

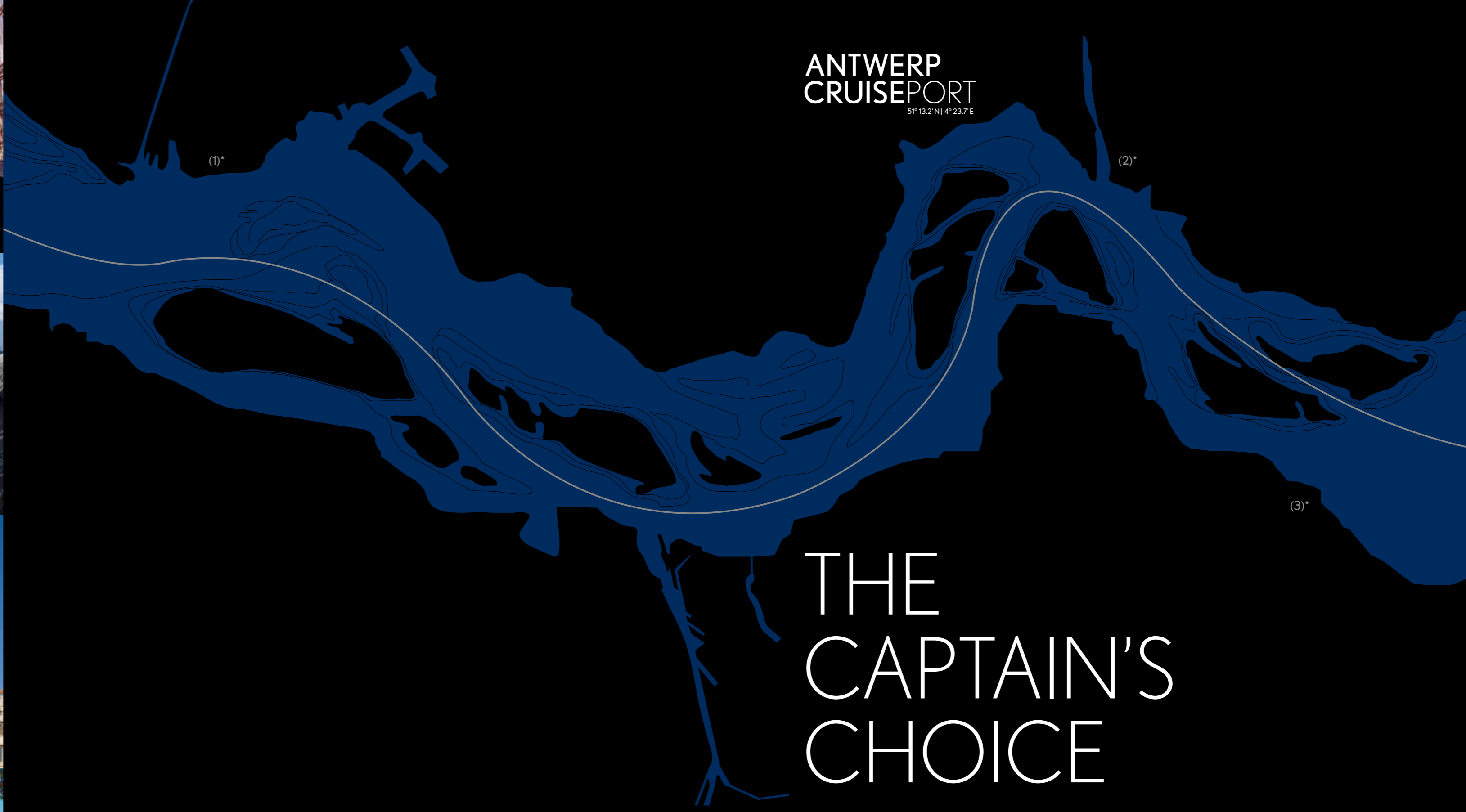
THE CAPTAIN'S CHOICE

THE ANTWERP BOUTIQUE PORT EXPERIENCE

Antwerp offers all visitors a wide selection of tours in historical museums, genuine attractions, churches with immense treasures and UNESCO World Heritage sites. To cater to the growing needs of small groups, boutique tours were developed – excursions that offer a personal and exclusive experience. These in-depth packages focus on a more intimate approach, immersing guests in specialised encounters. The tours let you discover places that have sculpted the landscape and history of Antwerp: Rubens' homebase, the World Diamond Centre, fashion and cultural heritage. The tours take you to places not always visible and accessible to all. The difference is always in the details and this selection pays attention to each feature. Whatever your taste, Antwerp will please even the most accomplished traveler.

The activities of the port of Antwerp are generally associated with goods, transport and high economic performances, but we deliver more than that. In the historical port area you will find marinas, both on the left and right bank of the river, offering facilities for a wide range of water-based leisure interests. The main activity on the Scheldt quays since 1996 is cruise related, and the investments in the terminal and facilities make Antwerp a fully-operational cruise destination. Antwerp is the second-largest port in Europe and the regeneration of the historical docks area affords the visitor a view of a truly trendy city: stylish architecture blends with bars and restaurants in the old town. Cobble streets wind along the historical city centre as the sightseeing riches from the Golden Age are within walking distance of the berth. The aesthetics and functionality of this layout make Antwerp a unique cruise destination, providing what other places around the globe simply can't duplicate.

Antwerp is the Belgian boutique port.



ANTWERP
CRUISEPORT
51° 13.2' N | 4° 23.7' E

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ACCESS

