ZEEBRUGGE - OOSTENDE

CRUISE HUB FOR FLANDERS & BELGIUM
The Belgian ports of Zeebrugge and Oostende have been very successful in attracting cruise business in the last decade. In 2017 nearly 180 vessels have calls scheduled and we expect to welcome some 450,000 guests.

Both ports have decided to join hands in the 'Belgian Coast Cruise Project' (BCCP) because we share the same touristic hinterland and our infrastructure is largely complementary. Zeebrugge offers easy nautical access for the largest cruise ships and Oostende caters mainly for the smaller vessels with walk-off possibilities into the scenic heart of the city.

Our ports enjoy an excellent geographical location on the route from Southampton to Amsterdam, at short distance of other popular cruise destinations in North-West Europe. Our main asset is the wide variety in excursion opportunities with the world heritage city of Bruges offering guests a unique visiting experience. A call at our ports translates into substantial excursion revenue, limited fuel costs and high levels of guest satisfaction.

Up to now Zeebrugge and Oostende have largely been transit ports offering carefully tended services with high security standards but we are gradually working towards offering the industry turnaround opportunities. Fully-fledged cruise terminal buildings are the logical next step. Our aim is to offer better services to both passengers and crew without any additional cost for transit cruises.

This is an open invitation to help us shape these plans.
Zeebrugge (Bruges) and Oostende are situated on the North Sea coast of Belgium, at the axis of sea traffic between the UK and Continental Europe. The Bruges city center is only 10 miles away. The northern part of Belgium is known as Flanders. Straddling the cultural boundary between Germanic and Latin Europe, Belgium is home to two main linguistic groups, the Dutch-speakers in Flanders and the French-speakers in Wallonia. The country is officially bilingual and many people are also proficient in English and German. Brussels is often referred to as The Capital of Europe as it houses the headquarters of the European Union and NATO. Belgium is a fairly small country and it is an easy place to travel around. Thanks to the high-speed railway network and the excellent road system major European cities like London, Paris or Amsterdam are never more than 2 to 3 hours away.
**Nautical Information**

- The access channel to the coastal position is dredged to a depth:
  - of 48 ft (14.5 m) in Zeebrugge
  - of 28 ft (8.5 m) in Oostende.
- Mean tide is +4.35 m (14 ft) at HW and 0.7 m (2.25 ft) at LW.
- Guaranteed waterdepth in the access channel at high tide:
  - in Zeebrugge, 55 ft (16.5 m)
  - in Oostende, 33 ft (10 m).
- Prevailing winds are south-west to between south and south-west.
- Pilots can be taken at buoy A1 or board at the preceding port of call in order to assure punctual arrival.
- 7 tugs are permanently stationed in the port of Zeebrugge (85 tons bollard pull)
- 1 tug with a bollard pull of 20 tons is stationed in Oostende.

**Terminal Facilities**

- Dimension for passenger ship berth: no restrictions
- Bunkering (including LNG) & water supplies
- Bank exchange facilities
- Complementary port shuttle / taxis
- General technical services and supplies available
- Weather protected gangways
- Security agents (ISPS)
**Port access / Terminal facilities**

- Lockfree
- Deepwater quays up to 12 m (40 ft)
- All terminals are ISPS certified
- Weather protected passenger gangways
- Cruise ships berth at:
  - Swedish Quay up to 400 m (1,312 ft) loa
  - Harbour Mole up to 200 m (656 ft) loa
  - CHZ Terminal up to 400 m (1,312 ft) loa
- Complimentary shuttle service from the ship to outside the port zone
- Weather protected shelter zone at quay side for comfortable (dis)embarkation
- A 4 million EUR passenger terminal will be constructed at the Swedish Quay early 2018.
- "Soft turnaround” opportunities - availability of long stay parking places.
- LNG bunkering facilities: truck-to-ship and (as of 2017) ship-to-ship.

