

INTRO

"Flanders. Nowhere else is the gap between epic and ordinary, mortal and hero, dream and reality closer than these 5,000 square miles of north Belgium. All of the things that make cycling great reach a crescendo in Flanders. The legendary Flemish riders, called 'Flandriens', look more like you and me, winning with grit and endurance, not exact calculations of watts per kilo. The roads are winding, narrow and brutal, broken stones from a bygone era, vanquished in three- and four-minute bouts of suffering, not hour-long exercises in balancing on your anaer-obic threshold. The races themselves, such as the Ronde or Gent-Wevelgem are as much a part of the landscape as the farmer's

fields and ancient villages they crisscross. Bicycles are cutting edge craftsmanship in Flanders.

For hard-core cycling enthusiasts, a trip to Flanders is nothing less than a pilgrimage to the most hallowed grounds in the sport. Ride on the roads where natives like Eddy Merckx, Johan Museeuw and Tom Boonen became legends." *

This brochure offers an overview of all you need to know about Flanders as an all year round cycling destination par excellence. Simply flick through the pages and be inspired.

^{*} As seen in Peloton Magazine



Discover everything about cycling

IN FLANDERS

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road race



cyclosportive



cyclo cross



retro



track

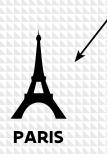


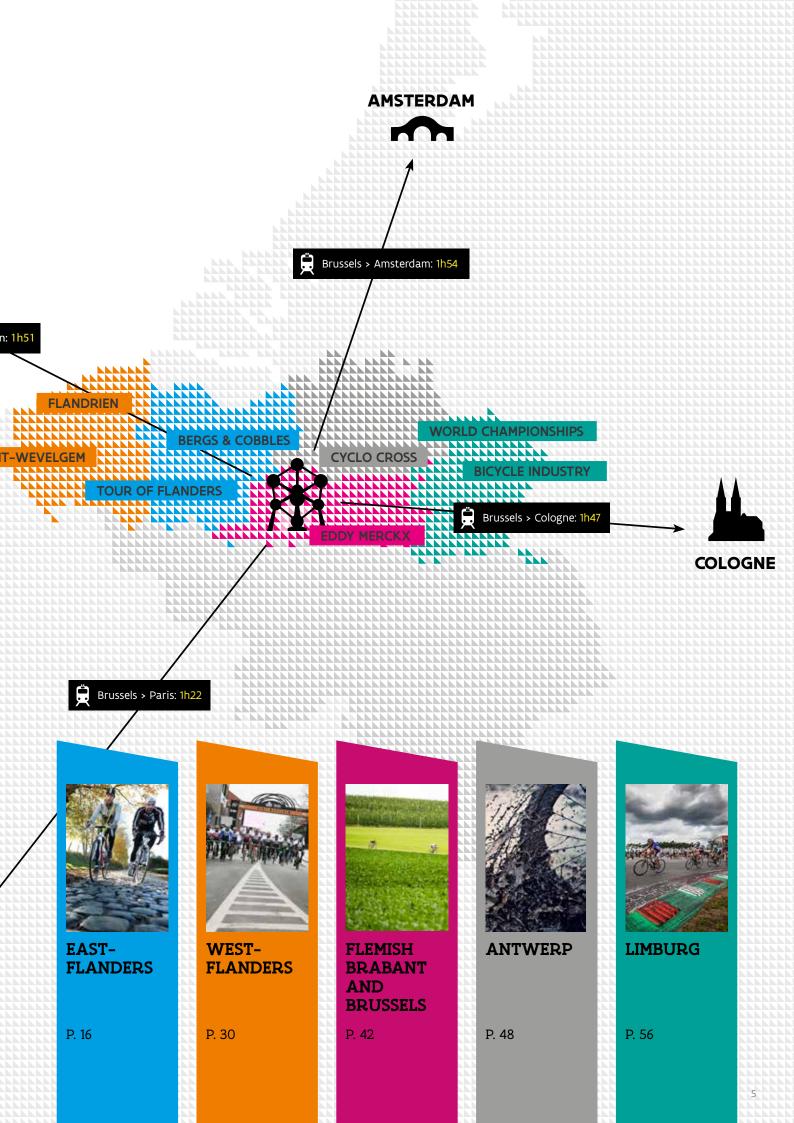
museum + experience centre



bike manufacturer







FACTS & FIGURES









2000 RACES PER YEAR



CYCLE NODE NETWORK
OF OVER

12,000 KMS

OF CYCLING ROUTES









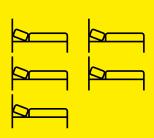
A GOOD 60% OF HOUSEHOLDS OWN TWO BIKES OR MORE

FLEMISH PEOPLE RIDE 8,500,000 KILOMETRES A DAY OR THE EQUIVALENT OF 212 TIMES AROUND THE WORLD





ACCORDING TO STRAVA,
THE FLEMISH PEOPLE ARE AMONG
THE FASTEST CYCLISTS IN THE WORLD
AND RIDE THE LONGEST DISTANCES



OVER 500
BICYCLE FRIENDLY
ACCOMMODATIONS

40%

OF THE TOURISTS
STAYING IN
THE FLEMISH REGIONS
CYCLE DURING
THEIR HOLIDAY

PEOPLE IN FLANDERS
USE THEIR BIKE FOR
1/7 OF THEIR DAILY TRIPS
IN FLANDERS





TOUR OF FLANDERS

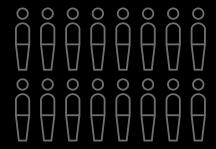


FIRST RACE IN 1913

ONE OF
THE FIVE
BIG 'MONUMENTS'
OF CYCLING

UCI WORLDTOUR RACE





1,000,000

SPECTATORS

FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD



GLOBAL TV AUDIENCE
50 MIO DIRECT

AND A TOTAL OF OVER 160 MIO

16,000 PEOPLE

RIDE THE SPORTIVE
THE DAY BEFORE THE RACE



500

JOURNALISTS



GENERAL

INCOMING TOUR OPERATORS

Do you want to really discover Flanders from a local's perspective? There are many Flemish tour operators who organise tours for both individuals and groups, on the routes of the classic Flemish road races. They will be only too happy to offer you a fully personalised package tour.

Veloflanders

+32 475 76 61 63

steven@veloflanders.com

www.veloflanders.com

Veloflanders offers one or several-day packages fully tailored to your wishes with an experienced local guide who can put together the ideal route for you. That way you can race your own Tour of Flanders! This formula is particularly renowned and recommended by foreign tourists but is of course also available for Belgians.

Go4Cycling

info@go4cycling.com

www.go4cycling.com

Go4Cycling mainly offers multi-day packages for national and international tourists. The mix of amateur cyclo tours and VIP road race packages is a great combination, giving you the chance to watch the pros, as well as try out the same route yourself.

Kortweg Cycling

+32 497 48 06 57

info@kortweg.be

www.kortweg.be

Kortweg offers cycling trips with professional bicycle transport services, support cars and a fixed team of experienced staff who know the Flemish Ardennes like the back of their hand. Guests even have the option of joining a cycling tour with Johan Museeuw himself.

Rollercoaster Bikes

www.rcbikes.be

Rollercoaster Bikes organises guided mountain bike trips in the vicinity of Maarkedal for groups of up to six guests, including clothing and equipment hire. This is where you leave the beaten track and discover the rugged side of the Flemish Ardennes.

Guideon

www.guideonflanders.com

At Guideon, three experienced guides offer three guided packages, including Classic Roads departing from Oudenaarde through the Flemish Ardennes. This operator is mainly focused on international tourists.

Museeuw Cycling Academy

<u>info@museeuwcyclingacademy.be</u> www.museeuwcyclingacademy.be

The Museeuw Cycling Academy provides guided cycling tours, coaching and advice by the legendary Johan Museeuw, three time winner of the Tour of Flanders. The range of options includes a Tour of Flanders package aimed at cycling tourists, social clubs and companies.

^^^^

vzw Allez Roulez

+32 498 67 05 11

info@allez-roulez.be

www.bike-guide.be

Allez Roulez is a brand-new non-profit association with a passion for the region. They offer customised and guided cycling tours following the classic routes of the pre-season road races for both national and international cycling tourists, both individuals and groups.

Flanders on Bike

flandersonbike@telenet.be www.flandersonbike.com

Flanders on Bike offers guided tours with a focus on the Tour of Flanders and the Flemish Ardennes. You'll cycle the famous bergs and cobbles, see the nicest small roads, typical restaurants and it's possible to include a brewery visit if you like. They allow you to choose the distance, intensity and level of your rides and are able to adapt to changes when necessary. You can bring your own bike or rent one.

Biking+

Delirium Est BVBA, Jean-Luc Dewulf

+32 56 35 38 56

info@bikingplus.com

www.bikingplus.com

Biking Plus grew out of our passion for cycling, culture, architecture, history, beer, gastronomy, nature, ... in short, for all the Belgian traditions. Biking Plus Belgium means: enjoying a luxurious holiday on and off your bike following the route of the classic Belgian road race 'The Tour of Flanders', and wandering through East and West Flanders. After a luxury cycling holiday with Biking+ you'll fall head over heels (but not over handlebar!) in love with Flanders and all of Belgium.

Baguet Velo Events

+32 486 30 82 01

serge.baguet@telenet.be

www.fietsstages-baguet.be

Serge Baguet is a former pro racer. His organisation Baguet Velo Events offers exclusive VIP packages for cycling races in Flanders and abroad and also organises custom team building events.

Flandrien Academy

hello@flandrienacademy.com

http://flandrienacademy.com

The aim of Flandrien Academy is to let you experience the unique Belgian cycling tradition and culture. Through their extensive local network they are uniquely positioned to deliver you a truly unforgettable experience. They don't offer many tours and the groups are small, to ensure you get the best attention.



TOUR OPERATORS WITH A WIDER RANGE THAN CYCLING

Cycling the western front

Carl Ooghe

+32 475 81 06 08

carl.ooghe@gmail.com

www.cyclingthewesternfront.co.uk

Carl Ooghe is a full time tour leader, highly specialised in cycling tours, specifically in Flanders Fields (+ northern France). Most of the tours start in Ypres. Carl works together with a licensed travel agency for hotel bookings, bicycle transport, ... He offers day tours as well as longer programmes. All tours are flexible and can be adapted in consultation with the client.

Biking Box

+32 477 59 23 82

info@bikingbox.be

www.bikingbox.be

Go cycling In Flanders Fields with experienced guides, including former professional cyclists. They plan your trip, your charming hotels and make sure that all

luggage arrives in time. You can rent one of their road race bicycles if you don't want to bring your own bike.

All About Belgium (AAB)

Kathleen Vermeiren,

General Manager

+32 53 80 98 18

info@aab-allaboutbelgium.be,

 $\underline{\text{kathleen.vermeiren@aab-allaboutbelgium.be}}$

www.aab-allaboutbelgium.be

AAB is an incoming travel agency for the Benelux countries, founded in 1997. AAB offers hotel accommodation, typical meal, guides, entrance tickets for exhibitions and special events, transfers, local assistants, company visits, theme evenings. ... Cycling is not their specialisation, but they handled cycling groups already (recreational groups, sportive groups and even professional teams). AAB is certainly willing to do this more in the future and will handle any group request for cycling, but they don't handle individual requests.

There is no cycling offer on the website: all programmes are on request.

