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AMSTERDAM TO COPENHAGEN: EUROPE'S ENGINEERING ICONS

Welcome to Aurora Expeditions' Amsterdam to Copenhagen: Europe's Engineering Icons More than mere castles and canals, Europe's greatest engineering feats are among its most treasured landmarks. From structures built to unite to those designed to divide, these iconic buildings, bridges, and boardwalks stand as enduring symbols of human ingenuity. Cruise Amsterdam's canals and stroll the historic Hanseatic stronghold of Rostock. Explore Denmark's vibrant capital, view the remnants of the Berlin Wall and navigate Germany's extraordinary Kiel Canal. This voyage showcases the engineering marvels that transformed trade routes, enabled invasions, and reshaped borders, as we trace the paths of the visionaries who engineered Europe.



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive Amsterdam

Welcome to Amsterdam. On arrival at Schiphol airport make your way to the Arrivals Hall to meet our representative, followed by a transfer to our group hotel. At the hotel, visit our hospitality desk in the lobby to meet our team, who will provide you with useful information regarding pre-embarkation procedures and your time in Amsterdam. You will also receive cabin tags for your luggage. Please clearly label the tags with your name and your cabin number on the ship. This evening offers time to relax in preparation for our day exploring tomorrow.

Accommodation: Amsterdam Hotel (or similar)

Day 2 Amsterdam

Tolerant. Intelligent. Inclusive. There are many terms to describe Amsterdam, the city built around canals that began as a humble



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trading centre and grew into a global powerhouse. Founded in the late 12th century, Amsterdam quickly established itself as a pivotal hub for commerce, sending explorers and traders to the far corners of the New World. This spirit of adventure and openness to different cultures has shaped the city's character, making it a melting pot of diversity and innovation. Today, Amsterdam offers travellers a unique mix of picturesque canals, world-class museums, and a progressive, welcoming atmosphere. Whether you are strolling through its historical neighbourhoods, exploring its world-class art scene, or simply enjoying a Heineken by a canal, Amsterdam promises to put a smile on your face.

Our 'Your Choice' experiences today, offer a chance to view the many faces of Amsterdam, and it surrounds.

This evening, we meet our fellow travellers at a Welcome Reception.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: The Canals of Amsterdam

Join a canal cruise in Amsterdam and dive into the heart of this captivating city. The canals, laid out in the 17th century during the Dutch Golden Age, are more than just scenic waterways--they are a living engineering feat.

Lined with former merchant houses, each building reveals a chapter of Amsterdam's past, showcasing the wealth and grandeur of its trading history. In spring, the canals come alive

with vibrant colour as many bridges are adorned with flowers and residents place flower boxes on their homes, adding a touch of seasonal charm. The canals are impeccably clean, reflecting the city's dedication to preserving their beauty and liveability. As you glide along, you'll experience how these historical waterways continue to shape Amsterdam's vibrant daily life, from houseboats and floating cafes to the occasional spring swimmer.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Zaanse Schans - a Pocket of Amsterdam's Past

As you approach Zaanse Schans, it's hard to believe you are still in 21st-century Amsterdam. The iconic windmills, their sails turning slowly, provide a historical backdrop against lush meadows. Inside, the creak of wood and the whir of machinery reveal the mills' vital role in Dutch industrial innovation. Dating back to the 17th century, these mills were essential for sawing wood and grinding oil, flour, spices and pigments. Today, you can still enter a mill and learn from a host how these age-old processes worked. Strolling through Zaanse Schans, you will hear the distinctive clatter of wooden clogs on cobblestones and witness the craftsmanship behind Dutch cheeses and Delft Blue pottery. Artisans at the Weavers' House and Tiemstra's Coopery continue these traditional crafts. Each building and craft evoke nostalgia, connecting you to centuries of history. Though it is a living community, visiting Zaanse Schans feels like stepping into a bygone era.

Option 3 - Full day experience: Keukenhof - a tulip extravaganza

Nothing says welcome to Holland like tulips, so get ready to say



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'Welkom in Nederland' as we visit Keukenhof Gardens during the annual Tulip Festival. Touted as the ultimate European spring experience, over seven million flower bulbs are meticulously planted each autumn to bloom in spring, creating a spectacular display of colour. With 800 different varieties of tulips, the gardens offer a visual feast that captures Dutch horticultural excellence.

