# Amsterdam. Frans Hals at the Rijksmuseum & private visit of the Six Collection

from April 11th to 12th, 2024

### Thursday April 11th, 2024

12h10 – 14h15 Flight Nice – Amsterdam Schipol (KL1472)

Taxi to the Keukendorf

16h Festival des tulipes. Visite de champs de tulipes à <u>Keukenhof</u>

18h transfer à l'hôtel

18h30 arrival at the @<u>Hotel Park Centraal 4\*</u>
20h Dinner at the @<u>Restaurant John Dory</u>

### Friday April 12th, 2024

8h30 breakfast

10h Private visit of the <u>Six Collection</u>

12h30 Lunch

14h30 visit of the Frans Hals exhibition at the Rijksmuseum

please note: It has been decided for this exhibition not to make guided tours available. This is because the space is small and many visitors are expected. We want to give these visitors as much space as possible to enjoy the paintings. But everybody will have an audio guide.

17h30 stroll around Amsterdam

18h30 Taxi to the airport

20h30 – 22h25 Flight Amsterdam Schipol – Nice avec (KL1481)







## Frans Hals

#### Way ahead of his time

Extraordinarily productive, innovative, entertaining and a little rough around the edges: Frans Hals was one of a handful of painters who defined the 17th century. His distinctive, freewheeling style of painting became so influential that it's easy to forget that he was its founder.

The exhibition centres on Frans Hals' style, which was as freewheeling as it was lively. A style that won him praise and prestige, and earned him a reputation as a forerunner of impressionism. Encompassing around fifty works, this exhibition gives you, the visitor, the chance to watch him grow as an artist. Painting by painting, you can see him breaking with convention and gaining in confidence as he finds his own inimitable way. At the same time, the exhibition paints a fascinating picture of the times in which he lived. The 'bourgeois realism' of which Frans Hals was a master gives a remarkable insight into the lives of his patrons and the norms, values and traditions of the age.

Frans Hals was born in Antwerp between 1582 and 1584, the son of a weaver. In 1585, the family fled the Spanish invasion and ended up in Haarlem. There, Frans was trained by painter Karel van Mander. In 1610, he joined the Haarlem painters' guild and became an independent artist with his own apprentices and assistants, including Judith Leyster. Frans Hals was celebrated, admired and sometimes despised for his 'rough-and-ready style'. His main focus was on portraits and he also created masterful militia pieces. Frans Hals died in 1666 and is buried in the Grote Kerk in Haarlem.

#### **The Six Collection**

An exquisite small museum located in a private house of the Dutch aristocratic Six family with roots reaching back to the year 1032. The Six's collected art and were wise enough to preserve it through the centuries, although eight most valuable paintings from their collection including "The Milkmaid" by Vermeer were purchased in 1908 by the Dutch State and are now to see at the Rijksmuseum.

The stately house facing the River Amstel houses the collection from 1915, when the Six family had to move here from another still bigger house in the canals. The collection offers a unique view into the life of the Dutch wealthy aristocratic family not only through their historical portraits, but also in being admitted to the house full of interesting objects and fine antique furniture, remaining in everyday use by the descendants of the Six family. And as long as the city of Amsterdam covers a part of the high conservation costs of the collection, its owners are ready to admit the public to their house.

The truly wonderful portrait of Jan Six (1618 - 1700), Amsterdam mayor, writer and art collector painted in 1654 by Rembrandt is the highlight of the collection. The artist did not sign the portrait - the fact which is usually explained by his friendship with the model. For us this magnificent painting, probably one of the best by Rembrandt, although never completed has a unique value of a glimpse into the painter's impressionistic technique, centuries ahead of its time. And while other paintings at the Six Collection are of lesser value, the whole setting of the interior, furniture and small artefacts is simply unique.