Vos Travel

+32 51 24 03 40

info@vostravel.be

www.vostravel.be/en/cycling

VOS Travel has been an independent Belgian tour operator for 20 years. They're specialised in cycling and have increased their incoming activities significantly during the last years. VOS Travel cycling holidays are suitable for the individual and recreational cyclist, as well as for the gourmet.

De Toerist Biking

+32 13 52 28 18

biking@detoerist.be

www.detoeristbiking.be

De Toerist Biking is a specialist in organising outgoing biking vacations, mainly for groups. They didn't handle incoming



groups yet, so they don't have an English website. Still, they have the infrastructure, experience and knowledge to organise incoming cycling holidays and they're open for requests.

Flamme Rouge

Dieter D'Haene

+32 485 97 24 28 info@flammerouge.be dieter@flammerouge.be www.flammerouge.be Flamme Rouge offers customised and guided cycling tours. These include a tour through the Flemish Ardennes and theme tours on the Tour of Flanders and Gent - Wevelgem.

BIKE TRANSPORT

SPECIALISED BIKE TRANSPORT

Evidently, vans can be rented from the major car rental companies (Hertz, Avis, Europear, ...). But there are some attractive alternatives which are adapted to the needs of cyclists:

Cycling support

Huttegem 4, 8570 Anzegem

+32 496 84 04 41

 $\underline{info@cyclingsupport.be}$

 $\underline{www.cyclingsupport.be}$

Cycling support is a company offering different cycling related services. They rent specialised vans for 9 persons in which 8 bikes can be stored. It's an ideal vehicle for groups who want to cycle for more than

one day, both suitable for recreational and sportive cyclists. Cycling support can also provide guides (like Eric De Clercq, a former professional cyclist) and hotels (in cooperation with a licensed travel agency).

X-cycling: motorhomes

Mr. Rik Geers

+32 477 72 40 53

info@Xcycling.com

www.x-cycling.com

X-cycling has two luxurious motorhomes. The bigger can host 6 people, the smaller is for 4 people. The motorhomes can transport bikes. X-cycling wants to reach clients who want a full 'cycling experi-

ence' for a couple of days. Mostly clients cycle a classic route on the day before the professionals do so. On the next day, they watch the race live (with the camper parked at a place where a race passes). Clients can combine this with more cycling or sightseeing on a couple of extra days. Programmes are flexible (the cycling can be challenging or recreational) and upon demand.



COACHES WITH BIKE TRAILERS

There are a lot of coach companies who have luggage trailers, but few who have special bike trailers. These special bike trailers typically can contain 28, 36, 40 or even 44 bikes (any type of bike: racing bikes, MTB, city bikes, ...). Note that the website of these coach operators is mostly only in Dutch. But they certainly can be contacted from abroad (in English or French).

De Meibloem

(three trailers and experienced in excursions to cycling races)

Kasteelstraat 149, 8700 Tielt

+32 51 40 18 23,

info@demeibloem.be, www.demeibloem.be

Mandel Car

(bike trailer with 36 bikes)

Prins Albertlaan 78, 8870 Izegem

+32 51 31 75 74,

info@mandelcar.be, www.mandelcar.be

Albion Tours

(bike trailer with 36 bikes)

Hulkstraat 3, 8380 Zeebrugge

+32 50 51 86 88

info@albion.be, www.albion.be





Sima Tours

(bike trailer with 36 bikes)

Statiestraat 205, 8810 Lichtervelde

+32 51 54 12 99

info@simatours.be, www.simatours.be

International Tours BVBA

(bike trailer with 36 bikes)

A. Brackxstraat 16, 8400 Ostend

+32 59 70 12 59

info@internationaltours.be, www.internationaltours.be

De Buck Incentives

(several trailers)

Steenweg 233A, 9810 Eke

+32 9 385 41 52.

info@debuckincentives.com, www.debuckincentives.com

Van Mullem en Zonen byba

(two trailers: 20 and 28 bikes)

IP Soldatenplein Z2, 18, 3300 Tienen

+ 32 16 81 25 52

info@van-mullem.be, www.van-mullem.be

Reizen Lauwers

(two trailers)

Nijverheidsstraat 17, 2530 Boechout

+32 3 460 18 07

planning@lauwers.be, www.autocarverhuurlauwers.be

Van Bogget Reizen

(bike trailer with 40 bikes)

Aven Ackers 18, 9130 Verrebroek

+32 3 773 41 22

info@vanbogget.be, www.vanbogget.be

De Zigeuner

(7 trailers for 36-44 bikes)

Industrielaan 7, 3590 Diepenbeek

+32 11 35 04 04

info@dezigeuner.com, www.dezigeuner.be



BICYCLE-FRIENDLY PLACES TO STAY

Contemplating an overnight stay in Flanders? There are dozens of options available from hotels to guest lodges and holiday houses. Via www.visitflanders.com you can search for accommodation that has received a 'bicycle-friendly' label. This label is your guarantee of quality accommodation and facilities adapted to meet the needs of cyclists. The prices quoted are per person sharing a two-person room with breakfast. Prices are subject to change at any time.

Please consult the websites directly for the most up-to-date information.

The 23 Flemish hostels are also a good choice for cyclists. All hostels have their own style and atmosphere. They have something for everyone, whether you want to cycle, relax and enjoy nature, get cultural in the city or get a breath of fresh air at the coast. On your own, with some friends or in a larger group, just go and be surprised by the won-

ders of Flanders and our budget-friendly hostels. You'll find all the information you need on **www.jeugdherbergen.be/en/**.

Looking for accommodations that breathe cycling, are beautifully located in 'cycling territory' or host pro-teams almost every year? Check out our tips per region in this brochure.

ROUTE PLANNING TOOLS

It's best to choose a route that's suited to you before you leave. You can always make your own route via **www.fietsnet.be** (available in Dutch, but easy to use). You will find all the numbered junction points of the Flanders cycling network online here. Simply click your choice of junction points and create your own loop. You can print your route afterwards, just write down the numbers or export it to your GPS. Easy as that!

Looking for loop routes created by other cyclists? Than be sure to check **www.fietsroute.org**. On this website you will find detailed descriptions of bike routes

in Flanders, as well as points of interest along routes of other regions. These rides are grouped by city and route. Most of them include a description and a detailed itinerary. Flanders is a bike lover's dream with hundreds of well signposted cycling routes. The website also enables you to create your own route using the junction points of the Flanders cycling network.

Another tool to search for routes (or create your own), is the **www.routeyou.com** website. You can search routes specifically suited for road racing, with a lot of climbs in them, etc.

And then there's also the **FietsKompas** app (in Dutch), which enables you to create your route using the junction points of the Flanders cycling network. The app then functions as a GPS device and also has voice instructions. Also nice: the possibility to find bike friendly pubs along your route. Available for iPhone and soon also for Android.

In this brochure, we also mention specific routes per region. Be sure to check them out too!

FLANDERS: AN ACCESSIBLE CYCLING DESTINATION

Flanders wants to be an enjoyable cycling destination for everyone: young and slightly older visitors, tourists with or without disabilities or care needs, etc. Therefore, we are happy to help you if you have additional needs or questions when planning a trip to Flanders.

You will find a great deal of information on the website **www.visitflanders.com/ accessibility** to prepare your holiday or trip according to your specific needs and requirements. You can search for a holiday accommodation, day trips, places where you can get a bite to eat or have a drink, rental of adapted bikes, suitable routes.

events and so much more. Additionally, you can find information on arranging suitable transportation, care or equipment.

If you have specific questions, feel free to contact us through **accessible@visitflanders.com** or +32 2 504 03 40.

CYCLING AND BEER

In a region famous for its beers and its cycling culture, it should not come as a surprise that there are quite some cycling beers. Cycling and drinking beer: a difficult combination? Maybe, but somehow they go together very well in Flanders.

Sportive cyclists often finish their cycling tour with a (couple of) beer(s) – if they didn't interrupt their tour for this already, preferably on a sunny terrace. Flemish people love the stories about the cyclists in the good old days, mixing a raw egg in their Rodenbach (a traditional sour red ale), as an ideal breakfast before the race. Some breweries actively support cyclo's (for example the Roman brewery sponsors the Ename Classic, which is named after their famous abbey beer). Several beers are named

after a famous slope or have a name that's related to cycling in another way: Giesbaargs Muurken (local dialect for 'Muur van Geraardsbergen'), Kwaremont, Orvélo, Malteni, Koerseklakske (cycling cap), De Bie Vélo, Kasseileggersbier (men who construct cobblestone roads), ... Cycling and beer culture have always been closely related in Flanders, and without any doubt they will always be!

Quench your thirst with these beers in one of the many cycling pubs mentioned below in this brochure. For more information on Belgian beers in Flanders, visit the www.visitflanders.com website (Themes > Belgian beers) or ask for our trade brochure on beer.







PER REGION

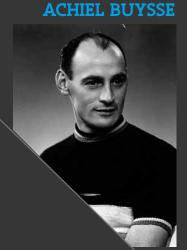
Flanders has a lot to offer. Whether you want to watch a race, join a cyclo, visit a cycling museum, ride one of the specific routes, have a pre ride coffee or post ride beer, rent a race bike, stay in a cycling accommodation or go to a stylish cycling shop.

There are loads of possibilities that cater for your cycling needs. In the next chapters, we give you an overview of all this cycling wealth by region.

ROGER DE VLAEMINCK



PATERBERG



LUCIEN VAN IMPE



OUDE KWAREMONT



SIX DAYS OF GHENT



KOPPENBERG

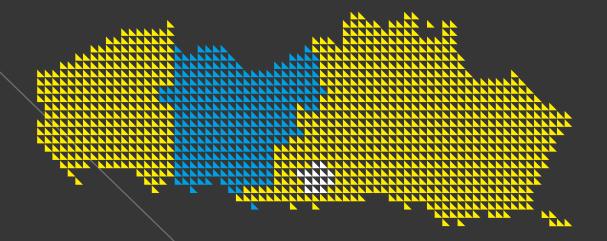
TOUR OF FLANDERS

MUUR

East-Flanders

A PERFECT CYCLING DAY IN EAST-FLANDERS

Wake up in B&B 't Juiste Verzet, located on the Oude Kwaremont. Rent a bike from the nearby Fietsen Jowan bikeshop and go for one of the Tour of Flanders cycling routes. Have lunch at and pay a visit to the Tour of Flanders centre. Continue you ride and finish with a cycling beer at Café Koppenberg or In De Zon (Kwaremont).







road race



cyclosportive



cyclo cross



retro



track



museum + experience centre



bike manufacturer



WATCH A RACE OR JOIN A CYCLOSPORTIVE

For as long as anyone can remember, the Flemish Ardennes has formed the backdrop for an untold number of road races that have inspired both pros and amateurs to push their abilities to the limit. The region plays host to both individual races and stages in multi-day races that are drawn to the Flemish Ardennes for its cobblestones and hills. Whether you're planning to race yourself or just come and admire the spectacle, you'll find more than enough inspiration in this list of events:

March

Omloop Het Nieuwsblad

 $\underline{www.omloophetnieuwsblad.be}$

Omloop Het Nieuwsblad is the opening race of the Spring Classics. Racers and racing fans have been eagerly looking forward to this day for months. Contestants will be twisting and turning through the Flemish Ardennes, bumping over cobblestones and fighting the wind.

the first time. How prepared are they? How many percentage points are they away from their top condition? What is the competition up to?

Dwars door Vlaanderen Cyclo



www.proximuscyclingchallenge.be

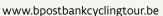
Amateur race, 10 days before the pros.

