



**France – Belgium – Paris to Bruges E-Bike and Boat Tour (2025)**

**Guided**

**15 days / 14 nights**



Frenchmonuments.eu

During this 15 day bike and trip through Flanders (Belgium) and northern France, from Bruges to Paris, you will cycle through attractive areas, not yet discovered by mass tourism. This tour is characterized by a wide variation in landscapes and has all the ingredients a good bike and barge tour needs to explore these interesting regions. The first stage in Belgium features highlights like magnificent Bruges as an unbeatable start of a beautiful discovery tour, history in medieval Ghent, tapestry in Oudenaarde, Vincent van Gogh's heritage and a nice Belgium beer at end of your daily cycling tour. Highlights in France are World War I battle fields and memorials in the Somme valley, the Chateau de Chantilly and its art gallery the Musée Condé that houses one of the finest collections of paintings in France, and – last but not least – beautiful Paris, the “City of Lights”.

**OK Cycle & Adventure Tours Inc. - 666 Kirkwood Ave - Suite B102 – Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1Z 5X9**

**[www.okcycletours.com](http://www.okcycletours.com) Toll Free 1-888-621-6818 Local 613-702-5350**

**TICO Ontario Registration No: 50022848**



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**Day 1: Embarkation: Paris – Bougival**

Embarkation and check-in at 2 p.m. in the center of Paris. After a welcome by the captain, crew and tour leader the barge will sail right through the city. Mooring place for the night is in a suburb of Paris. After a sailing dinner there is time for a short walk.

We advise you to come to Paris one or more days earlier, so that you will have plenty of time to discover this interesting city



**Day 2 (Sun): Paris (Bougival) – Auvers-sur-Oise (42 km or 46km)**

After breakfast you will cycle along quiet towpaths along the river Seine to the higher situated St. Germain; the gardens of Le Nôtre provide a magnificent view across Paris. Next you will ride through a forest area to Conflans for a picnic on the pier amongst the terraces. After a short stop at the Pontoise Bridge, you continue cycling across the picturesque Chemin des Monts to the church of Auvers, famous for Van Gogh's paintings. You will

have the possibility to visit Van Gogh's grave on the local cemetery during a short evening walk.

**Day 3: Auvers-sur-Oise – Beaumont/ Beaumont – Creil- Point-Ste-Maxence 43 km**

Sailing breakfast to Beaumont. Start your bike tour in Beaumont and follow the Oise River upstream. You will pass the abbey of Royaumont, one of the best preserved abbeys from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. During the afternoon you will visit the splendid Chateau de Chantilly, a magnificent castle with a horse dressage and its art gallery – the Musee Conde – that houses one of the finest collections of paintings in France.

**Day 4: Pont St.Maxence/ Compiegne 44 or 54 km**

During breakfast the barge will bring you to Pont Saint Maxence. This town owes its name to the fact that in the middle Ages this was one of the very few bridges over the Oise River. Therefore Pont-Ste-Maxence became the place to stay the night for kings and merchants, who were on their way to Flanders. From here your biking tour starts. Not far from here you pass the abbey of Moncel, which in 1309 was founded by King Philip le Bel. Before you reach our destination of Compiegne, you will cycle through the forest named after this town "Foret de Compiegne". French kings loved to hunt here. The longer tour adds some more kilometers of forest and also the little town of Pierrefond, where you can admire the exterior of the impressive castle. Compiegne owes its architectural wealth to the proximity of Paris. The gardens of the Chateau de Compiegne are definitely worth a visit.

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**Day 5: Compiègne – Pont l’Eveque 42 km or 51 km**

Today you leave the river Oise to continue your trip by way of the canal system connecting France and Belgium. In the morning you cycle into the most northern part of the forest of Compiègne. Here you visit the “Clairiere de l’Armistice”, the place where the French and German generals signed the treaty to end World War 1. You can have a look into the small and interesting museum. Thereafter you will cross the river Aisne and cycle through the forest of

Ourscamp. In the afternoon you will spend some time in Noyon, where you can visit one of the oldest cathedrals of the country. After your visit you will cycle back to the canal at Pont l’Eveque, where the barge will be waiting for you.

**Day 6: Pont l’Eveque – Haudival/Haudival - Péronne 47 or 56 km**

Today you will continue the cruise on and along the Canal du Nord. The construction of this canal was already planned in 1903, but it took until 1966 to finish the works. It was built to replace the older and smaller Canal de St. Quentin, constructed by Napoleon in 1801, to transport coal from the mines in the north. During breakfast the barge will bring you to Haudival from where the cycling tour starts through gently rolling, open countryside to the art deco town of Ham, along the river Somme and other picturesque villages to Peronne. The barge will be moored just outside this charming town with its intimate square and church as well as a castle and the fascinating Grande Guerre museum.

