

FLANDERS:



© De Muur van Geraardsbergen

the
dream destination
for cyclists...



Welcome to **FLANDERS...**

Flanders, the northern region of Belgium, is a must on your holiday wish list. The region is approximately an hour's drive from the LeShuttle's terminal in Calais.

Our welcoming destination is the perfect place to discover by bike. Whether you believe cycling is an easy way to explore your surroundings or if you think you can take on the world's most elite cyclists in the Ronde Van Vlaanderen, then we have a cycling heaven waiting for you. Read on and we will point you in the right direction of unforgettable experiences which you can enjoy on two wheels.

Cycling is in the DNA of the people of Flanders, virtually everyone cycles in one way or another, so it is not really a surprise that we have an all-encompassing cycling culture. There is a network of over 7,500 miles of high quality, safe cycling routes, much of it separate from main roads. There are also friendly places en route for repairs, which you can either do yourself or get some assistance, for any unexpected punctures along the way.

If you are embarking on a longer trip, then many hotels and guest houses will have places for you to store your bike. If you are visiting Flanders for one of the big races, the fever and excitement will be irresistible! For those adrenaline-seekers, why not take on the challenge of the steep hills and cobbled climbs, they are available for all who believe they are a true *Flandrien* at heart.

We look forward to welcoming you to Flanders on your cycling adventures very soon...

WHAT IS A FLANDRIEN?

A true Flandrien is a man or woman of steel. A heroic cyclist who never gives up, relishes a challenge and eats pain for breakfast.

Flanders Icon Routes © VISITFLANDERS



CYCLING NETWORK

CYCLING IN FLANDERS COULD NOT BE EASIER.



Many of the routes across the region follow a network often referred to as cycle nodes. You can cycle from node to node, following one particular route or make your own bespoke one. The node system is very popular as it is a simple and versatile system to follow.

All the best routes in the region have been combined into one larger network. Where two or more routes intersect, this is called a node. To take a specific route, simply cycle along following the signs from node to numbered node.

Rectangular signs mark each node, this allows you to plan your own route if you wish. You can decide for yourself which nodes to follow and how extensive or taxing your trip will be.



You can plan your route using a physical map or from online maps and write down the node numbers in the order you wish to follow. Keep the map with you en route so you can adapt your plans during your trip. The possibilities are endless!

Scan the QR codes to plan your trip.



ROUTES FOR YOU



FIESTEN ROUTES

FLANDERS by **bike**

Visitors on bikes

Flanders is a region that offers something for everyone. The castles, museums, medieval churches, and picturesque villages will fascinate culture lovers.

Those who love the outdoors can enjoy the tranquillity of the Flemish countryside. For those who love a city break, our cities offer an abundance of culture to explore, each with their own unique charm.

To help get the most out of a trip to Flanders, bikes are the perfect way to explore and depending on the activity, can be tailored to suit everyone.

Iconic Cycle Routes

Flanders has nine *Iconic Cycle Routes* for a cycling holiday in the region. Each route combines the best of Flemish scenery, along with attractive cycle paths and a core theme of the route.

All routes are signposted in two directions; therefore you can choose in which direction you cycle and where you want to start and finish.

Find out more:
flandersbybike.com



Flanders Finest Cycle Routes

The region also has a number of specially created themed cycle routes, that are ready to go. The routes are identified via the node network signage.

The themed routes cover everything from beer, cycling legends, urban scenery as well as many more.

visitflanders.com/en/flandersfinestcycleroutes



The HOME of cycle racing

Flanders is the home of cycle racing. The undulating landscape with its demanding hills and cobbles form the backdrop of the Flemish Spring Classics. These races are the highlight of the cycling season. For *Flandriens*, cycling is a culture that lives in their blood and heritage in their hearts. The region lives and breathes cycle racing.

Tour of Flanders © Patrick Verhoest

Tour of Flanders

Every Spring, the whole of Flanders comes to a standstill and all eyes look to the Tour of Flanders, also known as the Ronde van Vlaanderen. It is an annual cycling race which is the most important in the whole of the region.

