

BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Dutch New Wave Gardens featuring private spaces and public places, both historic and contemporary, in The Netherlands

Arranged by Classical Excursions

September 7 to 14, 2023 – Thursday to Thursday
Starting and ending in Amsterdam



Join Berkshire Botanical Garden and Classical Excursions as we discover the gardens of the Netherlands. Since the Age of Discovery in the 15th Century, the Dutch have explored the world. Their ships reached the Americas, South Africa, and to Australia. This incredible expansion of empire led to the founding of the Dutch East India Co. in 1602 and the Dutch West India Co. in 1621. These titans of trade introduced hundreds of species to the shores of the Netherlands after their journeys. Only a few years later, in 1638, Hortus Botanicus was constructed in the heart of Amsterdam, featuring botanical treasures brought back by these explorers and traders. Hortus Botanicus is one of the oldest Botanical Gardens in Europe and one of the many sites we will enjoy on our journey. Classical gardens on grand estates and intimate lush city gardens are a staple of the Dutch landscape. In the 1980s, a new style emerged that would change the face of gardening across the Netherlands and around the world. The Dutch New Wave Garden movement promoted a naturalistic approach to planting design embraced and emulated worldwide. Piet Oudolf, the movement's most prominent designer, has described his process this way, "My biggest inspiration is nature. I do not want to copy it but to recreate the emotion." Traveling through the Netherlands, we will immerse ourselves in the gardens of Oudolf and his contemporaries. As a group, we will find ourselves exploring the intersection of these classical and modern approaches to garden design. Our travels will take us from historic gardens to castles, charming towns, and exciting contemporary spaces. We hope you join us as we explore the great gardens of the Netherlands.

HIGHLIGHTS OF SOME OF OUR PLANS:

- Hortus Botanicus, Amsterdam (upper right image)
- Utrecht: Historic 1924 house, Rietveld Schröder House
- De Wiersse garden dating to 1678 (upper left and middle image)
- Royal Palace of Het Loo, built by the House of Orange-Nassau
- Castle Menkemborg in Groningen
- Gardens by landscape designer Piet Oudolf
- De Hessenhof perennial nursery in Ede
- Private gardens – *which cannot be mentioned at this time.*

To register your interest for this unique excursion supporting the
Berkshire Botanical Garden
please contact office@classicalexursions.com or call Lani Summerville at 413-446-8728.



Tour information as of March 2023 and subject to updating by Classical Excursions.



OVERVIEW OF OUR DAYS:

Day 1 · Thursday, September 7 – Arrival to Amsterdam . . .

Afternoon check-in to the Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam, for four-nights.

Day 2 to 4 · Friday, Sept. 8 through Sunday, Sept. 10 – Touring out from Amsterdam, and returning each night.

Day 5 · Monday, Sept. 11 – Depart for the north, arrive to the town of Groningen and Hotel Prinsenhof, for three-nights.

Day 6 to 7 · Tuesday, Sept. 12 and Wednesday, Sept. 13 – Touring out from Groningen, returning each night.

Day 8 · Thursday, September 14 – Day for Departures or continued independent touring. 9:30am bus departs for Amsterdam Schiphol Airport – JFK flight at 1:30pm; Boston flight at 2:50pm.

ONE of our GUEST LECTURERS will be...

Nico Kloppenburg, garden designer based near Groningen, in the historic village of Mantgum. He will share his passion for historic gardens and give insights contemporary garden design.



OUR HOTELS:

Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam

We will be staying four-nights. With a canal at its front yard, one cannot help but enjoy the uniqueness of this amazing city. Parts of the building date to 1411 when it began life as a convent. The complex over the centuries has served many different functions. The hotel is central to the city and easy walking. It features multiple restaurants and bars, plus a lush courtyard for quiet enjoyment and meals.



PRINSENHOF Hotel in Groningen

We will be staying three-nights. The building's origin lies with the Brethren of Communal Life, who lived here rather modestly around 1436 and rebuilt their dwelling to be an impressive church in which the brasserie is situated. The conversion of the property took place in 2012 and it became a 4-star boutique hotel with two high-end restaurants.

The hotel features an elaborate formal garden, topiary garden rooms and planted beds.



Please joins us for a week of wonderful explorations of historic and contemporary gardens and structures in the Netherlands!