

## **SPRING FEVER: FLORIADE & BEYOND**

**May 2 to May 11, 2022**



Join HPSO for the best that Spring has to offer in the Netherlands, Belgium and Haut France. We have lined up our tour dates to feature an array of festivals, celebrations and annual events, and even the once a decade Floriade exposition. Spring fever will be all around.

<b>DAY 0/NIGHT 1</b>	<b>Monday May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>D</b>
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Upon arrival in Brussels, travelers will have the day free to settle in and explore the historic center of Brussels. Our Brussels home for two nights is steps away from the pedestrian core of the city. **Welcome Group Dinner / Stay the night in Brussels.**

<b>DAY 1/NIGHT 2</b>	<b>Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>Brussels</b>	<b>B</b>
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### **The Royal Glasshouses of Laeken**

Our timing is just right to catch the once a year opening of the Royal Glasshouses of Laeken - seven monumental Art Nouveau conservatories and tour the beautiful castle grounds in full bloom.

### **Floralia Brussels at Kasteel van Groot-Bijgaarden**

After lunch, we take a very short ride to another Brussels spring favorite the *Floralia*. This one-month celebration of thousands of spring bulbs will be in its 19<sup>th</sup> year on the grounds surrounding the Kasteel van Groot-Bijgaarden. We cap off our day with a visit to Brasserie Timmermans so we can sample some of their signature Belgian Lambic. **Dinner on your own / Stay the night in Brussels.**

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<b>DAY 2/NIGHT 3</b>	<b>Wednesday May 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Ghent</b>	<b>B</b>
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[Floralien Gent 2022](#) - *My Paradise, a Global Garden*

Today, we move on to the historic city of Ghent for a very forward-looking celebration of floral art. at the *Floralien Gent*. The Floralien venues are located near the city center. Set your own pace at the show, and take some time to explore historic Ghent too. We end our day with a jump to Breda in the Netherlands. A brief walk from our hotel brings you to the market square's numerous restaurants and cafes. **Dinner on your own / Stay the night in Breda.**

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<b>DAY 3/ NIGHT 4</b>	<b>Thursday May 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>B &amp; D</b>
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Gouda

Thursday morning is the weekly historic cheese market in Gouda's central square. You will have time for wandering, shopping and lunch on your own. Keep an eye out for *hofje*, the typical courtyard gardens opening onto the historic streets.

[Hortus botanicus Leiden](#)

In the afternoon, we move on to Leiden where we visit the oldest botanical garden in the Netherlands. This is also a garden for the 21st century with its new Winter Garden glasshouse and cutting-edge research programs.

[Keukenhof](#) - Lisse

Rivers of blooming bulbs spill out across the Keukenhof gardens. If you haven't succumbed to tulip fever, you may also choose to take a bit of time in the Beatrix Pavilion's special exhibit of orchids and anthuriums.

Bloemen Route

Before we turn towards our evening accommodations, we will take in some of the scenic drive northward along the world famous Bloemen Route through the tulip fields. **Group Dinner / Stay the night in Amsterdam Zuid.**

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<b>DAY 4/NIGHT 5</b>	<b>Friday May 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>B</b>
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[Floriade – Almere](#)

The day will be devoted entirely to the 2022 edition of Floriade in Almere. Once a decade, for almost a century the Dutch have created a horticultural exposition the rival of any world's fair. Set your own pace and choose the exhibits of most interest to you. Floriade 2022's theme "Growing Green Cities" will include exhibits on Food, Energy, Health and Hortus. Be sure to leave time for the Green City Arboretum and the cable car ride over the exposition grounds. Dinner is on your own in the bustling Zuid district near our hotel. Or, you can catch a quick commuter train (10 minutes) into the canal district in Amsterdam center. **Dinner on your own / Stay the night in Amsterdam Zuid.**

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<b>DAY 5/NIGHT 6</b>	<b>Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Netherlands</b>	<b>B &amp; D</b>
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[The Tea Garden](#) - Weesp

We begin our morning in Weesp at the home garden of designer Jacqueline van der Kloet known for her beautiful mixtures of perennials, shrubs and especially spring flowering bulbs.

Utrecht

Our visit to Utrecht begins at the Pandhof – the cloister garden tucked inside the [Domkerk](#). Nearby, we explore another courtyard garden, Flora's Hof, a peaceful green oasis hidden in the inner city. Saturday is Market Day in Utrecht. We will have an extended lunch break here to allow ample time to visit the markets including the Breedstraat Market devoted to fabric and the Jankerkhof Market for flowers and plants.

