

Your travel documents for your
bike & barge trip

Highlights of Holland and Flanders

Amsterdam-Bruges / Bruges-Amsterdam

MS MAGNIFIQUE III



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Dear fellow traveller,

We are delighted to welcome you on board of our cruise ship MS MAGNIFIQUE III! It is very important to us that our clients feel comfortable and at home on board our vessel.

The following information will help put you at ease on board and find out more about the tour in general.

Your tour guide or the crew members on board are more than happy to answer any of your queries.

Contents:	Page
Embarkation, disembarkation, emergency hotlines	3
Arrival information	4-8
Ship facts	9
Board information	10-14
Bicycles information	14-17
Time table	18-19
Important notes	20

As well as on behalf of your booking office we hope you enjoy your travel preparations and wish you a most pleasant and memorable stay on board!

Your SE-Tours GmbH team

Embarkation/Disembarkation

Embarkation

If you embark in Amsterdam: Embarkation is from 1 pm to 2 pm.

Attention! Please be aware that the ship leaves Amsterdam at **2 pm the latest**.

If you embark in Bruges: Please make sure you will arrive in time for embarkation on board MS MAGNIFIQUE III **between 1 pm and 5 pm at the latest**.

Please do not forget to inform your tour guide if you are delayed or arrive later!

Disembarkation

Disembarkation will be after breakfast, at 09:30 am at the latest. Due to new passengers embarking in the afternoon, we kindly ask you to vacate the cabins **by 9 am at the latest** on the day of your departure.

You are welcome to spend the remaining time until disembarkation either on the sun deck, in the restaurant or the salon. Please remember to take all your valuables out of the cabin safe, **pay your board-invoice by 9 am** and please deposit your luggage outside your cabin along the corridor.

Before you leave please do not forget to hand over your cabin key at reception.

Please make sure that you fix the baggage tags to your luggage. All baggage tags should be marked with MS MAGNIFIQUE III.

Emergency number

On board of MS MAGNIFIQUE III you will be looked after by a tour guide, the hotel manager and his crew. You can contact your guide during the whole journey. Before dinner or after breakfast he will also provide you with the most important information about the next cycle tour. If you have any questions or problems, please contact him.

In case of emergency you can reach MS MAGNIFIQUE III on day of arrival:

0031 611 402 389 (captain)

0031 610 731 598 (tour leader)

In extremis and ONLY on day of arrival you can reach

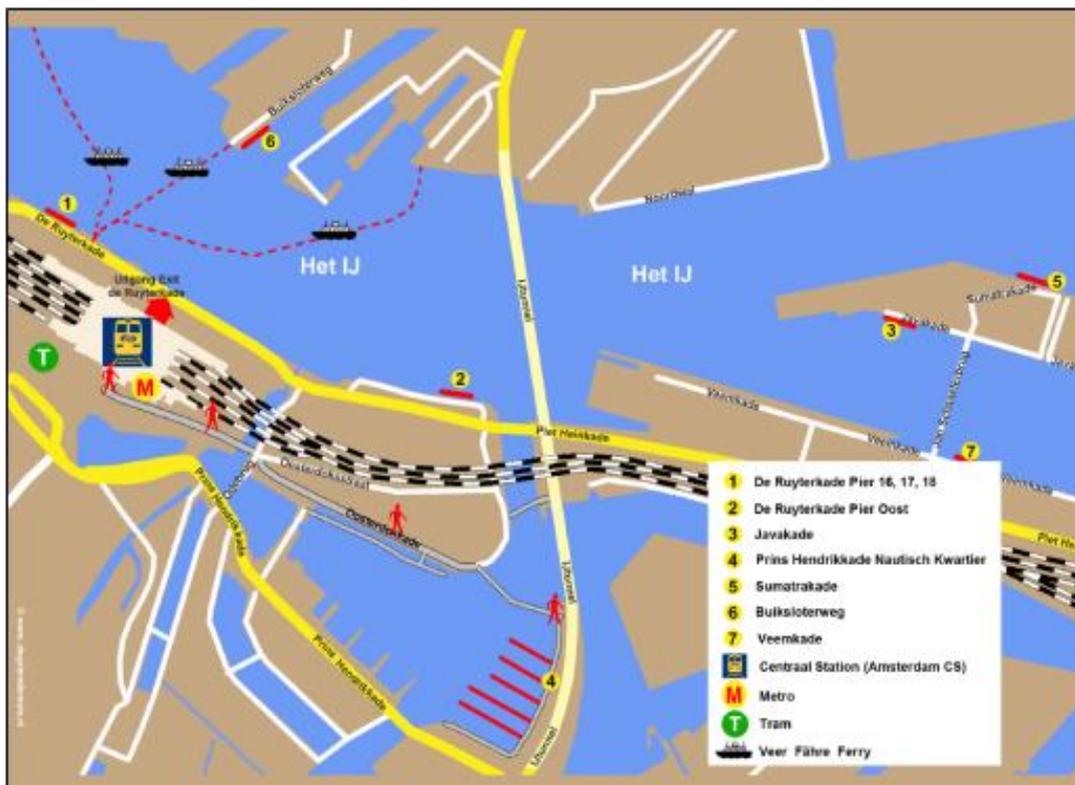
SE-Tours: 0049 171-8261718.

