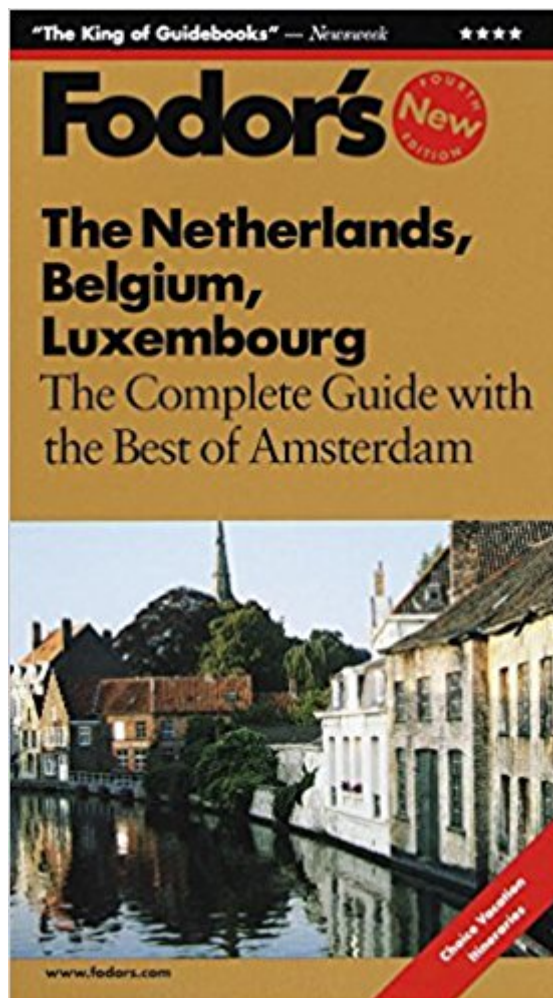


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# Fodor's Netherland, Belgium, Luxembourg, 4th Edition: The Complete Guide With The Best Of Amsterdam (Fodor's The Netherlands, Belgium And Luxembourg)





## Synopsis

Experienced and first-time travelers alike rely on Fodor's Gold Guides for rich, reliable coverage the world over. • Smart travel tips and important contact info make planning your trip a breeze, and detailed coverage of sights, accommodations, and restaurants give you the info you need to make your experience enriching and hassle-free. • If you only have room for one guide, this is the one for you. The best guide to The Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg, packed with essentials Great walks in Amsterdam, Brussels, and Antwerp Holland's tulip heartland, Belgium's chateau country, the storybook towns of Flanders, and the Moselle vineyards Flower shows, flea markets, historic festivals Van Eyck to Van Gogh -- the great painters at home The best buys and bargains, from diamonds to Delftware Where to stay and eat, no matter what your budget Cozy inns, castle manors, and top-value city hotels Lavish restaurants, neighborhood caf  s, basic brasseries, and best bets for frites, herring, and local beers Fresh, thorough, practical -- off and on the beaten path Costs, hours, descriptions, and tips by the thousands All reviews based on visits by savvy writer-residents 32 pages of maps, 12 vacation Itineraries, and more Important contacts, smart travel tips Fodor's Choice What's Where Pleasures & Pastimes Festivals Helpful vocabularies Complete index

## Book Information

Series: Fodor's the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg

Paperback: 358 pages

Publisher: Fodor's; 4 edition (March 30, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0679000607

ISBN-13: 978-0679000600

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #3,080,399 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Books > Travel > Europe > Luxembourg #214 in Books > Travel > Europe > Netherlands > Amsterdam #230 in Books > Travel > Europe > Belgium > General

## Customer Reviews

We've compiled a helpful list of guidebooks that complement Fodor's The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg. To learn more about them, just enter the title in the keyword search box. Fodor's Gay

Guide to Amsterdam (1st Edition): The all-in-one guide -- with the best attractions, restaurants, clubs, caf  s, shops, guest houses, and hotels, \$12. Fodor's Citypack Amsterdam (1st Edition): A full-color pocket-size guidebook and a full-size color map, all in one sturdy, plastic sleeve, \$12.