As you explore the landscaped gardens, you'll encounter intricate floral displays, themed gardens, and tranquil ponds, each more stunning than the last. The Tulip Festival celebrates not just tulips, but also daffodils, hyacinths and other springtime flowers, all arranged in creative patterns and designs. (Note: The dates for Keukenhof in 2027 are yet to be confirmed. If our visit falls outside of these dates or if tickets are unavailable, we will provide a suitable alternative.)

Accommodation: Amsterdam Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Welcome Reception (drinks and canapes)

Day 3 Embark Den Haag (Port: Scheveningen)

Enjoy a morning in Amsterdam, before we drive to The Hague (Den Haag). En route stop at Kinderdijk offering us a glimpse into one of the greatest engineering feats in Dutch history. This UNESCO World Heritage site showcases 19 iconic windmills, built in the 18th century to manage water in the low-lying polder landscape. These windmills weren't just picturesque additions to the horizon. They were essential to survival. By pumping water from reclaimed land into canals and rivers, they made agriculture and settlement possible below sea level. The Dutch mastered this technology to reclaim land from the sea, literally

creating more of Holland. Visiting Kinderdijk reveals how innovation, necessity, and community shaped a nation that lives in harmony with water, turning threat into opportunity and marshland into thriving farmland. Only the Dutch!

On arrival at the seaside town of Scheveningen, we board the Douglas Mawson and enjoy a welcome dinner while we meet our onboard team.

Day 4 Harlingen (Port: Harlingen)

Tucked along the Wadden Sea coast, Harlingen offers a glimpse into the rural heart of the Netherlands dairy capital, Friesland, along with an insight into the Dutch people's enduring battle with the sea. This charming port town blends maritime heritage with quiet countryside, where dijks and canals crisscross low-lying farmland reclaimed from the sea. The region's iconic sea defences tell the story of resilience and a deep connection to water.

Our 'Your Choice' experiences offer three engineering feats this morning, with our afternoon free to explore the waterfront town of Harlingen. This small town offers a true insight into 'small town' Friesland, before we take the Douglas Mawson out into the North Sea ready to traverse Europe's Engineering Icons - the Kiel Canal.

Personalise your exploration with our included 'Your Choice' experiences.

Option 1 - Morning experience: Holland's Saviour - the Afsluitdijk



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With around 26 per cent of the Netherlands lying below sea level and nearly 60 per cent of the population living on reclaimed it's no surprise that the country hasn't just battled the sea, it's reshaped it. Nowhere is that more dramatically showcased than at the Afsluitdijk Wadden Centre, an eye-catching hub perched on one of the greatest engineering feats in Dutch history. Stretching an impressive 32 kilometres (18.6 miles) across the former Zuiderzee, the Afsluitdijk was completed in 1932 to tame the North Sea and protect the heart of the Netherlands. Its construction reclaimed over 1,650 square kilometres of land and saved countless lives by preventing catastrophic floods.

At the Wadden Centre, interactive exhibits bring this epic story to life. You'll learn about the dike's construction, the surrounding World Heritage-listed Wadden Sea, and visionary new projects like the Fish Migration River, a world-first solution helping wildlife adapt to human innovation. This isn't just a museum, it's a front-row seat to one of the greatest engineering achievements in Dutch history, and a glimpse into how the Netherlands continues to reshape its future, one wave at a time.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Sailing the Canals of Leeuwarden

Friesland is renowned for its world-famous cheeses, but Leeuwarden offers more than just dairy delights. This authentic, rural town is a world away Holland's city landscapes. It's a haven of canals, charming, cobbled streets, and picturesque houses that tell stories of centuries-old Dutch traditions. After a relaxing boat tour along Leeuwarden's serene canals, you'll have

free time to explore the city's quiet beauty at your own pace. Stroll through its quaint streets, admire the historic architecture, and discover local food shops where Friesland's unique culture comes to life. Don't forget to sample some local cheese, made from the rich milk of the famous Friesian cows -- who can produce up to 30 litres of milk a day!

Option 3 - Morning experience: Fortress of Resistance: A Visit to the Kazematten Museum

A few kilometres off the Frisian coast, on the Afsluitdijk, lie the historic Kazematten of Kornwerderzand, the only place in Europe where the Blitzkrieg was halted in May 1940. In a remarkable stand, just 225 Dutch soldiers managed to hold off an assault by 13,500 German troops, marking a unique moment of resistance during the early days of World War II. The Kazematten Museum, housed in the original bunkers, brings this heroic story to life through preserved fortifications, personal artefacts, and detailed exhibits. It's a powerful and atmospheric visit that highlights extraordinary courage against overwhelming odds.

