



# THE CANALS AND INLAND WATERWAYS OF BELGIUM

Wednesday 03 October – Monday 15 October 2012

**SPEND 13 DAYS AND 11 NIGHTS** traveling with Canal Society President, Tom Grasso and Euromapping CEO David Edwards-May, across Belgium visiting and cruising a wide range of canal structures and several strikingly beautiful, medieval towns. The tour includes the UNESCO World Heritage City of Bruges, enchanting Ghent, plus historic Brussels, Antwerp, Namur and Dinant. Examine and cruise the exquisite canal curiosities near La Louvière including the four UNESCO World Heritage shiplifts on the old Canal du Centre, the new 240 foot high lift at Strépy-Thieu, and the Ronquières Incline on the Charleroi-Brussels Canal. Cruise the spectacular Sambre Valley above Namur but also portions of the Scheldt and Lys Rivers and the many canals that link them including one of the great commercial arteries – the Ghent-Terneuzen Ship Canal. Visit horrific WWI sites near Ieper (Ypres) that inspired John McCrae, at Essex Farm, to pen his renowned poem *In Flanders Fields*. Site numbers are listed on the map and in the summarized day-by-day itinerary. On all current issues on Belgian waterways, and in the country as a whole, **get the inside stories** from experts and leading personalities! Check our websites [www.newyorkcanals.org](http://www.newyorkcanals.org) and [www.euromapping.com](http://www.euromapping.com) to see detailed itinerary with images.

## Day 1 – Wednesday 3rd

Departure from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany through **New York JFK** for Brussels

## Day 4 – Saturday 6th

### A Day in Beautiful Bruges

**04** Round Lock, old Brugge Harbor  
**05** Historic Bruges boat trip  
**06** Historic Bruges City Center, on foot with official city guide

## Day 5 – Sunday 7th

### Northwest Flanders – Canals and WWI

**07** Nieuwpoort flood management and navigation water cross-roads, King Albert Monument  
**08** The Trench of Death near Diksmuide on the IJzer  
**09** City of Ieper (Ypres), Grote Markt, WWI and the *In Flanders Fields* Museum  
**10** Ypres-Comines Canal (never completed) and Visitors Center  
**11** Walk the Canal – the unfinished canal summit level and remains of a lock  
**12** Kortrijk, beautiful city-center historic bridge with Medieval Towers and Lys bypass canal (time permitting)

## Day 13 – Monday 15th

Transfer to Brussels Airport for Return to USA  
**36** (near Brussels airport) unusual lock on the Dijle-Leuven Canal

## Day 2 – Thursday 4th

Arrive Brussels by Delta Airlines DL140 at 09:00 hours. Transfer by motor coach to Ghent  
**01** Brief Tour of City Center Ghent

## Day 3 – Friday 5th

### The Dazzling City of Ghent

**02** Boat trip on Ghent's Waterways: 1½ hour tour revealing many monuments and new Scaldis lock site  
**03** Short Guided Tour with city guide

## Day 6 – Monday 8th

### North Flanders – Arteries of Commerce

**13** Evergem Locks on the Ghent Circular Canal, recently completed second chamber and control tower  
**14** Boat trip Ghent Harbor aboard the port authority vessel *Jacop van Arterelde*  
**15** The Terneuzen Navigation Control Center (Netherlands): observe commercial shipping on the Scheldt with its 3 entrances to the Ghent Ship Canal. Lunch on board, courtesy of Ghent Port Authority

## Day 7 – Tuesday 9th

### A Day in Antwerp – the Great Seaport

**16** Boat trip on Scheldt, Antwerp Harbour through lock to historic inner city dock basins  
**17** Museum Aan de Stroom, on island in the docks: panoramic view of Antwerp and harbor from rooftop  
**18** Antwerp City Center on foot with city guide  
Transfer to Brussels

## Day 8 – Wednesday 10th

### The Capital Brussels, its port & canal

**19** Grand'Place in center  
**20** Molenbeek lock  
**21** Boat trip on the Ship Canal through Brussels, with comments on port  
Transfer to Namur

## Day 12 – Sunday 14th

### Canal Enlargements and Restorations

**34** Bicycle Trip down the 16 lock flight and entire line of the old 300 ton Charleroi-Bruxelles Canal from the summit level tunnels to the junction with the present line below the Ronquières Incline  
**35** Tournai old bridge (*Pont des Trous*) and lift bridge just south: problem of canal enlargement in center of beautiful old town.

