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## Amsterdam to Bruges aboard the MS *Fluvius*

Welcome traveler!

Thank you for choosing Tripsite to book your trip! We will do our best to ensure a very successful vacation. Below you will find further information concerning your upcoming Bike & Boat trip through the Netherlands and Belgium.

### ARRIVAL

From the Schiphol airport in Amsterdam, you can take the train to Amsterdam Central. Tickets can be purchased at the ticket counter in the Arrival's Hall of the airport, or at the train ticket machines. From there you head down the escalator to the train terminal. The train ride from the airport to Amsterdam Central takes about 15-20 minutes and costs around €7.

### *Watch your valuables when traveling by train!*

The *Fluvius* will be docked at place #6 at **Buiksloterweg** in Amsterdam. Upon arrival to Amsterdam Central train station, take the North exit. From there is a free ferry that runs every six minutes to the Buiksloterweg.

Below is a link to a Google map to help you find the boat:

<http://goo.gl/maps/JbXBF>

### PLEASE NOTE:

If your tour starts on **April 18<sup>th</sup> or May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the *Fluvius* will be docked at embarkation place #7 in Amsterdam: Veemkade, near house number 240.

You can reach this location from Amsterdam Centraal by taking City Bus 48 (GVB) direction BorneoEiland. The bus departs in front of Centraal Station (near Victoria Hotel) every 15 minutes. The ride is approx. 10 minutes and costs €2.90 one-way. Tickets (called 1-uur-kaart) can be bought from the bus driver. Ask the bus driver for bus stop Jan Schaferbrug, Tosaristraat. Please refer to the map below:

<http://goo.gl/f76uwo>

You are expected on the boat between 1 and 1:45 pm. **Please note that the ship leaves Amsterdam on your arrival day (Saturday) at 2 pm.** If you are going to arrive later than 1:30 pm, please inform the crew or tour guide on board.

Phone number: +31 (0) 636 309 969 (captain)

If you are arriving by car, please let us know as we can provide additional information regarding parking in Amsterdam.

**END OF TOUR**

The tour will end one week later in Bruges on Saturday morning at 10am following breakfast. The barge will be docked in the Katelijnepoort/Yacht Harbor, which is approximately 400 m from the Central Railway Station. The crew will help you with your travel details from the boat to the train station or elsewhere.

You are asked to please hand over your cabin key at the reception before you disembark. The train ride from Bruges back to Amsterdam Schiphol International Airport is about 3½ hours and costs about €50.

Below is a link to a map showing the approximate location of the ship in Bruges:

<http://goo.gl/maps/Cen12>

### **THE BARGE**

The MS FLUVIUS is a small and comfortable river cruiser for maximum of 36 guests. On board there is a total of 19 cabins. The salon with bar is a large room for common use and has a semi-separate restaurant area. On the large and partially roofed sundeck, there is plenty of seating and storage room for the bikes. There are a few hairdryers available for you to borrow on board.

You will find a panic button (“PANIEK KNOP”) in all cabins, aisle and salon on board the ship. Please press this button only in case of emergency

You will find a very environmentally friendly atmosphere on board. The Fluvius has its own water and electricity source. When leaving the cabin, please make sure to turn off the taps properly and to turn off all lights and other electronic devices. All dirty water is held in special tanks, which are emptied regularly. It is important that no paper products are thrown into the toilets, as this will cause blockage. You will find a bin with plastic sacks right next to the toilet. Please utilize these for disposal of paper products. Please close the sacks when they are full and put into the bins. These are emptied daily.

Included in your tour price is the daily provision of clean towels however you are asked to be conscientious when taking advantage of this service. If you need new towels, please put your used towels on the bathroom floor. If you do not need a changing of towels, hang them on the hooks provided.

The water on board is safe for drinking. Mineral water is also available to purchase at the bar.

The captain and his crew are looking forward to meeting you!

To find out more information about the *Fluvius* and to see pictures, please visit our website:

<http://www.tripsite.com/bike-boat/boats/comfort-plus/fluvius/>

### **THE CABINS**

On board, there are a total of 19 cabins with private facilities, low beds, 220-volt electricity, individually controlled air-conditioning and ventilation. If the outside temperature generally does not warrant it, the automatic air conditioning is switched off automatically. If you prefer cooler temperatures, please contact the crew who will activate the system for you.