Every year thousands of passengers aboard cruise ship's navigate to Antwerp by sailing up the Scheldt River, taking in the sights and sounds of the port and destination. During this smooth cruise you'll pass many interesting sites, such as the Dutch harbour Flushing ⁽¹⁾, the typical low landscape of Hansweert ⁽²⁾, the natural reserve – "the Drowned land" – of Saeftinghe ⁽³⁾, famous lock Berendrecht ⁽⁴⁾, the biggest in the world and the charming village Lillo ⁽⁵⁾. Just before you get a glimpse of the elegant Gothic spire of the Cathedral and the Art Deco skyscraper dominating the skyline, the Red Star Line (RSL) ⁽⁶⁾ building will make its appearance. RSL was the departure point of thousands of emigrants who were setting off for America and Canada.

FACILITIES

Berth ⁽⁷⁾

The golden rule of real estate is location, location, location. This also rings true for cruises as the berth reflects the potential of a destination. Cruising is about reaching a place where passengers are welcomed by locals and where they can admire a view over the city. In Antwerp, ships have a dedicated berth in the historical city centre. Not many ports can offer passengers a prime location, but in Antwerp, you are our guest and get the best seat in the house.

Gangway ⁽⁸⁾

The gangway is in many ways unique: a state-of-the-art gate equipped with innovative technology and groundbreaking design. It ensures a safe, fast and comfortable transition from water to land. Getting passengers ashore is pretty straightforward in Antwerp!

Terminal ⁽⁹⁾

The design of the Cruise Terminal building was kept simple and, most of all, functional. The Cruise Terminal consists of two areas, covering around 1500m². The main area is the reception and lounge section with an information desk, security offices, sanitary and screening facilities.



COLOPHON

Editor-in-chief

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MAS: Photo S. Blee © Neutelings Riedijk Architects

AWDC Awards 2003 "Movements", Marleen Schodts "Taraxacum" © Diane Hendrixx

AWDC Awards 2005 "Diamonds are Fun", Alessandro Alvarenga & Suka Braga "Catavento" © Diane Hendrixx

Peter Paul Rubens, The Annunciation © Rubens House, Louis De Peuter and Michel Wuyts

THE ANTWERP BOUTIQUE EXPERIENCE



EXQUISITE
SWEETNESS

EXQUISITE SWEETNESS

Antwerp is much more than historical buildings, rich art collections and fairytale cobbled streets. If you are looking for an exclusive way to taste Antwerp, add an extra dimension to your experience by sampling timeless delicacies with extra local flavor. During an entertaining presentation, you'll get the inside scoop on how this world-famous chocolate is prepared. This section is for VIP eyes only.