The race forms part of the UCI World Tour and is an incredible weekend whether you are participating or spectating. An event not to be missed!

Flanders is also home to a number of other classics which take place across the region including Gent-Wevelgem and Omloop Nieuwsblad.

Find out more:
rondevanvlaanderen.be/en



Tour of Flanders © VISITFLANDERS

Explore OUR CITIES

FLANDERS is so compact in size that most of its main cities are just a stone's throw from each other, often you can reach the next one within an hour of travelling in the car.

ANTWERP

Antwerp is a vibrant city, famous for its fashion and diamond merchants and will fascinate culture lovers.

Whilst exploring the city, be sure to visit the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Antwerp (KMKSA), after an 11-year renovation, the museum is open to the public once again. Then take yourself down to the waterfront where you can explore Europe's second largest port. visit.antwerpen.be/en



Cycling through a Medieval gate, Bruges © Wouter Van Voren



BRUGES

Bruges is a medieval city of which the entire centre is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. When cycling through these cobbled streets, be sure to take in the Belfry in the main square.

Then, cycle further out to the city ramparts and mills. Bruges has a beautiful beguinage, where the white fronted buildings were once a convent. On the edge of the city, you'll find the Minnewater (Lake of Love). visitbruges.be/en



GHENT

Ghent is a city full of heritage and greenery, the perfect place to explore on a bike. In St Bavo's Cathedral in the city centre you can witness the magnificent Ghent Altarpiece, *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb*, painted by the Van Eyck Brothers. Afterwards, get back on your bike and cycle along the Graslei and appreciate the beautiful historic buildings along the way. visit.gent.be/en



Graslei, Ghent © Piet De Kersigeter

These cities all boast their own unique charm, from artistic delights, culinary treats, tasty beers and so much more. Park the car up and take to a bike to explore these beautiful places.

LEUVEN

Leuven is a city known for its combination of heritage and youthful energy. It is the home of the famous brand Stella Artois as well as KU Leuven, one of Europe's oldest universities, bringing thousands of students to the city every year.

The city has a number of innovative breweries, so why not enjoy one of the new cycling routes through the city whilst enjoying another speciality of Belgium, beer. visitleuven.be/en



Beer in Leuven © Medialife.be

FLANDERS FIELDS

From 1914-1918, Flanders Fields was one of the biggest theatres of the Western Front during the First World War. Over a million soldiers from over 50 countries were wounded, missing or killed in action here.

Today, the landscape of the region still pays homage to the events that took place here. It is the perfect location to explore on a bike, from monuments to cemeteries and other reminders of the region's rich history. There is also a dedicated Flanders Fields 14-18 cycling route which takes you through some of the most iconic sites in the area. toerismeieper.be/en
toerismewesthoek.be/en



Cycling in Flanders Fields © Medialife.be

MECHELEN

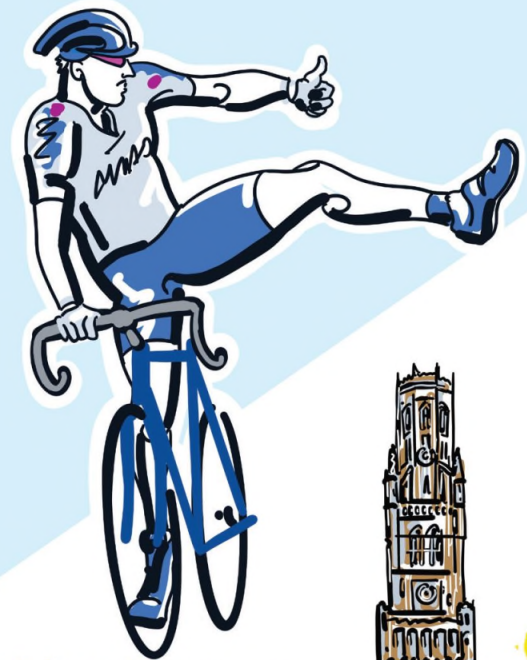
Mechelen, once the capital of the Netherlands, is home to more listed buildings than any other city in Flanders.. Whilst exploring the city be sure to visit the iconic St Rumbold's Cathedral or the Hof van Busleyden city palace.