## Day 11 – Saturday 13th

### Shiplifts and Inclines: Canal Curiosities in Hainaut

**32** Old and New Canal du Centre and Charleroi-Brussels Canals, Shiplifts and Incline, boat trip up thru Strépy-Thieu shiplift, along the summit, right into old 300-ton Canal du Centre, down Lift #1 to Lift #2. Disembark and proceed to Lift #3 to engine/power house. Return to vessel, up Lift #1, then down the Ronquières Incline.  
**33** Site investigation of machine room Strep-Thieu Lift, not normally visited by tourists

## Day 9 – Thursday 11th

### The Meuse & Sambre Valleys by Road and Water

**22** Tour of Namur with official city guide.  
**23** Dinant, beautiful town on the Meuse and Citadelle on rocky promontory  
**24** Boat trip from Namur on the Meuse and Sambre Rivers

## Day 10 – Friday 12th

### The Meuse, the Albert Canal and the Ourthe Canal

**25** Liège entrance to Albert Canal with Monument in park  
**26** Liège covered slipway and dock  
**27** Three generations of locks at Lanaye, splendid site with spectacular deep cut through limestone cliffs  
**28** Liège, junction of Rivers Ourthe and Meuse, 1st part of the never completed 1827-1831 Meuse-Moselle Waterway  
**29** Village of Tilff on the river Ourthe, wonderful town square and setting  
**30** *La Roche aux Faucons* dazzling overlook of the Ourthe valley  
**31** Poulseur, well-preserved lock south of the village on Ourthe Canal



# THE CANALS AND INLAND WATERWAYS OF BELGIUM

3-15 Oct. 2012



To summarize the highlights of this unique tour:

- Magnificent UNESCO World Heritage Belfry in Namur and UNESCO World Heritage town of Bruges plus stunningly beautiful Ghent, Antwerp, Ypres, and Namur with their magnificent waterways, medieval architecturally rich city centers & shopping
- The **Trench of Death** – on the western front near Diksmuide
- Grote Markt and Lakenhalle (Cloth Hall) in **Ypres** – now restored after near total destruction in WWI
- **In Flanders Fields** Museum in the Lakenhalle telling the story of WWI and the Ypres Salient
- Cruise some of the numerous canals and waterways – in Flanders, Wallonia, and Brussels
- Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp and Brussels on foot and by water, and Ghent, Antwerp Harbor Tours
- Wonderful shiplifts on the old and new Canal du Centre between Mons and La Louvière
- Spectacular Lanaye north of Liège, with its 3 locks and striking beauty of the deep limestone cut
- Optional – bicycle a portion of the old 300-ton Charleroi-Brussels Canal
- Cruise through the magnificent **Sambre Valley** above Namur

The tour is organized by the Canal Society of New York State with the collaboration of Euromapping, for members of CSNYS and Inland Waterways International. Participants from North America book both sections 1 and 2; others book only the land tour, section 2.

## 1. TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHTS

**\$783 - \$845**

Round-trip airfare (approximate, tax-dependent) *Delta Airlines* from **New York (JFK)** \$783.05, Albany \$837.05, Syracuse \$845.05, Rochester \$837.05, Buffalo \$837.05, connecting thru JFK, for flight to Brussels on Wednesday 03 October and return from Belgium on Monday 15 October thru New York (JFK).

