

7 -10 Day Best Of Belgium's Beer Tour



It's hardly surprising that beer brewed in Belgium is incredibly popular nowadays. Belgium equals beer and beer equals Belgium. We might be blowing the Belgian trumpet a little here but, nevertheless, we are not far from the truth to be honest

Without a doubt, beer is the national drink; we are so familiar with it that we don't usually take a moment to stop and consider what it means to us.

It may surprise you but in Belgium, you can conjure up a can of beer out of a vending machine, find a huge choice of brands on the average supermarket shelf or visit a dedicated beer store for an even wider choice of specialty beers.

There are over 224 breweries in Belgium

The total production of Belgian brewers is near to 2 billion litres of beer. This doesn't make the country the world's or even Europe's largest producer though; Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and the UK all produce more.

However, Belgium is the champion when it comes to exports. Sixty percent of all beer in Belgium – well over 1 billion litres – is shipped abroad. Who is buying all this Belgian beer? Amongst our

biggest fans are: France, the Netherlands, Germany, the USA, the UK, Italy, Canada and Japan. The beer sector also wields a strong economic power.

Belgian beers have a range of colors, brewing methods, and alcohol levels.



- Trappist Beers (Beers brewed in Trappist Monasteries, priests must participate, funds must go to the monastery) Only 11 monasteries meet the qualification and 6 of them are in Belgium.
- Abbey Beers (Beers similar in style or presentation to monastic beers. May be produced by non-trappist monastery, a commercial brewery under a commercial arrangement with an extant monastery, or branded by a commercial brewery with the name of a defunct abbey.)
- Pils or pale lager (represent the bulk of beer production and consumption in Belgium.)
- Bock (Strong lager of German , or Netherland origin)
- White or wheat beer (Made with a blend of wheat and Barley, herbs and hops [once it became available].)
- Blonde or Golden Ale (a light variation on pale ale, often made with Pilsner Malt.)
- Hop-accentuated beers and India Pale Ale (a few Belgian beers are pale and assertively hopped in the British style.)
- Lambic beers (including gueuze and fruit lambics). (A wheat beer brewed southwest of Brussels in the Senne valley. The process is by spontaneous fermentation with wild yeasts and bacteria that are said to be native to this valley. There s a long aging process up to 3 years. This process gives this type of beer its dry, vinous, and cidery taste with a slightly sour aftertaste.)
- Amber Ales (Beers similar to the traditional pale ales of England, although less bitterly hopped.)
- Tripel (strong pale ale – typically described in the low countries)
- Dubbel (brown ale derived from the abbeys)
- Flemish Red
- Old Bruin (Flemish Sour Brown Ale)
- Brown Ale (darker than amber ales, less sour than Flemish brown ale, & less strong than debbel.)
- Stout (Scotch Ales – sweet, heavy-bodied brown ales – originated in British Isles)
- Champagne Beers – (a;es tjat are fomossed by a method original to Champagne.)
- Quadrupel or Grand Cru (a blend of brews often refermented as a blend.)
- Saison (Refreshing, low-alcohol pale ales brewed seasonally in farmhouses in Wallonia.)
- Winter or Christmas Beers (brewed seasonally with more alcohol, and also contain spices – over 190 varieties of this beer alone.)

- Fruit Beers [non lambic] (In the brewery process fruit juice or fruit syrup is used instead of sugar.)
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Now it's time to pick your destinations for this Best of Belgium Beer Tour.

For these Custom Tour Itineraries, typically we craft the program with some local sightseeing, special focuses on your interests and passions (outside of Beer) and a bit of a culinary flare that compliments the main events, "BEER TOURS", with the destination(s) in Belgium.

- You may decide on one location for your tour, keeping it short and to the point (all about beer) or a longer visit for a well-rounded package in each city.
 - You may decide to include multiple cities in your journey to enjoy more of an immersion into Belgian Beer Culture.
 - Or, you may want it all – nothing but a tour of the main cities in Belgium and as many Beer tours, sites, and beer-focused experiences as you can fit into your trip.
 - Whatever you desire's for Belgian Beer and "beer-tasting" your way through the country, we will make it really special with touches and influences that make these tours more than just a bar hopping experience. Behind-the-scene experiences, truly off-the-beaten-path extras, and special local immersions that these regular tours don't provide. But of course, we include these Best of Belgium Beer Tours in your program...you will help us decide which of these fit best with your preferences and style.
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BRUSSELS BEER TOURS



Beer and Breweries



A cycle tour tracing the history of beer and Brussels breweries. As well as taking cyclists to typical Brussels pubs and 'estaminets', the tour includes a visit to the Cantillon Brewery, Brussels' last brewery still producing beer.

