

Cycling Europe

BIKE & BARGE 2019 MS MAGNIQUES

**PREMIUM BARGES: AMSTERDAM - BRUGES or V.V.
8 DAYS/7 NIGHTS – Guided or Self Guided Cycling**



On this tour you get to explore the most beautiful cities of Holland and West Belgium (Flanders: Amsterdam, Antwerp, Ghent and Bruges. Cities steeped in history where you are still able to experience the charm of days long gone. Following embarkation in Amsterdam you enter the stunning Vecht region by boat before cycling through prosperous countryside, castles and stately mansions along the winding River Vecht. In Kinderdijk you visit a wonderful Dutch cheese farm and the famous 19 Dutch windmills. Via Dordrecht and the fortified town of Willemstad, the ship cruises through the Delta Province of Zeeland to Belgium. You spend a night in Antwerp, the city of Rubens, whose paintings you can admire in the Antwerp cathedral. From Antwerp you cycle to Ghent along the lovely tidal river, Lower Schelde, before reaching your final destination of Bruges -a fairytale medieval town of cobbled streets, soaring towers, picturesque squares and whitewashed almshouses.



TERRAIN

Easy flat cycling with distances up to 56kms. Weather can adversely affect cycling in spring and autumn months, so it is advisable to always carry a wind proof/shower proof jacket and over trousers. Headwinds can make it easier cycling from Bruges to Amsterdam.

ITINERARY: AMSTERDAM - BRUGES

The writing in blue italics is covered by boat

Cycling is shown in green

Day 1: Amsterdam – Nigtevecht | cycle Nigtevecht to Breukelen | Breukelen – Vianen

Embarkation on board the Magnifiques starts at 1.00pm. Around 2pm we depart to Vianen, a small fortified town on the River Lek. From here we take a short bike trip through the surrounding countryside.

Cycling: 5-15km

Day 2: Vianen – Schoonhoven – Kinderdijk Kinderdijk–Dordrecht

Today you will cycle along a beautiful route to Schoonhoven - nicknamed Zilverstad ("Silver City") – a city renowned for its talented silver smiths since the 17th century. Later in the day as you cycle through the Alblasterwaard region you will reach Kinderdijk, a village famous for its impressive row of 19 large windmills – all have a UNESCO cultural heritage listing and are a highlight. You will have the opportunity to visit one so don't forget to



bring your camera! From nearby Alblasterdam you will take the "Waterbus", a fast ferry, that will take you and your bike you in approx. 10 minutes to Dordrecht, one of the oldest towns in Holland. **Cycling: 32 or 56km**



Day 3 : Dordrecht – Willemstad Willemstad–Tholen | Tholen-Kreekrak lock-Antwerp

During breakfast the ship cruises to Willemstad. From there you have a bike tour through the forest area, "the Wouse Plantage", past the fortress town of Bergen op Zoom towards the south to the awe-inspiring Kreekraksluis (lock). From there we cruise through the port of Antwerp to the centre of the city. Antwerp is not only known as diamond city, but also as the native city of the 17th century Baroque painter, Rubens. After dinner, enjoy a visit to the beautiful old city centre.

Cycling: 36 or 44km

Day 4 : Antwerp – Temse –St Amands or Dendermonde

This morning we cycle out of the port to the Zeechelde, following this beautiful but capricious tidal river upstream to St Amands or to the friendly little town of

Dendermonde. There is a beautiful bike path along the river, and the landscape around the Schelde is magnificent.

Cycling: 34 or 49km



Day 5: St-Amands/Dendermonde – Ghent

Today you continue to follow the Schelde River in the direction of Ghent; a lively university city, with a rich past. Since Roman times Ghent's location at the junction of the Leie and Schelde rivers has ensured that it has been a successful trading port. In the afternoon you have the opportunity to explore the city and maybe do some shopping in the vibrant centre. The ship will dock at the lock in Merelbeke, a suburb of Ghent.

Cycling: 52km

Day 6 : Ghent – Bruges

Your bike tour starts just outside the city of Ghent and passes through the lovely countryside of Flanders to Bruges, also called the Venice of the North. It is one of the most beautiful of all Flemish cities. Its

old centre, which dates from the Middle Ages, is almost completely intact.

Dinner at a restaurant of your choice (not included). **Cycling: 22 or 45km**

Day 7 : Tour around Bruges to the North Sea

The last bike tour takes you to a quiet canal lined with poplar trees, through an attractive landscape, with charming small farm houses, to the North Sea coast. There is a 12km long sandy beach, with numerous cafes, and the beautiful dune landscape of 'Het Zwin' (a unique nature reserve). After lunch, complete the journey back to Bruges.

