

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

CONNECTIONS EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE JOURNEYS HOLLAND & BELGIUM

PASSPORT AND VISA INFORMATION

Your passport needs to be valid for at least six (6) months after your journey and should have a minimum of one (1) blank visa page for entry and exit stamps for each country visited.

Holders of U.S. and Canadian passports are not required to obtain a tourist visa for entry into Netherlands or Belgium.

Dutch law requires that everyone over the age of 14 carry some form of official identification, such as a passport, at all times.

Our partner VisaCentral offers easy, efficient U.S. passport and visa processing. Visit them online at visacentral.com/abercrombiekent or call 844 823 1224 and reference A&K's account number 73001. Service fees apply.

Citizens of other countries should contact the appropriate consular office for entry requirements pertaining to their journey.

REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO COVID-19

A&K requires proof of full COVID-19 vaccination for travel on Small Group Journeys (Luxury Small Group, Marco Polo, Family, Wings Over the World, Connections and Limited Edition journeys) for departures beginning January 1, 2022. For Tailor Made and Signature journeys, guests must comply with all country entry requirements.

Visit the U.S. Department of State at travel.state.gov or the Government of Canada at travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories for comprehensive and up-to-date country entry requirements as well as information for onward travel.

Entry Requirements

The following are the current COVID-19 screening requirements for entry into the Netherlands and Belgium for U.S. and Canadian residents. Requirements are subject to change.

The Netherlands

U.S. residents

- All U.S. residents (aged 18 and over) entering the Netherlands must meet all of the following conditions:
 1. Present on arrival an original COVID-19 vaccination certificate indicating full vaccination completed at least 14 days prior to arrival (28 days for Johnson & Johnson). The current approved vaccines are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).
One shot of a two-dose vaccine in combination with proof of recovery from COVID-19 is also accepted.
 2. Complete a 'Vaccine Declaration,' form which must be printed and presented on arrival. To access this form visit [vaccine-declaration-form](#).

- Unvaccinated children aged 13-17 years accompanying their vaccinated parent/guardian must present a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than 48 hours before departure of the first flight in the itinerary, or a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test taken no more than 24 hours before departure of the first flight in the itinerary.

Canadian residents

- All Canadian residents (ages 12 and over) entering Netherlands must present one of the following:
 - An original COVID-19 vaccination certificate indicating full vaccination completed at least 14 days prior to arrival (28 days for Johnson & Johnson). The current approved vaccines are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).
One shot of a two-dose vaccine in combination with proof of recovery from COVID-19 is also accepted.
 - A negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than 48 hours before departure of the first flight in the itinerary, or a negative COVID-19 rapid antigen test taken no more than 24 hours before departure of the first flight in the itinerary.
Unvaccinated travellers arriving with a negative test result are recommended to test again on Day 2 and Day 5 after arrival, but this not mandatory.

All Travellers – Regardless of Residency

- All travellers aged 13 years and older must complete a Passenger Health Declaration Form, which may be printed or presented electronically. To access this form visit [COVID-19 health declaration form](#).
Passengers flying on KLM airlines will complete this form as part of the online check in process.
- All travellers aged 13 years and older are required to show proof of a negative COVID PCR or rapid antigen test taken within the past 24 hours in order to enter hotels, restaurants, museums and other tourist sites.

Belgium

U.S. residents

- All **U.S. residents** ages (12 and over) entering Belgium must present an original COVID-19 vaccination certificate indicating full vaccination completed at least 14 days prior to arrival and no more than 12 months before arrival. The current approved vaccines are Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson).
U.S. resident minors aged 11 years and under accompanying their vaccinated parent/guardian are exempt.
 - Vaccinated US residents must take a COVID test on the day of arrival in Belgium or the following day and isolate pending a negative result. An additional test is required on Day 7 of the time in Belgium, if applicable.

Canadian residents

- Canadian residents may enter Belgium with no vaccination or testing requirements.

