



International Study Mission
NETHERLANDS
featuring
Luxembourg * Brussels * Amsterdam
+ Optional Extensions

August 26 – September 5, 2010

Dear NECA Members,

This year's International Study Mission highlights the major countries of the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and Holland. Through it's membership in AIE, NECA has good contacts with local contractors and counterpart organizations. Our meetings and site visits will be informative and educational.

Luxembourg is one of the three headquarters cities of the European Union that functions as a crossroads of Europe and banking center. Brussels serves as the seat of the European Union and defines itself through it's global influences. Grand Place is one of Europe's most beautiful squares. We'll also visit the 'chocolate city' of Bruges. Amsterdam, of course, is famous for it's historic city center, waterways and canals.

Goals for this year were not to move around so much and use the train, which this itinerary accomplishes. We're staying three nights at the LeRoyal in Luxembourg, the Conrad in Brussels and the Sofitel in Amsterdam. All are five-star properties and well located within the city centers. And, we're traveling between Luxembourg and Brussels and Amsterdam by high-speed trains. Much easier as the train stations are convenient to the hotels, and we can avoid all the complications of flying.

Please Join Us!

Itinerary

26 Aug. Thu. Departure From Home

- Individual departures.

Note: The trip spends 3 nights in Luxembourg. Arriving earlier (or stopping enroute) is encouraged to help you recover from the traveling.

27 Aug. Fri. Arrival in Luxembourg

- R
- On arrival we are met and transferred to LeRoyal Hotel, a member of “Leading Hotels of The World” and Luxembourg’s top choice.
 - Mid-afternoon tour, which includes a walk through the Park followed by a visit to the U.S. Military Cemetery in Hamm where General Patton is buried.
 - Welcome reception at LeRoyal.

28 Aug. Sat. Luxembourg

- B
- Our morning walking tour includes the Place d’Armes, Constitution Square, Old Town, the Government District, Corniche, the Millennium Monument, the Palace of the Grand Dukes and Place Guillaume II.
 - Balance of the afternoon open. For those interested, the LeRoyal Chief suggests we organize a cooking class; details to follow.

29 Aug. Sun. Luxembourg

- B,L
- Today we’ll experience the countryside as we travel via Little Switzerland to Vianden, one of Luxembourg’s most beautiful old towns with cobbled stone streets, typical cafés and a splendid medieval castle. We’ll enjoy lunch at a local rustic restaurant.
 - The evening is open to enjoy Luxembourg. Our hotel is within easy walking distance of stores and restaurants.

30 Aug. Mon. Luxembourg to Brussels

- B,D
- Today we take the express train to Brussels; 2 hours & 54 minutes.
 - We’re staying at the Conrad Brussels. This grande dame is located on Avenue Louise, which is home to Brussels’s most elegant shops.
 - After time for check-in and lunch, our tour will concentrate on Grand Place. With its ornate baroque and gothic guild houses, Grand Place is one of Europe’s most beautiful squares. We’ll then visit The Town Hall and Manneken Pis before concluding at Galleries St. Hubert, a spectacular glass-roofed arcade in the center of town lined with cafes, theaters and stores.
 - Welcome dinner tonight at a local restaurant.

31 Aug. Tue. Brussels

- B
- Today is devoted to meeting with local contractors and visiting active construction sites. We’ll discuss government regulations, bidding, training, materials, wage rates and opportunities for American contractors.
 - Those not participating in the meetings will have the day open to shop and explore.

01 Sep. Wed. Brussels

- B
- This morning we are again met by a local guide whereupon we'll see Belgium's countryside and learn more about it's history as we travel to Bruges by coach. Bruges, known as the Venice of the North, is one of Europe's most beautiful cities. Its citizens have painstakingly preserved their monuments and artistic treasures. While walking along the maze of winding cobbled alleys and romantic canals, our guide will visit the most important sites. Then, you'll have time on your own for lunch and shopping. Bruges is known as the "chocolate city;" don't leave without having some!
 - Late afternoon return to Brussels where the evening is free.

02 Sep. Thu. Brussels to Amsterdam

- B,D
- This morning we ride the hi-speed Thalys Train to Amsterdam; 1 hour & 53 minutes.
 - After time for check-in and lunch, we enjoy a walking orientation tour of the historic city center.

03 Sep. Fri. Amsterdam

- B
- Today is devoted to meeting with local contractors and visiting active construction sites. We'll discuss government regulations, bidding, training, materials and wage rates.
 - Balance of the afternoon and evening are free.
 - For those not involved in the meetings, the day is open to further explore and enjoy Amsterdam. Optional tours will be offered – "Typical Dutch" takes you through picturesque villages around Amsterdam. A guided tour of the Hague and Delft is another popular choice.

04 Sep, Sat. Amsterdam

- B, L,R
- Our walking tour continues to the "antique quarters" area of the city also known for its jewelry and silver stores. We then stop at the flower market, where you can purchase the famous tulip-bulbs. Lunch will be served onboard a private canalboat during a two-hour cruise along Amsterdam's famous canals.
 - The tour concludes tonight with a reception at the Conrad.