Day 5 At Sea

Our day at sea offers the perfect opportunity to reflect on another great engineering feat -- our own vessel, the Douglas Mawson. Join a member of our team for a fascinating onboard lecture exploring the ship's design, cutting-edge navigation systems, along with what it's like to sail to the polar regions aboard a purpose-built expedition vessel.

Between insights on sailing and scanning the horizon, there's time to unwind and enjoy the ship's amenities, whether it's a quiet moment on deck or a drink with a view. As we sail, the



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outer Dutch islands gradually give way to the German coastline, setting the stage for our arrival the next morning at one of Europe's most impressive engineering wonders.

Day 6 Brunsbüttel - Traverse the Kiel Canal

You can't travel through Germany without encountering its vast network of navigable waterways, but none are as iconic or strategically important as the Kiel Canal. Often called Europe's Panama, this 98-kilometre (61-mile) engineering feat slices through the narrow waist of Schleswig-Holstein, cutting the Jutland Peninsula from mainland Europe and offering Baltic-bound ships a shortcut that saves 460 kilometres (286 miles) of open-sea navigation around Denmark.

Carved by hand over eight demanding years by 9,000 workers, the canal opened in 1895 as the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Kanal, but as Germany's naval power surged, it had to be widened by hand once more to accommodate a new generation of battleships. Today, renamed the Nord-Ostsee-Kanal, but often simply called the Kiel Canal, it remains one of the most fascinating waterways, attracting 90 to 130 vessels daily.

Thanks to our boutique ship's compact size, we're able to navigate this rare inland passage, an experience off-limits to today's towering cruise giants. Our daytime transit offers a front-row view of the canal's working locks, designed not for elevation but to manage the tidal flow between seas. As we glide through peaceful stretches of countryside, the scenery becomes unmistakably German: wide meadows, red-brick farmhouses, and the occasional herd of cows watching from the banks. It's one of the few journeys in Europe where tranquillity still reigns and where you're more likely to spot a tractor or a fishing rod than another tourist.

Day 7 Berlin (Port: Wismar)

We disembark this morning at historical Wismar and take a morning's drive to Germany's capital; Berlin, where we will spend the night to ensure a fascinating insight into this iconic city.

Few cities wear their history as openly, or as powerfully, as Berlin. Once the heart of Prussian royalty and imperial ambition, it became a symbol of cultural prestige with grand boulevards and monumental buildings. But the 20th century reshaped it dramatically. Devastated by Germany's defeat in WWI and the ensuing depression, Berlin fell under Nazi rule, becoming Hitler's capital, where dark ideology took root. World War II left the city in ruins, and by the end of the decade, Berlin was divided; reflecting the fractured world around it. Built in 1961, the Berlin Wall became the starker symbol of the Cold War, splitting not just the city but Europe itself for nearly three decades.

Our overnight visit to Berlin offers an insight into a city shaped by centuries of conflict and resilience. This afternoon, our local guide brings their hometowns rich and turbulent past to life on a driving tour of their city. We trace the story of the Berlin Wall on a driving tour from the East Side Gallery to Checkpoint Charlie, where tales of division and daring escapes still resonate. Along Unter den Linden, the grand boulevard of Prussian power, we explore Berlin's imperial legacy by viewing landmarks like the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag, while at the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, one of the few buildings to survive World War II bombings, we're reminded of the city's devastation and its extraordinary capacity to reengineer itself as Germany's capital.



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This evening we'll enjoy some traditional German fare, before an overnight stay in this historic city.

Accommodation: Berlin Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast, lunch, dinner

Day 8 Berlin - Rostock (Port: Rostock)

Our morning in Berlin offers two 'Your Choice' experiences for you to choose from. Reflect on 1940's Berlin with a moving visit to the Jewish Memorial and a powerful lesson learnt through wartime images and testimonials at the Topography of Terror Museum. For those interested in the Cold War era, browse the DDR Museum to uncover the story of divided Berlin. In the early afternoon, we head north to Rostock, a historic stronghold of the Hanseatic League, where we'll board the ship, and sail for Denmark mid-evening.

Option 1 - Morning experience: World War II Berlin

Our tour begins with a visit to the Topography of Terror; an open-air museum located on the former site of the World War II Gestapo and SS headquarters. Despite its unassuming name, it offers a stark and powerful look into the dark history of Nazi terror, using photographs, documents, and testimonies to reveal the chilling operations that took place here. We follow this story to the Jewish Museum, a space that goes beyond architecture to tell deeply personal stories of Jewish life in Germany. Through poignant exhibits and artifacts donated by families devastated by the Holocaust, we gain a profound understanding of the impact of Nazi policies, reflecting on the deep loss, remarkable

resilience, and enduring strength of the Jewish community.

