

Brenda and I have returned from our holiday in Europe; the culture is much different from USA. In the cities we visited most everyone walked and/or rode bicycles. Amsterdam had the greatest concentration of bicycle parking I've ever seen. Photos from Day 2 below will show some of that. Walking tours were guided to see much of smaller cities. Most nearly all vehicles were small and efficient with diesel and manual transmissions. I saw 3 PT Cruisers and 1 Cadillac. There were plenty of Tesla taxicabs in Amsterdam with many other electric vehicles and charging stations.

We took a Uniworld Boutique Cruise starting in Amsterdam, Netherlands and ending in Antwerp, Belgium. The cruise was "Tulips and Windmills". The ship was the River Queen and there were 74 passengers aboard. The crew was fantastic; everyone seemed to go out of their way to please us. The service was personal. For anyone considering a river cruise, we highly recommend Uniworld. We thank our travel agent at AAA for the recommendation.

Here are photos of the ship.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157665203836023>

Every morning there were printed editions of recent news each about 4-8 pages from USA, Australia, Canada, Great Britain.

We had nightly open bar in the lounge. The bartenders knew our drinks and would ask if we would like the same as before. We could try drinks that I would not normally try; I like Johnny Walker Black Label scotch on the rocks. Besides the liquor they served small appetizers like olives, bread sticks, quiche. Also daily tea time with sandwiches, cookies, etc.

Breakfast and lunch menus were buffet style with many, many choices. Breakfast was always salmon, smoked herring, breads, cheeses, meats, yogurt, smoothies, fresh vegetables, porridge,

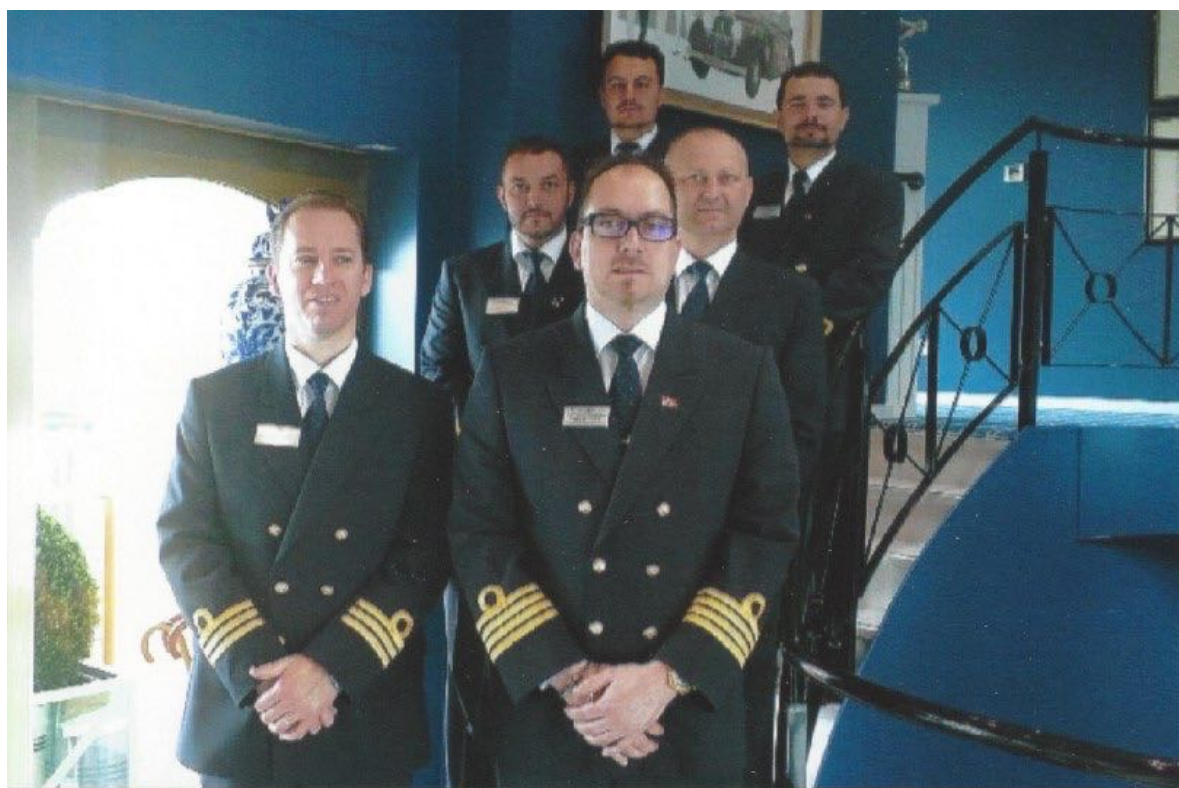
oatmeal, pancakes, French toast, fruit, juices, cereals, eggs (any style), bacon, etc. Lunch was the salmon, smoked herring, bagel/lox, meats, cheeses, soup with a course of something like sandwiches.

Dinner was sit-down and we ordered from a menu that included appetizer, soup, choice of main dish, and choice of desert, and always with white and/or red wine.

In addition, the chef can make anything that was not on menu.

There were other food opportunities like daily croissants, rolls, fruit opposite the library plus 24-hour coffee, cappuccino, tea, etc. Rooms also had wrapped chocolate candies.

Here are photos of the crew/staff.



River Queen 2016



Every day there was a Daily Program published. Here is our itinerary. (At Dropbox, select VIEW TO CONTINUE at bottom of login window).

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tnk8xjcmb1suk57/Daily%20Program.pdf?dl=0>

#### Day 1

We went to Amsterdam one day early in case of flight delays, etc.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157666526653000>

#### Day 2

Starting the 10 day cruise from Amsterdam to Antwerp. This day was a free day for us. I walked into Amsterdam Old Town and saw Red Light District.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157667313890342>

#### Day 3

Organized tour begins. We started with a cruise of the Amsterdam canals and visited the Rijksmuseum which houses the Rembrandt painting “Night Watch”.

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#### Day 4

Ship went to Haarlem and a bus took us to Keukenhof Gardens. It rained this day. Ship went back to Amsterdam before heading to Horn. In the evening there was a lecture “Life and Art in the Golden Age”.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157666947703940>

### Day 5

Ship docked in Hoorn for walking tour of the city. This is where my camera broke. Remainder of these photos were taken with iPhone and iPad. Ship went to Enkhuizen for visit to outdoor “Life in the Zuiderzee” museum. In the evening, there were local Dutch entertainers named Blokkerderdans group playing accordions and dancing aboard ship.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157666947738010>

### Day 6

Ship went to Nijmegen where we had bus ride to Kröller-Müller Museum, which has 97 art works by Vincent Van Gogh.

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### Day 7

Went to Rotterdam, largest port in Europe, where the ship's captain gave us a harbor cruise. We then visited Delft, birthplace of Johannes Vermeer, and home to famous Delft pottery (ceramic). Later we visited Kinderdijk windmills.

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### Day 8

Ship docked at Veere, and we visited the Delta Works museum. This exhibit shows the 30 year engineering marvel to hold back the North Sea after a devastating 1953 storm that killed almost 2000 people when it flooded the countryside. Project cost 2.5 billion Euros in today's money.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157667378877811>

### Day 9

First day in Belgium. The ship docked in Ghent. We were bussed to Bruges (Brugge) for walking tour with canal cruise.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157667439084156>

### Day 10

The ship stayed in Ghent before late departure for Antwerp.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157667510772395>

### Day 11

We departed Antwerp at 4am (7pm local Arizona time) for private departure transfer to Brussels Airport and home. Arrived home at 7:30pm.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tom-maverick/albums/72157666947937680>