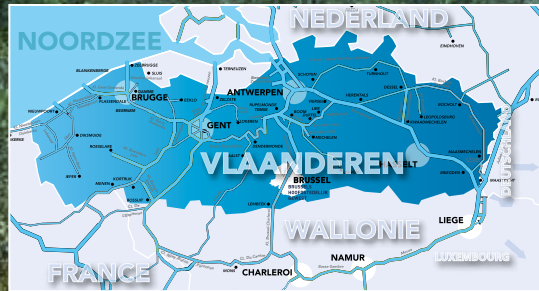


NAVIGATING in Flanders

Cruising routes in Flanders • Overview maps



WWW ■ WATERRECREATIE ■ BE



English



| | |
|---|----|
| RELAXING in the Westhoek | 03 |
| Along the Flemish ART CITIES | 06 |
| Coast, canals and Scheldt: the COMBINATION ROUTE! | 10 |
| PEARLS of De Kempen | 12 |
| The WILLEMSROUTE | 16 |
| TRIP along Wallonian hits | 17 |
| Overview map - "Cruising routes" | 20 |
| Sailing with STANDING MAST | 22 |
| TOURING through Northern-France | 24 |
| From the NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES | 25 |
| Overview map - "High-speed, jet- and aquaticski" | 26 |
| Cruising tips | 28 |
| The most IMPORTANT rules of navigation | 30 |
| Overview map - "Tips for your canoe/kayak trips" | 34 |
| FAQ's | 36 |
| Useful addresses | 40 |
| PUBLICATIONS | 41 |
| Overview map - "Marinas and sanitary stations" | 44 |

CREDITS

Publisher: Promotie Binnenvaart Vlaanderen vzw, Promotion Office for Inland Navigation in Flanders, Havenstraat 44, 3500 Hasselt.
This publication only reflects the opinion of the author. PBV is not liable for any consequences of any use that may be made of the information in this publication | January © 2017

Editorial and production: Bear Communications nv;
Promotie Binnenvaart Vlaanderen, Promotion Office for Inland Navigation in Flanders, Havenstraat 44, 3500 Hasselt, T +32 11 23 06 06, pbv@binnenvaart.be, www.waterrecreatie.be; François Van Reeth

PREFACE

Life is wonderful on the water. It is pleasant, relaxing and stimulates the feeling of being on holiday. With no less than 1,000 km of navigable waterways, and dozens of recreational ponds in Flanders, you can spend as much time as your heart desires on the water. Many types of recreation are possible: canoeing, waterskiing, touring, and much, much more. You don't even have to have your own boat. You can rent one or have a pleasant day on one of the touring boats.

And the meandering waterways lead you along picturesque villages, unspoiled rural landscapes, castles, medieval city centres, nature areas and tourist attractions. All of them accessible via the incomparable, relaxed rhythm of recreational boating. The fine mesh that is the Flanders waterway network makes it possible to make enchanting looped cruises. Large or small, depending on whether you have a couple of days or a couple of weeks of cruising pleasure in mind. We will be discussing several of them in this magazine. And, as a gift from us, tips for safe cruising from experienced hands.

Have fun and sail safely!

You can also visit www.waterrecreatie.be



RELAXING IN THE WESTHOEK

Charming villages and the relaxing polder landscape make De Westhoek ideal for a relaxing trip on the water. You'll also encounter a large number of historical monuments and buildings along the 163 km route. Some of them recall the atmosphere of the Middle Ages; others tell exciting stories about The Great War.

- At **Ostend**, you can see the Mercator, a sailing vessel that was used as a training ship for officers of the Belgian merchant fleet. The three-master is currently serving as a museum filled with nautical treasures. Fort Napoleon lies secreted in the dunes of the East Bank of Ostend (Oostendse Oosteroever). This military building, that dates from the time of Napoleon, has been fully restored and now accommodates a museum and a restaurant. There is a lovely view of the dunes from the patio.
 - The **Plassendale** lock dates back to the 17th century. This piece of art was an important link in the connection between the coast and the hinterland. Today, it is a protected monument.
 - In Dronkenput (drunken well) in **Middelkerke**, you have the feeling that you are off balance. The well was pushed up suddenly, and at an angle, by fast-rising ground water at the end of the 19th century. Visitors are inclined to match the angle of the pillars, which are off plumb by 12%. If you're in the mood for some ribs, you could pay a visit to the de Rattevallebrug in Middelkerke.
 - The Grand Hotel Bellevue in **Westende** is a striking building by architect Octave Van Rysselberghe in Belle époque style. The building's eye-catching rounded end led to it being nicknamed 'The Rotunda'. In 2009, it was the set for the VT4 television programme 'Het Hotel: Westende'.
 - Nieuwpoort used to be one of the most important fishing ports on the coast. The shrimp catch and line fishing are still a Nieuwpoort speciality. Be sure to visit the lively 'fish mine' and the marinas, with no fewer than 2,500 moorings. Watersports aficionados can visit the various domains of Sport Vlaanderen (formerly Bloso).
 - In **Diksmuide**, numerous monuments recall the First World War. The Yser Tower (Ijzertoren), the Museum at the Yser (museum aan de Ijzer) and the Trenches of Death (Dodengang), a trench complex for the Belgian Army on the Yser River, are among the most impressive.
 - The Yser River strongly influenced the course of WW I and played an important role in it: in October 1914 the German invasion came to a standstill along this river after its adjacent territories (the so-called Yser plain) had been flooded. This inundation happened in three phases, and only after the third one the German army was finally stopped and even forced to partially withdraw. Its main protagonists were later on commemorated with their effigies on the (then expensive) 1,000 Belgian Francs bank-notes.
- On this river we navigate along the front line of a four year long terrific war. Some anchorages are indicated on the small map, indicating the flooded parts. For more information about the

ROUTE AND CRUISING TIMES

Ostend or Bruges » Nieuwpoort » Diksmuide:
Ghent-Bruges-Ostend Canal, Plassendale-Nieuwpoort Canal, Connection Canal, Yser, ± 7.30 cruising hours.