Take the bike just outside of the city and explore the Winter Garden, a unique piece of art-nouveau architecture dating back to 1900. visit.mechelen.be/en



St Rumbold's Tower, Mechelen © Visit Mechelen

CYCLING IN FLANDERS



Johan Museeuw



Rik Van Looy



Eddy Merckx



BRUGES

● OSTEND
● De Velodroom



Wout van Aert



Remco Evenepoel

ROESELARE

● Koers (National Cycling Museum)

Omloop Het Nieuwsblad

GHENT

● Kuipke Track



Dwars Door Vlaanderen

Centrum Ronde Van Vlaanderen

Ronde Van Vlaanderen

● YPRES

● OUDENAARDE

KEMMELBERG

KOPPENBERG

PATERBERG

● OUDE KWAREMONT

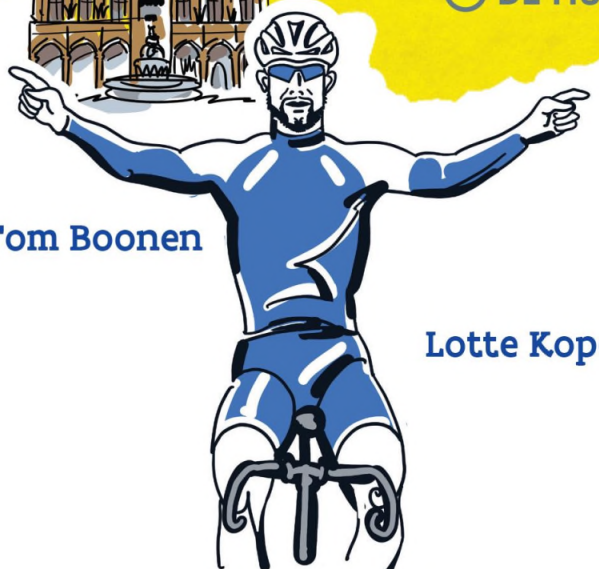
Gent Wevelgem



● DE MUUR



Peter Van Petegem



Tom Boonen

Lotte Kopecky

- CITIES
- BERGS
- RACES
- ATTRACTIONS

illustrations © Simon Russell

RIDE LIKE A FLANDRIEN

Freddy Maertens



Briek Schotte



Jempi Monsere



 Scheldeprijs

 ANTWERP



MECHELEN

LEUVEN

 UCI World Gravel Championships 2024 (Halle-Léuven)

 BRUSSELS

 De Brabantse Pijl

Flanders Bike Valley



Heathland Gravel 
(Unbound qualifier)

 HASSELT

 UEC Road European Championships (Hasselt)



Sven Nys

Roger De Vlaeminck



cyclinginflanders.cc



VISIT
FLANDERS

Unique cycling EXPERIENCES

Cycling through the water

In Bokrijk, there is a bike route which allows you to cycle over 200m/656 ft through a pond.

The cycle path leads through a pond from one bank to another. At the middle point, the water is at eye level on both sides to enable cyclists to feel, see and smell the water. It gives the experience as though you were really cycling through water.

Cycling through heathland

In Flanders' first National Park, Hoge Kempen National Park, cyclists can enjoy riding through heathland. The route includes a section of cycling through Mechelse, 700 hectares/2.7 square miles in size, making it one of the largest heathlands in the region.

There are also stunning panoramic views of the national park and a 300m/984 ft wooden bike bridge to explore.

Cycling through the trees

In the Bosland National Park, a unique cycling experience allows cyclists to cycle up to ten metres high in between the trees, safely!