**Cruise lines calling**
Port access / Terminal facilities

- Lockfree
- Terminal 500 m from open sea
- Draught of access channel and quays: 8.5 m (28 ft)
- Cruise ships up to 200 m (656 ft)
- Ships berth in the center of town
- Next to railway station
- Weather protected passenger gangway
- Passenger terminal behind railway station
- Motorway 500 m from terminal and international airport at 6 km
- Shopping centre at 200 m and golden beaches at 500 m
- Terminal is ISPS certified
- Turnaround cruises in 2015 and 2016

Cruise Lines calling

The major attraction in Flanders are the historic city centers which are brimming with quaint medieval squares, tree-lined canals, gorgeous architectural facades, world class museums and friendly outdoor cafes perfect for sipping on the local brews. Bruges, Ghent and Antwerp radiate charm with cobblestone streets, beguinages, gothic cathedrals and artistic treasures of internationally renowned paintings from the Flemish Primitives to Breughel and Rubens and such modern masters as Permeke, Ensor and Magritte.

But there is a lot more to Flemish cities than just architecture and history. You can also enjoy your time discovering the colorful open-air markets, shopping galleries, breweries and stylish restaurants overflowing with local culinary delights. All of these can also be found in sandy beach coastal resorts such as Oostende, Knokke and Blankenberge. Or just hop across the Dutch border to the delightful shopping village of Sluis. For people seeking peace and quiet, picturesque villages like Damme, Stene or Lissewege might be just what they are looking for. And off course the many Great War memorial places to visit around Ypres have an appeal of their own.
Bruges is the best preserved example of medieval Flanders. So picture postcard perfect is the city center, known as ‘the Venice of the North’, that it is nearly impossible to take a bad photograph. The stunning beauty and culture of this unforgettable city can be easily explored on foot, by boat ride along quiet canals, or by horse-drawn carriage over cobbledstone streets. Although Bruges is a small city, one day is hardly enough to explore all of its architectural and artistic treasures, folklore, chocolate shops, lace boutiques, and local restaurants.
Eternal links with water
For centuries, the canals of Bruges have linked the city to the sea, a guarantee of wealth and prosperity. International merchants built up Bruges into one of the largest Hanse cities. In the 15th century the city flourished as never before. Large parts of the medieval heritage have remained practically intact. Therefore, it is only logical that Unesco designated the entire city center as a world heritage site. Saunter along the enigmatic canals, the arteries of the city, and immerse yourself in Bruges’ Golden Century.

Romantic Hotspot
With Bruges it’s love at first sight. Bruges is mysteriously medieval and unashamedly ebullient. It is a city of human proportion with many cosy squares and corners. The elegant image of swans in the lakes and on the canals turn Bruges into the most romantic destination.
**International masterpieces and the city of the Flemish Primitives**

Rich merchants moved into majestic city palaces, packed with works of art. In the wake of the Burgundian dynasty, the great Flemish Primitives, including Jan van Eyck and Hans Memling found their creative niches in Bruges. The city became the meeting place and source of inspiration for many artists. Today, world famous masterpieces and top collections can be seen in one of the 27 Bruges Museums.

**Bruges craftsmanship**

The city has a long-standing tradition of production of various luxury goods. Bruges has always excelled in goldsmith art, diamond cutting and handmade tapestry and lace of outstanding quality. Today it is still an international center of refined craftsmanship like calligraphy and letter sculpting. And of course the world’s capital of chocolate is the obvious place where you will find the cream of artisan chocolatiers. Happiness in a box does exist! Chocoholics the world over agree: Bruges pralines are simply mouth-watering!
Oostende, the city by the sea.

Oostende is a great place to discover. The Beach, the shopping area, the restaurants and terraces are located within the short walking distance from the port. Tourist attractions and museums abound. Enjoy the gastronomy: fresh fish, Belgian beer and chocolates. The city has undergone a rejuvenation recently through several renovations. With due respect for its cultural heritage, a modern city has been created. The rich maritime and royal past, is still tangible everywhere. Discover Oostende in the footsteps of its famous artistis: the master painters James Ensor and Paul Delvaux, the singer Marvin Gaye, etc... Oostende is a dynamic city with plenty of events all year round. Relax in the evening with a musical in the Kursaal Oostende, a dinner in a stylish restaurant, a drink in a trendy bar or a visit to the casino. A visit to Oostende always holds a promise of excitement.
Maritime warfare: from Conquistadores to the Atlantic Wall.

