



Spring in
Maastricht

Sample Itinerary



YOUR HOTEL

NH Hotel Maastricht
Forum 110, 6229 GV Maastricht
T: 043 383 8280

MAASTRICHT: GENERAL INFORMATION

The Maastricht tourist office (VVV Maastricht)

Kleine Staat 1. Located right in the heart of the city (pedestrians-only area).

Opening hours:

Monday to Friday – 10.00am to 6.00pm
Saturday – 10.00am to 5.00pm



Money

The EURO is the currency for the Netherlands, Germany and Belgium, and so you will only need to convert your US Dollars once for all of your purchases this week. When out shopping, you may find the following information helpful when looking at prices.

Quick Conversion Chart (approximate)

Euros	US \$
€0.80	\$1.00
€1.00	\$1.25
€5.00	\$6.25
€10.00	\$12.50
€50.00	\$62.50

Electricity

230 volts (compared to 120 volts in the US). You will need a converter and an adapter in order to use your US appliances.

Shopping in Maastricht

Shops are generally open from 9.00am to 6.00pm from Tuesday to Saturday. There is late night shopping on Thursday until 9.00pm. Shops are closed on Sunday and close at 1.00pm on Monday. There are numerous food and boutique shops in Maastricht, and two delightful shopping centres, 'Entre Deux' and 'Mosae Forum' both in the heart of the old city.

MAASTRICHT SIGHTS

You will already have seen a good deal of Maastricht on your guided walk of the city, and your visit to the St. Pietersberg caves. However, if you do have time, in between shopping, you may wish to visit the following attractions.

Treasure chamber of the Basilica of St. Servatius

With its impressive exterior, this treasure chamber is filled with tradition, history, religious culture and art. This is where Maastricht cherishes its greatest treasures: the shrine of St. Servatius, also called the Noodkist, it contains part of the skeleton of St. Servatius, the first bishop of the

Netherlands. The shrine is a beautiful example of Maasland (Meuse region) master craftsmanship, and once every seven years it is paraded through the streets of Maastricht during a procession displaying various precious religious artefacts. The treasure chamber also contains the drinking cup and bust of St. Servatius as well as various other objects attributed to the

MAASTRICHT SIGHTS *(continued)*



city's patron saint, such as the bishop's staff, the pectoral cross, the pilgrim's staff and the key.

Treasure chamber of the Basilica of Our Lady

This treasure chamber contains a great many artefacts of religious art and craftsmanship, including richly embroidered copes and chasubles, the so-called "Levietenkleed" (Levite's Robe) of St. Lambertus, the next-to-last Bishop of Maastricht, relics in beautiful holders, procession banners, church silver, statues and much

more. The artefacts are exhibited in the cloister of the "Slevrouwe" (as the basilica is commonly referred to by the locals).

Derlon Museum Cellar

Before construction of the Derlon Hotel, Maastricht's city archaeologist undertook an extensive survey of the site. The Roman finds, from the 2nd, 3rd and 4th centuries, are so important that it was decided to conserve them and exhibit them in the basement of the hotel. Roman finds are exhibited in glass cabinets, and panels provide extra information on the results of the archaeological survey of the site.

Bonnefanten Museum

The Bonnefantenmuseum was designed by the famous Italian architect Aldo Rossi in 1995. The building is a splendid addition to the skyline of Maastricht, along the river Meuse. Featuring the monumental Treppenstraße (stairs) that leads to the exhibition rooms and to the Cupola-tower, its undisputed highlight. Rossi regarded the museum as a 'viewing factory'. The museum offers three

floors for collections and temporary exhibitions. It has a diverse collection, consisting of old masters, medieval wood sculptures, modern and contemporary art.

Fort Sint Pieter

One of the most striking features of the Maastricht defensive works is Fort St. Pieter, dating from 1701-1702. It was completely restored in 2007 and the field of fire was cleared once again. You can now walk through the long corridors and even get right onto the top of the fort, where you will be rewarded with a magnificent view over Maastricht, the Meuse valley and the Jeker valley.

