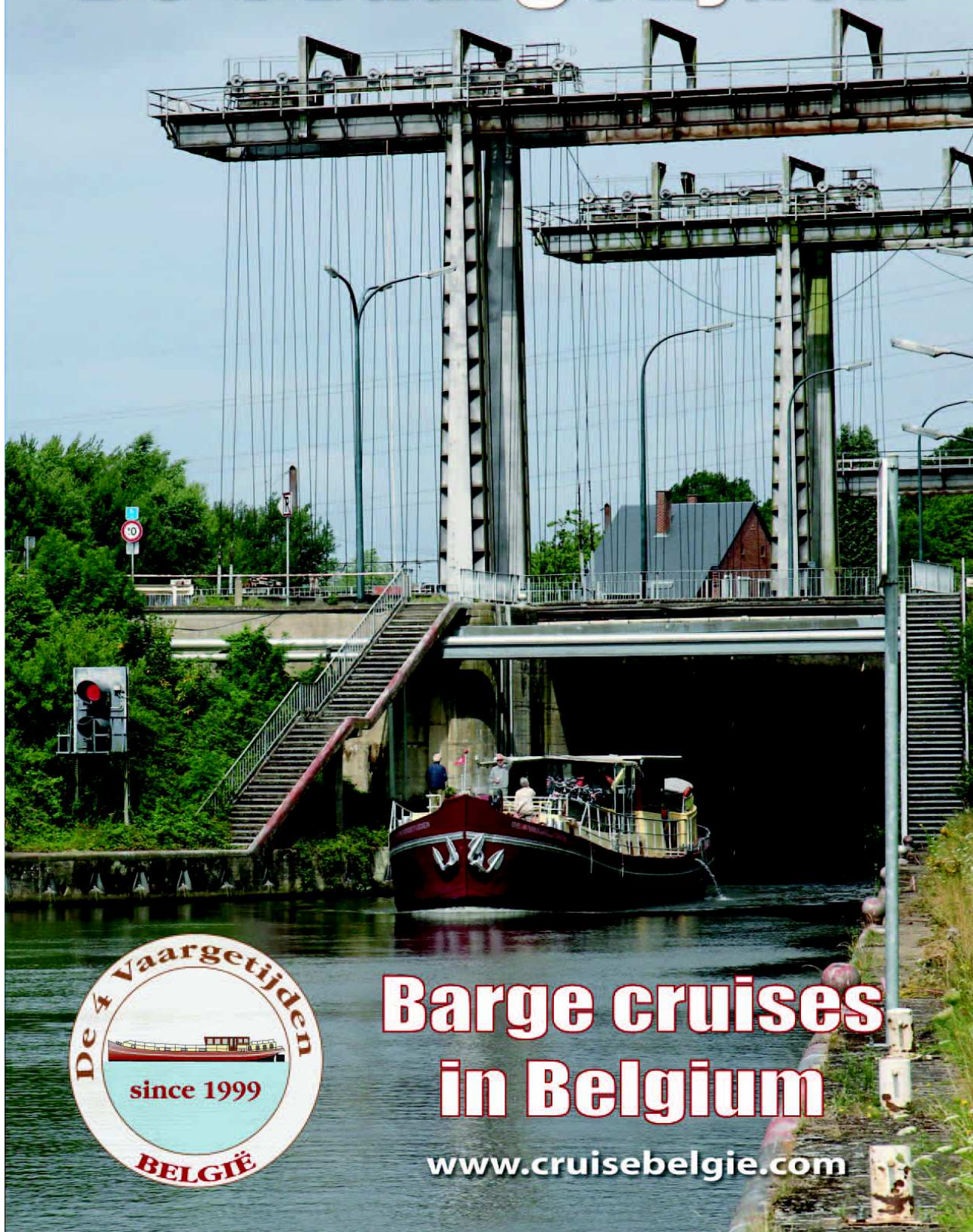


# De 4 Vaargetijden



**Barge cruises  
in Belgium**

[www.cruisebelgie.com](http://www.cruisebelgie.com)

## Discover the wonderful feeling of "De 4 Vaargetijden"

We, Olga and Maurits, invite you to enjoy a unique experience on our hotel boat which has been operating since 1999. During your cruise with us we will endeavour to share with you many scenic highlights from the water, providing all the comforts of a hotel.

