

BELGIUM & HOLLAND – BRUGES (GHENT) TO AMSTERDAM or RETURN 8-days / 7-nights - easy to moderate *STANDARD PLUS* cycling and sightseeing cruise



One of our more popular Bike & Barge cruises, this itinerary combines **Belgium and Holland** travelling through two distinct independent countries. On the first night the barge stays in Ghent so you have time to explore this fascinating town. The next day we are in the historic city of Bruges, again with time to explore. Once underway and cruising, we visit the Flemish port and diamond centre, Antwerp. Belgium is famous for its beer, so a visit to one of the breweries or speciality pubs on the route is recommended. Once over the border into Holland, there are amazing rural landscapes to explore. You end your cruise in the vibrant city of Amsterdam, which allows a fascinating comparison of how two cities can be so close yet so different.

Bike & Barge cruises combine two popular ways of exploring Europe (easy to moderate cycling with river, canal or island cruising). They allow partners of different abilities and interests to holiday together (trips are just as interesting for leisure cyclists OR enthusiasts), you unpack once and come 'home' each night to a wonderful meal and a comfortable cabin with your own bathroom. These cruises appeal to the more active mature traveller. They are ideal for first timers or groups.

Well-maintained multi-geared bikes are provided (or you can bring your own if you prefer) with opportunities for guided cycling along a variety of waterway routes – mostly along flat, sealed pathways – occasionally breaking away into hillier country to visit areas of interest, taste wine or beer, tour a castle or stop for coffee. More challenging routes are available in some destinations so please ask for our suggestions according to your ability and interests. The cycling is always fascinating and varied with free time to explore each day's destination. Extra time is usually available for those who want more cycling each day.

These cruises offer the opportunity to explore beautiful countryside and historic cities sampling beers and local produce in the company of like-minded cyclists. Tours are conducted in English but passengers usually include a mix of different nationalities including English or German speaking with French, Italian or Dutch as the other main languages - adding to the cultural enjoyment of bike and barge cruising.

Cost from: \$1655 per person twin share onboard **Standard Plus** barge Single cabin supplement from \$405

Departs: From Bruges: 18th May; 29th June; 6th July; 3rd, 31st August; 14th September, 2019
From Amsterdam: 22nd June; 27th July; 10th, 24th August; 7th September, 2019

Included in tour: 7 nights' accommodation in twin share cabin with ensuite shower / toilet, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and 3-course dinner, from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 8), services of experienced multi-lingual cycling guide, bicycle hire, route map and tour information, several city walks, entry fee to Kinderdijk, train ticket Ghent-Bruges-Dendermonde, standard bus transfer Amsterdam Airport-Ghent or v.v. if required.

Not included in tour: Personal expenses, entrance fees, drinks onboard, bicycle helmets (we recommend you bring your own or purchase one locally)

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary: (operates in reverse on some weeks, the route may be subject to change if necessary)

Day 1: Ghent

There is a transfer by bus from Amsterdam Airport (at a set time only) or make your way to the barge moored in Ghent in Belgium. Welcome aboard and check-in in the afternoon in time for bike fitting followed by dinner. In the evening the cycle tour leader will invite you for a walk through the floodlit town centre and squares of Ghent.

Day 2: Ghent – Dendermonde

cycling @ 15km

A short train ride to Bruges and tour around this unique UNESCO listed historical city with its beautiful canals, ancient buildings and impressive square. In the afternoon we travel to Dendermonde by train to re-join the barge for the night and take a short ride in and around Dendermonde to get familiar with our bikes.

Day 3: Dendermonde – Antwerp

cycling @ 50km

From Dendermonde we ride through the pretty Flemish countryside alongside the River Schelde to Antwerp. In the afternoon our guide will take us for a short city walk and afterwards there is free time to explore the town centre. In the evening you may wish to visit some cafés and bars and taste the famous Belgian beer.

Day 4: Antwerp - Willemstad

cycling @ 45km

In the morning we cycle across the Belgian-Dutch border to the impressive Kreekrak locks, then cruise by barge through the waterways of Zeeland to the beautiful fortified historical town of Willemstad. Time permitting you may like to extend your cycling with a self-guided ride, or perhaps explore Willemstad on foot.

Day 5: Willemstad – Dordrecht – Gouda

cycling @ 40km

We cruise to Dordrecht, another beautiful Dutch town, and cycle to the wonderful working windmills of Kinderdijk and the town of Gouda famous for its cheeses. In the evening join your tour leader for a short city walk.

Day 6: Gouda – Oude Wetering

cycling @ 45km

A relaxing ride today through a typical rural Dutch landscape to the village of Oude Wetering to re-join our barge in time for dinner. Relax in the quiet rural atmosphere as tomorrow we'll be in bustling, cosmopolitan Amsterdam.

Day 7: Oude Wetering – Amsterdam

cycling @ 45km

Along the banks of the River Amstel we cycle towards and through the city of Amsterdam. Our barge is moored near the city centre in Oosterdok, a short walk or tram ride to many of the interesting sites of this important and historical city. In the afternoon there's time to explore the lively Dutch capital and do some shopping. In the evening join the guide for a city walk, or take a cruise along Amsterdam's famous canals (at extra cost).

Day 8: Depart from Amsterdam

Tour ends in Amsterdam after breakfast.



Other Bike & Barge cruises from **Outdoor Travel** are available in France, Germany, Italy, Austria, Romania, Scotland, Croatia, Greece, Turkey and in Vietnam. Cycling holidays - both guided and self-guided from inn-to-inn – are available across Europe particularly in France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden and Italy. Cycling holidays are also available in Japan, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the USA.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

- Call Toll free 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
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