



Amsterdam & the Baltic Sea



We are excited to announce our Spring 2019 Gaston College Study Tour to **Amsterdam and the Baltic Sea**. We will depart from the Charlotte Douglas International Airport on Thursday, May 16, 2019 and return to Charlotte on Tuesday, May 28, 2019. We have worked for several months with our overseas companies to book our college group on a cruise that will begin at Copenhagen on May 19th and sail the full length of the Baltic Sea to St. Petersburg, Russia. Our ports-of-call include **Stockholm (Sweden), Tallinn (Estonia), St. Petersburg (Russia), Helsinki (Finland)**, and return to **Copenhagen (Denmark)**. On our return home, we will have a final day and night in Dublin, Ireland, before flying home on Tuesday, May 28, 2019.

After considerable negotiation, we were able to provide this 13-day cruise/land package for the remarkable price of \$3995.00 per person

(continued on page 2)

Inside...

Amsterdam & the Baltic Sea	1
Itinerary Overview	2
Tour Details	2-4
Tour Package	5
Reservations	6

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Itinerary Overview

Day 1 - Thursday, May 16

Flight to Amsterdam

Day 2 - Friday, May 17

Arrive Amsterdam - Explore City

Day 3 - Saturday, May 18

Amsterdam - Free Day

Day 4 - Sunday, May 19

Fly to Copenhagen -
Transfer to Cruise Ship

Day 5 - Monday, May 20

At Sea Day

Day 6 - Tuesday, May 21

Stockholm Sweden

Day 7 - Wednesday, May 22

Tallinn, Estonia

Day 8 - Thursday, May 23

St. Petersburg, Russia

Day 9 - Friday, May 24

Helsinki, Finland

Day 10 - Saturday, May 25

At Sea Day

Day 11 - Sunday, May 26

Arrive in Copenhagen

Day 12 - Monday, May 27

Fly to Dublin

Day 13 - Tuesday, May 28

Flight to Charlotte

Amsterdam & the Baltic Sea

May 16-28, 2019

(double occupancy based on 24 paying participants plus the college escort). The tulips will be in full bloom in the fields of Holland and the breathtaking scenery along the Baltic Sea will be ours during this exciting tour. I hope you will join us for this wonderful itinerary in May. But don't delay, this tour will sell out quickly!



DAY 1

Thursday, May 16

Flight to Amsterdam

- Today you depart from Charlotte for the overnight flight to **Amsterdam**.

DAY 2

Friday, May 17

Arrive Amsterdam – Explore City

- Arrival at the **Amsterdam** airport. Your private coach will greet you on arrival and you transfer to your accommodation in the city center.



- After checking in you have time for lunch and an opportunity to explore the city. .
- One of the best ways to do this is to take to the water and enjoy a cruise on Amsterdam's famous canals. The three main canals, **Herengracht**, **Prinsengracht**, and **Keizersgracht** were constructed in the 17th century during the Dutch Golden Age when Holland was at the forefront of exploration, trade and scientific achievement. A canal boat trip is also the ideal way to see many of the historic houses which front the canals.

DAY 3

Saturday, May 18

Amsterdam

- Today is a free day in Amsterdam which has some of the most famous art museums in Europe.
- One of the best is the **Rijks Museum**, situated in the central **Museum Square**. The Rijks Museum houses a truly exceptional range of Dutch masters including *Rembrandt*, *Vermeer* and *van Dyck*. Two of its most iconic and important works

(continued on page 3)

Amsterdam & the Baltic Sea (continued from Page 2)



are *Rembrandt's Night Watch* and *Vermeer's Milkmaid*.

- For modern art visit the **Stedelijk Museum** which houses a superb collection of contemporary art including *van Gogh*, *Kandinsky*, *Chagall*, *Matisee* and *Jackson Pollock*.
- You can also take a trip to the **Keukenhof**, one of the most famous tulip and flower gardens in Europe. Established in 1949 in Lisse, just a short journey from Amsterdam, the gardens are only open for a few weeks each year from March 21 to May 19 to display its blooms.



DAY 4 Sunday, May 19 Fly to Copenhagen

- This morning you fly to **Copenhagen**. The city buzzes with color and creativity. Avant-garde bars and restaurants and enticing shops sit alongside historic landmarks such

as **Rosenborg Castle** and the **Royal Palace at Amalienborg**.

- You have time for lunch and then transfer to the cruise ship in preparation for departure.

DAY 5 Monday, May 20 At Sea

- Today you can sit back, kick off your shoes and put your feet up during our **'at sea' day**, where you can chill in the bar, lounge by the pool or enjoy a relaxing beauty treatment in the spa.

DAY 6 Tuesday, May 21 Stockholm, Sweden

- This morning you can be impressed by the beauty of **Stockholm's** stunning archipelago
- Say Skol! in an ice bar or visit the magnificent **City Hall**. A coffee and a pastry is an essential Swedish tradition and a tour of the winding streets of medieval **Gamla Stan** is a delight.
- One of the highlights is the **Vasa**



ship, the best preserved and most complete 17th century ship in the world. The *Vasa* sank in the city's icy waters in 1628 and has been incredibly preserved.

DAY 7 Wednesday, May 22 Tallinn, Estonia

- This morning you arrive in **Tallinn** where you can explore the city's fairy-tale walled **Old Town** and the famous cathedrals.