05 Sep, Sun. Amsterdam to Home or Optional Extension

- B
- Everyone is on their own to transfer to the airport for their flights; the Sofitel has a shuttle.

(B = breakfast, L = lunch, R = reception, D = dinner, included in tour)

Tour Package Inclusions

- * Deluxe hotel accommodations:
 - three-nights LeRoyal, Luxembourg
 - three-nights Conrad Brussels
 - three-nights Sofitel, Amsterdam
- * Hotel taxes and portorage
- * Full buffet breakfast daily
- * Visits to active construction sites and meetings with electrical contractors in Brussels and Amsterdam
- * Welcome reception at LeRoyal
- * Dinner August 30 in Brussels
- * Farewell reception at the Sofitel
- * Transfers from the hotels to the train stations upon departing Luxembourg and arriving Amsterdam
- * First class train tickets Luxembourg-Brussels-Amsterdam
- * City tours per itinerary by deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach, with local English-speaking guides
- * Guided excursion to Vinden including lunch
- * Two-hour canal cruise in Amsterdam including lunch
- * Services of an ATA tour director throughout
- * Tips to local guides and coach drivers
- * Fodor's (or similar) guidebook
- * Final Advice Memo plus Fodor's (or similar) travel guides

Tour Price

\$3,787 per person based on double occupancy

Features not included: items of a personal nature, such as laundry, telephone calls, meals not specified, international departure taxes.

Optional Extensions

A challenge with the Netherlands (aside from the Rhine Cruise) is no obvious 3-4-day group extension (like the Baltics from Helsinki). However, I think these alternatives are good because they can be done individually, by several couples or a group. Kindly let me know your interests, if any? For those extending, you can decide where you want to go and book your air accordingly.

Rhine River Cruise - For those with more time, there's an 8-day Rhine cruise on Viking Line that departs Amsterdam September 5th and ends in Basel, Switzerland. Please let me know quickly if this appeals as Viking's space is already limited.

<http://www.vikingrivercruises.com/rivercruises/europe-rhine-amsterdam-basel-2010/vha/itinerary.aspx>

North Sea to London - If anyone is interested, I am looking into a bit of an adventure that involves taking one of the Stena Line's big overnight ferries across the North Sea, whereupon it docks at Harwich, England from where we travel to London. Haven't been to London in a long time; always a wonderful city to visit (like Paris). You can stay one or as many nights as you like, probably depends on your air arrangements. <http://www.stenaline.co.uk/ferry/routes/harwich-holland>

Paris - You can take the Thalys Train to **Paris** in 3 hours and enjoy the "City of Lights" for a few days.

Hotel Room Upgrades

LeRoyal – We are booked in Royal Club rooms. It's not an "executive floor" but a wing where the rooms are larger. If you wish to upgrade to a Royal Club Suite the supplemental cost for the suite for the 3 nights is \$559.

<http://www.leroyalluxembourg.com>

Conrad Brussels – We are booked in the Premium Rooms, which are larger. If you wish to upgrade to a Jr. suite the supplement for the suite for the 3 nights is \$572.

<http://conradhotels1.hilton.com/en/ch/hotels/index.do?ctyhocn=BRUHCCI>

Sofitel Amsterdam – Newly renovated, we're booked in their Superior Rooms. If you wish to upgrade to Luxury Room, the supplemental cost for the room for the 3 nights is \$380; a Jr. suite \$950.

<http://www.sofitel.com/gb/hotel-2783-sofitel-amsterdam-the-grand/index.shtml>

CONDITIONS

Reservations and Payment: Reservations are confirmed by American Travel Association (ATA), upon receipt of the Reservation Form and deposit. Reservations require a \$350 per person deposit to accompany the Coupon. Receipt of final payment is due in the office of ATA no later than June 26th, 2010. For reservations received after June 26th, full payment is due with the Reservation Form. All payments must be made by check payable to American Travel Association or by Visa, MasterCard or American Express or by wire transfer.

Cancellation:

Land Package: A \$200 per person administrative fee will be charged regardless of the reason for cancellation. Penalty on cancellations received 59-30 days 50% of the tour price; 29 days or less up to 100% of the tour price depending upon the amount recoverable from the suppliers to whom payment had been sent. Cancellation penalties are required to offset non-refundable hotel and supplier payments made by ATA in advance of the tour. There will be no refunds once the tour has begun.

Cancellations must be made in writing to ATA. To avoid discrepancies, ATA will not act on information given over the phone until written notice has been received.

For Information Contact

Geoff Robertson
American Travel Association
2126 Piedmont Lake Road
Pine Mountain, GA 31822
Phone: 706-663-2171
Fax: 706-663-2445
e-mail: travelata@aol.com

Weather: These countries are on the same latitude as Southern Canada just above the US border. The average high temperature in Brussels in late August is 68, the low 55 and 14 day of the month average some rain.