Cycling: 38 or 51km

Day 8 : Tour ends in Bruges

After breakfast disembark by 10 am.



ITINERARY: BRUGES TO AMSTERDAM

The writing in blue italics is travel by boat - Daily cycle tour is shown in green

Day 1 : Arrival and embarkation in Bruges (11 km)

Arrival and embarkation between **1 pm – 2.00 pm** The crew will welcome you aboard in the beautiful medieval city of Bruges - also known as the “Pearl of Flanders” and with good reason! You will have a bike fitting and a short test-ride through the countryside around Bruges. After dinner the guide will take you for a short walk through the centre of this wonderful historical city. The barge stays the first night in Bruges.

Day 2 : Bruges – Ghent (ca. 35 or 57 km / 22 -33 miles)

Your day starts on the water as the barge leaves Bruges early. Just outside the city, you start your first bike tour to Ghent through the flat land of West-Flanders. Today's destination is the historical centre of Ghent. This afternoon enjoy a stroll around this lively university city, with its rich past. The barge is docked in Merelbeke (a small suburb of Ghent approximately 15 minutes by bike to the city centre).

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

Today, the barge sails along the river Schelde to the lovely town of Dendermonde ,at the junction of the rivers Dender and Schelde. The bike tour then follows one of the most beautiful parts of the tidal river, Schelde. The departure time will be set by the skipper depending on the tide. (The tide effects the speed of the barge). You will travel from Dendemonde to St Amands by either bike or barge depending on the tides. We moor in St-Amands for the night.

Day 4 : St Amands – Temse – Antwerp (32 or 49 km / 20 -30 miles)

Again we follow the Schelde further downstream to Antwerp. There is a wonderful cycling track along the river and the scenery is magnificent. Harbor city, Antwerp, with its lovely inner city is well known not only as diamond city, but also as the native city of the 17th century Baroque painter, Rubens. Dine out in Antwerp at a restaurant of your choice (dinner is not included tonight).

Day 5 : *Antwerp – Kreekrak locks* – Kreekrak Locks- Tholen - Willemstad - Dordrecht (ca. 20 - 36 km / 12-23 miles)

The barge will sail along the Schelde-Rhine Canal, through the huge Kreekrak locks to Tholen, a former fishing village in the province of Zeeland. From Tholen you will cycle along the massive Volkerak locks to the fortified town of Willemstad, then further to Dordrecht, one of the oldest cities of the Netherlands. Today, the skipper will discuss with you which part of the tour will be covered by bicycle.

Day 6 : *Dordrecht-Kinderdijk* | Kinderdijk – Schoonhoven – Vianen (32 or 57 km)

Today you start your tour with the “Waterbus”, a fast ferry that will take you and your bike in just 10 minutes to Alblasserdam. After just a few minutes cycling you will reach Kinderdijk, where you will see the most famous windmills in the Netherlands;19 windmills in a row (don't forget your camera!). The windmills were constructed in the 18th century to pump water out of the low Alblasserwaard polder. You can visit one of the windmills before cycling via silver city Schoonhoven to Vianen, a small fortified town on the river Lek which you can explore this evening.

Day 7: *Vianen – Breukelen* | Breukelen - Amsterdam (36 or 46 km / 23 or 29 miles)

First the barge cruises to Breukelen, where you disembark and your cycling tour starts. Ride along the small Vecht River: this area is well known for its beautiful mansions, small castles and beautiful houses with large gardens and parks. On to the tiny villages of Nieuwersluis, Loenen and Vreeland to Nigtevecht, where you can visit a traditional cheese farm. Continue through historic Muiden on the Amstel River to reach Amsterdam. You will meet your barge *Magnifique* again in the harbour of Amsterdam.

Day 8: Amsterdam

Your tour ends after breakfast with disembarkation by 10am.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- For both tours *the writing in blue italics* will be covered by the ship.
- On the arrival day is it possible to put your luggage on board **from 9:30 AM**.
- **The cycling is guided**, or you can choose to cycle individually, as tour description and maps are available on board. On some days you can choose between a short or longer cycle tour.
- During the day the tour leader will cycle with you, and be your guide. The *Magnifiques* will have **two tour guides** for guided cycling in smaller groups; guests can opt for longer/ shorter bike tours (depending on the route. ****Only available when there are at least 18 guests on board.**
- Should you wish to take a break from cycling on any day, you are welcome to stay on board and relax while cruising to the next harbour.
- The interior of the ships is a no-smoking zone: smoking is only permitted on the sundeck

NOTE: Prevailing winds often make cycling in the direction Bruges to Amsterdam easier.