AIRFARE & INSURANCE payable, **checks only**, to:

Van Zile Travel Service  
3540 Winton Place  
Rochester, NY 14623

See AIRFARE AND TRAVEL INSURANCE Sheet and Covering Letter\*

Call or e-mail Anne Michelle Popeck (CTC) at Van Zile Travel Service:

**585-697-2773** or Toll Free **866-511-7277**

[annemichelle@vanzile.com](mailto:annemichelle@vanzile.com)

\* Travel Insurance is strongly recommended

## MINIMUM OF 25 PARTICIPANTS – MOBILITY REQUIRED

**Please book** by February 29. The first to book get the more luxuriously appointed rooms at the Hôtel Les Tanneurs in Namur.

**Payment terms** Transatlantic flight **100%** on booking; land tour **30%** deposit on booking, balance of **70%** by July 15; products posted on Euromapping's on-line shop, OR equivalent for those paying US\$ to CSNYS.

**Cancellation** 98% refund for cancellation before May 31, 70% refund up to June 30, 40% refund up to September 10; no refund for cancellation on or after September 11.

**Thanks** Tom Grasso and David Edwards-May assembled this tour with the able assistance and recommendations from our Belgian friends and colleagues:

### In Flanders

**Rudy van der Ween**, Director Water Tourism City of Ghent, **Eric van den Eede**, President PIANC, Brussels, **Stefan Devocht**, Director Waterways and Ship Canal, **Philippe Monsieur**, President of Flanders Federation of Nautical Industries (NAUTIV), **Daan Schalck**, General Manager, and **Vanessa Desmet**, PR, Port of Ghent

### In Wallonia

**Yvon Loyaerts**, Director General, Waterways and Mobility, Wallonia Department of Public Services (SPW) and **Marc Delaude**, Deputy Director of Public Relations and Marketing, Wallonia Department of Public Services (SPW).

**Please note: the tour organizers reserve the right to omit or otherwise alter some site visits or the planned route at any time, due to time constraints, inclement weather, or unexpected problems**

## 2. LAND TOUR BELGIUM

**\$3,361 €2490**  
(per person, double)

**\$4,298 €3190**  
(per person, single)

This spectacular 11-night canal tour will include 5 nights in Ghent (4-star Ghent River Hotel with its own mooring), 5 nights in Namur (4-star Les Tanneurs) and 1 night in Brussels (3-star Ibis off Grand'Place). All Belgian bookings by Euromapping, Grenoble, France.

This price includes hotels and breakfast, all dinners, 5 lunches, deluxe motor coach ground transportation, **7 boat trips**, 4 museums/visitors centers and 25 other site visits, detailed color guidebook, taxes including 19% VAT, all tour guides.

NOT INCLUDED: air fare (section 1, left), 6 lunches, public transport fares.

THE LAND PORTION CAN BE PAID IN TWO WAYS:

### IN US \$ (CHECKS)

To secure a place on the tour, send 30% deposit – **\$1008** or **\$1289**, by **check only** – payable to CANAL SOCIETY OF NEW YORK STATE, to

**Tom Grasso**  
**233 Overbrook Road**  
**Rochester, NY 14618**

For any questions, call home: 585-387-0099  
cell: 585-314-3782

e-mail: [tgrasso1@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tgrasso1@rochester.rr.com)

### IN EUROS (ON-LINE)

Pay on line in Euros the 30% deposit to secure the booking. **Payments to Euromapping thru its website via the bank's own secure payment facility** [www.euromapping.com](http://www.euromapping.com)

Link from home page, or go to **Shop**, then **Tours**

For any questions, call DEM office: 00 33 476 709317  
cell: 00 33 603 600098  
(from USA, 011 33...)

e-mail: [dem@euromapping.com](mailto:dem@euromapping.com)

## IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE – EXCHANGE RATE VARIATIONS

**For the land portion** there will be no surprises if you book the tour through Euromapping and pay the instalments in Euros. Your account will be charged at the current exchange rate for each instalment. If paying to the Canal Society, the above prices per person in USD include a provision for bank charges on the transfer of the bulk of the funds to Europe. If there is a drop in value of the Euro against the dollar of **4% or more** between the time of your payment and the date the funds are transferred to Europe, you will get a refund of the difference. Conversely, if the dollar falls against the Euro by 5% or more, we reserve the possibility of charging a supplement for exchange rate variation, but this will only be as a last resort; every effort will be made by the Society and the tour provider Euromapping to avoid any surcharge.



