Port of Bruges/Zeebrugge
Cruise Terminal Building
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Every year Zeebrugge, the port of Bruges, welcomes more than 140 cruise ships, bringing some 400,000 passengers to discover the manyfold tourist attractions Flanders and Belgium have to offer. Currently, Zeebrugge is a day call port for cruise lines ranging from contemporary to luxury but with the help of the city of Bruges it will now have the capability to offer soft and full turnaround opportunities, depending on the number of passengers.

On 15 June 2018 the Zeebrugge Cruise Terminal building will be inaugurated. The cruise terminal facilities will be part of a series of new services available through the construction of the multi-purpose ABC-Tower. Both lower floors as well as the top floor will be used to allow both transit and turnaround passengers a comfortable and smooth terminal experience. The other floors will be occupied by private companies and the ‘cruise’ floors will also be available for MICE-initiatives. The building is located next to the marina, a few hundred meters from the quay, a fleet of complimentary port shuttle buses will ensure an uninterrupted passenger flow between the ships’ gangway and the terminal.
**Terminal Services**

The building will offer the many day call passengers improved comfort and provide an enhanced passenger experience. But it is equally designed to cater for full turnarounds for small & medium sized ships whilst offering interporting opportunities for contemporary and premium ships.

- The terminal building will comply with Schengen legislation border inspection as required, together with the ISPS-code. The correct and timely supply of the pax and crew list, preferably in the AnNa 1.1 spreadsheet, will be the basis for a risk analysis, which will determine the level of border inspection.
- Security services including luggage scanning, 4 lines for hand luggage screening/scanning and walk-through detectors will be available.
- Turnaround capacity is set at 1,000 passengers. The use of an additional marquee will allow to increase this number.
- The cruise building terrain will have both secured zones and publically accessible zones including a 6,000 m² (= 65,000 sq. ft) staging area to organize transport to and from the terminal. The taxi lane will accommodate 19 taxis and public transport is available close by.
- Every ship is entitled to a complimentary port shuttle bus between the gangway and the terminal.
- Cruise passengers, officers and crew will be welcome on the ground floor, which will have separate arrival and departure areas, toilets, information counters, check-in facilities and a gift shop.
- The first floor (1,600 m² = 17,500 sq. ft) offers a waiting lounge for departing passengers and a separated crew lounge.
- A multitude of video screens, including a giant video wall, will provide continuous inspirational imagery of tourist marvels the region has to offer. In addition works of art will embellish the iconic architecture.
- The 7th floor has a rooftop brasserie where guests can indulge in local delicacies such as Belgian waffles, beer and chocolate. The terrace of the visitors centre offers a breathtaking panoramic view of the ship and the Belgian coastline.
- Free wifi is available throughout the building.
Bruges - The Ideal Start to a Cruise Holiday

With a growing drive-to source market in Belgium, Northern France, Holland and Western Germany passengers will be able to start their cruise closer to their own home in a cost-effective way. If they wish they can prolong their trip with a pre or post in the Unesco World Heritage City of Bruges.

Bruges is the best preserved example of medieval Flanders. 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 exquisite local gastronomy.

Zeebrugge has the transport connections and local or nearby hotel accommodation to succeed as an embarkation or disembarkation port for a cruise. Bruges itself hosts 98 hotels offering 4,400 beds in addition to many options available in the popular coastal resorts like Knokke or Ostend ranging from luxurious 5-star hotels to more affordable, reasonably priced rooms.

Connectivity

Belgium is a small country with excellent road and rail connections. Brussels, the capital of Europe, is just 75 minutes away from Bruges and 90 minutes from Zeebrugge and both are served by (at least) hourly train services. With High-speed trains linking Brussels to London, Paris, Amsterdam, Lille and Köln in just a couple of hours, millions of potential cruise travellers are within reach.
The Port of Zeebrugge and Brussels Airport are working very closely together in order to offer cruise lines an integrated air-sea policy. This comprehensive partnership aims to jointly develop inbound cruise tourism flows and create a seamless airport experience. This involves investigating and implementing operational processes and services with airlines, cruise lines and handling agents:

- Welcome services on arrival at airport
- Passenger and luggage transport between airport and ship
- Airline check-in facilities at Zeebrugge
- Hospitality facilities upon departure from airport

Brussels airport offers a worldwide network to and from the heart of Europe with over 200 destinations served by some 70 passenger airlines. With nearly 25 million passengers annually Brussels airport offers frequent flights to all European capital cities and major regional centres. The network also includes daily direct flights to and from North American origins like Atlanta, Chicago, New York (JFK), Newark, Philadelphia, Washington, Montréal and Toronto. China is served with daily flights to and from Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Hong Kong.

In addition to the Brussels hub, the very close proximity of the hassle-free regional airport of Oostende-Bruges could potentially be very instrumental in convincing guests to start their holiday on the Belgian coast.

Alternatively Schiphol, Charles de Gaulle and London Heathrow are just over 3 hours away from the cruise berth in Zeebrugge.
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