Arrival information

Your ship has the following mooring places on day of arrival/for departure:

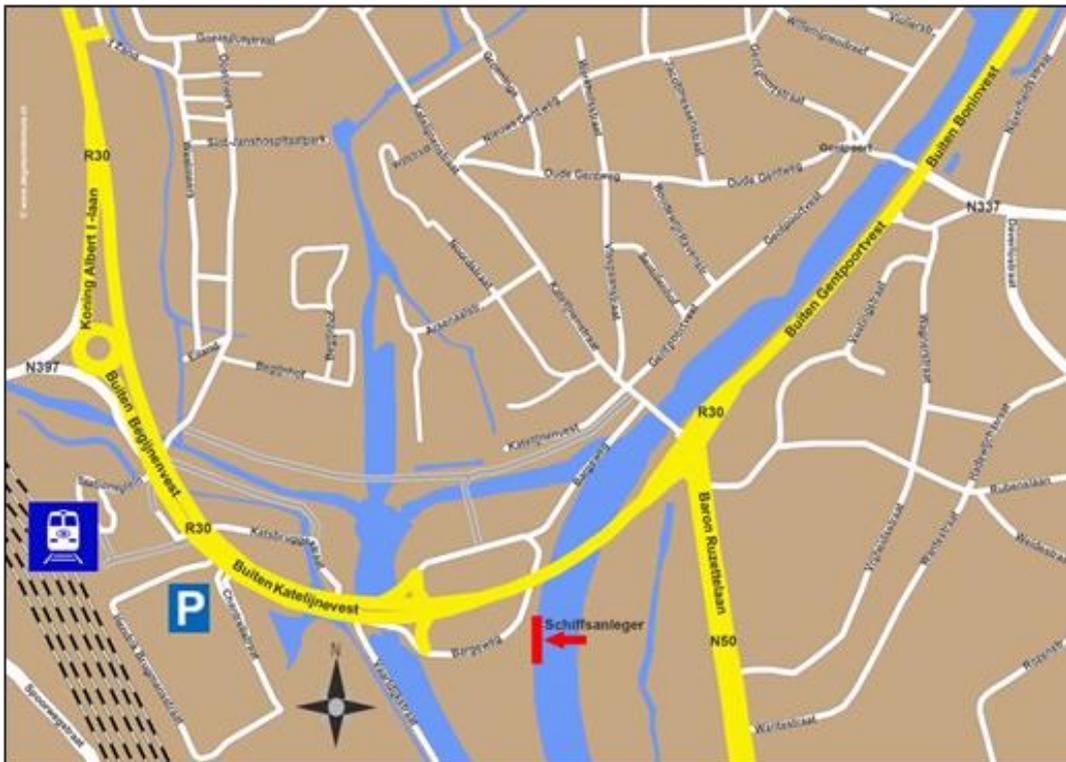
Docking place of MS MAGNIFIQUE III in Amsterdam is called **Veemkade**, near house number **240** (no. 7 on the map below)

Attention: the ship leaves Amsterdam already on the arrival day (Saturday) at 2:00 pm at the latest.



Navigation system: Witthoedenvoer 2, Amsterdam (IJburg)

Docking place of MS MAGNIFIQUE III in Bruges is **Bargeweg at Katelijnepoort / Jachthaven** in the south of the city.



