

Dutch Organ Tours

Tour to the historic organ treasure from The Netherlands

Visit famous organ in Groningen, Zutphen, Kampen, Zaltbommel, Utrecht, The Hague, Haarlem and Alkmaar.

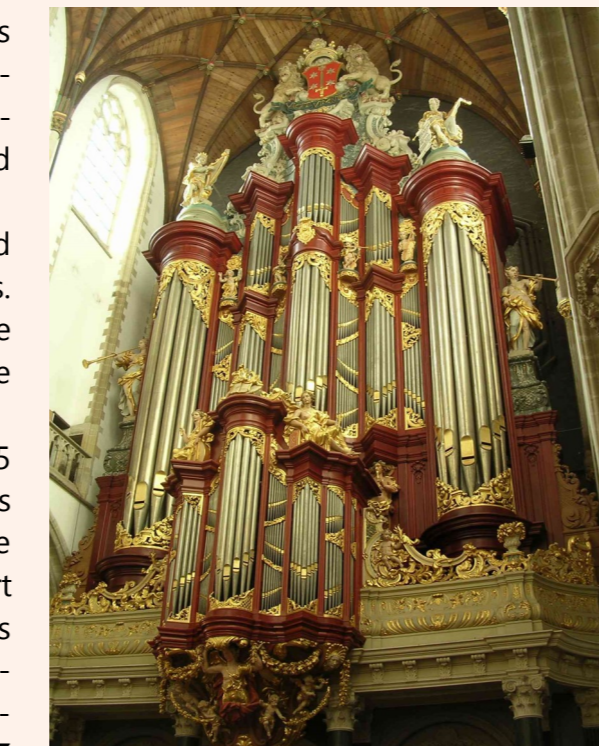
Introduction

Without question, The Netherlands is an 'organ country', as nowhere in the world can so many historically important instruments be found within such a small area, a sonic document that reaches forward to us from the 15th century. And we invite you to find out why they have so much left!

As will you, we found organs large and small, Protestant and Catholic, sacred and secular, in big cities and little villages. Each possesses its own unique personality, as you will realize while listening, visit the old historic consoles and explore the often medieval churches.

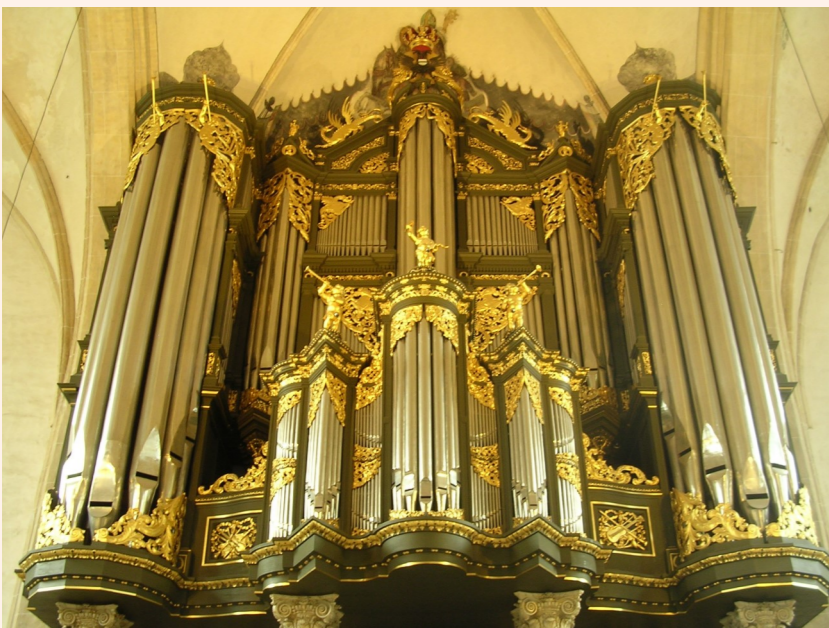
Some of you may already know of the magnificent 1725 Frans Caspar Schnitger organ at Alkmaar through recordings by Helmut Walcha, or the mighty 1738 Müller organ at the Bavokerk in Haarlem, featured in a memorable all-Mozart album by E. Power Biggs (also quickly learning that this Haarlem...the original...is not on the northeast hip of Manhattan Island!). Those two monuments, plus several other organs, make up a list that will carry us literally from A to Z (from Alkmaar to Zutphen), and many places in between. Historic organs, but also some new instruments in Kampen and Dordrecht. In Groningen the world-famous organist Sietze de Vries is our host, and he will demonstrate us his fantastic organ in de Martinikerk!

