



Amsterdam to Bruges

Magnifique IV - April 27, 2023



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TOUR OVERVIEW

LENGTH OF TOUR 8 days/7 nights

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY Easy, guided tour on mostly flat and well-maintained asphalt bike paths and roads

TOUR TYPE Bike and barge tour

CONTACT US

MAILING ADDRESS

Tripsite
5091 State Route 29
Springville, PA. 18844

TELEPHONE

USA/Canada Toll-Free: 1.800.951.4384

Phone: +1 570.965.2064

After office hours, in case of emergency: +1 570-213-7036

EMAIL

info@tripsite.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 8:00 pm EST

Emergency contact information is on our voicemail plus we are on email frequently. We always recommend that for any problems during your cycling vacation, you contact our local agent directly. Your problem will be solved quicker and more efficiently!

LOCAL OPERATOR EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Magnifique IV: +31 6830 73673 | Tour leader: +31 6120 34314


BEFORE YOU GO

Your trip is fast approaching! The information in this tour package all pertains to your specific trip. There may be general questions that arise as you prepare, and we hope to have answered many of those questions over our pre-tour information page. Click the image below to read more!



ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE INFORMATION

EMBARKATION IN AMSTERDAM

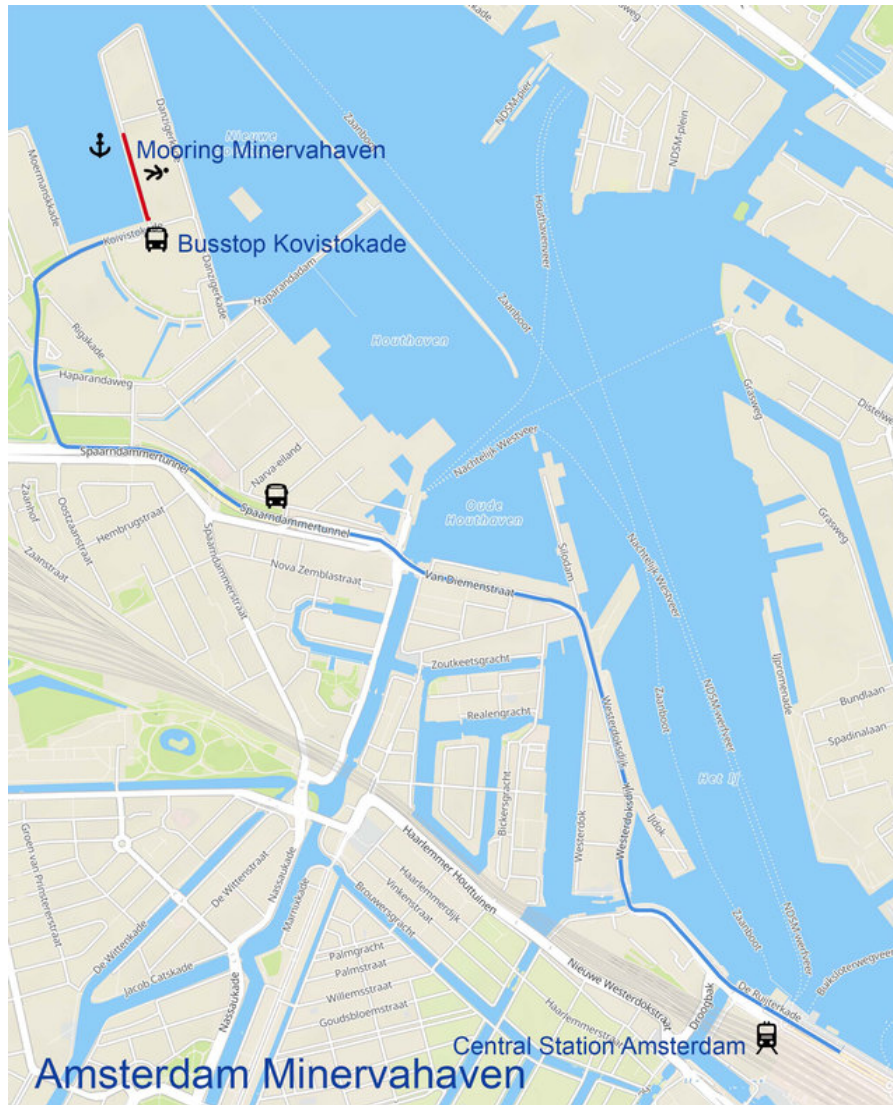
 The tour starts in: Amsterdam, **Minervahaven**.

