



# Belgium and the Rhine Valley: Tradition and Innovation in Art & Garden Design

3 JUN – 23 JUN 2020

Code: 22023

Tour Leaders **Sandra McMahon, Diane Perelsztejn**

Physical Ratings 

View private gardens by leading Flemish landscape designers including Jacques Wirtz, Daniël Ost & Chris Ghyselen, Hermannshof directed by Cassian Schmidt, and cruise the UNESCO-listed Rhine Gorge.

## Overview

See the work of modern European giants of landscape design including Jacques Wirtz, Chris Ghyselen, Cassian Schmidt and Daniël Ost, as well as a new generation of rising stars.

### Tour Highlights

- Led by [Sandra McMahon](#) and [Diane Perelsztejn](#), this tour is a feast of splendid classic and contemporary private gardens, great museums and natural landscapes of Belgium, Southern Netherlands and the Rhine Valley.
- View the work of leading Flemish designers and horticulturalists including [Daniël Ost](#), [Erik Dhont](#), and [Piet Blanckaert](#).
- By special invitation explore the private gardens of [Jacques Wirtz](#) featured in Monty Don's *Around the World in 80 Gardens* and [Marc Moris](#).
- By special invitation visit Domain Hemelrijk, the former home of Robert and Jelena de Belder who designed their private garden with their close friend, Russell Page.
- Meet landscape architect [Chris Ghyselen](#), known for his use of fine grasses and perennials, who will show us his own private garden.
- Explore classic Dutch country gardens, and designs by Mien Ruys at the 14th-century Kasteel van Oostkerke which features flower-filled gardens, moats and polder meadows.
- Learn about the New German Style: at Hermannshof where [Cassian Schmidt](#) has developed one of the finest and most exciting modern gardens in Europe; and at [HORTVS](#) the garden of Peter Janke, a rising star in German landscape design.
- View the abundant rose collections in the traditional 'kasteel' gardens of Hex, and Coloma, the latter containing over 3000 varieties.
- View the great Gothic churches, town halls and merchant palaces of Brussels, Bruges, Ghent and Antwerp.
- In Antwerp, Brussels and Bruges visit world-class collections of paintings, sculptures and drawings; we view works by Peter Paul Rubens, Jan van Eyck, Rogier van der Weyden, Hans Memling, Frans Hals, Peter Bruegel, Jan Brueghel the Elder, Anthony van Dyck and René Magritte.
- Explore the Art Deco home of David and Alice van Buuren; the private house and studio of Art Nouveau Architect, Victor Horta; and the house and studio of Rubens with a garden inspired by his painting *The Walk in the Garden*.
- Spend two nights in the charming medieval town of Durbuy; walk through the Forest of the Ardennes, and view ancient dolmens and menhirs in the neighbouring village of Wéris.
- Take a cruise from Boppard to Rudesheim am Rhein; this UNESCO World Heritage listed stretch of the Upper Middle Rhine Valley is dotted with castles, historic towns and vineyards.
- Enjoy fine food, dining at the 2-star Michelin restaurant [Le Chalet de la Forêt](#), in Brussels, after taking the aperitif in its vegetable garden where Erik Dhont combines landscaping with art and the use of abstract forms.

### 21-day Cultural Garden Tour of Belgium and the Rhine Valley

Overnight Antwerp (5 nights) • Bruges (3 nights) • Ghent (2 nights) • Brussels (3 nights) • Durbuy (2 nights) • Maastricht (1 night) • Boppard (2 nights) • Rudesheim am Rhein (2 nights)

### Overview

This tour, led by Sandra McMahon, director of Melbourne's important studio, Gardenscape Design, and multi award-winning Belgian documentary filmmaker Diane Perelsztejn, explores the contemporary

renaissance of garden design in Belgium, the Southern Netherlands, and the Rhine Valley. We visit a diversity of private gardens by leading Flemish designers such as Jacques Wirtz, Daniël Ost, Erik Dhont, Piet Blanckaert, Marc Moris and Dutch master Mien Ruys, and spend time with landscape architect, Chris Ghyselen, in his private garden noted for its use of fine grasses and perennials. We visit Domain Hemelrijk, the former home of Robert and Jelena de Belder who designed their private garden with their close friend, Russell Page. We learn about the New German Style: at Hermannshof where Cassian Schmidt has developed one of the finest and most exciting modern gardens in Europe; and at HORTVS the garden of Peter Janke, a rising star in German landscape design. The Northern Renaissance flowered in the great paintings of Flemish and German artists like Jan van Eyck and Joachim Patinir, who set their figures in wondrous landscapes, paralleling the region's leadership in Renaissance and Baroque gardening. We explore the emergence of Northern Art in Antwerp's and Bruges' fine collections and in masterpieces like Van Eyck's Ghent Altarpiece. We also encounter Peter Paul Rubens' own studio and garden, and the emergence of Art Nouveau and Surrealism in architectural masterpieces of Victor Horta and René Magritte's extraordinary paintings. The tour visits grand castles and country houses, wonderful historic towns like Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges, beautiful medieval villages like Durbuy and fairytale castles perched on mountain tops along the Rhine Valley. We enjoy fine food, dining at the 2-star Michelin restaurant Le Chalet de la Forêt, in Brussels, after taking the aperitif in its vegetable garden where Erik Dhont combines landscaping with art and the use of abstract forms. We explore the lovely forest of the Ardennes and end our tour with a cruise down one of the Rhine's most beautiful stretches, recognised in UNESCO's World Heritage listing.

## Leaders



### Sandra McMahon

Horticulturalist, landscape designer and lecturer at the Burnley Horticultural Campus, University of Melbourne. Sandra, who also holds a BA degree majoring in French and German, brings her profound knowledge to ASA garden tours in Belgium and Germany.

Sandra graduated with a BA from the University of Melbourne, majoring in and French and German language and literature. She taught both languages for a number of years, and travelled extensively, living in Germany in the late seventies. She is a fluent speaker of German and has a deep interest in German history and culture.

In 1998 she graduated from Burnley Horticultural College. Since then she has operated her own successful and rapidly expanding landscape design business out of Melbourne. She designs in a variety of styles, but a constant theme in all her work is the use of plant material for structure. She has a very broad plant knowledge. Her work has been featured regularly in the print media and on television, and her gardens have been open to the public through various open garden schemes, and in the biennial *Garden Designfest* since its inception.

Sandra lectures in landscape design and plant selection at the Burnley Horticultural Campus of the University of Melbourne, and is currently President of the Friends of Burnley Gardens.