**Day 7: Day in Péronne**

Today the Zwaantje will stay in Peronne. You have time to visit the museum, rest and do some shopping. Today there is no dinner on board. You can select one of the local restaurants.

**Day 8: Peronne – Ytres/ Ytres – Moeuvres 40 or 52 km**

The first part of your cycling tour goes through the valley of the Somme River. Later you will continue through the sparsely populated open and rolling landscape to Ruyalcourt. At the end of WW1 this area was the frontline of the battle around the Somme. The Canal du Nord has two tunnels, where the barge has to sail through. The longest one is the tunnel of Ruyalcourt, which is 4350 meters long. As soon as all are back on board, the Zwaantje will pass through this tunnel. Above the tunnel is the watershed between the rivers Somme and Escaut



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(Scheldt). From there the barge goes downhill in the direction of Arleux. Mooring is in Moeuvres, an outskirt of this town.

**Day 9: Moeuvres – Arleux 35 or 50 km Arleux-Pont Malin**

Your cycling tour leads to the city of Cambrai, once a Roman provincial capital and an important destination for pilgrims. Worth seeing are the impressive restored buildings of the city fortress, built under King Charles V. Then you will cycle through the marshlands of Chantraine to rural Arleux where the ship is waiting for you to sail to the lock of Pont Malin



**Day 10: Pont Malin - Doornik (Tournai) 47 or 51 km**

Today the barge follows the Canal du Grand Gabarit for a few hours, passing through a former industrial area of northern France. Old coal mines and steel sites border the canal. You will start your bicycle ride in Arleux. The tour goes through open farm land, through little mining towns towards Lewarde, where a mining museum can be visited. Once in Belgium you will cycle through the so called “white land”.

The charming little fortress town of Antoing lies at the heart of this region and since the roman days, (white) limestone has been mined here. Today's destination is Doornik (in French: Tournai), one of the oldest cities in Belgium. Now you are in Wallonia, French speaking Belgium, where all towns and villages have both French and a Flemish name. Up until the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Doornik was ruled by the French. Here, tapestry weaving gained in importance, while the cloth industry became less important. In the various museums of the town, excellent examples can be seen. In 1940 the entire city center was destroyed after a German air raid. However, the town has been renovated splendidly, especially the cathedral of the Notre Dame (12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century) is worth seeing as well as the Belfort, which was built in about 1200. There is no dinner on board tonight

**Day 11: Doornik (Tournai) - Oudenaarde 41 or 43 km**

Now the barge sails downstream on the river Scheldt and after crossing the language barrier you enter the Flemish region. From here onwards Flemish is the spoken language. Your target today is Oudenaarde. In the former days this little town was situated on the border of the French and German empires and as a result it was involved in wars frequently. Since Oudenaarde was right in the firing line, there was always someone on the lookout. The statue of the most famous watchman, Hanske de Krijger, is on the splendid city hall. In the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century this city hall was built of sandstone in Brabantine late gothic style and it is one of the most beautiful city halls in Flanders. Oudenaarde is also known as the town of the tapestry weavers. Their tapestry is famous all over the world.

**Day 12: Oudenaarde - Ghent 45 km**

Shortly after starting your cycling tour at Oudenaarde you briefly stop at the ruins of the old abbey of Ename, located at the river Scheldt. You keep on following the river towards Ghent, your destination.

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Ghent is a lively university town with a rich history. The town arose in roman days on the confluence of the rivers Leie and Schelde.



This favorable location brought on quite a bit of wealth with a peak in the late 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The cloth industry was a source of great richness in the late middle ages. In the city many patrician residences have been preserved. In the “Lakenhal” –Cloth Hall- (1425) the cloth traders gathered. The most important church of St. Baafs cathedral, which was constructed in different centuries and in different styles. In the cathedral several masterpieces of medieval painting are to be found. “The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb” by Jan van Eyck is the most

famous of all. You may wish to take a city tour by boat or visit the old castle of Gravensteen.

**Day 13: Ghent – Aalterbrug/ Aalterbrug - Bruges 34 or 44 km**

While enjoying breakfast you will cruise the Canal Ghent – Bruges to Aalterbrug. Here you will start your cycle tour. Today your cycling tour goes through the pleasant flat countryside of western Flanders to Bruges. Bruges, also called “Venice of the North”, is said to be the most beautiful of all Flemish cities. Its old center, which dates from the middle ages, is almost completely intact. In past ages, Bruges was a metropole, center of trade and art, which you can still fully enjoy.

**Day 14: Bruges 22 km or 38 km**

Today the barge will stay in Bruges. An optional Bicycle ride through the pleasant countryside around Bruges will be offered, but you can choose to spend your time in beautiful Bruges and visit a museum or do some shopping.

