

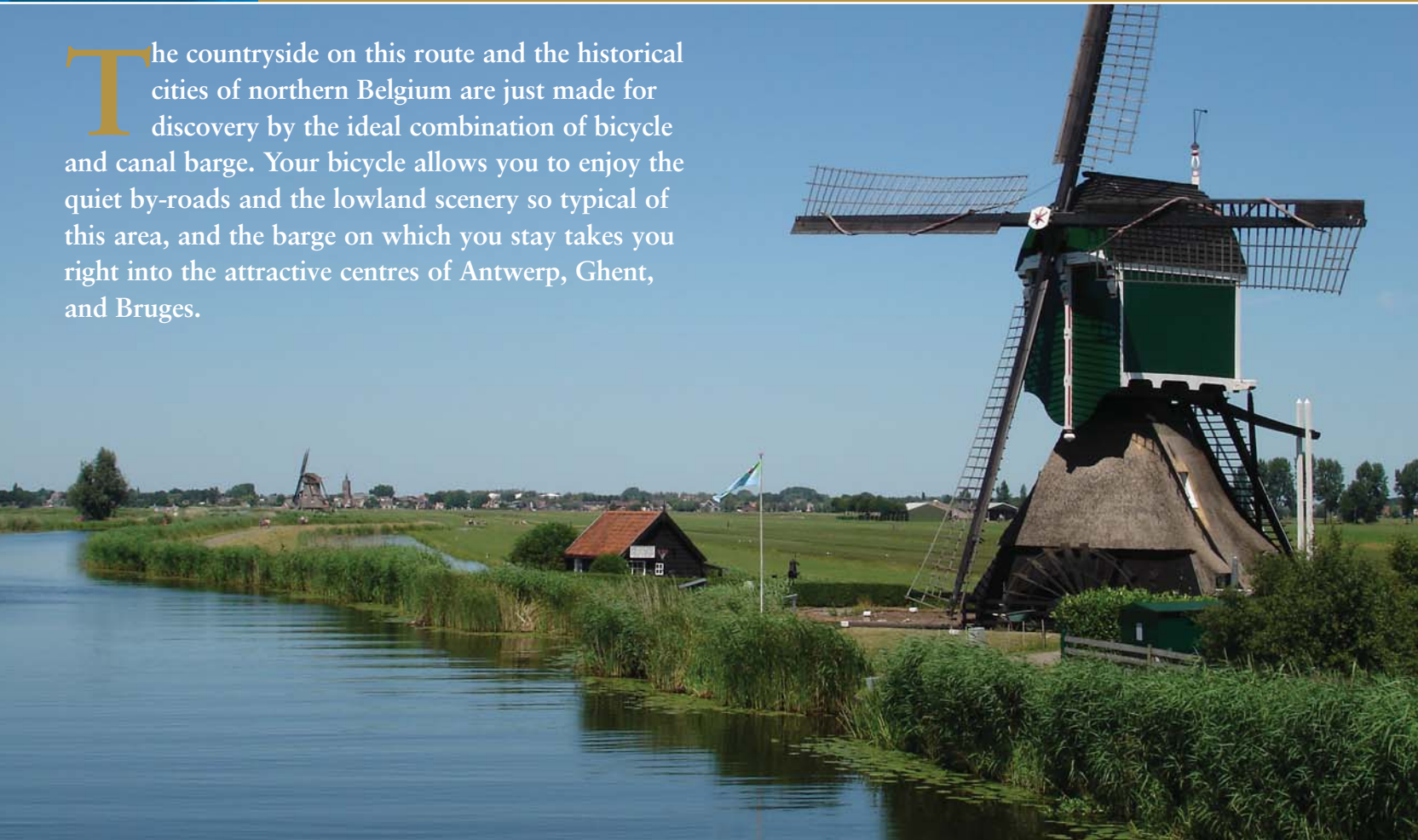


Amsterdam to Bruges – Boat and Bike

‘Historical cities, easy-paced cycling, with the comfort of a top of the range canal barge’



The countryside on this route and the historical cities of northern Belgium are just made for discovery by the ideal combination of bicycle and canal barge. Your bicycle allows you to enjoy the quiet by-roads and the lowland scenery so typical of this area, and the barge on which you stay takes you right into the attractive centres of Antwerp, Ghent, and Bruges.



Windmills and waterways

- Accommodation on comfortable, air-conditioned, well-appointed canal barge – IRIS
- All meals included
- Stay in the centre of fascinating cities of Antwerp, Ghent, and Bruges
- Cycling on quiet, minor roads
- Flexibility – cycle with or without tour guide, or even stay on board!
- Friendly, experienced, English speaking captain, tour guide and crew
- Extend your holiday with extra nights in Amsterdam or Bruges

In southern Holland you will see impressive waterway scenery with rows of windmills, and visit the attractive old towns of Dordrecht and Willemstad. Bruges is definitely a highlight – the centre has survived almost intact from the Middle Ages, and rewards detailed exploration.

