

*Travel
Together
with Fellow Miniaturists*

The Benelux Countries

April 6-18, 2006

Amsterdam Pre-Tour

April 3-6, 2006



Included in your tour:

- *All hotels*
- *All dinners and breakfasts*
- *All land travel by motorcoach*
- *All group tours and activities*
- *All tickets to the Preview & Arnhem Show*
- *All airport transfers and luggage handling*
- *Roombox project with Trees Beertema*
- *Easter in Brussels*
- *Escorted by Barbara Spohn and Trees Beertema*
- *Collections, miniature shops and more!*

Your invitation

from Barbara Spohn of *Traveling Together*
& Trees Beertema of *Holland*

Please join Trees and myself for another exciting miniature tour! This adventure promises to be everything you could want in the way of seeing collections, meeting artisans and shopping for minis. Days will be filled with loads of sightseeing and trips to historical sites, attending the Arnhem Poppenhuisstad Show, creating your own Dutch roombox to showcase your miniature purchases at the many shops we will be visiting, along with wonderful accommodations and savory meals. Be prepared to make friendships that last a lifetime...it's a mini-adventure you won't want to miss!

Let the journey begin!
Barbara Spohn



objects from China and commissioned furniture makers and artists to decorate the interior. (www.rijksmuseum.nl) Dinner this evening will be aboard a canal boat, as we enjoy the fascinating scenery of Amsterdam from its many waterways.

April 06, 2006

Today will give you a chance to see the sights of Amsterdam that interest you most. You may want to visit the Van Gogh Museum, Anne Frank's House or the restored house and workshop of Rembrandt, walk along the Spiegelstraat to see the antique shops, visit the floating flower market, or just stroll around this picturesque city. Our hotel is in a great location and the public transportation is easy to use. (www.holland.com)

April 06, 2006

The Main Tour Begins

You will board your flight for the overnight journey to Amsterdam.

April 07, 2006

Flights need to be scheduled to arrive at Schiphol Airport no later than 8:00am, for those arriving from the U.S. Arrangements will be made to meet up with those people that are already in Amsterdam and we will depart for a guided tour of Muiderslot Castle, located at the mouth of the River Vecht in the town of Muiden. Muiderslot was made famous by poet, author and historian P.C. Hooft (1581-1647). The stone settlement was first built in 1280 and although it has been destroyed and rebuilt several times, it still bears the traces of 700 years of history. The castle has now been restored to its former glory of the 13th and 14th century. The flower and vegetable gardens are fine

eighteenth

centuries and will

include the Wooden Shoe

Workshop, Cheese Farm and the Paint Windmill. No visit to Zaanse Schans would be complete without tasting a traditional Dutch pancake, 12 inches in diameter, with a variety of toppings to choose from! (www.zaanseschans.nl) Upon our return to Amsterdam we will visit the Rijksmuseum, best known for its collection of 17th-century Dutch masters, with twenty



Rembrandts and

many other highlights of the period, including works by Vermeer, Frans Hals and Jan Steen. Although a five-year renovation is still in the works and certain wings of the museum will not be open, we will have the chance to see the seventeenth-century cabinet doll's house commissioned by Petronella Oortman, a wealthy Amsterdam lady. Petronella ordered miniature porcelain

Amsterdam Pre-Tour (Optional)

April 03, 2006

If you have never had the opportunity to spend time in Amsterdam...or would like to experience it again, you will board your flight today for the overnight journey to Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam.

April 04, 2006

Flights need to be scheduled to arrive at Schiphol Airport no later than 8:00am. It's Tulip Time in Holland and what better way to begin our adventure than a visit to the famous Keukenhof Gardens! The gardens cover an area of 80 acres and millions of tulips and other bulb flowers will be in bloom, incorporating elements of traditional and modern landscape gardening. (www.keukenhof.nl) For the next three nights we will be staying at the lovely and recently renovated Hotel Estherea, ideally situated in the heart of the city, along the picturesque Singel canal. The Dam, Central Station, the main shopping areas, museums and theaters are all within walking distance. (www.estherea.nl)

April 05, 2006

Our day begins at Zaanse Schans, a delightful old hamlet on the banks of the river Zaan with characteristic green wooden houses, charming gardens, tradesmen's workshops, historic windmills and engaging little shops. Our tour will give you a glimpse of how a typical Zaanse village must have looked in the seventeenth and

examples of medieval gardening and the falconry has been fully restored.