# Canal Society

of New York State

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- President -

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12 December 2011

Dear Member,

Enclosed please find the flyer announcing the Canal Society of New York State's 13 day, 11 night tour through Belgium (October 03-15, 2012) "*The Canals and Inland Waterways of Belgium*". The flyer provides all essential tour information on site visits and how to make bookings. This year I am working with my good friend David Edwards-May, CEO of Euromapping in Grenoble, France for all Belgian bookings. The purpose of this letter is to expand upon the information contained in the flyer, produced by David, and provide more details on airfare and trip insurance.

This tour is all about spectacular beauty - of landscape, waterways, towns, marvelous historical sites and museums. In north Belgium (Flanders) we will visit several beautiful UNESCO World Heritage cities, cruise high capacity, commercial, waterways and explore by boat the major commercial harbors that link the North Sea with Belgium's canal system and the products they transport.

South Belgium (Wallonia) is a rugged region of much higher relief than Flanders and therefore offers wonderful scenic vistas of limestone cliffs and deep valleys. It also has spectacular canal curiosities constructed to move boats up and over the high Hainaut Plateau near La Louvière without employing conventional locks. On the west side of the upland we will cruise through Western Civilization's highest shiplift (boat elevator) on the Canal du Centre that replaced four late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, hydraulic, lower capacity, shiplifts. It raises and lowers boats 240 feet in less than 10 minutes - an engineering marvel not to be missed. But this boatlift is just the tip of the iceberg because on the north side of the same plateau is the Ronquières Incline where boats are hauled up to the summit or let down in a water filled box on rails and we shall cruise down this wonder of the waterways world. In addition we get the opportunity to get a behind the scenes look at most if not all of these structures. The Ronquières Incline replaced the old 19<sup>th</sup> century canal that had a flight of 16 small locks. This canal is still in water and for those that would like to bicycle we shall pedal down the entire flight.

So please join us for an adventurous journey of Belgian Waterways offering, for further inducement, medieval towns, deep cuts, high boatlifts, splendid canals, wonderful scenery, and great companions. The trip leaders are not so bad either.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING CAREFULLY-THIS IS IMPORTANT.

- We need a **minimum enrollment** of **25 people by 29 February 2012** or the tour may be **cancelled** because this is when we **must start paying deposits** for motor coaches, hotels, restaurants, boats, and other items.
- **Lodging and Bicycles** - we need to know if **couples want 1 bed or 2 beds** and **who would like to bike** several kilometers **down** the 16 lock flight on the old Charleroi-Brussels Canal. **Please let us know these choices with your deposit.**

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- **Cost in Euros and US Dollars (\$3,361.00 pp double occupancy and \$4,298.00 pp single)**  
– This year we are offering two payment methods for the land portion. As shown on the flyer you can book and make payments directly through Euromapping's website ([www.euromapping.com](http://www.euromapping.com)) or conventionally, as in the past, through me.  
**If you choose going through me payments are as follows:**  
**Deposit 30% (\$1,008.00 pp double and \$1,289.00 pp single) – on or before 29 February**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Installment (\$1,353.00 pp double and \$2,009.00 pp single) – on or before 20 April**  
**Final Payment (\$1,000.00 pp for both double and single) – on or before 15 June**
- **The land portion is very good value for the money**, as it is several hundred dollars less expensive than the South Germany Tour last year. Plus the hotels in Ghent and Namur are beautiful boutique hotels, adaptive reuse of historic buildings once used for commercial enterprises. **Book early to get better-appointed rooms.** A detailed itinerary containing more details about site visits and other aspects of the tour can also be viewed on our website [www.newyorkcanals.org](http://www.newyorkcanals.org) (on the home page click on *Belgium Waterways Tour*) or by contacting me, by phone or email.
- **Air Carrier** – I am using Delta Airlines connecting through New York - JFK.
- **Airfare** – Delta offered very reasonable fares indeed – less expensive than Continental's quote last year – cost from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany and New York can be found on the flyer. Two things are important:
  1. **Airfare price quoted on the flyer is a close approximation.** Up to the time that tickets are issued prices can fluctuate by \$20.00 or \$30.00 and maybe more, due to changes in taxes, fuel surcharges, or anything else. We cannot guarantee the precise cost at this time. Once it is paid in full and tickets are issued the price is locked in and that date will be May 20<sup>th</sup> when final payment for air is due (**See Enclosed Airfare and Travel Insurance Sheet**).
  2. **Very significant is the \$100.00 non-refundable deposit** for booking seats on the flights. You must make a decision to go on this tour very soon. Therefore please call Michelle Popeck (at Van Zile Travel **585-697-2773** or **866-511-7277**) and get a copy of your passport and a check for \$100.00 payable to VanZile on or before 1 February 2012. **We cannot guarantee the availability of seats on the flights or the attractive group price after 1 February.** This is why air fare is payable by check only NO credit cards. If we don't get the required airfare bookings by 1 February checks can be destroyed.
- **Travel Insurance is very strongly recommended. Please buy it!** You are spending thousands of dollars for this tour and **the insurance at approximately \$302.00 per person depending on age and single or double occupancy** is small compare to what you would lose, should you fall ill or have a family emergency either before departure or during the tour itself. **Please call Michelle Popeck for actual cost and what it covers.**

