

NEW The Florales of Gent, 2010



Established in 1809, The Florales has grown to become a grand exhibition. Staged every five years it presents the finest flowers, plants and botanical treasures. It takes place at the Flanders Expo in Gent, only a short drive from Brugge and Antwerp, from Saturday 17 April to Sunday 25 April 2010 inclusive. We have limited dates available for our tours based in Gent and Antwerp.

Tour Itinerary

We recommend a full day to include Gent and The Florales (entrance is included in our tour prices).

Additional excursion possibilities include Antwerp, Brugge, Mechelen, Leuven and Brussels.

We can, on request, combine a trip to the Dutch Bulbfields (see page 67) with a visit to the Florales.

Carlton Hotel, Antwerp

Our opinion: Recently refurbished, this is a very stylish 4 star hotel. It is centrally located close to the city park.

Hotel Astoria, Antwerp

Our opinion: A 3 star hotel. It is centrally located close to the city park. Our price here includes bed and breakfast but dinner can be arranged at a nearby hotel on request (please ask for details).

Ramada Plaza, Antwerp

Our opinion: A smart 4 star hotel in a convenient and pleasant residential location near the Antwerp Ring.

Holiday Inn Gent Expo, Gent

Our opinion: A good 4 star hotel located beside the Gent Expo Exhibition Centre. There are convenient public transport connections to the city centre.

4 day tour including:

- Return short Channel ferry crossings
- 3 nights hotel accommodation as shown below
- Entrance to the 2010 Florales

2010 price per person - April 2010

Carlton, Antwerp	HB	£245
Astoria, Antwerp	B&B	£148
Ramada Plaza, Antwerp	HB	£209
Holiday Inn, Gent Expo	HB	£216

Battlefields of the Western Front

The battles which took place in Flanders and the Somme from 1914-18 were on a massive scale and left countless thousands dead. Our tour is based near Ypres, perhaps the war's most famous site, and is well placed for touring Flanders and The Somme. Our 4 star hotel is in Menen, a charming market town a short drive from Ypres.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Channel crossing and on to Flanders.

Day 2 Ypres is a thriving historic town that was devastated during some of the bloodiest battles of 1917/18. See the 'In Flanders Fields Museum', the Menen Gate and nearby Tyne Cot, the largest British war cemetery. We can, on request, arrange a late evening meal after the daily Last Post Ceremony at the Menen Gate (8pm).

Day 3 A full day to the Somme, in France. See the Thiepval Memorial and Beaumont Hamel Memorial Park with the 'danger tree' and trench system. Return via the Canadian Memorial and Vimy Ridge.

Day 4 Depart and journey home with a variety of possible stops en route.



Menen Gate
Tourism Flanders



Cloth Hall, Ypres
Tourism Flanders

Best Western Ambassador, Menen

Our opinion: A 4 star hotel found in the centre of Menen, only a short walk from the market place. With only 30 guest bedrooms this hotel offers intimacy and comfort. The hotel has a bar, dining room and lift. Coach parking is possible nearby.

- 4 star • Lift • Nearby coach parking
- Buffet breakfast and 3 course dinner with menu choice

4 day tour including:

- Return short Channel ferry crossings
- 3 nights half board in Menen

2010 price per person

Jan, Feb, Nov & Dec	£148
Mar to Oct	£165

Brugge... Chocolate and Lace



Brugge
Tourism Flanders

Brugge is a real gem that remains one of our most popular short break destinations. A walk through the streets and around the Markt confirms that the citizens of Brugge remain proud of their city and that their forefathers have nurtured and cherished the countless architectural and artistic treasures.

The compact historic centre is now included on the UNESCO World Heritage List and, with its squares, gardens, canals, grand buildings and cobbled streets, demands some hours exploration. Any tour to Brugge should include at least 1 full day at leisure in the city.

Excursion options then include nearby Gent, with its old town, belfry and cathedral, Ypres, with the fantastic In Flanders Fields Museum, and the long stretch of sandy coastline around Ostend.

Your Tour Hotel

We recommend no less than four 4 star hotels. All have excellent city centre locations and offer very comfortable accommodation. Buffet breakfast is included at all.

It is possible for coaches to drop off and collect from all hotels but parking is only possible in the Brugge official coach parking areas.

Few hotels in Brugge offer half board but we can, when required, always arrange evening meals in a nearby restaurant.

Fascinating Flanders

Flanders is packed with historic towns and cities. Our tour will provide a real surprise for all new visitors. Each of the three cities featured here offer a unique range of historic buildings, cobbled streets, wide market places, museums, plus cafés and restaurants that would satisfy the most discerning of gourmets. Our base is a 3 star superior hotel in the centre of Mechelen, one of Flanders treasures. It is a well kept secret that Mechelen boasts 3 UNESCO World Heritage sites and almost as many classified monuments and buildings as Brugge! This tour departs on Friday but variations can be arranged on request.



Town Hall, Mechelen
Visit Flanders

Tour Itinerary

Day 1 Short Channel crossing. To Mechelen for dinner.

Day 2 A morning at leisure in Mechelen. Discover the market square, waterways, St Rumbout's Cathedral and regular market. In the afternoon on to Leuven where the beautiful squares and Begijnhof will prove a highlight. Return to Mechelen, where there are a host of good restaurants to be found near the hotel.

Day 3 A full day excursion to Gent. We recommend a morning guided sightseeing tour with afternoon at leisure. Return to Mechelen with the remainder of the evening at leisure.

Day 4 Short drive to Calais, with a possible visit to Brugge or Ypres en route. Channel crossing and home.



Gent
Visit Flanders

Park Hotel, Brugge

Our opinion: A good 4 star hotel on t'Zand Square, around 10 minutes walk from the Markt. The area abounds with stylish cafés and restaurants.

Hotel Portinari, Brugge

Our opinion: A very comfortable, traditional 4 star hotel with a convenient location on t'Zand Square and within easy walking distance of the very heart of the historic city.

Hotel Aragon, Brugge

Our opinion: A very intimate 4 star hotel located only a few hundred yards from the Markt, in the very heart of the city.

Oud Huis de Peellaert, Brugge

Our opinion: An exceptional 4 star hotel in the heart of the city. This wonderful building has been lovingly restored and offers something special.

3 day tour including:

- Return short Channel ferry crossings
- 2 nights bed and buffet breakfast in Brugge

2010 price per person

Jan & Feb	£92
Mar	£105
Apr to Sept	£128
Oct to early Nov	£124
Mid/late Nov & Dec	£109

Prices here are based on the Park Hotel.



Novotel Mechelen Centrum

Novotel Mechelen Centrum, Mechelen

Our opinion: A 3 star superior hotel with an excellent location in the very heart of Mechelen. This "new generation" Novotel offers excellent standards of comfort as well as a relaxing bar and restaurant.

- 3 star superior • Lift • Nearby coach parking
- Buffet breakfast and 3 course dinner

4 day tour including:

- Return short Channel ferry crossings
- 1 night HB and 2 nights B&B in Mechelen
- Welcome drink

2010 price per person

Jan to Mar, Oct to Dec	£144
Apr to Sept	£148

We will be pleased to arrange additional meals, guides or brewery visits on request.