Beer, Food and Music in the city



there's music on the menu as well.

This tour goes past the 'Manneken-Pis', over the Grand Place, the Ilot Sacré and through the Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert. Participants will experience a true beer evening with live music, enjoying an aperitif, main course and dessert in three different pubs in the centre of Brussels. The aperitif is a special Belgian beer with cheese, the main course a dish made with beer accompanied by a second glass of special beer, and dessert is a third hand-brewed beer. In all pubs

Best of Belgian Beers



This theme walk takes visitors right through the centre of Brussels, including the Grand Place and the 'Manneken-Pis' and participants can also stroll through the Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert. Included in the tour are stops at two taverns for a very drinkable hand-brewed beer (individual choice between about eight different beers) which the knowledgeable guide will describe.



Brasselicious

The Poechenellekelder, La Bécasse, L'Image Nostre Dame, Greenwich, 't Goudblommeke van Papier and the Mort Subite are all historic pubs in Brussels offering just the right atmosphere for a pleasant drink. On this tour, a guide takes participants to each pub, telling them about their history, how they have developed over the years and what has been changed. And on top of that, they'll be told lots of anecdotes and interesting facts. While in the pubs, the guide will explain the unique character of the different kinds of beer.

Cheers 2!



As one of beer's fatherlands, Belgium has a whole range of different beers on offer, including Trappist beers, abbey beers and seasonal beers - probably more than 750 different kinds. The beers typical of Brussels are Gueuze, Lambik, Faro and Kriek, and the right places to taste them are such typical pubs as Mort Subite, A l'Image de Notre-Dame, Bécasse, Les Brasseurs, Het Goudblommeke in Papier, Manneken Pis and the great taverns lining the Grand Place.

Cycle Tour: Cafés and Comics



ride.

Brussels is undoubtedly Belgium's No. 1 city for comics. They're all here - from Quick and Flupke via Brüssel to Gaston Lagaffe. A large number of famous cartoonists started their careers in the city, and many still live here. Over the last 10 years, 25 dull walls in the city have been enlivened with comic heroes. This tour also takes cyclists past some of Brussels' most typical city centre pubs, and the guide explains everything of interest about them - ideal for a stopoff for a beer after the

Dine Around



Dine Around is a great way of enjoying an entertaining tour of the capital of Europe in an 'interactive' bus, enabling visitors to take in the jewels of this historic city: the Cinquantenaire Triumphal Arch, Magritte's surrealism, Art Nouveau-style curls and speech bubbles in comics, the avenues of the Warandepark, the Atomium panorama. On board the bus participants have the chance to sample beer and cheese and there are additional tasting sessions at two stops (the Cinquantenaire Triumphal Arch and the Atomium). It's a unique way of finding out more about Brussels, in the company of others.

Taverns that tell the tales of Brussels



This is a walk taking visitors to old, typical or unusual pubs – centuries-old witnesses of the city's history and the development of social customs and preferences, and providing an insight into the major architectural trends that have swept through the city in the past. There are two stops, where participants can personally soak up the typical Brussels atmosphere.

The Beers of Brussels:from Gueuze to Pils



Pubs, taverns, brasseries, 'Estaminets and 'Caberdochkes' first started appearing in 18th and 19th century Brussels. Steadily increasing in numbers, they became popular places for a drink with friends. This walking tour enables visitors to find out more about all those different Belgian beers and how they developed, from the traditional Gueuze to the factory-brewed Pils. The walk starts in the historic centre of Brussels and ends at the Cantillon Brewery.

The Belgian Beer Review



It is a well-known fact that Belgians are renowned for drinking immense quantities of beer. And there is no other country in the world with such a wide variety of different beers – pale ales, brown ales, dark or deep-red, with cumin, cherries or honey. There's something for every taste.

On this course a beer expert starts by introducing participants to the most important Belgian beer families, explaining in detail how their beers are produced. Participants will find out how a beer is top- or bottom-fermented, what spontaneous fermenting is, the meaning of alcohol content, and a lot more.

Apart from enabling participants to learn a lot in a relaxed environment, the course also provides practical exercises, allowing them to consolidate what they have just learned in two different ways. A

s an aperitif, brewing theory is illustrated by tasting four different types of beer in a typical pub and this is followed by a buffet or a sit-down meal where all courses – from starters to desserts – feature beer in their preparation.