Dutch Organ Tours is unique, offering an intense and rewarding itinerary with full-day schedules. Yes,



we'll see our share of windmills and green pastures, as traverse a broad swath of Dutch countryside. But if you require a full day for art museums and another for shopping, please arrange to stay on a little longer.

And pack your comfortable shoes...our coaches, while agile, cannot always bring you to the church door, and a degree of occasionally strenuous walking is inevitable. Whether you enjoy Sweelinck, Bach or Franck, your tastes will be met and your destinations achieved. I invite you to join us for a remarkable adventure, truly a Dutch musical treat!



Itinerary

Monday May 18:

At 11.00h in the morning, start of this week on Schiphol Amsterdam Airport. Travel to The Hague. After time for lunch and a brief sightseeing, we visit the iconic Bätz organ from 1762 in the Lutherse Kerk, a beautiful instrument in a "chamber-musical" acoustic church. After this visit we go to the hotel in the Harderwijk/Zwolle area (in the centre of the country) for check-in and a welcome dinner.

Tuesday May 19:

We drive to the Groningen countryside, the "organ garden of Europe". Here we see and hear an organ of Arp Schnitger, build in 1700 and a historic house organ in a beautiful 17th century small stately home (including lunch). We end the day in de city of Groningen with the famous organ of the Martinikerk, one of the most beautiful baroque organs of the world. Back in the hotel a dinner is waiting.

Wednesday May 20:

This day our first visit is the old city of Zutphen with the fantastic Bader/Timpe organ (1643/1810) in the Walburg Kerk. After lunch we go to Kampen for a visit to the Boven Kerk. Here we find the large Hinsz organ from 1743 and an organ from the Reil brothers of Heerde, build in 1999. Both cities are old "Hanze" towns, named after the famous trading act from medieval times in Northern Europe. We end this day with a dinner in our hotel in the Harderwijk area.

Thursday May 21:

Today we go to the more southern part of the country for Zaltbommel. In the Maartens Kerk from this small historic town we visit the Wolferts/Heyneman organ from 1786/1794. In the afternoon we will visit Utrecht. After some brief time for lunch we go to the Dom Kerk for a visit to the famous Bätz organ from 1830 of this beautiful cathedral. The day is closed with a nice dinner.

Friday May 22:

Today two of the most famous organs of The Netherlands: First to Alkmaar, in the Laurenskerk we see and hear the Hagerbeer/Schnitger organ from 1648/1721. The small organ from 1511/1525 is the oldest playable instrument in the country. In the afternoon the highlight of the week: the famous Muller organ of the St. Bavo Kerk of Haarlem with his stunning case. The day will be closed with a farewell dinner.

Saturday May 23:

Before we end this week we hear a final recital in the Grote Kerk of Harderwijk with a stunning 1827 Bätz organ. The tour ends around noon at Schiphol Airport.

Practical information

This exclusive tour starts on Monday May 18 at 11.00h on Amsterdam Schiphol airport. Tour members will be required to make their own way to Holland, where they will be met at and returned to Schiphol airport, or travel arrangements will be made individually in due time if necessary, flexibility is the key word!

The organists this week are professional musicians, mostly the titular organists from the organs. The visits are closed with a short recital. An organ historian gives expert explanation. In this week there will be opportunities for participants to play various organs if they wish, number of players and available time permitted.

This tour is included hotel accomodation in a 4* hotel with wellness facilities in the Harderwijk/Zwolle area. Inclusive breakfasts, five dinners, lunch in Groningen, all the church and organ visits including recitals etc and a programbook in color. Exclusive lunches (except Groningen), (lunch opportunities in The Hague, Utrecht, Zutphen and Haarlem). Of course all the transport is included during the week, from and to Amsterdam Schiphol Airport or another point of arrival or departure.

Price per person in a room (ground floor with terras), double occupancy € 1.845,00. Single occupancy (in a double room) supplement € 200,00 The minimum number of participants is 12, the maximum is 16.

For bookings and questions: Dutch Organ Tours Email: Info@dutchorgantours.nl Telephone: +31 6 51502361