



Follow me on my Scenic River Cruise Journey from Amsterdam

Day 2: Amsterdam, Keukenhof Gardens, Fabrique des Lumières

First full day on board so after a beautiful breakfast in the Crystal dining room we headed off by coach for 45 minute drive to Keukenhof- the most beautiful spring garden in the world celebrating its 75th anniversary last year.

Our visit began with our local guide providing interesting facts on the drive and once inside the gardens we pulled out our Quiet Vox devices so we could hear the commentary while taking pictures or stepping away from the group for a moment without losing any interesting info from the guide.

At its peak in early April, it is open for just 2 months and features over 7 million flowering tulips, daffodils and other bulb flowers. I could appreciate the spectacular blooms just beginning to pop up outside and was amazed at the incredible flowers in the 6 indoor pavilions. From the unbelievable varieties of tulips, daffodils, amaryllis and orchids and the amazingly sweet scent of hyacinths there are spectacular blooms wherever I looked.

There is plenty of wide-open spaces to walk, rest, dine and use the facilities for all ages. There are bicycles to rent - pretty much all flat ground- a whisper boat where you take a 45-minute ride through the flowering bulb fields around Keukenhof, a windmill to climb -gifted by Holland America Line, a picnic area and even a barrel organ. You can even purchase bulbs guaranteed shippable to Canada with experts on hand to guide you to which varieties are suitable for our climate and soil. What a lovely day excursion with facilities for all ages and very much accessible too! For anyone in Amsterdam from late March till early May- I feel it is a must see!

During my free time after lunch, I hopped on one of the many canal boat cruises available for a relaxing one-hour sail through the canals of Amsterdam. I learned a little history and architecture and marvelled at the skilled driver navigating the rather busy canals with all the traffic and numerous bridges and tight turns. A great way to see the city from another perspective and one I would recommend. Some canal boats operate as a hop on and hop off option you can use to get around the city for the day too.

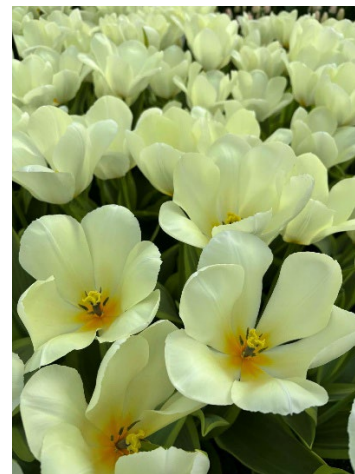
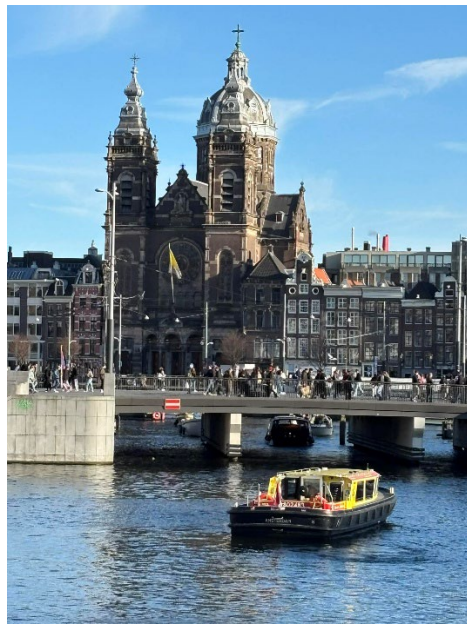
Tonight, we were treated to the fabulous immersive art experience - Fabrique des Lumières. Presented in the historical and repurposed gas works factory- you are greeted with a glass of