Diksmuide » Ypres » Fintele » Veurne: Yser, Ypres-Yser Canal (Ieperlee Canal), Lo Canal, ± 11 cruising hours.

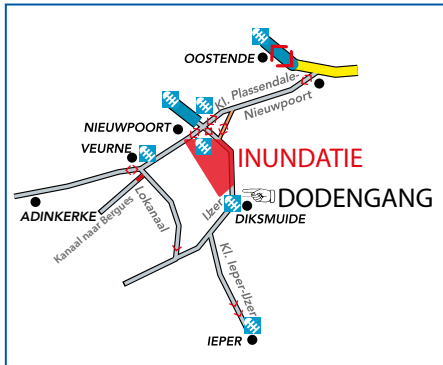
Veurne » Nieuwpoort:
Nieuwpoort-Dunkirk Canal, ± 1.15 cruising hours.

Nieuwpoort » Bruges or Ostend:
Plassendale-Nieuwpoort Canal, Ghent-Bruges-Ostend Canal, ± 5.30 cruising hours.

Optional: → Veurne » Adinkerke (16 km) and then Adinkerke » Nieuwpoort, ± 2.30 cruising hours.



Mouth of the Yser (Nieuwpoort)



commemoration of the 100th anniversary, the war musea and war cemeteries see www.100jaargrooteoorlog.be.

- An absolute must-see is the Ground Place of **Ypres**, with the Cloth Hall, the belfry, the courthouse, and the Old Castellany (Oud Kasselrijgebouw), which today serves as the Commercial Court. The Flanders Field Museum, which takes you back to 1914-1918, the period of WW I, is housed on the first floor of the Cloth Hall. A visit to the Menen Gate is also impressive.

- From Ypres, you can cycle to **Komen** along the Canal-dikes route. There are several outstanding eel restaurants in **Fintele**. The remains of the old Hooipiete bridge are located right next to the lock.

- The picturesque village of **Lo-Reninge** was officially given the title of Luilekkerstad (The land of Plenty), in 1985. The cheeses here are world renowned and the biscuits of Jules Destrooper are also produced here (viewing possible via the Visitor Centre). You can still sniff the aromas of the old biscuit factory in the basement of Lauka, the lovely offices of the tourist information services.

- Veurne**, with its marina in the centre of the town, is pretty much an open air museum, with the Municipal Hall and the Landhuis in renaissance style



(Flemish and Italian, respectively), the Spanish Pavilion and the Church of Saint Walburga. Veurne also has delicious regional dishes, such as white sausage, potted meat and kletsoppen biscuits, to offer. Children of all ages can play to their heart's content at Plopsaland in **Adinkerke**.



To find more lovely sites, attractions, cycling and hiking routes or other practical information, please go to www.westtoer.be.

More information about day events on www.365.be



Yser – Fintele jetty



- The **Ghent-Bruges-Ostend Canal** has medium to heavy commercial traffic. The waterway is lined with rows of trees between Ostend and Bruges. All of the bridges from bridges from Scheepsdale Bridge (Scheepsdalebrug) to Moerbrug Bridge are operated from the Kruispoort Operations Centre (VHF channel 18) (T 050 35 35 59). The operation of the Stalhille Bridge and the Nieuwe Bridge is coordinated via VHF channel 20 (T 059 26 60 62). Mooring and overnight stays can be arranged at the quays of Plassendale, Stalhille and Scheepsdale Bridge. Be alert for slowmoving traffic between Bruges and Nieuwege and adjust your speed.

- The **Plassendale-Nieuwpoort Canal** is a lovely, calm waterway with little commercial traffic. The five moveable bridges are operated by mobile teams. Operation takes place in accordance with a 'block' scheme arranged by Centrale Plassendale VHF 20 T 059 26 60 62 (see brochure 'Bedieningstijden'). Operation requests can be made on VHF channel 20 or T 0476 59 03 37. There are possibilities for mooring and overnight stays at the quay in Plassendale, the anchorage at Oudenburg, the quay at Oudenburg, the anchorages in Snaaskerke and Leffinge, the quay at Gravensluis or the new Westhoek Marina in Nieuwpoort.

- The Sint-Joris Lock on the **Connection Canal** between the Plassendale-Nieuwpoort Canal and the Yser is

coordinated via VHF channel 20 (outside the cruising season: T 058 23 30 50).

- The **Yser**, a calm river with little commercial traffic, meanders through a lovely polder landscape. The water level between Nieuwpoort and Diksmuide can fluctuate significantly. Always take the outside bend: the bends on the inside are sometimes blocked with sludge. In Diksmuide, be especially careful in the turning basin and the Trenches of Death (a network of trenches and bunkers). Operation of the Tervate Bridge is coordinated via VHF channel 20 (T 058 23 30 50); for the Knokke Bridge, VHF channel 18 (T 057 42 21 65). Mooring and overnight stays can be arranged at the VVW and Westhoek marina in Nieuwpoort, the Diksmuide marina and the - extremely peaceful - quay in Fintele. The quay in Roesbrugge is only accessible during the cruising season. Requests must be made at the lock in Fintele (restricted to vessels with maximum length of 12 m).