Omloop Het Nieuwsblad Cyclo

www.proximuscyclingchallenge.be

The Omloop for amateurs, one day after the pros.

Ename Classic



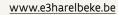
Cycling tour that starts at the Bevegemse Vijvers in Zottegem (Flemish Ardennes).

Dwars door Vlaanderen



In the Dwars door Vlaanderen race that takes place just one and a half weeks before Flanders' Finest, the Tour of Flanders, the best racers will have the opportunity to test their Tour legs for

E3 Harelbeke



The E3 Harelbeke race starts and finishes in Harelbeke over 210 kilometres and is on the UCI World Tour calendar. It is used



as preparation race for the Tour of Flanders. The route is shorter but many of the climbs are tackled. The conditions are also comparable as cobbles, wind and climbs decimate the bunch. The route takes a large lap around East Flanders including 12 hills.

The Golden Flandrien



www.degoudenflandrien.be

The ultimate challenge for every cycling fanatic. This monster marathon includes all three RVV loops one after the other for a total distance of 250km.

E3 Harelbeke cyclo



www.e3harelbeke.be

Ride your own E3 on many hills and cobbles of the Flemish Ardennes.

June



The Retro Ronde Recommended

www.retroronde.be

Beer routes, vintage climbs, cycling flea markets and votes for the most ravishing retro racer.

April





www.sport.be/rondevanvlaanderen

The Tour of Flanders for tourists and amateurs. Limited to 16,000 participants, so be sure to register early.

Andrea Tafi Classic



www.proximuscyclingchallenge.be

Cycling tour including the Muur in Geraardsbergen.

Tour of Flanders Recommended



www.flandersclassics.be

The Tour of Flanders is the undisputed crown jewel in the Flemish cycling year. There is no day that true cycling fans yearn for more than the first Sunday in April. On that day, a whole nation is roused by the race.



www.bpostbankcyclingtour.be

Cycling tour starting in Aalst, through the Flemish Ardennes.

Peter van Petegem Classic



Safety Jogger Classic



Road tour for cyclo-cross or mountain bike from Oudenaarde, through the Flemish Ardennes.

www.safetyjoggerclassic.be



-May-

Super Classic



www.superklassieker.be

A combination of the Tour of Flanders and Paris-Roubaix.



July-

Become a Flandrien



www.proximuscyclingchallenge.be

Cycling tour through the Flemish Ardennes, starting and finishing at the Steenoven in Herzele.

August

GP Stad Zottegem



www.gpzottegem.be

Road race starting and finishing in Zottegem. Held since 1934.

September

Eneco Tour



www.enecotour.com

Multi-day road race, through Belgium and the Netherlands.

Classic Karel Van Wijnendaele (founder Ronde van Vlaanderen)



www.vckvw.be/trofeekarelvanwijnendaele.php

The former Tour of Flanders for amateurs starting in Sint-Martens-Latem near Ghent.

El Toro Grand Prix



www.el-toro.be

A race where winning is less important than having fun, where retro outfits are compulsory at the starting line but shaven legs are forbidden, unless you are of the female variety.

-October-





www.ronsekoerst.be

Mario De Clercq Grand Prix, the opening event of the Bpost Bank Trophy, on the flanks of the Hotond, the highest point in East-Flanders.



November

Koppenbergcross



www.koppenbergcross.be

Cyclo cross race that forms part of the GVA Trophy. Held every year on 1 November in the East-Flemish Melden (Oudenaarde).

Cyclocross Gavere



www.cyclocrossgavere.be

Part of the 'Superprestige' cyclo cross season.

The Six-days of Ghent



't Kuipke, Citadelpark, 9000 Ghent

www.z6sdaagse.be

Cycling enthusiasts are undoubtedly familiar with 't Kuipke. This cycling track hosts the yearly Six Days of Ghent, a world-famous track cycling event. This is Flanders' point of reference in the change from autumn to winter. Following good traditions, over 40,000 spectators will attend this show.

The six days is ridden on a covered track, with teams of two cyclists. The duo that has ridden the most rounds after six days and/or has scored the most points in the various auxiliary competitions wins.

VISIT A CYCLING MUSEUM, EXPERIENCE CENTRE, BIKE MANUFACTURER, TRACK, ...

Tour of Flanders Centre



Markt 43, 9700 Oudenaarde

+32 55 33 99 33

info@crvv.be

www.crvv.be

The Tour of Flanders Centre is in more than one way the ideal base camp for your Tour of Flanders. You will not only find a wealth of history about the race at the visitors' centre but also a wealth of comfortable and convenient facilities to start and finish your own tour of the Flemish Ardennes. There is free parking available around the corner (at the Ham, near Hotel Leopold). If you're thinking of riding one of the three Tour of Flanders routes or the Spartacus or Bahamontes routes (more information below), be sure to ask to borrow a free chip to register your time. You'll be able to measure your time up the Koppenberg, Kruisberg and the Muur as well as along Paddestraat.

A handy self-scan system makes it even easier to register the chip. After your ride, you can enjoy a shower at the TOFC (2 euros) and the Ronde Shop offers several must-see and must-have souvenirs. And to cap off a perfect day, try a delicious locally brewed beer at the Brasserie De Flandrien. The TOFC is open every day except Monday, from 10am to 6pm.

Eddy Merckx Flemish Cycling Centre

can see the entire track. At 52%, the bends

are exceptionally sharp, which means that

Ghent also has one of the fastest tracks



Zuiderlaan 8, 9000 Ghent

+32 9 245 75 08

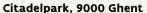
in Europe.

peter.deschoolmeester@bloso.be

www.bloso.be

Everyone is welcome on the hardwood, 250-metre long cycling track in Ghent's Blaarmeersen Sports and Recreation Park. The track is also open to amateur cyclists and starters for a couple of hours every weekday. A day pass costs 7.50 euros. You can rent a track bike on site, which costs 8.50 euros.

't Kuipke



www.kuipke.be

www.z6sdaagse.be

Cycling enthusiasts are undoubtedly familiar with 't Kuipke. This cycling track hosts the yearly Six Days of Ghent, a world-famous track cycling event. With a length of 166 metres, 't Kuipke is one of the shortest cycling tracks in the Six Days circuit. This means that you as a spectator







VISIT SOME CYCLING MONUMENTS

Anyone who travels along Flemish roads is bound to come across cycle racing monuments! The sculptures pay tribute to the 'monuments' from Flemish cycle racing history- both cycle racers and races alike. One of the finest is without a doubt located right next door to the church in the East Flanders village of Meerbeke, near Ninove. Thirty-nine years ago this was the finish line for **the Tour of Flanders**. At the corner of the churchyard stands a beautiful ensemble of statues and a poem by Willie Verhegghe that recalls the day: "White and watchful, the finish line waits expectantly for what is to come (...) And the people look intently on and shout out the names of their gods (...) The triumphant one emerges from a snarl of wheels to forever claim his place in the hall of fame."

In East Flanders, more specifically the Flemish Ardennes – the heart of The Ronde – you will discover even more monuments. For example, on the roundabout in **Brakel** (N48 and N8) there is a striking construction of brightly-coloured bicycles suspended in a cylindrical structure. In the Ronde van Vlaanderenstraat in Kwaremont you can greet **Karel Van Wijnendaele**, founder of the Tour of Flanders.

On the village square in Ruien, a sub-municipality of Kluisbergen, to the right of the church there is a small monument in honour of **Eddy Merckx**, who won his final victory there in 1977. In Sint-Martens- Lierde (Kwaadstraat) they pay tribute to **Emiel Faingnaert**, winner of the Tour of Flanders in 1947. At the beginning of the **Paddestraat** in Velzeke there is a monument featuring a cobble-

stone and the metal corner profiles bear the names of the winners of the Ronde since 1973, the year that the Tour of Flanders passed over the illustrious cobblestones for the very first time. In Wetteren, where the Ronde's finish line was also located for a number of years, you can find 'a monument to a monument'. 'De Coureur' at the Zeshoek (Kerkstraat) pays homage to **Achiel Buysse**, who won the Ronde three times (1940, 1941 and 1943).

Cycling heroes are also honoured in other East Flanders regions besides the Flemish Ardennes. For example, there is a memorial to **Noël Foré** at the municipal swimming pool (Oostveldstraat) in Eeklo. With his list of achievements, including the Tour of Flanders, Ghent-Wevelgem, Paris-Roubaix and Kuurne-Brussels-Kuurne, he was a typical cobblestone racer. Two Ronde winners are also honoured with a monument. In Lovendegem (Oostveld-kouter) a plaque commemorates **Maurice De Waele**'s victorious Tour of Flanders in 1929. At the church in the village of Wontergem where he was born there is a fine bronze sculpture that refers to **Lucien Buysse**, winner of the Tour de France in 1926.

Lastly in De Klinge, almost on the Dutch border, a small square was recently rechristened the Gebroeders De Loorplein, after the cycle racers **Alfons and Gustaaf De Loor**, who grew up there. Gustaaf De Loor went down in history as the winner of the very first Tour of Spain or Vuelta in 1935. The following year he won again and his brother Alfons finished in second place. To this day we have yet to see a repeat of two brothers occupying the top two positions on the podium.



RIDE ONE OF THE SPECIFIC ROUTES

Tour of Flanders cycling routes

Want to test if you have what it takes to be a die-hard cyclist or interested in exploring the Tour route? The Tour of Flanders Route will take you on a tour of the most legendary hills and cobbled sections. Tourism East-Flanders has combined three cycling loops in one unique Tour of Flanders map, with loads of information, facts and statistics about the route of the Tour. All the information you need is here: www.liveyourowntour.com





Meet 'Bergs and Cobbles', a tourist guide, full of practical information with four varied routes in the Flemish Ardennes. This guide is specifically designed for four different types of cyclists: the athlete, the gourmand, the culture lover and Tourfanatic. The routes range from 42 to 181 kilometres. Not coincidentally was the longest route named the 'Spartacus Route', a loop with 8 cobbles, 18 slopes and 2029 meters of climbing. The numbers on the cycling network of the 4 routes are included on a sticker, so you don't have to take the pocket with you on your trip. Apart from new cycling routes, the pocket also provides a complete overview of bicycle-friendly accommodation, cycling cafés and sporting events in the Flemish Ardennes. Check it out:

www.liveyourowntour.com



Other loop routes

In addition to the above routes, Tourism East-Flanders also has a number of brochures available on both pro and recreational cycling in the Flemish Ardennes. All routes in these brochures are loop routes. Some follow the cycling network, others deviate from it but they are all marked

with the rectangular green and white signs of the cycling network, hexagonal red and white signs or the rectangular Tour of Flanders route markers. For more information, visit the tourist office at any major town or city in East-Flanders or take a look at:

www.liveyourowntour.com

Create your own route

It's best to choose a route that's suited to you before you leave. You can always make your own route via **www.tov.be/fietsrouteplanner**. You will find all the numbered junction points of the East-Flanders cycling network online here. Simply click your choice of junction points and create your own loop. You can print your route afterwards, either as a map, or as a list of junction point numbers.



