

Breweries on the Ale Trail

- La Trappe
- Caracole brewery
- Leffe
- Roddenbach
- Gulden Spoor
- De Halve Maan
- St Bernadus
- Achouffe
- Les 3 forquets
- De Halve Maan
- Kazmatten
- St Sixtus Cafe (Westvleteren)
- De Struisse Brewers

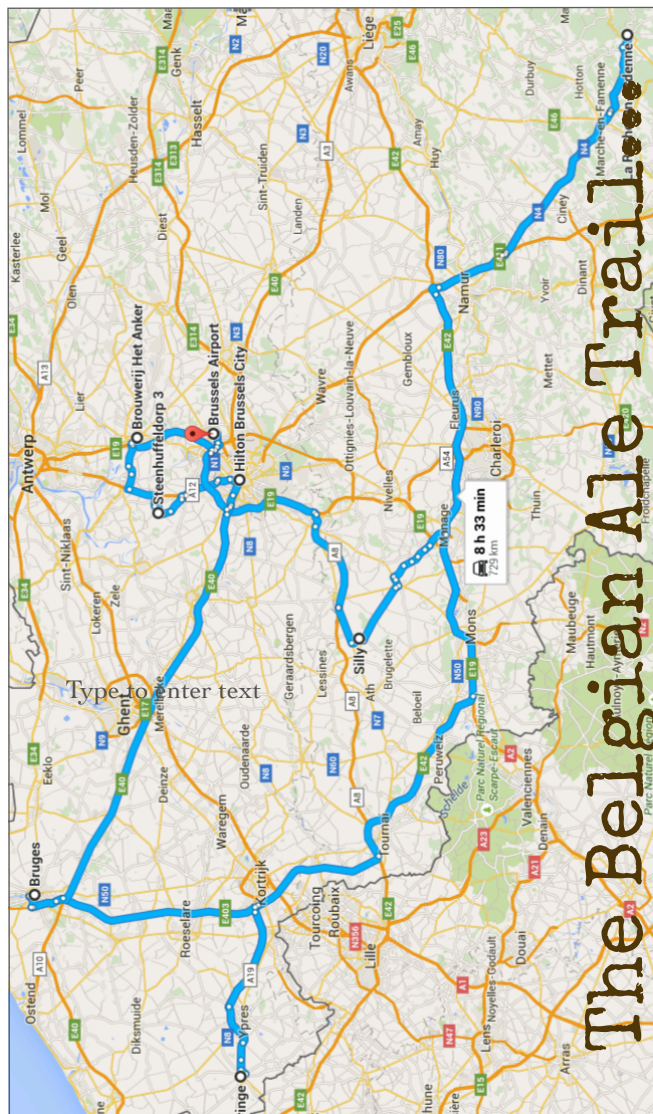


THE ALE TRAIL

Although this tour is marketed as a celebration of the Belgian Brewing culture, it is by no means to be considered to be a “pub crawl”. Instead, it’s also a celebration of the cuisine, history, people and beauty of Belgium.

INCLUDES

ENTRY TO THE BREWERIES LISTED ABOVE, FIRST CLASS COACH AND DRIVER, ACCOMMODATIONS IN 3-4 STAR HOTELS AND B&B’S, ALL BREAKFASTS, 2 DINNERS, GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF BRUSSELS, GUIDED TOURS OF BASTOGNE, FLANDERS FIELDS AND KORTRIJK, A GUIDED CHOCOLATE TOUR OF BRUSSELS, TRAVEL INSURANCE



The Belgian Ale Trail



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TAILWIND DESTINATIONS PRESENTS ALL GOOD THINGS BELGIUM



“It is a fair wind that
blew men to the ale”

Washington Irving

9 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS
DEPARTING IN
AUGUST, 2020

\$2988.00 PER PERSON

LAND ONLY-DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Disclaimer:

Please know that details and prices within this brochure may change at anytime without notice. Hotels and B&B stays depend solely upon availability from our suppliers. Tailwind Destinations is not responsible for weather, acts of God or other events beyond our control.



All Good Things~ Belgium



Day 1~(Saturday- The Weary Traveler finds a monastery) ~Arrive at Brussels Airport where your guide will meet you to take you to our waiting coach to take us out of Belgium and into Holland to visit De Koningshoeven Brewery (La Trappe), the only Trappist Brewery in the world to offer regularly scheduled tours. After the tour and tasting, we'll enjoy our first lunch together in the midst of the monastery's beautiful location. From there, we'll transfer to our hotel to check in and freshen up. Shortly afterwards, we'll meet with a local guide for an afternoon walking tour of Brussels with a stop along the way at Delirium Cafe. Dinner will be at a charming Brussels restaurant. The balance of the evening will be free time for you to explore, or rest after the long Trans-Atlantic journey.