LEUVEN BEER TOURS



Brewery Walk on a kick bike



The visitor follows a beer-guide expert through Leuven - on foot or on the kick bike - and stops in a number of typical cafés. You'll start at the Vaartkom, in the shadow of the Stella Artois brewery, and visit old breweries and malt houses near the city centre, where you'll certainly stop at the city brewery Domus to taste three beers.

Brewing, Distilling and Bottling



Brewing, distilling and bottling – witty titbits and other drinks – this is a tour taking visitors on the trail of the once thriving brewing and distilling trade.

Leuven Beer Stories



On this walk, the guide takes participants on a discovery tour of old taverns and (disappeared) breweries, telling the history of Leuven as a beer centre. Was so much beer really drunk here? Where are all the breweries now? Is there a difference between a “Kroeg” and an “Estaminet”? Why are there so many pubs around the Oude Markt? What made beer from Leuven so famous? Is it true that the brewers used fish scales and pigs trotters, and was the beer really brewed with water taken from the River Dijle? All these questions are answered on the tour.

Culinary Beer Walk of a kick bike



The visitor follows a city tour guide through Leuven - on foot or on the kick bike - and enjoys a 3-course meal in 3 different restaurants. The dishes are accompanied by the appropriate beers.

BRUGES BEER TOURS



A cheerful pub tour in Bruges by horse tram



A tour of Bruges taverns in a horse-drawn carriage.

Cheers 1!



During this pub crawl, the guide takes the visitor to pleasant little cafés, pubs and taverns, just a few of Bruges' typical bars, you could say. Of course the visitor will get to enjoy a drink each time, but the guide will add a little flavour to the tasting with interesting stories and information about the café and the neighborhood.

Happas in Bruges



During this tour, the visitor takes a one hour drive through the historic heart of Bruges in an horse drawn tram with a stop for a beer tasting and dinner with Happas!

In the footsteps of 'Brugse Zot'



A chance for visitors to discover the 'Brugse Zot' brewery together with a beer dinner in a traditional guild house.

Old jugs and old wives' tales



Participants on this tour can enjoy taking a break in a traditional Bruges pub, drinking one of the many very drinkable local brews, or taking the plunge and trying the hand-brewed Bruges beer, the 'Brugse Zot'. In the company of a guide full of entertaining stories and anecdotes about Bruges and its beer, visitors will discover two typical Bruges cafés in which they can breathe in the atmosphere of days long gone.

Typical bars and though tales



What's better than relaxing in a friendly, old-fashioned pub over a tasty beer or the city's own traditional beer 'Brugse Zot'? Discover two of Bruges' unique pubs while in the company of a guide who will share entertaining stories and anecdotes about Bruges and the beers with the visitor along the way, bringing back the ambiance of days gone by!

ANTWERP BEER TOURS



Antwerp Pub Crawl



On every street corner and very often in between, there's a bar in Antwerp. Some of them old fashioned with nostalgic postcards attached to crooked walls, trendy lounge bars where the beautiful people sip from their martini cocktails, all- round cafeterias where the regulars order their first Duvel at 9 a.m. and where the salesgirls from the local supermarket eat a wholegrain pasta for lunch, and so many more. This pub tour will take the visitor to classics like 'het 11de gebod', specialist jenever bars like 'de Vagant' and 'Copa Cava', as well as a host for others. Learn about the origin of 'blijven plakken' (stick around), why the local tavern was so important in everyday life, what people used to drink at dinner and how, and so much more. The visitor will get an answer for everything

Beer Walk 2



Antwerp is more than just a tasty Bolleke. During the beer walk, the visitors will also discover the city's most special beer stories. Nowhere else are there so many authentic pubs and no other city has such close ties with the holy beer. Where else are there more meetings about beer? Or where else has a brewer ever cared for a 'Nieuwstad'? Antwerp and its beer, a surprising story with the customary tastings.

Beer Walk with a Meal



Many delicious dishes are made with beer, which is the perfect reason to combine a beer walk with a meal. In addition to the beer aperitif and appetizers, beer enthusiasts can devour a main dish with which a beer is definitely appropriate, and naturally, the walk ends with a beer.

Fun With Beer



discover that 'other side' of Antwerp.

Participants in this tour will enjoy finding out more about the gripping 'petites histoires', the tales featuring a number of Antwerp's taverns with their important social, business or cultural roles. In taking this tour, visitors will learn not just about the charm and history of these traditional taverns, pubs, inns or 'estaminets', but also about the local beers and how they are brewed. A great tip for people wanting to

Fun with Beer and Elixir



This is a longer and primarily stronger variant of the regular pub crawl. After all, it's not just about the local beers; it's also about some of the 'stiff drinks' here, like the Antwerp jenevers or herbal liqueurs that especially - but not only - are very moreish in the winter. Those who don't like the strong stuff can continue to enjoy the fun and beers ...