RENT A RACE BIKE

The following rental companies offer high-quality racing bikes for hire, all fully adjusted to your size, often with your own choice of parts and accessories. Some companies will even deliver your bike to your chosen destination. Want to try out something different? Get in touch with:

Fietsen D'hose

Tempel 70, 9570 Lierde

+32 55 42 61 28

ludwig.fietsen.dhose@telenet.be

www.fietsen-dhose.be

Kortweg Cycling

Bedrijfspark Hoogmolen, Kazerneweg 7 unit 10, 9770 Kruishoutem

+32 497 48 06 57

info@kortweg.be

www.kortweg.be

Fietsen Jowan

Buissestraat 34, 9690 Kluisbergen

+32 55 38 84 07

info@jowan.be

www.jowan.be

Asfra-Flanders Fietsen

Bergstraat 75, 9700 Oudenaarde

+32 55 31 57 40

info@asfra.be

www.asfra.be

Wheelpalace

Ambachtstraat 6, 9700 Eine

+32 55 31 20 79

info@wheelpalace.be

www.wheelpalace.be

Fietsen Fieles

Zuidlaan 150, 9630 Zwalm

+32 476 27 52 09

info@fietsenfieles.be

www.fietsenfieles.be

Het Verzet

Nieuwstraat 41, 9800 Deinze

+32 9 380 27 20

info@hetverzet.be

www.hetverzet.be

More information on

www.liveyourowntour.com/en/cycling/bike-rentals-and-repairs/

STAY IN A CYCLING ACCOMMODATION

Apart from the bike friendly accommodations mentioned in the general part of this brochure, we want to highlight some places to stay that breathe cycling, are beautifully located in 'cycling territory' or host pro-teams almost every year. Check them out:

HOTELS

Hotel Moriaanshoofd **

Moriaanshoofd 27, 9700 Mullem

+32 9 384 37 87

 $\underline{info@moriaanshoofd.be}$

www.moriaanshoofd.be

Yearly home of the Etixx-Quickstep team during the Tour of Flanders. Located close to Oudenaarde along cycling routes. Has a free and locked bicycle parking.

Leopold Hotel Oudenaarde ****

De Ham 14, 9700 Oudenaarde

+32 55 69 99 65

info.oudenaarde@leopoldhotels.com

www.leopoldhoteloudenaarde.com

With 58 deluxe guest rooms and a trendy bar, this is a stylish boutique hotel located in the city centre of Oudenaarde. Special accommodation for cycling groups.





Hotel Molenwiek **

Molenstraat 1. 9661 Parike

+32 55 42 26 15

info@molenwiek.be

www.molenwiek.be

Located in the beautiful heart of the Flemish Ardennes along cycling routes. Has a locked bicycle parking.

Hotel Horenbecca **

Kerkplein 9-11, 9667 Sint-Maria-Horebeke

+32 55 45 69 13

info@horenbecca.com

www.horenbecca.com

Located in a charming town in the Flemish Ardennes. Has a locked bicycle parking.

Hotel Auberge St.-Sebastien **

Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 36-38, 9600 Ronse

+32 55 21 38 66

St-Sebastien@skynet.be

www.st-sebastien.be

Located in the heart of Ronse and a good base for exploring the region.

GUEST ROOMS

B&B 't Juiste Verzet ****

Broektestraat 11, 9690 Kluisbergen

+32 55 38 78 61

info@tjuisteverzet.be

www.tjuisteverzet.be

Located on the Oude Kwaremont and with a big heart for cycling. The rooms are decorated with cycling artefacts.

pub that now serves as a common room. There's a swimming pool and covered patio in the spacious garden with petanque court and trampoline. Free bikes are available (electric bikes at extra cost). There are various packages related to cycling. Apart from cycling, beer is the central theme. More than 100 beers are available. Dinners can be arranged with an emphasis on local beers. All rooms are named after a local beer.

B&B Hof Ter Kammen ***

Schapendries 53, 9700 Oudenaarde

+32 55 30 35 58

hofterkammen@telenet.be

www.hofterkammen.be

Simple and hospitable family house in the heart of the Flemish Ardennes, between the historic Oudenaarde town centre and the foot of the Koppenberg. The guesthouse is decorated in the theme of the Ronde Van Vlaanderen. The four rooms are named after famous hills. Bicycles for rent.

B&B Refuge Kapelleberg

Kapelleberg 16, 9680 Maarke-Kerkem

+32 495 59 94 33

info@refugekapelleberg.be

www.refugekapelleberg.be

This B&B is popular with groups of up to 20 persons. It is beautifully located on the Kapelleberg, one of the challenging hills in the Flemish Ardennes. There is a secure bicycle parking.

B&B 't Sprankelend Toeval ****

Maarkeweg 43, 9680 Maarkedal

+32 476 42 08 41

<u>info@hetsprankelendtoeval.be</u> www.hetsprankelendtoeval.be

This B&B offers 4 rooms above a former

B&B Cimbarsaca ****

Dorpstraat 39, 9890 Semmerzake

+32 9 384 17 34

info@cimbarsaca.be

www.cimbarsaca.be

Located within 20 minutes from Ghent and Oudenaarde. Offers a cycling package.

B&B De Boomgaard ***

Cotthem 15,

9520 Sint-Lievens-Houtem

+32 9 360 57 99

info@de-boomgaard.com

www.de-boomgaard.com

Peacefully located in the middle of the nature, close to the Flemish Ardennes and along cycling routes.

Holiday Inn Express Gent ***

Akkerhage 2, 9000 Ghent

+32 9 222 58 85

hotel@hiexgent.be

www.hiexpress.com

There's a big chance of running into some pro's during spring here, since this hotel is the home of a number of pro teams during the spring classics in Flanders. Just a couple of minutes from the convenient E17 motorway and four km from medieval Ghent city centre, make the contemporary Holiday Inn Express Gent your base for exploring the Flanders region. Brus-

sels, Bruges and Oudenaarde are within 35 minutes' drive.

HOLIDAY HOMES

De Flandrienhoeve ***

Hoogstad 2, 9690 Kluisbergen

+32 494 33 32 57

info@deflandrienhoeve.be

www.deflandrienhoeve.be

Located close to the Oude Kwaremont. Suitable for groups from 20 to 30 persons. The rooms are named after pro cyclists and are decorated likewise.

The ChainStay

Doornikse Heerweg 44 9700 Oudenaarde

+32 498 36 51 10

info@thechainstay.com

www.thechainstay.com

The ChainStay is located in Oudenaarde, Belgium; situated in the heart of the

Flemish Ardennes. This 7 bedroom home is specifically designed to accommodate cyclists and include all the amenities of home. It has a secure bike storage area, a large fully equipped kitchen, a large living room with digital cable TV and many English speaking programmes and channels. The large backyard has a large patio and a dedicated bike washing area. They also have two washing machines and a dryer. Also included in the cost of your stay is the use of the large 9-person van with room for 9 bikes on the roof rack. This eliminates the stress of having to ride to races and finding storage for your bags once there, and eliminates the limitation of racing only within riding distance.

Adelaide ****

Wijnstraat 28, 9600 Ronse

+32 473 85 37 85

contact@adelaide.be

www.adelaide.be

Located in Ronse. Possibility for guided cycling tours in the Flemish Ardennes.

ENJOY A PRE-RIDE COFFEE, POST-RIDE BEER OR GREAT MEAL

The Flemish Ardennes is almost as famous for its cafés as it is for its cycling. They are not only spread across the many hills and valleys (and thus a very convenient stop on the way) but are also often frequented by former riders. In any case, they are the ideal location to snap up some cycling trivia, anecdotes or stories. The following list contains cafés whose publicans won't mind you washing off the chain grease from your hands, where you won't get funny looks because your legs are covered in balsam and above all, where the racing history is dripping from the walls. They are, in other words, the ideal place to raise your glass to good times and good companions, both on and off the road.

Arriva

http://arriva.cc/

Arriva, that's coffee and cycling. Retro

caravan 'Eddy' brings you your pre-ride coffee wherever you need it. Also available is a reparation service and the possibility to use guides for your cycling tour.

Hoorens Coffee

Sint-Hubertusplein 20, 9620 St-Maria-Oudenhove

Enjoy a great pre-ride coffee after a visit to this local coffee-roasting factory.

Brasserie De Flandrien Markt 45, 9700 Oudenaarde

This is the 'brasserie' of the Centre Ronde van Vlaanderen. Therefore, it has unusual opening hours for a pub (10.00-18.00). Enter a world of cycling shirts, cycling pictures, water bottles and other memorabil-

ia. 'De Flandrien' is also the home of the fan club of Fabian Cancellara.

Café Koppenberg

Berchemweg 228, 9700 Oudenaarde

Cyclist pub with a photo exhibition about the Tour of Flanders and the Koppenberg (with special attention to Jesper Skibby's crash on the Koppenberg in 1987).

De Nieuwe Keizer

Hauwaert 22,9700 Mater

Pub with large photos of old Belgian cycling legends on the façade. Inside are the signed jerseys of great Belgian cyclo cross champions like Sven Nijs and Niels Albert.

Het Sportpaleis

Kerkplein 6, 9750 Zingem

The bartender is the cousin of Arthur Decabooter, who won the Tour of Flanders in 1960. On the walls is a large collection of posters, pictures, press articles, ...

In den trap op

Heerweg 45, 9667 Horebeke

Popular café to watch races live on TV. Several of the spring classics pass by this café.

Café In de Zon

Kwaremontplein, 9690 Kwaremont

Have a beer while climbing the Kwaremont.

Café Molen ten Hotond

Zandstraat 4, 9690 Zulzeke

·///

In de Koning van Engeland – bij den Absjaar

Kohoorstraat 2, 9500 Zarlardinge

In den Hengst

Twaalfbunderstraat 53, 9660 Brakel

Rimalin

Beaucarnestraat 21,9700 Ename

't Berghof

Bergestraat 1

9550 Steenhuize-Wijnhuize

't Hoekske

Gentsestraat 59, 9660 Brakel

De Karper

Kortrijksesteenweg 2,9000 Ghent

Supporters café of Iljo Keisse, with his dad Ronnie behind the bar. This is where the after parties of the z6sdaagse take place. Tip: drink an Orvélo beer.

Bar Bidon

Bisdomkaai 25, 9000 Ghent

Coffee bar slash bicycle shop.

't Velootje

Kalversteeg 2,9000 Ghent

We love ancient bicycles, bicycle history, crazy bicycles, and general geekiness. Mr. Lieven has a relaxed personality with visitors and his pub (at present somewhat condensed) boasts an amazing collection of bicycles, train lamps, and other items in an appealingly eccentric atmosphere. You have to be a bit lucky to find it open though.

Visit <u>www.liveyourowntour.com</u> for more information and short movies about cycling cafés in the Flemish Ardennes.

GO TO A STYLISH CYCLING SHOP, BUY LOCAL PRODUCE, ...

If you fly in and bring your own bicycle, you can have it tuned by professionals, e.g. at Fietsatelier Kortweg. They can assist you with the assembly, repair and maintenance of any brand. This is a good starting point for any cycle holiday.

Bedrijfspark Hoogmolen Kazerneweg 7 unit 10, 9770 Kruishoutem

+32 471 81 42 74

 $\underline{www.kortweg.be/fietsatelier}$

The feeling in the calves is probably the most rewarding memento of your cycling trip through the Flemish Ardennes. But maybe you'd also like to take something more tangible home with you? You're sure to find the perfect souvenir or gift in the following shops.

RondeShop Tour of Flanders Centre

Markt 43, 9700 Oudenaarde

+32 55 33 99 33

www.crvv.be

For retro shirts, team shirts, cycling outfits, Tour of Flanders T-shirts, cycling pants, cycling maps, beer, tourist guides and gadgets.

Blanco Bike Luxury

Bennesteeg 7, 9000 Ghent

+32 497 62 10 02

www.blancobikeluxury.be

Personalised bikes, accessories, vintage items, steel frames, semi-antique parts combined with innovative, contemporary parts, repairs and servicing.

