

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES: THE NETHERLANDS



*Clockwise from top:
traditional windmills in Dutch
countryside; Amsterdam
canals; hand-painted wooden
clogs; becoming one with
Delft art.*



Going Dutch

Gardens, Goat Cheese, Van Gogh

Biking Tour through Jewish Amsterdam: Pedal through the city's old

Jewish quarter as you learn about its important history. Visit the old market and synagogue, the Jewish Historical Museum, and Anne Frank House while your expert guide discusses the history of immigration and diaspora, the influential diamond cutters' union, and the occupation of Amsterdam in World War II.

Behind the Canal House Facade:

Join a professional garden designer or art historian as you go behind the facades of Amsterdam's impressive canal houses. You visit a range of magnificent 17th- and 18th-century coach houses and gardens in the "Golden Bend," the most exclusive part of the Herengracht Canal. A real treat: coffee with syrup waffles is served in the kitchen of the private Museum Geelvinck Hinlopen Huis.

A Visit to Van Gogh's Birthplace:

Commemorate the 125th anniversary of Vincent van Gogh's death with a visit to his birthplace, Zundert, in the south of Holland. Meet a Van Gogh expert in Zundert for a tour of the Van Gogh House and the local church and graveyard. Then meander through Het Noordbrabants Museum in Den Bosch, where a number of the artist's paintings are on exhibition.

Windmills and Wooden Shoes:

Spend a special day in the Dutch countryside. Your first stop: a farm in Middenbeemster, where you learn about cheese making Dutch style, and perhaps try your hand at goat milking. Continue through Edam to visit a maker of wooden shoes, watch his exercise of the craft, and even paint a few shoes. Next up: Broek in Waterland, where an artist welcomes you into his home. Finally, it's on to Zaanse Schans to explore its famous 17th-century windmills and exquisitely preserved houses.

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