- One of the nicest ways to travel the city is by a horse and carriage ride at the **Estonian open-air Museum**, which recreates traditional Estonian village life.
- Make sure you head up **Toompea Hill**, the ultimate spot in Tallinn to take photos and enjoy wonderful views of **Tallinn Old Town**.

DAY 8 Thursday, May 23 St. Petersburg, Russia

- This morning you arrive in the Russian city of **St. Petersburg**, Peter the Great's stunning capital and his Window on the West.
- One of the undoubted highlights is the awe-inspiring opulence of the **Hermitage Museum**, the former **Royal Winter Palace**, with its malachite columns and gold

(continued on page 4)

Amsterdam & the Baltic Sea (continued from Page 3)



drawing room, and which contains a stunning collection of art and historical treasures.

- Take a stroll along **Nevsky Prospect** and see the glorious architecture of the **Church of Spilled Blood** or cross the bridges of **Vasilevsky Island** to the **Peter and Paul Fortress** where the Romanov emperors are buried.

DAY 9 Friday, May 24 Helsinki, Finland

- This morning you arrive in **Helsinki** where there is plenty to explore, from its colorful markets and beautiful architecture including



such buildings such as the **Parliament**, the **Opera House** and the **Cathedral**

- Try a cup of famous Finnish Coffee by the harbour and explore the **Market Square**. The port area is one of the epicentres of life and commerce in the city.

DAY 10 Saturday, May 25 At Sea

- Today is another **full day at sea** where you can relax, stroll the decks and enjoy all that the ship has to offer.



DAY 11 Sunday, May 26 Arrive back in Copenhagen

- This morning you arrive back in

Copenhagen and transfer to your hotel.

- Make sure you visit the famous **Mermaid Statue**.
- In the evening you can explore the wonderful **Tivoli Gardens**, where fairy lights, amusement rides and live music turn the gardens into a magical playground at night.

DAY 12 Monday, May 27 Fly to Dublin

- This morning you fly to **Dublin** and transfer to your hotel.
- The afternoon will be free to explore the city where there is a wealth of history.
- Make sure you see the **Book of Kells at Trinity College**.

DAY 13 Tuesday, May 28 Fly Home

- This morning you depart Dublin on your flight home.



What IS Included in the Tour Package

- Round trip flights with Air Lingus from Charlotte, NC to Amsterdam, returning from Copenhagen via Dublin.
- All airport taxes and fuel surcharges included in the ticket.
- Internal flight from Amsterdam to Copenhagen with KLM including airport taxes and fuel surcharges.
- One check-in bag weighing up to 23 kgs.
- Accommodations in three- and four-star hotels (double-occupancy) in Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Dublin.
- Breakfasts at your hotels.
- Private transportation by coach for airport transfers in Amsterdam, Copenhagen and Dublin as well as coach transfers to and from the port in Copenhagen.
- Baltic Cruise as per your itinerary based on double-occupancy cabins including \$500 cash vouchers to spend onboard.
- All meals onboard the cruise ship, snacks, and drinks including tea and coffee.
- Onboard gratuities.
- 100% Financial Protection through our Travel Trust Association License and ATOL License.



What is NOT included in the Tour Package

- Valid passport (Visas are not currently required for US citizens).
- Travel Insurance.
- Lunches and dinners, drinks with meals when not on cruise ship.
- Shore excursions.
- Sodas and alcoholic drinks
- Single room supplements (if requested).
- Tips for drivers or guides.
- Personal expenditure such as telephone calls, laundry, drinks, snacks, etc.
- Cost of Gaston College registration.



All-Inclusive Tour Price

Land and air package: **\$3,995 per person**, double-occupancy hotel and cabin with transportation and fees (based on 24 paying tour members).

Reservation Form
Amsterdam & the Baltic Sea
May 16-28, 2019

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM, DETATCH AND SEND TO
GASTON COLLEGE STUDY TOURS AT THE ADDRESS BELOW.

**Send a \$500 (per person) deposit by check or credit card
(credit card payments can be made at 704.922.6435).
Deposits must be received on or before February 8, 2019 to
Bob Blanton at the address below.**

Full name (as it appears on your passport):

Current address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email: _____

Valid passport number (for airlines): _____

Expiration date: _____

Note: Many foreign countries now require that your passport be valid at least 6 months after you end your visit. Make sure yours will meet this requirement.

I wish to room with: _____

I require a private room at additional cost: _____

Special dietary/health needs (for hotels/airlines): _____

- I am covered by my own health/hospitalization insurance policy while overseas. You must provide proof of coverage.
- I plan to purchase additional health/hospitalization insurance (on my own). Trip Mate is our preferred company.

Bob Blanton, Study Tours Director
Box 76, Gaston College
201 Highway 321 South
Dallas, NC 28034-1499

Reservations

**Amsterdam
& the Baltic Sea
May 16-28, 2019**

All prices based upon a minimum of 24 paying participants (prices are valid at the time of this printing, but are subject to change). Tours are sold on a first-come, first-served basis. *Checks should be made payable to Gaston College Study Tours, and payment should be sent directly to Bob Blanton, Gaston College Study Tours, Box 76, Gaston College, 201 Highway 321 South, Dallas, NC 28034.*

**Final Payment Deadline
February 22, 2019**



Gaston College
Opportunities For Life

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