

The Potomac Ski & Adventure Club

Presents



Netherlands & Belgium: Bike & Barge Adventure

August 21 – 29, 2020 (Boat Tour Trip Only)

August 18-22 Brussels/Bruges Pre-trip Extension (Optional)

August 29 – Sep 1 Amsterdam Post-trip Extension (Optional)

Prices: from \$2,445 (Main Deck) - \$3,025 (Upper Deck Suites) without Extensions
3-Nights Optional Trip Extensions: Brussels-Bruges add: \$265; Amsterdam add: \$230

Windmills & Canals from Bruges to Amsterdam

In the Netherlands, there are more bicycles than people. And in Belgium, passion for *le vélo* is legendary. Hop on the saddle and you too will be smitten. As you explore the flat-as-a-*pannekoek* landscape, amid the flower fields and silent canals; and in the bustling cities and storybook villages. Come bike with us in the Netherlands and Belgium and feel the passion.

Highlights

- Cycle on easy and flat paths alongside peaceful canals, polders, dykes and winding rivers
- Experience some of most beautiful cities in northern Europe, such as Amsterdam, Bruges and Antwerp
- Encounter the incredible sight of the 19 windmills in Kinderdijk, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Enjoy the freedom to relax and travel aboard your boat, while others cycle and sail through Belgium and Holland to the historical cities of Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp and Amsterdam.

Enjoy 7 nights aboard your “floating hotel” which is docked every night in interesting towns and cities. During the day you have the freedom to cycle through charming Belgian and Dutch countryside, or simply relax and cruise on the boat.

After embarkation in the beautiful city of Bruges, also called the “Pearl of Flanders”, the boat makes its way to Ghent, a lively university city. Next we sail and cycle to Antwerp, home of Rubens and then on through the Kreekrak locks and to the province of Zeeland and the fortified town of Willemstad.

The tour then brings us to Dordrecht, one of the oldest cities in Holland and to the Kinderdijk windmills and past beautiful mansions and small houses on the Lek River. Our final destination is Amsterdam.

What’s Included in the Trip:

- Round trip Air Dulles to Brussels, Return Amsterdam to Dulles
- Ground Transfers from/to airports and Boat
- 7-nights on the *MV Magnifique III*
- Breakfast; Lunch (box or picnic); and Six Dinners while on tour
- Helmets Supplied if needed
- Fully Guided bike tours

What’s NOT Included

- Pre and Post-trip Extensions as indicated above
- Bike Rentals: Std 7-speed (\$97); E-bike (\$210)
- Optional Side-trips or tours, nor additional expenses while biking
- Alcoholic drinks or additional food aboard ship beyond those indicated above
- Trip Insurance: Medical coverage required; Trip Cancellation encouraged

- Price Indicated is for Double Occupancy. Must have two per cabin
- Land portion subject to Euro exchange rate of \$1.15. Increases will adjust price
- Air Fares & Ground Transfers are approximate and will be finalized when available

Mail Deposit of: \$500 with Registration Form to:

Trip Leader: [Frank Peñaranda](#) (301) 593-6472. To register, download [Registration Form](#).

Please scroll down to view additional information and Images

[Blue Ridge Ski Council \(BRSC\) Member.](#)

PSAC is a member of the BRSC, and as such, any member of a BRSC club is entitled to the same privileges as a PSAC member.

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## General Information

During this tour some of the most beautiful cities of Holland and Flanders are highlighted: Amsterdam, Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges, where one can still feel the charm of days long gone. After embarkation in Bruges we will cross through a beautiful part of Flanders. After a short cruise with the ship, we'll bike along the winding small river Vecht with its impressive mansions and country houses on its banks.

We visit a real Dutch cheese farm and the 19 Dutch windmills in Kinderdijk. Via Dordrecht and the fortified town of Willemstad, the ship cruises through the "Delta" Province of Zeeland to Belgium. We'll spend the night in Antwerp, the city of Rubens, whose paintings can be admired in the cathedral, then cycle from Antwerp to Ghent along the beautiful tidal river Lower Schelde. Destination of our tour is Amsterdam.

### Tour profile / level 1

The bike tour generally follows flat, asphalted bike paths and side roads in traditional landscapes of small winding rivers and canals, polders, dykes and windmills. This tour is well-suited to those who have never taken a cycling holiday before as it is flat and predominantly traffic-free. There is always the option to skip the cycling and relax on board.

#### Daily Itinerary:

Day 1: Bruges (11 km/6 mi.)

Day 2: Bruges – Ghent (35 km/21 mi. or 57 km/36 mi.)

Day 3: Ghent – Dendermonde/St. Amands (40 km/24 mi. or 53 km/32 mi.)

Day 4: St. Amands – Temse – Antwerp (32 km/19 mi. or 49 km/31 mi.)

