

# de 4 vaargetijden

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## Barge cruises in Belgium



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

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## 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 and Maurits  
and  Dief

## 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 cabins is fitted with quilts, sheets and towels, hot/cold water, 220 V plug and central heating. A casement window provides for the necessary fresh air.

### 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 sundeck makes it possible to sojourn pleasantly outside.





# Lodging in luxury...



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

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 at the dinner table 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 by booking.



### 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 roils, different toppings for bread, some daily special like a salad / a quiche / some fish or a soup, coffee, tea, milk, mineral water and juices.

Afternoon tea: coffee or tea with Belgian cookies

### By full board also:

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



# Choose your own barging formula

You can charter the full 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 An 10 or 15 days trip

Sailing ports:

**Summer season:** from April to September we sail from Oudenaarde or Maasmechelen (05/08/2012-02/09/2012)

**Winter season:** during the romantic winter months Bed & Breakfast is possible in Oudenaarde

## 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 participants' wishes, the trip can offer opportunities to walk, to make 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. Even last minute changes during the trip are possible. Not all members of a group are forced to participate to 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: Oudenaarde**

**Maasmechelen** (05/08/2012 -02/09/2012)

**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:** All routes described in the schedule below can be booked by cabin. Our planning is based on the situation in December 2011. It is possible that we have to change these routes during the year 2012. 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 diner on Sunday (FB) around 21.00 for the weekends.



## 2012 Schedule for bookings per cabin:

Data	Route	Specification
06/04-13/04	C	Week starting from Oudenaarde
16/04-20/04	F	Midweek starting from Oudenaarde
20/04-27/04	C	Week starting from Oudenaarde
27/04-04/05	C	Week starting from Oudenaarde
04/05-13/05	M	10 days trip starting from Oudenaarde
15/06-22/06	B	Week starting from Oudenaarde
06/07-13/07	C	Week starting from Oudenaarde
27/07-05/08	TD O-MM*	10 days trip Oudenaarde to Maasmechelen
06/08-10/08	J	Midweek starting from Maasmechelen
24/08-02/09	TD MM-O*	10 days trip Maasmechelen to Oudenaarde
14/09-23/09	M	10 days trip starting from Oudenaarde
24/09-28/09	E	Midweek starting from Oudenaarde

\* Return to Oudenaarde not included.







## Barge and bike, paradise on the water . . .

Combine barging with bicycle activity for a really unforgettable vacation! We offer special routes to please the active bikers. Combining barging with bicycling is possible on all our tours.

Unpacking is required only once; the barge "De 4 Vaargetijden" will join you at the next stop every day and offer you all facilities! Available on board are over hundred bicycle tour maps and we have selected the most beautiful bicycle routes for you. Regular distances go from 38 to 69 km per day, although most bike routes offer alternatives.

Sometimes it is possible to join the barge in the morning, then go biking in the afternoon or complete the whole journey. No personal guide will bicycle with you, so some map reading skills are necessary!

Particularly in Wallonia, there are hardly any road signs, routes B & TD. Some . map reading skills are surely required here. The hilly landscape demands some physical effort too.

The other routes are mostly flatlands, routes C & M, or slightly hilly, route I. The system of indicated cross points covers now whole Flanders. It will be hard to get lost!

The best place to view the picturesque river Old Leie is from the sundeck of "De 4 Vaargetijden".

You won't like to miss this stretch.

The routes A, M, C, E & H let you enjoy this beautiful river. Bicycles with 6 speeds and some extra utilities are available for you. But if you prefer your own bike, feel free to bring it with you.



## 8-days week journey starting from Oudenaarde:

### route A Westhoek tour

fr: Oudenaarde welcome ca 19.00, beautiful mediaeval city, known for wall carpets  
 sa: Bruges the Venice from the North, a mediaeval city worth seeing  
 su: Veurne historical town in the West-Flanders  
 mo: Diksmuide town on the river Ijzer with a vivid W.W.1 history  
 tu: Bruges mediaeval city worth seeing twice  
 we: Deinze known for its church carillon, art museum and deer park, good shopping  
 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: Antioing 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

### 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 excursion to 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

## 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

## 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

## 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.1 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

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

### route TD rivers Schelde – Maas tour

fr: Maasmechelen mining history with garden villages, outlet shopping  
 sa: Liège shopping and cultural city, aquarium  
 su: Huy mediaeval city on the river Maas  
 mo: Namur cultural city on the rivers Maas and Samber, mediaeval citadel  
 tu: Charleroi 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 natural preserve around the river Dommel  
 mo: Turnhout combination of culture and shopping, beguinage, castle and playing cards  
 tu: Turnhout extra day for visits, biking or hiking  
 we: St Huibrechts Lile: authentic windmill, biking and walking paradise  
 th: Rekem old castle-village and walking the borders of the Old Maas  
 fr: Maasmechelen return and 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 natural preserve around the river Dommel  
 we: Bree typical Maasland church and mansions, cosy shopping city  
 th: Rekem old castle-village and walking the borders of the Old Maas  
 fr: Maasmechelen return and goodbye ca 10.00



Lovely, lovely trip. We saw so many beautiful sights, old cathedrals, museums and all drank much local beer. Our meals were the best, but most of all, we enjoyed the hospitality. Thank you, thank you. Until next time.  
Ruth Ann and Bob Smith (Boise, Idaho, USA)

\*

Thanks for the wonderful introduction to Flanders ..... loved the bike rides along the Nieuwpoort canals!

M.J. Hamilton and David Reed (Sacramento, California, USA)

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We had a wonderful time. We especially enjoyed the wealth of Information of Olga and Maurits. Very attentive to everything. The food was excellent and the beer magnificent!

Cay & Kent Welsh (Mobile, AL, USA)

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Thank you once again for a most enjoyable trip and we hope that you can bear it if we decide to come again!! It does seem strange to be sitting at home and not having the scenery glide by the Windows, and not watch Dief be "busy" as he paddled to & fro supervising everything you do. Good luck for the rest of the season. Diane & Tony (White, Cheltenham/Gloucestershire, United Kingdom)

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Thank you both for introducing us to the Belgian people and World of gastronomical delights.

Your humor, gentleness and infectious smiles will remain in our hearts for years to come.

Lorna and Jim Auld (Idaho, USA)

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Another wonderful cruise on De 4 Vaargetijden! Thank you for including us on your last trip of the 10th season.

This was our 3rd and it really was "a charm". We enjoyed visiting all the towns on the Westhoek route. Looking forward to sailing with you again.

Skip and Sharon Warrell (Florida, USA)

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Thank you very much for your hospitality and friendship. We've enjoyed seeing this piece of Belgium. (and drinking the fine Belgian beer!). We've had a great time!

Lenny and Carla Corin (Washington, USA)

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What a lovely way to explore a part of Belgium!!

Thank you for your hospitality.

We will miss Olga's wonderful cooking and Maurits stories and explanations of all things Belgium.

Keep guard Dief!!

Peter and Dianne Talsma (Macgregor, Australia)

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What a wonderful trip... you two are the greatest... way above and beyond your "Job". An unforgettable experience.

We love you! Carol House (Florida, USA)

\*

Thanks for a memorable week- great Belgian food & good Company,

lots of fun and on top of everything, perfect weather! Mary Meyer & Jean Opsomer (Colorado, USA)



# de 4 vaargetijden



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