- The **Ypres-Yser Canal** (Ieperlee Canal) is a very calm waterway with little commercial traffic. Here, you can enjoy the polder landscape and the lovely pieces of nature between the two locks. You can moor and stay overnight at the quay in Steenstrate and the marina in Ypres. The rural, narrow Lo Canal runs through a lovely polder landscape and has little commercial traffic. The five moveable bridges are operated by mobile teams. Operation requests can be made

Yser –
Ganzenpoort lock complex (Nieuwpoort)



on VHF channel 20, at the lock at Fintele (T 058 28 80 72) or at the lock at Veurne (T 058 31 10 04). Places for mooring and overnight stays are available at the quays in Lo and Alveringem.

- The **Nieuwpoort-Dunkirk Canal**: the prettiest section runs between Veurne and Nieuwpoort. The bridges and the lock at Veurne are operated centrally. Requests for operation can be made on VHF channel 20. The Florizoonebrug (Florizoone Bridge) in Wulpen is operated by a mobile team from Veurne, request operation via VHF 20 or T 058 31 10 04. To go from the Nieuwpoort-Dunkirk Canal to the Plassendale-Nieuwpoort Canal, you have to go via the Nieuwpoort lock complex (Ganzepoort), which is operated from approximately 3 hours before and 3 hours after high water (operation control on VHF channel 20). Mooring and overnight places are available at the quay in Adinkerke, the marina at Veurne, the quay in Wulpen and the marinas in Nieuwpoort.



You can cruise to Bruges via the **Ostend-Bruges-Ghent Canal** to connect with the cruising route of the "Flemish Art Cities".

For sailing charts, boat rentals and background information: see p. 36

ALONG the Flemish cities of art

Almost nowhere else in the world is there so much variation available in such a limited area as in Flanders. The bustling city life, the babbling peace of water, the nautical heritage, nature areas, the Medieval city centres... You will discover all this during the 450+ km long cruising route. An absolute must-see for both beginner and experienced pleasure boaters!

- Between Antwerp and Temse, you pass the Abbey of Saint Bernard at Hemiksem: a lovely building built by the Cistercian Order in the 13th century. It is not possible to tie up here.
- In the vicinity of **Kruikebeke**, you can see how they have configured an overflow area along the Upper-Zeescheldt. It is not possible to tie up here.
- The 16th-century Castle of Marnix of Sint-Aldegonde is located along the Old Scheldt in **Temse**. You can visit the old lock via the Scheldt Bridge. You can also take lovely cycling trips in the area.
- In **Sint-Amands**, you can visit the grave and museum of Emile Verhaeren, a famous Flemish writer from the 19th century who wrote in French. Cycling in the polders here is also very enjoyable. When hunger strikes, you can tie up at **Driegoten**, which has built up a reputation for its many eel restaurants. You can take the ferry to visit the polder town of **Weert** on the Old Scheldt and explore the nature area and the basket weavers.
- In **Baasrode**, you can tie up next to the Maritime Museum, one of the most attractive industrial archaeological sites in Flanders.
- In **Beernem**, there is a supermarket within walking distance of the marina. The old branch of the canal is a lovely nature area.
- The Coupure marina in **Bruges** is located on a 17th century extension into the city centre. There are also several good restaurants in the neighbourhood.
- In **Klein-Willebroek**, which is famous because of a song by Wannes van de Velde, you can visit the picturesque town centre and the remains of the Widow of Enschoot Bridge, which was bombed during WW II.
- In **Muizen**, near Mechelen, it is possible to tie up and visit the Planckendael zoo/recreation area.
- The Castle of Ooidonk in **Bachte-Maria-Leerne** is a lovely Medieval fort that was rebuilt at the end of the 16th century.
- In the artists' community **Sint-Martens-Latem**, make sure you visit the protected town centre, which has inspired a great many painters.
- In **Kortrijk**, you must have seen the Broel Towers and bridge. They are remnants of the Medieval walls around the old city.
- **Oudenaarde** is known for its 16th-century city hall, the Tour of Flanders Centre and its breweries.
- In **Hasselt**, the capital city of Taste, you will find pleasant restaurants and attractions, such as the Fashion Museum.
- "A visit to the **Dender** should certainly be considered: **Dendermonde** and its Ros Beiaard, **Aalst** the Carnival City, **Geraardsbergen** and its Wall.

ROUTE AND CRUISING TIMES

Antwerpen » Ghent :

Lower-Zeescheldt, Upper-Zeescheldt, Ring Canal, Upper-Scheldt, lock E3, Muinkschelde, Ketelvaart, or via floodgate K2 and Leie to Centre Ghent (approx. 7 min. walk to town centre).

Alternate route:

Via Brusselsepoort lock, Visserijvaart to Portus Ganda (walking distance to city centre 7 min.),
± 5.40 cruising hours.

Ghent » Bruges:

Via the Leie and floodgate K2, Ringvaart, Ghent-Ostend Canal to Bruges. VVW Flandria Marina (on Ghent-Ostend Canal from Ghent, left before Sint-Katelijne bridge - walking distance to city centre 15 min.) or Coupure marina (under the drawbridge - VHF channel 18 - walking distance to city centre 8 min.),
± 4.30 cruising hours.

Bruges » Deinze » Kortrijk:

Ghent-Ostend Canal to the lock at Schipdonk, Diversion Canal of the Leie, Deinze (Brielmeersen marina), Leie to Kortrijk (marina and anchorage on a branch of the Leie), ± 8 cruising hours

Alternative: → Bruges » Ghent » Ringvaart to floodgate K2 » Touristic Leie to Deinze » Kortrijk, also ± 8 cruising hours.