### [Villa Augustus – Dordrecht](#)

The quirky Villa Augustus hotel is built in a historic water tower and centered within large ornamental and kitchen gardens -- a feast for the eye and the palate. Take time for exploring the gardens, shopping in the market and taking an afternoon coffee break in their art-filled bakery café before our return to Belgium, where we stay two nights in the historic city of Bruges. **Group dinner / Stay the night in Bruges**

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<b>DAY 6/NIGHT 7</b>	<b>Sunday May 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>B</b>
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### [Park van Beervelde Garden Days](#)

Our day begins with a morning at the semi-annual garden festival held in the lush grounds of Park van Beervelde. Enjoy the plants, antiques, clothing, produce, garden art, crafts, culinary delicacies and artisanal beverages while you decide which vendor will get your attention for lunch, or will you go straight to the waffles and crepes. This afternoon, we head back towards Bruges stopping along the way to visit private gardens ranging from contemporary to traditional. Enjoy an evening in Bruges and perhaps take time out for a ride on the canals. **Dinner on your own / Stay the night in Bruges.**

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<b>DAY 7/NIGHT 8</b>	<b>Monday May 9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Nord/Somme</b>	<b>B &amp; L</b>
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Today's journey takes us into France passing through the area of Flanders best known to those who recall battlefield sites from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But, this corner of France, often called Picardy, is also rich in horticultural sites including the various Jardin Remarquable both public and private along our route.

### [Jardin de Valloires](#)

After a stop to visit a private garden, we move on to Argoules for a visit to an 18<sup>th</sup> century abbey garden with a contemporary twist.

### [Herbarium of the Ramparts](#)

We will stop for a group lunch in the seaside town of St. Valery sur Somme at the head of the bay where the river meets the English Channel. After lunch we head to a garden with a rather unusual site atop the town utilizing ancient city wall. We end our day in the cathedral town of Amiens where we stay just one night. You may want to explore a bit of the pedestrian city center before choosing one of the many restaurants and cafés for dinner. **Dinner on your own / Stay the night in Amiens.**

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<b>DAY 8/NIGHT 9</b>	<b>Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Oise</b>	<b>B &amp; L &amp; D</b>
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Today we journey south through the département of Oise where we will explore several more Jardin Remarquable private gardens on our way to Paris.

### [Le Jardin des Ifs](#)

This Jardin Remarquable in Gerberoy not only features incredible yews in distinctive shapes, but it is also home to a charming garden restaurant where we will take lunch together. After lunch we will tuck in one more garden visit as well as a stop in the charming historic village of Senlis before making our way into Paris.

**Farewell Group Dinner / Stay the night in Paris.**

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<b>DAY 9</b>	<b>Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Paris</b>	<b>B</b>
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Departure after breakfast for those leaving at the end of the Spring Fever tour.

Those staying on for the Tale of Two Cities Tour will continue on in the same hotel. You will have a free day in Paris. The Tale of Two Cities tour will begin with group dinner this evening.

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## TERMS & CONDITIONS

### TOUR PRICES

HPSO Tours are specially priced as a benefit of HPSO membership. HPSO limits tour group sizes to provide the best quality tour experiences for our members. This tour will have no more than 25 travelers.

HPSO tours are open to HPSO members only. If you would like to be accompanied by a spouse, significant other, family member or friend, the cost of one year's membership for your companion will be added to the price of their tour.

Please Note: This tour is priced in Euros (€) but will be invoiced to you in US Dollars. The price may change depending on the currency exchange rate at the time when the final payment is made to the agent. Payment will be due in two installments. If any overpayment caused by last-minute fluctuations in the exchange rate occurs, such overpayment will be refunded to you in a timely manner, or added features and benefits will be included on the itinerary as compensation. Conversely, any shortage will be billed on a supplemental invoice. Price may decrease if group exceeds 20 travelers. Costs not expressly included are the responsibility of individual participants.

#### **Tour price includes:**

- 9 nights hotel accommodations in four-star hotels, portorage for 1 piece of luggage
- All breakfasts, 4 group dinners, 2 group lunches and gratuities for included meals
- Services of a motor coach and a professional driver, gratuities included
- Services of a professional tour guide, gratuities included
- Entrance fees for all garden visits and attractions except during noted free time

**Tour Price, double sharing a room: € 2977 per person** (approximately \$3498 US in October 2021)

**Tour Price with single supplement: € 3732 per person** (approximately \$ 4386 US in October 2021)

Prices quoted are based on 15 travelers and an exchange rate of \$1.175 to one Euro as of October 21, 2021

Price may decrease if group exceeds 20 travelers.

#### **Tour price does not include:**

- Round-trip air fare
- Airport Transfers on arrival
- Travel insurance
- Meals not expressly included in itinerary
- Items of a personal nature including: some beverages at group meals (soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, mineral water, and occasionally coffee and tea), telephone calls, laundry, room service, other tips, etc.
- Charitable donation to HPSO - \$180. The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon is a 501(c)(3) organization, and this donation may be tax deductible. Please consult your tax advisor.

### PAYMENTS

Tour reservation requests are processed in the order received. You will be notified by the tour escort once your reservation request has been accepted.