(approx. 400m from the train station)

How to reach Amsterdam

Arrival by car:



From all directions: you drive on Motorway Centrum Ring Amsterdam (A10), until you reach Motorway Ring North (Noord). For docking place 7: take exit S114 and drive through the "Piet Hein" tunnel, over the "Piet Heinkade" (see map with docking places), until you reach the docking place. Please first drive to the ship to bring your luggage and (if needed) your bike on board, and then drive to the parking location.

Parking recommendation:



Parking Centrum Oosterdok is the cheapest possibility in the centre of Amsterdam to park your car for a longer period. This parking garage is only accessible for cars with a maximum height of 2.10 meter.

Parking Centrum Oosterdok offers a total of 1,369 parking places in a guarded by videos, new and clean building, close to the Central Station of Amsterdam. The rate for long-term parking is € 20 per 24 hours. You pay thereby (depending on your time of arrival and departure) € 140 to € 160 per week.

Navigation system: Oosterdoksstraat 150, 1011 DK, Amsterdam.

Telephone number: +31 20 4203381

www.parkingcentrumoosterdok.nl

Arrival by train:



The docking location 7 is situated approximately 3.5 km from the Central Railway Station. We therefore recommend to take the city bus line: City Bus 48 (GVB) from Centraal Station (front exit: IJ-side, bus stop marked with A on the map), driving direction Borneo Eiland. Docking place ship: bus stop Jan Schäferbrug.

The busses depart every 15 minutes, duration of the tour 10 minutes, price approx. € 3 (one way). You can buy the 1-hour ticket at the driver. This is the cheapest and most reliable option.

By Taxi

Taxis are located at the IJ-side (North-side) of the Central Station and at Schiphol Airport. Amsterdam Taxis are not always reliable, unfortunately and sometimes overpriced. Therefore: try to fix a price in advance. Target: a single trip for 2 people + luggage from the Central Station to the docking place at the Veemkade should cost no more than approx. € 14 - € 18 per taxi.

We recommend using the following Taxis:

TCA Taxicentrale	0031 (0)20 – 777 77 77
BBF Schiphol Taxi	0031 (0)900 9000 6666

Arrival by plane:



The airport has a splendid train connection with the Central Station of Amsterdam: approximately 8 x per hour, travel time around 20 minutes. The train costs € 4.30 (January 2018). Tickets can be bought at the ticket machines in the airport terminal (NS train station). Travel planner (also in English) for the Dutch railway (NS): www.ns.nl.

How to reach Bruges

Arrival by car:



We advise you to drive to the docking place first to offload your luggage (and bikes).

Parking in Bruges:



- For €3.50 (January 2018) per day your car will be parked at the roofed parking 'Station or Buiten Begijnenvest', near the train station of Bruges.

More information: <http://www.interparking.be/en>

- Close to the docking place of the ship there is parking De Ring (The Ring). Here are some unguarded parking places, free of charge. But you have to be really lucky to find a spot here.

- Along the main roads in the centre there is 'paid parking' every day (even Sundays and public holidays). The maximum parking time is 2 hours. In all other streets in downtown Bruges you can park with a European parking disc (the blue zone). Here the maximum parking time is 4 hours. Please pay attention that you do not park along the river banks because you are only allowed to park here with a parking permit. These zones are for residents only and are indicated by a signboard with the towing sign.

Arrival by train:



If you travel by train you will arrive at Bruges Central Station (Stationsplein). From there it is not far to the pier. From Stationsplein you can reach the pier in the following ways:

- a) Walking: 400 meter;
- b) By bus: line 12 – station Bargeplein
- c) By taxi, for approximately €10

Taxi company Bruges:

Brugse Taxi Service 0032 (0)50 – 33 44 55

Entry Formalities:

Your Bike & Boat Tour covers the Netherlands and Belgium. In the Schengen Area you cross internal borders without any controls. European Union citizens need at least a valid passport or ID-Card. All other guests/citizens are kindly asked to contact their local embassies/consulates for further information.

We assume no liability for correctness and/or up-to-date information – as entry requirements for your holiday destination can always be subject to change during the season. We kindly ask to consult the relevant embassy to advise on any additional documents needed in order for you to enjoy an untroubled bicycle holiday with a smooth start!

Your ship

The luxurious ship has 18 cabins for a maximum of 35 guests. The lower deck has 16 cabins, 12 of which are twin cabins (approx. 11m², 2 single beds next to each other), and 2 single cabins (approx. 9m²); the upper deck has 5 beautiful suites with large panoramic windows (approx. 14m², 2 single beds next to each other, small sitting area).