Kortrijk » Oudenaarde »

Ghent: Bossuit-Kortrijk Canal, Upper-Scheldt, Oudenaarde (marina at Oude Schelddearm), Ringvaart, Ghent, ± 8 cruising hours.

▪ **Roeselare**, famous for its Rodenbach beer, and the poet and novelist of the same name. Those not so keen on poetry can enjoy the great shopping centre.

▪ **Lier:** famous for the Zimmer Tower with its astronomical clock, and gastronomically, for its Lierse Vlaaikies.

Alternative:

⇒ Connection to France, see "Tours through Northern France" p. 24, after which you can rejoin this route. It is also possible to connect with the "Pearls of De Kempen" route via the "Trip along Wallonian highlights" route (in reverse order), making a tour of all of Belgium - see "i" on p. 9 (below this route).

Ghent » Dendermonde » Mechelen:

Return via Upper-Zeescheldt to Wintam, Rupel, Lower Dijle to Mechelen (Keerdok marina and anchorages at Coloma bridge, walking distance to city centre 15 min.), ± 4.30 cruising hours to Wintam, possible overnight stay, ± 3 cruising hours to Mechelen.

Mechelen » Louvain » Antwerp:

Louvain-Dijle Canal and onward to Louvain (marina at Vaartkom), Rupel, Upper- & Lower-Zeescheldt, Antwerp (marinas at Willemdok and Left Bank), ± 5.30 cruising hours to Louvain, Louvain-Zennegat ± 7 cruising hours, Zennegat-Antwerp ± 2.30 cruising hours.

Antwerpen » Hasselt:

Albert Canal, ± 10 cruising hours.

Optional:

⇒ Dendermonde » Aalst » Geraardsbergen (45 km) ± 8.5 cruising hours. Here it is possible to rejoin the "Trip along Wallonian Highlights" route.

→ Ooigem » Roeselare (17 km) ± 2.5 cruising hours.

→ Viersel » Lier (15 km) ± 2 cruising hours.



Brugse Reien (Bruges)



For sailing charts, boat rentals
and background information:
see p.36

Ghent-Ostend Canal (Bruges)



- On **tidal rivers**, such as the Upper-Zeescheldt, the Rupel, the Lower-Dijle or Lower-Nete, follow the bends to the full (i.e. do not cut through the bend). Bear in mind that flow speeds up to 7 km/h are possible and listen out on VHF channel 10.
- With a favourable tide, you can make it to Merelbeke in a single cruise on the **Upper-Zeescheldt**. If the tide is unfavourable, you can stay overnight in Steendorp, Temse, Driegoten, Sint-Amands, Baasrode or Dendermonde. Temse bridge is operated Mon. to Fri. from from 5.30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sat., Sun. and holidays from 6.10 a.m. to 11.50 p.m., operation must be requested 45 minutes in advance via Wintam lock on VHF channel 68 or T 03 860 62 93 (navigation VHF 20). Beyond Temse, there are no

beacons and commercial traffic is heavy. Do not cruise into the Durmemonding. In Sint-Amands and Uitbergen, hug the inside bend. There is a strong current at the ferry in Baasrode; in Wetteren, the channel is narrow. During periods of low tide, the water at the entrance to the ringvaart in Melle is only 1.6 m deep.

- On the **Rupel** in Boom, there is only 1.00 m of headroom at the railroad bridge during periods of high water. Concrete has not been placed everywhere. For the operation of the Zennegat lock or the Lower lock in Mechelen, you must wait at the floating jetty in Boom. You can also stay overnight there, or in the marina at Klein-Willebroek, which is accessible via the Klein-Willebroek lock (operations from 3 hours before to 3 hours after high water, VHF 68).

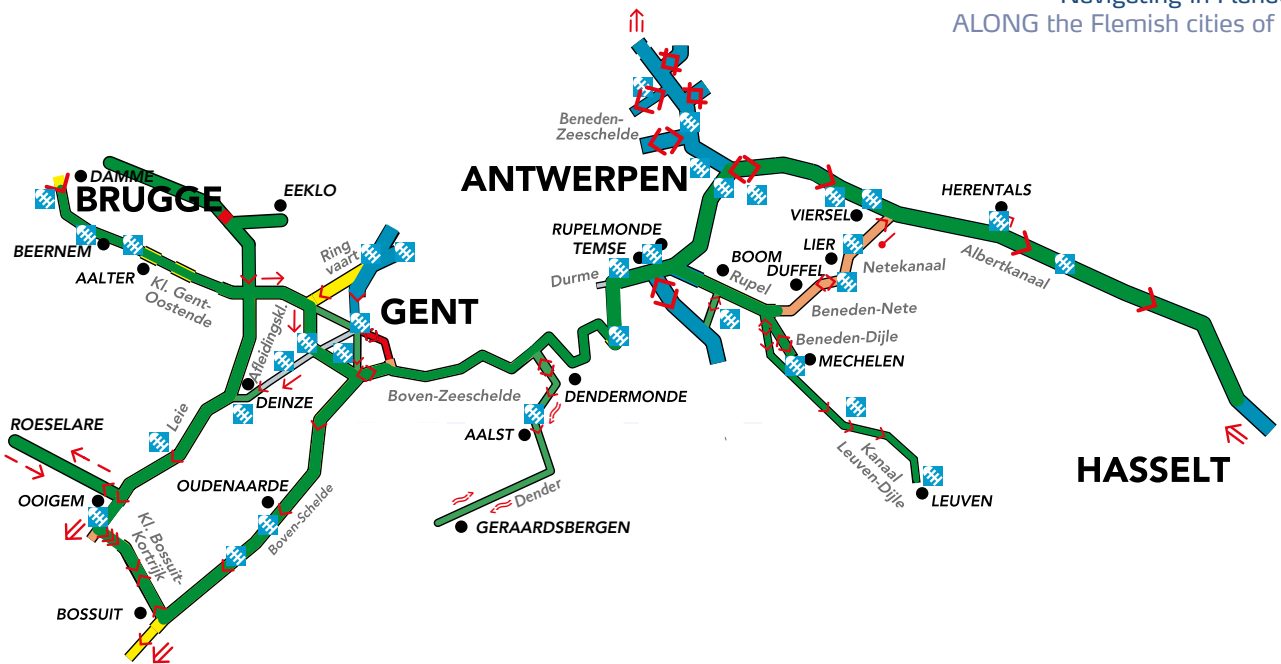
- It is not possible to moor on the **Lower Dijle**. You should therefore only cruise on the river if you are certain of having access to the Zennegat lock (Louvain-Dijle Canal: operations only 4 hours before to 4 hours after high water, VHF channel 20) or the Lower Lock at Mechelen (Keerdok: operated from 3.5 hours before to 3.5 hours after high water, VHF channel 20 or T 0476 91 48 21).