Day 5: Antwerp – Kreekrak locks | Kreekrak locks – Tholen | Tholen – Willemstad – Dordrecht (36 km/23 mi. or 20 km/13 mi.)

Day 6: Dordrecht – Kinderdijk | Kinderdijk – Schoonhoven – Vianen (32 km/19 mi. or 57 km/36 mi.)

Day 7: Vianen – Breukelen | Breukelen – Amsterdam (36 km/23 mi. or 46 km/28 mi.)

Day 8: Amsterdam.

**Day 1: Bruges, approx. 11 km** Embarkation time in Bruges Harbor is between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. After a welcome meeting with the crew at 2 p.m. there is time for bicycle fitting and a short test-ride through the countryside around Bruges. After dinner the tour leader will take the group for a walk through the center of town.

**Day 2: Bruges - Ghent, approx. 35-57 km** Your cycle tour starts early today in the outskirts of Bruges. You will start your first day of cycling by pedaling towards Ghent through the beautiful Flemish landscape along the Ghent canal. On arrival in Ghent make sure you make the effort to discover the best of what this historical city has to offer during an afternoon stroll. Ghent's medieval town center features lovely illuminated streets that are a must to explore, while the architectural richness in the historical center of the city has to be seen to be believed (during the Middle Ages Ghent was the 2nd largest European city after Paris). The ship will dock for the night at a lock, in a suburb of Ghent and approx. 30 cycling minutes from the city center.

### **Day 3: Gent - Dendermonde/St.Amands, approx. 40-53 km**

After breakfast in Ghent you will cycle downstream through a diverse landscape along the tidal Schelde River to Dendermonde, a friendly little town, located at the junction of Dender and Schelde Rivers. Dendermonde has a beautiful town hall located at a cozy square. The ideal place to have a nice Belgium beer after your bicycle ride. Worth visiting is also the St. Alexius Beguinage where you can learn about housekeeping, work and recreation in the lives of former generations.

### **Day 4: Sint Amands/Dendermonde - Antwerp, approx. 48-61 km**

Today we will follow the Schelde River further downstream through the Temse region and the small village of Baasrode to Antwerp. This part of the route is along a most beautiful and twisting section of the Schelde which over the centuries held strategic importance for the Romans, Vikings, Spanish and Napoleon. Antwerp, your destination for the day, is a harbor city situated on the river Schelde famous for handling up to 80% of the world's rough diamonds and as the birthplace of the famous painter Sir Peter Paul Rubens. There are many highlights in the city to discover including: the City Hall, one of several majestic buildings constructed during the Renaissance period, the historical City Square Grote Market, the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwe Cathedral and the medieval Steen Castle. (no dinner on board of the Magnifiques, Fleur and Zwaantje - recommendations for restaurants in town available on board)



### **Day 5: Antwerpen - Dordrecht, approx. 20-36 km**

This morning, the ship will sail along the Schelde-Rhine Canal and over the huge Kreekrak lock system. Here your bicycle tour starts through the beautiful “Wouwse Plantage” forest to Tholen, Tholen once was an island in the middle of the large Zeeland streams, where many people fished for their living. Nowadays Tholen is connected to the mainland in various ways. But it is still a picturesque village with many relics of an eventful past. From Tholen you will join the ship again for a nice afternoon sail to the beautiful city of Dordrecht, one of the oldest towns in Holland. Halfway the ship will pass the impressive Volkerak lock system. Your tour leader will take you for an evening walk and tell you about the history of the Netherlands.

### **Day 6: Dordrecht - Vianen, approx. 32-57 km**



A fast ferry will bring you to Alblasterdam. From here you will cycle to Kinderdijk, a village famous for its impressive row of 19 UNESCO cultural heritage-listed windmills – one of which you can visit (don't forget your camera!). The windmills were constructed in the 18th century to pump water out of the low Alblasterwaard polder (a polder is a low-lying tract of land enclosed by embankments). You will then continue to cycle via Schoonhoven to Vianen, a small fortified town on the river Lek where you will spend the evening. Since the 17th century Schoonhoven nicknamed Silver City – has been renowned for its talented silversmiths.

**Day 7: Vianen - Amsterdam, approx. 36-46 km**

During breakfast the barge will cruise to Breukelen where you disembark and start your final day of cycling. Ride along the Vecht River in an area famous for its beautiful mansions, small castles and beautiful houses with large gardens and parks. After cycling through the villages of Nieuwersluis, Loenen and Vreeland you arrive at Nigtevecht where you can visit a traditional cheese farm. Continue cycling through the historical town of Muiden and on to Amsterdam where you will meet the barge for the final time in the Amsterdam harbor.

**Day 8: Amsterdam:** End of tour and disembark