The canal barge Iris is a delightful moving base for 7 nights. On the upper deck there is a saloon, a spacious sitting area, a nice bar, and a sun deck. Below there is accommodation for 24 guests in twin-bedded cabins with en suite shower and wc. The barge is air-conditioned throughout. Breakfast and a 3 course dinner are taken on board and a packed lunch can be made up each morning. There is an English-speaking tour guide on board. He or she will lead the daily cycling rides (19-31m; 30-50km), but you can choose to stay on board any day if you wish, or cycle independently. The tour gives you maximum flexibility!

This tour operates in both directions according to departure date. Extra nights in Amsterdam or Bruges are definitely an option, so talk to us if you would like to arrange hotel accommodation.



Iris lounge



Iris twin cabin

ITINERARY

7 nights: Amsterdam to Bruges | Arr ✈ Amsterdam

The itinerary below relates to a tour starting in Amsterdam. Please read in reverse for a Bruges start date where the first night is spent in Bruges and the final night in Amsterdam.

Day 1 Amsterdam – Vianen ■ Cycling 9m; 15km

Arrive in Amsterdam's Oosterdock by 13.00. The Iris leaves port at 13.30 and there is a short bike ride to Breukelen along the winding River Vecht. Rejoining the Iris, we continue to Vianen, a small fortified town on the River Lek, south of Utrecht.

Day 2 Vianen – Dordrecht ■ Cycling 31m; 50km

A scenic ride along the Lek towards Schoonhoven, the "silver town", and then on to Kinderdijk, where the famous nineteen windmills create such an impressive sight that Unesco designated them a World Heritage Site. We finish in Dordrecht, Holland's oldest town, and most important port until the 1500's.

Day 3 Dordrecht – Tholen ■ Cycling 22m; 35km

We cruise to Willemstad, an old fortified town on the Haringvliet, and then cycle along past the impressive complex of locks to Tholen, a picturesque small town which has retained much of its old character.

Day 4 Tholen – Antwerp ■ Cycling 22m; 35km

We cycle through a wooded area and rejoin the Iris to cruise into the centre of Antwerp. Antwerp is famous as the diamond capital of the world and was the birthplace of the painter Rubens. Clustered around the Cathedral and the Market Square are beautiful townhouses.

Day 5 Antwerp – Dendermonde ■ Cycling 19m or 34m; 30km or 55km

We follow an attractive cycle path along the banks of the Schelde. You can rejoin the Iris at Temse or continue the full distance to Dendermonde, a small town on the river. A visit to the beautiful town hall and a spot of beer tasting is an option here.

Day 6 Dendermonde – Ghent ■ Cycling 22m; 35km

The bike route again follows the River Schelde to the lively city of Ghent. In the city centre there is much evidence of the city's wealthy past with patricians' houses, the Clothmakers' Hall and St.Baaf's Cathedral.

Day 7 Ghent – Bruges ■ Cycling 28m; 45km

The pleasant countryside of western Flanders is the backdrop today as we cycle towards the most impressive of all Flemish cities, Bruges. The canals and the fine old buildings of the medieval centre are striking, and you may wish to spend extra time here to admire all the sights.

Day 8 Return

After breakfast make your way to your chosen departure point.



Iris through a lock



Cycling beside poppy fields

TOUR & TRAVEL INFORMATION

Terrain

The terrain is flat. The itinerary uses mainly small country roads with little traffic.

Daily Mileage

9-34m (15-55km)



Climate

As this tour is in Holland and Belgium weather patterns are similar to those of the UK.

Travel Information

Flights to Amsterdam: Available from a wide variety of carriers.

Train to Bruges: Eurostar from London St.Pancras, Ebbsfleet, or Ashford to Brussels and then to Bruges.

Transfer Information

Amsterdam: By train between Schipol Airport and Amsterdam Central station. Short taxi ride to Oosterdock.
Bruges: By taxi from railway station to boat mooring position as per your joining instructions.



Ghent

PRICES

Prices are per person and exclude flights. Included are bed & breakfast, packed lunches, and evening meal for 7 nights, bike hire, and the services of a tour leader. Prices are based on two adults sharing a twin cabin.

	MAY – SEP	OCT
ADULT		
7 nights	£ 839	£ 759

Single room supplement: £48 per night

DEPARTURE DATES 2010

May: Sat 1 Amsterdam - Bruges

Jun: Sat 5 Bruges - Amsterdam

Sat 19 Bruges - Amsterdam

Jul: Sat 17 Bruges - Amsterdam

Sat 24 Amsterdam - Bruges

Sat 31 Bruges - Amsterdam

Sep: Sat 25 Bruges - Amsterdam

Oct: Sat 16 Amsterdam - Bruges



Canal, near Bruges