Unbelievably relaxing, you will be able to unpack just once and see the sights from a different perspective on the canals and rivers. Relish the warm, unconstrained atmosphere as we sail through a country full of picturesque charm.

You will witness all the history and character Belgium has to offer and we are sure you will take away many memories of a wonderful voyage.

It is our pleasure to offer you the opportunity to join us aboard "De 4 Vaargetijden".



Olga en Maurits  
Noty 



### Sailing in luxury

"De 4 Vaargetijden" is a barge elegantly finished in wood and copper, its proud owners offering their guests comfort and warm hospitality.

#### Lower deck:

Four cabins, each with two roomy beds, cupboard and private facilities: a shower, toilet and washstand. Every cabin is fitted with quilts, sheets and towels, hot/cold water, 220 V plug and central heating. A casement window provides fresh air. Of course the beds are made upon arrival. Totally free!

#### The big central salon is the culinary hub of "De 4 Vaargetijden".

In the mornings a gorgeous breakfast awaits you and at noon and in the evening you can enjoy unique Flemish cuisine. Pleasantly relaxing, enjoying a board game or watching a film is all possible in this cosy place. A broad stairway connects the living room with the panoramic wheelhouse on the upper deck. The wheelhouse is an attraction in itself, while the largest possible sundeck makes it possible to sojourn pleasantly outside.

## Choose your own barging formula

You can charter the entire barge or enjoy an individual tour where you will sail in the company of others and have the opportunity to make new friends!

You can choose between:

**Weekend:** Starts Friday 7 PM, ends Sunday 9 PM

**Midweek:** Starts Monday 7 PM, ends Friday 10 AM

**week:** Starts Friday 7 PM, ends Friday 10 AM

Also 10 or 15 days trip

### Chartering the whole boat

**Routes:** A group chartering the whole boat can choose one of the given routes or get a tailor made tour. Depending on the participant's wishes, the trip can offer opportunities to walk, to take cycling tours, go swimming or fishing. The itinerary could get close to museums, breweries, windmills, artistic events, markets or any other special target you have in mind. Of course barging is always included. The final selection of route and overnight stops is completely up to the group, in cooperation with the skipper. Sometimes even last minute changes during the trip are possible.

Not all members of a group are forced to participate in all activities together. Some might go on a cycle tour, while others spend their time fishing or sunbathing on board. All members of the group can join at lunch or dinnertime.

**Schedule:** Our ship can be chartered throughout the year.

**Harbour of departure:** Look in the attached practical log book to see what is the possible port of departure in a specific period.

**Meals:** The boat can be chartered for up to eight people. It is your choice whether that includes full board or half board. Combination of these two within one group is not possible. Catering: Starts around 20.00 (FB) on the first night on board with the welcome dinner, and stops after breakfast around 10.00 on the day of disembarkation, or after dinner on Sunday (FB) around 21.00 for the weekends.

### Routes and schedules open for booking per cabin:

**Routes:** You find all the tours of bookable per cabin in the schedule listed in the practical logbook. It is possible that we have to change these routes during the coming year. Always check with us to see if there are any changes in these routes.

**Meals:** Catering starts around 20.00 on the first night on board with the welcome dinner (FB), and stops after breakfast around 10.00 on the day of disembarkation, or after dinner on Sunday (FB) around 21.00 for the weekends.

**Winter Season:** During the romantic winter season, Boat & Breakfast is possible in Oudenaarde.



*The year planning  
shows all tours that  
are bookable per cabin.*

*The schedule for this year,  
with the dates and routes,  
is included in  
the **practical Logbook**.  
There you will also find all prices.*



### Example routes:

#### 10-days journey from Oudenaarde:

##### **route M Flandres Fields special tour**

Fr: Oudenaarde welcome ca 19.00, beautiful mediaeval city, known for wall carpets  
 Sa: Ghent make a reconnaissance with this cultural highlight  
 Su: Bruges the Venice from the North, a mediaeval city worth seeing  
 Mo: Nieuwpoort biggest yacht harbour at the North Sea  
 Tu: Veurne historical town in the West-Flanders  
 We: Diksmuide town on the river IJzer with a vivid W.W.I history  
 Th: Bruges mediaeval city worth seeing twice  
 Fr: Leerne Visit the garden of castle Ooidonk and cruise the winding, romantic, river Leie.  
 Sa: Oudenaarde cultural city and visit also archaeological Ename  
 Su: Oudenaarde goodbye ca 10.00