(www.muiderslot.nl) The Arnhem Show Preview begins at 5pm and we will all have tickets! Our hotel for the next two nights is the Bilderberg Arnhem-Velp, located on the edge of Arnhem in an area surrounding the rivers Rijn, IJssel and Waal. (www.hotelvelp.nl)

April 08, 2006

Today will be devoted to the Arnhem Poppenhuisstad Show. The first show began in 1982 in a little shop with a small number of participants and has grown into one of the largest shows in Europe, with over 200 dealers in 2005. (www.arnhem-poppenhuisstad.com) Dinner will be at our hotel this evening and we'll be sure to have a show and tell of purchases made at the show.

April 09, 2006

This morning we depart Arnhem for Palace Het Loo, near Apeldoorn. Three centuries of the Royal House of Orange come to life within the lavishly furnished rooms and lovely sculptured garden of this majestic palace. The palace is a fine example of the life and times of its former inhabitants and the surrounding gardens have largely been restored to their original 17th-century design. (www.paleishetloo.nl) Our next stop is the old town of Haarlem, which played a crucial role in the 80-year war with the Spaniards from 1568-1648. We will be visiting the 17th-century building that houses the Frans Hals Museum, home of the beautiful cabinet dollhouse of Sara Ploos van Amstel-Rothé, in addition to the museum's large collection of paintings and artifacts, all in their original rooms. The museum shop is worth a visit before we explore Haarlem's beautiful Market Square. Our hotel for the next three nights is located in the town of Alkmaar, home to the 14th century cheese weighing house and Holland Cheese Museum. Our hotel was built in 2004 and is located within a short walking distance of the town center, with wonderful little shops and outdoor cafes. (www.amrathalkmaar.nl)

April 10, 2006

Trees Beertema is a very knowledgeable miniature enthusiast and mini-artisan from Holland. Trees (pronounced Trace) has been involved in miniatures since 1981. She began by making cakes and loaves of bread, but very soon added haberdashery, carpet kits of her own design, marble tabletops and floor tiles, Christmas decorations and is now making furniture and houses. Trees is opening her home and studio to us for the entire day, and she will be your instructor for a full-day class. You will be making a small

room box with a 17th-century Delft-tiled fireplace, complete with marble floor tiles and a beamed ceiling...the perfect showcase for the miniatures you purchase on the tour! All workshop materials will be provided. Trees will also be our host for lunch and dinner today and will be traveling with us for the remainder of the tour. Her exuberant personality is catching and she will be sharing her knowledge of miniatures and the Benelux countries, in a way that will have you hanging on her every word!

April 11, 2006

Alkmaar is the perfect location for seeing miniatures in this part of the Netherlands. We will visit the miniature shops of De Stolp and De Speelmuis, and De Kijkdoos, a small toy and miniature museum in the charming waterside village of Hoorn. We will then return to Alkmaar with time to do some exploring in the city. Dinner this evening will be at De Beemster Hofstee, a renovated farmhouse that is now an elegant restaurant for an evening of fine dining.

April 12, 2006

We depart northern Holland and drive south to Den Haag known to most Americans as 'The Hague'. Our first stop will be De Kleine Poppenkast, a dollhouse shop on the outskirts of the city. (www.dekleinepoppenkast.nl) Holland's Royal City, with its rich history and tradition, broad tree-lined avenues and museums is not only home to the Dutch Parliament, but also Holland's smallest city, Madurodam which was officially opened in 1952 as a war monument and a charity foundation. The Netherlands is replicated in minute detail on a 1:25 scale and is updated on a regular basis, with the latest and biggest renovation being done in 2003. A very special exhibit will be on display during the time of our visit. This unique, antique scale model collection of traditional Indonesian architecture includes more than 60 skillfully carved and colorfully painted antique models from Java, Sumatra, Borneo, Sulawesi and the Moluccas. The models of regional houses were made to demonstrate how different the Dutch East Indies were. Not only do they form a mirror-image of the original but they are also constructed from the same materials: wood, bamboo, banana leaves and other tropical materials. (www.madurodam.nl) A visit to the Gemeente Museum to see another 17th-century Sara Ploos van Amstel-Rothé dollhouse will be our final stop before arriving at The Golden Tulip Corona, a hotel that is comprised of three historic 17th-century homes that have been recently renovated. It is located at the

"Buitenhof" square and is the perfect location for Trees to lead us on a walking tour of the city center.