2019 SCHEDULE

MS *Magnifique* (I) and MS *Magnifique* III tours start and end on SATURDAY.

MS *Magnifique* II tours start and end on WEDNESDAY.

Amsterdam to Bruges

Magnifique: May 04 & 18, July 13, August 10 & 24, September 07 & 21,
October 05

***Magnifique* II**: May 22, June 05, July 17 & 31, August 14, September 11 & 25,
October 09

***Magnifique* III**: May 25, June 22, July 06, August 03, 17 & 31, September 14 & 28,

Bruges to Amsterdam

Magnifique: May 11 & 25, July 6 & 20, August 03, 17 & 31, September 14 & 28
October 12

***Magnifique* II**: May 29, June 12, July 24, August 07 & 21, September 18,
October 02 & 16

***Magnifique* III**: June 01, 15 & 29, July 13, August 10 & 24, September 07 & 21,
October 05

PREMIUM BARGE: MS MAGNIFIQUE

MS Magnifique has cabins for 32 - 35 guests and is 63 metres long. Owned and operated by a Dutch company, it was completely modernised in 2010. There are a total of **16 Cabins with twin beds as follows:-**

4 Premium Twin cabins (junior suites) approx. 14 m² with 2 single beds next to each other and a small sitting area.

11 Twin cabins approx. 11 m² with 2 single beds.

1 single cabin approx 8 m²



All cabins have fixed portholes, own shower & toilet, air conditioning, and flat screen TV. **Triple cabins:** If requested a 3rd bed is available in some cabins (above the other beds). On the upper deck there is a tastefully furnished salon with a restaurant, bar, lounge with wide screen TV and large windows and Wi-Fi. Two partially covered teak sun decks



have deck chairs, tables and recliners. There is also a whirlpool/jacuzzi and barbecue on the afterdeck.



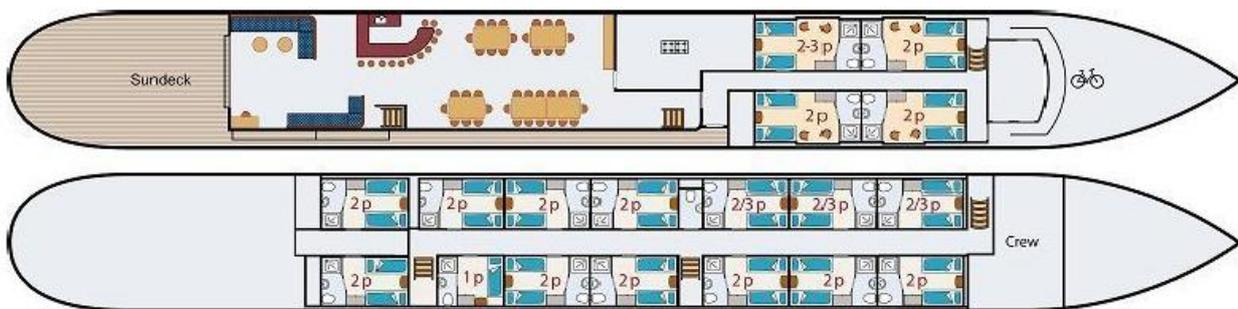
PREMIUM BARGE: MS MAGNIFIQUE II

MS Magnifique II was completed in February 2016. The **lower deck** has 14 cabins: - 12 twin cabins (approx. 11 sq metres with 2 single beds next to each other), 1 premium twin (approx. 13 sq metres with two single beds next to each other with a small sitting area) and 1 single cabin (approx. 8 sq metres). Lower deck cabins have fixed portholes. The **upper deck** has 4 beautiful suites (approx. 14 sq metres, 2 single beds next to each other and a small sitting area). Upper deck suites have 2 metre wide windows with one that can be opened.

All cabins have an ensuite (shower and toilet), individually regulated air conditioning, flat screen satellite TV, a small safe and a hair dryer.

On the upper deck is a tastefully furnished salon with restaurant, bar and lounge with wide screen TV, large windows and Wifi (unlimited use of data).

A partly covered teak wooden sun deck with chairs and tables is on the aft deck and a cycle shed on the front deck.