### [Sandra McMahon - Gardenscape Design](#)

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### Diane Perelsztejn

Educated in Brussels, Diane is a native French and Flemish speaker. A multi award-winning independent film-maker, she has travelled extensively throughout Europe, Asia and the US to produce documentaries about history, art and music.

Raised in Brussels, Diane, a native French and Flemish speaker, migrated to Melbourne in 1996. She is a multi award-winning independent documentary film-maker, having graduated in 1981 from the Institut des Arts de Diffusion, in Louvain-La-Neuve, Belgium. Diane has been fortunate to travel extensively throughout Europe, Asia and the US to produce her documentaries about history, art and music. Her films have been

widely broadcast and distributed around the world. Her documentary *Kathleen Ferrier* (2012), on the British contralto singer, narrated by Charlotte Rampling, has been released worldwide on Decca. Her latest documentary *The Paper Brigade* (2019) tells the moving story of how a small band of Jewish poets and writers saved priceless collections of books and manuscripts from destruction during the Nazi occupation of Lithuania, and then again during the Sovietisation of the Baltic states.

Diane also pursues a passion for singing. She graduated in 1994 in classical singing from Académie de Musique in Anderlecht, Belgium, and has taught French for singing and French opera at the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne. Diane has been working with ASA since 2013 and is taking tours throughout Europe.

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### *Combine this tour with*

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19 MAY – 1 JUN 2020



## Itinerary

The following itinerary describes a range of gardens which we plan to visit. Several are accessible to the public, but many require special permission which may only be confirmed closer to the tour's departure. The daily activities described in this itinerary may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, flight schedules and confirmation of private visits. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents prior to departure. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches & evening meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch and D=dinner.

### Antwerp - 5 nights

Day 1: Wednesday 3 June, Brussels – Antwerp

- Arrival Transfer for participants arriving on the ASA 'designated' flight
- Short Orientation

Our tour commences in Antwerp. Participants taking the ASA 'designated' flight are scheduled to arrive into Brussels in the mid-afternoon. Upon arrival we transfer by private coach to the [Hotel 't Sandt](#) in Antwerp. If you are travelling independently, please make your own way to the hotel or contact ASA for assistance with a private transfer.

Time permitting, we will take a short orientation walk around the hotel precinct. (Overnight Antwerp)

Day 2: Thursday 4 June, Antwerp – Berlaar-Gestel – Lier – Antwerp

- 'Morishof': private garden of [Marc Moris](#), Berlaar-Gestel
- 't-Kranske': City garden renovated by Marc Moris, Lier
- Private garden design by [Erik Dhont](#), Lier (to be confirmed)
- Welcome Dinner at the Sir Anthony Van Dijck Restaurant

“Flanders was once the leading horticultural nation of Europe. In the sixteenth century the Antwerp humanists turned Flanders into a centre of botany. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries dozens of fruit varieties were created and the rarest plants grown and improved. But ... war and foreign occupation put an end to this thriving garden culture. In recent years we have witnessed a remarkable revival of gardening and beautiful new gardens are now once more [being] created”.

Today we are introduced to the work of two of Belgium’s leading landscape designers, Marc Moris and Erik Dhont. Marc Moris founded Groep Moris in 1986. Considered a master of simplicity, he has acquired a reputation for designing gardens which have an air of maturity. Part of the secret to his success has been his 25ha nursery where he grows solitary trees and large shrubs which are up to 100 years old, and which are allowed to develop as naturally as possible. This makes his plants particularly suitable for the ‘timeless’ gardens which he creates. This morning we visit ‘Morishof’, Marc Moris’ private domain, located in the small picturesque village of Gestel. His 3ha garden includes a vegetable garden, a meadow, natural swimming pool and a flower garden; Gestel itself is surrounded by four castles.

In the nearby town of Lier we visit ‘t-Kranske, a monastic complex restored by Marc Moris. Originally an 18th-century convent, it later became a school which built additional classrooms over the courtyard. As part of his renovation, Marc Moris cleared the courtyard and developed a 6000m<sup>2</sup> city garden. Key elements of the original convent including the main chapel were also restored. We shall tour the gardens and visit the flower shop of resident artist Raf Verwimp.

Erik Dhont is an internationally renowned landscape architect. Based in Brussels, his portfolio includes a huge range of projects: private and public gardens, urban developments, farms and restoration work. One of his projects in Lier involved the restoration of an early 19th-century park. Today this private garden, which we hope to visit, includes an extensive collection of shrubs and flowering trees, ancient garden follies and a spectacular walk of cut flowers among flowing box hedges.

Tonight we enjoy a welcome dinner at the Sir Anthony Van Dijck Restaurant located in the medieval quarter of Antwerp. (Overnight Antwerp) BD

### Day 3: Friday 5 June, Antwerp – Schoten – Essen – Antwerp

- Private garden of [Jacques Wirtz](#), Schoten – featured in Monty Don’s [Around the World in 80 Gardens](#)
- Private garden designed by Jacques Wirtz
- Domain De Hemelrijk, Essen
- Museum aan de Stroom (exterior only) and Antwerp’s historic port

This morning we visit the private garden of the late Jacques Wirtz, the world-renowned Belgian landscape architect who, in his innovative gardens, enhanced his sculptural treatment of boxwood and yew hedges by drawing on his deep knowledge of plants and flowers. Wirtz, whose career began when he opened a flower nursery in 1946, would ultimately be compared to André Le Nôtre, the French landscape architect who designed the magnificent gardens of Versailles. His son, Martin, who is now CEO of Wirtz International, has kindly agreed to show us the family’s private garden. Nearby we also visit another private garden designed by his father.

From Schoten we travel north to the small town of Essen located just south of the Netherlands border. After lunch at Restaurant Kiekenhoeve we visit the private arboretum and gardens of De Hemelrijk, home to the De Belder family since 1961. These private gardens were designed by Jelena and Robert De Belder together with their close friend, the internationally renowned garden designer Russell Page, who regularly

stayed here. Page's close association with the De Belders explains the uniqueness of this garden in his *oeuvre*, for it was not designed as a formal project but rather evolved informally during his sojourns there; often a section to be developed on a particular day would be sketched out roughly at breakfast. The result has been described as 'a natural looking, idealistic, Arcadian landscape'.