PIERRE MARCOLINI

Belgium has a strong reputation when it comes to chocolate, and Antwerp holds that standing to the highest regard. Belgian chocolatier Pierre Marcolini upholds quality and freshness while innovating the tradition of chocolate making. Marcolini is uncompromising when it comes to choosing the raw ingredients for his chocolate creations. He travels the world in search of the best cocoa beans and original aromas. Pierre Marcolini has created an authentic delicacy with rigorously selected ingredients that enhance each sense for a unique experience. Luscious, precious chocolate so sumptuous and delicious.



The sweet tour

At the exquisite boutique of Pierre Marcolini you'll receive a personal welcome and experience a genuine chocolate tasting. After indulging in this tour, delighted visitors will receive a box filled with sweet Belgian pralines.

From € 49/person (on a basis of 10 persons)
Minimum 5 persons, maximum 10 persons
Mon - Fri from 10:00 to 15:00

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- Visit to local Antwerp brewery De Koninck
- Elixir d'Anvers liqueur tasting
- Chocolate demonstration at:
 - Burie
 - Goossens
 - The Chocolate Line
- Beer sommelier tour
- Baking the perfect Belgian waffle



THE ANTWERP BOUTIQUE EXPERIENCE



DIAMONDS LOVE ANTWERP

DIAMONDS LOVE ANTWERP

These sparkling gems, lusted after by kings, queens, sultans and mere mortals like us, have been traded, cut and polished in Antwerp since 1447. Over five centuries of diamond heritage are summarised in the slogan "Cut in Antwerp" – the trademark for perfectly cut diamonds of the highest quality.

Before being placed in an exquisite piece of jewellery, more than 80 percent of all rough diamonds and one in two polished diamonds pass through Antwerp. You name it, Antwerp delivers: the largest range of diamonds whether rough, polished or industrial.

The flourishing Diamond District, with over 1 800 companies within one square mile, is known to the world today as a scintillating centre of excellence and elegance. Moreover, through the diamond trade, Antwerp is truly a creative hive, buzzing with a large community of jewellery designers, goldsmiths and silversmiths. In short, Antwerp literally sparkles!

ANTWERP WORLD DIAMOND CENTRE

Get highly exclusive behind the scenes access to the intriguing world of diamonds. All facets of the diamond business are highlighted, from the diamond in the rough to the most innovative techniques that turn them into priceless works of art. The presentation can be tailored with demo stand where visitors have the possibility to look at real diamonds through a microscope. If you are still looking for an even more exclusive offer, then a visit to the otherwise restricted and highly secured Antwerp Diamond Laboratory is an absolute must. Here you'll witness how the most luxurious diamonds are being graded and certified with state-of-the-art equipment.



Exclusive Diamond Introduction

This very selective package consists of:

- Welcome and presentation at Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) headquarters
- An exclusive look behind the scenes in a diamond cutting atelier
- Introducing the tricks of the trade during a visit to a Diamond Bourse
- A very exclusive visit to the Diamond Laboratory

From € 67/person (on a basis of 6 persons)

Only available on weekday mornings
from 9:30 to 12:00

Visit to Diamond Bourse
maximum 10 persons

Visit to Diamond Laboratory
maximum 6 persons

Dress code: formal

DAVID MENEZ

David Menez, a jewellery designer specialising in fancy coloured diamonds, personally welcomes you to his store where you can admire his collection adorned with the most exquisite of Antwerp's diamonds. He's also an expert in designing chocolate jewellery that matches perfectly with diamonds and gold.