A double circle goes all around the treetops with a maximum height of 10m/32 ft from the ground. The path is 700m/2297 ft long in total and allows cyclists to become lost in nature and become at one with the forest.



Gravel in Flanders © DirtyDropbars

GRAVEL

Believe it or not, Flanders has even more cycling to offer than just its cobbled climbs. It is also the perfect setting for gravel and off-road riding. In 2024, it was selected to host the UCI World Gravel Championships in the region of Vlaams Brabant. We also have a number of routes for you to explore off the beaten track and to push yourself to your cycling limits.



SCAN FOR MORE

CYCLOCROSS

Cyclocross is a very popular winter sport in Flanders. From October to February, the trails of Flanders are full of cyclo-cross lovers (usually covered in mud). They only pause to carry their bike over their shoulder if the hill is too steep or the mud too deep. It is a popular sport for road riders to keep fit during the off season.



SCAN FOR MORE

BIKEPACKING

You do not have to just enjoy cycling around the region for one day, now with the rise of 'bikepacking' you can centre your holiday all around the activity. We have many routes which take you across the region, with accommodation providers offering services such as bike storage and luggage transfers, leaving you to enjoy your trip without the additional hassle.



SCAN FOR MORE

Read more about cycling experiences in Flanders here:



FLANDRIEN CHALLENGE

Flanders, the heartland of cycling, is calling for anyone brave enough to take on the ultimate cycling challenge.

A true *Flandrien* is a man or woman of steel. A heroic cyclist who never gives up, relishes a challenge and eats pain for breakfast.

Complete 59 iconic berg and cobble segments, marked on the road and tracked online in less than 72 hours.

THE DETAILS:

To take part in the challenge, take a few preparation steps:

- 1) CONNECT TO STRAVA
 - a. Connect your Strava account to cyclinginlanders.cc
- 2) RIDE ALL 59 SEGMENTS.
 - a. Ride routes in Flanders, upload them to Strava and find out how many segments you have conquered.
- 3) CLAIM YOUR COBBLE
 - a. Once you have completed all 59 segments within 72 hours, you have proven you are a true Flandrien.
 - b. Simply show your phone to reception at the Centrum Ronde Van Vlaanderen in Oudenaarde and they will engrave your name into a cobblestone.

THE PRIZE:

Those who complete the challenge will become the ultimate cycling legend. They will also receive their own personalised stone 'cobble' on the wall of fame at the Centrum Ronde van Vlaanderen.

SCAN FOR MORE



Cycling in Flanders © Too Soon Too Late

BECOMING A TRUE FLANDRIEN



**CENTRUM
RONDE VAN
VLAANDEREN**
The Centrum Ronde Van Vlaanderen, also known as the Tour of Flanders Centre in Oudenaarde is a must see during your Tour of Flanders experience. The visitor centre offers a variety of facilities for cyclists as well as a wealth of cycling history and memorabilia.
crvv.be/en



Flandrien Challenge © VISITFLANDERS
Flandrien Challenge © VISITFLANDERS

PLACES TO STAY

FLANDRIEN HOTEL **Hollebeekstraat 6,** **9661, Brakel**

Situated close to some of Flanders' most iconic climbs, this hotel is a cosy home from home. They have a collection of classic race bikes and offer essential services such as guided rides, secure bike storage, a workshop and self-service washing facilities.

flandrienhotel.com

BIKE FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATION

There are many bike-friendly accommodation providers in Flanders, many of which are in close proximity to some of the region's best routes.



cyclinginlanders.cc/plan-your-stay/accommodation

LEOPOLD HOTEL **De Ham 14,** **9700 Oudenaarde**

This four star hotel is located in the Flemish Ardennes and is close to the city of Oudenaarde, a heaven for cyclists.