Plum

Nederkouter 141, 9000 Ghent

+32 9 225 44 62

This bike store also has a small museum hidden in the back of the store.

REcyclismo

Sluizekenstraat 3, 9000 Ghent

+32 9 398 21 56

www.facebook.com/REcyclismo/

Cool bike store that not only sells bikes and nice cycling stuff, but also transforms old bikes into good looking new ones.

Bakkerij Molentje

Molenstraat 92, 9690 Berchem (Kluisbergen)

The one and only rice pudding tarts, tasted and approved by hundreds of pro cyclists. Essential fuel for anyone planning to enter a classic Flemish road race.

Artisanne

Sint-Martensstraat 51/53, 9600 Ronse

+32 491 44 40 16

info@artisanne.be

www.artisanne.be

Regional produce from the Flemish Ardennes such as wine, beer, jenever, fruit juices, chocolate, cheese, specialty hams, ginger-bread biscuits, ...







WIEMU

MARCEL KINT





BRIEK SCHOTTE

FREDDY MAERTENS

KEMMELBERG



JOHAN MUSEEUW

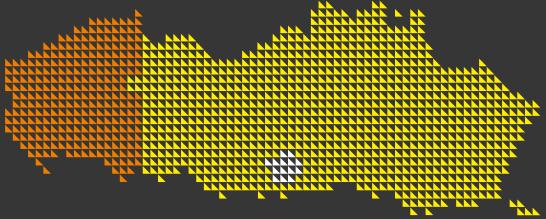
GHENT-WEVELGEM



West-Flanders

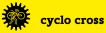
A PERFECT CYCLING DAY IN WEST-FLANDERS

Wake up at the Parkhotel in Kortrijk en meet some pro riders staying here for the spring classics. Rent a race bike at Veloods and head off to Heuvelland, where you climb the Kemmelberg and many other hills close to Flanders Fields. Watch the Gent-Welvegem race while you're there. Have lunch at Herberg In De Zon. Head over to Roeselare and continue your day with a visit to the WieMu / Cycling is a religion expo. Test you track racing skills on the Defraye-Sercu open air track. Close off with a beer and diner at Kaffee Carlito in Tielt.

















bike manufacturer

WATCH A RACE OR JOIN A CYCLOSPORTIVE

February

NoordzeeCross in Middelkerke

www.noordzeecross.com

Sandy cyclo cross by the sea.

Kuurne-Brussel-Kuurne

www.kuurne-brussel-kuurne.be

Road race held the day after the Omloop Het Nieuwsblad.



-March-

Driedaagse van West-Vlaanderen

Three-day road race in West-Flanders.



www.soudalclassics.be

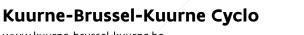
The spectacular indoor closing race of the cyclo cross season.



Three Days of De Panne-Koksijde

www.driedaagse.be

Three-day, midweek road race.



Ride your own race one day before the pros.







Gent-Wevelgem Recommended

www.gent-wevelgem.be

Road race starting in Deinze and arriving in Wevelgem, a classic event made all the more challenging by the wind and climbs of French Flanders and the Heuvelland.

Gent-Wevelgem Cyclo

www.proximuscyclingchallenge.be

Ride your own Gent-Wevelgem

-May-

Belcantour

www.belcantour.be

Nice cyclo that takes you along many of the hills of West-Flanders and Northern-France.

Para-cycling road world cup

www.paracyclingworldcupostend.be

In 2016, 2017 and 2018 Ostend hosts a para-cycling world cup race, and in 2019 even the world championships. Don't miss out on these cycling heroes on handbikes, tandems, tricycles, ...

August

Belcanto Classic Recommended

www.belcantoclassic.be

One of the most charming amateur races in Flanders. Or, as the organisation likes to put it, 'a race to love, not to win'.

-September-

Internationaal Criterium **Bavikhove**

www.wielercriteriumbavikhove.be

Watch and experience a typical Flemish 'Criterium'.

Wevelgem-Roubaix Cyclo

www.wtcdetrapperswevelgem.be/?page_id=295

Start and finish in Roubaix or Wevelgem.

Memorial Briek Schotte

www.desselgemkoerse.be

(Desselgem Koerse)

Hails one of the greatest Flandriens ever.

VISIT A CYCLING MUSEUM, EXPERIENCE CENTRE, BIKE MANUFACTURER, TRACK, ...

WieMU / Wielermuseum

Polenplein 15, 8800 Roeselare

+32 51 26 87 40

wielermuseum@roeselare.be

www.wielermuseum.be

www.koersisreligie.be

(Cycling is a religion)

The WieMU (or Wielermuseum) is a museum and information center, highlighting the history of the bicycle and bicycle racing and stories of heroism, determination and suffering.

The museum is currently closed for renovation. The re-opening is planned for 2017. Until then, you can visit the Cycling is a Religion expo in the nearby Paterskerk (church in Delaerestraat 33, Roeselare). This exhibition explains why cycling is a religion, on the basis of two routes. In the side aisles of the Father's Church visitors will discover 'The Pilgrimage: a procession of cycling chapels', while in the nave they will have the opportunity to follow 'The Way of the Cross: Via Dolorosa of the cyclists'. On the way, you will have the chance to observe the unique Cycling Garments, a Peloton of Cycling Gods and the impressive Iron Cross.

Open air track Defraye-Sercu

Kwadestraat 13, 8800 Rumbeke

+32 476 48 22 90

marc.dm@skynet.be

www.defraeye-sercu.be

Open air track close to the WieMU with a long history. Groups and individuals can rent the track, including bicycles and helmets.

Flandrienhuis

Markt 13, 8700 Tielt

+32 51 42 81 11

toerisme@tielt.be

www.tielt.be

(Dutch only)

The birth place of Briek Schotte honors it's Flandrien-hero with this small museum.









Wielermuseum de Gistelse Flandriens

Warandestraat 29, 8470 Gistel

+32 59 27 02 17

toerisme@gistel.be

www.gistel.be/Dienst.aspx?ID=1755

(Dutch only)

This small museum, located in a former mill barn in Gistel, hosts an exhibition on 'the Flandriens from Gistel' (Sylveer Maes and Johan Museeuw). Sylveer Maes was Tour de France winner in 1936 and 1939. Johan Museeuw (the 'Lion of Flanders'), won many classic races (including the 'Ronde' in 1993, 1995 and 1998). There's a permanent collection with many pictures providing an overview of the performance of both Flandriens.

Jaegher Cycles

Bruggestraat 120, 8755 Ruiselede

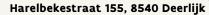
ateliers@jaegher.com

www.jaegher.com

The brand 'Jaegher' is quite new, but the firm producing the frames goes back four generations and has produced the bicycles of champions such as Eddy Merckx,

Freddy Maertens, etc. The firm had a very strong reputation after WW II but did not enter in aluminium and carbon. They decided to start producing tailor made racing bikes in the authentic production hall again, now that there's a renewed interest in steel frames.

Nichelson



+32 473 52 83 81

thomas@nichelson.be

www.nichelson.be

Cycling brand founded by a young man who combined his marketing study with amateur racing. Aims at the high end market with very much attention to design, quality, customer service and performance for the demanding (or well off) cyclist. Thomas Nichelson has designed specific models, all starting from a functional priority (e.g. should it be good on cobbles, on fast tracks, in the mountains). It's a young brand, trying to find its place between all the big names. Frames are made in Taiwan and assembled in Belgium.

Martelly

Eddy Martens Hille 217B, 8750 Zwevezele

+32 476 45 57 13

martelly@skynet.be

www.martelly.be

In 1913, Arthur Martens took fifth place in the first edition of the Tour of Flanders, over a distance of 350 kilometres. Arthur launched his first handmade frames. Since then, the company and, therefore, the experience, passed from father to son three times in a row. Martelly is one of the few manufacturers of handmade road, cyclo-cross and MTB frames in Belgium.

Achielle



Brugsesteenweg 203, 8740 Pittem

+32 51 46 66 36

info@dija-oostcolor.eu

www.achielle.be

Vintage and nostalgic bicycles, handmade and cycling around since 1946.

VISIT SOME CYCLING MONUMENTS



West Flanders has played a pioneering role in the rich Flemish cycle racing scene. At the beginning of the 20th century, Cyriel Van Hauwaert brought the whole country under the spell of the bicycle with his great performances in the international classics. Another celebrity from West Flanders, Odiel Defraeye, was the first Fleming to win the Tour de France. A statue of each of them has been erected in their birthplaces of Moorslede and Rumbeke respectively.

Karel Van Wijnendaele was born in Torhout. He was one of the founders of modern reporting on cycle races and co-founder of the Tour of Flanders. There is a memorial plate to this legendary figure on the 'Burg', where he lived for many years. Karel Van Wijnendaele found his inspiration for the Tour of Flanders in Koolskamp, where the Championship of Flanders had been contested every year since

1908. You will find a memorial on the village square in honour of this historic race.

In Waregem, between the town hall and the De Schakel cultural centre, there stands a special bronze sculpture – 'De Sprint' – that was erected to commemorate the start of a stage of the Tour in 2007, but it also serves as a memorial of the world championship that took place in 1957 and that was won by **Rik Van Steenbergen**.

At the church in Bellegem, a handsome sculpture serves as a memorial to **Germain Derycke**, who won the Tour of Flanders in 1958. As for **Henri Vanlerberghe**, the 1919 winner of the Tour of Flanders(with the biggest lead ever recorded), there hangs a plaque of him in Lichtervelde, his birthplace. Henri Vanlerberghe was one of the many 'flandriens' from West Flanders. You will come across an ode to these flandriens both on the market square of Ichtegem



and next to the church in Kanegem, where a racer sits hunched over his bicycle riding over the cobblestones. **Alberic 'Briek' Schotte** modelled for the stunning statue of Jef Claerbout. Another statue of the two-times world champion himself as well as a big canvas measuring 6 x 4 metres

with his photo can be found in Desselgem. Other world champions from West Flanders who have been immortalised are **Freddy Maertens** in Lombardsijde and **Marcel Kint** in Kortrijk and Zwevegem. West Flanders has also had some legendary Tour racers. A monument was erected in Zerkegem, the

birthplace of **Romain Mass**, 1935 winner of the Tour. Jef **Demuysere** put in a stunning performance in the Giro and a statue was erected of him in Wervik, as was one for Tour hero **Jef Planckaert** in Otegem.

RIDE ONE OF THE SPECIFIC ROUTES

Hellingenroute Heuvelland

This route tackles 40 hills (the Kemmelberg is the most famous one), over a total distance of 116 kms and makes you climb 1498 m. http://www.debergen.be/nl/op-pad/hellingenroute-heuvelland (only in Dutch)

https://shop.westtoer.be/en/product/ west-flanders-mountain-route-heuvelland (only available in Dutch)

West-Vlaamse Bergenroute

Cyclists will puff and pant their way up Heuvelland's ancient chain of hills, which have played such a prominent role in the region's history and still dominate its landscape. In addition to the famous Kemmelberg (Kemmel Hill) and Rodeberg (Red Hill), the route also takes in Mesen (Messines), a small town situated right on the Belgian language frontier (with French-speaking Wallonia), as well as the Palingbeek provincial domain. More information on:

Freddy Maertens route

Freddy Maertens is a former cyclist who became world champion in 1976 and 1981, won the green jersey in the Tour de France 3 times and won 28 stages in the Tour and Vuelta. More than enough reasons to name this cycling route after him. The 42 km long route takes you along the coastline and the quiet land-scapes behind it. More information (in Dutch):

http://www.fietsroute.org/fietsen/fietsroute/Freddy_Maertens route







RENT A RACE BIKE

Veloods

Windhoek 17, 8790 Waregem

+32 56 61 34 38

veloods@werkplus.be

www.werkplus.be/veloods

Rents race bikes and mountain bikes, possibility for bike wash.

