



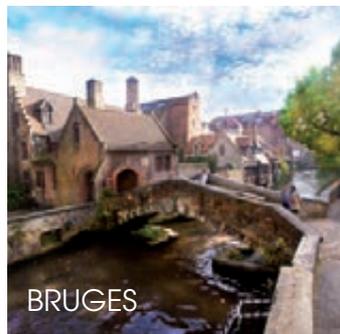
GHENT

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ANTWERP

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BRUGES

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## FLANDERS AND WORLD WAR I

2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the Armistice, the conclusion of fighting between the Allies and Germany in World War 1 of 1914-1918. Multiple battles were fought in Flanders, Belgium, in WWI, the most infamous of which was the battle of Passchendaele which was fought by Australian & Commonwealth soldiers against the German army between 31 July & 10 November 1917.

Australia alone suffered 38,000 casualties in Flanders, and every night at 8 PM a moving memorial service is held under the Menin Gate in Ypres to commemorate the ultimate sacrifice made by these and so many other Allied soldiers.

This ceremony, during which the Last Post is played, first commenced in 1928 as a tribute by the people of Flanders to the fallen, and today the Menin Gate is regarded as the most significant Commonwealth memorial on the Western Front remembrance trail.

2018 will be a particularly significant year to explore Flanders Fields, a region that will for evermore have a special connection to Australia.



BRUSSELS

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## ABOUT FLANDERS

Walking around in Flanders' pocket-size cities you'll discover the secrets of the Flanders way of life. With chocolate stores on every street corner and the sweet smell of warm waffles filling the air, a visit to Flanders feels like a match made in heaven.

Situated in the north of Belgium, Flanders boasts six beautifully preserved historic cities: **Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, Leuven** and **Mechelen**. From medieval splendor to mouthwatering dishes, it is hard to find fault with this pint-sized destination in the center of Europe.

Flanders has always been at the crossroads of northern and southern Europe, in between East and West, breathing in influences and creativity from all over the world. It offers century's worth of cultural heritage gems in the fine arts and architecture as well as cutting edge art, fashion, design and contemporary gastronomy.



LEUVEN

© Visit Flanders



MECHELEN

Grootbrug © Visit Mechelen

## MORE ABOUT BELGIUM

**Art & Heritage** - Flanders has a deep and rich cultural heritage that goes back hundreds of years. The region has a multitude of world-class museums, galleries and art centres and a wealth of art events throughout the year. With artists including Jan Van Eyck and James Ensor, as well as sculptors and photographers, art lovers will find plenty to immerse themselves in on a trip to Flanders.

**Belgium Beer** - Belgium is a beer-lover's paradise. And that's not just its proud inhabitants talking. Even UNESCO agrees: it added Belgian beer to its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

**Belgium Chocolate** - Belgian chocolate is famous and appreciated all over the world for its excellent quality and flavour.

### Brussels - the heart of Europe.

Fly into Brussels National Airport, Brussels 20 minutes by train, Antwerp 35 minutes. Arrive by train, Eurostar from London St. Pancras in 1h 51 minutes. Take the Thalys train from Paris in 1 hour 25 minutes or Amsterdam in 1 hour 52 minutes.



With convenient connections from their 4 Australian ports, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane & Perth, THAI operates 4 onward

non-stop direct services a week from Bangkok to Brussels, utilising their brand new state-of-the-art Airbus A350, with both Business and Economy cabins. Brussels is a convenient, smaller European airport with minimal flight congestion and quick immigration clearance. It is the hub of Brussels Airlines, a Star Alliance member like THAI, which operates an extensive European network.



Minnewater © Jan D'Hondt - Visit Flanders



Chocolaterie Neuhaus at Koninginnegalerij Brussels © Visit Flanders

## FLANDERS AT LEISURE

8 Days - 7 Nights | Flanders Package

## RELAX IN BRUSSELS

4 Days - 3 Nights | Brussels City Stay



### Price includes

- 1st Class Benelux Rail Pass: 4 Days in 1 Month<sup>^</sup> - valid for travel in Belgium, the Netherlands & Luxembourg.
- 7 nights accommodation in rooms with private facilities and breakfast daily
  - » 2 nights Brussels
  - » 2 nights Bruges
  - » 2 nights Ghent
  - » 1 night Ypres\*
- Service charges, taxes & VAT

\*Hotel in Ypres is a 3-star  
<sup>^</sup>Excludes seat reservations



### Price Includes:

- Arrival transfer Brussels airport or rail station to hotel
- 3 nights hotel accommodation in room with private facilities and breakfast daily OR apartment accommodation – room only (no breakfast)
- Chocolate tour of Brussels (3 hours)
- Full Day Sightseeing tour to Bruges
- Service charges, taxes and VAT

\*Rate does not include City Tax payable locally.

Brussels

### RELAX IN BRUSSELS

 4 Days - 3 Nights | Brussels City Stay  
 Prices from per person, low season

	👤👤	👤
3-Star Hotels	489	743
4-Star Hotels	589	716
5-Star Hotels	796	1366
Apartment Based on twin share in a Studio Apartment.	429	-

Low Season 1 November 2017 to 31 March 2018

FLANDERS AT LEISURE 8 Days - 7 Nights   Flanders Package Prices from	👤👤	👤
3-Star Hotels	1014	1475
4-Star Hotels	1159	1950

Prices from per person, low season.  
 Low Season 1 November 2017 to 31 March 2018



## CHRISTMAS MARKET IN GHENT

From 8th December 2017 to 7th January 2018

Picture walking through a Scandinavian Christmas village, right in the middle of a wintery pine forest. The Gentse Winterfeesten is an authentic Christmas market right in the enchanting heart of Ghent. Just imagine the smell of pine, lots of green, cosiness, lights, northern lights, moose, chalets, festive warmth with a Nordic touch.

Ghent may not have the largest Christmas market, but it has one of the best locations. The Christmas stalls stretch out over Sint Baafsplein (Saint Bavo's square) in the medieval city centre, with the cathedral at one end and the 14th-century belfry at the other.

Ghent also prides itself on its musical offering, with a choir singing Christmas carols and live jazz, folk and rock performances taking place around the open-air ice rink.

Visit Ghent Christmas Market © Stad Gent – Dienst Toerisme