Fancy Colour Diamonds

The tour includes:

- Personal welcome with champagne
- Exclusive meeting with the designer
- Coloured diamonds and chocolate jewellery exhibition
- Each participant will receive a chocolate surprise as a delicious reminder of the visit

From € 75/person (on a basis of 10 persons)

Maximum 10 persons

Dress code: formal

Mon - Fri 10:00 to 15:00



DIVINE ART -
HEAVENLY
SOUNDS

DIVINE ART - HEAVENLY SOUNDS

Antwerp can rightfully pride itself on its rich, historic past. Through the centuries the city has managed to develop a rich, unique and valuable cultural heritage. The museums and historic churches remain treasures in which many of these riches are preserved and displayed.

CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY

The heart of the historic city is the Market Square, with its gabled guild houses and the legendary Cathedral of Our Lady, dating to the 14th century. This is also the perfect spot to start a Rubens' tour: four Rubens paintings and a dazzling statue of the Virgin Mary await you inside.



Behind the scenes after-hours

This visit includes an in-depth tour through the different cultural treasures of the Cathedral. Hidden behind the church's studded wooden doors is a rich Rubens collection, including the triptych "The Descent from the Cross" (1612). This tour takes you to the chapter room, the churchwarden room, the sacristy and the impressive south tower.

From € 40/person (on a basis of 20 persons)

Including: fees and guided tour

Visit of maximum two hours

Minimum 10 persons, maximum 100 persons

Organ concert after-hours

The Cathedral is exceptional in every way and this rings particularly true for its two organs. The impressive 19th-century Schyven Baroque organ, with 5 770 pipes, has passed the test of time, and the classical Metzler organ was ordered specially for playing the oeuvre of Bach. Sense the magic of the Cathedral through a musical intermezzo of antique organs. The concert starts after a personal welcome by the organist.

From € 21/person (on a basis of 60 persons)

Including: fees and guided tour

Duration of concert is one hour

Minimum 10 persons, maximum 60 persons

Concerts

The Cathedral's excellent acoustics make it the perfect location for a classical concert.

From € 2 000/day

Including: Cathedral rental

Maximum 1 180 persons

SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

This Gothic church with Baroque spire is located north of the historic city centre and remains one of the finest Antwerp churches. The church houses a very rich collection of 17th-century Flemish masters paintings. Besides the art you'll see a large number of exceptional wooden sculptures. In the small courtyard you will find an impressive Calvary with 63 statues depicting the last days of Christ.



Behind the scenes after-hours

This boutique tour offers an exceptional detailed visit to the refined and sparkling collection of the church. The tour contains a visit to:

- The treasure chamber, with its rich collection of historical religious objects often adorned with diamonds
- The crypt
- The Calvary
- The Convent gallery

From € 20/person (on a basis of 20 persons, visit starting at 18:00)

Including: fees and guided tour

Visit of maximum two hours

Minimum 10 persons, maximum 100 persons

Organ concert

The imposing organ dates back to the 17th century and rates as one of the top 10 historical organs in Europe. It has over 4 000 pipes, three keyboards and the front was decorated by artists from the school of Rubens. The organ concert is the perfect opportunity to meet the organist and hear the heavenly sounds produced by this historical instrument.

From € 21/person (on a basis of 60 persons)

Including: fees and guided tour

Duration of concert is one hour

Minimum 10 persons, maximum 60 persons

THE ANTWERP BOUTIQUE EXPERIENCE

LIMITED
EDITION



LIMITED EDITION

If you like individualistic design, superb craftsmanship, beautiful fabrics and heaps of style, you've come to the right city!

MAISON ANNA HEYLEN

Anna Heylen graduated from the Fashion Department of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp and successfully launched her women's collection. She has an exceptional eye for refined details and her designs reflect a range of influences. In 1993, Anna Heylen designed a remarkable series of handmade dolls for Antwerp, European City of Culture, and these dolls travel around the world to be displayed in international museums and galleries. You will find Maison Anna Heylen in an elegant warehouse, dating from 1904, in the historical city centre.