Please be on board by 2 pm. Once all guests have arrived, the ship will depart from Amsterdam around 2.15 pm.

If you are delayed in your travels, or if you have difficulty finding the boat, please use the highlighted numbers below.

Magnifique IV: +31 6830 73673 | Tour leader: +31 6120 34314

Your first meal on board is dinner.



HOW TO GET THERE

By car

Navigation system: Minervahavenweg, Amsterdam.

From all directions: you drive on Motorway Centrum Ring Amsterdam (A10) until you reach Motorway Ring South (Zuid): direction Zaanstad, take exit S102, direction Amsterdam-Centrum and drive over the Basisweg/Transformatorweg (direction Centrum). After 1,9 km turn left on Archangelweg. After 440 meters, turn right onto Koivistokade. Then turn left onto Danzigerkade and then take the first road left again onto Minervahavenweg.

Please drive to the ship first and drop-off your luggage and your bike (in case you brought your own), and then drive to the parking location. Please see below for parking options.

A. Valet Parking – Centralparking.nl | Price € 150 - 8 days (2022)

With valet parking, the valet parking driver will meet you at the ship. The driver will help you with your luggage and then drive your car to the parking garage, in a covered area with 24/7 camera surveillance. At your return date, your car will be waiting for you at the ship's location.

- No waiting/loss of time, no public transportation with many changes, lugging suitcases;
- 24/7 access
- Your car will be safe and monitored
- Reliable drivers with a certificate of good conduct and driver qualifications
- Parking service of Central parking is often cheaper than public parking in Amsterdam.

Please contact us if you'd like to make a reservation for parking. Be sure to include your planned arrival and departure time.

B. Parking Centrum Oosterdok – direct at Amsterdam Central Station

Parking Centrum Oosterdok is the cheapest possibility in the center 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 meters.

Parking Centrum Oosterdok offers a total of 1,369 parking places in a camera-guarded and clean building, close to the Central Station of Amsterdam. The rate for long-term parking is €25 per 24 hours (stand: Feb. 2022).

Navigation system: Oosterdoksstraat 150, 1011 DK, Amsterdam.

Telephone number: +31 20 4203381

Please book your parking [here](#).

By plane

The best international airport to use for this trip is Schiphol. From Schiphol airport to the ship in Amsterdam, you best take a train to Amsterdam Central Station. These trains run regularly and take only 20 minutes. You can buy a ticket in the central arrival hall at the airport for € 5.90 or online for € 4.90 (Feb. 2023). Please refer to the travel planner (also in English) for the Dutch railway (NS): www.ns.nl.

You can also take a taxi from the airport to the ship. We recommend using the official Schiphol Travel Taxi (on the airport website: www.schiphol.nl), approximately € 40 per taxi to Amsterdam center.

By train

Travel to Amsterdam Central Station. The docking location Minervahaven is situated approximately 3000 meters (3 km) from the Central Station.

City Bus

City Bus 48 (GVB) from Centraal Station (exit: IJ-side), direction Houthavens. Get off at the bus stop Koivistokade. From here it is a 5-minute walk to the docking place. The buses depart about every 15 minutes, duration of the tour is 15 minutes.

You can buy the 1-hour ticket at the ticket machine or driver. Please read the paragraph 'Public Transport in Amsterdam'.

By taxi

From the Amsterdam Central Station, you can also take a taxi to the ship at Minervahavenweg.

Taxis are located at the IJ-side (North-side) of the Central Station. Amsterdam Taxis are not always reliable, unfortunately, and sometimes overpriced. Therefore, we recommend fixing a price in advance.