A deposit of \$750 will be required upon registration and acceptance on the tour.

Tour deposits and installment payments may be made by check or credit card. Credit card payments are subject to a 3.75% credit card processing fee.

Late payments of installment invoices in excess of 21 days will be subject to a 10% penalty. If final payment is not received by the supplier's deadline, all prior payments will be forfeited and the reservation canceled.

### **TRAVEL & CANCELLATION INSURANCE**

Because unforeseen situations do arise from time to time, participants are encouraged to consider purchasing travel and/or cancellation insurance. Neither HPSO nor Pathfinders provides travel or cancellation insurance. However, participants will find many third-party companies via the internet that provide this coverage.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

The tours are designed for a minimum number of participants. If the tour does not fill to the minimum, there is a supplemental charge per person. If this situation occurs, registrants will be advised of the change in pricing and will have the opportunity to reconsider their tour application. Please do not book any non-refundable airfare until you have been notified by your tour escort.

### **CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS**

Regardless of the reason, cancellations result in a costly process of correspondence, calls, refund checks, bookkeeping expenses, etc. Often there is a loss of revenue for the tour company if time doesn't permit resale. Cancellations can also affect the per-person price of the entire tour since pricing is dependent on the number of travelers. To offset the expenses and any nonrefundable deposits and/or lost revenue, the cancellation fee per tour is as follows:

- If the minimum number for the tour has not yet been reached, then an administrative fee of \$50 may be incurred to process a refund.
- If the tour is full and if the canceled space is subsequently filled from a waiting list, then a \$100 fee will be incurred.
- If the tour is full and if the space **cannot** be filled, then the entire deposit plus installment payments made-to-date may be forfeited. This, in part, may depend on suppliers' charges and overhead expenses.
- If the tour is canceled by the tour company due to situations beyond HPSO's control such as governmental travel bans or health advisories, the amount of refund will be determined by the recoverable portion of the supplier's charges and overhead expenses.

**The agent/company for this tour is Pathfinders/STITA Tours** - The Hardy Plant Society of Oregon acts only as representative for the tour participant with respect to communications with the Agent.

### **LIMITATIONS**

Tour participants must be physically and mentally fit. The success of any tour depends on each person's ability to participate and to cooperate with other tour members and with the tour guide and escort.

This tour is rated by HPSO as Level 2 – Moderate to Active.

Please note that the physical demands of this tour include: Ability to board and disembark a coach without assistance and walk up to 4 miles per day in segments of one or more miles. Ability to stand for 45 minutes for lectures or presentations. Ability to walk on uneven paths; for instance, gravel or stone, and ability to maneuver stairs that may be uneven and without handrails. Must be able to handle own luggage to and from the coach, and occasionally up more a flight of stairs. May include use of public transportation, such as bus, train, or boat. Must be able to board and disembark multiple modes of transportation. Tours at this activity level may be of longer duration requiring more stamina over multiple days.

**Liability Waiver** - The tour participant must submit a signed Liability Waiver & Release for HPSO within 30 days of acceptance of the tour application.

**This is a non-smoking tour.** Smoking is not permitted on the coach or during group meals or group activities.

### COVID PRECAUTIONS

**Participation in an HPSO tour requires tour members to observe the following:**

Requirements set by HPSO

- All tour participants are required to be vaccinated, even when they have previously tested positive for Covid-19 and have recovered.
- Non-cooperation with these and any related requirements may result in exclusion from a current tour, forfeit of the cost of the tour, and exclusion from all future HPSO tours.

Requirements which may be set by governmental jurisdictions, airlines, hotels, restaurants, and coach (tour bus) operators, or at tour sites, including gardens, over which HPSO has no control but which may be required of all tour participants:

- Masks may be required or requested at some tour sites or while traveling as a group.
- Pre-tour testing may be required to permit travel to, and entry at the starting point of a tour.
- Reentry to the U.S. from international destinations may also require testing.

### Responsibilities

- Where necessary, each tour participant shall furnish his/her own masks, including specific mask types which may be required by airlines or other service providers.
- Pre-tour and post-tour testing, as may be required (above,) is the sole responsibility of the tour participant.
- Any medical care or private hotel stays or rearrangement of travel resulting from Covid-19 or any other medical issue during the course of a tour is also the sole responsibility of the tour participant.

### TOUR GUIDE & ESCORT

An English-speaking tour guide will accompany the tour. The tour will also feature a Quitevox ear bud listening system for each participant.

Tour Escort **Barb Christopher** is the current Hardy Plant Society of Oregon President. Barb is a veteran HPSO traveler, having participated in numerous HPSO tours. She has also led several HPSO tours: Wales in 2016, Devon & Cornwall in 2017 and Spain in 2018.

For more information about this tour, please contact Barb Christopher at [barbfc@comcast.net](mailto:barbfc@comcast.net)



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