Health: The Participants represents that neither he nor she nor anyone traveling with him or her has any physical or other condition or disability that could create a hazard to himself or herself or other members of the tour. This program involves walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs at locations that are not handicap accessible. A letter of explanation of any physical or mental condition which may require medical attention or special equipment (wheelchair, for example) must be enclosed with the Reservation Form.

Airline Contract: The usual passage contract when the ticket is issued shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the tour participant. ATA shall not be liable for airline cancellation penalties incurred by purchasing non-refundable tickets.

Insurance: Trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance coverage is available for purchase through a form sent to you by ATA or your local insurance representative. We encourage everyone to consider some form of insurance. Last minute emergencies and illnesses do occur, and the insurance helps offset non-refundable air, hotel, and operator charges. You should also check with your local insurance agent to see what is covered under your homeowner's policy. There is a pre-existing condition waiver if Access America (the form sent by ATA) processes your insurance request within 2 weeks from the date of deposit. If you use another policy, please check the pre-existing conditions clause.

Prices: The tour price is subject to change due to land cost increases and foreign exchange fluctuation. ATA reserves the right to change the price for such reasons or changes in the number of participants (28) upon which the tour costs are based. All prices are based on rates and tariffs in effect on 2/9/10.

Responsibility: American Travel Association (ATA), the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and/or their employees or agents, act only on behalf of the owners and contractors providing means of transportation or other services such as hotels and restaurants to purchasers of this tour and their travel companions (Participants), subject to any and all items and conditions under which any transportation or any other services whatsoever are provided by such owners and contractors. ATA and NECA, their affiliates and their employees and agents (collectively ATA and NECA) shall not be liable or responsible to Participants for the acts or omissions of the aforesaid owners and contractors supplying transportation or other services hereunder, including but not limited to breach of contract, intentional or negligent delay or bodily or property loss, injury or damages. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they're provided. ATA and NECA shall not be liable or responsible to Participants for any loss, injury or death, or other damages caused by or resulting from acts of God, fire, breakdown of machinery or equipment, acts of governments and other authorities, wars, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics or quarantines, monetary crisis, diseases, terrorism or novel conditions. Participants shall have the responsibility to be aware of and determine the validity of any travel advisories, which may exist. Unless the term "guaranteed" is specifically stated in writing on any invoice or reservation itinerary, ATA and NECA do not guarantee any of such suppliers' rates, bookings or reservations. The Participants' retention of air tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute consent to the above terms and conditions. In addition, Participants shall be responsible for conveying the terms and conditions hereunder to travel companions. If, due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend additional nights before or after the tour, participants will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers, meals and related costs. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times.

Travel Advisories/Warnings: None exist for Luxembourg, Belgium and Holland at this time; however, it's the responsibility of the Participant to become informed about the most current travel advisories and warnings by referring to the U. S. State Department's travel website at www.travel.state.gov or by phone at 1-888-407-4747. In the event of an active State Department Travel Warning against travel to any of the specific destinations included in the tour, should The Traveler still choose to travel, notwithstanding any travel advisory or warning, the Participant assumes all risk of personal injury, death or property damage that Oct. arise out of the events like those advised or warned against.

Proof of Citizenship and Visa Requirements: A valid passport is required for travel. You can now apply for a passport at your local post office or the U.S. Passport Agency nearest you. Visas are not necessary for American citizens traveling to Luxembourg, Belgium and Holland.

Tax Deductibility: Current U.S. tax regulations allow deductibility for travel and subsistence expenses incurred in travel related to trade or business. It is the responsibility of the traveler to become familiar with and adhere to the specific reporting requirements imposed.

NECA Netherlands International Study Mission - Reservation Form

* Please correspond to the following ___ office ___ home address:

Company (if applicable) _____

Street _____ Apt/Suite _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Office Telephone _____ Fax _____

Home Telephone _____

e-mail _____

First or preferred name/s for badge _____

Emergency Contact Name/s _____

e-mail address _____

Phone # _____ Relationship _____

Hotel Rooms I/we prefer 1 bed; if no kings available, queen is OK

If no king, need two beds

I/we prefer a two-bedded room

(preferences will be requested, but cannot be guaranteed)

Room Upgrades

1) LeRoyal Yes upgrade to a Royal Club Suite \$559 supplement

2) Conrad Brussels Yes, upgrade to a Jr. suite \$572 supplement

3) Sofitel Amsterdam Yes, Upgrade to a Luxury Room \$380 Jr. suite \$950

Early Arrival I/we plan to arrive in Luxembourg August _____

Extension Rhine River Cruise Overnight ferry to England/London Paris

Deposit A deposit of \$350 per person is due with the Reservation Form. Payments can be by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express credit cards. Enclosed is a check payable to American Travel Association in the amount of _____.

** If you wish to wish to use Visa, MasterCard or American Express card:

Number _____

Expiration date _____

Name on card _____

Security Code _____

Billing address of cardholder if different from above

Signature _____

I have read and understand the conditions set forth in this brochure. Reservations will not be accepted without signature here _____.

Return form to: American Travel Association, 2126 Piedmont Lake Road, Pine Mountain, GA 31822, Fax: 706-663-2445