We recommend TCA Taxis (www.tcataxi.nl): phone +31 20 7777777.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN AMSTERDAM


For municipal and regional public transportation in Amsterdam (regular service bus, train, and tram), we advise you to buy a 1-hour card from the bus driver. This costs € 3.40 per person. The card is valid for 1 hour uninterrupted and you can use it for all public transport within Amsterdam. You can't use these cards in the subway (metro). For tourists, this card is the cheapest way to travel.

Please note: You can no longer pay with cash on the buses of the GVB. On the bus, you can use a debit card and several credit cards: VISA, MasterCard, Diners Club Discover Card, JCB, and Union Pay. At the GVB-service machines and at the Tickets & Info office across the main entrance of Amsterdam Central Station you are still able to pay in cash.

If you are planning to extend your stay in Amsterdam before or after the tour, we advise you to buy the Iamsterdam City Card. Visit world-class museums, take a cruise through the charming canals, and sample the local delicacies. All for free or with a significant discount! In addition, the City Card gives you unlimited access to the city's public transportation system for 24, 48, or 72 hours. More information can be found [here](#).

DISEMBARKATION IN BRUGES

Disembarkation will take place after breakfast till 09:30. Please check your cabin for personal items. Before you leave, do not forget to hand over your cabin key to the crew. If you wish you can leave your luggage on board until noon (please ask the crew).

 The ship will be docked at the **Bargeweg at Katelijnepoort/Jachthaven** south of the city center (see map), approximately 400 meters from the train station.

It is within walking distance, but you can also call a taxi (Brugse Taxi Service +32 50 33 44 55, around €10)



BICYCLE RENTAL



The bicycle on board is a unisex city bike with a low-entry and a riding position that is upright and comfortable. The bike is handmade in the Netherlands by Azor.

It has a lightweight aluminum frame and responsive roller brakes (handbrake), a Shimano 7-speed nexus drive, Selle-Royal gel saddle (adjustable), an easy-to-use lock (fixed on frame), and Schwalbe Marathon anti-puncture tires. This all results in a lightweight, stable, and reliable bike, good for many miles on the saddle.

There are three different frame sizes on board. For each rental bicycle, we have a detachable pannier bag, a pump, and a repair kit available on board. The use of these items is included.

The e-bike is an Azor Steps with Nexus 7 gears and hand brakes. The crank Shimano motor (400 WH) offers 4 support levels. It is equipped with a comfortable gel saddle and a lock on the frame (or a comparable brand/model). Electric bikes must be reserved in advance. Please check your booking summary which lists the bikes that you have reserved. It is important that you are a good cyclist and that you know how an electric bike works before you start your cycling tour.

If you have purchased BICYCLE PROTECTION, this is listed on your booking summary. The bicycle always needs to be locked when unattended. The protection does not cover the theft of the bicycle while it was unlocked; the key to the bike lock will need to be produced. We kindly ask that you do not change the bike saddle and/or pedals without permission from the crew of the boat. If you will be using your own bike, please bring a good bike lock with you! Wearing a bicycle helmet is not required in the Netherlands, but we do highly recommend wearing one. Helmets are available to rent on board for €10. Helmets must be reserved in advance. Tripsite is not responsible for any accidents during the tour.

ROUTE INFORMATION

CYCLING GUIDANCE

Accompanied by a competent, professional, and multilingual tour leader, you and the group will visit interesting sights and places on the daily cycling tours. During the bike tour, they will explain the local history and culture behind the things you encounter along the way.

