
NAFSMA International Trip Details

From Kurt A. Woolford <KWoolford@lakecountyl.gov>

Date Fri 5/29/2026 2:06 PM

To Kurt A. Woolford <KWoolford@lakecountyl.gov>

From: Sunny Simpkins <sunny@nafsma.org>

Sent: Friday, May 29, 2026 12:51 PM

We are so excited for the upcoming Netherlands and UK trip and wanted to share some important updates as we finalize the details! Please feel free to purchase your plane ticket if you are ready to commit, I have mine!

Transportation We are still working on a few transportation logistics, but everything will be locked in next week. We'll keep you posted!

Payments & Deadlines Invoices will be sent out next Friday, 6/5. Please note the following payment schedule:

- **Initial deposit: \$2,000 due by June 19th** to hold your spot
- **Remaining balance due by July 10th**

Estimated Trip Cost: \$4,100 per person

This includes:

- Breakfast every day and Lunch on tour days for tour participants (Wednesday–Friday in the Netherlands; Monday–Tuesday in the UK)
- Transportation during all tours
- Transportation to the train station on Saturday
- Train ticket (Amsterdam → London)
- Transportation from the train station to the London hotel

Add-On: Spouse/Partner — approximately \$800 additional (we are currently full for spouses, but please let me know if you are interested in bringing one just in case a spot opens up). Current RSVPs are Dan, Mark, Mary Lynn, and Andrew (Melissa is on the waiting list).

Note: Final transportation details are still being confirmed and will be locked in next week.

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Tuesday, September 22 – Arrival Arrive in Amsterdam and get settled. This is a travel day, so plan accordingly. We'll be staying at the Grand Hotel Amrâth in Amsterdam.

Wednesday–Friday, September 23–25 – Netherlands Tour We'll be based in The Hague for three full days of tours exploring some of the Netherlands' most impressive water management achievements. Highlights include:

- Noordwaard Project – One of the Netherlands' most ambitious flood management undertakings, the Noordwaard is a massive de-poldering project (4,500 hectares) carried out as part of the national Room for the River programme. By strategically returning land to the river, the project increased the Rhine's

discharge capacity and transformed the area into a dynamic tidal landscape that balances improved flood safety with thriving biodiversity. A truly remarkable example of working *with* nature rather than against it.

- Biesbosch Museum Eiland – Nestled in the heart of De Biesbosch National Park — one of the last extensive freshwater tidal wetlands in Northwestern Europe — this award-winning museum tells the story of a landscape shaped by water since the catastrophic St. Elizabeth Flood of 1421. Spread across seven striking pavilions with grass-covered roofs that blend seamlessly into the natural surroundings, the museum takes visitors through the history, ecology, and human ingenuity that have defined this remarkable region.

Saturday, September 26 – Travel Day- Transportation to the train station, train from Amsterdam to London, and transfer to our London hotel (all costs included in trip cost).

Sunday, September 27-Free day in London-our travel company will provide some options for add on tours and activities

Monday, September 28 and Tuesday 29 – UK Tour Two days of tours hosted by UK's [Environment Agency](#)- Focused on the UK's integrated approach to flood risk management. We'll explore how the country has brought together flood defense infrastructure, catchment-scale planning, nature-based solutions, and public warning and communication systems under a unified national framework — offering a compelling contrast and complement to what we experienced in the Netherlands.

Wednesday, September 30 – Departure

Accommodations

Tuesday Night – Amsterdam [Grand Hotel Amrâth Amsterdam](#) A hotel housed in the historic Scheepvaarthuis (Shipping House), a masterpiece of Amsterdam School architecture. With 205 elegantly appointed rooms and suites, a full spa & wellness center, and a signature bar lounge, this landmark property is one of Amsterdam's most iconic addresses.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday Nights – The Hague [Hotel Indigo The Hague – Palace Noordeinde](#) A boutique hotel set in a beautifully restored former bank, directly opposite the Royal Palace Noordeinde. The hotel features uniquely designed rooms full of local character, plus The Gold Bar — a cozy speakeasy tucked inside the original bank vault. A one-of-a-kind stay in the heart of The Hague's prestigious Museum Quarter.

Saturday, Sunday, Monday & Tuesday Nights – London [Strand Palace Hotel](#) A London institution welcoming guests since 1909, located on one of the city's most iconic streets, steps from Trafalgar Square and Covent Garden. Recently renovated, the Strand Palace blends contemporary comfort with classic British charm and includes an onsite restaurant, private bar, and complimentary gym.

If you are no longer interested or able to participate in this trip, please let me know and I will remove you from the mailing list.

Please reach out with any questions!

Best,

Sunny

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**2026
ANNUAL
MEETING**

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