Writings of a designer

A garment is the end product of a long artistic process combining concept, development and craft. At Maison Anna Heylen, you'll discover the entire design process from sketch to a collection piece ready to be worn in all its splendour. Maison Anna Heylen is the stylish way to discover Antwerp. The small group tour includes:

- Personal welcome
- Short presentation at Maison Anna Heylen
- Original and interactive exhibition of design process
- Opportunity to customise a piece

From € 73/person (on a basis of 15 persons)

Maximum 15 persons

Duration: one hour

Dress code: casual chic

Weekdays from 10:00 to 15:00

DELVAUX

The house Delvaux, founded in 1829, is the oldest fine leather luxury goods company in the world. To this day, Delvaux remains family-owned, precisely because it protects the values of quality, exclusivity and ultimate sophistication. Delvaux innovates yet never ignores its past as both are a source of inspiration. The House upholds a long tradition of innovation by inviting external designers who bring new perspectives, respecting the values that made Delvaux a label with an essence for style, exclusivity and excellence. Leading Belgian designer Veronique Branquinho is the artistic director.



Leather heritage - Hug workshop

Delvaux is all about leather and during this workshop you get the chance to make your personalised hug with professional assistance from a craftsman. At Delvaux, each participant receives a warm and personal welcome with champagne and hors d'oeuvres.

From € 64/person (on a basis of 10 persons)

Maximum 10 persons

Reservations two weeks in advance

Mon - Fri from 10:00 to 18:00

Style heritage - Scarf workshop

The workshop consists of two elements: a pampering moment with Shu Uemura products and creative scarf wearing. The personal welcome with champagne and hors d'oeuvres puts you at ease and immediately sets a comfortable atmosphere.

From € 75/person (on a basis of 10 persons)

Maximum 10 persons

Reservations two weeks in advance

Mon - Fri from 10:00 to 18:00

The Heritage - Arsenal, a visit to Delvaux Land

The Arsenal, the main atelier of Delvaux, is situated in Brussels. Here you'll experience the world of Delvaux and get the inside scoop on how these luxurious goods are manufactured by master craftsmen.

From € 61/person (on a basis of 15 persons)

Brussels transfer not included

Mon - Thu from 10:00 to 18:00

Maximum 15 persons

Reservations two weeks in advance

THE ANTWERP BOUTIQUE EXPERIENCE



THE AUTHENTIC SELECTION

THE AUTHENTIC SELECTION

Antwerp is the perfect getaway for all art lovers, as the city has at least 25 museums scattered over the centre. These collections range from historical art, diamonds, vintage costumes and folklore to contemporary photography and avant-garde fashion. Three major museums are definitely worth a visit: Rubens House, Museum Plantin-Moretus and Mayer van den Bergh. These museums have exceptional collections to offer the art connoisseur.

RUBENS HOUSE

Contrary to the romantic image of his solitary genius, toiling in solitude in his lonely atelier, Rubens employed numerous artists to complete his paintings, including a promising young contender named Van Dyck. Apprentices filled in Rubens' outline while he concentrated on the grand design, stamping each picture with his own authorship. This resulted in nearly 3 000 paintings in his 40-year career, making him the most prolific of the Old Masters. Only in Antwerp will you experience the real Rubens.



Nocturne

After hours, visit the splendid house and atelier where the Master lived and worked.

From € 5 000

Tue - Sun after 17:00 hours

Maximum 100 persons

MUSEUM PLANTIN-MORETUS

This museum received the UNESCO World Heritage status due to its unique collection and outstanding architectural value. The house is a supreme example of Flemish Renaissance architecture and contains exhaustive evidence of the most productive printing and publishing house in Europe in the late 16th century. The building of the company has a thorough collection of historical printing presses, an extensive library, invaluable archives and works of art by Rubens.