Twin Cabin



Suite



PREMIUM BARGE: MS MAGNIFIQUE III

We are always excited to add new boats to our program and are especially excited about this one. MAGNIFIQUE III was launched in the spring of 2018. Following the success of her sister ships, Magnifique and Magnifique II, this deluxe vessel will not disappoint. All cabins and suites have en-suite bathrooms with shower and toilet, individually regulated air conditioning, flat screen (satellite) TV, a small safe and a hair dryer. On request, an extra bed is available in some twin cabins (above one of the other beds). Most cabins can also be booked as cabins with a double bed (on previous request only). WiFi is available throughout the ship. (Due to steel construction of the ships, WiFi strength may not be what you are accustomed to.)

Number of guests: 40

Length/width/draught: 70 m / 7.2 m / 1.6 m

Lower deck

- 14 regular twin cabins (approx. 11 M², 2 single beds as twins, next to each other)
- 2 single cabins

Upper deck

- 5 upper deck suites with a small sitting area and large windows (part of the windows can be opened). (approx. 14 M², 2 single beds as twins, next to each other)
- Spacious salon with large windows combines a restaurant area, bar, and lounge
- 2 screens (a camera and a navigation system) to see the real time position of the barge
- Large doors open to the partially roofed sundeck

Top deck

- Whirlpool/Jacuzzi and deck chairs to relax



Upper Deck Suite



Twin Cabin



2019 TOUR COST - EUROS PER PERSON

MS Magnifique:	May - September departures	October departures
Twin Cabin	€ 1219	€ 1139
Premium Twin	€ 1419	€ 1339
Single Cabin	€ 1609	€ 1529
*Regular triple cabin	€ 1169	€ 1089
*Premium triple cabin	€ 1339	€ 1259

*Triple cabins are on request and limited to 2 premium triple cabins and 2 regular triple cabins.

MS Magnifique II:	May - September departures	October departures
Twin Cabin	€ 1219	€ 1139
Premium Twin Cabin	€ 1419	€ 1339
Upper deck Suite	€ 1669	€ 1589
Single Cabin	€ 1609	€ 1529
*Triple cabin	€ 1169	€ 1089
*Triple cabin in upper deck suite	€ 1569	€ 1489

Triple cabins are on request and limited to 1 triple upper deck suite and 2 regular triple cabins.

MS Magnifique III:	April- September Departures	October departures
Twin Cabin	€1219	€1139
Upper Deck Suite	€1669	€1589
Single Cabin	€1609	€1529
Triple Cabin	€1169	€1089
Triple Upper Deck Suite	€1569	€1489

Triple cabins are on request and limited to 1 triple upper deck suite and 2 triple regular cabins.

Bike Hire (7 Speed) per week € 80
E-Bike hire € 175

Helmets: Bike rental costs include a rental helmet and a pannier bag.
It is not compulsory to wear a helmet in the Netherlands and Belgium.

BICYCLES:

The bicycles on board are mostly unisex touring bicycles with normal mount (ladies model), easy-to-handle Shimano 7 gears, handbrake and pedal brake, gel saddle (height adjustable), a lock on the frame and a pannier bag. There are a few e-bikes available (on request and at an additional charge).

The E-Bike is Kreidler Vitality P-200 Shimano with Nexus 7 gears, 3 support levels and hand brakes only (or a comparable brand/model).

Other bikes (e.g. children's bikes, "slip streamers", tandems, etc.) and child seats (rear) on these tours are only available after prior request and confirmation and in very limited numbers. Guests are also allowed to bring their own bicycles or E-bikes (at no extra cost). However, the crew or tour operator is in no way responsible for any damage, loss or theft of such bicycles.

INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

- o 7 night tour with accommodation on board superior barges **MS Magnifique/ MS Magnifique II and MS Magnifique III**
- o 7 breakfasts, 6 packed lunches and 6 three course dinners
- o Welcome drink and tour briefing on day of arrival
- o 2 Tour leaders (multilingual) with daily briefings of the bike tours, some short city tours, daily guided bike tours. (2 guides only when there are at least 18 guest on board).
- o Printed instructions and detailed maps for individual bike tours– 1 set per cabin
- o Complimentary tea and coffee
- o Bed linen and towels; daily short cleaning of cabin

TOUR PRICE EXCLUDES

- o Transfers to/from the docking places in Amsterdam and Bruges
- o Bike rental
- o 1 Dinner in Bruges or Antwerp respectively
- o Entrance fees and excursions
- o Fees for ferries (approx. €5 and Waterbus €4)
- o Drinks on board
- o Insurance
- o Tips/Gratuities (at your discretion)
- o Special diet catering has a surcharge of €50 to pay in cash on boat (eg gluten free, dairy free, vegan, etc). If you are a "lacto-ovo" vegetarian (eats dairy & eggs) there is no extra charge.

BOOK THROUGH

A Walker's World

Don't just see the world. Experience it.

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