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**OKANAGAN MISSION SECONDARY**  
**PERFORMING TOUR TO THE NETHERLANDS & GERMANY**  
**MARCH 15 – 24, 2017**  
**Updated Final Itinerary – February 15, 2017**

Note: It is the responsibility of all participants to be in possession of the correct documentation to travel out of the country. Failure to do so will result in participants being denied entry/boarding and returned home at the expense of the individual. **Canadian Citizens require a valid passport** (authorities at your destination require that passports are valid for **at least 3 months** beyond your return date). Ellison Travel & Tours recommends passports are valid for 6 months beyond your return date. **Groups are advised to obtain witnessed letters of consent for persons under 18 years of age.** Non-Canadians must check entry and transit requirements.

**B – Breakfast / pB – packed Breakfast / L – Lunch / D - Dinner /**  
**M – Airline Meal - denote meals included in tour cost**

**FOR SAFETY, TIMINGS AND SOME DETAILS ARE NOT POSTED ONLINE**

**Day 1 – Wednesday, March 15 - DEPARTURE DAY**

**M**

- group to meet at Okanagan Mission Secondary School TIMING was sent by REMIND
- load luggage and instruments and board your **2 x 48 passenger Canada West coaches**
- Bus leaves OKM for **Airport**
- arrive at 3 hours prior to scheduled departure
- meet your **Ellison Tours assistant** at the **coach drop off point** at the airport
- check in at the **airline counter**
- **meals** served in flight

**Day 2 – Thursday, March 16 - ARRIVAL AMSTERDAM**

**B/D**

- scheduled arrival at **Amsterdam Schiphol International Airport**
- proceed through Passport Control and Customs; claim luggage
- meet your **local tour manager, Diny van Aarle** who will take you to your waiting **2 x 49 passenger Autocars Verhenne coaches** which will be with you throughout your tour; load luggage and equipment
- depart to the **Zaanse Schans** (45 min drive)
- time to purchase lunch and explore
- it looks like an open-air museum, but in reality the Zaanse Schans is a residential area in which the 18th and 19th centuries are brought to life. Stroll past the bakery museum and enjoy the smell of fresh bread, or take a look at the warehouse where clogs are made. You should be sure not to miss the cheese factory, pewter foundry and the various windmills. The Zaanse Schans is a unique part of the Netherlands, full of wooden houses, mills, barns and workshops. Make a cycling or sailing trip, browse the shops or treat yourself at the pancake restaurant.
- transfer to **Amsterdam**
- arrive and board your **Blue Boat Amsterdam Canal Cruises canal boat**
- embark on a **sightseeing cruise**
- the history of Amsterdam is intimately connected with water. Its 165 canals were created over the centuries to stimulate trade and transport and reclaim land to expand the city. They continue define the city's landscape and in 2010 Amsterdam's canal ring was recognized as a UNESCO world heritage site.

- cruise ends
- board your coaches and depart to the hotel
- arrive at the **hotel** and check in for **2 nights**; quickly put your luggage and instruments in your rooms (coaches can park at the hotel)
- **late group buffet dinner** at the hotel
- **drum kit rented** for performances during the tour will be delivered to the hotel
- retire to your rooms for the evening and recover from jet lag
  
- **buffet breakfast (hot and cold)** included at the hotel (served from 6:00am to 10:00am)
- load your coaches with instruments and board
- depart to central Amsterdam

