



Belgian Lace & Dutch Windmills:

A Travel Adventure with Author Kathleen Ernst

Sept. 19 - 29, 2025

To register online:
<https://ed-ventures.grcoll.co/v2/go/kenb25>



DRIFTLESS
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Of all the Chloe Ellefson books that I've written, few historical characters have resonated with readers as much as Seraphine, the heroine of "The Lacemaker's Secret." I'm planning a trip to visit Seraphine's home country of Belgium—and I invite you to join me! As a special highlight we'll visit the former lace school in Bruges where Seraphine learned to make the exquisite lace that sustained her through many difficulties. Today the building houses a Lace Center and Museum. We'll also learn about Belgian immigration and national treasures.

In addition, for the first time ever, I'm offering travelers the opportunity to join me in exploring a country and culture that will be featured in a future Chloe Ellefson mystery. We'll immerse ourselves in Dutch heritage and folk arts as we explore the Netherlands. Highlights will include the Dutch Open Air Museum in Arnhem and the Enkhuizen Open Air Museum. We'll visit the Rijksmuseum, which features eight hundred years of national history, see paintings by Dutch Masters, and learn about folk art at the Museum Hindeloopen. We'll also have time for additional adventures and independent exploration.

I'm excited! I hope you can join me on this fascinating tour.

~ Kathleen Ernst

Day 1: Friday, September 19, 2025 • Departure

Our journey begins as we board our international flight bound from Chicago O'Hare to Amsterdam, Netherlands. **Inflight meals**



Ghent Altarpiece
(Wikipedia)

Day 2: Saturday, September 20, 2025 • Amsterdam

Upon arrival at Schiphol Airport, we take a short walking tour of Amsterdam, including a scenic canal boat tour that provides a beautiful overview of the city's iconic canals, historic bridges, and charming neighborhoods. We transfer to our hotel for check-in. This evening, we enjoy a special welcome dinner along the canals, setting a perfect tone for our time in Amsterdam. **D**

Day 3: Sunday, September 21, 2025 • Amsterdam

This morning, we dive into Dutch culture with a visit to the renowned **Rijksmuseum**, where we explore a rich collection of Dutch art and artifacts, including masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vermeer, and Van Gogh. The rest of the day and evening are free to explore Amsterdam at our leisure. **B**

Day 4: Monday, September 22, 2025 • Amsterdam

Today, we board a coach and head north to Enkhuizen to visit the **Enkhuizen Open Air Museum**, a captivating showcase of the unique history and culture of the Zuiderzee region before the creation of the IJsselmeer. After lunch on our own in this charming town, we head to the **Museum Hindeloopen**, where we discover the rich traditions of folk art and maritime heritage, including the colorful and distinctive Hindeloopen paintings. We return to Amsterdam in the evening and dine as a group. **B, D**

Day 5: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 • Amsterdam

We enjoy a free day to explore Amsterdam's many highlights at your leisure. Make sure to reserve tickets in advance for the Anne Frank House or consider other cultural stops like the Van Gogh Museum, Stedelijk Museum, or the Resistance Museum. Wander through the neighborhoods, shops, or relax by the canals for a memorable day in the city. **B**



Grand Place, Brussels



Ghent

Day 6: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 • Amsterdam

This morning, we drive to Arnhem to visit the **Dutch Open-Air Museum**, where we experience Dutch culture with its historic windmills, farmhouses, and traditional crafts. Next, we explore the **Kröller Müller Museum** in Hoge Veluwe National Park, home to the second largest Van Gogh collection in the world. We return to Amsterdam for a relaxing evening, with dinner at our hotel. **B, D**

Day 7: Thursday, September 25, 2025 • Bruges

After checking out of our hotel, we drive to Antwerp to visit the **Red Star Line Museum**, which tells the stories of migrants who journeyed to America on this historic shipping line. We continue to Bruges, where we take a canal or walking tour to explore the city's medieval streets, canals, and landmarks like the Belfry. After checking into our hotel, we have dinner this evening. **B, D**

Day 8: Friday, September 26, 2025 • Bruges

We visit the **Kantcentrum Lace Museum**, located in the former School of the Apostoline Sisters, where Seraphine would have trained as a lacemaker. We learn about Bruges' rich lace-making heritage. The afternoon we explore the **Gruuthuse Museum and Historium Brugge**. We have time for a bit of shopping for lace souvenirs. Tonight, we savor Flemish specialties like **moules-frites** or **waterzooi** during dinner at a scenic canal side restaurant. **B, D**

Day 9: Saturday, September 27, 2025 • Bruges

Our day begins at the bustling market at 't Zand Square, browsing stalls of fresh produce, artisanal foods, and local wares. Later, we venture to Ghent for a walking tour and a visit to **St. Bavo's Cathedral** to view the **Ghent Altarpiece**. We return to Bruges this evening for dinner on our own. **B**

Day 10: Sunday, September 28, 2025 • Brussels

Today we drive to Brussels where a local guide joins us for a city tour combining some driving and walking. Our sightseeing includes the breathtaking Grand-Place, one of the most beautiful squares in the world, it's 15th century Town Hall and its richly decorated late 17th century Guild Houses, the Royal Palace, the smallest and most famous irreverent inhabitant, Manneken-Pis. We also see Notre Dame du Sablon, Park-du-Cinquantenaire, Atomium and St. Michael Cathedral. Tonight, we enjoy a farewell dinner together. **B, D**

Day 11: Monday, September 29, 2025 • Return

We transfer to the airport for our return flights, bringing home memories of our extraordinary journey. **B**

TOUR COST: \$5,949*

Land & est. air per person, double occupancy

Single supplement = \$1,400

with a minimum of 20 participants

Your Tour Includes:

- **Estimated Roundtrip Airfare** (\$1,540 from Chicago to Amsterdam and return from Brussels)
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) in 3 and 4 star hotels
- **Meals** per the itinerary
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- Services of **professional tour manager**
- Local **step-on guides** for city tours and major attractions
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person where available
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services on land tour, including end of tour tips to the driver and tour manager.

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals other than indicated above
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. (*Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.*)
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. (*This insurance is available and recommended.*)

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$750 per person is due with reservation.
A 2nd deposit of \$1,000 is due March 26, 2025.
Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure date (June 21, 2025). Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 120 days before departure a \$100/person administrative fee plus any airfare & land penalties will be assessed. From 119-46 days, a \$300/person cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are non-refundable. Anyone canceling 45 days or less prior to departure will receive no refund.

Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

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Due to COVID-19, we reserve the right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

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