

# ZOOS AND GARDENS OF GREAT EUROPEAN CITIES



DATE: APRIL 27 – MAY 7, 2006



## Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>

### U.S.A. / Berlin, Germany

In Philadelphia board your overnight Lufthansa flight at 6:10 pm for Berlin via Frankfurt, Germany. Dinner and breakfast aloft.

## Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

### Berlin

Upon arrival at Tegel International Airport at 10:50 am, meet your tour manager outside the custom clearance. Transfer to centrally-located hotel. Time to relax and freshen up before you make a brief driving tour to orient you to this once divided city. Welcome Dinner in a local restaurant.

Your first three nights will be at the Dorint Novotel Berlin Tiergarten

(D)

*The Dorint Novotel Berlin Tiergarten is a new 4-star hotel with 274 air-conditioned rooms. It is adjacent to Berlin's Tiergarten Park and only minutes from Kurfurstendamm and 7 kilometers from Tegel International Airport. The hotel features a restaurant offering light Mediterranean cuisine, a bar, and fitness center.*

## Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>

### Berlin

After breakfast a local guide will lead you on a sightseeing tour of Berlin showing its highlights such as the Brandenburg Gate, Unter den Linden, Memorial Church, Reichstag and former Checkpoint Charlie. Of strategic importance since it first straddled the Spree River in the 13th century, Berlin claimed center stage in the turbulent 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today the city, restored as the nation's capital, is the focus of a mammoth project of reunification and the barometer of Germany's mood. Unter der Linden, the fashionable avenue of aristocratic old Berlin, extends from the Brandenburg Gate to Alexanderplatz, once the heart of socialist East Germany. Five of Berlin's finest museums are here on Museum Island in the Spree River, the original center of the metropolis. West of the Brandenburg Gate, the boulevard runs through Tiergarten, a huge landscaped park. Rest of the day is free for individual sightseeing.

(B)

## Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>

### Berlin

The first zoo we will visit, with a special guide, is the Berlin Zoo, the oldest zoo in Germany. King Friedrich Wilhelm IV gave the land in what is now Tiergarten, and in 1844 he even moved 850 animals from the royal collection to the new zoo. The zoo is not only old, but also known as the zoo with the most species represented. At one time there were more than 2000 species on display, but that number has been steadily declining and now is below 1500, including the Aquarium. The zoo is just opposite to one of the busiest railway stations in the country, Bahnhof Zoo, and this easy accessibility is one of the reasons for its 3,300,000 yearly visitors. When you enter through the venerable portico you first see flowers rather than animals, and generally you don't feel it is cramped inside the zoo. But the reality is that it has quite a limited space and can't be expected to grow further. After your visit, you'll have the remainder of the day free until dinner at your hotel.

(B, D)

**Monday, May 1<sup>st</sup>****Berlin / Hamburg**

After breakfast you head west in your motor coach and proceed to Hamburg. Upon arrival you will have a short orientation drive of this charming and historic city before checking into your hotel. Dinner at a local restaurant.

You'll be at the Maritim Hotel Reichshof Hamburg for two nights

(B, D)

*The Maritim Hotel Reichshof Hamburg with its 303 rooms is a traditional hotel built in a classic style and conveniently located between the art gallery and the German Theater. It is just opposite the main railway station. The hotel offers an indoor swimming pool, sauna, and a solarium, business center, laundry facilities, 24-hour front desk, and a nearby shopping center.*

**Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>****Hamburg**

Together with a special guide, you will visit Hagenbeck's Zoo. It's one of Europe's most beautiful parks with 2,500 animals and striking grounds with rare and exotic plants. The zoo was founded in 1848 by Carl Hagenbeck, Jr. and is still family-owned today. His pioneering ideas for cageless enclosures laid the foundation for modern zoo management. Hagenbeck was a leader in fields such as the presentation of animals and breeding programs. Hagenbeck's Zoo has been keeping and taking care of elephants for more than a century. Highly qualified elephant keepers and internationally renowned elephant experts studied or gained their experience at Hagenbeck's Zoo. Almost the whole place had to be reconstructed and repopulated after World War II, but it still is a manifestation of the foresight of the most influential man in zoo history. You can expect to see a unique mix of animals and cultural features. The beautifully landscaped bear enclosure remains one of the chief crowd pleasers. After your visit the remainder of the day is free for individual sightseeing.