**Day 15: Bruges**

End of your tour. Disembarkation after breakfast until 9:30 a.m.



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**Good to know:**

Cycling route distances in the travel program are approximate.

On some days you can choose between a longer and a shorter cycling route. Please note that on the shorter routes you may not be able to visit all the highlights mentioned.

If you prefer not to cycle on a particular day, you're welcome to stay on board and relax while the ship cruises to the next landing place.

The tour itinerary and route are subject to possible changes due to nautical, technical or meteorological reasons, or other unforeseen events.

On the arrival day, you can leave your luggage on board the ship from 11.00 am.

A detailed cycling map and a GPS app are available for guests who wish to cycle individually and at their own pace. The tour guide is always available via cell phone in case of questions, breakdowns or emergencies.

This tour can also be done from Bruges-Paris

Transfer between Paris and Bruges There is a good train connection between these Please visit one of the following websites for timetables, tickets or more information [www.omio.co.uk](http://www.omio.co.uk) or [www.trainline.eu](http://www.trainline.eu).



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### Route



### Technical Characteristics:

**Tour Profile:** Relatively easy. These holidays are appropriate for anyone with good physical condition and basic cycling skills. Distances up to 50 kilometers per day. You spend about 5 hours on your bicycle. Short slopes with heights up to 100 meters.

**Distance:** 456 - 539 km

**Travel Season:** 2025: Burges-Paris May 18 (Fleur), Paris-Burges Sept 26 (Fluer), Paris-Burges May 10 (Zwanntje) , Burges-Paris September 18 (Zwanntje)

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**Price per Person double occupancy** *all prices subject to confirmation on booking*

Twin Cabin	€ 3349	
Single use of cabin	€ 5024	
E-Bike Rental	€ 532	

*It is not possible to bring your own e-bike*

**Included:**

- Tour and accommodation on board in the booked category 15 days/14 nights
- Full board; 14x breakfast, 13x packed lunches, 12 x three course dinner
- Coffee and tea on board
- Use of bed linen and towels
- Daily cleaning service of the cabin, 1x change of bed sheets
- Climate controlled cabin
- Welcome drink
- Daily briefings
- Fully guided cycling tours (from 18 guests: 2 tour leaders, 2 groups)
- Some short walking tours
- Maps for cycling tours, 1 set/cabin
- GPS tracks
- Fees for ferries
- Visit museum Glade of the Armistice
- Entrance castle of Chantilly
- Visit town hall Oudenaarde
- Canal trip through Ghent
- Wi-Fi

**Not included:**

- 2 x dinner
- Drinks
- E-bike rental
- Personal insurances
- Gratuities (at your discretion)
- Entrance fees and excursions (not mentioned under included)
- Transfers to/from the docking place
- Parking fees
- Special diets on request/surcharges may apply

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### MS Zwaantje



The MS “Zwaantje” (“Little Swan”) is a fully converted passenger barge under Dutch flag and management with a length of 40 meters that can accommodate 24 passengers. On lower deck the barge has 12 sleeping cabins: 10 twin cabins with two single beds each and 2 cabins with a double (French) bed. All cabins have a small en-suite bathroom with toilet, shower and wash basin, a fixed window (both double cabins have larger windows that also open) and individual air conditioning. On the main deck you will find the nice and cozy salon with air conditioning and large panoramic windows, a restaurant area, lounge corner and a small bar. Depending on the quality of the network connection (mobile internet, limited data amount) the salon offers free Wi-Fi. The barge has a very spacious sun deck (90 square

meters) with chairs and tables and a beautiful view, where you can relax or join the skipper in the wheel house. Bicycles will be stored in a separate area on the sun deck.





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### **MS Fleur**

The Fleur started cruising in 2002. This tasteful passenger barge with her sleek lines was built to fit the smaller locks, sluices The Fleur started cruising in 2002. This tasteful passenger barge with her sleek lines was built to fit the smaller locks, sluices and canals in France and has been cruising the French waters ever since. But don't let her size fool you! The Fleur can accommodate a maximum of 20 guests in the 10 comfortable cabins on the lower deck, each with private sanitary facilities, central heating and air-conditioning. On the upper deck there is a lounge with large windows, a roomy sitting area and bar, central heating and air-conditioning. On the upper deck there is a lounge with large windows, a roomy sitting area and bar, and outside a half-covered sun deck. Wonderful for a cup of coffee or tea, or a glass of wine.

Note:

You can't bring your own bike on this tour due to a lack of space

*Assisting people in realizing their touring dreams worldwide is our passion.*



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**THIS IS A PARTNER TOUR**

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