

iPod Traveller

"The Best in European Travel"



▲ Explore the beautiful canals of Bruge

Beer and Bruge

Overview

Bruge is a delightful little city in Belgium, nestled between Lille, Brussels and Antwerp. The city is just a stones-throw from the recently revived sea-side town of Oostende and makes the perfect day or weekend trip from South-East England, Northern France, Netherlands and Germany.

We travelled by car from London and were pleasantly surprised to find a city so rich in culture and history to be little more than three hours away, when travelling via Eurotunnel.

The city has an impressive historical centre, granted UNESCO World Heritage status in 2000. Much of the its architecture dates back to the 15th Century and remains intact, although early records date back as far as the Pre-Roman Gaul era. The first fortifications of the city were build after Julius Caesar's conquest of the Menapii in the 1st Century BC to protect the costal area against pirates.

What To See in Bruge

Markt and Burg

Bruge's two main squares will help you to orientate yourself when exploring the city on foot. Both squares are incredibly beautiful, showing off some of the city's most fascinating architectural facades, all painted different colours. The squares play regular host to festive events and concerts, including the annual Christmas Market, Ice Rink and Ice Sculpture Festival.

Onze Lieve Vrouwekerke (Church of Our Lady)

The Church of Our Lady dates back to the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries. The brick built tower is one of the tallest of its kind anywhere in the world and measures 122 metres. Inside are the tombs of Charles the Bold, last Valois Duke of Burgundy, and his daughter, the Duchess Mary.

The alter piece inside the large chapel holds a white marble sculpture of the Madonna and Child created by Michelangelo in 1504.

The church is open year-round. Mon-Fri 09:00 - 12:30 / 13:30 - 17:00, Sat 09:00 - 12:30 / 13:30 - 17:00, Sun 14:00 - 17:00.

Basilica of the Holy Blood (Heilige Bloed Basiliek)

This beautiful church on Burg square houses a vial of blood that is said to be the blood of Jesus. The church was built in Gothic style. Each year there is a procession around the city celebrating the blood of Jesus.

Beer and Bruges

Choco Story

Celebrate what Belgium is best known for, chocolate, by visiting Choco-Story, a museum giving a tasty insight into the history of chocolate production. The museum gives visitors the opportunity to taste 3 dark chocolates, each of which contains 65% cocoa and comes from three countries: Peru, Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica.

Adults: 6€ - Wijnzakstraat 2, 8000, Bruges, T. 050 61 22 37

Beer in Bruges

Belgium is the place to go if you're a beer enthusiast and Bruges has its fair share of home brews to keep any seasoned drinker going for at least a few rounds. Bruges produces Brugse Tripel, Brugs Blond, Brugs Witbier and Straffe Hendrik.

For the real drinking experience head on down to the Gambrinus Bar on Philipstockstraat, where you can sample some of the 400 beers available.

Getting there and away

By Car

Many people visit Bruges by car because it is well situated between several other somewhat larger cities, offering city dwellers from England, Netherlands, France and Germany the chance for a short break in the family car. The city has a one-way system that effectively guides you into one of the main underground car parks, all of which are inexpensive.

From London head down the M20 to Folkestone / Dover and take the Tunnel or the Ferry. Continue from Calais along the coast, journey time is about 1 hour. Major roads link Paris, Brussels and Rotterdam.

By Coach

Eurolines is once again your friend in Europe for those who want a leisurely and relaxing journey. Eurolines connects every city in Europe and has direct services from London during the summer. Tickets and timetables are available at www.eurolines.com

By Train

Belgium has an excellent, punctual and inexpensive rail system. Regular trains connect Bruges to other major cities, especially Brussels. If you are travelling from London you can get an all inclusive return ticket for £55, which includes onwards travel from Brussels to any station in Belgium.

Going Green?

With the planet getting warmer everyday, it's up to travellers to do their part to "go green." Airplanes and personal cars put out the greatest amount of carbon emissions, whereas trains and group coaches are more eco-friendly.

To offset your carbon emissions, visit <http://www.carbonneutral.com>.



▲ Soak up the relaxing atmosphere in Bruges

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nick@ipodtraveller.net
opal@ipodtraveller.net

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