Option 2 - Morning experience: Living behind the Wall

Step back in time at the DDR Museum, one of Berlin's most popular and immersive museums. Here, everyday life in the former East Germany is brought vividly to life through original artifacts donated by those who lived under the regime. Each item, whether a ration card, schoolbook, or kitchen appliance, carries a personal story, offering a glimpse into the daily realities behind the Iron Curtain. Walk through reconstructed living spaces, sit in the DDR's iconic car - the Trabant, and experience the atmosphere of a state shaped by surveillance and scarcity. It's a powerful, hands-on journey into the human experience of life 'behind the Berlin Wall'.

Day 9 Disembark Copenhagen (Port: Copenhagen)

After breakfast, check-out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your onward flight.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 10 Depart Copenhagen

Copenhagen is a city where Scandinavian tradition meets modern Nordic cool. Home to three royal palaces, and nearly a quarter of Denmark's population this casual capital reflects centuries of regal heritage alongside a progressive, design-driven spirit. Consistently ranked among the world's most liveable cities, Copenhagen is celebrated for its clean, human-centred design and its effortless blend of historical buildings and sustainable suburbs. Nowhere is this clearer than along its transformed harbourfront. Once industrial, now reimagined through clever engineering, the former warehouses



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are now a vibrant public space. With clean swimming zones, open promenades, and a buzzing cafe scene, it's a showcase of how the Danes design not just for function, but for joy. In Copenhagen, life is meant to be well-lived, so get ready for an enjoyable day on our 'Copenhagen by design' day tour.

We'll begin with a brief driving tour of Copenhagen's iconic landmarks, making a stop at the famous Little Mermaid statue, before joining a tour of Amalienborg Palace, the official residence of the Danish royal family. In the afternoon, enjoy some free time at Nyhavn, Copenhagen's iconic marina, framed by colourful 17th-century buildings, wooden sailboats, and inviting cafes. Or take a stroll along the Strøget, Europe's first pedestrian shopping streets, lined with boutiques, galleries, and street performers. Copenhagen is the perfect place to unwind. Savour authentic Danish cuisine at a trendy waterfront restaurant or perhaps treat yourself to an afternoon of retail therapy, Scandinavian style. (Note: Should Amalienborg Palace be closed for an event, a suitable alternative will be provided).

Late-afternoon we transfer to our hotel for an overnight stay in Denmark's capital.

Accommodation: Copenhagen Hotel (or similar)

Meals: Breakfast onboard

Please note:

Itineraries are subject to change.



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YOUR SHIP: DOUGLAS MAWSON

YOUR SHIP: **Douglas Mawson**

VESSEL TYPE:

LENGTH:

PASSENGER CAPACITY:

BUILT/REFURBISHED:

Douglas Mawson was launched in 2025. Named after the legendary Australian geologist and explorer, this new small ship embodies Mawson's pioneering spirit and is designed for global discovery. Featuring the revolutionary Ulstein X-BOW® and purpose-built with enhanced sustainability features, it takes a maximum 154 adventurers to the world's wildest places in smooth, quiet comfort. It boasts our most extensive range of cabins yet, including a range of single cabins. The Douglas Mawson features a host of amenities to help you connect with like-minded travellers and elevate your time onboard this floating base camp for adventure. After a long day of exploring, head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor swimming pool, find a sun bed to read on, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis. Work up a sweat in the gym before unwinding in the sauna, resolve to learn something new in the Citizen Science Centre, then enjoy a delicious meal with new and old friends in one of two restaurants. Or, with multiple observation areas throughout the ship, simply relax in comfort while you keep watch for wildlife or incredible landscapes unfold before you. While enjoying the luxurious amenities onboard, you can rest assured that the aim is to get you off the ship to explore the natural