Fietsen Catrysse

Kaaskerkestraat 56, 8600 Diksmuide

+32 51 50 46 70

info@fietsencatrysse.be

www.fietsencatrysse.be

Rents race bikes and mountain bikes.

Biking Box Cycletours

Menenstraat 12, 8900 leper

fietshurenieper.be/fietsenverhuur

Rents race bikes.

DuVelo

Wahistraat 37, 8930 Menen

+32 473 80 47 07

info@duvelo.be

www.duvelo.be

Rents fully equipped trekking bikes.

STAY IN A CYCLING ACCOMMODATION

Apart from the bike friendly accommodations mentioned in the general part of this brochure, we want to highlight some places to stay that breathe cycling, are beautifully located in 'cycling territory' or host pro-teams almost every year. Check them out:

HOTELS

De Peracker ***

Caseelstraat 45, 8790 Waregem

+32 56 60 03 31

info@deperacker.be

www.deperacker.be

Easy access to Kortrijk, Ghent and the Flemish Ardennes.

Elckerlyck Inn **

Rollegemkerkstraat 56, 8510 Rollegem (Kortrijk)

+32 56 21 51 64

elckerlyck.inn.hotel@skynet.be

www.elckerlyck-inn.be

Basic bicycle friendly hotel near Kortrijk. They have a cycling package and bike parking.

The following hotels are the home of pro teams during the spring classics and thus have experience with and amenities for groups of cyclists:

Velotel ****

Handboogstraat 1, 8000 Brugge

+32 50 25 25 25

info@hotelvelotel.com

www.hotelvelotel.com

Right in the middle of a park, just on the outskirts of Bruges, is where you will find the Velotel. It is only a 5 minute drive from the hotel to the city centre, where there are numerous historic sights, nice shops and good restaurants. The medieval town walls and city gates are also nearby. The Velotel has cycling related colours in its branding and offers a fitness, sauna, massages, bike rental and storage, adapted meals, ...

Parkhotel ****

Stationsplein 2, 8500 Kortrijk

+32 56 22 03 03

info.parkhotel@parkhotel.be

www.parkhotel.be

Home base of the Tinkoff en Katusha pro teams during the spring classics

Kennedy Hotel ***

Pres. Kennedypark 1, 8500 Kortrijk

+32 56 20 06 87

info@hotelkennedy.be

www.hotelkennedy.be



Hotel Damier ***

Grote Markt 41, 8500 Kortrijk

+32 56 22 15 47 info@hoteldamier.be www.hoteldamier.be

d-hotel ****

Abdijmolenweg 1, 8510 Kortrijk

+32 56 21 21 00 info@d-hotel.be www.d-hotel.be

Hotel St-Janshof ***

Anzegemseweg 26, 8790 Waregem

+32 56 61 08 88 info@hotel-st-janshof.com www.hotel-st-janshof.be

GUEST ROOMS

2 Sprong ***

Menenstraat 45-47, 8560 Wevelgem

+32 56 41 63 01 info@2sprong.be www.2sprong.be

This b&b has some decorations in the cycling theme and has a locked bicycle parking, bike rental and cycling maps.

Maison Kerkhove ****

Baarmstraat 1, 8581 Kerkhove

+32 477 41 67 85

info@maisonkerkhove.be

www.maisonkerkhove.be

Located very close to the Flemish Ardennes (the Oude Kwaremont is just a stone's throw away) and popular with cyclists. Offers cycling- and beer packages.

HOLIDAY HOMES

Grote Goesting *****

Rivierstraat 40, 8560 Wevelgem

+32 473 78 23 80

info@grotegoesting.be

www.grotegoesting.be

Bike friendly holiday home with bicycle parking and possibility to wash your bike.

ENJOY A PRE-RIDE COFFEE, POST-RIDE BEER OR GREAT MEAL

Restaurant De Engel

Oostendsesteenweg 1, 8480 Ichtegem

+32 51 58 81 76

http://de-engel.tumblr.com/

Frans Dewilde and Rosa Maeckelbergh are the third generation in this family business. The building dates from 1786 and eradiates nostalgia. The interior of the restaurant is largely dominated by 'flandrien' Jules Vanhevel, Rosa's uncle. Jules Vanhevel won the Tour of Flanders (1920), Paris- Roubaix (1924) and the Tour of Belgium (1928). The restaurant was recently rewarded with a 13/20 in the Gault & Millau restaurant guide.

De Buuzestove

Stationsstraat 174, 8480 Eernegem

+32 59 29 03 42

info@debuuzestove.be

http://users.telenet.be/sdk/buuzestove/

Eernegem has a reputation as the village of 'kasseileggers' (men who construct cobblestone roads). Different members of the same family often shared this profession. Café De Buuzestove is a rustic pub where time seems to have stood still. It's also a restaurant. They have their own house beer (Kasseileggersbier). There are still a few active 'kasseileggers' and they're willing to talk about their job.

Café L'Europe

Ooststraat 121, 8800 Roeselare

With cycling pictures of Valère Ollevier (local pro cyclist from 1943 to 1955 and also called King of the Kermis-races).

Herberg In De Zon

Dikkebusstraat 80, 8950 De Klijte (Heuvelland)

+32 57 21 26 26

info@indezon.be

www.indezon.be

Cosy restaurant with cycling decorations.

Wielrijdersrust het Dorstige Hart

Dijk 33, 8670 Wulpen

+32 474 40 99 69

info@wielrijdersrust-hetdorstigehart.be

www.wielrijdersrust-hetdorstigehart.be

Restaurant, brasserie and B&B, beautifully located in the village of Wulpen along the canal Nieuwpoort-Duinkerke. Ideal stop for cyclists.

Café Den Arend

Polenplein 1, 8800 Roeselare

+32 51 26 87 40

Fan club of a local pro cyclist Guillaume Van Keirsbulck and grandchild of Benoni Beheyt (1963 World Champion).

Café De Hert

Markt 9, 8480 Ichtegem

+32 51 58 18 47

Typical popular pub full of cycling trumpery.

Kaffee Carlito

Kortrijkstraat 80, 8700 Tielt

+32 495 40 30 42

kaffeecarlito@gmail.com

www.carlitotielt.be

Brasserie filled with cycling memorabilia. Combine this with a visit to the Wielermuseum in Roeselare or a factory visit to Jaegher cycles.

Supporterscafé St Barbara

Vanackerestraat 11, 8560 Wevelgem

+32 56 41 27 70

Typical popular pub. Home of an Etixx-Quickstep fan club.

Café Sultan

Sint-Maartensplein 13, 8940 Wervik

+32 56 31 24 33

Typical popular pub. Home of an Alexander Kristoff fan club.

Oud Gemeentehuis

Bavikhovedorp 1, 8530 Harelbeke

Typical popular pub. Home of a local cycling club.



GO TO A STYLISH CYCLING SHOP

Het Salon by Marcel Kint

Authentic Custom Handmade Bike Proosdijstraat 21, 8500 Kortrijk

+32 496 78 66 56

info@marcelkint.be

www.marcelkint.be

Marcel Kint is to date the longest-reigning world champion ever. The Black Eagle from Zwevegem wore the rainbow jersey in 1939 and because of the outbreak of war, he had to wait until 1946 before a next world championship was coming – which he won. After his career he starts a company bicycles and bicycle parts. Today his grandson Marniek Kint and his wife Lien Baguette maintain the family tradition, in the original home of the former world champion.

Exceller Bikes

Philipstockstraat 43, 8000 Brugge

+32 50 70 68 12

ride@excellerbikes.com

www.excellerbikes.com

A showroom, lounge en trendy bib and bikes are key. That magic combination alone guarantees this 'Brugse Schone' (beauty of Bruges) a place in this list. Also, you can test numerous first class bikes on the city's cobblestones.



BRABANTSE PIXI



SPORTIMONIUM





EDDY MERCKX

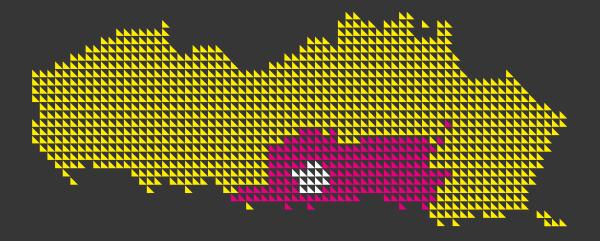
BRUSSELS CYCLING CLASSIC

SVEN NYS

Flemish Brabantand Brussels

A PERFECT CYCLING DAY IN FLEMISH BRABANT

Wake up in B&B Den Engel and head over to beautiful Leuven to ride the Brabantse Pijl cyclosportive. Have lunch in one of the many restaurants in Leuven. Continue with a visit to the Sportimonium museum or the Eddy Merckx cycles factory. Real Merckx fans might want to take a look at the monument in Eddy's birthplace Meensel-Kiezegem, and have a drink there in the Café Boerenhof pub.







road race



cyclosportive



cyclo cross



retro



track



museum + experience centre



bike manufacturer



WATCH A RACE OR JOIN A CYCLOSPORTIVE

-April-

Brabantse Pijl Recommended

www.debrabantsepijl.be

The closing race of the Flemish Spring and the last of the Flanders Classics. This challenging circuit with a few really steep hills is the perfect race to lead up to the Ardennes Classics.

Brabantse Pijl cyclo

www.proximuscyclingchallenge.be

The Brabantse Pijl for amateurs, with start and finish in the city centre of Leuven.

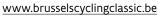
-August-

Eddy koers retrocriterium

www.eddysbaal.be/eddy-koers

Every year, Retro Cycling Team De Eddy's organise this great tribute to Eddy. Only for men of steel with hairy legs.

Brussels Cycling Classic Recommended



Road race with a lot of big names from the peloton, which starts and ends in beautiful Brussels.

www.sport.be/cyclingtour

Cyclo that takes you along the hills of Vlaams-Brabant, with start and finish in Leuven.





VISIT A CYCLING MUSEUM, EXPERIENCE CENTRE, BIKE MANUFACTURER, TRACK, ...

Sportimonium



Bloso-domein, Trianondreef 19, 1981 Hofstade-Zemst

+32 15 61 82 22

sportimonium@sportimonium.be

www.sportimonium.be

www.inhetwielvaneddymerckx.be

(On the wheel of Eddy Merckx)

The Sportimonium is the Olympic Museum in Belgium. It covers a lot of sports, but since the spring of 2013 the Sportimonium focuses on cycling heritage and more specifically on cycling icon Eddy Merckx. A digital guide tells you the story of the highlights of cycling history and commemorates the memorable moments from Merckx's career.

the heart of the company, and his eye for detail and quality strives each of us to yet higher standards. He is an integral part of the design process, and always tests each new model himself. Eddy Merckx was, in our opinion, the greatest cyclist of the 20th century. We feel it is our duty to keep the flame of that legacy alive by producing legendary cycles fit for today's demanding cyclist.