During our return drive to Antwerp we make a short diversion to view the impressive exterior of Museum aan de Stroom (MAS). This extraordinary ultramodern tower, composed of great blocks separated by undulating glass walls, was designed by the acclaimed Rotterdam firm Neutelings-Riedijk Architecten. Across from the MAS is Antwerp's Port Authority which includes the new Port House designed by Zaha Hadid Architects, and the Red Star Line Museum designed by New York architects Beyer Blinder Belle. A short visit to the rooftop of the MAS provides panoramic views of the city and its historic port. (Overnight Antwerp) BL

#### Day 4: Saturday 6 June, Antwerp

- Rubens' House
- Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekathedraal (Cathedral of Our Lady)
- The Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp (KMSKA) (*subject to reopening in 2020*)

This morning we visit the house and studio that the great 17th-century artist, Peter Paul Rubens, built for himself. Rubens was not only a famous painter but also a great humanist and diplomat. Having garnered great wealth, he was able to build this palatial house, living here and working in his adjacent studio. He entertained Europe's royalty and aristocracy in the house, displaying his impressive art collection in a beautiful art room. We visit the house, the workshop and Rubens' charming garden inspired by his painting *The Walk in the Garden* (c. 1631).

We also visit the Cathedral of Our Lady. Four of Rubens' most important paintings, including the *Raising of the Cross* and his *Descent from the Cross*, embellish this vast seven-nave Gothic cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In the afternoon we visit KMSKA, a world-class museum due to open in 2020 after extensive renovations. The collection of paintings, sculptures and drawings, dating from the 14th to the 20th centuries, includes work by Jan van Eyck, Rogier van der Weyden, Hans Memling, Frans Hals, Jan Brueghel the Elder, Peter Paul Rubens, and his pupil Anthony van Dyck. (Overnight Antwerp) B

#### Day 5: Sunday 7 June, Antwerp – Hoeven – Schijf – Vrasene – Antwerp

- Tielens and Tielens, Hoeven
- De Jorissenhoeve, Schijf
- De Wiedenhof, Vrasene

This morning we drive across the border to visit two private Dutch gardens. We first visit the garden of Albert Tielens in Hoeven. Albert is a passionate gardener; his work is characterised by straight lines and circles which are perfectly balanced by sumptuous plantings. Within the garden lies a fifty-metre long swimming pond lined with mixed borders. Avenues of pear, lime and maple trees divide the peaceful lawns, and to the rear of the garden is a *vliedberg* – an artificial hill surrounded by a canal. Such man-made hills were climbed in order to escape rising flood waters.

In the neighbouring village of Schijf we visit De Jorissenhoeve, an historic 19th-century farmhouse owned by garden designer Ineke Lambregts. This garden 'flows' between verdant 'rooms': stunning flower court

with scented roses, herb garden, heritage vegetable garden, water features, woodland garden, and the pasture where very contented Lakenvelder cows graze.

From Schijf we return to East Flanders to visit De Wiedenhof, the private garden of Leo and Suzanne Laureyns-Wynter. This long, relatively narrow garden (150 x 25m), a brilliant innovation in design, has been laid out by the owners in a most unconventional way. The length of the garden is emphasized by two 90m-long grass strips with superbly maintained pleached hornbeam hedges forming a powerful framework for sumptuous seasonal plantings. In summer we will see roses, iris and many other perennials. (Overnight Antwerp) BL

### Bruges - 3 nights

Day 6: Monday 8 June, Antwerp – Oostekloo – Damme – Sijsele – Bruges

- Bijsterveld, Oostekloo
- Medieval village of Damme
- Kasteel van Oostkerke, Damme
- Private garden of [Katrien Vandierendonck](#), Sijsele

Today we travel to West Flanders, visiting three very different private gardens. Outside the historic village of Oostekloo lies Bijsterveld, an old walled farm that once belonged to a 14th-century Cistercian Abbey. Its wall, lined with majestic pollarded willows, encloses a 2.5-acre romantic garden originally created by artist Nina Balthau in 1988. A series of hedged enclosures leads to arches which groan under roses, and to meadows that erupt in sheets of wildflowers. A walking path gives access to the lovely old canals which surround the farm. Birgit Rouseré purchased the garden in 2013 and has continued to develop it with the assistance of landscape architect Steven De Bruycker.

From Oostekloo we journey to the picturesque medieval village of Damme which lies 6kms northeast of Bruges. Before the Zwijn inlet silted, this village served as the customs point and outer port of Bruges and thus enjoyed great importance and prosperity. There will be time at leisure for lunch and to explore the village, which features a magnificent Gothic Town Hall, the impressive Church of Our Lady, and the canals that are lined with magnificent wind-twisted poplars.

Oostkerke Castle in Damme had lain in ruins for hundreds of years before Allison Campbell-Roebling and her husband Baron Joseph Van Der Elst, with the help of the great Dutch landscape architect Mien Ruys, restored it to its former glory. Mien Ruys was a specialist in hardy plants; she also had a special feeling for the use of axes and perspectives. The result is an idyllic combination of intimate spaces and grandiose avenues. Separate gardens, including a private courtyard, a Maria garden and a rose garden, combine harmoniously with surrounding polder meadows. Footpaths have been laid out on the foundations of the old ramparts, and the ancient moats have been excavated to form an important section of the current garden. The gardens, which have undergone further restoration under the direction of André Van Wassenhove and Maurice Vergote, are considered to be one of the most beautiful gardens of West Flanders.

Our final visit today is to the private garden of Katrien Vandierendonck, an internationally celebrated floral designer. We visit this gentle and welcoming artist in her own idyllic 7500 m<sup>2</sup> garden. Here numerous garden 'rooms', a huge Wisteria arch, pond and flower borders, harmonize perfectly with the surrounding landscape. At the end of the visit we will be treated to afternoon tea with delicious home-baked waffles.

From the village of Sijsele we continue to Bruges, the capital of West Flanders. One of a few canal-based

northern cities, it is often referred to as 'The Venice of the North'. The historical centre is a UNESCO World Heritage site. (Overnight Bruges) B

#### Day 7: Tuesday 9 June, Bruges

- Private gardens designed by landscape architect [Piet Blanckaert](#)
- Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk (Church of our Lady)
- Saint John's Hospital & the Hans Memling Museum
- Canal Cruise of Bruges

We spend the morning visiting private gardens designed by internationally acclaimed landscape architect Piet Blanckaert, who is based in Bruges. His recent projects include the Flanders Fields Memorial Garden, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War, which is located at Wellington Barracks adjacent to Buckingham Palace, London.

