

5 Day, 4 Night trip to Bruges, Ypres and Menin Gate & Visit Antwerp

Monday 15th April to 19th April 2024

£555.00 per person in twin/double share room

Trip has a £90 single room supplement so might be good to share with friends.

Trip is ABTA protection for your peace of mind



Day 1: Depart the UK

The coach will pick the group up from the designated collection point in Skelmanthorpe for the overnight sailing to Rotterdam from Hull. Dinner on ferry is included.

Day 2 – Travel to Bruges

After breakfast on the ship travel to Bruges and check into the Academie hotel, for the next 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. Rest of day at leisure to explore the city.

Suggested Itinerary for Bruges A good starting point is the Grote Markt, the main square in the centre of Bruges, bounded by colourful, ornate, historic gable-housed buildings. Perhaps enjoy a sightseeing boat cruise to see the sights from a different angle to discover the many waterways that give the city the nickname of the 'Venice of the North'. Back on dry land, then head to Bruges Beer Experience. It is a must-visit for those who wish to experience the most fascinating aspects of beer! A fresh combination of interactivity, innovative technologies and the stimulation of all senses. Enjoy 3 beers tastings from the local selection accompanied by local 1 Brugge Belegen cheese and also personalised explanations by the resident zythologist. Afterwards, you may want to visit the Duvelorium Grand Beer Café to learn about different beers there too, or simply enjoy one (or two) more as you look out across the square.

Please note no entrance fees included in package price

Day 3 – OPTIONAL visit to Ypres

Optional afternoon visit to a war grave or battlefield near Ypres. Actual one to be confirmed, but somewhere like Passchendale Memorial. Finish your day at the Menin Gate in Ypres to witness the emotional Last Post Ceremony, held every evening at 20.00hrs. During the war this was the call for all soldiers fighting in the fields outside the gates to head back to the city for the evening. However, many did not return back through the gates. The tradition continues each evening to this day and is one of the most poignant elements to any visit to Ypres. We recommend arriving early to be able to see the ceremony taking place and the wreaths being carried. There will be time for look around Ypres and have evening meal if required.

Day 4: Antwerp

Check out of the hotel and travel back to Rotterdam via Antwerp before boarding the boat for the overnight sailing back to the UK. Dinner on ferry is included.

Itinerary for Antwerp – Start with a guided tour that reveals the beautiful gabled buildings around the cobbled Grote Market square. The imposing Cathedral of Our Lady, the tallest Gothic building in the Low Countries, houses many of Ruben's paintings. The tour also includes the magnificent Central Station. In the afternoon, visit the Diamond Quarter there are many shops selling the precious stones. We recommend a visit to DiamondLand, a free- to-enter attraction where you can watch craftsmen and craftswomen at work and see exclusive collections. Or take the tour at the De Koninck Brewery and sample one of Belgium's delights – beer. Those with an interest in art may prefer to visit Ruben's house where he painted most of his masterpieces.

Please note no entrance fees/guide services included in package price.

Day 5: Travel back to Skelmanthorpe.

Disembark the boat after breakfast and travel back to Skelmanthorpe.

Because the ferry prices have not been released yet, exchange rate fluctuations and any surcharge costs could alter the cost of the trip but will be close to £555 per person based on two in a room, max cost should not exceed £600. Non members welcome but we will require addition £5 for U3A insurance.

Also you should arrange your own travel insurance.

£50 per person deposit is needed by 10th July 2023 which is Non-refundable. Payment of balance will be due end January 2024

Please contact Joan Beedle (joanbeedle41@gmail.com) to confirm name and numbers going and details of how to pay.

We also need to know what room type you require, single, double or twin (for ferry and hotel)

If you require further details please ask Mike Kuszyk (mikekuszyk@icloud.com).