

# WORLD ART AND WORLD HERITAGE

## A 5 days' tour of TEFAF at Maastricht and sites in the region

This tour will centre around the grandiose **TEFAF (the European Fine Arts Fair)** at **Maastricht** in The Netherlands, but also a selection of important private properties and famous sites in the region will be visited.

On Tuesday at 15.30 hrs, we shall depart by coach from **Düsseldorf Airport** in Germany, the most convenient meeting point for the Maastricht region, to the first class **Hotel Winselerhof**, a charmingly converted large, typical Limburg-style, farmhouse, situated at some 25 km from Maastricht. For the welcome dinner we shall go to the renowned restaurant of **Château St. Gerlach**.

The next day will start off with a short drive through the new and varied urban landscape of the Céramique district of **Maastricht**, where a brief visit will be paid to the architecturally important **Bonrefanten Museum**. Thereafter we shall stroll through the **historical centre** of this attractive city, one of the oldest in The Netherlands and already of importance in Roman times. Inter alia, visits will be paid to two of the oldest churches in the country, the Romanesque **Our Lady Star of the Sea Church** and **Basilica of St. Servatius**, with a coffee break at the Dominican Church (attractively converted into a bookshop). Lunch will be served in the **Kruisher Hotel**, a prize-winning conversion of a 15<sup>th</sup> century monastery and church. After a short stop at the brand-new **Museum Vrijthof** in the winsome 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish Government chapter house, the coach will take us to the **Landcommandery Alden Biesen**, just across the border in Belgium. This vast, Europa Nostra prize-winning complex was created by the German Order (Teutonic Knights), and the resplendent current buildings were constructed in the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18th century. Subsequently, dinner will be hosted by the Count and Countess d'Ursel at their elegant **Château Hex**, a 18<sup>th</sup> century mansion built by the Prince-Bishop of Liège.

Thursday will be spent entirely at **TEFAF**, which is the undisputed highlight on the world calendar of art fairs – a genuine must-see, the more so as TEFAF is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2012. Although everything on display in this beautifully decorated environment may be bought, the consistent top quality of the objects on display makes it also into “a museum opening for ten days, never to reopen again”. The variety of items is immense and ranges from pre-historic to ultramodern, and all that at a standard not equalled anywhere else in the world. We shall be received by the management of TEFAF for a brief introductory lecture, whereafter the day may be freely spent admiring all the treasures on dis-



TEFAF Maastricht © Tefaf.com

play in this superlative fair. After an undoubtedly fascinating day at TEFAF, conveniently, dinner will be offered at our hotel.

On Friday we shall first go to the nearby German town of **Aachen** (Aix la Chapelle) to view the magnificent **Imperial Cathedral** and its **Treasury**. This UNESCO World Heritage site is of major importance in the history of Europe and an expert will guide us during our visit of this great monument. For lunch and a brief visit, we shall be received by the Countess Marchant et d'Ansembourg at **Kasteel Amstenrade**, a graceful castle completed in 1788 and belonging to the family almost from its inception. The next stop will comprise a visit to the charming and unique ‘white village’ of **Thorn**, including its 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century abbey church, a gothic church with a baroque interior, something very unusual in this part of the world. In the evening we have been invited by Baron and Baroness van Hövell tot Westerfliet to have dinner in the cosy interior of their 16<sup>th</sup> century **Kasteel Hasselholt**.

The last day of the tour will contain a visit to and lunch at the very handsome 18<sup>th</sup> century **Schloss Merode** in Langerwehe, Germany, where the Prince and Princess de Merode will show us around in this imposing castle, originally founded in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The castle was dramatically damaged during World War II and more recently suffered a major fire in 2000, but it is being heroically restored to its former glory by its devoted owners. After lunch we shall proceed to **Düsseldorf Airport**, where the tour will end at 15.00 hrs.



Alden Biesen © Siep on Flickr.com



Aachen Cathedral © aachen tourist service e.v.



Bonrefanten Museum, Maastricht

**PRICE:** € 1,540

**SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT:** € 330  
(all rooms are double rooms for single use)

The tour price is based on a minimum of 20 participants. There will be a surcharge of € 90 if only 16 - 19 persons take part, whilst for 12 - 15 persons the

surcharge will be € 240. Should you not wish to pay a surcharge of the minimum of 20 is not reached, you may cancel your booking without penalty.

Junior Suites or Senior Suites are available at a supplement. For information please contact

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**THIS TOUR IS ORGANISED AND ESCORTED BY:**

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**THE PRICE INCLUDES:**

- Accommodation in a first-class hotel
- All meals with drinks during the meals
- Transport by private coach
- Guides
- Entrance fees
- Taxes
- Tips