This afternoon we take a walking tour of Bruges. We begin with a visit to the Church of Our Lady, the interior of which is a treasure house of art. In the choir behind the high altar are the tombs of Charles the Bold, last Valois Duke of Burgundy, and his daughter, Mary. Their gilt bronze full-length effigies lie on polished slabs of black stone. The most celebrated treasure of the church is, however, Michelangelo's *Bruges Madonna* (1504), a marble sculpture of the Virgin and Child probably originally sculpted for Siena Cathedral.

We next visit the St John's Hospital Complex, which also includes the small Hans Memling Museum. Hans Memling (1430-1494), who was born in Germany, worked in Bruges from 1465, and was closely associated with the Knights Hospitaller. One of this museum's greatest treasures is his late masterpiece, *The Shrine of St Ursula*, a carved and gilded wooden reliquary containing panel inserts painted by the master.

Until around 1600, Bruges was an important Hanseatic League port city linked to the sea by the Zwiijn canal. Other canals were dug to facilitate the passage of goods to this canal and thence to its commercial outpost, the aforementioned harbour at Damme. We conclude the afternoon with a short canal cruise. This evening we dine together at a local restaurant. (Overnight Bruges) BD

#### Day 8: Wednesday 10 June, Bruges – Oedelem – Beernem – Bruges

- Private garden of André Van Wassenhove, Assebroek
- Private garden of landscape designer, [Chris Ghyselen](#), Oedelem
- 'Boereweg' in Beernem: Chris Ghyselen's first garden design
- A new cottage garden, designed by Chris Ghyselen

This morning we visit a private city garden designed by the late André Van Wassenhove, a well-known landscape architect who was based in Bruges. We then travel to the rural municipality of Beernem where we will be joined by Chris Ghyselen who will show us his own private garden. Chris Ghyselen's parents' garden was designed by Van Wassenhove, whose use of perennials inspired the young man. After training as a landscape architect, Chris worked with Van Wassenhove for six months before forming his own landscape company in 1984. Known for his use of fine grasses and perennials, Ghyselen enjoys the combination of strong structure, often using hedges, with informal planting. Chris's 4500m<sup>2</sup> garden is located on a cliff that extends from Oedelem to Ursel. The presence of clay in combination with compost and sand allows plants to grow very well here. The garden, created in two phases, features playful hedges, water features, and a double border of high and small perennials. There is also a swimming pond and a flower meadow. The use of many grasses provides a perfect transition to the surrounding landscape.

In the afternoon we visit two other gardens by Chris Ghyselen: a new cottage garden, and 'Boereweg', Chris's first design project created over 30 years ago. Owned by Rita and green journalist, Marc Verachtert, an original farmyard and garden were developed into a spacious garden of 8000m<sup>2</sup>. By using low hedges, Chris was able to preserve open character of the farm garden. The house has two terraces: one with a pond, the other with a view of a perennial 'room'. Various other garden 'rooms' contain an orchard, a nut garden with vegetables and cut flowers, and an animal meadow with pollarded willows. (Overnight Bruges) BL

## Ghent - 2 nights

Day 9: Thursday 11 June, Bruges – Deinze – Ghent

- Ooidonk Castle
- Cathedral of St Bavo, Ghent

Today we depart Bruges and travel to Ghent, the capital of East Flanders. Our journey takes us Ooidonk Castle, near the city of Ghent. The moated castle stands stately, strong and sumptuous, set on a bend of the river Leie. We take a private visit of this medieval fortress, rebuilt in 1595, widely considered as one of Belgium's finest castles and often called the 'Chambord of Flanders'. It is a unique example of the Hispanic-Flemish architectural style that emerged during the Renaissance, and is still the living home to Count and Countess Henry t'Kint de Roodenbeke and their three young sons. The salons are filled with original paintings, engravings and antiques including 17th-century cabinets, 18th-century Beauvais tapestries and Delft porcelain.

The castle is surrounded by nearly four acres of magical landscaped gardens in the French style. In the summer, roses adorn the garden beds, supplemented by orange trees. Red beech avenue and age-old oaks are planted together in groups of five. A bridge leads to a formal English park, laid out around a 19th-century pavilion.

This afternoon we visit the monumental masterpiece of Flemish art, the huge 24-panel altarpiece, the *Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, in Ghent's Cathedral of St Bavo. This great work was begun by Hubert van Eyck (c.1390-1426) and completed after his death by Jan van Eyck in 1432. Commissioned for the chapel in which it still stands by a wealthy alderman in 1420, the painting is arguably the greatest work of the Northern Renaissance. It is a triumph of the use of thin oil glazes to bathe scenes in a rich luminous atmosphere and of the naturalism that represented a giant step forward from the rigid style of Gothic religious art. Its vast intricacy is spellbinding. St Bavo's other treasures include Rubens's recently restored *Conversion of St Bavo* (1623) and the magnificent funerary monument of Bishop Anton Triest by François and Hieronymus II du Quesnoy. The Romanesque crypt holds a wealth of religious antiquities, vestments, sculptures, and paintings. (Overnight Ghent) B

Day 10: Friday 12 June, Ghent – Temse – Ghent

- Full day visiting gardens designed by Daniël Ost (to be confirmed)
- De Uil (The Owl), Temse

Daniël Ost began his working life as a florist; he is now celebrated throughout Europe and Japan as the world's leading floral artist. His company, *Gardens Daniel Ost*, however, is about much more than floral art: his design team is highly sought after for projects, from roof terraces in Tokyo to public and private gardens all over Europe. Daniël will accompany us (or if unavailable his General Manager) for a full day in Ghent, as we visit four of his gardens, including the garden of Huis De Uil in the Fonteinstraat, the former residence of artist Karel Aubroeck (1894-1986), now the home of interior designer Marc Massa and Roger Liekens. This

garden is noted for its beautiful wild shadow garden and a particularly stylized south garden. (Overnight Ghent) B

### Brussels - 3 nights

Day 11: Saturday 13 June, Ghent – Gaasbeek – Sint-Pieters-Leeuw – Brussels

- Baljuwshuis, Gaasbeek: Private garden designed by Erik Dhont (*to be confirmed*)
- Rose Garden of Kasteel Coloma, Sint-Pieters-Leeuw
- Brussels: Orientation Walk

Erik Dhont is internationally renowned for his free and sensitive interpretations of historic garden design. Based in Brussels, he has created a number of spectacular private gardens throughout Belgium and Europe. He has also undertaken numerous large-scale projects including the gardens designed for the Musée Picasso in Paris (2014) and the 55-acre park for fashion designer Dries Van Noten. Outside Brussels, in the town of Gaasbeek, he designed a contemporary maze of hedges and trees to embellish a 17th-century manor house, which we hope to visit.