Please join us for a remarkable tour to Belgium in the company of friendly and cheerful colleagues and associates. Please contact Michelle Popeck ASAP or before 1 February, 2012.  
If you need more information or have questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Very best regards,



Tom

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## **Airfare and Trip Insurance**

To make reservations for **air bookings** plus **more information** on **insurance**, and **payments** please contact **Anne Michelle Popeck AT:**

**Van Zile Travel Service  
3540 Winton Place  
Rochester, NY 14623**

**Phone: 866-511-7277 (Toll Free)  
585-697-2773**

**email: [annemichelle@vanzile.com](mailto:annemichelle@vanzile.com)**

**Deposit and Payment Schedule: NOTE-** Payments for airfare and insurance **must** be by **PERSONAL CHECK ONLY** payable to.....  
*Van Zile Travel Service.....as follows:*

**On or before February 1, 2012 ..... Deposit \$100.00 – non-refundable**  
**On or before March 20, 2010.....\$300.00 (refunded if tour is cancelled)**  
**On or before May 20, 2010.....Balance of airfare **plus** full payment for insurance**

Airfares quoted in the flyer are close approximations based on today's information from Delta Airlines. Total taxes and other surcharges may vary with time by \$20.00 or \$30.00 or possibly more. Certainly Van Zile Travel Service has no control over the airlines and even the airlines are not in control of taxes especially those imposed by the government of Belgium.

*Early final payment due May 20th guarantees the air fare as priced on May 20<sup>th</sup> because you will be issued a ticket. Once ticketed you are protected from taxes and surcharges but you are also locked in—therefore purchase of insurance on this date protects you if you must cancel later for any legitimate reason! After tickets are issued they are non-refundable with penalties for any changes or cancellation (NO name changes are allowed).*

**If the tour is cancelled in mid March because of low enrollment your \$300.00 deposit check will be destroyed.**

**A photocopy of your passport is required with your \$100.00 deposit**

### **TRIP INSURANCE:**

**The insurance covers air ticket plus cost of the tour in Belgium as follows:**

- **Trip cancellation of the tour before departure (100%) OR interruption**
- **Trip delay**
- **Medical accident and sickness while on the tour**
- **Baggage delay**

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- **Baggage loss**
- **Emergency medical transportation**

**Insurance cost per person depends on the total cost of the tour and your age when final airfare payment is made on 20 May 2012 but should approximate \$302.00 and covers up to \$5,000.00.**

**Call Anne Michelle Popeck for group quote and to answer any of your questions.**

Trip insurance is FOR YOUR PROTECTION –PLEASE DON'T TAKE THE CHANCE - GAMBLING NOTHING WILL OCCUR THAT WOULD PREVENT YOU FROM GOING ON THE TOUR

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