Cruise on the Meuse

This boat trip gives you an excellent overall view of Maastricht from the water. The one hour trip takes you past the historic St. Servaas bridge, the new Céramique district, the government building and St. Pietersberg Hill. Just before the Belgian border, the boat turns back towards the centre of Maastricht. Departs daily at 12.00h, 13.00h, 14.00h, 15.00h, and 16.00h.



DAY 1

6.55pm

Depart the USA on flights to Europe. Dinner and breakfast will be served on your trans-Atlantic flight.

DAY 2

11.00am

Arrive in Brussels. Once you have cleared customs you will be met by your resource assistant for the exciting week ahead.

Transfer by luxury motor coach to Maastricht. On arrival, check-in to your hotel. In the event that your rooms are not ready at this time, the hotel will store your bags securely until you have access.

12.45pm

Depart by coach to the Vrijthof Square.

There are a number of restaurants and eateries on the square where you will find something interesting for your lunch.

1.00pm

Meet back on the Vrijthof Square, outside the theatre, where your local guides will be waiting.

Begin a walking tour of Maastricht, which will take you back to the origins of this Roman City, ideally placed at the crossroads of Europe. You will have the chance to see the old Dutch city on one side of the Maas with its narrow cobblestone streets, ancient fortifications and town houses from the 17th century, and on the other side the contemporary apartment buildings of the Wyck-C eramique area. You will pass beautiful old churches and see the main squares including the Vrijthof and The Market Square, the Town Hall and the parks in the city.

2.30pm

The tour will end. The rest of this afternoon is at leisure for you to discover the City for yourself.

5.00pm

Return to the Vrijthof Square where you will meet your coach for the transfer back to your hotel.

7.00pm

Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant in your hotel. Evening at leisure.

DAY 3

From 7.00am

Breakfast is served (a buffet of hot and cold items will be available in the hotel restaurant).

8.30am

Depart by coach for the Margraten Cemetary.

9.00am

A short distance outside Maastricht, you will enter the village of Margraten, the site of the only American military cemetery in the Netherlands. The cemetery site has a rich historical background, lying near the famous Cologne-Boulogne highway built by the Romans and used by Caesar during his campaigns. It was also used by Charlemagne, Charles V, Napoleon, and Kaiser Wilhelm II.

	In May 1940, Hitler's legions advanced over the route of the old Roman highway, overwhelming the Low Countries. In September 1944, German troops once more used the highway for their withdrawal from the countries occupied for four years.
10.00am	Continue on to Cologne, the fourth largest city in Germany.
11.15am	Arrive in Cologne and start a guided walking tour of the city, past the most famous landmark -The Cologne Cathedral, and onwards through the historic centre of the city with its old, colourful houses, breweries, art galleries and cafes and restaurants.
1.15pm	Independent lunch
2.30pm	Travel by coach to the German city of Aachen, which was the winter capital of Charlemagne, Holy Roman Emperor from 800 to 814 AD. The city lies at the borders of Germany with Belgium and the Netherlands, forming the economic region called the Euregio.
3.00pm	On your arrival in this charming Medieval City (Aix La Chapelle), the City of Charlemagne, you will be met by your guide for a walking tour, taking you past Aachen Cathedral and Town Hall, and through Aachen's historic Old Town with narrow lanes and historic squares and nearly 2000 years of history.
5.00pm	Walk ends. There will be a little time available for independent sightseeing and shopping.
5.45pm	Meet up again in the central market square, before going for dinner in the traditional Aachener Brauhaus, where the menu includes typical German regional specialities.
7.30pm	Return to your coach for the short journey to Maastricht.
8.15pm	Arrive back at your hotel.

DAY 4

7.30am	Breakfast is served.
8.30am	Depart your hotel by luxury motor coach for Amsterdam, one of the greatest small cities in the world. From its canals to world-famous museums and historical sights, Amsterdam is one of the most romantic and beautiful cities in Europe.
11.00am	Boat tour.
12.00 noon	Independent lunch in Amsterdam.
2.00pm	Anne Franks House and additional sightseeing.
5.00pm	Return to your coach for the short transfer to the spectacular Sea Palace restaurant, floating on the water in Amsterdam.
5.30pm	A special 'Rijstafel' (rice table) banquet dinner will be served.
7.00pm	Depart Amsterdam.
10.00pm	Arrive back in Maastricht.