On the upper deck there is a tastefully furnished salon with a restaurant, bar, a lounge with a wide screen TV, large windows and Wi-Fi (unlimited use of data). There is a partly covered teak wooden sun deck with chairs and table on the aft deck for the use by guests and a cycle shed (front deck). On the top deck you will find a Jacuzzi and deckchairs.



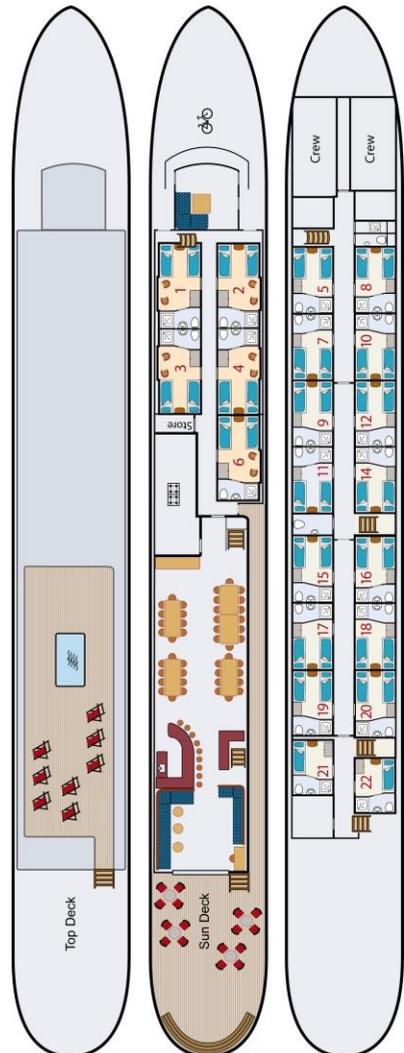
Technical data:

Length 70 m, Width 7.20 m,
Depth 1.60 m,
Max. 35 Passagiere

Welcome on board of
MS MAGNIFIQUE III!

A word of advice:

River cruises should not be compared to open sea cruise ships. Due to the smaller size of the ships, cabin and living space is limited. On some docks several ships are docked next to each other and noise and other disturbances cannot be avoided. Please do not forget that the ship is your hotel as well as a machine, which has to be maintained and operated - day and night. A certain level of noise is therefore inevitable.



Board information

Medical care

During the cruise there will be no doctor on board. In case of an emergency the crew will assist you with either finding a pharmacy or a doctor. Please remember to bring any medication you might need.

Alarm

You will find a panic button ("PANIEK KNOP") in all cabins, aisle and salon on board the ship. Please press this button only in case of emergency.

Arrival and departure of the ship

Berthing a ship is always an event. You are invited to watch this interesting process under the condition not to disturb the crew and follow their instructions immediately if necessary. (Normally, admission on the working decks is prohibited for guests. Unfortunately, some work has to be done on the sun deck.) We thank you in advance for your cooperation. The ship's bow and stern are closed for the guests due to security reasons.

Bar

You will find a well-equipped bar in the salon with service. Here you can order your drinks at any time.

Prices are shown on the price list at the bar. All prices are in EURO, VAT included.

Our prices in the bar are as favorable as possible. It's not allowed - without permission of the crew - to bring your own drinks to the salon and on deck.

Payment of the drinks

During your journey your drinks will be recorded on a separate invoice. That way you can pay your complete invoice at the end of the journey. If you ever like to know the amount of your invoice, do not hesitate to ask the crew who will always assist you.

MS MAGNIFIQUE III accepts payment in cash only. We would kindly ask you not to pay with bank notes with a value of over 50.00 EUR. Bank notes of 200.00 EUR or over are not accepted.

Hair dryer

There is a hair dryer in each cabin.

Clothing

There is no dress code on board the ship. We recommend you to wear sportive and casual clothes. Your well-being throughout the journey also depends on appropriate clothing:

- 🚲 cycle helmet
- 🚲 cycle trousers and gloves
- 🚲 shoes with hard soles, sports shoes
- 🚲 hat or cap (sun protection)
- 🚲 water-proof clothes (hooded jacket and water-proof trousers)
- 🚲 warm sweater or fleece

Your luggage

We recommend not bringing big hard scale suitcases because of lack of space. Try to use a foldable suitcase for your luggage which can be packed away under the bed.

Cabin and cabin key

Your cabins are numbered and can be reached by stepping downstairs. While not being in your cabin, you can always leave your cabin key on the key board at the bar. Please remember to leave your key on the key board when you are leaving the ship for an excursion.

