

Floriade

6 – 10 August



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Experience a feast for the senses at Floriade 2012 ~ Holland's world horticultural exhibition staged once every 10 years. Sample every aspect of Dutch horticulture from bulbs, flowers and plants to trees, bushes and shrubs, from vegetables and fruit to mushrooms. The Floriade Park covers 66 hectares and encompasses 5 unique themed worlds separated by wooded areas, each with its own decor, programme and activities, in which you'll see, feel and experience nature in a totally different way each time.

MONDAY 6 AUGUST Depart early morning for the drive to Dover and our short sea crossing to Calais. We travel on to Ostend where we shall have time to have a look around and find lunch. Early afternoon we continue on to Valkenburg, our home for the next four nights.

TUESDAY 7 AUGUST Today we make the short journey to the Floriade site at Venlo in the Dutch province of Limburg. There are several themes: Green Engine - the ultra-sustainable Villa Flora is home to the biggest indoor flower show; Relax and Heal - this world puts you in balance with nature in an Oriental

setting. Healing herbs, tea rituals, a barefoot path and a spa-like ambience gives every visitor a special Yin-Yang experience; Education and Innovation - as you walk around this area, you'll understand how important it is to keep on learning and innovating. Taste unusual fruit and vegetable creations. Cook your own meal in a laboratory. And go on a journey through the jungle greenhouse; Environment - experience how flowers, plants, trees, vegetables and fruit in your immediate environment can improve your daily life; World Show Stage - a spot on the boulevard where you can sample world foods and

enjoy an international programme of entertainment in the spectacular amphitheatre. A place where you'll not only feel like a spectator but like a participant too! You can walk along a thematic route or enjoy a bird's eye view of the park from the 30-metre-high cable-car system.

WEDNESDAY 8 AUGUST This morning we make our way to the Three Lands Point Maze, situated at the south-western tip of the Netherlands, where the country touches both Germany and Belgium. This is reflected in the overall shape of the maze, and its hedges represent the German eagle and two different lion symbols for Belgium and Holland. One of the world's largest permanent hedge mazes, the maze paths are crossed in several places by rows of fountains, which temporarily block the paths, rising and falling seemingly at random. The paths also pass over and under wooden bridges. Following our visit we journey on to the German spa town of Aachen where we shall have some time to explore. Maybe visit the cathedral, one of the most famous examples of occidental architecture and the first German building to be included in the UNESCO World Heritage list, see the Gothic Town Hall, browse the shops or simply sit and watch the world go by before returning to our hotel.



THURSDAY 9 AUGUST We shall be free this morning to discover the delights of Valkenburg: see the remains of Valkenburg Castle; the only elevated castle in the Netherlands, maybe visit the municipal caves created when the Romans began mining the ground for the marl that they needed as building material. After lunch we drive to Maastricht where we shall have a boat ride on the River Meuse.

FRIDAY 10 AUGUST Departing after breakfast we make our way to Mons in Belgium where we shall have time to find lunch before continuing on to Calais. Arriving back in Oxted late evening.

What's included

HOTEL WALRAM

Valkenburg

The Best Western Hotel Walram is a stylish hotel with a rich history. Hotel Walram has modern facilities including an indoor swimming pool and sauna.

All bedrooms are en suite with TV, clock radio & hairdryer.

4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast.

Time to explore Ostend, Aachen, Valkenburg, Maastricht & Mons

Entry to Floriade 2012

Entry to Three Points Maze

Boat ride on River Meuse

£459.00 PER PERSON

Single Room Supp: £40.00