This excerpt from the essay "Reflections in a Pewter Bowl," by Nancy Coons, in the Destination: The Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg section, gives you a taste of what The Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg have to offer and the sights and scenes that make them great places to visit. Slate-color skies curve like a pewter bowl over an undulating landscape, the long, low horizon punctuated by blunt steeples and a scattering of deep-roofed farmhouses that seem to enfold the land like a mother goose spreading wings over her brood. Inky crows wheel over spindle-fingered pollards; jackdaws pepper the ocher grainfields; and a magpie, flashing black and white, drags a long, iridescent tail through the damp air. These are the 16th-century landscapes of Pieter Bruegel the Elder -- stained-glass planes in sepia tones, leaded by black branches, crooked spires, dark-frozen streams. And these, too, are the 20th-century landscapes of Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg -- a wedge of northern Europe squeezed between the massive and ancient kingdoms of France and Germany, bounded by the harsh North Sea to the northwest, defined by the rough, high forests of the Ardennes to the southeast. No wonder so much of their appeal, past and present, is interior -- bountiful, sensual still lifes, the glowing chambers of Vermeer, the inner radiance in the portraits of Rembrandt: Their weather-beaten cultures have turned inward over the centuries, toward the hearth. Indoors, Bruegel's otherwise sepia scenes warm subtly with color -- earthy browns, berry reds, loden greens, muted indigos, coral cheeks. So it is today: The Netherlands gather in gold-lit, smoke-burnished "brown caf  s," old bentwood chairs scraping across weathered stone floors; the Flemish nurse goblets of mahogany beer by candlelight in dark-beamed halls, a scarlet splash of paisley runner thrown over the pine tabletop; red-vested Walloons -- French-speaking Belgians -- read the newspaper in high-back oak banquettes polished blue-black by generations of rough tweed. In Luxembourg, the glass of light beer and drop of eau-de-vie go down behind the candy-color leaded glass of spare, bright-lit stuff, or pubs, where village life finds its social focus, day in, day out. In each of these small northern lands, so often lashed by rain, soaked by drizzle, wrapped in fog, with winter dark closing in at 4 pm and winter daylight dawdling until 9 am, the people live out the rich-hued interior scenes of the Old Masters. Yet the skies do clear, come spring, and at last the light lingers until well after 10 at night. Then the real pleasure begins -- an intense appreciation that residents of moderate climates would be hard-put to understand. As if the people's gratitude took physical form, it manifests itself in flowers, a frenzy of

color spilling from every windowsill, spreading like ocean waves across tulip fields, over rose trellises, through wisteria-woven archways. Fruit trees explode like fireworks, and whole orchards shimmer pink. Chestnut branches sag under the weight of their leaves and the heavy, grapelike clusters of blossom that thrust upward, defying gravity. Then café society, and home life with it, moves lock, stock, and barrel outdoors, to bask. Terrace cafés on the Grote Markts and Grand'Places rival any piazza in Italy. And when there's no café around, the family simply sets out a cluster of folding chairs, perhaps a checkered-cloth-covered card table, whether smack on the sidewalk or behind the barn door, to make the most of fine weather. The Netherlands, Belgium, and Luxembourg -- as diverse within themselves as they are to one another. And yet all this diversity has been thrown together by the dominant cultures pressing in at the borders -- France and Germany. Having been conquered and economically dwarfed for generations, the three little countries felt compelled, in 1958, to form an alliance, an economic union that served as a foundation for the European Union. Since then, "Benelux" has become a convenient abbreviation for a small, independent wedge of northern Europe where even fruit juice is labeled in French and in Dutch.

You can't imagine my surprise and delight to find a book that had every conceivable information I needed on Luxembourg. I am planning to go for the summer and had been going crazy trying to find information and Fodor's The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg has given me every information I need to have an enjoyable trip. It gave me not only the hotels in the city but in the countryside as well. It gives the points of interest in each town or village. The restaurants and their prices and the hotels. I am extremely happy. I especially found the 'smart travel tips' to be important for me because I will be traveling alone and independently. The book will be going with me. I like that Fodor gives me a short description of the hotels and restaurants and what to expect if I stay in a hotel or eat in a restaurant. I was apprehensive when I could not find information on Lux but now I feel like I know the place. Biggest helpful hint. It told me where I could find places to change my money to the local currency and Luxembourg A to Z explains what will happen when I arrive and depart. Very good book.

I wasn't too impressed with this guide. Now that I have bought it I don't think it's a good idea to put together three countries as small as they can be. I have been living in Belgium for a year now and can tell that there is a lot more to see and do than the book says. This guide only goes for the main things but it would be nice for once to have some off the tracks hints and do something different.

There are so many little towns in Belgium that are by far more interesting than some of the larger cities. The guide has a few good information to it. Especially for Liege, but frankly I would have likes to know more about some other towns. I also like guides that have a bit more history.

I spent a few weeks in the Netherlands last fall, and found this book to be quite helpful in my travels. Holland is a country filled with quaint little cities and towns, and this guide seemed to capture many of the highlights. It has many good maps, and the information on the Dutch culture and customs is also appreciated. The Fodor's guides are very helpful when travelling in areas one has not visited before. The information in the guide is also up to date and accurate.

I used this book extensively on a recent trip to Brussels, north to Gent, over to Brughes, up to Antwerp and into Holland via Amsterdam. With the exception of one night, all hotels were booked using their referrals. Exceedingly helpful in all respects.

This is a great book, it points out some really great sites to see, and also tells a little about the history of the countries also. This is a good book for those who are going to these countries for the first time!

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