Just next to Oostende, you find well preserved remnants of the Atlantic Wall, built by the Germans to protect the occupied territories against an allied invasion. This 2,685 km long defense line runs from Norway to Spain. The fortifications at domain Raversyde consist of more than 60 bunkers, 2 kms of underground corridors, observations posts and artillery. Take a walk along the battery “Aachen” from the First World War and the battery “Saltzwedel neu” from World War II, which was inspected by general Rommel in 1943. A visit to Raversyde gives you a clear insight into maritime warfare during both World Wars and the daily life of the soldiers.

On the same domain you can also discover the archeological site of the medieval fishing village Walraversijde. Nowhere in Europe, are you able to get so close to the life of the fishermen during the 14th and 15th centuries. The small village houses were reconstructed with the original bricks found at the site. In an interactive way, you can discover the hard life of the medieval fishing communities.

Finally, you can discover at the visitor’s center the remainders of one of the most bloodiest battles during the ‘Eighty Years’ War’: the Siege of Ostend which lasted for 1,172 days. This battle in the Dutch war of independence, in which “the Spanish assailed the unassailable and the Dutch defended the indefensible” culminated in a Spanish victory for King Philips II in 1604.
For four long years Flanders Fields, in the Belgian 'Westhoek', was the scene of the First World War. Homes and fields were turned into a battlefield in 1914. European and wider international interests were fought over here. A million soldiers were wounded, missing or killed in action. Some tens of thousands of citizens became refugees. Entire cities and villages were destroyed.

The landscape of the region still tells the story of the war. It contains hundreds of monuments and cemeteries which have great historical significance for the people of many nations. There are a lot of museums and visitor centers which explain in an interactive way all the aspects of the conflict: the battles, daily life, etc.

The daily Last Post ceremony that has taken place each day at Menin Gate (Ypres) since 1928, shows that memories don't fade away. On the contrary, the burning desire for peace stays alive.

A hundred years later we wish to commemorate the victims of this war and condemn senseless war violence.
The ideal starting point for discovering the area called Flanders Fields is Ypres. The city of peace can boast a glorious medieval past, but suffered terribly during the dark years of the First World War. The devastated city was rebuilt in its original style following the Armistice. Modern-day Ypres is a dynamic community with trend-setting museums, imposing monuments and impressive historic buildings. The medieval ramparts of Vauban are the perfect setting for a relaxing walk. There are also numerous walking and cycling routes around the city or organized battlefield tours.

Flanders Fields has over 30 Commonwealth, Belgian, German, French and American cemeteries. Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest military cemetery of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on the continent. It has almost 12,000 tomb-stones and the impressive rear wall of the cemetery contains the names of 35,000 soldiers missing in action. The new visitor center offers a unique view over the former battlefields and an everlasting tribute to the fallen of Passchendaele.
Brussels, Ghent, Antwerp

Brussels, the heart of Europe

As the headquarters to the European Union and NATO, this metropolis is often referred to as The Capital of Europe.

Brussels is a city that never stops surprising and touching you. It is waiting to share with you its legendary Grand-Place with its rounded cobblestones and golden houses, its Art Nouveau exteriors and its surreality. And to taste the Brussels way of life, take a moment to try one of its delights: crunchy chips, aromatic geuze and kriek beers, fluffy waffles and mesmerizing chocolate.

Brussels combines tradition, savoir-faire and creativity with exclusivity. It always offers a cosmopolitan atmosphere and a variety of leisure activities to keep everyone busy.

Ghent, Europe’s Best Kept Secret

The undiscovered Flemish jewel of a city boasts an opera house, a handful of museums, even more ancient churches, and countless bridges spanning the two rivers that wind themselves through the city. Find a seat on the Graslei, a scenic canal spot in the centre of town, with a great view on the grand houses and medieval buildings.
Alternatively, hop on a bike and explore the nearby Patershol district with a small labyrinth of charming cobblestone streets, the towering Gravensteen Castle and Unesco recognized bell tower.

Ghent is a historic city, yet at the same time a contemporary one. The modern daily life of the city’s active inhabitants plays itself out against a gorgeous historical backdrop.

**Antwerp, a good-looking city**

It’s impossible not to find Antwerp’s architecture attractive. It ranges from medieval buildings to dazzling contemporary structures, to numerous Art Nouveau gems.