All Travellers – Regardless of Residency

- All travellers arriving to Belgium must complete an online Passenger Locator Form no earlier than 48 hours prior to entering Belgium. To access this form visit [public-health-passenger-locator-form](#).

Requirements for Embarkation

- All guests will be tested with a contactless thermometer before embarking the first time. Guests whose temperature is 99.5 F (37.5 C) will not be permitted to board.
- All guests must complete a mandatory health form to be presented at embarkation. The Resident Tour Director will distribute the form at the Welcome Briefing. The form can be accessed here: [Lüftner Cruises | River Cruises in Europe: Health & Safety Concept \(lueftner-cruises.com\)](#)
- All travellers must present one of the following upon embarkation (Children aged 11 years and younger are exempt.):
 - An original COVID-19 vaccination certificate showing full vaccination no earlier than 270 days prior.
 - Proof of recovery in the form of a positive COVID-19 PCR test.

Requirements for Returning Home or Onward Travel

A&K will arrange COVID-19 PCR or rapid antigen testing during your time in the Netherlands and/or Belgium as follows:

Netherlands

A&K will arrange COVID-19 PCR or rapid antigen testing during your time in the Netherlands. The current cost for local testing ranges from Euro 85-150 (subject to change), plus any necessary transport, payable by credit card.

Belgium

A&K will arrange COVID-19 PCR or rapid antigen testing during your time in Belgium. The current cost for local testing ranges from USD \$57-\$162 (subject to change), plus any necessary transport, and can be paid by credit card or in local currency (cash).

Requirements for Returning Home or Onward Travel

Guests returning to the United States

Before boarding a flight to the United States, all travellers are required to show printed or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 viral test (PCR or rapid antigen) result taken no more than one (1) day before travel, or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the last 90 days.

For up-to-date details and FAQs visit [Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19 | CDC](#). Be sure to check state COVID-19 entry requirements, as they may vary.

Guests returning to Canada

All travellers, including Canadian passport holders, must provide printed or electronic proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within 72 hours of boarding their flight to Canada. Additional information can be found at [travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories](#).

Note all guests with flights connecting through and/or continuing to other countries should check the specific COVID-19 entry requirements.

CASH & CREDIT CARDS

The currency on board the river ships is the euro. Guest accounts may be settled by cash (euro or U.S. dollars) or credit card (AMEX, Diners Club, MasterCard or Visa). No exchange facilities are available on board the ships.

Major credit cards are widely accepted and ATM access is common. In smaller cities, shops and cafes may prefer cash payment for goods and services. Banks and exchange facilities may refuse US dollar denominations of \$50 and \$100 if they are not equipped with devices to identify counterfeit currency.

Non-European Union resident tourists can, in most cases, apply for a refund of the VAT paid on gifts and merchandise bought for export out of an EU country. The refund should be requested at the last port before departure from France. Switzerland is a non-EU country and you cannot obtain a VAT customs stamp or VAT refund for goods purchased in the EU when departing Switzerland.

PACKING LIST

Please use the provided A&K luggage tags, even if your bags already have ID tags. This makes it easier for A&K staff to find and manage your luggage for you.

Safe Travel Essentials

Be sure to bring personal protective equipment (PPE), including face masks, travel-sized hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, facial tissues and disinfecting wipes or spray.

Clothing

Choose versatile, casual clothing that can be layered if the weather (or level of air-conditioning) requires. Cotton and other light fabrics are comfortable choices for summertime. Spring and autumn temperatures dictate medium-weight clothing selections. Smart casual attire is appropriate for evenings. Formal clothing is not necessary.

For special occasions on board and ashore, a “jacket and tie” is appropriate for gentlemen with an equivalent standard of evening wear for ladies.

Cathedrals, churches, and other religious sites require conservative dress. Arms and shoulders should be covered.