This afternoon we visit the internationally renowned rose gardens of Kasteel Coloma which contain approximately 3000 varieties of roses and 30,000 rose bushes. Originally built as a fortress in the 16th century, the estate was later transformed into a *lusthuis* (Flemish country residence). Its gardens are divided into several areas. The first incorporates a traditional geometric structure with varieties of red and white roses planted in designs representing the heraldry of Sint-Pieters-Leeuw. The second garden, which offers fine views over Coloma, displays roses cultivated by Flemish horticulturalists. The third rose garden traces the evolution of the rose from the 18th century to the present with roses from all over the world. There is also a Japanese rose garden, an area devoted to 400 long-stemmed rose bushes, and a rose orchard with more than 125 varieties of rambling and climbing roses.

We spend three nights based in a charming boutique hotel in the historic centre of Brussels. On arrival there will be an optional short orientation walk to Brussels' Grand Place. (Overnight Brussels) B

Day 12: Sunday 14 June, Brussels

- Musée Victor Horta
- The Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium: Musée Magritte
- Time at leisure

Brussels was the cradle of Art Nouveau, which spread across the world in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. John Julius Norwich has described its Belgian inventor and most famous exponent, Victor Horta, as 'undoubtedly the key European Art Nouveau architect'. Horta, for example, inspired Hector Guimard, France's most important exponent of Art Nouveau, who applied Horta's whiplash design in his work for the Paris Métro.

We first visit the Musée Victor Horta, located in Horta's private house and studio. Built between 1898 and 1901, the two buildings making up the museum exemplify Art Nouveau at its height. Their utterly exquisite, finely detailed interior decoration has largely been retained, with the mosaics, stained glass, and wall decorations forming a harmonious and elegant whole.

After a coffee break we move to the museum dedicated to Brussels' most famous modern artist, the Surrealist painter René Magritte. The Musée René Magritte, displaying some 200 original paintings, drawing

and sculptures mostly donated by the artist's wife Georgette and by his principal collector, Irene Hamoir Scutenaire, is the world's largest collection of his work. We explore all phases of Magritte's *oeuvre*, especially that in which incongruous, fantastic subject matter is presented in a style of crisp realism.

The remainder of the day is at leisure. You may wish to continue exploring the wonderful world of Brussels' Royal art collections. The old masters' section reflects the vibrant artistic traditions of south Flanders. Artists represented include Rogier van der Weyden, Petrus Christus, Dirk Bouts, Hans Memling, Hieronymus Bosch, Lucas Cranach, Gerard David and Pieter Brueghel the Elder, whose *Fall of the Rebel Angels* and *The Census at Bethlehem* are collection highlights. Other later masters include Flemish Peter Paul Rubens, Anthony van Dyck and Jacques Jordaens, and works from the Dutch, French, Italian and Spanish schools, including masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vouet, Claude, Ribera and Tiepolo. (Overnight Brussels) B

### Day 13: Monday 15 June, Brussels

- Arboretum Kreftenbroek Foundation
- Chalet de la Forêt: Lunch & [vegetable garden designed by Erik Dhont](#)
- Musée David et Alice van Buuren: House and garden

We begin this morning with a visit to the Arboretum Kreftenbroek. In the fall of 1980 Etienne and Rose-Marie Van Campenhout purchased a dilapidated farm in Rhode St Genèse on the outskirts of Brussels. The following spring they began the huge task of renovating the farm and transforming its waist-high wild growth into a garden. They later purchased adjacent land that has enabled the creation of a magnificent series of gardens. This sublime series of green spaces begins in front of the house in what is known as the natural garden, the main focal point of which is a small pond. Behind the house is a more classically designed garden with a canopied alley of apple trees linking two large Louis XVI urns. From here open areas, intimate green 'rooms', an alternating serpentine pond and an elegant staircase lead to the final goal; the valley garden designed by Jacques Wirtz. This most recent garden links the slopes of the valley, with focal points of hedges, trees, water and sculpture.

At midday we dine at the 2-star Michelin restaurant, Chalet de la Forêt. We take the aperitif in the structured vegetable garden designed for Chef Pascal Devalkeneer by Erik Dhont. This is a magnificent garden of diverse flavours and mixed styles. The English-style flowerbeds of herbaceous plants are organised by colour and are divided into plots in the style of French gardens. Surrounding plots of vegetable gardens specimens of local rustic varieties such as plum trees, mirabelle plum trees and apple trees together recreate a natural Belgian habitat.

We end our day with a visit to the extraordinary house bought in 1928 by the banker and art patron David van Buuren. While its exterior is typical of the so-called Amsterdam School, its interior decoration presents a feast of Art Deco by Belgian, French and Dutch designers. Van Buuren and his wife Alice Piette collected rare furniture, carpets, stained-glass windows, sculptures and masterpieces of painting from the 15th to the 19th century. Along with a historical collection including two Brueghels there are works by Fantin-Latour, Ensor, van Gogh, Signac, Van Dongen and Max Ernst. Van Buuren was also the only patron of van de Woestyne, the precursor of surrealism; the house possesses 32 of his paintings. The gardens, which cover 1.5 hectares, were initially designed by Jules Buyskens, one of the main theorists of the distinctive Belgian Picturesque Garden movement. Between 1927 and 1928 Buyskens created a geometrical 'Picturesque Garden' to reflect the Art Deco style of the house. "Its main characteristics were, by the creation of different levels and viewpoints, to give in a confined space an evocation of a variety of natural forms: a wild garden, water and bog gardens, a rock garden, a walled garden, a fernery and herbaceous border. His ingenuity in the use of water is illustrated by a stream which trickles around the site." In 1969 the Brussels designer, René Pechère, enlarged the gardens with the addition of the 'Garden of the Heart' and the 'Labyrinth'.

(Overnight Brussels) BL

### Durbuy - 2 nights

Day 14: Tuesday 16 June, Brussels – Wépion – Dinant – Durbuy

- Le Sous-Bois, Wépion
- Gardens of Annevoie
- The provincial town of Dinant

We spend the day in the Meuse Valley visiting a private garden, the garden of a beautiful château and the lovely provincial town of Dinant.

Outside Wépion we visit Le Sous-Bois, a private garden designed by owners Philippe Taminiaux and Karine Fonsny. This 35-acre garden, which includes an English garden and over 100 varieties of climbing roses, affords sweeping views of the Meuse Valley. From the entrance gate a path leads through a pine forest, in which views repeatedly open up. Biodiversity reigns supreme in this garden: from the expanses of shade-loving plantings to long, lushly planted borders that lead the visitor deep into the garden. Mixed borders incorporate not only perennials, but shrub roses and a huge variety of other shrubs grown for their foliage colours and textures.