April 13, 2006

Het Kabinet is our first stop this morning, in the city of Gouda. Four houses have been combined to make one large mini shop. Joop and Kriena van Heeren started this shop a few years ago, but have since expanded the shop tremendously, in the way of goods and floor space. Their collection is comprised of imports, as well as the work of their own artisans and designers. After having added more minis to our stash, we enter Belgium and a visit to Little Magic, a miniature shop just outside of Antwerp. Nadine, the shops owner, will have a part of her own collection on display, in addition to the work of her customers and local artisans. We continue our journey to the medieval city of Brugge, often described as 'the Venice of the North'. The daffodils will be in bloom throughout the city and strolling through the tiny medieval streets is an enchanting experience. The Sofitel Brugge is our home for the next two nights and includes a heated indoor swimming pool and Turkish bath, so pack your bathing suits! (www.accorhotels.com)

April 14, 2006

This morning Trees will lead us on a walking tour of Brugge, with the rest of the day to explore on your own. You may want to visit the famous lace museum shop, ride a horse-drawn cart or take a canal boat ride to experience the city by water. Our hotel is near Market Square and the surrounding streets are lined with wonderful





shops, cafés and galleries. It's Friday and that means late night shopping!

April 15,
2006

Brugge may not have any mini shops, but today you will see what Belgium has to offer once we arrive in Brussels. Trees has arranged a wonderful mini experience that will include Blondie, owned by Evelyne Fontaine, and known for their good furniture and custom-made dollshouses. Evelyne became so busy that she stopped doing shows and works exclusively from her shop. Helena Reijnen will be there to display her miniature fashion dolls and kits.

(www.dollsinminiature.com) Our next stop will be a visit to see Emily Art, creator of those wonderful over-filled bookcases, trunks filled with old lace, and



pieces that feature vintage items. (www.miniaturitalia.com and then you will need to scroll down to the English version). You will have time this afternoon to visit some of the wonderful shops, including La Court echelle, another miniature shop that is a short walk from our hotel. You'll want to be sure to buy some famous Belgian Chocolates for a late night snack! Our hotel in Brussels is the beautiful 5-star Royal Windsor, a member of the Leading Hotels of the World and located just minutes away from Brussels's world-famous Grand Place. (www.royalwindsorbrussels.com)

April 16, 2006

Today we celebrate Easter and you are invited to join us for a morning service at the local cathedral. Although the service will not be in English, the hotel will be happy to find you a service at one of the other churches in the city, if you prefer. Most shops will be closed, but restaurants are open for lunch and Trees will give you suggestions for the many museums that are open. We will be sure to arrange some time this afternoon for an informal show and tell. Dinner tonight will be a special treat in Chutney's Restaurant, located at our hotel.

April 17, 2006

This is the last full day of the tour and miniatures are on the agenda! We will cross the border into Germany to see a

large collection of dollshouses and roomboxes. A German couple by the name of Rita and Wolf have 43 dollshouses, numerous roomboxes and 3 model railway displays. They began their hobby more than 10 years ago and Wolf builds the houses and roomboxes from scratch, using his own designs. Rita is the decorator and crafts many of the miniatures herself. Daughter Natalie is often their inspiration, supplying them with ideas and miniatures on many of their projects. Community.webshots.com/user/worinac & Mitglied.lycos.de/danielfelixhenry/rita2/frameset.htm

We depart Germany this afternoon and cross the border into Luxembourg. Echternach, the oldest town in Luxembourg, is located in the center of the 'Petite Suisse Luxembourgeoise', which is part of the German-Luxembourg nature park. Our hotel is on a lake with beautifully landscaped grounds, the perfect place to spend our last night together. The time has come to say farewell to Trees, pack up all our minis and head back to the U.S., looking forward to the next time we can all Travel Together!

April 18, 2006

Our motorcoach will depart the hotel this morning for the short drive to Luxembourg Airport. Your scheduled flight departure will need to be 11am or later. Have a safe flight home!

BOOK EARLY!

**SPACE IS STRICTLY LIMITED
TO 25 PARTICIPANTS!**

Tour:

\$3281

per person, double occupancy

\$752 single supplement

Amsterdam Pre-Tour:

\$897

per person, double occupancy

\$376 single supplement

Deposits & Final Payment ~
A deposit of \$500.00 is required
to confirm your booking.

A second deposit of \$1000.00
is due 120 days prior to
departure.

Final payment will be due
60 days
prior to departure

Traveling Together designs tours with your special interest in mind. With many years of experience in creating and executing custom tours, we pride ourselves in offering unique and exciting itineraries to destinations around the world.

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Whether exploring the local culture, seeing private collections, attending a special exhibit or taking classes with a well-known instructor, you are sure to come home excited about your adventure and ready to travel again with the many friends and acquaintances that you will meet along the way.

We invite you to join us on this exceptional tour and enjoy the "Traveling Together" experience.

Barbara Spohn and Michelle Morton

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