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*Bruges still looks as it does on this ancient picture of the canals and the Belfry*

## **“BRUGES AND THE BEST OF FLANDERS”**

10 days, from Friday, April 24, to Sunday, May 3, 2009

Only \$ 2,395 from Toronto, based on double occupancy – single room supplement: \$400.

*A glorious spring break in arguably the best preserved Medieval town in all of Europe. This “Venice of the North” offers plenty of art, culture, and history, including Canadian history! Add to that great food, Belgian lace, chocolates, waffles, beer...Your tour escort, historian Jacques Pauwels, will share with you his intimate knowledge of this ancient but lively city, of Flanders, and of Belgium in general.*

### **PROPOSED ITINERARY:**

#### Day 1 - Friday, April 24:

At approximately 8 PM, departure from Toronto on the non-stop flight to Brussels of Jet Airways, considered to be one of the world’s best airlines. You will enjoy excellent service - a fine dinner as well as a light breakfast will be served on board. (For more information, see Jet Airways, [www.jetairways.co/Cultures/enUS/Canada/About+Us/Press+Room/Press+Releases/Jet\\_Airways\\_voted\\_Worlds\\_Best\\_Airlines.htm](http://www.jetairways.co/Cultures/enUS/Canada/About+Us/Press+Room/Press+Releases/Jet_Airways_voted_Worlds_Best_Airlines.htm))

Day 2 - Saturday, April 25: Arrival in Brussels around 10 AM. A deluxe private coach will be waiting here to take us first to the grounds of the immensely successful 1958 Brussels World Fair for a look at its theme building, the amazing Atomium, and then to the beautiful town of Bruges, a transfer of approximately one hour. Check into the centrally-located Hotel Zand, a comfortable 3-star or “superior tourist-class” hotel, and free time to settle in and get some rest after your overnight flight. In late afternoon, leisurely introductory walking tour of the historical city center, followed by welcome dinner in the cozy restaurant of our hotel.

Day 3 - Sunday, April 26: After breakfast, walking tour of Bruges, with as highlights the superb Gothic Cathedral (featuring a Madonna and Baby Jesus sculpted by Michelangelo!), the historic Burg Square, Market Square with the amazing tower of the Belfry, Medieval St. John's Hospital, the romantic Lake of Love, and the famous Beguinage. In the afternoon, sightseeing cruise on the scenic canals that crisscross Bruges and earned this city the epithet "Venice of the North". This evening's dinner in the restaurant of our hotel is "à la carte", so you will be able to enjoy delicious Belgian culinary specialties such as Flemish beef stew, mussels and frites, and shrimp croquettes... And how about Belgian chocolate mousse for dessert?

### **BRUGES AND THE HOTEL ZAND:**

**Bruges** (Flemish: Brugge), a UNESCO World Heritage site, is not only the top tourist attraction of Belgium, but also one of the prettiest and most interesting cities in all of Europe. Full of churches, museums and other stately buildings, Bruges is not only a cornucopia of architectural and cultural treasures, mostly from the Middle Ages, but also a dynamic city with countless cafés and bars, excellent restaurants, and superb shopping. And there is plenty to see in the surrounding Flemish countryside, including the North Sea coast, only 15 km from here! For more information, see the city's website, [www.brugge.be/internet/en/index.htm](http://www.brugge.be/internet/en/index.htm), and <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bruges>. Please note that the local language is Flemish, i.e. Dutch as spoken in Belgium, but just about everybody here also speaks English. For great pictures of Bruges, see [www.flickr.com/search/?q=Bruges](http://www.flickr.com/search/?q=Bruges). For travellers' tips and comments, see [www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g188671-Bruges\\_West\\_Flanders-Vacations.html](http://www.tripadvisor.com/Tourism-g188671-Bruges_West_Flanders-Vacations.html)

**Hotel Zand** is officially classified as a 3-star/superior tourist-class hotel. The recently renovated rooms may not be very big, but they fully equipped with bath or shower, WC, colour-TV, and a hair-dryer. The hotel serves a generous buffet breakfast and it features an excellent restaurant that is also very popular with the locals. The management and staff are very friendly and helpful. Last but not least, the hotel is superbly situated on the Friday Market or "Zand," in the heart of the historical part of town as well as the major shopping district! For more information, see the hotel's website: [www.hoteltzand.be](http://www.hoteltzand.be). For comments by travellers, see [www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g188671-d673506-r8639982-Hotel\\_t\\_Zand-Bruges\\_West\\_Flanders.html#TOPC](http://www.tripadvisor.com/ShowUserReviews-g188671-d673506-r8639982-Hotel_t_Zand-Bruges_West_Flanders.html#TOPC)



