

# Cycling Europe

## BIKE & BARGE 2020 MS MAGNIFIQUES

**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 –Vianen*

Embarkation on board the Magnifiques starts at 1.00pm. Around 2pm we depart to Vianen, a small fortified town on the River Lek. After dinner there is an opportunity to enjoy a short cycle through the surrounding area.

### 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 Alblasserwaard 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 Alblasserdam 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 9.30am.



# 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 ( 35 or 57 km)**

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 (40 or 53 km)**

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)**

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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 (20 - 36 km)**

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 18<sup>th</sup> 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)

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 9.30am.

### 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.**

### 2020 SCHEDULE

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

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

#### Amsterdam to Bruges

**Magnifique:** May 16 & 30, June 27, July 11 & 25, August 08 & 22, September 19, October 03

**Magnifique II:** May 06 & 20, June 03 & 17, July 15 & 29, August 12, September 09 & 23, October 07

**Magnifique III:** April 25, June 06 & 20, July 04 & 18, August 15 & 29, September 12 & 26, October 10

**Magnifique IV:** May 13 & 27, July 08 & 22, August 05, September 02, 16 & 30

**Zwaantje:** April 25, July 11

**Fleur:** May 09

#### Bruges to Amsterdam

**Magnifique:** May 23, June 06, July 4 & 18, August 01, 15 & 29, September 26, October 10

**Magnifique II:** May 13 & 27, June 10 & 24, July 22, August 05 & 19, September 16 & 30, October 14

**Magnifique III:** June 13 & 27, July 11 & 25, August 22, September 05 & 19, October 03 & 19  
**Magnifique IV:** May 20, June 03, July 15 & 29, August 12, September 9 & 23, October 07

**Zwaantje:** July 18, October 10  
**Fleur:** October 10

## PREMIUM BARGE: MS MAGNIFIQUE

MS Magnifique accommodates up to 30 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 lower deck cabins with twin beds as follows:-**

- 4 Premium Twin cabins (junior suites)** approx. 14 m<sup>2</sup> with 2 single beds next to each other and a small sitting area.
- 11 Twin cabins** approx. 11 m<sup>2</sup> with 2 single beds.
- 1 single cabin** approx 8 m<sup>2</sup>



All cabins have fixed portholes, own shower & toilet, air conditioning, and flat screen TV. **Triple cabins:** If requested a 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



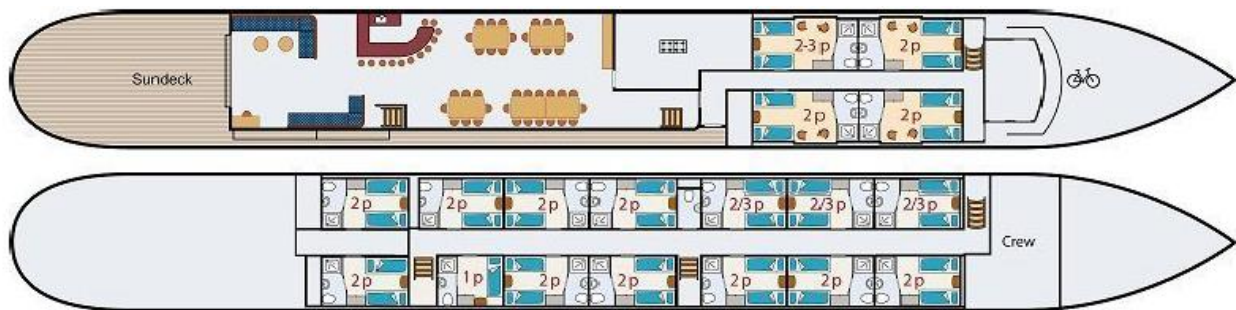
## PREMIUM BARGE: MS MAGNIFIQUE II

MS Magnifique II accommodates up to 34 guests. The **lower deck** has 13 cabins: - 11 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.



## PREMIUM BARGE: MS MAGNIFIQUE III



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 21 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

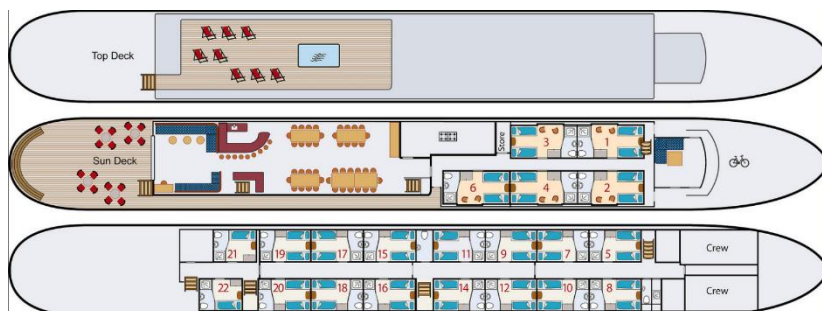
- 14 regular twin cabins (approx. 11 M<sup>2</sup>, 2 single beds as twins, next to each other)
- 2 single cabins

### Upper deck

- 5 upper deck suites with a small sitting area and large windows (part of the windows can be opened). (approx. 14 M<sup>2</sup>, 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