**Day 3 – Friday, March 17 – AMSTERDAM (St. Patrick’s Day)**

**B/D**

- arrive for a visit to **Anne Frank’s House**; your tour manager will check you in; no need to line up – use the door to the left of the main entrance
- timed reservation for the first group
- timed reservation for the second group
- timed reservation for the third group
- this is the hiding place Otto Frank found for his family, the van Pels family, and Fritz Pfeffer, during the Nazi Occupation of Holland...it kept them safe for 25 months, until it was raided by Nazi forces, tragically close to the end of the war. Its occupants were deported to concentration camps where all but Otto Frank, the father, perished, but, it was in this house that his daughter Anne, whose ambition was to be a writer, kept her famous diary, (which she nicknamed “Kitty”) as a way to deal with both the boredom of being hidden and her youthful array of thoughts, which had as much to do with personal relationships as with the war and the Nazi terror raging outside
- those who are not visiting the museum enjoy exploring the area in chaperoned groups
- time to purchase lunch in the Jordaan area
- board your coaches and travel to the **Bijlmer School** (Open Schoolgemeenschap Bijlmer)
- arrival at the school
- set up and warm up by Okanagan Mission
- end of rehearsal – sound check
- venue opens for audience
- **Concert by OSB Orkest**
- **Concert by Okanagan Mission Secondary**
- concert ends; pack up
- **group buffet dinner** after the performance at the school with the students
- depart to the town of **Haarlem**
- arrive at the **Philharmonie Haarlem**; tickets will be distributed; find your seats
- **concert begins!** The 48 hours of Ravel & Debussy: The French Battle with the Dutch Chamber Orchestra, Jonathan Waleson – conductor, Ronal Brautigam – piano, Gordon Nikolic – violin
- concert ends; return to your hotel in Amsterdam
- arrive at the hotel and retire to your rooms for the evening
- **buffet breakfast (hot and cold)** included at the hotel and check out
- move your luggage and instruments to the storage room of the hotel; your charter coach drivers will load everything onto their buses when their driving time permits
- split your group into two for this morning’s visits

**Day 4 – Saturday, March 18 –TWELLO & ARNHEM**

**B/D**

- first group **backstage tour** of the **Dutch National Opera** (1 hour & 15 min)
- after the tour enjoy time exploring and having lunch in Waterlooplein
- **Group 2** – board your **locally chartered Doelen coach** and depart into central Amsterdam
- second group **backstage tour** of the **Dutch National Opera** (1 hour & 15 min)
- time in the Waterlooplein area to purchase lunch
- charter coaches arrive; board and depart to **Apeldoorn**
- enjoy a **visit of Palace ‘t Loo**

- the 1685 Het Loo palace and estate, outside Apeldoorn, has sheltered generations of Dutch royalty, being the favorite summer residence and hunting lodge of Stadhouders (Heads of State) and the royal house of Oranje-Nassau until 1975. Since 1984 it has served as the magnificent home of this museum, which celebrates the history of the House of Orange.
- visit ends; board coaches and depart to **Twello** and the **Jachtlust**
- arrival at **Kulturhus Jachtlust**; set up and rehearsal
- enjoy a meeting with the **local concert band ‘harmonie orkest’** (a contact from an OKM family)
- **group buffet dinner** at the Jachtlust
- dinner ends; get ready for your performance
- doors open for the audience at the Jachtlust
- **evening joint performance; first orchestra performs**
- intermission
- **second orchestra performs**
- short break for stage change
- **both orchestras perform**
- performance ends; load coaches
- transfer to the **Hotel** check in for **3 nights**
- retire to your rooms for the evening
- **cold buffet breakfast** included at the hotel (served from 7:00am to 10:30am)
- load your coaches with instruments and board
- depart to Oosterbeek

#### Day 5 – Sunday, March 19 – ARNHEM/NIJMEGEN AREA

B/D

the **Airborne Museum ‘Hartenstein’** in Oosterbeek is dedicated to the Battle of Arnhem in which the Allied Forces attempted to form a bridgehead on the northern banks of the Rhine river in September 1944.