Le Bonheur de ce monde tour includes:

- Private demonstration in ancient printing techniques
- Guided tour through the exceptional collection of the museum
- Print of sonnet 'Le Bonheur de ce monde'

From € 30/person (on a basis of 15 persons)

Tue - Sun from 10:00 - 15:30

Max 15 persons

Duration: 1 1/2 hours

Reservations 3 weeks in advance

Cancellation 5 working days prior to visit

MAYER VAN DEN BERGH

Fritz Mayer van den Bergh was an avid art collector. He dedicated his life to art and collected an array of masterpieces from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Paintings, sculptures, tapestries, drawings and stained glass windows were incorporated in Mayer van den Bergh's home. The masterpiece of the museum is the painting by Pieter Bruegel, Dulle Griet (Mad Meg), an intriguing apocalyptic vision. Bruegel gave the work a hidden allegorical and religious meaning that still remains a mystery.



Tea time with Henriëtte

Henriëtte van den Bergh was the mother of the collector and founder of the museum. The collection is housed in a well-preserved historical building. This small tour includes:

- A personal welcome by the curator
- Guided tour through the museum's unique collection
- Tea time accompanied by Belgian pralines

From € 50/person (on a basis of 15 persons)

Tue - Fri from 10:00 - 15:30

Max. 30 persons in total and 15 persons/guide

Duration 1 1/2 hours

Reservations 3 weeks in advance

Cancellation 5 working days prior to visit

A grand, ornate interior space, likely a ballroom or grand hall, featuring a vaulted ceiling with intricate gold leaf decorations and a large, multi-tiered crystal chandelier. The room is characterized by classical architectural elements, including arched doorways, columns, and a large arched window. The floor is polished and reflects the light from the chandeliers. Several blue upholstered chairs are arranged in the room. The overall atmosphere is one of elegance and historical grandeur.

THE MAJESTIC TOUCH

THE MAJESTIC TOUCH

Why stay under the radar when you can have access to exclusive locations? These settings are the perfect introduction to the art and culture of Antwerp and can host a reception, concert or event.

ROYAL PALACE MEIR

The historical Royal Palace is located at the heart of the Meir, the main shopping street. Built in 1745 as a patrician mansion, it quickly gained the interest of Napoleon, who made it his residence during the French occupation. He redesigned the building as his imperial headquarters and decorated the salons, adding a regal touch to walls and furnishings. The palace was also the property of Dutch and later Belgian royalty. The spectacular Hall of Mirrors can cater for receptions, dinners and events. Your royal Antwerp adventure starts here!



Royal Palace tour includes :

- Guided tour through the palace
- Glimpse at chocolatier Dominique Persoone from The Chocolate Line
- Sweet surprise

From € 7,25/person (on a basis of 20 persons)

Including: entrance fee, guided visit and sweet surprise

Duration: one hour

Maximum 20 persons per group

Guided tours: Mon - Fri: 10:30 and 14:00

Sat - Sun: 10:30

CITY HALL

Among the several majestic buildings surrounding the Grote Markt, City Hall is without a doubt the eye-catcher. The construction of the building began in 1561 and resulted in a conspicuous innovative style combining Flemish-Italian Renaissance elements. The facade is richly decorated with statues, ornaments and coats of arms. The City Hall's sumptuous interior is richly decorated with tapestries and paintings, while the grand staircase with glass dome immediately sets an elegant tone. The City Hall has different historical reception rooms for your use to host an unforgettable event.



From € 1200

Mon - Sat (excluding Sundays and national holidays)

Maximum 319 persons standing reception

Reservations 2 months in advance

MAS

Antwerp has a new landmark in the heart of the historic port district, the docklands. This port area, considered as the major urban renewal project in the centre, is developing quickly as a vibrant new city quarter. MAS has a contemporary look but the collection reflects on different periods in the history of Antwerp and the world. The museum shows the city in all its facets and the 60 metre high tower gives the opportunity to contemplate the skyline of Antwerp.



From € 30/person (on a basis of 15 persons)

Mon - Fri 10:00 - 15:00

Duration 1:30 hours

Maximum 15 persons

Cancellation 5 working days prior visit

A contemporary museum about the city and the world

This limited MAS package includes:

- Personal welcome by the director of the museum
- Look behind the scenes in the viewing depot
- Visit to the top pre-Columbian artefacts collection, guided by the curator of the collection
- Souvenir from this exclusive visit