Coffee and tea

...is included.

Air condition control

Your cabin is equipped with air condition and heating which you can adjust on your own. If the outside temperature is not that high, the air condition is switched off automatically. However, if you prefer a cooler temperature, please contact the crew who will activate the system then. Just a few minutes later you will feel the cooler air. Please do not hesitate if you need any assistance.

Wet clothes

You can dry your wet clothes in the bathroom or contact the crew.

In the night

If you go out in the evening and return to the ship after midnight, please tell the crew.

Emergency exits under deck

Emergency exits are at the end of the corridor. You will find a security plan next to your cabin door. Please read it thoroughly so that you know exactly how to act in a case of emergency. Of course, the skipper will answer all your questions about that.

Restaurant/Food

All meals are served in the restaurant on board. The full-board included in the price consists of a breakfast buffet, lunch bag for the cyclists as well as a three-course dinner. If you do not eat on board, we have to inform you that we do not reimburse any meals.

Coffee and tea are available in the morning from 07:15 am in the bar. Evening meals are served at the table.

We have to be informed about vegetarians and any special wishes concerning the meals on board the ship at least 7 days prior to the journey. There will be extra charges of 50.00 EUR per week/guest for special diets or food for allergy sufferers. If necessary, please take your own special food with you.

Language

There will hardly be any language difficulties, because most of the Dutch people understand and speak English. You will probably notice that there are always a few people that don't dare to speak English. Mostly by elder folks in the smaller towns that you pass. We would like to advise you to ask if the person you talk to speaks and/or understands English, which will help in the willingness. Aboard the ship the crew speaks English, Dutch and German.

Energy supply

The whole ship has got 230 Volt alternating current (AC).

Safe

There is a small safe in each cabin.

Tips

Are you satisfied with the service on board? If not, please let the crew know so that they can improve their service. If you are satisfied, the crew would be grateful if you appreciated their efforts and put some money into the big glass on the bar. You can also use the envelope from your information folder. The amount you would like to spend is of course up to you. It is internationally common to give approximately 5.00 EUR per person and day. Tips are exclusively for the crew on board and will be shared appropriately.

Tour leader

On individual barge tours there is a multilingual tour guide on board (who speaks German, English and Dutch), and who will be happy to answer all your questions. Every night the plans for the next day are discussed during a briefing, and the recommended bike route and important sights are explained to you extensively. The Magnifique will have two tour guides for guided cycling in smaller groups; guests can opt for longer/shorter or quicker/slower cycling tours (depending on the route).

Safe the environment

You will find some environmentally-friendly elements in your cabin: All dirty water is held in special tanks which are emptied regularly. It is important that no waste or sanitary towels are thrown into the toilets as the whole sanitary system can be blocked easily. You will see a bin with plastic sacks right next to the toilet. You can use these plastic sacks for any kind of waste. Please close the sacks when they are full and put them into the bin. The bins are emptied every day.

The MAGNIFIQUE III has got its own water and electricity net. When leaving the cabin please make sure to turn off the taps properly, switch off the light as well as any other electronic devices. Included in the price are fresh towels every day. Due to environmental reasons you should use your towels more than one day. If you like to have new towels, leave your used towels on the ground in the bathroom. If you further like to use your towels, please hang them on the hook.

Water

The water on board has got absolute drinking quality. Mineral water (0.5 liter) is available at the bar.

WLAN / WIFI

In the salon aboard the MS MAGNIFIQUE III there is Wi-Fi available. Please note that the speed will be a lot less than you are probably used to.

Bicycles

We kindly ask you to take care of our bikes during the whole trip and to lock your bike in a secure area. Never leave the bikes unattended (especially in the metropolises) and never leave the pannier-bags on the bikes!

Rental bikes

Our rental bikes have hand- and backpedal brakes, easy-to-handle Shimano 7-speed gears, gel-saddle (height adjustable) and a lock on the frame. All bikes have 28 inch wheels. Some smaller frames are available on board for smaller persons. For each rental bike we have a detachable pannier bag, a pump and a repair kit available on board. You will receive your rental bike from your tour guide on Sunday morning. We would like to ask you to treat your bike with care as if it was your own one.

Please check your bicycle concerning its proper function and completeness every morning. You are responsible for your rented bike for the whole journey.