GPS TRACKS

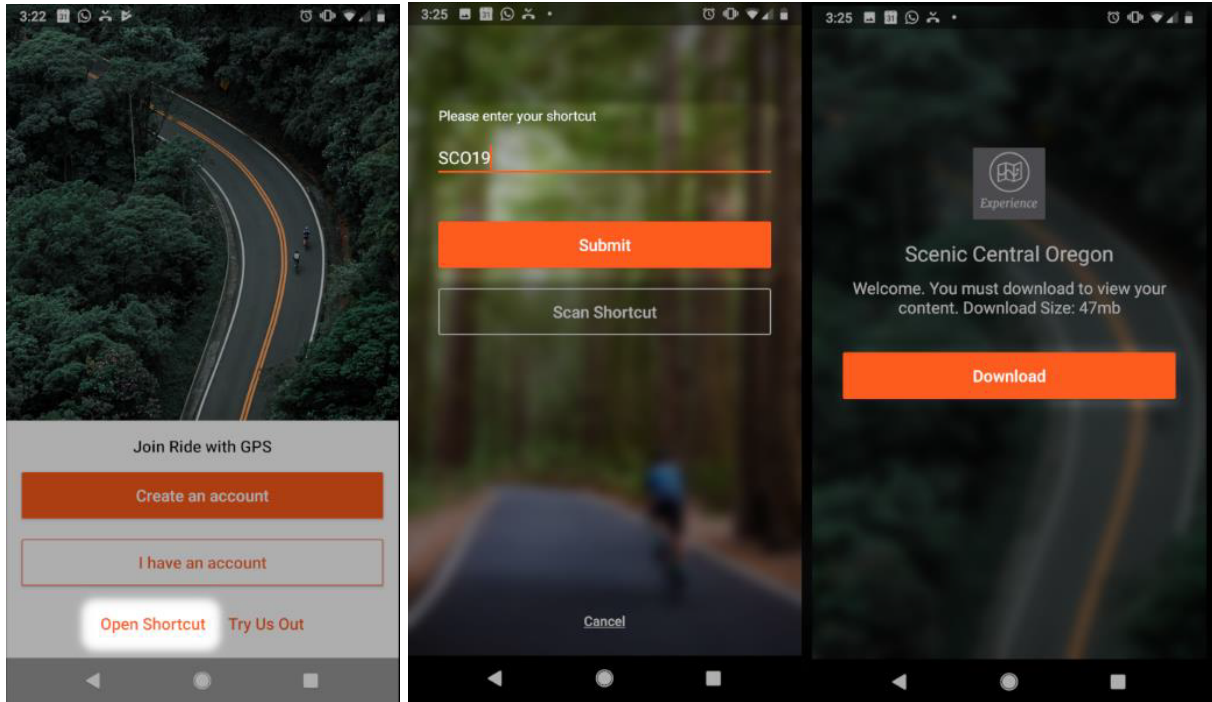
If at any point during the tour, you wish to cycle self-guided, a GPS program is being offered to all guests. Ride with GPS (RWGPS) is a special app for your mobile phone, a bike route mapping tool for cyclists. To be able to use the app during your tour, you have to download the tracks in advance! Be sure you have downloaded the app **on your phone** and that you have downloaded the maps for offline use on your smartphone. Our tour leaders only have limited time to help you during the tour and downloading the app via the ships' network can take a long time. Download the [Ride with GPS app](#) on your phone. Open the app and choose 'enter shortcut'. GPS tracks can be accessed using this code: **ZMTG7**



Using Ride with GPS on your tour allows you to access turn-by-turn voice navigation, detailed maps, and daily itinerary information entirely offline.

STEP ONE: Downloading app and tour package

1. Go to the Google Play app (Android) or App Store (IOS) and download the Ride with GPS app.
2. Tap the Open Shortcut button in the lower left corner.
3. Enter the code provided and tap Submit.
4. Tap Download to save your tour package to your phone (this download can take up to a minute or more).