It was one of the greatest, richest cities in all of Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries. The iconic Flemish Baroque painters Peter Paul Rubens and Anthony Van Dyck called Antwerp their home. This city is also home to world-renowned shopping, famous fashion designers and a bustling diamond trade. Antwerp has been the largest diamond centre in the world for more than five centuries. It controls no less than four-fifths of the rough diamond market and half of the polished market. This is not just a business story: it is also a tale of craftsmanship, technology, traditions and creativity.

Antwerp has a large number of historic churches and a wide array of museums. There is something for everyone, whatever your taste.
Coastal Resorts

Discover the beautiful and scenic Flemish coast

The coast’s 42 miles long stretch of sandy coastline has 13 resorts, each with its own character and unique atmosphere. The wide sandy beaches slope gently out to sea and they are lined with romantic beach promenades.

The resorts are well connected by public transport: the “Kusttram” drives all the way from Knokke to De Panne. A cheap, easy and pleasant way to explore the Flemish coast from Zeebrugge.

Popular holiday destinations like Blankenberge, Oostende or Knokke bustle with activity all year through. Here you find everything you could wish for on an excursion: an array of specialist shops, fashion, art galleries, casinos, golf courses, bike riding and culinary delights in the many restaurants and bistros.
Picturesque Villages

Damme is Flanders in a nutshell. Every stone tells its medieval story and reflects the Burgundian glory of long ago. Stroll along the romantic streets with their specialist book shops and relax in one of the many restaurants and cafés. Enjoy the magnificent view from the tower top of the 14th century Church of our Lady.

In the immediate vicinity of the ports you can also discover other villages like Lissewege or Stene, situated in the historic polders. All facilities are available to give you the chance to enjoy these oases of peace and nature. Several cycling and walking tours are organized in and around the polders, linking nature, gastronomy and historical monuments. Or, why not hop across the border to Holland to the charming little town of Sluis with its wide variety of shops.
Cruising in North-West Europe is becoming increasingly popular but the industry is also faced with new challenges and is looking to reduce costs whilst offering more choice to the passengers and opening up new source markets. Zeebrugge fits the picture. We want to improve our service level to cruise lines and their guests by offering turnaround possibilities from a new terminal building.

We have the transport infrastructure, the hotel accommodation, a wide range of shore excursions and pre and post possibilities.

From mid 2018 onwards the Port of Zeebrugge will offer cruise lines soft and full embarkation facilities from a brand new multifunctional terminal building adjacent to the Swedish Quay cruise berths.

Zeebrugge is first and foremost a transit port with nearly 170 calls announced for both 2017 and 2018 bringing more than half a million people (passengers and crew) to Flanders and Belgium. These numbers require a smooth running complimentary port shuttle operation between the gangways and the cruise building at the terminal exit.
The cruise building terrain will have both secured ISPS-zones and publically accessible zones including a 6,000 m² (= 65,000 sq. ft) staging area to organize transport to and from the cruise terminal. The taxi lane will accommodate 17 taxis at all times. Traffic signs will direct free independent travelers to public transport, which is available just around the corner.

Cruise passengers, officers and crew will be welcome on the ground floor which will have separate arrival and departure areas, toilets, information counters and souvenir shops. The second floor is a large waiting area with catering facilities and will be used for MICE purposes on non-cruise days. Multiple video screens will provide the guests with all necessary information.

Both floors have a 1,600 m² (= 17,500 sq. ft) surface area and overlook the marina. Works of art and a giant video wall will increase the guest’s visiting experience. Free wifi will be available throughout the building. The 7th floor will have panoramic views from the roof garden, a brasserie restaurant offering local flavor and a visitor centre.
The Zeebrugge terminal building will comply with Schengen legislation border inspection as required, together with the ISPS-code. Security services including luggage scanning, 4 lines for hand luggage screening/scanning and walk-through detectors will be available.

Turnaround capacity is set at 1,500 passengers. The use of an additional marquee will allow to increase this number. Brussels Airport is actively working together with the port to develop inbound cruise tourism flows and to create a seamless airport-cruise port for passengers and their luggage. The port has also started establishing co-operation with several airlines using Brussels airport in order to provide the necessary hospitality services and facilities to welcome arriving or departing cruise passengers.