environment as much as possible to enjoy some unique activities remains unchanged. Newest Ulstein X-BOW® The Douglas Mawson features the newest streamlined Ulstein X-BOW®, designed for global discovery. The revolutionary design cuts through the swell, offering unrivalled stability on ocean crossings and helping to reduce fuel consumption. It's just one of the many sustainability features that helps make travel more responsible. Heated Pool, Jacuzzis & Sauna In between landings, enjoy access to the onboard gym or unwind in the sauna. Or head to the back deck to swim in the heated outdoor pool, enjoy a drink at the pool bar, or soak in one of two Jacuzzis, watching the world go by. Leading Technology The Douglas Mawson is at the cutting edge of nautical technology, fitted with industry-leading technology including world-class return-to-port equipment. The ship also features a medical clinic designed for use in remote areas. Built for Adventure The Douglas Mawson features Zodiac access points and an activities platform, making boarding the Zodiacs as quick, efficient and safe as possible, minimising wait times and getting you closer to the action for longer. In our mudroom you will have access to lockers to store gear & boots and rapid drying areas for clothing. More Cabin Choices The Douglas Mawson features 11 different types of cabins, including a range of spacious single berth cabins - all adorned with elegant Nordic interior design features. Multiple Observation Areas As you explore the ship you will find indoor lounge areas with floor-to ceiling windows, and multiple open decks with expansive 270-360 degree views. The Glass Atrium Lounge inside the bow is a fantastic place to sit and watch for wildlife - with a drink in hand. There is no shortage of



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spaces to take in the majesty of the incredible world outside! **Lecture Theatre** On all expeditions you will meet naturalists and local specialists, who offer presentations on their area of expertise to enhance your appreciation of the destination you are exploring. Join the team in the lecture theatre for presentations covering a broad range of topics to suit every interest, from history and culture to biology and climate change. Regardless of the topic, they all have one thing in common: they all aim to engage, educate, entertain and turn you into an ambassador for the planet. **Citizen Science Center & Lounge** Learn more about the world and the unique destinations Aurora visits by visiting the onboard naturalist and Expedition Team in the world-class Citizen Science Center. You will be rewarded for your thirst for knowledge with one of the best views on the ship. **Library** With floor-to-ceiling windows, the library is a peaceful sanctuary where you can find non-fiction books to read up on the day's destinations, use a public laptop to organise your photos or play board games with newfound friends. Choose from our range of informative non-fiction titles, wildlife guidebooks, travel journals, novels and a selection of children's books and board games. Wildlife guides, books and binoculars can also be found on the observation lounge on Deck 7. **Mudroom** No need to take your wet expedition gear back to your cabin to dry. Keep your cabin warm and cosy by leaving your outer jackets and pants in the mudroom. The mudroom is your launchpad for all shore excursions and activities. Here, you will have access to a locker when you can hang your gear up to dry, and store your boots between excursions. **Swimming Pool & Jacuzzis** There are two Jacuzzis on the top outside deck which offer amazing views of the world outside, a heated outdoor pool surrounded by sun beds you can relax on after a long day of exploring, and a pool bar. **Gym & Sauna** During your voyage, enjoy complimentary

access to the gym or visit our sauna, which we highly recommend after the Polar Plunge! **Restaurants** One of the most important parts of any expedition is the food! Whatever adventures the day holds, you will be fuelled-up with hearty meals and delicious morning/afternoon teas cooked by our onboard chefs. Meals are a great time to soak up the expedition camaraderie in our open seating dining area. Share stories with your fellow travellers and ask our expedition team questions that may have come up during the day. Tea, coffee and snacks are available 24 hours a day, and our chefs offer different menu options and courses for each meal. Enjoy the range of house wine, beers and soft drinks included with dinner after a long day in the wild. We also invite you to join your captain and expedition team for informal Captain's Farewell drinks, with complimentary beverages and cocktail appetisers, followed by a 3 course meal. **Bars & Lounges** Communal meeting areas have always played a major role in fostering the warm camaraderie on board our ships. They are the heart of the expedition, where people meet to share tales from the day, swap photos, keep an eye out for wildlife and watch the sun go down. The bars and lounges on board are refined yet inviting places to gather, with floor-to-ceiling windows offering stunning views, and of course friendly bartenders to shoot the



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INSIDE YOUR SHIP

Aurora Stateroom Single



Aurora Stateroom Superior



Aurora Stateroom Superior Single Aurora Stateroom Twin



Balcony Stateroom Category A

Balcony Stateroom Category B

Balcony Stateroom Category C

Balcony Stateroom Superior

Captain's Suite

Junior Suite



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PRICING

05-May-2027 to 14-May-2027

Balcony Stateroom Category A	£10198 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Category B	£9498 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Category C	£9048 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior	£8848 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Superior Single	£10648 GBP pp
Junior Suite	£13298 GBP pp
Balcony Stateroom Superior	£11198 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Single	£9748 GBP pp
Captain's Suite	£15148 GBP pp
Aurora Stateroom Twin	£8298 GBP pp



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