*Hotel 't Zand*

Day 4 – Monday, April 27: Full-day excursion to "Flanders' Fields," the battlefields of World War I around the town of Ieper (Ypres), situated not far from Bruges, near the French border. We first visit the picturesque town itself, with the Cloth Hall, the fine War Museum ([www.inflandersfields.be/#museum](http://www.inflandersfields.be/#museum)), and the Menin Gate, the foremost British WW I Memorial in Belgium. After lunch in a typical restaurant, we concentrate on sites associated with the Canadian war effort, such as Essex Farm Cemetery, where John McRae composed his famous poem; the monument to the "Brooding Soldier," commemorating the Canadians who fell in the first gas attack, in April 1915; Tyne Cot Cemetery, the largest British war cemetery in the world; and the Canadian monument in the infamous village of Passchendaele. Return to Bruges in late afternoon.

Day 5 - Tuesday, April 28: This morning we focus on the great museums of Bruges. First we visit the Groeninge Museum with its wonderful collection of paintings by masters of the very inappropriately named 15<sup>th</sup>-century school of “Flemish Primitives,” such as Van Eyck and Bosch. Then we enjoy more Flemish art during a visit to the Memlinc Museum, situated just around the corner in the former St. John’s Hospital, a magnificent brick building of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, overlooking a romantic canal. In the afternoon, after attending a demonstration of lace-making, an ancient local tradition, your tour guide will initiate you into the fine Belgian art of waffle-eating. While we are at it, your guide will also take you to his favourite chocolate shop for a tasting of some typically Belgian hand-made “pralines.” After that, the lovers of beer, of which Belgium has approximately 400 different kinds, may be ready to visit the famous local brewery, Halve Maan.



< *Belgian chocolates*

Day 6 - Wednesday, April 29: More Canadian history today, but with a focus on WW II! We first explore villages such as Moerbrugge and Moerkerke, where Canadians fought the Germans in the fall of 1944 in what became known as the “Battle of the Scheldt.” On to the Canadian War Cemetery in the village of Adegem, located on the banks of the Leopold Canal, followed by a short reception and an opportunity to mingle with representatives of the Belgian-Canadian Association and other locals, who are always keen to meet Canadians! Also visit to the local Canada War Museum and lunch in its restaurant ([www.canadamuseum.be](http://www.canadamuseum.be)). Return to Bruges in late afternoon. This evening, opportunity to enjoy an optional gourmet dinner in “De Karmeliet,” possibly the finest restaurant in all of Belgium, featuring the Michelin Guide’s absolute maximum rating of “three stars”; the all-inclusive cost will be approximately 100 Euros – a bargain by “three-star” standards! (See [www.dekarmeliet.be](http://www.dekarmeliet.be))

*The Canadian War Cemetery in Adegem* >

Day 7 - Thursday, April 30: *Optional* excursion to Ghent, the former capital of Flanders, a city which, like Bruges, experienced its Golden Age during the Middle Ages. Our walking tour here will include the Belfry, City Hall, the Castle of the Counts of Flanders, and of course St. Bavon Cathedral with the famous painting by Van Eyck, “The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb.” This excursion is priced at \$85 and must be booked prior to departure of the tour.



Day 8 - Friday, May 1: Morning excursion to the Medieval village of Damme and the sophisticated North Sea resort of Knokke. Return to Bruges via the quaint village of Lissewege with its amazing 13<sup>th</sup>-century tithe barn, once part of a huge Cistercian Monastery. Afternoon free in Bruges. This evening, *optional* dinner with live Medieval music, performed by a talented couple who seem to have jumped out of a Bruegel painting!



Day 9 - Saturday, May 2: Your final day in Bruges is entirely “at leisure”, except for our Au Revoir-dinner in the restaurant of our hotel.

Day 10 - Sunday, May 3: After an early breakfast, short transfer to Brussels Airport and non-stop return flight to Canada with Jet Airways. departure around 10 AM and arriving around 12 noon.

< *Windmill and canal in Damme*

**Tour cost: \$2,395 from Toronto, based on double occupancy;**

**Single room supplement: \$400**

*Included in the price are:*

- Return flight to Brussels;
- Accommodation based on double occupancy in a very comfortable 3-star hotel, featuring rooms with private facilities, and based on double occupancy. The single room supplement is \$400;
- Buffet breakfast daily and *five* three-course dinners or lunches – please note that beer, wine, coffee/tea are not normally included with meals (other than breakfast) in Belgium, and that tap water is not normally served in restaurants;
- Airport transfers and excursions via deluxe private coach;
- All visits and sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary, including admission to museums and monuments mentioned;
- Hotel taxes and gratuities.