On a Beer Adventure in Antwerp



A walk through the historic centre of Antwerp while discovering hidden corners and squares. Each visitor will learn to differentiate between sour, sweet and bitter, Trappist and abbey beers, the various fermentation processes and much more. So as not to drink all this beer 'on an empty stomach', the walk will be preceded by a delicious meat and fish casserole. During the walk itself each 'beer tasting stop' will include a small snack. A total of 9 typical beers will be discussed and tasted.

Pub Legends



This walk will definitely give the visitor a warm feeling inside, even though it's probably from all those tasty drinks that they'll learn about during this tour. Funny little facts about the legends of Brabo and Lange Wapper will definitely come up, as well as some well-kept secrets about Antwerp's drinking culture...

Pub Tour in Antwerp taverns by horse tram

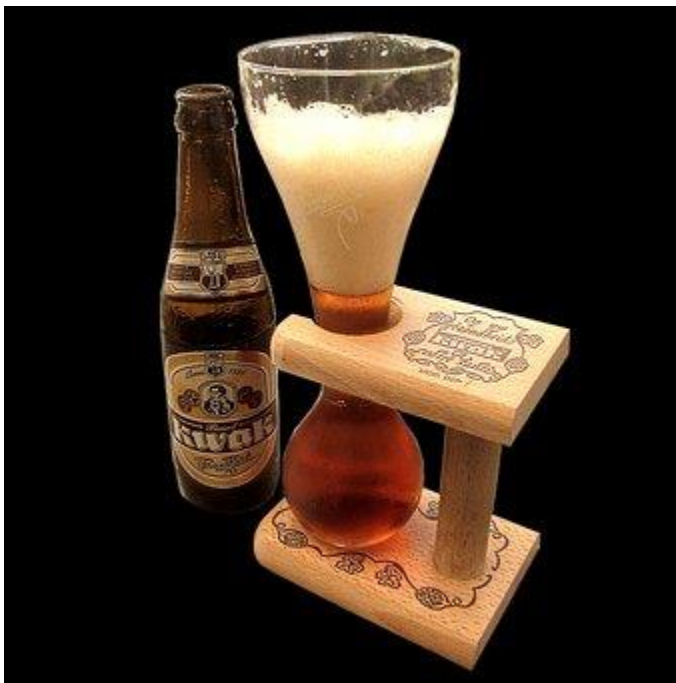


A tour of Antwerp taverns, followed by a beer dinner in a historic cellar restaurant.



The brewer's house has all the glamour of the 'Belle Epoque'. State of the art production combined with a display of traditional horse drawn carriages and beer tasting at the cosy brewery tavern.

The Visit



Brouwerij Bosteels is well worth a visit. You won't get more authentic than this. The brewery is located right in the centre of Buggenhout. A small fee is charged for brewery visits, which include a tasting of Kwak and Tripel. Visits have to be pre-arranged on a weekday for groups of at least 20 people. There is no point in turning up unannounced.

You can have a taste of the prestigious DeuS beer as well.. The tour and tasting session combined will take about one-and-a-half hours.

Brouwerij Bosteels possesses an extensive collection of carriages. From time to time these are taken on the road.

This doesn't really come as a surprise as Pauwel Kwak was also conceived as a carriage beer, served in the well-known suspended Kwak glass, fixed to the inside of the carriage. The carriage driver, on a halt, will always have his Kwak to hand in a practical way.

The Beers

- DeuS Brut des Flandres
- Pauwel Kwak
- Tripel Karmeliet

GHENT BEER TOURS



Beer Walk 1



During this refreshing beertour in Ghent each participant will learn about the first bars and breweries, the tradition of beer brewing in the monasteries, whether or not it is healthy to drink beer... And the participant immediately gets the opportunity to test his newly acquired knowledge! Included are a beertasting in one of the many beerpubs of Ghent and a beer in the City Brewery Gruut.

Beer Walk with dinner



During this tour, the visitor combines the beerwalk in Ghent with a dinner. First he has a beer with some appetizers in a local pub. Afterwards, a restaurant serves him a main course accompanied by a beer and finally he ends his beer walk in another local bar where he gets to taste another beer!

Beer, Fun and Gastronomy



An entertaining tour of Ghent pubs led by the Gentse Belleman, followed by an evening meal in a typical Ghent restaurant, where all meals have beer as one of the main ingredients.

