

THE NORTH SEA: COPENHAGEN TO LONDON

8 Days | Expeditions in: |

Voyage from London to Copenhagen along the inland waterways of the North Sea. Wander down cobbled lanes lined by enchanting waterways in Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany as you learn about the history, religion, and art of places that sit at the crossroads of Germanic and Romance cultures. In the historical town centers of Amsterdam, Brussels, Brugge, and Lübeck, enjoy the juxtaposition of old-world charm and the multicultural vitality of present-day Europe.



DAY 1: London, England

Board National Geographic Orion, docked on the River Thames. As we sail toward the North Sea, take in Panoramic views of the cityscape. (L,D)



DAY 2: Oostende/Brugge, Belgium

Dock in Oostende and transfer to the medieval town of Brugge, known for its Gothic architecture and picturesque market squares linked by cobbled streets and serene canals. Explore the old town with an expert before sampling Belgian fare at a local restaurant. This afternoon discover Brugge on your own, or cycle through the scenic Flemish countryside. (B,L,D)

Chocolate fans, this is the country where you belong. Opt to join a private chocolate making class with one of Brugge's top chocolatiers, using the finest hand-selected ingredients.



DAY 3: Antwerp and Brussels

This morning, travel overland to Brussels, poised at the junction of Germanic and Latin cultures. Uncover the many layers of the city's history on a guided excursion, visiting sites like the Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium, the Grand-Place, and the remains of the palace on the Coudenberg. Alternatively, you may choose to stay put and explore Antwerp, the largest city in Flanders, known for Flemish artists such as Rubens and van Dyck. We depart in the early evening, sailing toward Amsterdam. (B,D)



DAY 4: Amsterdam/Haarlem, Netherlands

With its gabled roofs, squares cluttered with bicycles, and canal-lined streets, Amsterdam is bursting with unique character. Learn about the city's architecture, art, and history on a guided overview via canal and on foot before seeking out its charms on your own. Alternatively, head to Haarlem, home to the Teylers Museum and St. Bavo's Church. Or take a guided bike ride through the Vecht region along winding canals. An abundance of choices await today: a visit to the Rijksmuseum, or Amsterdam after dark with a guide in the Red Light District. (B,L,D)

Tonight don't miss the exclusive dinner at the historic 17th-century Dutch West Indies House, where the decision was made to build the fort 'Nieuw Amsterdam' on the island of Manhattan. A musical performance will add a festive air to a memorable evening.





DAY 5: Harlingen

Dock in Harlingen, a picturesque seaside city in the Friesland region. By special permission, cruise the canals in Zodiacs past 16th- and 18th-century buildings, docking to take a walk through the city center. The city is eager to welcome us. After lunch, soak in the city at your own pace. Our ship departs early in the afternoon, allowing for an afternoon of relaxation and enrichment as we take to the North Sea. (B,L,D)



DAY 6: Kiel Canal, Germany

Enjoy breakfast on deck as we navigate the Kiel Canal, a 61-mile waterway connecting the North Sea with the Baltic. This morning the beautiful Schleswig-Holstein region beckons. Enjoy the beautiful views from the ship as we slowly traverse this German peninsula. Relax, head to the spa or wellness center, browse the library, and of course, hear talks from our staff en route to Harlingen. (B,L,D)



DAY 7: Lübeck

Today we arrive in Lübeck, an enchanting city that once served as the medieval capital of the Hanseatic League. Take a walking tour of the old town for an insider's perspective on its Hanseatic and Renaissance architecture, including the Holsten Gate and St. Mary's Church. After lunch, explore Lübeck on your own, or perhaps paddle a kayak. (B,L,D)

Gain a further view of German life with a guided tour through the beautiful region of Schleswig Holstein, visiting local fisherman's villages and smokehouses. Or join a pastry chef in a marzipan-modeling workshop.



DAY 8: Copenhagen, Denmark/Disembark

After breakfast, enjoy a brief tour of the city before transferring to the airport for flights home. (B)

Sample Airfares:

Economy: from \$1,100

Airfares are subject to change

Cost Includes:

All accommodations aboard ship, meals as indicated, alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages aboard ship, excursions, sightseeing and entrance fees, special access permits, transfers to and from group flights, use of kayaks and snorkeling equipment, services of Lindblad Expeditions' Leader, National Geographic photographer, naturalist staff and expert guides, services of a ship physician, all gratuities, and all port charges and service taxes.

Note: All departures include alcoholic beverages and tips to the ship's crew.

Cost Not Included:

Air transportation, extensions, passport, visa, immigration fees, travel protection plan, internet, and laundry.