*Not included:*

- Airport taxes and security fees, presently approximately \$430 but subject to change;
- Beverages with dinners (see above), and meals other than those outlined above;
- All expenses of a personal nature;
- Travel insurance, available as follows:

All inclusive insurance:

Up to age 59: \$180.36

Ages 60 - 64: \$213.84

Ages 65 - 69: \$258.12

Ages 70 - 74: \$369.36

Ages 75 - 79: Call for rates

Non medical insurance:

Up to age 59: \$142.56

Ages 60 - 64: \$156.60

Ages 65 - 69: \$168.48

Ages 70 - 74: \$190.08

Ages 75 - 79: Call for rates



*A classical view of Bruges, with a canal, Medieval houses, and the towering Belfry*

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**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

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**RESERVATIONS AND DEPOSITS:**

Reservations should be made as early as possible to ensure the departure of your choice. A deposit of \$750.00 is required at the time of registration. **Your reservation is confirmed upon receipt of your deposit and application form. No reservations will be accepted without a signed application form.**

**REFUND OF UNUSED ARRANGEMENTS:**

Because the rates of Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. are based on group participation, no refund can be made for any tour accommodation or tour service or tour feature not taken. If cancellation occurs while the tour is in progress, no refund can be made for the tour portion not taken. We strongly suggest that to allow for any unexpected contingencies, you purchase the all-inclusive insurance.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:**

Refund of deposit is made in full if cancellation is received in writing by Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. more than 90 days prior of the departure date of the tour less a \$500.00 non refundable administrative fee per person. For cancellation received in writing 90 days prior or less the following cancellation charges apply:

90 days to 46 days before departure:	25% of tour cost
45 to 15 days before departure:	50% of tour cost
within 14 days prior to departure:	100% of tour cost

**RESPONSIBILITY:**

Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. reserves the right without notice, to withdraw any part or all of the tour. Factors such as airline schedule changes, hotel overbookings, inclement weather, etc. may necessitate changes in the itinerary as outlined. There may also be other circumstances in which changes become necessary or advisable. Any savings realized by these changes will be passed on to the passengers, any resultant expenses shall be borne by the passenger. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. acts only as an agent in securing hotel, transportation and other travel services and in no event shall be held responsible for the failure by any person or company to render any transportation, lodging or other travel service to be provided on the tour. All hotel, transportation and other travel services are provided to tour members subject to all the terms and conditions under which they are offered to the public generally. The acceptance of the initial service to be provided under the tour shall be considered an acceptance by the tour member of those conditions. Pauwels Travel Bureau Ltd. also reserves the right to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour, in which case equitable refund will be made at the discretion of the tour operators.

**AIR TRANSPORTATION:**

Trans Atlantic economy flight by scheduled, IATA carriers, based on charter class fare. Other fares may also be used. All fares are subject to specific rules and regulations, to changes and to government approval.

## APPLICATION FORM

Please book \_\_\_ seat(s) on the "Bruges and the Best of Flanders", April 24 – May 3, 2009.

Enclosed is my/our deposit of \_\_\_\_\_ (\$750 per person, *plus* insurance premium if taken.)

**Deposit and insurance premium, if taken, are due with registration. You will be invoiced for the balance approximately 45 days prior to departure.**

**WE NOW REQUIRE A COPY OF YOUR PASSPORT (INFORMATION PAGES ONLY) TO BE SENT WITH YOUR APPLICATION FORM AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.**

**Name as on Passport.** Indicate the appropriate title before each name (Mr., Mrs., Miss, Dr., Ms.)

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, give your commonly used first name as you would like it to appear on your name tag: (e.g. "Liz" for "Mary Elizabeth") \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (Residence) \_\_\_\_\_ (Business) \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax/Email) \_\_\_\_\_

If traveling alone, please indicate your willingness to share accommodations: YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_

SINGLE ROOM REQUIRED: \_\_\_\_\_

(We will try to find a roommate for those willing to share, but cannot guarantee success in doing so. For single travelers we are not able to match, the single supplement will apply.)

**SPECIAL REQUESTS:** (Dietary, wheelchair assistance, frequent flyer number, twin beds, etc.) Please list here so we can do our best to assist you. (We will do our best to assist you but cannot guarantee success, especially in the case of requests for specific seating arrangements, since airlines do not normally allow individual seat selections for groups.) \_\_\_\_\_

I/we agree to the "terms and conditions" attached to the program. \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance, I/we accept:

All-inclusive Package \_\_\_ Non-medical Package \_\_\_ Decline Insurance \_\_\_

Signature (s) \_\_\_\_\_

If purchasing travel insurance, we require your date of birth:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT:

Cheque payable to Pauwels Travel     Visa     Mastercard     American Express

Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please forward this completed form, copy of passport and payment to:**

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