##### **route B + Locks tour extra**

Fr: Oudenaarde welcome ca 19.00, beautiful mediaeval city, known for wall carpets  
 Sa: Antoing old cement culture and a roman tumulus  
 Su: Thieu view the old and new boat lifts  
 Mo: Ronquières passage of the new boat lifts and passage of the inclined plane of Ronquières  
 Tu: Thieu passage of the inclined plane and visit of the old lifts of Thieu  
 We: Blaton look at the locks stairway and/or bike ride to the castle of Beloeil  
 Th: Tournai Belgians most ancient city  
 Fr: Zwevegem a transfo of 1911 and 3 windmills or visit of the cultural city Kortrijk  
 Sa: Oudenaarde cultural city and visit also archaeological Ename  
 Sun: Oudenaarde goodbye ca 10.00

#### 8-days week journey starting from Oudenaarde:

##### **route V Birdwatching tour**

Fr: Oudenaarde welcome ca 19.00, explore Donk ponds, 't Spei or Ename  
 Sa: Leerne domain Ooidonk and Leiemeers of Astene and Bachte  
 Su: Oostkamp find the kingfisher at Valley from Zuidleie and woods Doeveren  
 Mo: Stuivekenskerke Viconiakleiput, resting place for silver herons and waders  
 Tu: Oudenburg find the Black-necked Grebe in Roksempuit and the geese of Rietnest  
 We: Schipdonk Merendree well and the silent Island  
 Th: Oudenaarde Schelde Kleinmeers, Mesure well, Weiput water birds in big quantities  
 Fr: Oudenaarde goodbye ca 10.00

## route C Culture tour

Fr: Oudenaarde welcome ca 19.00,  
beautiful mediaeval city, known for wall carpets  
Sa: Ghent make a reconnaissance with this cultural highlight  
Su: Ghent extensive city visit or a bike ride to the Waasland castles  
Mo: Bruges first introduction with the Venice from the North sea  
Tu: Bruges view the city or view the village of books Damme  
We: Leerne visit the garden of castle Ooidonk  
and a refreshing dive into the Old Leie?  
Th: Oudenaarde cultural city and visit also archaeological Ename  
Fr: Oudenaarde goodbye ca 10.00

## route B Locks tour

Fr: Oudenaarde welcome ca 19.00, beautiful mediaeval city,  
known for wall carpets  
Sa: Antwerp old cement culture and a roman tumulus  
Su: Thieu view the old and new boat lifts  
Mo: Thieu passage of the new boat lifts and view of the inclined plane  
of Ronquières  
Tu: Blaton look at the locks stairway and/or bike ride to the castle of Beloeil  
We: Tournai Belgians most ancient city  
Th: Oudenaarde cultural city and visit also archaeological Ename  
Fr: Oudenaarde goodbye ca 10.00

## 5-days midweek journey starting from Oudenaarde:

### route E Old Leie tour

Mo: Oudenaarde welcome ca 19.00,  
beautiful mediaeval city, known for wall carpets  
Tu: Deinze known for its church carillon, art museum  
and deer park, good shopping  
We: St.Martens-Latem cruise the winding, romantic,  
river Leie. and the view artists village  
Th: Oudenaarde cultural city and visit also archaeological Ename  
Fr: Oudenaarde goodbye ca 10.00

### route F Tournai tour

Mo: Oudenaarde welcome ca 19.00, beautiful mediaeval city,  
known for wall carpets  
Tu: Zwevegem swimming, fishing or visit Kortrijk  
We: Tournai Belgians most ancient city  
Th: Oudenaarde cultural city and visit also archaeological Ename  
Fr: Oudenaarde goodbye ca 10.00

## 10-days journey from Maasmechelen to Oudenaarde or vice versa

### route TD rivers Schelde – Maas tour

Fr: Maasmechelen mining history with garden villages,  
national park and tree-top walk  
Sa: Liège shopping and cultural city, aquarium  
Su: Huy mediaeval city on the river Maas  
Mo: Namur cultural city on the rivers Maas and Sambre, mediaeval citadel  
Tu: Sambre in the heart of steel  
We: Thieu view the old and new boat lifts  
Th: Blaton look at the locks stairway and/or bike ride to the castle of Beloeil  
Fr: Tournai Belgians most ancient city  
Sa: Oudenaarde cultural city and visit also archaeological Ename  
Su: Oudenaarde goodbye ca 10.00