- The **Ghent-Ostend Canal** is very narrow between the Beernem bridge and the Beernem floodgate. Report in on VHF channel 10. If a large inland waterways ship is present, you are advised to wait at the bridge or the floodgate. Starting at the Moerbrugge bridge, all of the bridges are operated by the Kruispoort operation centre (VHF channel 18, T 050 353 559) from Mon. to Sat. from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. You can moor and / or stay overnight at the Aalter quay or Jachthaven Beernem. Shipping traffic on this section is moderate.

- The bridges and locks on the **Louvain-Dijle Canal** are operated by the Kampenhout Station (VHF channel 20, T 016 44 17 25). You will pass several mooring places en route.

- The **Diversion Canal of the Leie** between Schipdonk and Deinze is a calm river with heavy traffic.

- The **Touristic Leie** between the Ringvaart-K2 to Deinze is a meandering river where one must be alert for rowers, kayakers and rental boats. When crossing passenger ships, maintain contact on VHF channel 73. The lock at Astene is operated from 1 April to 31 October from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. During the winter on request, T 09 386 15 73. Mooring and overnight stay locations are available in Drongen LSV, at the 't Heilig Huizeken restaurant, the quay



at Sint-Martens-Latem, MYCG in Bachte-Maria-Leerne, Astene lock and Jachthaven Deinze.

- The **Leie between Deinze and Kortrijk** is also a calm river with heavy shipping traffic. Mooring and overnight stays can be arranged at the Waregemse marina, the Harelbeke quay, the Kuurne marina and upstream and downstream from downtown Kortrijk. On the downstream side, watch out for the low bridge.
- The **Kortrijk-Bossuit Canal** is wide and calm after the first three locks. The small locks are operated from Mon. to Sat. on request on T 0478 96 26 03, navigation in group (see brochure "Bedieningstijden"). Mooring and overnight stays are available at the Zwevegem rowing club, upstream and downstream from the Moen lock, and upstream and downstream from the Bossuit lock.

- Shipping traffic is heavy on the **Upper Scheldt**. Mooring and overnight stays can be arranged at the marina downstream from the Kerkhove lock and the Oudenaarde marina. Requests for operation of the E3 lock can be made to the Merelbeke lock (VHF channel 20).
- Downstream of Aalst, the **Dender** is a river with moderate commercial shipping. Upstream of Aalst, it is a relatively narrow, quiet river with little commercial shipping. The lock in Dendermonde is operated from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. and is available via VHF 20. Upstream of Aalst, the locks are available via VHF 18.
- The **Roeselare - Leie** canal is reasonably busy with commercial shipping and easy to navigate. It is possible to stay the night in the marina of Izegern and at the top end of the port in Roeselare.

- The **Netekanaal** is moderately busy with commercial shipping. Overnight stays/moorings in Emblem, Lier and Duffel.
- The **Albert Canal** is very busy with shipping. It is less pleasant to navigate but you can travel fast. There are also a number of places to moor and spend the night: the marinas of Hasselt and Beringen, for example, besides places like Olen, Grobbendonk and Viersel. Due to the heavy shipping traffic, mooring on the canal itself is not recommended.



From Bossuit, you can also connect to the art cities of Wallonia (trip along the Wallonian top attractions in reverse order). You can also take the 'Touring through Northern France' route in reverse, leaving from Kortrijk and ending in Espierres, connecting to the Wallonian art cities (see above).

To find more lovely sites, attractions, cycling and hiking routes or other practical information, please go to www.tov.be, www.westtoer.be, www.scheldeland.be, www.toerisme.vlaamsbrabant.be, www.tpa.be.

More information about day events on www.365.be



Willemdok marina (Antwerp)

COAST, CANAL AND SCHELDT: the combination route!

Leaving from/joining the Westhoek and Art Cities route.

For sea-going yachts via the inland waterways, the Lower-Zeescheldt, and the Western Scheldt back to sea.

The aim is to create a route from the coastal marinas at Blankenberge, Zeebrugge, Ostend and Nieuwpoort via the inland waterways past Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, the maritime inland waterways and the sea.

For detailed information about the "Art Cities" and "Westhoek" routes in connection with the route, alternatives, sailing tips and tourist info: see p. 3 and p. 6.

For more information about the waterways which you are going to navigate during this trip, it is advisable to purchase the "Navigation Chart for Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels Capital Region, Limburg (NL), North Brabant (NL) and Nord-Pas de Calais (FR) (2016)".