- Casual slacks
- Walking shorts
- Polo shirts, casual short-sleeve shirts or blouses
- Long sleeve shirts or blouses
- Comfortable walking shoes with low or no heels and non-slip soles
- Lightweight raincoat and umbrella
- Sweater or fleece jacket
- Brimmed hat or visor for sun protection
- Sleepwear
- Personal garments
- Socks
- Swimwear/cover-up

Other Recommended Items

- Sunglasses
- Sun block and lip balm

- Simple first-aid kit
- Extra eyeglasses/contact lenses
- Charging cables for electronics
- Prescriptions and medications (in their original bottles and/or packaging)
- Smartphone
- Global travel adapter

Laundry service is available at most hotels and dry cleaning is available in larger cities. Check costs and return times before using these services.

TIPPING GUIDELINES

While decisions regarding tipping rest entirely with you, we suggest the following gratuities (noted in U.S. dollars) depending on the type of journey:

	European River Cruise Journeys	Tailor Made Journeys
Resident Tour Director or Group Extension Guide	\$20 per person, per day	Not applicable
Local Guides	Included	\$25 per person, per day (full day)
Drivers	Included	\$15 per person, per day (full day)
Airport Transfer Drivers	Included	\$5 per person, per transfer
Cruise staff on board river ships	Included	n/a.
Local guides/drivers on optional cruise line shore excursions	At your discretion; 1€ per person, per excursion for your driver and guide is suggested.	n/a
Housekeepers	Included	\$2 per person, per night
Included Meals	Included	Included
Restaurants or Room Service on own	10-15% unless already added	10-15% unless already added

For extra nights or Tailor Made services added to a European River Cruise Small Group Journey, please follow the Tailor Made Journeys guidelines for these days only.

LIFE ON BOARD EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISE VESSELS

Cabins on board the ship are fully air-conditioned and heated with adjustable climate control. All cabins and suites feature an en suite bathroom with shower and hair dryer, satellite television, personal safe, spacious wardrobe and toiletries. Suite category cabins feature a mini-bar, with bathrobes provided for guest use. Laundry and ironing services are available for a fee; dry cleaning is not available.

The ship has an elevator which goes to all decks except the Sun Deck.

The vessel has a 24-hour staffed reception desk; library with a selection of books, magazines and daily newspapers; five bicycles and helmets for passenger use; complimentary fitness room open 24 hours; deck chairs, chess board and walking track. The ship does not have a medical doctor on board. Hair dresser and massages are available by appointment. An onboard shop sells small souvenirs, post cards, accessories and a limited supply of everyday products.

On board your river ship, all meals are included and served in the Restaurant which accommodates all guests in one or two seatings. Tables are especially reserved for the A&K group on board. A minimum distance of five feet (one and a half meters) measured from table corner to table corner is observed in the Restaurant as well as in the Panorama-Bar and Amadeus-Club.

In general, breakfast is served buffet-style with egg dishes cooked to order. Lunch consists of buffet specialties in the restaurant or a light lunch alternative is offered in the Panorama bar. Buffet-style meals will be served by staff and service may need to be adjusted depending on the number of guests on board. Dinner is usually four courses. Expect "international style" menus flavored by the cuisines of Central Europe. A&K programs include one bottle of water in your cabin daily and bottled water, coffee, tea, soft drinks, beer and house wine are included with lunch and dinner. Other alcoholic beverages can be purchased and charged to your passenger account. All bottles of wine or champagne brought on board by passengers for consumption in the ship's restaurant, bar or public areas are subject to a €10.00 corkage fee per bottle. Coffee and tea are also available at a self-serve coffee/tea station throughout the day.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on board except designated exterior areas.

On board your river ship, each cabin features a GSM direct-dial telephone. The current cost of GSM (cellular) is € 2.00 per minute for calls within Europe and € 4.00 for calls to the USA (rates subject to change).

Wireless internet connection is available and is complimentary for all A&K guests on a Connections European River Cruise Journey. The connection may be weak in certain areas (especially below bridges and next to high buildings) and cannot be compared to the regular hotel standard on land.