Day 2~(Sunday- Culture and Saxophones) ~ Today we'll start the day by tasting our way through the world's chocolate capital on a small group tasting tour in Brussels. We'll visit 6 of the cities most renowned and elegant confectionaries to sample gourmet Belgian Pralines (Truffles) and learn fun facts of the history of chocolate making from a professional guide. Next we'll make our way to the enchanting town of Dinant, internationally known as the birthplace of the saxophone where we'll make a quick visit to the small Brasserie Caracole. This brewery is as it was 100 years ago and is the only remaining brewery in Europe to heat their mash water with wood fires. Time permitting, you can self-explore this gem of a Belgian town, or tour the Leffe Brewery prior to enjoying our dinner at Le Couvent de Bethleem located at the Leffe Brewery where we'll be staying. The balance of the day will be at your leisure. We recommend visiting the Leffe Brewing Museum and then walk to find a quiet place to dine. (B)

Day 3~(Monday-Gnomes, Heroes and Sacrifice) ~ Today will be a full day so we'll need to start immediately after breakfast to make our way further into southern Belgium as our tour takes us to Bastogne and into the Ardennes. Upon leaving Dinant, we'll proceed directly to Bastogne where, upon arrival, our group will be met by a local travel specialist to take us on a partial day tour of the Bastogne area where the Battle of the Bulge acted as a turning point in the outcome of WWII.

Day 3 (continued) Following Bastogne, we'll make our way to Lupulus Brewery, This small brewery will offer a quick tour following by a sampling of their craft. A light lunch will be served after the tour. Next, we'll meet the gnomes and spend time touring the world famous Achouffe, sampling the beers and exploring the brewery store and local area. We'll have you back in Dinant this evening to enjoy dinner as a group at our hotel. The balance of the night is yours to relax or explore. (B,L,D)

Day 4 ~(Tuesday-Hops and the Holy Grail)~ Today will have us leaving beautiful Dinant for the hop-fields of Poperinge. It's a several hour drive across the Belgian countryside so we'll be ready for lunch when we arrive. Our first stop will be at In De Vrede. This cafe is owned by the Sint Sixtus Abbey, brewers of the worlds famous, and possibly the most sought after beer, Westvleteren 12. It's a simple cafe, with a simple menu of local ham's, breads and cheeses. The highlight of the visit is being the opportunity to enjoy the coveted St Sixtus beers by the glass. A quick visit to nearby De Struise Brewers will also be on the agenda Our next visit will be the brewery of St Bernadus, the place where the famed Westvleteren 12 was brewed until 1972. Many people compare the two beers and deem them identical. You can decide for yourself. In the afternoon, spend a couple of hours on your own exploring the quaint town of Poperinge where we can enjoy Dinner on our own. (B, L)

Day 5~(Wednesday- Flanders poppies) ~ This morning will be at leisure and we can offer ideas for things to do. Our coach will take us to Brewery Kazematten, located in basements built in 1680 and used over the centuries to house military personal and munitions during the many sieges of the area. Lunch will be on your own and afterwards, we'll gather for a "Flanders Fields" tour that will take us to several significant WWI battlegrounds and memorials, including: Essex Farm (Advanced Dressing Station which inspired John McCrae's poem "In Flanders Fields"), Pilckem Ridge (Gas Attack 1915), Langemarck German Cemetery, Vancouver Corner The Brooding Soldier Memorial, New Zealand War Memorial Gravenstafel, Tyne Cot Cemetery (The Third Battle of Ypres aka Passchendaele) and final stop on the tour Hill 62 (Sanctuary Wood) Museum with trenches, returning back to Ieper via Hellfire Corner.

Day 5~ (continued)... Dinner will be served tonight at the famous Hommelhof restaurant in Watou. Here, Chef Stefaan Couttenye prepares classic Flemish dishes using local beers. (B, D)

Day 6~(Thursday- The Two Towers) ~Today we'll leave Watou and make our way north for a stop in the town of Kortrijk, where we'll be joined by a guide for a walking tour of this medieval town. From there, we'll journey to The Gulden Spoor/ Fenix Breweries for a visit and tasting. Lunch will be served in their affiliate restaurant. Then, off to Rodenbach for our next visit. The brewery is known for its production of barrel-aged sour beers in the Flemish red style. This unique brewery, is a national landmark and is well worth the visit. Untouched by any of the great wars, Bruges awaits as we end the day. The balance of the evening will be yours to explore this enchanting city. (B)

Day 7~(Friday- Nooks and Crannies) ~ The morning in Bruges will be yours to explore the town. You can take a cruise through the canals, visit the Church's, museums, chocolatiers, an interactive brewery museum or visit the Bruges Madonna. Weather permitting, you can take a boat ride to explore Bruges from the canal used for travel and trade for many centuries. We'll plan to meet in the early afternoon for a tour of De Halve Mann Brewery, home of the famous Straffe Henrik brand of beers followed by a private, group lunch at the brewery of consisting of cheeses, sausage, pate and breads as well as a soup of your choice. Later in the day, our driver will take us to the 5th annual North Sea beer festival. (B,L)

Day 8~(Saturday- In Bruges) ~The final day in Belgium will be at your leisure. There are many things to do in Bruges, and all within walking distance from our hotel. Your guide will be more than happy to offer suggestions of where to go, what to do, and how to get there. We'll plan to meet in the evening for a farewell toast as we celebrate the week together, friends made and happy memories (B,S))

Day 9~ (All good things...) ~ As all good things come to an end, we say farewell to Belgium as we travel to the airport to catch our flight home.