

Belgium – Brussels to Bruges Bicycle Tour (2025)
Individual Self-guided
8 days / 7 nights



Follow the Flemish Masters on a linear cycling tour to the most beautiful towns in Belgium, admiring the grand painters' artwork in Brussels, St. Bavo Cathedral in Ghent, KMKSA and Rubens' House in Antwerp, St.John's Church in Mechelen and Groeninge Museum in Bruges. In between, you'll ride through everchanging landscapes, with riverside stretches and sign-posted routes



#### **Itinerary Day to Day**

#### **Brussels to Burges**

#### **Day01 Arrival in Brussels**

Arrange for an early arrival and take a moment to settle in, then head for the Grande Place. Meet the Manneken Pis, munch on waffles and chocolate and quench your thirst with a pint. It all comes together in Brussels, a city created specifically for culture vultures and shopaholics, gourmets and gourmands alike!

#### Day 02 Brussels-Mechelen (approx.65km)

Take time to see a bit more of the Grande Place, then set off for Tervuren, known for the Royal African Museum. Rolling along tree-lined country lanes, you pedal past ponds and parallel the river. Woodlands, meadows and farmed fields lead to Mechelen, one of the smaller Flemish towns, yet large on beauty.



#### **Day 03 Mechelen–Antwerp**(approx.39km)

Stop in Sint-Kathelijne-Waver for an exquisite surprise. The convent-school of Our Lady of Wavre sports a successful blend of architectural styles: art nouveau, neo-Gothic, neo-Empire and art deco. Plus the wonderful winter garden, an ode to nature, springtime and light! Cycle onward via Duffel, situated on the River Nete. Pause for a bit of military heritage at Mortsel's 19th-centurybrick-and-sandstone Fort no. 4. Crown your day in Antwerp with a wander around the city. Shop for antiques or vintage fashion finds and drink in the traditional brews, whether coffee or beer!



# Day 04 Antwerp–Dendermonde(approx.57km) Let the River Scheldt lead you to an encounter with the 10th-century Wissekerk Castle near Kruibeke. Further ahead, ford the river by ferry and pedal along the dike to De Zilverreiger, the regional museum depicting local trades and crafts, such as basket weaving, river fishery, cooperage (barrel making), flax processing and clog making.



#### Day 05 Dendermonde-Ghent (approx.46km)

Back on the banks of the Scheldt, cruise past a string of Flemish sites. Take a break in Dendermonde, with its town hall, belfry and church with an 11th-century baptismal font. Linger at Laarne Castle then continue on to Ghent, a veritable open-air museum and UNESCO Creative City of Music. The thriving local scene includes concerts, festivals, a carillon and singing in the streets... music is absolutely everywhere. After dark, Ghent glows with a magical ambience thanks to its ingenious lighting plan.



#### Day 06 Ghent-Maldegem(approx.57km)

Head west into rural Meetjesland, a cyclist's paradise of woodlands, meadows and farmed fields. Enjoy easy pedalling across flat landscapes and stretch your legs with a stroll round the sculptures in Eeklo. The Het Leen and Drongengoed forests await. If you have extra energy at the end, take a sign-posted walk among the heather in Maldegemveld nature reserve

#### Day 07 Maldegem-Bruges (approx.54km)

Cut across the flat Flemish countryside and glide through quiet villages such as Knesselare, Maria-Aalter and Moerbrugge. On the last stretch, marvel at one of Belgium's oldest waterways, the 14th-century Ghent-Bruges canal. This green corridor together with its towpath verges provide habitat vital to preserving biodiversity. Top off the week with an evening in Bruges, a Belgian jewel of medieval facades, cobbled lanes and a fairy-tale atmosphere.

# **Day 08 Departure from Bruges** After breakfast this morning,

your holiday comes to an end and it's time to return home





# **Day by Day Bruges to Brussels**

#### Day 01 Arrival in Bruges

Organize your own journey to Bruges. Try to arrive early to make the most of your time in this wonderfully harmonious town with a consistently medieval look. Cobblestones under your feet; swans in the lake; stone archways and bridges; pretty houses reflected in the canals... everything is picture-perfect.

#### Day 02 Bruges-Maldegem (approx. 54km)

Follow the canal out of town. The Ghent-Bruges Canal dates to the 14thcentury and is one of the oldest in the country. Together with its towpaths, it forms a green corridor that has proved valuable for biodiversity. Past quiet villages such as Moerbrugge, Maria-Aalter and Knesselare, you will cycle through the flat Flemish countryside to Maldegem. If you are still in for a walk, explore Maldegemveld nature reserve which has some interesting flora, the product of sandy soil(low in nutrients; acidic) and superficial, waterlogged clay deposits. In the evening, put your feet up in Maldegem.