Detailed information about the bridge heights can be found at: www.waterrecreatie.be

Maximum permitted dimensions and draught of vessels can be found on the website: <http://ris.vlaanderen.be>.

Motor vessels longer than 7.00 m (N.B. a sailboat that uses its motor is regarded as a motor vessel) must have a marine VHF radio on board and use it. The "Lijst van het marifoonnet Belgische binnenwateren" (Directory of Belgian inland waterways marine VHF radio network) can be downloaded at: www.waterrecreatie.be

If you have not sailed on the inland waterways yet, make sure you consult the brochures "De pleziervaart op de bevaarbare waterwegen in

Vlaanderen" (Pleasure cruising on the navigable waterways of Flanders) and "Bedieningstijden van sluizen and bruggen op de bevaarbare waterwegen in Vlaanderen" (Operating times of locks and bridges on the navigable waterways of Flanders) which can be downloaded at: www.waterrecreatie.be

- When leaving the outer harbour in Nieuwpoort in the direction of the inland waterways: pay attention to lockage in the Nieuwpoort (Ganzeput) lock complex which is operated from approx. 3 hours before high tide until 3 hours after high tide (control centre VHF channel 20). The access channel to the locks runs completely dry at low tide. Therefore, do not enter before operation of the locks begins.

- The inland waterways are reached from Blankenberge/Zeebrugge via either the Van Damme lock or the Visart lock – request operation on VHF channel 68. The bridges and the connecting lock on the Boudewijn Canal are operated upon request on VHF channel 68.

- To sail up the inland waterways from the outer harbour and the Mercatorhaven in Ostend, you must go through the Demey lock – request operation on VHF channel 84. Request the opening of the bridges when passing through from the Port of Ostend via VHF channel 84. When sailing into and leaving the Port of Plassendale, report in on VHF channel 9. If necessary, request the opening of the railway bridge in Plassendale on VHF channel 20.

In addition to these tips, the following instructions are also useful for sailing on the Upper-Zeescheldt:

- On tidal rivers such as the Upper-Zeescheldt, the Rupel, the Lower-Dijle or Lower-Nete, always follow the bends right round (never cut corners). Listen out on VHF channel 10.

- On the Upper-Zeescheldt, if the tide is favourable (ask the lockkeeper in Merelbeke about this), it is best to sail

ROUTE AND CRUISING TIMES

Blankenberge » Bruges;

North Sea, Zeebrugge, Boudewijn Canal, connection to the Art Cities route, ± 3 cruising hours.

Max. permitted depth (d): 7.20 m; free height (h): 47.00 m.

Ostend » Bruges:

Ostend, Ghent-Ostend Canal, connection to the Art Cities route, ± 5 cruising hours. d: 2.50 m; h: 5.50 m.

Nieuwpoort » Bruges:

Yser estuary, lock complex de Ganzeput, connection to the Westhoek route, Plassendale – Nieuwpoort Canal, Ghent – Ostend Canal, connection to the Art Cities route, ± 6.15 cruising hours. d: 2.00 m; h: 5.10 m, Ijzermonding: at average high tide 4.50 m.

Bruges » Ghent:

Ghent-Ostend Canal, Ringvaart, Leie or Lower-Scheldt, ± 4.30 cruising hours. d: 2.50 m; h: 7 m.

Ghent » Antwerp:

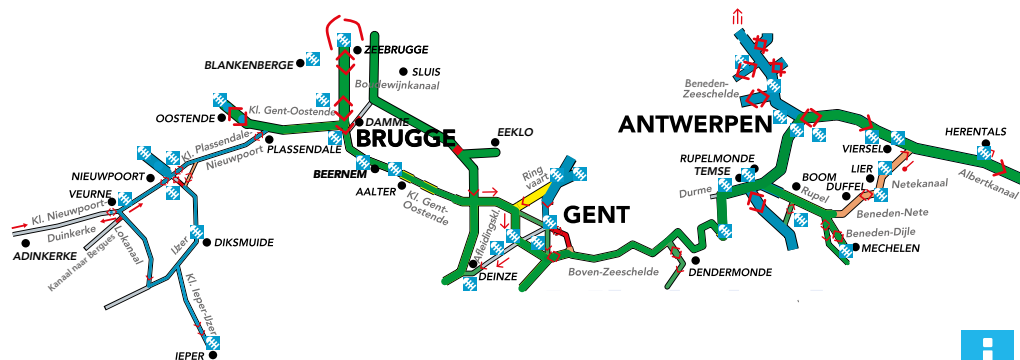
Leie, Lower-Scheldt, Ringvaart, Upper-Zeescheldt, Lower-Zeescheldt, ± 5.40 cruising hours. d: tidal 2.50 m maximum; h: 6.00 m.

Antwerp » Vlissingen/Breskens:

Lower-Zeescheldt, Western Scheldt, North Sea, ± 13.30 cruising hours. d: secondary waterway tidal but 2.50 m maximum; h: maritime shipping.

Optional:

⇒ In Hansweert via the "Canal through Zuid-Beveland" to Wemeldinge, (± 11 km) ± 3 cruising hours. d: 6.75 m; h: standing mast route. In Vlissingen via the "Canal through Walcheren" to Middelburg, Veerse Meer, and others (± 20 km) ± 4.30 cruising hours. d: 3.75 m; h: standing mast route.



from Melle to Antwerp in one go. If possible, follow a loaded barge because wherever they can sail, the water will also be sufficiently deep for you. Between Melle and Sint-Amands there are no beacons and a lot of commercial traffic. At low tide, the water is only 1.6 metres deep for leaving the Ringvaart in Melle.

