

Cycling Safaris

Brussels to Bruges Self-guided Tour 2017

275 km | 7 days / 6 nights | suitable for families



Surprisingly close by and remarkably beautiful. That's how to describe the various regions of Flanders and Brussels in a nutshell. Flanders and Europe's capital Brussels offer holiday joy for everybody: lovely bike tours through beautiful landscapes, culinary joy in great restaurants, cultural highlights in historical buildings and museums and of course the ever pulsating city of Brussels.

Top places of interest:

- Cycling between sea, canals and dunes
- Rich architecture of churches, abbeys, castles and windmills
- Historical art cities Brussels, Leuven, Mechelen, Ghent and Bruges
- Beautiful cities at the seaside: De Haan and Blankenberge
- The gastronomy and atmosphere in cafés and restaurants
- 350 different kinds of beer to savour

TOUR ITINERARY

1st day Arrival in Brussels

It's not a metropolis like Paris, London or Rome, but she will certainly seduce you with her multicultural charm and with palaces, galleries, small streets, which enrich the power of the city. The market square, the Atomium, Manneke Pis, the icons of the Belgian capital are a must for every visitor of Brussels. Moreover, Brussels is also the city of Jugendstil. And of course, there is always a festival as 'Couleur Café', a flower carpet or an interesting exhibition.

2nd day Brussels - Mechelen ca. 65 km

On the first day, we cycle through Leuven. This city is not only known as university city - with the oldest Belgian university -, but also as a beer city. A walk in Mechelen, a city at the river Dijle, will show you all the most important historical buildings, which were erected in the time of the Burgundy. You certainly have to visit the St. Rombouts-cathedral, the palaces of Margarete of York and Margarete of Austria. Or you can also visit the toy's museum!

3rd day Mechelen - Bornem 30 km

Today we cycle along the river Rupel and Schelde to Bornem. Because of the short ride there is plenty of time to take a 15-minute train ride towards the centre of Antwerp. Enjoy a stroll on the Meir, have a beer on one of the many plazas or admire the rich architecture and art of this Flemish capital.

4th day Bornem - Ghent 65 km

Ghent, also the historical centre of Flanders, offers a variety of places of interest and is overseen by lots of towers, for example the one of the St. Bavo cathedral with the world famous painting of Jan van Eyck. The historical heart of the city is well conserved: you can for example visit the old port. Nearby, you will find the 'Gravensteen', once the medieval castle of the counts of Ghent, today one of the most important places of interest.

5th day Ghent - Bruges 50 km

The historical centre of Bruges is part of the world famous Unesco world heritage site list. Anyone who visits Bruges will notice straight away that this city has always taken care of its architectural and cultural treasures. Take your time and stroll along lovely parks, intimate little streets and ancient market squares. You can also do some shopping: the shopkeepers will love to explain you everything about our Belgian chocolate or beer. Or simply enjoy 'French' fries on the stunning market square.

6th day Bruges - De Haan - Bruges 49 km

Ride along the canals to the picturesque village of Lissewege and further to the authentic coastal village of De Haan, enjoying a refreshing dive into the North sea or relaxing at the beach. Or you can also enjoy a free day for shopping, a boat ride on the canals, sightseeing by carriage, visiting some museums, climbing the belfry or a 15 min. train ride to Ostend, a majestic port.

7th day

Departure after breakfast or extra night in Bruges or Brussels
Back to Brussels by direct train (1 hour, 2 trains per hour) or transfer

Level:

Easy and flat, available for all cyclists and their children.

Route:

Quiet roads and mostly cycle tracks along the Flanders Cycle Route, 90% signposted. Roadbook with detailed description in English.

2017 DATES

Every Saturday from 29 April - 16 September 2017.

In July and August it is also possible to start tour on Sundays (from 2 July - 20 August).

2017 Prices

€565 per person sharing

€774 single room

€40 per person - high season supplement from 17 June to 27 August

Additional extras (per person):

Half board (6 x dinners, not in Brussels): €125

Trailer or 3rd wheel for the child: €45

Child seat: €15

Tandem: +€35

E-bike: +€55

Bike insurance: €15 (€25 for E-bike)

Transfer from Bruges to Brussels: €50 per person, transfer time: 10am, only on a Friday. From 1 July until 20 August only on Saturdays.

Tour price for a child sharing a room with 2 adults:

0-2 years – free

3-6 years – €250 low season, €270 high season (not including bike/trailer)

7-11 years – €350 low season, €378 high season (not including bikes)

WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- 6 nights in 3 and 4* hotels
4* hotel in Mechelen, Bornem and Bruges, 3 or 4* in Brussels and Ghent
- Bike Hire (7 or 21 speed bike with pannier, pump, lock, repair kit)
(limited availability for 21 speed bikes – pre-booking required)
- Room with shower/bath and toilet
- 6x breakfast buffet
- Luggage transfer (1 piece per person, up to 20 kg)
- Map, tourist information and road description (roadbookholder included)
- Service Hotline

BIKE INFORMATION



7 or 21 gear ladies bike



7 or 21 gear gents bike



Electro - Bike



Tandem

WHAT TO BRING

Specialised cycle clothing may be handy but not strictly necessary. What you do need (among other things) is the following:

- shorts/ long trousers/ track suit/ legging
- shirts/ sweater/ rain clothing
- gloves (only when you book a tour in April. It can be chilly in the morning that time of year!)
- good shoes
- soap/ insect repellent

GENERAL INFORMATION

Arrival to tour start

Airport in Brussels or Charleroi (Ryanair), from Charleroi a direct bus to the centre of Brussels
Trains: to Brussels, the first hotel is 0,7 km from Brussels Central Station

Accommodation

All rooms have an en-suite bathroom and are generally in the 3 or 4 star category. You can savour the good regional kitchen with a generous breakfast and a 3 course menu (if booked half board). Vegetarian plates are also possible (if requested).

Hotels

If you are booking additional hotel accommodation in Brussels and/or Bruges, herewith some suggestions:-

Costs for extra nights

In Bruges - €55 per person sharing

In Brussels* - €60 per person sharing B&B

* prices for extra accommodation in Brussels are valid for weekends (Fri - Sun) in April, May, June, Sept and October. In July and August the above prices are valid for any day. Other days on request, but minimum cost is €75 per person, €130 in single room.

Brussels -

NH Hotel du Grand Sablon

www.nh-hotels.com/nh/en/hotels/belgium/brussels/nh-hotel-du-grand-sablon.html ,

or due to availability in the Atlas Hotel: www.atlas-hotel.be .

Very important: for extra nights in Brussels on weekdays in the months April - May - June and September, we always book the Atlas Hotel.

Bruges -

Hotel Velotel, www.hotelvelotel.com