## 8-days week journey starting from Maasmechelen:

### Route I Nature tour

Fr: Maasmechelen welcome ca 19.00, mining history with  
garden villages, outlet shopping  
Sa: Bree typical Maasland church and mansions, cosy shopping city  
Su: Neerpelt charming shopping city with a large Sound Forest  
around the river Dommel  
Mo: Turnhout combination of culture and shopping, beguinage,  
castle and playing cards museum  
Tu: Turnhout extra day for visits, biking or hiking  
We: St Huibrechts Lile: authentic windmill, biking and walking paradise  
Th: Maasmechelen mining history with garden villages,  
national park and tree-top walk and outlet center  
Fr: Maasmechelen goodbye ca 10.00

## 5-days midweek journey starting from Maasmechelen:

### route J Limburg tour

Mo: Maasmechelen welcome ca 19.00, mining history with  
garden villages, outlet shopping  
Tu: Neerpelt charming shopping city with a large Sound Forest  
around the river Dommel  
We: Bree typical Maasland church and mansions, cosy shopping city  
Th: Maasmechelen mining history with garden villages,  
national park and tree-top walk and outlet center  
Fr: Maasmechelen goodbye ca 10.00

## 10-days week journey starting from Maasmechelen:

### Route LL Extended Limbourg tour

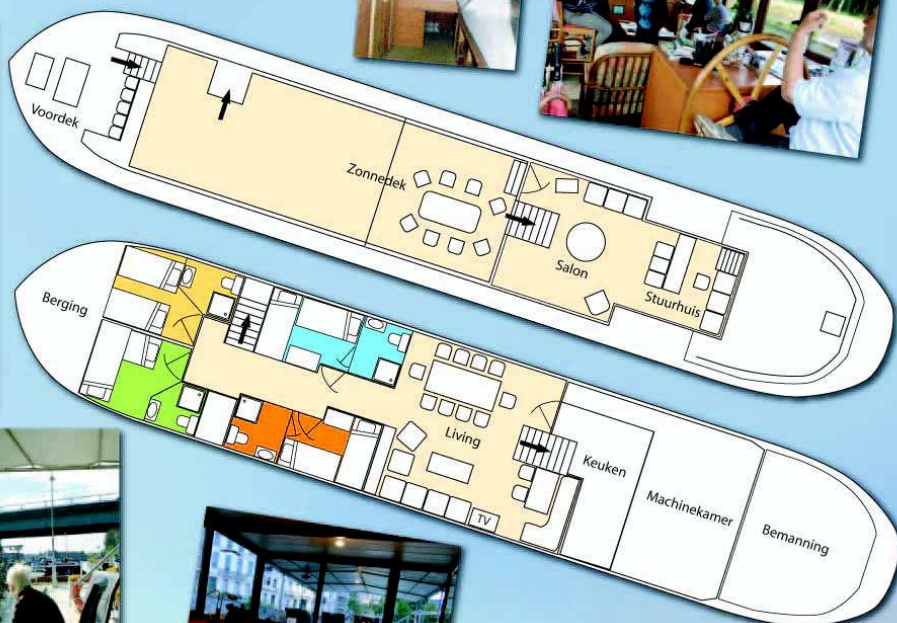
Fr: Maasmechelen mining history with garden villages,  
national park and tree-top walk  
Sa: Bree typical Maasland church and mansions, cosy shopping city  
Su: Neerpelt charming shopping city with a large natural preserve  
around the river Dommel  
Mo: Herentals historical buildings, the Hidrodoo science museum,  
a large chocolate factory  
Tu: Lier gothic church, unique clock tower Zimmertoren,  
a brewery and tart "Lierse vlaaikens"  
We: Schoten a water castle and bike rides between nature reserves  
and wooded areas  
Th: Turnhout combination of culture and shopping, beguinage,  
castle and playing cards museum  
Fr: St Huibrechts Lile: authentic windmill, biking and walking paradise  
Sa: Maasmechelen mining history with garden villages,  
national park and tree-top walk and outlet center  
Su: Maasmechelen goodbye ca 10.00

## 3-days weekend journey starting from Oudenaarde:

### route H Little Old Leie tour

Fr: Oudenaarde welcome ca 19.00, beautiful mediaeval city, known for wall carpets  
Sa: St.Martens-Latem cruise the winding, romantic, river Leie.  
and the view artists village  
Su: Oudenaarde return and goodbye ca 21.00

## Lodging in luxury...



## Our culinary delights will make your mouth water...

### Short description of the meals:

**Breakfast:** different types of bread, muesli and  
ca 8.30 cornflakes, milk and yoghurt,  
cheese, ham, marmalade, egg,  
coffee, tea and Juices.  
10.00 hours: coffee or tea with  
Belgian cookies.