All cabins have windows but cannot be opened for safety reasons.

Each cabin is numbered and can be reached by stepping downstairs. You will be issued a cabin key upon arrival. You are asked to leave your cabin key on the keyboard at the bar if you are on board but are asked to please take your key with you when you leave the boat.

### **THE CREW**

The crew on board consists of the captain and 3 – 4 crewmembers plus the tour guide. This guide is at your disposal for any questions or problems and will cycle with you during the day.

## **MEALS**

All meals are included with your tour and are served in the restaurant on board. You will enjoy a breakfast buffet, packed lunch for cycling (or lunch for guests who remain on board) as well as a three-course dinner.

Coffee and tea are available in the morning at the bar. Evening meals are served at the table.

Coffee and tea will also be served in the salon after your cycling day.

If you have special dietary restrictions or requests, these should be presented with your booking. Some special diets and requests are subject to a Euro 50 per week/per guest surcharge payable in advance. If necessary, you are advised to take your own special food with you.

The barge features a well equipped bar in the salon. You can order drinks here at any time at very reasonable prices. It is not permitted, without prior approval, to bring your own drinks to the salon and on deck. During your tour, your drinks will be tallied and you can pay your total bar tab at the end of your stay. Payment is accepted in cash only and you are asked to pay with notes that do not exceed €50.

## **BICYCLE**

Upon arrival on board, you will be allocated a bicycle suited to your specific height. This bicycle (a hybrid) is at your disposal throughout your tour. The bikes are good quality Dutch bikes with unisex frame and come with a pannier bag. We kindly ask that you do not change the bike saddle and/or pedals without permission.

Before starting the tour, the guide will give you instructions about the bike. Please do not forget to lock your rental bike each time you must leave it unattended. Never leave your pannier bag on your bicycle. You are responsible as well as liable for your bike and equipment in case of loss, theft, or accident.

If you have obtained **BICYCLE PROTECTION** with us, then this should be indicated on your trip voucher. The protection does not cover the theft of the bicycle if it is left without being properly secured.

If you desire to bring your own bike, you may do so but please take note of the following. The crew is responsible for bringing the bikes on and off board. Small scratches are at times unavoidable. The crew cannot be held responsible. The shed where the bikes will be stored is not covered. You are asked to bring your own tool kit with you.

## **BICYCLE HELMETS**

Wearing a bicycle helmet is not required in the Netherlands, but we do highly recommend wearing one. Helmets are not available on board. It is recommended that you bring your own helmet for the best fit and safety. TripSite/Pack & Pedal Europe, Inc. is not responsible for any accidents during the tour.

## **ROUTE INFORMATION**

Once on board, you will find a detailed map with bike routes that enable you to plan your own day tour if you decide to cycle independently. The guide can also assist you in planning a good route. Otherwise, you can easily bike with the group accompanied by your guide who will point out interesting things along the way. Keep in the mind that your fellow passengers will consist of an international group, coming from all over Europe and some other countries as well. However, your tour guide will always speak English. If you desire, you can take a day of rest and stay on board while the Fluvius proceeds to the next mooring location.

## **DIFFICULTY LEVEL**

The routes were chosen for their beautiful landscapes as well as for their access to places of interest. The routes are generally very easy as they ride on flat bike paths, or side streets. Average daily distances are ± 30 miles with the whole day at your disposal for completing the miles.

## WEATHER

Please check the internet or news channel just prior to your trip departure for the most up to date and accurate information on the weather that is expected in the area you'll be cycling. This will help prevent any unexpected surprises and will also help you determine how to pack.