For a smooth start in the morning please ensure you use the bike tagged with your cabin number and avoid any unnecessary mix-ups before you commence your bike tour.

Please do not forget to lock your rental bike each time you leave it somewhere for a sightseeing tour or a visit to a restaurant.

We would like to ask you to return the rental bike as well as the bicycle equipment in the same condition and completeness as you received them at the beginning of the journey, thank you.

E-Bikes

Aboard the MS MAGNIFIQUE III there are a few e-bikes available. Please indicate at your booking that you would like to make a reservation for such a bike. This will be on request and at an additional charge. It is important that you are a good cyclist and that you know how an electrical bike works, before you start your cycling tour. The e-bike is a Velo de Ville with Nexus 7 gears, 3 support levels and hand breaks only (or a comparable brand/model).

Please do not forget to lock your rental bike each time you leave it somewhere for sightseeing or going to a restaurant. Never leave your bag on the bicycle. You are responsible as well as liable for your bike and equipment in case of loss, theft or accident. We would like to ask you to treat your bike with care as if it was your own one. Please return the rental bike as well as the bicycle equipment to the tour guide / crew at the end of the journey.

Own bikes

Bicycle rental is optional, guests can bring their own bikes at no additional charge. Daily the crew brings your bike off and on board. Small scratches and damages on the bikes can't be avoided. The crew nor the tour operator can be held responsible for that. The bicycle shed is not covered. Please bring enough repair material/repair set with you.

In the Netherlands and Belgium there is no obligation to wear a bike helmet. Guests can bring their own helmet. There are helmets available on board for free.

Bicycle signs

Due to the many separate cycle paths (FIETSPAD, FIETSPADEN), indicated by a round blue sign with a white bike, the Netherlands is a true paradise for bikers. If there is a blue sign with a white bike on it, then all bikers are obliged to use that cycle path. In many cases, a white bike is painted on the road.



This part of the road is usually separated from the rest of the road by an (interrupted) white line. All cyclists are obliged to use this cycle lane; if there is a cycle lane, using the regular road is not permitted!



In addition to this, there are the so-called "voluntary" cycle paths, indicated by a small black rectangular sign with white letters saying "FIETSPAD" or "RIJWIELPAD". Cyclists are advised to use these cycle paths. Mopeds and other motorized vehicles are not allowed to use these voluntary cycle paths.

Sign posts

Signposts for cyclists (incl. number) are often mentioned on the bike maps. Most general signposts, indicating general directions, are blue with white letters and are attached to blue-white poles. In addition to this, in many places small red and white signs with red bikes indicate special bike routes. On small country roads you will find indicators, which are about 50 cm high, also often called "toadstools", because of their shape.



When you are entering a larger town, you will often come across a large map. Looking at this map may be useful: if you get lost, please look out for the small signs saying VVV, which will lead you directly to the local tourist office (pronounce as: Vay Vay Vay), where people will be glad to be of service to you.



Bicycle nodes

A few years ago the so called 'knooppunten-systeem', or bicycle nodes, was introduced in the Netherlands. With this system every cyclist can easily plan individual bicycle tours and is able to orient oneself. These nodes are also being used in our issued bike tours.

Aboard the ship, during the briefing of these tours, the tour guide explains how this system works.



Traffic rules

Here are a few of the most important, general traffic rules:

- 🚲 always ride on the right and pass on the left
- 🚲 through traffic has always priority over traffic turning left or right on equal roads

In addition to this, the following rules apply for cyclists too:

- 🚲 cyclists may ride alongside each other, but only if they don't bother the other traffic
- 🚲 highways are forbidden for cyclists
- 🚲 biking on the sidewalk is FORBIDDEN (please dismount)
- 🚲 front lamps and rear lamps of the bikes should be turned on at dusk and in the dark
- 🚲 change of direction should be indicated by a clearly extended arm
- 🚲 Small children should be transported in a special baby saddle, with enough support/space for their hands, backs and feet; please order this baby saddle well in advance.