**Lunch:** different types of bread, sweet rolls, different toppings for  
ca 12.30 bread, some daily special like salad / quiche / fish  
or soup, coffee, tea, milk, mineral water and juices.

Afternoon tea: coffee or tea with Belgian cookies

### By full board also: (ALL DINERS, off course!)

**Dinner:** Starter or soup, meat / fish, potatoes / pasta / rice,  
ca 19.30 2 vegetables, salad, a dessert, refreshment  
(water, wine, beer or lemonade) coffee/tea

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You can choose between full and half board. In both cases the extensive breakfast as well as the lunch buffet at noon are included. Generally the barge is underway at this time, so you can enjoy the passing scenery while you take another helping of the lunch buffet!

**In choosing full board** you will be able to sample Olga's delicious cuisine in the evening and linger on deck by candle light, with a Belgian beer! Your first meal aboard is the diner on the day of arrival.

**Choosing half board**, you are free to enter the harbour town each evening and discover for yourself the gastronomic fare that is available. Your ship's hosts can give plenty of advice! Your first meal aboard will be breakfast, day after arrival.

We are glad to support if possible any simple dietary wishes or special preferences. We request that you provide required Information to our cook when booking.



**Janet & Paul Bartel from Girdwood, Alaska**

Thank you again for the wonderful food you prepared, the maps to help us find our way, and your words of wisdom about life in Belgium.

**Harry & Meilssa Engel Janet & Paul Bartel from Anchorage & Girdwood, Alaska**

Bike, Barge & Beer... what a great way to travel!

**Ann & Carmen Talarico Matt, Andi & Orlin from Blowing Rock, NC & SSI, GA**

Fun way to see Belgium!

(Orlin 5 months old-youngest barging baby, to date!)

**Rob + Elise Berry from Warrandyte (Australia)**

Our third trip on de 4 Vaargetijden has been as enjoyable as the previous ones thanks to the wonderful hospitality and kindness of Maurits and Olga. Delicious meals, excellent advice regarding cycling routes, helpful assistance when required and delightful cruising along the canals. Another memorable holiday we have enjoyed immensely. Sincere thanks for everything you have done.

**Frederik from Amsterdam (Nederland)**

A marvellous vacation - thank you very much!

**Lisa from NYC via England**

Thanks for a lovely week of castles, cycling + lots of great food!

**Jill & Don Bradbury from Berwick, Victoria (Australia)**

Many thanks for being such brilliant hosts and making our 9 days so enjoyable.

**Rosalind and John Steel from Victoria, Australia**

Thank you both again Olga and Maurits for a most enjoyable week.

As before we'll fed and very comfortable, great scenery and fascinating history - exploring the towns.

Many thanks again.

**Jane and Kenton from Woodland WA USA**

Wow! What a fantastic trip! Our first time in Belgium, and Olga and Maurits are perfect hosts. We enjoyed our time talking with them about Belgium, the Merchant Marine, Belgian history, and the rivers/locks system. We enjoyed biking in the countryside (the bike trails are well marked, safe, and gorgeous), and cruising really pretty rivers. Olga's cooking is wonderful (she made different Belgian specialties every day), and we liked the other guests a lot—learned a lot of important things from them, actually. We stopped in fascinating old towns. The entire trip was great. Highly recommended. And yes, our hosts' seafaring skills are very impressive. Both of them were captains of big ships in the merchant marine.

**Theresa from USA**

Olga & Maurits... the best chef and captain ever. Thank you for a splendid trip...delicious, relaxing, educational...enjoyed the humor and laughter.

**Duane and Marie from Sedona Arizona USA**

Our greatest trip ever!

**Tchell from Kensington CA USA**

Thank you so much for such a wonderful trip! The food was outstanding! I'm still looking for that duck that wakes us up in the morning...



# De 4 Vaargetijden



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