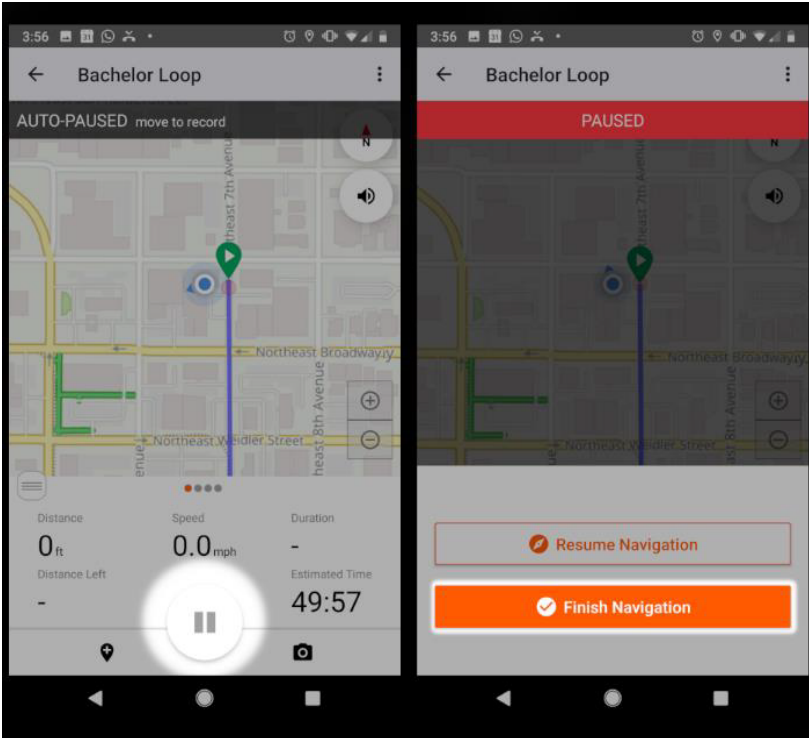


STEP TWO: Accessing your content

1. Once you have downloaded your content, you will be taken to your tour home page where you can access all your routes and itinerary information.
2. To access your guide content, from the home page scroll to the bottom and tap the day you'd like to view information for.
3. To start navigation, tap on the route thumbnail within the daily guide section then tap the Navigate button.

STEP THREE: Finishing Navigation

1. When finished riding and you want to end navigation, press and hold the pause button
2. Tap Finish Navigation
3. This will drop you back on your tour homepage ready to start the next day.



Tips:

CONSERVING BATTERY & DATA

- Use Airplane Mode if possible
- Keep your screen off as much as possible
- Turn down the screen brightness
- Ride with GPS uses no data when all content is made available for offline use and you are in airplane mode

OFF COURSE - Off-course chimes repeat every 2 minutes and stops when you are back on the route. - RWGPS strictly follows the cue sheet and will NOT reroute you like a car GPS.

- The off-course banner will tell you the direction to head to get back on course.

CHANGES IN THE ROUTE

When, due to a storm, a broken bridge or lock, or low or high tide a part of the route is not navigable, the skipper reserves the right to change the route (for your safety). This is NO reason for free cancellation. In the extreme case, it can occur that other available means of transport need to be used or certain items on the program cannot go through. The captain reserves the right to make changes in the order of the ports to visit.

WHERE YOU'LL STAY

THE BARGE



VIEW BOAT DETAILS

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SHIP

The proud owner, Walter van Berkum, one of the most experienced shipbuilders and operators of the fleet, already converted several former cargo ships into beautiful passenger ships. The Magnifique IV will meet the highest standards for comfort for bike and boat tours. The vessel sails under the Dutch flag and management on several tours in The Netherlands and Belgium. The Magnifique IV takes a maximum of 36 passengers in 18 comfortable cabins.

THE TEAM

The Magnifique IV sails the inland waterways of the Netherlands and Belgium with an elaborate crew of seven: a captain, a mate, a chef, two hostesses, and two tour leaders. The crew speaks Dutch, English, and German. Any questions you may have about cycling, food, times, phone numbers, internet, the ship, waterways, or anything else; the crew is pleased to be at your service. The captain and his crew wish you a pleasant time on board!

THE CABINS

After arrival on board, the crew will show you to your cabin. A cabin is almost like a bedroom at home. You will find a few things to pay attention to in the information map in your cabin. Please read this map carefully.

All cabins have en-suite facilities (shower and toilet), individually regulated air conditioning, 220/230 Volt electric sockets, a flat-screen satellite TV, a small safe, and a hair dryer. The cabins on the lower deck have portholes (all portholes are fixed for safety reasons), and upper deck suites have a French balcony with sliding doors to open. In addition, every room has its own regulated fresh air ventilation, to provide a continuous exchange of air.

FOOD AND DRINKS

The meals on board are substantial and healthy. Breakfast will be served as a buffet and during breakfast, you can make your own packed picnic lunch for your bike tour. In the evening the chef serves a three-course dinner. One evening during this tour, dinner will be in a restaurant of your choice (not included – restaurant recommendations can be acquired on board). Except for the tulip tours, then all dinners will be served on board.