Sven Nys cycling centre Balenbergstraatje, 3128 Baal-Tremelo



www.SvenNysCyclingcenter.be

(coming soon)

Opening by summer 2016. The centre will focus on all types of offroad cycling - cyclo cross, MTB and BMX - and will host events, training sessions, courses and exhibitions. Sven Nys will of course be the central figure.

Bakala Academy



Athletic Performance Centre Tervuursevest 143, 3001 Leuven

+32 488 81 91 55

info@bakala-academy.com

http://en.bakala-academy.com

The 'Bakala Academy – Athletic Performance Centre' is a research and testing centre of excellence. It distinguishes as a world-class academy for research, innovation and education in sports. In the 'Athletic Performance Centre' every athlete of each level will find the right advice for his/her personal purpose. All performed tests are based on scientific evidence and the recommendations are up-to-date with the latest scientific findings.

Eddy Merckx Cycles



Frans Schachtstraat 29, 1731 Zellik

+32 2 269 62 72

info@eddymerckx.com

$\underline{www.eddymerckx.com}$

The Eddy Merckx Company was established in 1980 with a mission to produce the finest cycles in the world, and that goal hasn't changed a bit. Of course, Eddy is still at



VISIT SOME CYCLING MONUMENTS

One name especially marked the cycling history of Brussels and Flemish Brabant: **Eddy Merckx**. Two statues have been erected in

his honour: one in 'huis Pypen' right across his birth house in Meensel-Kiezegem, and the other near the city hall in Wolvertem.

RIDE ONE OF THE SPECIFIC ROUTES

On the wheel of Eddy Merckx

Would you like to try for yourself how our cycling heroes prepare for races in their own area? If so, you can do it on the three circular cycling routes marked out for this purpose. Armed with a cycling map you can start and stop wherever you like at the information panels along the route. You can also take the digital option using your smartphone. Just scan the panels along the way and we will immerse you in the experience on:

www.inhetwielvaneddymerckx.be





STAY IN A CYCLING ACCOMMODATION

Apart from the bike friendly accommodations mentioned in the general part of this brochure, we want to highlight some places to stay that breathe cycling, are beautifully located in 'cycling territory' or host pro-teams almost every year.

Check this one out:

B&B Den Engel ****

Dorpsplein 13, 3071 Erps-Kwerps

+32 474 42 70 54

adinda@bnb-denengel.be

www.bnb-denengel.be

Charming B&B in Erps-Kwerps, a small village near Brussels, with an original Eddy Merckx bike for you to look/drool at.

ENJOY A PRE-RIDE COFFEE, POST-RIDE BEER OR GREAT MEAL

Café Boerenhof

Binkomstraat 12, 3391 Meensel-Kiezegem

+32 495 56 84 12

https://www.facebook.com/CafeBoerenhof?fref=ts

Typical popular pub in the birth place of Eddy Merckx himself.

Mie Katoen eatery

Bellestraat 164, 1790 Affligem

+32 53 68 09 05

eethuismiekatoen@skynet.be

www.eethuismiekatoen.be

Regular home base of celebrating champions and television interviews with pro cyclists. Lots of cycling related decorations.

GO TO A STYLISH CYCLING SHOP

Niels Albert Bike Store

Kruisstraat 126, 3120 Tremelo

+32 16 41 60 60

info@nielsalbertbikestore.be

www.nielsalbertbikestore.be

Bike store owned by former cyclo cross champion Niels Albert.

EDWIG VAN HOOYDONCK RIK VAN LOOY



STAN OCKERS



TOM BOONEN

ROLAND LIBOTON





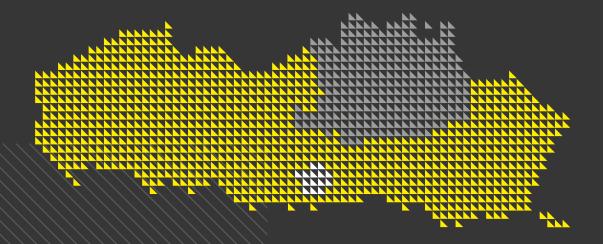
SCHELDEPRIJS

RIK VAN STEENBERGEN

Antwerp

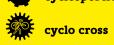
A PERFECT CYCLING DAY IN ANTWERP

Wake up in beautiful Antwerp and head over to the Antwerp Campine region. Rent a cyclo cross bike at Fietsen Van De Water bikestore and head off to the cyclo cross bike trail in Lichtaart to practice your cyclo cross skills. Then go to the art city Mechelen and have a beer or coffee in the cool bar and bike store Peloton de Paris. Spend the night at the small family run Muske Pitter hotel.











museum + experience centre

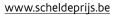




WATCH A RACE OR JOIN A CYCLOSPORTIVE

-April-

Scheldeprijs Recommended



On the agenda during the sacred week between the Tour of Flanders and Paris-Roubaix, there is the Scheldeprijs - the sprinters' classic.

August

Derny Antwerpen

www.dernyantwerpen.be

Post-Tour Criterium in Antwerp with a lot of big names from the pro-peloton.

Scheldeprijs cyclo

www.proximuscyclingchallenge.be Ride the Scheldeprijs yourself.



Schaal Sels

www.schaalsels.be

Schaal Sels Sels is a one-day cycling race that is traditionally scheduled for the last Sunday in August. The contest is part of the UCI Europe Tour. The first Schaal Sels ever was held in 1921.

-May-

World Ports Classic

www.letour.com/world-ports-classic/

The two-day cycling race links the port cities of Rotterdam and Antwerp and promises a first-rate list of international participants. The race is organised by the A.S.O. (Amaury Sport Organisation), which organises events including the Tour de France.

-October

Sluitingsprijs Putte-Kapellen

www.sluitingsprijs.be

Popular closing race of the road cycling season in Flanders.





-November-

Jaarmarktcross Niel

www.sport.be/cyclocrossclassics/1516/niel/nl

Scheldecross Antwerpen



www.golazo.com/calendar-event/schelde

December

Azencross Loenhout www.sport.be/azencross/2014/nl/



ZilvermeerCross Mol



www.zilvermeercross.be

VISIT A CYCLING MUSEUM, EXPERIENCE CENTRE, BIKE MANUFACTURER, TRACK, ...

Wielercentrum Antwerp



Moerelei 117, 2610 Wilrijk

+32 3 774 14 40

www.wielercentrumantwerpen.be

Home of a 333m outdoor oval cycling track and a bmx-trail.

not have in stock? Visit the Codagex Xperience Centre in Dessel. You can see the entire range there and receive all the information you need from Ludo Dierckxsens. Ludo uses his ample experience and knowledge as a former pro rider to provide you with the best possible service.

Codagex Xperience Centre



Zandbergen 105, 2480 Dessel

+32 14 33 77 63

xperiencecenter@codagex.be

www.codagex-xperience-center.com

Are you interested in a bicycle or a wheel which your dealer does

Outdoor track in Hulshout



Sportpark Joris Verhaegen, Industriepark 3, 2235 Hulshout

+32 474 17 33 21

sportbarhulshout@hotmail.com

http://www.sportbarhulshout.be/207418785

RIDE ONE OF THE SPECIFIC ROUTES

On the wheel of Eddy Merckx

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Cyclo cross trail in Lichtaart

www.kasterlee.be/product/85/cyclocrossparcours

Practice your cyclo cross skills on this 2500m long trail in Lichtaart, near the Floreal Kempen campsite. Open from the first of September to the end of February.

RENT A RACE BIKE

Fietsen Van De Water

Geelsebaan 22, 2460 Kasterlee

+32 14 85 05 25

info@fietsenvandewater.be

www.fietsenvandewater.be

Rental of cross-, mountain- and race bikes.

STAY IN A CYCLING ACCOMMODATION

Apart from the bike friendly accommodations mentioned in the general part of this brochure, we want to highlight some places to stay that breathe cycling, are beautifully located in 'cycling territory' or host pro-teams almost every year. Check them out:

HOTEL

Muske Pitter **

Hanswijkstraat 70, 2800 Mechelen

+32 15 43 63 03

info@muskepitter.be

http://muskepitter.be

This little family hotel is situated in Mechelen (Malines) within walking distance from the historical centre and the station. The hotel radiates a homelike, personal and pro-cycling atmosphere. It has a bicycle parking and offers breakdown assistance.

HOLIDAY PARK

Sunparks ***

Postelsesteenweg 100, 2400 Mol

+32 14 81 72 52

www.sunparks.com

Situated in the green Kempen region of Belgium, Kempense Meren is surrounded by idyllic natural beauty with a lot of cycling routes to be explored. There's also a mountain bike and cyclo cross trail close by.

CAMPSITE AND HOLIDAY HOMES

Provinciaal Recreatiedomein Zilvermeer ****

Zilvermeerlaan 2, 2400 Mol

+32 14 82 95 00

camping@zilvermeer.be

www.zilvermeer.be

This is where the yearly 'Boonen and friends charity cup' takes place, and also is the home of a great pro cyclo cross race. There's a lot of cycling routes to be explored in the region.

GROUP ACCOMMODATION

Bielebale

Elshoutbaan 15 & 19, 2930 Brasschaat

+32 3 653 52 74

vakantie@bielebale.be

www.bielebale.be

Bielebale is located in an attractive and quiet park in Brasschaat, close to Antwerp. It can accommodate both small and big groups and is more than suitable for sports groups. You can choose between self-catering or full-board. You'll find quite some cycling routes in the neighbourhood.





ENJOY A PRE-RIDE COFFEE, POST-RIDE BEER OR GREAT MEAL

Velodome/De Pelgrim

Boomgaardstraat 14, 2600 Berchem

+32 3 283 44 49

info@velodome.cc

http://velodome.cc/fietsenwinkel-inantwerpen/

Velo Dome is located in the old stables of brewery De Koninck (which is just across the street, ideal for a visit). A unique setting. With the focus on the better racing bicycles and mountain bikes, such as the Belgian Ridley and handmade Condor Cycles. They also sell Rapha clothing in here. If you're hungry or thirsty, then you'll find a fine pub and restaurant here too: De Pelgrim.

Peloton de Paris Recommended

Hoogstraat 49, 2800 Mechelen

+32 15 64 48 26

hallo@pelotondeparis.be

www.pelotondeparis.be

Peloton de Paris combines a bar and a bicycle shop with a bicycle repair shop. Delicious coffee, beer, bicycles, and watching races on a big screen, ... They have it all! This concept store attracts cyclists for a minor repair, major maintenance or just a cold beer and a spring classic. Small repairs are performed while waiting for a drink, but they are also up for some larger repairs or teaching you how to maintain your bike yourself. In the bar, everyone is welcome, whether you share the bicycle passion or not. It is a unique concept in Mechelen. The menu offers some tasty snacks or breakfast at weekends. You can also relax in the sunny garden!

Bar LEFT

Katwilgweg, 2000 Antwerp

+32 468 13 38 88

info@barleft.be

www.facebook.com/barleft

Pop up summer bar frequented by hipsters & cyclists, a combination of both or basically anyone who enjoys a drink or a bite at a great location.

Café Mombasa

Moorkensplein 37, 2140 Antwerp

+32 498 52 11 94

reinadons@yahoo.com

www.cafemombasa.be

Cool bar with its own cycling club, lots of beers on the menu and races live on screen.