(B)

**Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>****Hamburg / Cologne**

This morning we head south and upon arrival in Cologne, we will make a visit to its Zoo. It's the 3<sup>rd</sup> oldest and one of the major zoological gardens in Germany. Opened in 1860, the zoo occupies 49 acres along the Rhine River. About 6,000 specimens of 650 species are exhibited. The Cologne Zoo is regarded as one of the best-kept zoos in Germany. Particularly worth seeing are the new Elephant Park, the Ape House designed specifically to satisfy the animals' needs, spacious open air paddocks for bears and cats, a unique lemur house, and the aquarium with insectarium and terrarium. The Cologne Zoo is the only zoological garden in Germany with saiga antelopes. A special guide will insure that you see the exceptional exhibits of this extraordinary zoo. Check into our hotel. Enroute to a local restaurant for dinner, you'll see the impressive gothic Cologne Cathedral, the city's major landmark and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Dorint Sofitel Mondial am Dom Köln.

(B, D)



*The Dorint Sofitel Mondial am Dom Köln is a 5-star hotel featuring 205 rooms. It is located in the heart of the old town center in immediate proximity and walking distance to Cologne Cathedral, the convention center, central station, and shopping areas. The Philharmonic concert hall is opposite the hotel. The tapas bar and La Brasserie restaurant offer regional and international cuisine. One of the hotel bars called Dom Pub is an original Cologne beer pub.*

**Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Cologne / Amsterdam**

Leaving Germany you'll cross the border into The Netherlands and proceed to Amsterdam. Enroute you will visit the famous Keukenhof Gardens, a 70-acre showcase for the Dutch flower industry. Here you'll see a changing display of more than 7 million flowers, including some 1,000 varieties of tulips alone. Flowers, flowers, and more flowers! Other attractions include Europe's largest fountain and a 700-tree labyrinth. Check into your hotel followed by a dinner at a local restaurant. Your last three nights are at Hotel Amsterdam de Roode Leeuw (B, D)



*Hotel Amsterdam De Roode Leeuw is a 4-star hotel that combines style and allure with a warm and intimate atmosphere and hospitality. You will be sure to feel at home in one of its 79 comfortable guest rooms that combines in an authentic way both tradition and technology. The hotel restaurant specializes in traditional Dutch dishes. The hotel is ideally located in the center of Amsterdam. It's within a five-minute walking from the Rijksmuseum Museum and the Leidseplein, the biggest and best entertainment area of the city. Also nearby are Madame Tussaud, Anne Frank House, and the Magna Plaza shopping area.*

**Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Amsterdam**

Morning free for individual sightseeing. Afternoon city tour of Amsterdam with canal cruise. The capital of The Netherlands, Amsterdam is a lively, liberal, and vibrant city. Known as the 'Venice of the North', Amsterdam is built on 90 islands linked by 400 stone bridges spanning 62 miles of canals, which fan out from the heart of the old city. As a result, the city is relatively quiet with little traffic. Amsterdam is, without question, the country's cultural, historical, and commercial hub. The city is famous for its 17th- and 18th-century gabled houses that line the waterways and, of course, as a center for the diamond trade. You are free in the evening to explore Amsterdam and its marvelous variety of restaurants.

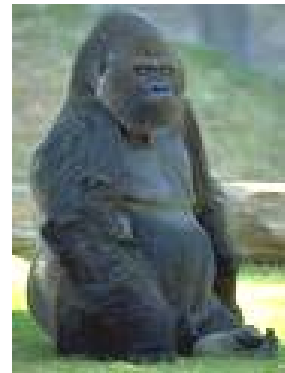
Hotel TBA  
(B)

**Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Amsterdam**

Early this morning visit the famous Alsmeer flower auction, Europe's largest commercial complex. Here more than 21 million plants and flowers, supplied by 6,000 growers in The Netherlands and other countries, are sold each day. The massive complex (more than 10 million square feet) has an 8-mile state-of-the-art internal transport system, the Alsmeer Shuttle.

Continue the morning with your final Zoo - the Apenheul Zoo. There is no zoo in the world like Apenheul. It is situated within the woods of the beautiful Park Berg en Bos and harbors over thirty species of primates. Apenheul Primate Park opened in 1971 with a revolutionary concept, to allow the monkeys freedom of movement and to allow them to mingle with the visitors. Since 1979, 35 gorilla babies were born and raised in the Apenheul gorilla troop, making it the largest and most natural social harem troop in the zoo-world.

Balance of the day is free for individual sightseeing and last minute shopping before our Farewell Dinner at a local restaurant.  
(B, D)



**Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Amsterdam / U.S.A.**

Transfer to Schiphol International airport for your return Lufthansa flight at 10:25 am to the U.S. via Frankfurt, Germany, arriving in Philadelphia at 4:10 pm  
(B)

*Meals included indicated by: B=breakfast L=lunch D=dinner*