Restaurant



Twin Cabin



## PREMIUM BARGE: MS MAGNIFIQUE IV

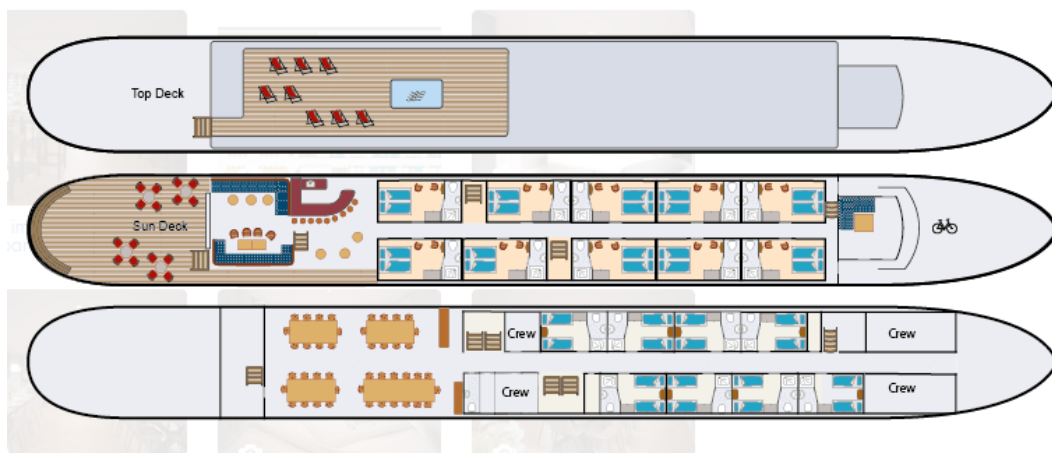
Following the overwhelming success of the premium barges Magnifique, Magnifique II (2016), and Magnifique III (2018) we are proud to announce the construction of a new sister for the family; the Magnifique IV. Launch date: late April 2020.

Magnifique IV accommodates up to 36 guests. There are 8 cabins on the lower deck with two very comfortable beds, an ensuite bathroom, satellite TV, mini safe and hair dryer. The 10 suites on the main deck also have a small sitting area and large windows.

The restaurant is on the lower deck, whilst the bar and lounge area are on the upper deck. The top deck has deck chairs and a Jacuzzi for your relaxation.



### Artists Impressions



## 2020 TOUR COST PER PERSON IN EURO

### **MS Magnifique: April - September departures**      **October departures**

Twin Cabin	€ 1339	€ 1239
Premium Twin	€ 1539	€ 1439
Single Cabin	€ 1979	€ 1829
*Regular triple cabin	€ 1289	€ 1189
*Premium triple cabin	€ 1469	€ 1369

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

### **MS Magnifique II: April - September departures**      **October departures**

Twin Cabin	€ 1339	€ 1239
Premium Twin Cabin	€ 1539	€ 1439
Upper deck Suite	€ 1839	€ 1739
*Triple cabin	€ 1289	€ 1189
*Triple cabin in upper deck suite	€ 1739	€ 1639

\*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	€ 1339	€ 1239
Upper deck Suite	€ 1839	€ 1739
Single Cabin	€ 1979	€ 1829
*Triple cabin	€ 1289	€ 1189
*Triple upper deck suite	€ 1739	€ 1639

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

### **MS Magnifique IV: April - September departures**      **October departures**

Twin Cabin Lower	€1339	€1239
Suite Main Deck	€1839	€1739
Single Cabin	€ 1979	€ 1829
*Triple cabin	€ 1289	€ 1189
*Triple main deck suite	€ 1739	€ 1639

\*Triple cabins are on request and limited to 1 triple main deck suite and 2 lower triple cabins.

### **Zwaantje & Fleur: April - July COMFORT BOAT departures**      **October departures**

Twin Cabin	€1259	€1189
Single Cabin	€1859	€1755

**Zwaantje & Fleur Boat details on request – the day to day itinerary varies slightly.**

<b>Bike Hire (7 Speed) per week</b>	<b>€ 85</b>
<b>E-Bike hire</b>	<b>€ 185</b>

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

Limitation of liability (damage) rental bike - **€10 per week**

Limitation of liability (damage) E-Bike - **€25 per week**

#### **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 also Velo de Ville with Nexus 7 gears, 5 support levels and hand brakes only, gel-saddle (height adjustable), a lock on the frame and a pannier bag (or similar brand).

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 can also 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/ MS Magnifique III & MS Magnifique IV**
- 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.
- o Printed instructions and detailed maps for individual bike tours– 1 set per cabin
- o GPS tracks
- o Fees for ferries
- o Some short walking tours
- o Visit Kinderdijk Mills, Entrance Cathedral Antwerp, Canal trip through Ghent
- o Complimentary tea and coffee
- o Bed linen and towels; daily short cleaning of cabin
- o Wi-Fi

#### **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 Drinks on board
- o Insurance
- o Tips/Gratuities (at your discretion)
- o Any extra entrance fees and excursions
- 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**

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