The Antwerp Kempen region is a cyclo cross hotspot, so it's no big surprise that a lot of pubs are the home of fan clubs of (former) cyclo cross pro cyclists. Here's some of them:

De Crawaett

= Wout Van Aert =

Poederleeseweg 2a, 2275 Lille

+32 14 88 30 58

www.decrawaett.be

Café De Kroon

Kerkeneind 26, 2920 Kalmthout

+32 3 666 62 35

cafedekroon.eh@gmail.com

Café De Toekomst

= Bart & Geert Wellens =

Boulevard 34, 2290 Vorselaar

http://users.skynet.be/detoekomst/

Café 't Centrum

= Kevin Pauwels =

= Wietse Bosmans =

Heidestatieplein 8, 2920 Kalmthout

+32 479 27 93 59

tcentrum@telenet.be

www.tcentrum.be

Sportcafé De Meeuw

= Tom Meeusen =

Stationsstraat 90, 2910 Essen

+32 3 667 21 96

Café 't Brouwershuis

Noordeind 31,2920 Kalmthout

+32 497 47 99 94

info@hetbrouwershuis.com

www.hetbrouwershuis.com

Café Volkshuis

= Zdenek Stybar =

Stationsstraat 136, 2910 Essen

+32 3 667 59 27

GO TO A STYLISH CYCLING SHOP

Velodome/De Pelgrim

Boomgaardstraat 14, 2600 Berchem

+32 3 283 44 49

info@velodome.cc

http://velodome.cc/fietsenwinkel-in-antwerpen/

Velo Dome is located in the old stables of brewery De Koninck (which is just across the street, ideal for a visit). A unique setting. With the focus on the better racing bicycles and mountain bikes, such as the Belgian Ridley and handmade Condor Cycles. They also sell Rapha clothing in here. If you're hungry or thirsty, then you'll find a fine pub and restaurant here too: De Pelgrim.

Bike Project Fixerati

Lange Koepoortstraat 47, 2000 Antwerp

+32 3 770 76 00

https://www.facebook.com/AntwerpFixerati

Repairs, second hand, vintage, road, race, city, fixed, single and more! With a coffee, beer or cold drinks. Need we say more?

Peloton de Paris

More information above (pubs).

CIRCUIT ZOLDER



TIM WELLENS

ERIC VANDERAERDEN



MARC WAUTERS

FLANDERS BIKE VALLEY

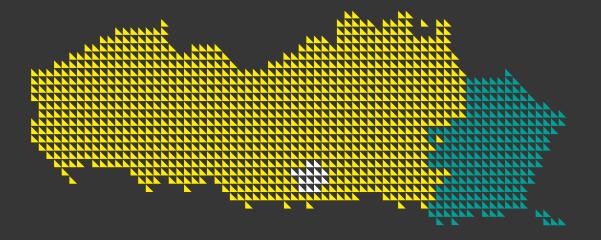


WILLY VANNITSEN

Limburg

A PERFECT CYCLING DAY IN LIMBURG

Wake up in room 11 of Hotel Malpertuus and feel like a winner. Ride the Cycling.be Classic cyclo or one of the hilly routes through Limburg. Stop for a cycling beer at cycling pub Café Coureur. Ride on the F1-circuit of Zolder in the early evening and end the day with diner at cycling café De Kriekel.







road race



cyclosportive



cyclo cross



retro



track



museum + experience centre



bike manufacturer



WATCH A RACE OR JOIN A CYCLOSPORTIVE

-May-

Baloise Belgium Tour

www.baloisebelgiumtour.be

Multi-day race, right through Belgium.

Willy Vannitsen Classic

www.willyvannitsenclassic.be

Willy Vannitsen was a pro cyclist from 1954 until 1966. He won stages in the Tour de France, Paris-Nice and the Giro. This cyclo takes you from Limburg to the Ardennes and back.



Ronde van Limburg

www.rondevanlimburg.be

Road race through Limburg.



www.allroundflandrien.be

Allround Flandrien

-September-

Teams compete in various disciplines for the title All-round Flandrien. Slopes, interspersed with thunderous cobblestones, a team time trial at the Zolder circuit and a sprint session to the finish line.



Cycling.be Classic

www.sport.be/cyclingtour

Nice cyclo tour that takes you along the hills of Limburg.







-October-

Superprestige Zonhoven



GP Hasselt



www.sport.be/cyclocrosszonhoven

"When 'De Kuil' [the pit] opens its mouth, all hell breaks loose! It's impressive each time, both for spectators as for the riders themselves." - Erwin Vervecken (former cyclo cross champion)

www.sport.be/gphasselt

November -

VISIT A CYCLING MUSEUM, EXPERIENCE CENTRE, BIKE MANUFACTURER, TRACK, ...

Circuit Zolder



Flanders Bike Valley



+32 11 85 88 88

www.circuit-zolder.be/en/fiets

Terlaemen 30. 3550 Heusden-Zolder

Besides a renowned F1 circuit, the Circuit of Zolder has also been a cycling temple for years, hosting big races such as the Belgian Championships road cycling in 1963, the World Championships road cycling in 1969 and 2002 and the arrival of the Tour de France in 1981. Several world cups and world championships in cyclo cross also took place around the circuit. Today, the circuit also houses the Flemish Cycling School and UCI BMX track.

Wednesday and Thursday evening between 18:15 and 21:30, cyclists can have a safe training on the illuminated circuit. The Pro Tour cycling teams like to test teams and material at the legendary tarmac of the Terlaemen track.



Beverlosesteenweg 85, 3583 Paal

www.flandersbikevalley.be

Flanders' Bike Valley was established in 2013 as one of the first bottom-up clusters in Flanders. As an Open Innovation Centre for the Cycling Industry the cluster was founded by BioRacer (a cycling clothes manufacturer), Lazer Sport (helmets), Ridley Race Productions, Voxdale (a specialist in aerodynamics who engineered and designed for Indycar) and Flanders' Drive (a knowledge centre for the Automotive Industry). Flanders' Bike Valley organises partner matching events (often together with other clusters/valleys), is setting-up breakthrough open innovation projects for multiple partners and will also focus on joint internationalisation and incubation in cooperation with BikeVille Incubator (the goal is to set-up a cycling technology incubation centre by 2016).

Energylab



Schoebroekstraat 8, 3583 Beringen

+32 11 45 99 00

www.energylab.be

Energy Lab supports pros like André Greipel, Sven Nys and Tim Wellens in achieving the greatest victories through extensive testing, coaching and personal training programmes. Also, recreational cyclists can head here to optimise their performance and prepare for personal goals.

Ridley Bikes



Beverlosesteenweg 85, 3583 Beringen

info@ridley-bikes.com

www.ridley-bikes.com

As the bicycle sponsor of World Tour Team Lotto-Belisol, this is a top level brand. There's a showroom for press and dealers, where the newest collection is shown. Ridley has its own paintshop and assembly hall. No production of frames.



RIDE ONE OF THE SPECIFIC ROUTES

Climbing in the 'Toscane of Limburg'

Gorgeous and tough route from the centre of Borgloon through the rolling countryside of South Limburg with beautiful views. Along the way, you will conquer various climbs. The route uses the cycling network and is suitable for recreational cyclists who like a sporting challenge.

http://www.routeyou.com

Limburg Cycling Tour

Ride the Tour of Limburg track. Discover and enjoy the stunning scenery with tough slopes and challenging cobbled streets.

http://www.routeyou.com

(small loop)

http://www.routeyou.com

(big loop)

1000m of climbing in South-Limburg

1000 m of climbing through South Limburg? You can! Along the way, you can enjoy the beautiful South Limburg scenery while taming the most challenging slopes in the Tour of Limburg, like the Slingerberg in Kanne or 'petit L'Alpe-d'Huez' with its ten serpentines. Start and finish are in the Land Commandery Alden Biesen, one of the largest castle complexes in the Euroregion.

http://www.routeyou.com

Tongria Classic

You ride along the beautiful castles and rolling countryside of South Limburg and Haspengouw. Enjoy the beautiful vistas and flowering blossoms. On these low-traffic roads you can quietly enjoy a tour around Tongeren and Borgloon.

http://www.routeyou.com

STAY IN A CYCLING ACCOMMODATION



Apart from the bike friendly accommodations mentioned in the general part of this brochure, we want to highlight some places to stay that breathe cycling, are beautifully located in 'cycling territory' or host pro-teams almost every year. Check this one out:

Hotel Malpertuus ***

Tongersesteenweg 145, 3770 Riemst

+32 12 45 15 38

info@malpertuus.be

www.malpertuus.be

Hotel Malpertuus was established 40 years ago by Yvo Molenaers when he retired after a successful career as a professional cyclist. Today, Hotel Malpertuus remains a welcoming hotel with 29 luxury rooms in which both tourists and business guests can feel at home. Yet, cyclists are only interested in one room: room 11. If you sleep in that room, you win. It's as simple as that. In the past, Moreno Argentin slept here, he won Liege-Bastogne-Liege four times and the Fleche Wallonne three times. Mario Cipollini slept in room 11 when he became world champion in Zolder (2002). And it goes on: in 1997, 1998 and 1999 Michele Bartoli was sleeping in the room and look: the Italian won Liège-Bastogne-Liège (1997, 1998) twice and the Flèche Wallonne (1999) once. In 2012 and 2013 roommates Joaquim Rodriguez and Daniel Moreno (Katusha) won the Flèche Wallonne and – of course – spent the night in room 11 ...



ENJOY A PRE-RIDE COFFEE, POST-RIDE BEER OR GREAT MEAL

Café Coureur

Daaleindestraat 52, 3720 Kortessem

hello@cafecoureur.cc

http://cafe-coureur.myshopify.com

This café is just what a cycling café should be:

- 1. All cyclists are welcome (even the most muddy and soaked ones)
- 2. Each cyclist will be treated to a 'Madeleineke' (mini cake)
- If there's a race on TV, they will certainly show this, no one can do anything about that

- They count with seven bicycle beers on the menu: Kwaremont, Malteni blond, Malteni white, amber Malteni, Cyclist, Orvélo Tripel and Orvélo Drome
- 5. The decor of the cafe = an ode to cycling
- 6. There are plenty of books on cycling
- 7. And on top of it all: all tough cycling stories are more than welcome here!

Cycling pub De Kriekel

Sint Jozefsplein 2, 3980 Tessenderlo

+32 496 68 29 89

www.wielercafe-dekriekel.be

The cycling bar is ideal for enjoying a drink in a unique cycling decor. Caution ...before you know it, you'll be seated next to a well-known cycling hero. In addition to enjoying the cycling interior, you can also enjoy the chef's cooking at very reasonable prices. Uniquely, all dishes are adapted to the cycling year.

GO TO A STYLISH CYCLING SHOP

Café Coureur

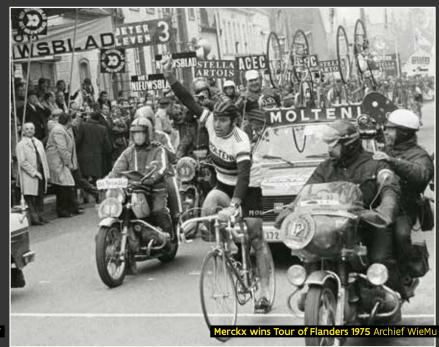
Daaleindestraat 52, 3720 Kortessem

hello@cafecoureur.cc

http://cafe-coureur.myshopify.com
Shop with a bunch of cool cycling brands
that make you look good on your bike.















Karel van Wijnendaele, the founder of the Tour of Flanders Archief CRVV

COLOPHON

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www.visitflanders.com

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We hope that this brochure helps you in putting together your tour(s). Anything missing? Any comments? Please contact your Trade Contact at VISITFLANDERS (contact details on the back cover). He/she would love to hear your reactions.



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