DAY 5

From 7.00am	Breakfast is served.
8.30am	Morning at leisure for personal shopping and sightseeing.
2.00pm	Prepare for your performance this evening.
3.00pm	Depart for the Bonbonniere, an 18th Century theatre and event location in the centre of Maastricht, near the Onze Lieve Vrouwplein.
3.30pm	Rehearsal begins in the Mirror room, a spectacular golden room with impressive original chandeliers.
5.00pm	Return by coach to your hotel.
5.30pm	Dinner is served in the hotel restaurant.
7.00pm	Depart by coach for the Bonbonniere.
8.00pm	The concert begins.
9.00pm	Return by coach to your hotel.

DAY 6

From 6.30am	Breakfast is served.
8.00am	Depart your hotel by motor coach for the city of Brussels, capital of Belgium and host to the headquarters of the European Union (EU). Since the end of the Second World War it has been a main centre for international politics, hosting principal EU institutions as well as the headquarters of the NATO, making the city home to numerous international organisations, politicians, diplomats and civil servants.
9.30am	Arrive in Brussels, and meet your guides for a one hour guided tour of the Grande Place and surrounding area. This jewel box of a square is arguably Europe's most ornate and most theatrical. From the early 15th century, the magnificent Gothic-era Hôtel de Ville dominates the square, it is nearly 300 years older than the surrounding guild houses, as it survived the devastating fires of 1695. You will also see the Manneken Pis (The Little Urinating Boy), the emblem of Brussels, which has drawn sightseers for centuries. After all the hype you may be underwhelmed by the minuscule statue!
11.00am	Return to your coach for the journey to Bruges, the capital and largest city of the province of West Flanders in the Flemish Region of Belgium. The historic city centre is a prominent World Heritage Site of UNESCO, and it is sometimes referred to as "The Venice of the North" due to all of its canals. Bruges has a significant economic importance thanks to its port. At one time, it was the "chief commercial city" of the world.
1.00pm	Lunch at leisure on arrival.

2.00pm	Meet your guide in the main Market Square for a 90 minute walking tour of the City, to include views of the Basilica of the Holy Blood, The Old St John's Hospital, St Salvator's Cathedral, The City hall and the Concert Building. Time for independent shopping and sightseeing.
5.00pm	Return to the Market Square and re-join the group, before walking a short distance to the Maximiliaan van Oostenrijk Restaurant where a traditional Belgian dinner will be served.
7.00pm	Return to your coach.
10.00pm	Arrive back in Maastricht.

DAY 7

From	
7.00am	Breakfast is served.
9.15am	Depart by coach for the Caves of St. Pietersberg.
10.00am	Meet your guide, torch in hand, outside the caves before walking underground for a tour that charts the history of these mines, used for centuries of marl quarrying, and more recently as a hiding place for residents during the sieges of Maastricht in the second world war.
11.00am	Tour ends. Board your coach and transfer back in to the city centre. Lunch at leisure.
2.00pm	<p>Depart by coach to the Conservatorium, for a rehearsal in the 'Willem Hijstek' hall, the venue for this evenings concert.</p> <p>The conservatorium is home to the Maastricht Academy of Music, an internationally oriented music academy and part of the Zuyd University. It has over 400 students from 48 different nationalities studying classical, jazz and pop music.</p> <p>The Willem Hijstek Hall is housed in the main building along Bonnefantenstraat, in the historical 'Jerkerkwather' neighbourhood and is used as the Academy's prime classical music hall due to its excellent acoustics.</p>
2.30pm	Rehearsal begins.
5.00pm	Rehearsal ends, return by coach to your hotel.
6.00pm	Dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant.
7.00pm	Depart by coach for the Conservatorium.
8.00pm	The 'Music for Maastricht' concert begins.
9.00pm	Board your coaches for the return to your hotel.

DAY 8

Breakfast is served in the hotel restaurant/breakfast boxes.

Depart by luxury coach to the airport

Check in for your flight home

Lunch and snacks will be served on the flight home.

We wish you a safe journey home!