Special meals are available for vegetarians and guests with other moderate diet wishes, but only on prior notification (at least 7 days prior to arrival on board). In case you eat according to a strict diet, such as gluten-free or lactose-free, there is an additional charge of € 60 per week to be paid on board. Please be aware that we are not providing any vegan meals aboard.

Coffee and tea are available and included all day. Other drinks such as various non-alcoholic drinks, beer, red and white wine, and various kinds of liquors are available at a charge. At the end of the week, you can pay your bar bill in cash or with a credit card.

If you wish to drink a bottle of wine purchased during your bike ride, we charge a corkage fee. Please confirm the amount with the hostess. Drinks you bring on board are not permitted in the lounge, sundeck, or other common spaces.

WIFI

Wi-Fi The ship is fitted with Wi-Fi. It is unlimited and free to use. Please be aware that it is a mobile network and might be slower than a landline network you may have at home.

GRATUITIES

May service aboard be not to your liking, please let the crew know during the trip. In this case, they have the opportunity to improve their service. Are you on the other hand really satisfied, then you are more than welcome to show this in a financial gesture. The amount is at your own discretion,

but we would like to suggest approximately 5 - 7% of the travel sum per passenger for the crew to share.

SMOKING

Due to legal safety regulations, smoking is prohibited in all cabins on board. All other passenger areas on the ship are also nonsmoking areas.

LANGUAGE

Aboard the ship most of the crew speaks English, Dutch, and German. However, the daily briefings will be done in English and German only. Also, the daily route notes are only available in German and English.

SUSTAINABILITY

Traveling by ship and bike is sustainable. Our wastewater is collected in a separate tank that is regularly emptied. We provide you with a water bottle that can be refilled with tap water. Furthermore, we hand out paper bags instead of plastic to wrap your lunch. Please help us and the environment by using electricity, water, and towels with awareness.

On board, you're offered fully catered tours, including delicious meals. Sustainability and reducing the footprint of our tours are very important to us. The menus now become even tastier as we make them more sustainable. In fact, a quarter of our carbon footprint consists of food and drink. Our goal is to reduce this by at least 15% in the 2023 season, by:

- Choosing meat less often,
- Choosing local/regional products and ingredients more often,
- Putting meals with lots of vegetables on the menu.

For these reasons, during your trip, two dinners will consist exclusively of delicious vegetarian dishes. Let us surprise you! Thank you very much for your cooperation.

ELECTRICITY

Europe's electrical system is different from ours in two ways: the voltage of the current and the shape of the plug. American appliances run on **110 volts**, while European appliances are **220 volts**. Most phones and cameras have a built-in converter but you will need an adaptor to charge them. If

you bring any other accessories that require electricity, you will also need a converter. You can read more about converters and adapters [here](#).

DESTINATION DETAILS

CLIMATE

Average:	April	May	June	July	August	Sep	Oct
High °F	53	61	66	69	70	64	57
Low °F	40	46	52	55	55	51	46
High °C	11	16	18	20	21	17	13
Low °C	4	7	11	12	12	10	7

THINGS TO DO IN HOLLAND

- VVV Amsterdam www.iamsterdam.com
- Van Gogh Museum www.vangoghmuseum.com
- Rijksmuseum www.rijksmuseum.nl
- Stedelijk Museum www.stedelijk.nl
- Museum Rembrandthuis www.rembrandthuis.nl
- Anne Frank Huis www.annefrank.org
- Amsterdam Hermitage www.hermitage.nl
- Science museum NEMO www.e-nemo.nl
- Body Worlds www.bodyworlds.nl
- **Canal cruising the city:** Enjoy a one hour cruise canal cruise along all the highlights of Amsterdam. You can board canal boats at Prins Hendrikkade 99 (across the Central Station). Departures are daily between 10 am and 9 pm.
- **Zaanse Schans** www.zaanseschans.nl
- **Zaans Museum** www.zaansmuseum.nl
- **Haarlem** www.haarlemmarketing.nl/plan-je-bezoek
- **Teylers Museum** www.teylersmuseum.nl
- **Frans Halsmuseum** www.franshalsmuseum.nl

THINGS TO DO IN BELGIUM

The medieval Bruges is one of the most visited places in Belgium. This historically rich city has lots of cultural heritage and as a result of this, both domestic tourists and those from abroad go there in large numbers. The entire historical city center of Bruges is on the UNESCO World Heritage list. The Prinselijk Begijnhof (Beguinage of Princes) consists mostly of white-washed houses dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. 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.