- Also read "Upper-Zeescheldt: hotlines used" on the website www.waterrecreatie.be

- When sailing on the Lower-Zeescheldt and Western Scheldt, bear in mind that both inland waterway and maritime shipping traffic is very busy. Although seagoing vessels appear slow because of their size, they are in fact very fast (up to 30 km/hour or more) – take this into account. Keep to the starboard side of the channel. Using secondary waterways where these exist is strongly recommended. Pay particular attention at the Strait of Bath.

Use the so-called "cycle path". This is a strip on the outside of the fairway, often marked with yellow beacons. Keep to the starboard side here as well. It is mandatory to carry a radar reflector. Make sure that you have a copy of the regulations on board. For the sea, these are the 'Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea', for the Scheldt, the 'Maritime Regulations Western Scheldt' (NL), the 'Police regulations of the Lower-Zeescheldt' (B) and the 'Maritime regulations for the Lower-Zeescheldt' (B). On the other inland waterways, the 'General Police Regulations for Shipping on the Inland Waterways' and the 'General Regulations for Shipping Routes of the Kingdom' are applicable. These can all be found in the ANWB Water Almanac part 1. Tidal and port data are listed in part 2.

- If your vessel is longer than 15 m and/or can go faster than 20 km/hour, you also need a General Sailing Certificate.

- A navigation chart of Western Scheldt-Zeescheldt must be kept on board (e.g. Chart No. 104 published by Flemish Hydrography), as well as a tide booklet for the area. The VTS brochure "Marifoomblokingeling VTS-Scheldegebied" (VHS Block Layout VTS Scheldt region) must also be kept on board. A "Compulsory listening watch" applies to pleasure cruising with marine VHF radio on board: although not compulsory, it is useful to report to the various traffic posts. These can always be called in the event of problems. The VTS brochure can be downloaded at: www.waterrecreatie.be, or www.scheepvaartbegeleiding.be/downloads.

- Overnight stays are possible in the marina of Linkeroever in Antwerp, which is accessible from 1 hour before high tide until 1 hour after high tide – VHF channel 9, or in the Willemdok Marina (VHF channel 22) which is accessible via the Kattendijk lock (VHF channel 69), the Royers lock (VHF channel 22) and the port of Antwerp. To wait for the lock, you can berth landward of the "Steiger Palingplaat" (watch out for the strong current), where you can also stay the night.

- It is also possible to stay the night or berth in Lillo (Scaldis Yacht Club) or Doel (WSV De Noord - Doel). Notify these small marinas in advance and bear in mind that they run dry at low tide.

- Other overnight stay/berthing options are the harbours of Wemeldinge (11 km detour), Terneuzen, Vlissingen and Breskens (see ANWB Water Almanac part 2).



- From Antwerp to the border there is a lot of industry and the harbour extends along and behind the banks of the Scheldt over a distance of ± 30 km.
- You can visit the well-known Sint-Annekestrand on Linkeroever, where you can berth at the "Palingplaat" pier.
- You sail past the fort of Liefkenshoek but you cannot berth there. Lillo is a typical polder village and you also pass the seemingly abandoned polder village of Doel.
- You also pass the nuclear power station of Doel, the huge Deurganck dock and the Kieldrecht lock - the lock of this dock is the largest in the world.
- Once on Dutch territory, you encounter the Bocht van Bath with the "Drowned Land of Saeftinghe" nature reserve. This resulted from a flood, the so-called Allerheiligen flood of 1570, which almost completely submerged the area.
- From here you sail past a typical polder landscape on the gradually expanding river, with high sandbanks at low tide and always the high dikes of the Delta Plan.
- On the right bank is the village of Hansweert where the canal through Zuid-Beveland begins and connects to the Eastern Scheldt.
- On the left bank you pass Terneuzen with its industrial park, port and marinas.
- The nuclear power station of Borssele is the next landmark and is situated next to a wind farm.
- The Sloehaven is immediately next to it.
- The beautiful town of Vlissingen is undoubtedly worth a visit with its favourably situated marina. Here the Canal also passes through Walcheren, where the Veerse Meer is reached.
- Finally, there is the picturesque Zeeland-Flanders town of Breskens with its marina.

PEARLS of De Kempen

De Kempen is one of the loveliest parts of Flanders. This cruising route brings you to several authentic pearls where history and nature come together in harmony. Most of the canals are very calm and run largely through nature areas. Only those parts of the route that go along the Albert Canal are less pleasant because of the busy commercial traffic. It is possible to cruise at speed there, however. This route is approximately 245 km long.

- There are several lovely hiking areas in the vicinity of **Schoten**. Domein Vordenstein, in the Kopstraat, is a lovely park with woods where deer, owls and birds of prey make their home.
 - **Brecht** has a lovely town square and a restored windmill - one of only four remaining kettingkruier windmills in Flanders.
 - The area around the **Antitank Canal** is a protected nature area. A lovely, nine kilometre hiking route runs along the water.
 - **Turnhout** has had a new marina since 2006. With the assistance of a city guide, you can start there and make an excursion to the Begijnhof - the beguinage - or the Castle of the Dukes of Brabant. A visit to the Taxandria museum in Turnhout will give you more insight into the history of De Kempen. You will find unique card games in the National Museum of Playing Cards (Nationaal Museum van de Speelkaart).
 - **Arendonk**, the birthplace of former cyclist Rik Van Steenbergen, is a green community where several hiking and cycling routes start.
 - The Prinsen Park in **Retie** once belonged to King Leopold I. Today, it is a 215 ha green domain with signed hiking paths.
 - You just have to see the Silver Lake (Zilvermeer) in **Mol**, even if only to see the beautiful marina. If you would like to spend more than a day to enjoy the snow-white beaches, the water sports pond, and the playground for the children, you can book an overnight stay in a cabin or tent at the campground.
 - And don't forget to visit the **Olmense Zoo**. You will see a lot of unique animals, such as panthers.
- The wooded area of **Leopoldsburg** is perfect for a day out with a horsedrawn covered wagon, accompanied, if you want, by an accordionist.
- On Sundays, you can take brunch in the marina of **Lommel**, looking out over the water.
 - The Sahara in Lommel is a unique nature area with a sandy soil and several ponds.
 - **Neerpelt** caters to nature and music lovers. In Domein Dommelhof, you can stroll through a sound copse: a collection of sound installations in the open air.
 - Beer-lovers must definitely stop at **Hamont-Achel** to visit the Abbey of Saint Benedict, also known as Achel's safe. The abbey conducts guided tours and you can visit the local café to sample the Trappist beer that is brewed in the abbey.