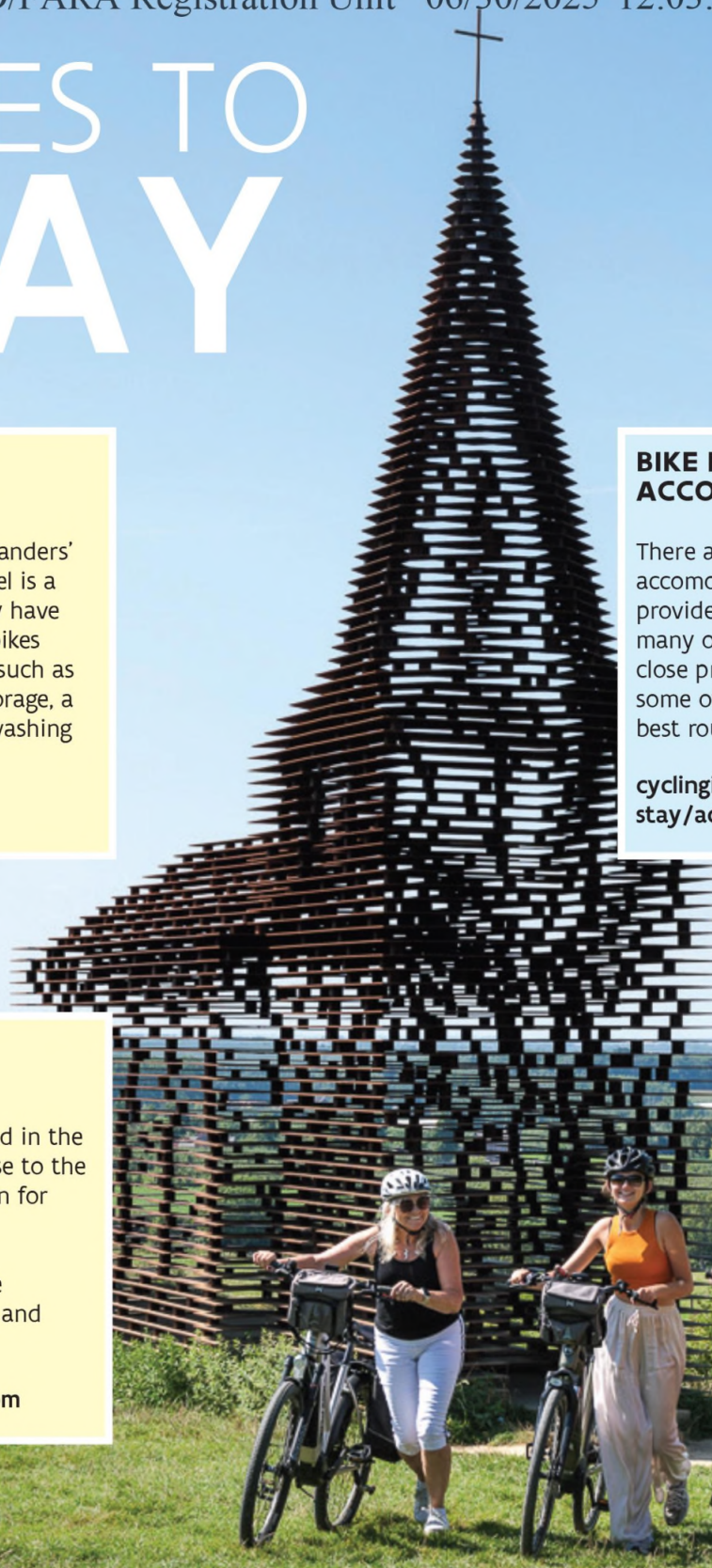
The hotel has secure storage and as well as bike washing and maintenance facilities.

leopoldhoteloudenaarde.com

HOTEL VELOTEL **Handboogstraat 1B,** **8000 Brugge**

Just on the outskirts of the city centre is Velotel which offers fitness, sauna, bike rental and storage and adapted meals for cyclists.

hotelvelotel.com/en



Reading Between the Lines © Kris Jacobs