- **Antwerpen** www.visitantwerpen.be
- **Sint Amands** www.toerismekleinbrabant.be
- **Dendermonde** www.dendermonde.be
- **Gent** www.visitgent.be
- **Brugge** www.visitbruges.be

CYCLING IN HOLLAND

Holland is known far and wide as a "cyclist's paradise". The country possesses one of the best-developed and best-maintained cycling infrastructures in the world!

As such, cycling is second nature for the Dutch beginning at a very young age. In elementary school, children are given bike traffic lessons and granted a **fiets diploma**, proving that they know how to be safe while cycling and know and follow the rules.

Larger roads, when space permits, have a parallel Fietspad (bike path), physically separated from the roadway. These bike paths are generally also separated from an adjacent footpath.

It is obligatory for cyclists to use the bike paths if available. Motorists are not allowed on bike paths but at times, slower mopeds are permitted

Bi-directional bike paths on one side of the road are common in towns as well as in the countryside: they are divided into two lanes, similar to roads, by a dashed line.

Occasionally bi-directional cycleways exist on **both sides** of the road; this reduces the number of times cyclists has to cross the road.

Red is the standard color of the bike paths and on-road bike lanes, generally made of asphalt or brick, though there are exceptions. Some older cycle paths are made of black asphalt or square tiles commonly used for sidewalks.



Fiets = Bicycle

Fietspad(en) = Bicycle lane(s)

Fietsenstalling = Parking for bikes

Geen fietsen plaatsen = Bicycle parking is not permitted (often seen in front of shops)

Fietsers uitgezonderd = This rule does not apply to bicyclists

Fietsen toegestaan = Cycling allowed

At many intersections, there are special bike traffic lights for bike paths. The frequency of red and green light does not always match with lights for other traffic. When there's no bike light, use the traffic light for cars.

Bicycle laws and safety

Do:

- Use hand signals when preparing to make a left or right turn. Simply put your arm out in the direction you want to turn so drivers and other bikers can be prepared.
- Be prepared for mopeds and faster riding cyclists passing you on the bike path by cycling on the right-side on the lane. Most of the time the *brommers* (mopeds) must use the main road rather than the bike roads, however in some cases they are allowed on the bike pads. If so, it is explicitly indicated by the blue traffic sign displaying a bicycle and a moped symbol.

- Bicycles have bells for a reason! It is normal to ring your bell as a warning, you won't hurt anybody's feelings.
- Always give right of way to **trams**, from any direction. Listen for the distinctive clanging of their bells. The rule for all other vehicles and bikes: give right of way to traffic approaching from the right. So, traffic coming from *your* left *should* give you the right of way. Taxis and buses often push the limits on this rule, so err on the side of caution when they approach.

Do not:

- Cycle on sidewalks and pedestrian-only areas.
- Cycle on highways!
- Park your bike in places that have signs posted saying, *Geen fietsen plaatsen* (No bike parking.)

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

Emergency numbers of the boat and tour guide are listed below. If you encounter any issues while on your tour, it is important to let the tour guide know immediately and give him or her the chance to help you. Never take action that may require compensation or which involves repairs to the bicycle without consulting the tour director first. With this type of boat and bike tour, you are never far from help. We suggest leaving a copy of your itinerary and important phone numbers with family and friends.

Magnifique IV: +31 6830 73673 | Tour leader: +31 6120 34314

TRIPSITE.COM

Office: +1 570 965 2064

Email: info@tripsite.com

After office hours, in case of emergency: +1 570 213 7036

Side note/Disclaimer: Tripsite does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services or accommodations for your trip. As a result, Tripsite is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such supplier or of any other third party over whom Tripsite has no control.

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Photo credits:

Photo 2: Windmills and bike paths makeup Kinderdijk, South Holland, the Netherlands. Photo via Flickr:Luca