- visit ends; return to Arnhem city center
- time at leisure and to purchase lunch
- if you wish, return to the hotel to freshen up for the evening; get dressed in uniforms
- meet up with your tour manager at the hotel and walk to the restaurant
- **group dinner at Restaurant Momento**
- dinner ends; walk to meet your coaches at **Eusebius Church**
- (coaches can unload instruments & concert attire with a special permit at the venue)
- arrival / set up / rehearsal
- arrival of local orchestra – set up (change into concert attire in changing rooms)
- church open for audience
- **performance by the local orchestra St. Jan Kilder**
- end of performance of local orchestra; intermission; Okanagan Mission to get ready
- **Okanagan Mission Secondary performs**
- performance ends; pack up
- coaches arrive for loading of instruments and then must depart
- (if the musicians stay to mingle then the gear will have to stay on the coaches overnight)
- retire to your rooms for the evening
- **cold buffet breakfast** included at the hotel (served weekdays from 6:30am – 10:00am)
- board your coaches (no instruments required today)
- depart to **Groesbeek**

#### Day 6 – Monday, March 20 - ARNHEM/NIJMEGEN AREA

B/D

- the museum is located in the place where Major-General James Gravin landed with the U.S. 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division on Sept. 17, 1944, as part of Operation Market Garden. Inside the museum our tour will take in a lecture about the Dutch resistance. Among the exhibits to explore in the museum are: the secret closet for hiding and playing Radio Orange, the Human Rights wall and the tolerance test. During the visit, travellers can taste Swedish liberation bread and old Dutch sweets together with coffee or tea, as well as see a bird’s eye-view model of Operation Market Garden and the Diorama of the Waal crossing

- arrive at the **Canadian War Cemetery** - the final resting place for 2,338 Canadian soldiers, many who became casualties during the battle for the Rhineland...they were transferred here by order of General Crerar who decreed that no Canadian casualties of World War II were to be buried on German soil
- visit ends; board coaches and depart to **Nijmegen**
- arrive with time to purchase lunch and explore in chaperoned groups
- Nijmegen is one of the oldest cities in Holland going back to the Romans; the first mention of Nijmegen in history is in the 1st century BC, when the Romans built a military camp on the place where Nijmegen was to appear; the location had great strategic value because of the surrounding hills, which gave (and continue to give) a good view over the Waal and Rhine valley.
- why not stroll through the oldest shopping street in Holland, the Lange Hezelstraat?
- meet your tour manager and coaches at a designated location and board
- depart to Arnhem and your hotel
- arrive at the hotel; time to put any purchases away in your rooms
- meet your tour manager in the lobby and walk to the restaurant (500 metres; 10 min walk)
- **group dinner at Restaurant Dudok**
- after dinner, walk back to the hotel and retire to your rooms for the evening
- **cold buffet breakfast** included at the hotel and check out
- load coaches with luggage and instruments
- board your coaches and drive to **Brunssum**

**Day 7 – Tuesday, March 21 – TO VALKENBURG & AFNORTH**

**B/D**

- arrive at the **Afnorth International School** to set up and prepare for your performance
- **Note: passports will be asked for before entering the International School**
- **performance by Okanagan Mission Secondary School**
- performance ends and load instruments on your coach; time with the local students
- the representative from Wens will take the drum kit back
- continue to **Valkenburg**
- arrive at the **Hotel** and check in for **3 nights**
- walk to the **Panninkoekenhuis Valkenburg** (550 metres; 10 min walk)
- **authentic Dutch pancake group dinner**
- walk back to your hotel
- retire to your rooms for the evening
- **buffet breakfast (hot & cold)** included at the hotel (served from 7:00am to 10:00am)
- board your coaches (no instruments required today)
- depart to **Cologne**; split your group into 4 for the sightseeing tour