Our second visit is to the Jardins d'Annevoie in the Haute-Meuse, a region of forests and rivers. The gardens of Annevoie combine the splendour and majesty of the French formal style harmoniously with English romantic whimsy and Italian refinement. As we walk through these 250-year-old water gardens they will reveal their great diversity of cascades and fountains, majestic hundred-year old trees, trimmed hornbeam lanes and false grottoes.

From Annevoie we journey to the pretty, historic riverside town of Dinant, home of people as diverse as Adolphe Sax (inventor of the saxophone) and Joachim Patinir (the 'inventor' of landscape painting in Western Europe). Here we shall have time at leisure to explore the village. You may wish to visit the Collegiate Church of Our Lady or the Citadel, walk across the Charles de Gaulle Bridge with its giant futuristic saxophone sculptures, or even visit the Adolphe Sax House Museum.

From Dinant we travel east into the province of Luxembourg, the southernmost province of Wallonia. Relatively sparsely populated, about 80% of the province is covered by the densely wooded Forest of Ardennes. (Overnight Durbuy) BLD

Day 15: Wednesday 17 June, Durbuy – Wéris – Durbuy

- Nature walk to view the Wéris megaliths (6kms, 2.5hrs)
- The Maison des Mégalithes, Wéris
- Afternoon at leisure

Durbuy, nestled on the banks of the Ourthe River, is considered one of the most charming medieval towns of Wallonia. It is composed of tiny cobbled streets, timber-frame houses and a castle; it has also been home to generations of award-winning chefs. The town provides an excellent base from which to explore the Ardennes, a mountainous region of extensive forests of broadleaf and fir, rich in fauna and flora, with steep-sided valleys carved by swift-flowing rivers. Amongst its greenery lie picturesque villages, castles, forts and citadels.

This morning we enjoy a guided six-kilometre walk to the village of Wéris. A member of *Les Plus Beaux Villages de Wallonie*, this village is well known for its half-timbered houses of limestone or sandstone, and its megaliths, including dolmens (chambered tombs) and menhirs (standing stones) which date from 3000 BC. Whilst in Wéris we visit the Maison des Mégalithes which traces the history of the region's megalithic sites.

This afternoon is free for you to explore Durbuy at leisure. (Overnight Durbuy) B

### Maastricht - 1 night

Day 16: Thursday 18 June, Durbuy – Heers – Stokrooie – Maastricht

- Kasteel van Heks (Hex Castle), Heers
- Dina Deferme, Stokrooie

This morning we visit Hex Castle to view its world-famous rose collection. The 18th-century castle was built by Count Charles-François de Velbrück, an enlightened ruler, an advocate of liberal thought and patron of education. Originally built on a hilltop as a hunting pavilion, it was surrounded by 12 acres of formal gardens, inspired by French models including a rose garden, a Chinese garden, and a vegetable garden. De Velbrück later added a landscape park inspired by Capability Brown. The original formal Renaissance garden, which was restored by Jacques Wirtz, includes a Nut Garden and a walled vegetable garden. Today Hex is privately owned by Count Ghislain d'Ursel who carefully maintains the estate. The celebrated rose garden contains an exceptional assortment of about 250 varieties, of which the oldest were planted in the original garden. In 2003 the Garden of Roses was granted the Award of Garden Excellence by the World Federation of Rose Societies.

At midday we continue north to a wonderful 4-hectare romantic garden with an English touch, constructed around a restored farmhouse. Here, landscape architect and boarder specialist, Dina Deferme, has created a unique atmosphere using plant combinations which change colour every month. The garden, which also includes a natural pond, a shadow garden and herb garden, offers magnificent views over the surrounding countryside. Dina is author of several books including *Magie van een tuin (Magic of a garden)*.

In the late afternoon we drive to Maastricht, located on the River Meuse in the Southern Netherlands. (Overnight Maastricht) BL

### Boppard - 2 nights

Day 17: Friday 19 June, Maastricht – Neusse – Hilden – Boppard

- Museum Insel Hombroich, Neusse
- HORTVS Peter Janke Gartenkonzepte, Hilden

We begin this morning with a visit to the Museum Insel Hombroich, located in the North Rhine-Westphalia region of Germany. Art and nature unite in perfect harmony at this beautifully designed private modern art museum, scattered across eleven permanent pavilions, ('chapels in the landscape') set within a 25-acre nature park. Landscape designer Bernhard Korte resisted the temptation to restore the gardens of the Rosa Haus ('Pink House'), an overgrown industrialist's villa which was built in 1816. Instead, he created a mesmerising arcadian landscape of meadows punctuated by remnant old trees and overgrown box plants, which have long since ceased to be pruned or clipped. The valuable art collection includes Persian sculptures, Khmer art and Chinese figures dating back to the Han period placed side by side with the works of Gotthard Graubner, Jean Fautrier, Franz Arp, Constantin Brancusi, Alexander Calder, Eduardo Chillida,

Gustav Klimt, Henri Matisse and Kurt Schwitters.

From Neusse we drive north of Hilden to visit HORTVS, the garden and nursery of Peter Janke, who is a rising star in German landscape design. From childhood he studied plant communities in the wild, and later was inspired by the work of Beth Chatto, with whom he studied. He is that rare combination: a true plant collector with an excellent design eye. Set on 14,000m<sup>2</sup>, the garden contains over 4,000 plant varieties grown without irrigation. Throughout, there is a very strong sense of structure and rhythm, yet it is in no way a 'formal' planting.

In the late afternoon we drive to the beautiful small town of Boppard located in the UNESCO heritage-listed Middle Rhine. (Overnight Boppard) BLD

Day 18: Saturday 20 June, Boppard – Eltz – Braubach – Boppard

- Eltz Castle
- Medieval town of Braubach
- Marksburg Castle, Braubach
- Time at leisure

This morning we drive through the forest to Eltz Castle, a medieval fairytale castle nestled in the hills above the Moselle River. Eltz Castle is considered the German knights' castle par excellence. It is still owned by a branch of the same family (the Eltz family) that have lived there since the 12th century, 33 generations ago and was never destroyed, so many of its original furnishings still remain in situ. The castle is surrounded on three sides by the Eltzbach River, a tributary on the north side of the Moselle. It is on a 70-metre (230 ft) rock spur, along an important Roman trade route between rich farmlands and their markets. To reach Eltz Castle, we take a short walk through the Eltz Forest, protected since 2000 as a nature reserve of 300 hectares of forest and an arboretum for its rich variety of indigenous and foreign tree species. The castle counts myths and great art as part of its history. For example, Victor Hugo, the great Romantic poet, wrote enthusiastically about the castle. William Turner, the English painter and inventor of the Rhine Romanticism, was a regular visitor and painted the castle from many different angles.

