



**DRAFT**  
**Belgium Beer Tour**  
**July 6 - 15, 2019 - tentative**  
**(10 days, 8 nights)**  
**Proposed itinerary**

**Day 1**

**Depart US**

Arrive at Tampa airport 3 hours in advance of scheduled departure to check in for your overnight flights to Brussels, Belgium.

**Day 2**

**Arrival/Brussels**

Welcome to **Belgium!** After claiming luggage and clearing customs, you'll be met by your English-speaking tour escort (with you throughout the tour) and board private coach. Transfer to the center of Brussels for a guided city tour. **Brussels**, the European capital and home to the European Commission and the Council of Ministers of the European Union (EU). The city has grown from a 10th-century fortress town into a metropolis of more than one million inhabitants. Brussels is also a major center for international politics, with NATO headquarters and the European Union headquarters based here. Check into your Brussels hotel, with welcome dinner at local restaurant and overnight.



**Day 3**

**Brussels**

After breakfast board your coach and transfer to the Dour district to visit **La Brasserie de Blaugies**, a small family brewery. All their beers are unfiltered and fermented for an extra time in the bottle to add yeast. Five different beers are brewed here. After lunch on your own (there's a restaurant next door), transfer to Tourpes (approx. 30 min) to visit **Dupont Brewery**, a former farm dating back to 1759. In 1844, it became the Rimoux-Derrider farm-brewery, specializing in the production of honey and "Saison" beers (produced in winter for drinking in the fields in summer). Your guided tour includes tasting different beers and cheeses. Afterwards transfer back to Brussels (approx. 1 hour). Visit **Oud Beersel Brewery** (estab. 1882), one of the last remaining authentic lambic breweries of Belgium and known for its traditional brewing methods. Group Dinner at local restaurant and overnight in Brussels.



## Day 4

## Brussels

After breakfast, transfer to two breweries located in the east of Belgium. In the morning you'll visit **Orval Brewery**. Located within the Abbey, the Orval Brewery was created in 1931 to finance the enormous reconstruction costs of the town. The guided visit includes an audiovisual presentation of the history of the monastery and the present-day life of the Community, and access to the ruins of the medieval abbey and museums on the grounds. Continue to your next stop, Soy (approx. 1.5 hour). Lunch on your own en-route to the next brewery, **Fantome Brewery**. Transfer back to Brussels. Group dinner in a local restaurant and overnight.

## Day 5

## Brussels

After breakfast, transfer to the south of Belgium near the French border. The first visit is **Chimay Brewery**, at Scourmont Abbey, a Trappist monastery and one of eleven breweries worldwide that produce Trappist beer. They make three ales, and one *patersbier* for the monks. The monastery also makes four varieties of cheese. After lunch on your own in Chimay, cross the border into France to visit the **Brewery au Baron**. After exploring the brewery, transfer back to Brussels (approx. 1.5 hrs). Group dinner at a local restaurant and overnight.



## Day 6

## St Bernardus

Breakfast at the hotel, then check out and board private coach to visit **De La Senna Brewery**. The beers, with their complex flavors and well distinguished personalities, are true beers of character, made in Brussels by two passionate brewers. Afternoon transfer to Watou (approx. 2 hours) with lunch on your own en-route. The history of **St Bernardus Brewery** is connected to two Trappist monasteries; one gave it its name, the other gave the beer. Check in to the B&B of the Brewery St Bernardus and have dinner at local restaurant. Overnight in Watou.

## Day 7

## Bruges

Breakfast and check out. First visit is **Brewery Westvleteren**. The monks of Westvleteren have been brewing beer (non-commercially) since 1839 to meet their own needs and to support people in need. Staff members and brothers co-operate in the production under the guidance of Christophe Claeys (Head brewer) and brother Joris (QM). The abbey and brewery are not open to visitors, but those interested can visit 'The renascence', an information space in the meeting center 'In Peace' opposite the abbey. Here the monks offer insight into their religious life. After this special visit and lunch on your



own, transfer to **Thiriez Brewery** in the north of France (approx. 40 min) for a guided visit of this French Brewery. Following your visit and beer tasting, your coach will drive along the coast to Bruges (approx. 1.5 hours). Upon arrival enjoy a canal cruise and walking tour. **Bruges** is known as the *Venice of the North* (for its canal system). Most of its splendid medieval architecture is intact, leading UNESCO to declare the entire historic center a *World Heritage Site*. Check into hotel. Group dinner at a local restaurant and free time to visit some of the great bars of the city. Overnight in Bruges.

## **Day 8**

## **Ghent**

After breakfast you'll have a guided tour of **De Halve Maan Brewery**. Taste the different beers in the pub of the brewery. Check out and transfer to **Rodenbach** (approx. 45 minutes).

Lunch on your own. Visit the **Rodenbach Brewery**, where you will have a two-hour guided tour and discover what makes the Rodenbach beers so special and unique. Get to know the beer, the exceptional production process and the special Rodenbach family. Needless to say, you get to sample the beers!



Transfer to **Ghent** (approx. 1 hour 15 min). Upon arrival, a local guide will take the group on a walking tour of the city's beautiful historical center. Check in to hotel and have group dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight in Ghent.

## **Day 9**

## **Brussels**

After breakfast check out, load your luggage on the coach and depart for **Templeuve** (approx. 1 hour) to visit **Brewery De Cazeau**. In this very authentic Farmhouse brewery you will have a guided tour. (The first document mentioning the brewery is dated October 17, 1753.) After learning about this brewery, transfer to **Mouscron** (approx. 15 min) for lunch on your own in one of the local restaurants. Guided tour of **Brewery de Ranke** where you will get an explanation of the brewery process and a tasting of the beers. Afterwards transfer back to Brussels (approx. 1.5 hour). Check-in in your hotel and **farewell dinner** in a local restaurant. Overnight in Brussels.

## **Day 10**

## **Return home**

Check out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your return flights to the U.S. **Welcome home!**