Zeebrugge is the perfect hub location: thanks to the high-speed rail network and excellent road systems, major European cities like London, Paris and Amsterdam are never more than 2-3 hours from this superb port.
The Belgian railway company, together with the city and the port of Oostende have started the construction of a multi-functional cruise terminal, integrated in the railway station.

This transparent glass construction will offer all embarkation and disembarkation facilities for handling 800 cruise passengers or for organizing special events for the cruise industry.

Conform to the principles of sustainable development, all transport modes are integrated to allow cruise guests to discover Oostende and its hinterland by train, tram, taxi, bus or bike.

The opening of the new terminal, which is only a two-minute walk away from the Oostende city center, will be organized in 2017.
Oostende already has a proven track record as a full turnaround port. Zeebrugge has the ambition to follow suit. Both ports also have the transport connections and local or nearby hotel accommodation to make it work.

High-speed trains link Belgium’s capital Brussels to London, Paris, Amsterdam, Lille and Köln. The Belgian domestic rail and road network provides a smooth and quick link from Brussels to the coastal ports.

The very close proximity of the regional airport of Oostende-Bruges could potentially be very instrumental in convincing guests to start their holiday on the Belgian coast. Currently, moreover, we are working closely together with Brussels Airport, who offer a worldwide network to and from the heart of Europe. Brussels Airport welcomed nearly 25 million passengers in 2015 and offers frequent flights to all European capital cities, major regional centres and leisure destinations. Their network includes more than 200 destinations served by some 70 passenger airlines.

The direct service to North American destinations includes daily flights to/from Atlanta, Chicago, New York (JFK), Newark, Philadelphia, Washington, Montréal and Toronto. Brussels airport is just 75 minutes away from Bruges and 90 minutes from the terminals in Zeebrugge or Oostende, which are both served by (at least) hourly train services.
Brussels Airport has committed itself to develop the necessary services and facilities required by our cruise line partners. This includes specific luggage handling solutions, cruise line welcoming desks, dedicated signage and location for coach transport and enhanced online information about ground transport options between the airport and the ports. Alternatively Schiphol, Charles de Gaulle and London Heathrow are just over 3 hours away from the cruise berth in Zeebrugge or Oostende.

In Bruges, Oostende and Knokke hotels abound, from luxurious 5-star hotels to more affordable, reasonably priced accommodation. As to restaurants, the Michelin Guide states ‘Bruges is called the epicentre of the world’s gastronomy for good reason. The city places itself on the menu with an impressive list of first-class restaurants.’ The Bruges area can boast an impressive 21 michelin stars, including 2 three-star restaurants.
Why Zeebrugge and Oostende

• Easy access on the coast, short approach time for the ship
• No river navigation, reducing fuel cost and saving time
• No congestion at the port
• Turnaround facilities

• Visit Bruges, the “Venice of the North”
• Visit ‘Flanders Fields’ (Ypres), the Great War memorials and the Menin Gate
• Visit Brussels, the capital of Europe
• Visit historic cities such as Ghent and Antwerp

• Zeebrugge and Oostende are Belgium’s marquee ports with direct access from the sea
• Make your visit pay dividends both in time and money
• Easy and non-congested road connections:
  - Bruges: 20 minutes
  - Antwerp: 80 minutes
  - Brussels: 75 minutes
  - Ghent: 55 minutes
  - Flanders Fields (Ypres): 40 minutes

• High-speed train connections from Brussels to Europe’s main capitals and airports:
  - London: 111 minutes
  - Paris: 85 minutes
  - Amsterdam: 112 minutes
  - Köln: 85 minutes
  - Lille: 35 minutes

• Dedicated and personalized services from:
  - Port authorities
  - Cities of Bruges and Oostende
  - Private agents
  - Shore excursion providers

Port Authority Zeebrugge / MBZ nv
P. Vandammehuis
Isabellalaan 1, B-8380 Zeebrugge
Tel. +32/50/54 32 11 - Fax +32/50/54 32 24
www.portofzeebrugge.be
pvk@mbz.be

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1917
TOTAL WAR IN FLANDERS
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VISIT SEAFRONT, maritime theme park with Russian submarine.
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Open: 7/7 - daily as from 10h
Visit duration: 2 hours - Free visitor’s guide (Eng.)

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