Time Table

Amsterdam-Bruges	Day	Bruges-Amsterdam
Arrival to Amsterdam, Amsterdam-Vianen, cycle tour approx. 5-15 km	1.day	Arrival to Bruges
Vianen-Schoonhoven-Kinderdijk-Dordrecht, cycle tour approx. 32-56 km	2.day	Bruges-Gent-Merelbeke, cycle tour approx. 35-57 km
Dordrecht-Willemstad-Tholen-Kreekrakschleusen-Antwerp, cycle tour approx. 36-44 km	3.day	Gent-Merelbeke-Dendermonde or St. Amands, cycle tour approx. 40-53 km
Antwerp-Temse-Dendermonde or St. Amands, cycle tour approx. 34-49 km	4.day	Dendermonde or St. Amands-Temse- Antwerp, cycle tour approx. 33-49 km
Dendermonde or St. Amands- Gent-Merelbeke, cycle tour approx. 52 km	5.day	Antwerp-Kreekrakschleusen-Tholen-Dordrecht, cycle tour approx. 20-36 km
Gent-Merelbeke-Bruges, cycle tour approx. 22-45 km	6.day	Dordrecht-Kinderdijk-Schoonhoven-Vianen, cycle tour approx. 32-57 km
Tour around Bruges to the north sea, approx. 38-51 km	7.day	Vianen-Breukelen-Amsterdam, cycle tour approx. 36-46 km
Disembarkation, departure from Bruges	8.day	Disembarkation, departure from Amsterdam

Subject to change!

In case of floods or low water, the cruise company reserves the right to bridge sections by bus. In extreme cases the cruise company also reserves the right to cancel the journey on short notice. No legal right shall be constituted in both situations. (Water level is force majeure). The same applies to officially ordered – previously not announced – repair work on locks or bridges or in case of unindented breakdown of engine or power unit.

Arrival times are subject to average waiting times at locks and normal water levels. We are eager to keep to time tables running punctually, however are unable to control river traffic or other unpredictable events. Delays rarely occur but are sometimes unfortunately unavoidable. Please take any possible delays into account when planning your return journey regarding transfers or a change of trains on the last day of your holiday.

Please be aware that your ship is not only your hotel but also a machine, working with engine power also during the night. Especially crossing locks and bridges – and the preparation work – might cause a certain level of noise. If you are sensitive to noise, please bring ear plugs.

The Netherlands

Amsterdam – a small metropolis

Amsterdam – also called 'Venice of the North' – is absolutely famous for its city canals (the so-called 'grachten'). Today, it has over 1.500 bridges. The city began as a small trading post on the quay of the river Amstel. Around 1300 the bishop of Utrecht granted this settlement privileges. This was the beginning of an eventful and rich past.

Largest city in the country

The 17th century brought even more wealth, because Holland at the time developed into the major maritime nation of the world, and Amsterdam became the largest city of the country. The famous inner ring of canals for the larger part comes from this period. The city attracted many merchants, artists and scientists from all over the world, for instance famous painter Rembrandt. In August 2010, UNESCO has added the Amsterdam's 17th century canal ring to the World Heritage List.

Amsterdam throughout the years

The capital still has its international character. This is one of the reasons why Amsterdam still has the reputation of being one of the most tolerant cities in the world. In the seventies the city was centre of the so-called 'Flower-Power-Generation'. The eighties got a bad press: squatters and drugs, which give hardly any problems nowadays. Lately, Amsterdam - like London and Hamburg - is getting a second, modern look: in the former industrial and harbour areas new, modern housing and buildings emerges.

Belgium

The medieval Bruges belongs to one of the most visited places of Belgium. This historical rich city has lots of cultural heritage and as a result of this both domestically tourists and those from abroad go there in huge numbers. It is not for nothing that the historical city centre of Bruges in whole is at the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Welcome to chocolate heaven

The inner city of Bruges has kept its authentic appearance for the largest part, Modern merges with old beautifully, but above all Bruges is a city where the hedonistic life is still very important. Therefor it will not surprise you that chocolate lovers will imagine themselves in heaven with more than fifty chocolatiers and a genuinely chocolate museum.

Sightseeing in Bruges

The Prinselijk Begijnhof (Beguinage of Princes) consists mostly of white washed houses dating from the 17th and 18th century. In the museum, at number 1, you can see how people used to live. In the other houses the Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict have their residence. A boat tour through the 'veins of Bruges' as the canals of Bruges are being called, is a popular attraction for many. Beer lovers can indulge themselves in the Halve Maan (Half Moon) family brewery of Bruges.

A FINAL NOTE

We recommend you to bring photocopies of your most important documents (kept separately from your originals) with you. In case you lose one of your original documents, replacement documents are more easily obtained with copies of the originals at hand.

We wish you exciting cycle tours and a pleasant journey!

Your SE-Tours GmbH team