Discovery of Belgian Beers



An evening dedicated to Belgian beers. A guided bus tour of Ghent, a beer workshop with a beer expert, a tasting session and a beer dinner.

From Monastery to Brewery



This walk is dedicated to the centuries-old history of beer and breweries in Ghent. It is not a pub tour, though there is always the possibility to sample the beers at the end of the walk, for example in the Gruut Brewery.

Pub Tour



Flanders has the reputation of being the land of beer and gin, and this walk attempts to prove the fact in three traditional pubs where an entertaining story about “Keit”, “Gruut” (a mixture of herbs) and “Hoppe” (hops) can be enjoyed. It highlights the history of Ghent’s beers and breweries over the course of the centuries, but it is not a pub tour, though there is always the possibility to sample the beers at the end of the walk, for example in the Gruut Brewery.

MECHELEN BEER TOURS



Mechelen is located halfway between Brussels and Antwerp. The drive from either city takes half-an-hour, using the E19 (exit Mechelen-Noord). By train, the trip also takes half an hour from Brussels or Antwerp.

Charles Walk



An opportunity to find out more about Mechelen (FR: Malines) and taste its liquid gold. The Carolus walk goes through the historic city centre, with one or two stops in traditional Mechelen pubs, giving participants the opportunity to enjoy the great Mechelen beer. The route is dependent on which pubs participate

Brouwerij Het Anker



Discover the history of the brewery, take a look behind the brewing scenes and find out about the brewery visit and beers of Brouwerij Het Anker in Mechelen.



This historic brewery site oozes tradition: the interior court is cobbled, a tympanum built in grey stone displays the year 1625, the three copper brewing kettles in the brewhall were installed *The iconic chimney* shortly after the Second World War, the chimney of the former maltings...

Het Anker is one of Belgium's oldest breweries with a history that goes all the way back to the Middle Ages.

A visit to the brewery will reveal the secrets of the brewing process. From time to time, open days are held when you can see the brewer at work. At other times the brewery welcomes group tours of between 10 and 25 people by application. Tours end with a tasting.

The bottling plant, on a different site on the outskirts of the city, is not open to visitors. Pop into Het Anker's brasserie to discover the culinary qualities of the beers. *Gouden Carolus Tripel* When it comes to tastings and food pairings, the brewery's motto is 'discover together'.

If you are planning to extend your stay in Mechelen, reserve a room in one of the 22 rooms of the three-star brewery hotel and conference centre - the only hotel in Belgium located on the site of a working brewery.

A brewery tour can be combined easily with a visit to the ancient city of Mechelen, the historic centre of which is within easy walking distance.



A One Day Mechelen's City Walking Tour: Guided by a Professional English-speaking Local Guide.

Brouwerij Het Anker provides an excellent starting point for a journey of discovery in Mechelen's historic centre. The Sint-Romboutskathedraal (St. Rumbold's Cathedral) towers high above the city. *Some of Mechelen's oldest buildings*



Listen for its bells and tackle the climb to the top of the tower for a wonderful vista across Mechelen and beyond.

Opposite the Cathedral is the splendid City Hall, consisting of the former Paleis van de Grote Raad (the palace of The Great Council of Mechelen built in 1526), the Belfry and the Linen Hall, which both date back to the 14th century.

role this city has played in the past.

Eight ancient churches testify to the major religious



City palaces from the Renaissance era with their impressive gardens, including one that was once owned by the former city governess Margaret of Austria (16th century), are also reminders of the grandeur of times long past.



The Kazerne Dossin, the former Dossin Barracks, now hosts a museum on the Holocaust and human rights.

The large beguinage not far from the brewery is an oasis of peace and quiet. Like all beguinages in Flanders, it has been declared a Unesco World Heritage site.

Not far from Nekkerspoel railway station is the toy museum. Those of a nostalgic bent will recognise childhood games while younger visitors will receive an initiation into the pre-digital world. ***St. Rumbold's Cathedral***

The interactive Technopolis science museum is located on the outskirts of the city.

Take a guided boat trip around the city. Visit the Vismarkt (Fish Market).

There, in the shade of the former Lamot pils brewery, you will find brown cafés (Belgium's answer to the pub), lounge bars and trendy restaurants.

If you are after a different type of relaxation, the Plankendael zoo and amusement park is only five kilometres away from the city towards Leuven.



The nearby village of Blaasveld is home to the De Molenberg distillery where the Gouden Carolus single malt whisky is produced. Guided tours and tastings are available here as well.