**Day 8 – Wednesday, March 22 - SIGHTSEEING COLOGNE**

**B/D**

- enjoy a **walking tour of the Old Town including entrance to the Cathedral**
- a great many sights are concentrated within one square kilometer of the Cathedral, Town Hall and the Old Town with the Romanesque church of Groß St. Martin. You can take a look at the Roman Dionysos Mosaic and the Jewish ritual bath, the Mikveh. In the narrow, cobble-stoned alleys of the Old Town and on the busy squares like the Roncalliplatz, the Alter Markt or the Heumarkt, you will get a feeling for life in the cathedral city, yesterday and today. You will see and hear what the people of Cologne and their visitors like to laugh about – not only during Cologne’s famous Carnival.
- tour ends; time to purchase lunch
- depart to the **Chocolate Museum**
- visit begins! At the beginning of the exhibition, follow the track of cocoa passing through a **tropical greenhouse** where harvest begins onto the big world trade exchange to the transport to the **chocolate factory**. The Chocolate museum’s own **production hall** is home to a three-metre-high chocolate fountain which is always filled with delicious Lindt chocolate.
- on the second level of the exhibition, in a **chocolate studio**, you are immersed into a world of chocolate craftsmanship and experience how hollow figures such as truffles and individual

figures are made.

- visit ends; some time at leisure; tour manager will advise some options for you
  - meet at a designated location and board your coaches
  - return to Valkenburg and the hotel
  - arrive in Valkenburg at **Walramplein** and walk to your restaurant (220 metres; 5 min walk)
  - **group dinner at restaurant Gouden Leeuw**
  - dinner ends; walk back to your hotel (240 metres; 5 min walk)
  - retire to your rooms for the evening
  - **buffet breakfast (hot and cold)** included at the hotel
- Note: the drivers on duty time on March 23 has to end by 5:00pm**  
board your coaches and depart to **Bonn**, former capital of Germany; split your group into four for the tour and visit to Beethovenhaus

**Day 9 – Thursday, March 23 – SIGHTSEEING BONN**

**B/D**

- enjoy a **guided tour**
- highlights of the tour to include Beethoven Monument, located on the Munsterplatz that was unveiled in August 1845 in honour of his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday, the Old Town Hall located next to the market place and the Kurfurstliches Schloss (Electoral Prince's Castle) which serves as the main building of the University of Bonn.
- tour ends near Beethovenhaus; time to purchase lunch
- check in at Beethovenhaus; groups will enter the museum 10 mins apart
- **visit of Beethovenhaus**
- Beethoven passed the first years of his childhood in this house in the Old Town; see the bronze statue, the room where he was born, the Grand Piano, an ear trumpet, and a cast of his face at the age of 42; you will also see his violin and some original scores
- return to Valkenburg and your hotel
- arrival with time to enjoy Valkenburg in chaperoned groups
- meet back at the hotel
- **farewell dinner** at the hotel
- dinner ends; pack for tomorrow's early departure
- **bagged breakfast** to take away and check out
- board your coaches for the early transfer to **Dusseldorf International Airport**
- arrival at the airport and check in at the **Lufthansa airline counter**

**Day 10 – Friday, March 24 - DEPARTURE HOME**

**pB/M**

- scheduled departure on from **Dusseldorf, Germany to Frankfurt, Germany**; flight 55 mins
- scheduled arrival at **Frankfurt International Airport**; proceed to your connecting gate also in Terminal 1
- scheduled departure **Frankfurt, Germany to Vancouver, BC**; flight 10 hours and 15 mins
- **meals** served on board
- *remember to turn your watches back to local time*
- scheduled arrival at **Airport, International Arrivals**
- clear Passport Control, collect luggage and clear Customs
- locate your **locally chartered Canada West 48-passenger coaches**
- load luggage and instruments, board and depart back to Kelowna
- estimated arrival at Okanagan Mission Secondary School
- **WELCOME HOME!**

Please advise your group leader in advance of any allergy and/or dietary restriction, so that we can advise our suppliers of the request. Not every location may be able to accommodate allergy and/or meal requirements for unique circumstances.

Ellison Travel & Tours is giving away four \$500 SCHOLARSHIPS. Are you a secondary school student who has travelled on an Ellison Travel & Tours school trip and are graduating from secondary school in the current year? See our website <http://ettravel.com/scholarships-sponsorships> for more details.