

Best of Belgium

May 31 - June 10, 2014

History and architecture and cobbled streets. Castles and beaches. Serene waterways and cosmopolitan cities. The world capital of chocolate. Some 500 varieties of beer. Mussels in white wine, and bakeries galore. Flemish and French and everyone's friendly. This is Belgium, and we're going to visit the best of it.

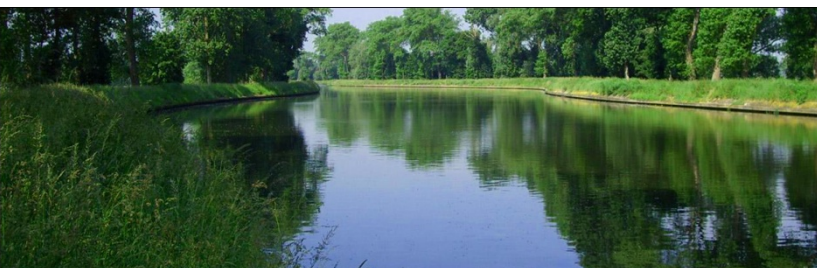


We'll be sailing from Nieuwpoort to Gent, via Leper and Bruges, but we won't be on sailboats- we'll be chartering modern 42- to 48-foot canal boats. And anyone can skipper these simple boats down the shallow, narrow waterways (no sea sickness!), as no license or experience is required. With 4 cabins, dual steering stations, galley and salon, and lots of sundeck space for watching everything go by, these are the ideal boats for our week afloat.

We'll meet in Brussels, where our private bus will take us out to the base in Nieuwpoort (Newport), and we'll board our waiting boats. Famous for the overwhelming fresh seafood market, vibrant nightlife, and beaches, this is a great place to start our Belgian adventure.



We'll be sailing a total of about 45 miles during our week aboard, crossing 8 locks and ducking 18 bridges, so we'll have plenty of time for exploring ashore. We may stop in Oudenbourg for some sightseeing, or visit Oostende, with its famous fishing community, beaches, museums, and Napoleon's stronghold.



As we cruise past the splendid castles that line the banks of the river Leie, we'll make a must-see stop in Bruges, where the medieval town center has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There are also some fifty chocolate shops located here, as well as a chocolate museum.

Other possibilities include the gothic churches of Diksmuide, the "Hall aux draps" in Leper, the Pavilion of Spanish Officers and the gardens of Sainte-Walburge in Veurne, or the Straffe Hendrik Brewery tour. We'll end our cruise in Gent, the pearl of Flanders, which was once the largest city in Europe after Paris. No other city in Belgium has as many monuments and important buildings, and the historic center is ideal for exploring on foot.



Some of the great masterpieces of old Flemish paintings are housed at the St. Bavon cathedral. We'll next board our private bus back to Brussels, where we'll enjoy 3 nights in a luxury hotel, allowing plenty of time to relax and explore and enjoy everything this wonderful city has to offer.

So what's the deal?

The trip costs just \$1,495 per person, and includes:

- ✓ 8 days and 7 nights aboard the boats
- ✓ Transfers to and from Brussels airport
- ✓ Three nights luxury hotel in Brussels
- ✓ Transfers to and from bases in Newport and Gent



The only thing you'll need to buy there is food and drink, pitch in a few Euros for fuel, and maybe rent a bicycle to take on the boat with you. We welcome couples, families, and singles, and work very hard to ensure everyone has an absolutely great time.

Special Deal for Greece flotilla participants:

Add the Best of Belgium to the Greece flotilla for just \$1895 per person, and it

includes your flights from Athens to Brussels, connections to your return flight to New York, and local ground transfers. That makes an unbelievable 23-day adventure, and includes almost everything!



A deposit of \$395 per person will hold your spot, with an additional deposit of \$750 due December 1, and the balance will be due March 15. Visa/MC/Discover and checks are fine. Space on this trip is very limited- we can accommodate only about half of the people on the Greece flotilla, so don't delay- sign up today!



For answers to your questions, or if you are ready to join us, email David directly at: davidkory@gmail.com, or call him at (925) 787-6893



* The price listed includes all taxes and fuel surcharges as of June 1, 2013. If the world goes crazy again and the airlines add new fuel surcharges or invent new taxes, we may have to pass these on to you. I don't expect that to happen, but I have to warn you just in case.



Cancellation policy: 6 months before departure, full refund. 90 days to 6 months, loss of deposits. Less than 90 days, no refund.