Then we drive to the beautiful small city of Braubach that nestles below its grand castle on the right bank of the Rhine. You will have lunchtime at leisure to explore its picturesque streets lined with half-timbered old houses before we drive up to Marksburg Castle that occupies a dramatic high spur above the town. In 1276 King Rudolf of Habsburg made Braubach a free city under Count Gottfried of Eppstein. Count Eberhard I of Katzenelnbogen bought the city and castle in 1283. Until 1479, his descendants constantly altered the castle. We shall take a guided tour of the castle before returning to Boppard for the night. (Overnight Boppard) BD

### Rüdesheim am Rhein - 2 nights

Day 19: Sunday 21 June, Boppard – Rüdesheim am Rhein

- Cruise along the Rhine Gorge: Boppard to Rüdesheim am Rhein

Today we cruise along the Rhine Gorge (Upper Middle Rhine Valley), a UNESCO World Heritage region, from Boppard to Rüdesheim am Rhein. This 65-kilometre stretch of the Rhine between Koblenz and Bingen with its castles, half-timbered medieval villages and vineyard terraces, graphically illustrates the long history of human involvement with this dramatic and varied natural landscape. It is intimately associated with history and legend; the poetry and prose of some of Germany's finest writers, Brentano, von Schlegel and

Heine were inspired by this landscape. We shall take a cruise along the Rhine from the town of Boppard to Rudesheim am Rhein. (Overnight Rudesheim am Rhein) BL

Day 20: Monday 22 June, Rudesheim am Rhein – Weinheim – Rudesheim am Rhein

- Sichtungsgarten Hermannshof, Weinheim
- Afternoon at leisure in Rudesheim am Rhein
- Farewell Dinner

This morning we drive to the charming medieval hilltop town of Weinheim to visit Sichtungsgarten Hermannshof, a renowned experimental botanical and trial garden encompassing 6 acres of centuries-old rolling parkland. A mecca for plantspeople and garden designers from around the world, it is considered by many to be one of the finest and most exciting modern gardens in Europe. Director Cassian Schmidt is internationally recognised for his work using natural plant communities as models for sustainable plant combinations in urban environments and private gardens. His work is at the forefront of the New Perennial movement. The garden contains over 2500 different types and species of perennials and a number of notable trees.

This afternoon we return to Rudesheim am Rhein where there will be time to explore this winemaking town with its cobbled streets lined with historic buildings. In the evening we gather for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. (Overnight Rudesheim am Rhein) BD

Day 21: Tuesday 23 June, Rudesheim am Rhein – Frankfurt Airport

- Morning at leisure
- Airport transfer for participants departing on the ASA 'designated' flight

The tour finishes in Rudesheim am Rhein. Participants travelling on the ASA 'designated' flight will transfer to the Frankfurt Airport to take their flight home to Australia in the early afternoon. If you wish to extend your stay in Germany please contact ASA for further information. B

## Accommodation

### 21-day Cultural Garden Tour of Belgium and the Rhine Valley

ASA has selected 3- and 4-star hotels that are themselves historical buildings and/or are located in historical centres. All hotels provide rooms with en suite bathroom.

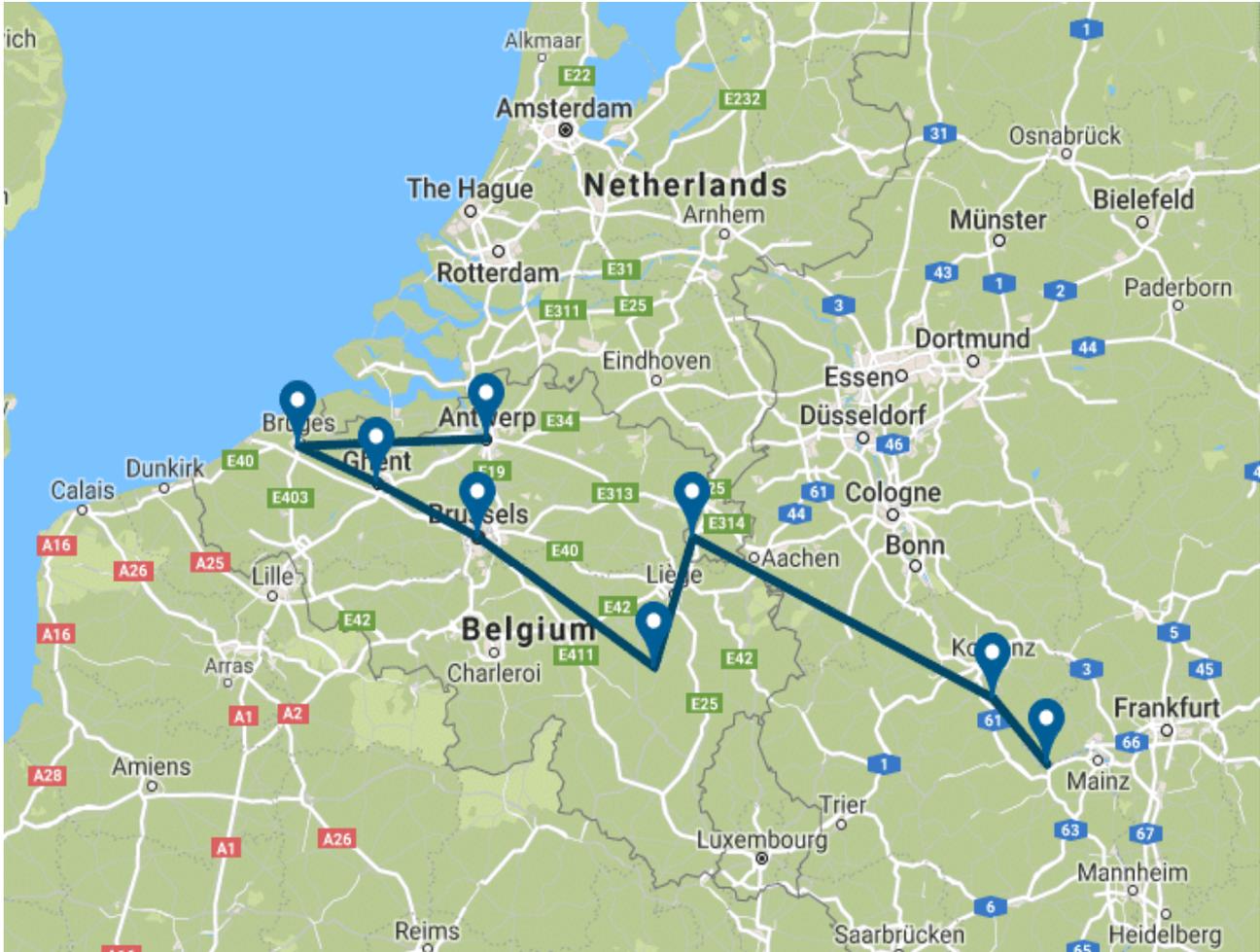
- Antwerp (5 nights): 4-star Hotel 't Sandt – housed in a an elegant 17th-century neo-Rococo mansion located in the historic centre. [www.hotel-sandt.be](http://www.hotel-sandt.be)
- Bruges (3 nights): 4-star Grand Hotel Casselbergh – housed in three former historic residences located in the historic centre. [www.grandhotelcasselbergh.com](http://www.grandhotelcasselbergh.com)
- Ghent (2 nights): 3-star Novotel Ghent Centrum – a modern hotel located in the historic centre, 350m from St Bravo's Cathedral. [www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com)
- Brussels (3 nights): 4-star Hotel Le Dixseptième – a charming boutique hotel situated in the historic centre, 240m from the Grand Place. [www.ledixseptieme.be](http://www.ledixseptieme.be)
- Durbuy (2 nights): 4-star Le Sanglier des Ardennes – situated in the centre of town overlooking the medieval castle. [www.sanglier-des-ardennes.be](http://www.sanglier-des-ardennes.be)
- Maastricht (1 night): 4-star Crown Plaza Hotel – a modern hotel overlooking the Meuse River. [www.cpmaastricht.com](http://www.cpmaastricht.com)
- Boppard (2 nights): 4-star Bellevue Rheinhotel – housed in an elegant 19th-century Art Nouveau building overlooking the Rhine River. [www.bellevue-boppard.de](http://www.bellevue-boppard.de)
- Rüdesheim am Rhein (2 nights): 4-star Breuer's Rüdesheimer Schloss – a family-run hotel housed in an 18th-century building, situated between the quiet Steingasse and the lively Drosselgasse lane. [ruedesheimer-schloss.com](http://ruedesheimer-schloss.com)

