigned from 1898, abdicated in 1948, and died here in 1962. It has since been faithfully restored, and its gardens recreated to the style of William III.

Museum Van Loon, Amsterdam

This private residence shows how the well-to-do burghers of Amsterdam lived from the 17th C onwards – in contrast with Het Loo Palace visited earlier in the day.



Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



One of the world's great museums with an extraordinarily rich collection of Dutch Masters, as well as objects of applied art. While the building, dating from 1885 is undergoing an extensive restoration, the top treasures from the 17th C. are still on display in one of the wings.