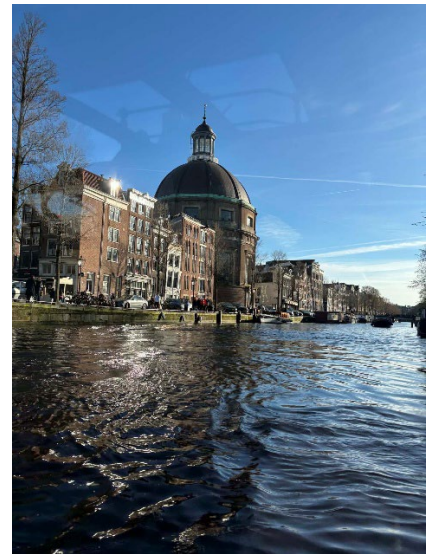
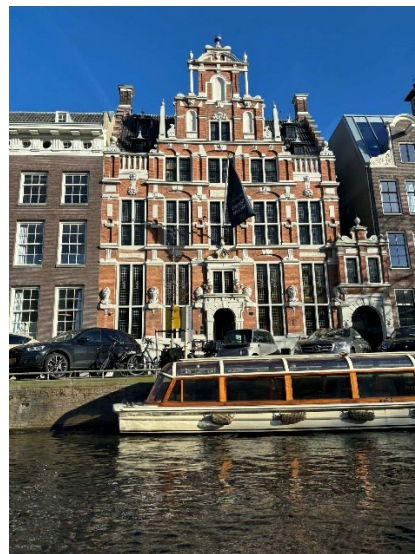
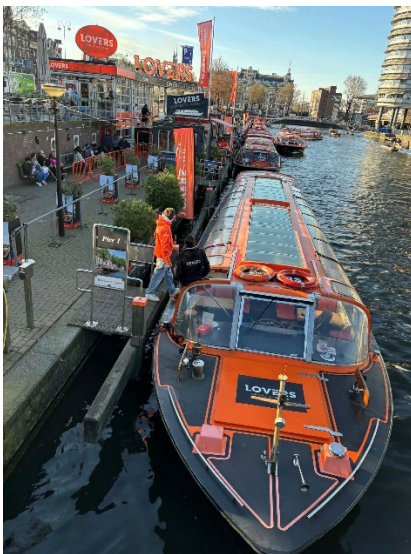
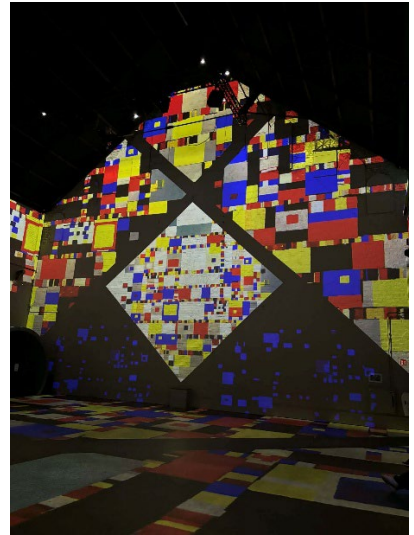
bubbly and invited to surround yourself with the sights and sounds of over 325 artworks by over 50 painters celebrating the Dutch masters of the 17th century from Vermeer, Van Gogh, Rembrandt, Hals, Metsu, De Hooch, etc. It is truly everything that a unique Scenic free choice exclusive experience is meant to be and more. And only a 15-minute drive from the ship!

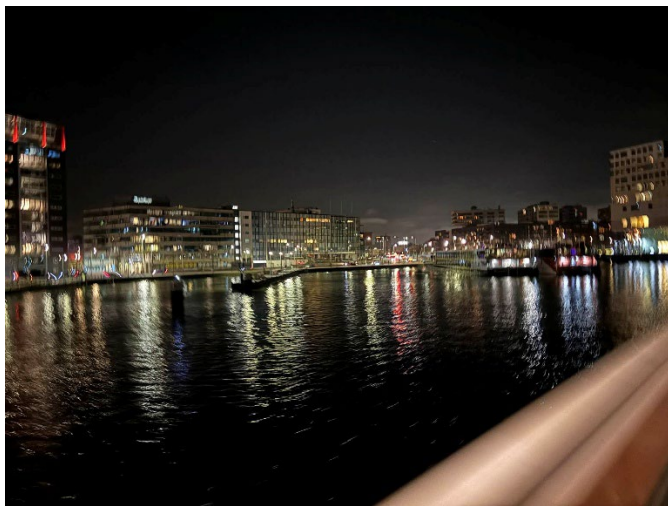
And to finish off this incredible day this was my evening to be invited to the intimate Italian fine dining experience which is Portobellos- a once a sailing experience which pairs exquisite Italian multi course cuisine with fine wines only available during this meal - yet another memorable, bespoke and delicious experience for me today. After a truly memorable day like this, what could tomorrow possibly hold?

Could Scenic top today? I'll let you know...

Photos from today.







Sailing out of Amsterdam

Check back tomorrow for Day 3: **Dordrecht**