### Day 03 Maldegem-Ghent (approx. 57km)

Today you traverse the rural Meetjesland region, a cycling paradise with woods, meadowland and vast crop fields. Enjoy the play of light as you ride your bike through the woods of Het Leen and Drongengoed. Subsequently, it is easy pedalling through the flat landscape to Eeklo, a small town known for its many sculptures. Then proceed to Ghent. The Old Town of Ghent is like an open-air museum. It is also a UNESCO Creative City of Music. The music scene here is thriving. Festivals, music institutions, the carillon, concerts, students of music having a singsong on the quays...music is everywhere. After dark, the ambiance is magical, thanks to the town's ingenious light plan.

#### Day 04 Ghent-Dendermonde(approx.46km)

For the main part of the day, the River Scheldt will be your guide. Follow it upstream past a string of Flemish villages and towns. A 13th-century castle is a real eyecatcher in the village of Laarne: a great place for a break. Also stop off in Dendermonde for a look at the Town Hall &Belfry and visit the Church of Our Lady boasting a baptismal font from the 11thcentury. End the day in Dendermonde, where some delicious beers are brewed.

#### Day 05Dendermonde-Antwerp (approx.57km)

Quickly make your way back to the Scheldt and cycle atop the river dike towards Antwerp. A delightful interlude: De Zilverreiger, a regional museum focused on preserving knowledge about trades and crafts that once flourished locally: basket weaving, river fishery, cooperage (barrel making), flax processing and clog making. After crossing the Scheldt by ferry, you will reach Kruibeke, home to Wissekerk Castle. In the 10th century this was a so-called water castle and part of the defense line of Antwerp along the river. Crown your day in Antwerp, a city with a long beer tradition and countless cafes. Discover the beautiful Old Town or go shopping for antiques and curio's, home deco, vintage fashion finds or diamonds!



#### Day 06 Antwerp-Mechelen (approx.39km)

It's only a short trip today so you have time to look around Antwerp some more, or visit a museum, before setting off towards Mechelen. If you are into military heritage, stop off in Mortsel to visit Fort no. 4 of the originally eight Brialmont Forts (1860-1864) that made up the defensive line of Antwerp. It is built in brick with sandstone decorations and stands on an island surrounded by a ditch and glacis. Then continue along quiet country lanes and alongside the River Nete to Duffel. And, yes! This is actually the town where "duffel" originated from: the heavy, woolly material used initially for bags and later for duffle coats, made popular by the British Royal Navy and still trendy today. In the 15th century, duffel was produced here and exported all over Europe: a profitable business for then-prosperous Duffel. In the town of Sint-Kathelijne-Waver, at the Ursuline Institute, a boarding school run by nuns, an exquisite surprise awaits. The convent/school complex, Our Lady of Wavre, is a successful blend of art nouveau, neo-Gothic, neo-Empire and art deco. Best of all: the winter garden! Feast your eyes on a masterpiece of art nouveau, an ode to nature, springtime and light! Top off your day in Mechelen, small but attractive.

#### Day 07 Mechelen-Brussels (approx.65km)

Ride your bike on tree-lined country lanes, past a series of ponds, along a river, around a woodland through meadows and crop fields to Brussels. Along the way, pass Tervuren, known for the Royal Africa Museum. In Brussels, you will find a mix of cultures, as can be seen in the streets, menus and people's appearance. Head for the Grande Place and go for a walk. Not only does Brussels have Manneken Pis, it also has the most delicious waffles, chocolates and pints. This is a city where culture vultures, shopaholics, and gourmets & gourmands make merry!

#### **Day 08 Departure from Brussels**

One last hotel breakfast buffet and your cycling holiday will come to an end. Make your own wayhome.



#### **Route**



#### **Technical Characteristics:**

**Route Profile:** Relatively Easy. The terrain is slightly hilly. You will encounter a short incline from time to time. With some cycling experience you should easily be able to handle this level. Daily distances span 30-65 km. A five gear bike is sufficient. More gears may be appreciated.

Distance: 295 - 329 km

**Travel Season:** Departures from Brussels Friday and Sunday April 1- September 21
Departures from Bruges every Thursday from April 3-September 18



#### Price per Person in Euros: all prices subject to confirmation on booking

Double occupancy with breakfast	€ 885
Single Supplement	€ 520
Bike Rental 21/24 gear	€ 115
E-bike Rental	€ 240
Helmet rental	€ 10
Bike Theft insurance hybrid/e-bike	€ 21/42
Extra nights	On request

If you don't want to receive the printed travel documents (hotel list, vouchers and roadbooks) at the first hotel, you can choose the APP ONLY option, which will only send you theGuibo link. The App only discount is €20 per room

#### Included:

- Overnight stays in 3 star and 4 star hotels with own bathroom
- Breakfast (buffet)
- Route description , maps and Guibo App
- Daily luggage transfer (1 piece per person max 20kg)
- Tourist tax

#### **Not included:**

- Other meals
- Personal Expenses





#### **Bikes**

You will receive your rental bike at the start of your holiday and return it before you go home. All bikes are provided with chain locks.

# 24-speed gear Bike



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