Note: *Hotels are subject to change, in which case a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

### Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double (or twin) room for single occupancy throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

## Tour Map



## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$11,380.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 31 July 2019

AUD \$11,580.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2100.00 Single Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

### Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3- and 4-star hotels
- Meals as indicated in the tour itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=evening meal
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports)
- Lecture and site-visit program
- Entrance fees
- Tour Notes
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, local guides and restaurants for included meals

### Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:

- Airfare: Australia-Brussels, Frankfurt-Australia
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)



## Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 21-day Garden Tour of Belgium & the Rhine involves:

- A moderate amount of walking mainly during outdoor site visits, often up and down hills and/or flights of stairs, along cobbled streets and uneven terrain. You therefore need to be a good walker and be prepared to stand for some time in front of buildings and artworks.
- Extensive coach travel - often on minor roads.
- The daily schedule generally involves an early-morning departure (between 8.00-8.30am), concluding in the late afternoon (between 5.30-6.30pm).
- 3- and 4-star hotels with seven hotel changes.
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portage only includes 1 piece of luggage per person.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

**Please note:** it is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. For further information please refer to the ASA Reservation Application Form.

### Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers: [www.smartraveller.gov.au](http://www.smartraveller.gov.au)

## Booking Conditions

### Make a Reservation

#### ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

### Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than **75 days** prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

### Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double (or twin) room for single occupancy throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single occupancy is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.



# Reservation Application

TOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TOUR DATES \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

## Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr  Mrs  Ms  Miss  Dr  Other \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth / / \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER Male  Female

Passport Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date / / \_\_\_\_\_ Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed  I'm renewing my passport  ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

## Travel Plans

I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options.  Business Class  Economy Class

I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / / \_\_\_\_\_

I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

Frequent Flyer \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Airline \_\_\_\_\_ Airline Seat preference \_\_\_\_\_  
Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ (please note request only)

## Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like:  a twin-bedded room  a double-bedded room  a room for sole occupancy

I am travelling:  on my own  with a friend/family member Travel Companion \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals

I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

fish  poultry  red meat  dairy products

eggs  pork  nuts

Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence  Postal Mail  Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Traveller \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at [www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au)
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. [www.traveldoctor.com.au](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) tel: 1300 658 444; [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au) tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

## Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- |   | YES                   | NO                    |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. Do you have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you carry an epipen?  YES  NO

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

## Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour?  YES  NO  
 If yes, please specify

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine?  YES  NO

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

**Diabetics:** You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic?  YES  NO

Are you insulin dependent?  YES  NO

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness?  YES  NO  
 Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

## Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services provided for the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of travelling to, on and from any tour.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Indemnity applies with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
  - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
  - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
  - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally.
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of my continued participation on a tour for whatever reason (refund conditions in ASA's Booking Conditions excepted).

## Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products or services. If a service provider does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (eg. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any such service provider however caused (contingencies). You must take out adequate travel insurance against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour will be limited to the refund of amounts received from you less all non-refundable costs and charges and the costs of any substituted event or alternate services provided. The terms and conditions of the relevant service provider from time to time comprise the sole agreement between you and that service provider.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

## Booking Conditions

### DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

### CANCELLATION FEES

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: \$500\*  
75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due  
45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due  
30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due  
14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

*\*This amount may be **credited** to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.*

**We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.**

### UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

### WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. If an ASA tour is forced to cancel you will get a full refund of all tour monies paid. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to daily itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

### FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

## PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

I accept the conditions on this booking form  I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

## Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Traveller 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- Intention to Travel     Tour Deposit  
 Balance of Payment     Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit  
 Travel Insurance     Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

## International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

### By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

### Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

### Australians Studying Abroad bank details

**Bank** ANZ  
**Branch** 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic  
**Swift Code** ANZBAU3M  
**BSB** 013-423  
**Account No** 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred \_\_\_\_\_

### Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard & Visa 2%  
 American Express 2%

Please debit my:  Mastercard  Visa  American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (CVC) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD

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