







# Flanders, Brussels- Bruges

### Along the Historic Art City Route

Flanders, a paradise for art and culture. This region in the north of Belgium has centuries of tradition and history. The historic Art City Route takes you to places with breathtaking sights: Brussels, Leuven, Mechelen, Antwerp, Ghent, Kortrijk and Bruges are strung together like pearls. In between, you will find picturesque green landscapes with grazing cows, vast forests and fertile marshland. Historic castles and gardens line the way. Many of the old buildings and monuments you come across have long been part of UNESCO World Heritage, and they create an incomparable atmosphere. In the picturesque landscape around the Leie, you can follow in the footsteps of Flemish painters. At the North Sea, a dip in the cool water will refresh you. Small rivers often lead the way and promise relaxed cycling on flat and quiet routes. There's no shortage of culinary delights either: Flemish specialities include chocolate, waffles and Belgian fries, not to mention Belgium's long tradition of brewing beer. Flanders, a region that offers everything!



# Itinerary

DAY 1

### **Arrival Brussels**

There is always something going on in Brussels. The vibrant Belgian metropolis is rich in art and culture, and the architecture is inspiring. The Grote Markt, the Atomium and the Manneken Pis statue are the must-see sites which symbolise the capital. Belgian fry stalls are a classic element of the cityscape - you will find a bag of the crispy fries on practically every corner.

DAY 2

### Brussels – Mechelen

арргох. 65 km

After breakfast, you'll have time for a tour of the European capital. You can learn all kinds of interesting facts about Central Africa in the Royal Museum in Tervuren, or take a walk through the park beside it and fortify yourself for the next few kilometres with a picnic. The historic Art City Route will quickly lead you to Leuven. This university town is a hive of activity, with students setting the pace in the pedestrian zones. Following the course of the Dijle, you will reach Mechelen, your destination for today. The chimes of the famous tower bells can be heard ringing through the narrow streets up to eight times an hour.

DAY 3

## Mechelen – Antwerp

approx. 45 km

Mechelen is a picturesque Flemish jewel with hundreds of heritage-protected buildings, churches and monuments dating back to the 16th century. On quiet and flat paths, you will follow the course of the rivers Beneden-Dijl and Nete. The historic town of Lier is not only famous for its delicious food: The town's beguinage and striking belfry were declared UNESCO World Heritage Sites some time ago. Today's destination, Antwerp, is known as an important trading centre for diamonds. Art is not neglected in the port metropolis either, and shopping fans will enjoy the numerous high-class boutiques.

## DAY 4

## Antwerp – Dendermonde approx. 55 km

Antwerp is situated on the Scheldt, the river which you will follow all day today. Lush green meadows and grazing cows will accompany you on your route. Idyllic scenery alternates with picturesque Flemish villages and there are many places to relax over a cup of coffee. A huge wooden horse is the symbol of the town Dendermonde, today's stage destination. Every ten years, the Ross Bayard parade provides a unique folk festival. In the evening, the numerous restaurants on the historic market square will spoil your palate.

DAY 5

### **Dendermonde – Ghent** ap

approx. 45 km

Today you will once again follow the course of the river Scheldt. The flat cycle paths along the riverbank guarantee a carefree cycling experience, and you will pass many small Flemish villages that are perfect for a rest. At the end of today's stage is Ghent, with a multitude of cultural treasures. In the historic centre, the sights are strung together like pearls. This trendy city will also allow you to indulge in the culinary landscape of Flanders in the evening.

DAY

### Ghent – Kortrijk

approx. 60 km

During today's stage you will immerse yourself in the beautiful landscape around the river Leie. The picturesque region's green landscape with its extensive forests is a true natural paradise and has inspired countless artists. Neoclassical castles and small artists' villages line the way, and you can also admire the works of the painters in the local museums. Your stage destination Kortrijk has the charm of a big city with the cosiness of a village. In the centre, you will find a mix of modern architecture, centuries-old cultural heritage and passionate creativity.



## Kortrijk – Bruges

approx. 60 km

You should not delay too much today, because Bruges awaits you at the end of the stage: arguably one of the most beautiful places in the world. The city has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is a treat for the eyes. The medieval city centre has remained practically unchanged since the 15th century. The canals guaranteed success and prosperity in the Middle Ages and made Bruges the Venice of the North. A perfect place to end your cycling tour through the historic art cities of the beautiful Flanders region!