As recorded by [www.weatherbase.com](http://www.weatherbase.com) for Amsterdam:

### Average High Temperature Years on Record: 21

	YEAR	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
°F	55	41	42	48	53	61	66	69	70	64	57	48	44

### Average Low Temperature Years on Record: 21

	YEAR	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
°F	44	34	32	37	40	46	52	55	55	51	46	39	36

## WHAT TO PACK

We advise that you pack only the necessities, as storage space in your cabin is limited (although your luggage should fit easily under your bed and in the closet in your cabin). We recommend bringing the clothing items in which you feel the most comfortable cycling in. Multiple layers of clothing tend to work best for all kinds of climates. Here are other items we do recommend you bring:

- 1) Windbreaker and/or full rain gear in case of showers
- 2) Padded/gel saddle cover or bike shorts for extra comfort
- 3) Protection from the sun – sunblock, hat, sunglasses, etc.
- 4) Comfortable shoes suitable for both walking and biking
- 5) Toiletries
- 6) Flashlight and camera
- 7) Wet wipes
- 8) Small backpack for holding your valuables. When you are riding your bike you can put the pack in your pannier bag and easily remove it when you stop for a break
- 9) Medical insurance card

## INCLUDED IN YOUR TRIP

- 8 days/ 7 nights' accommodations with all meals included
- Bed linens and towels (daily change of towels possible)
- Light daily cleaning of the cabin
- Welcome drink and presentation
- Tour guide and daily briefings of the tours
- Rental bikes
- Short city tours
- Coffee and tea until 4 pm
- Hairdryers available

## NOT INCLUDED

- Transfers to/from the docking places in Amsterdam and Bruges;
- Other transfers, entrance fees & excursions, fees for ferries
- Drinks on board, personal insurances
- Gratuities (see below)

## **GRATUITIES**

If you are satisfied with your service while staying aboard the *Fluvius*, the crew of the boat will be very grateful to be rewarded for their service. If you are not pleased, it is important to let the crew know. There is a tip jar on the bar or you can use the envelope, which you will find in your information folder. How much to give is dependent on your level of satisfaction, but it is internationally common for each guest to give approximately 3-4% of the tour price. Tips are exclusively for the crew on board and will be shared appropriately.

## **TRAVEL DOCUMENTS**

Be sure to bring a valid passport with you, and if you are not an American citizen, please make sure you do not also need a visa. We recommend that you make copies of your important documents and papers. Leave a copy at home and have a copy with you. In the unfortunate situation that you lose your original documents, having copies facilitates the replacement process.

If you have obtained travel and/or cancellation **INSURANCE**, please carry your policy with you at all times.

## **CURRENCY**

Directly upon arrival at the airport, *be sure to exchange some money into Euros (€)*, the accepted currency in the Netherlands and Belgium. This is for the purpose of being prepared should you run into any miscellaneous costs or be unable to find an ATM (or one that is open) any time soon. It is recommended using your **debit card** to obtain Euros at an ATM machine, rather than using your credit card for cash advances. We suggest calling your local bank to make certain your debit card will work in Europe. It is also a good idea to call your credit card company to advise them if you plan on making purchases abroad.

Most reputable establishments will accept major credit cards/debit cards. Those establishments accepting credit cards will post the logos in their front windows, just as they do in the U.S. and Canada. Payment on board is accepted in cash only.

## **PROBLEMS**

Should problems arise at some point during the tour, let the tour guide know immediately. Never take action that may require compensation or involves any repairs to the bicycle without consulting the tour guide first. With this type of Boat and Bike Tour, you are never far from the captain, a crewmember, and/or guide. We suggest leaving a copy of your itinerary with family and friends along with important phone numbers.

## **TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

You can always call us at Tripsite if you have questions or an emergency: 1-570-965-2064. Additional emergency phone numbers are listed in our voicemail message.

In case of an emergency (you cannot find the ship, your flight has been delayed and you will not reach the boat on time, etc.), please contact the Fluvius directly:

**Fluvius Captain** +31 (0) 636 309 969

After reviewing this information, please let us know if you have any additional questions.

We wish you a very safe and exciting vacation in Holland & Belgium!

Sincerely,

The team at Tripsite  
Pack & Pedal Europe, Inc.  
[www.tripsite.com](http://www.tripsite.com)

*You can leave feedback about your trip on our website (and we'll send you a gift if you do)! Go to this link: <http://www.tripsite.com/bike-boat/tours/amsterdam-to-bruges/> then scroll down to bottom of the right column until you see the green box where you can "post your feedback". Thank you!!*

**Side note:** Pack & Pedal Europe, Inc. does not own or operate any of the suppliers of services or accommodations for your trip. As a result, Pack & Pedal Europe, Inc. 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 Pack & Pedal Europe, Inc. has no control.