DAY 8

## Individual departure, return transfer or extension

After breakfast, you will start your journey home. You can choose an optional return transfer with our cycle bus to Brussels or an extended stay in Bruges with the possibility of a round trip to the North Sea.

## Tour character

Flanders is ideal for cycling. The region has an excellent network of cycle paths. The easy stages mostly lead you through flat terrain on dedicated cycle paths or side roads with little traffic. Only when entering and leaving the towns is increased traffic to be expected. For most of the way, you will follow the historic Art City Route along rivers and canals. The roads are mostly asphalted and the route is well signposted. The local rail network is well developed, so the routes can be shortened by train if necessary. This trip is also suitable for families with children.

## Prices and events

Place of arrival: Brussels

	Season 1 12.04.2024 - 18.04.2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Season 2 19.04.2024 - 02.05.2024   20.09.2024 - 22.09.2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Season 3 03.05.2024 - 23.05.2024   06.09.2024 - 19.09.2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Season 4 24.05.2024 - 05.09.2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Flandern, 8 days, BE-BRRBB-08X				
Base price	979.00	1,049.00	1,159.00	1,229.00
Surcharge single room	529.00	529.00	529.00	529.00

Category:

Carefully selected hotels 3\*\*\* and 4\*\*\*\*

# Additional nights

Place of arrival: Brussels

	Season 1 Apr 12, 2024 - Apr 18, 2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Season 2 Apr 19, 2024 - May 2, 2024   Sep 20, 2024 - Sep 22, 2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Season 3  May 3, 2024 - May 23, 2024    Sep 6, 2024 - Sep 19, 2024    Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Season 4 May 24, 2024 - Sep 5, 2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Brussels				
Double room p.p.	89.00	89.00	89.00	89.00
Single room	169.00	169.00	169.00	169.00
Mechelen				
Double room p.p.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Single room	194.00	194.00	194.00	194.00
Bruges				

	Season 1 Apr 12, 2024 - Apr 18, 2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Season 2 Apr 19, 2024 - May 2, 2024   Sep 20, 2024 - Sep 22, 2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Season 3 May 3, 2024 - May 23, 2024   Sep 6, 2024 - Sep 19, 2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday	Season 4 May 24, 2024 - Sep 5, 2024   Arrival Friday, Saturday and Sunday
Double room p.p.	119.00	119.00	119.00	119.00
Single room	194.00	194.00	194.00	194.00

# Our rental bikes

	Price
21-gear unisex incl. rental bike insurance	99.00
21-gear gents incl. rental bike insurance	99.00
Electric bike incl. rental bike insurance	259.00
Premium bike incl. rental bike insurance	169.00

Prices per person in EUR

## Services and infos

#### Leistungen

- 7 overnight stays in the mentioned category
- Daily breakfast from buffet
- Luggage transfer from hotel to hotel (Per person 1 piece with a maximum of 23 kg)
- Service hotline daily between 8:00 to 20:00 h
- Well elaborated route

- Detailed travel documents (1 package per room)
- Navigation-App incl. GPX-tracks
- Personal welcome and bike fitting on site
- If bike rental: Rental bike insurance included

#### Infos

#### Arrival / Parking / Departure

- Train station Brussels
- Nearest airport: Brussels.
- Excellent train conections are available
- A hotel garage parking space costs 25 € per day. Reservation required in advance, payable on site.
- There are public Park & Ride garages on the outskirts of the city for 15 € per day.
   No reservation possible or necessary. You will receive detailed information on parking facilities with your travel documents.
- Return transfer with our bike bus from Bruges to Brussels: Bookable every Saturday with departure approx. 10am in Bruges. Pick-up directly at the hotel, duration approx. 1.5 hours. Price: 79 € per person and 39 € if you bring your own bike (only possible in the course of the passenger transfer). Reservation required; the transfer will be added to the bill.

#### Please note:

 Visitor's tax/local tax, if due, not included in the tour price.

# Contact & booking

Do you still have questions about the tour? We are happy to help and look forward to your inquiry.

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office@radreisefreunde.at	