ROUTE AND CRUISING TIMES

Antwerp » Schoten:

Albert Canal, Dessel-Turnhout-Schoten Canal, ± 2.30 cruising hours.

Schoten » Turnhout:

Dessel-Turnhout-Schoten Canal, ± 8 cruising hours.

Turnhout » Dessel:

Dessel-Turnhout-Schoten Canal, ± 3 cruising hours.

Dessel » Bocholt: Bocholt-Herentals Canal, ± 5 cruising hours.

Bocholt » Maasmechelen:

Zuid-Willemsvaart, ± 4.30 cruising hours.

Maasmechelen » Lanaken » Hasselt:

Zuid-Willemsvaart, Briegden-Neerharen Canal, Albert Canal, ± 5.30 cruising hours.

Hasselt » Antwerp:

→ Albert Canal, ± 10 cruising hours.

Alternate route from Dessel (± 263 km):

Via Dessel-Kwaadmechelen Canal and Albert Canal to Hasselt and beyond to Lanaken; then Briegden-Neerharen Canal, Zuid-Willemsvaart, Bocholt-Herentals Canal, Albert Canal-return to Antwerp ± 28.30 cruising hours.

Optional (30km):

→ Excursion to Leopoldsburg via the Canal to Beverlo, ± 2.30 cruising hours.

⇒ From Antwerp, you could also connect to the Flemish Art Cities Route (Langs Vlaamse kunststeden), (see p. 6). From Lanaken (via the Albert Canal, the Maas, the Lower Sambre, the Brussels-Charleroi Canal, the Centrum Canal, the Nimy-Blaton-Péronnes Canal and the Upper Scheldt - see "Trips along Wallonian highlights" route) to Bossuit and follow the "Flemish Art Cities" route from there.

For sailing charts, boat rentals and background information: see p.36

Dessel-Turnhout-Schoten Canal – Marina Turnhout



- In **Sint-Huibrechts-Lille**, which falls under the municipality of Neerpelt, you can still find several lovely houses of 'Teuten': itinerant merchants from De Kempen.
- **Bocholt**, a place where life runs a gear or two slower, is found where the Zuid-Willemsvaart and the Bocholt-Herentals Canal come together. It is certainly worth visiting: the largest brewery museum in Europe and the 'Tower-moving Museum', where you can find out why the people of Bocholt are known as 'Torenkruiers'.
- **Bree**, hometown of Kim Clijsters, is also known as the pearl of De Kempen. The past is still tangibly present in the town centre, with a number of 17th century buildings. From the restored water mill, the Pollis mill, you can hike through an exceptionally beautiful and valuable nature area.
- **Dilsen-Stokkem**, formerly the heart of the cane weaving craft, is a lovely rural municipality. **Lanklaar**, which falls under Dilsen-Stokkem, is often called the most beautiful part of Limburg. The Maas Centre 'De Wissen' presents an exhibition about the Maas. It is also home to a Cane weaving museum (Vlechtwerkmuseum). You can take an electric boat (fluisterboot) trip to move silently over an old branch of the Maas.
 - The mooring for the **Maasmechelen** marina lies adjacent to Maasmechelen Village, a factory outlet shopping centre with nearly 100 shops.
 - In 2008, **Oud-Rekem**, a hamlet that falls under Lanaken, was named the prettiest village in Flanders. Its attractions include the Castle d'Aspremont-Lynden.
 - The Kattevennen nature area in **Genk** is one of the five access points to Hoge Kempen, a nature area that covers 5,750 hectare. You can also purchase tickets for the nearby Europlanetarium at the new visitors' centre.
- The lock complexes on the **Albert Canal** are impressive. One of the three locks is an impressive 200 m × 24 m in size.
- **Bokrijk** brings village life from bygone days back to life. The younger visitors can have fun in the Hopla Play Village.
- In **Hasselt**, the 'capital city of Taste', you must definitely drink a jenever gin and eat a speculaas ginger biscuit. Fashionistas should also be sure to visit the Fashion Museum.
- **Heusden-Zolder** has earned international renown because of Circuit Zolder, a Formula 1 racetrack. After 6 p.m., the circuit is closed to motorised traffic. After that time, cyclists and skaters have the 4 km long track to themselves.

- The unique mine heritage property of **Beringen** has been given protection as a monument. You can visit the museum or take a stroll on the former mine's spoil tip. The mine cathedral and a mosque are also located in the vicinity of the property.

- **Herentals**, the historical capital of De Kempen, is not only interesting because of its lovely, centuries' old business, but also because of Hidrodoe: an interactive water activity centre in the Nete Park.

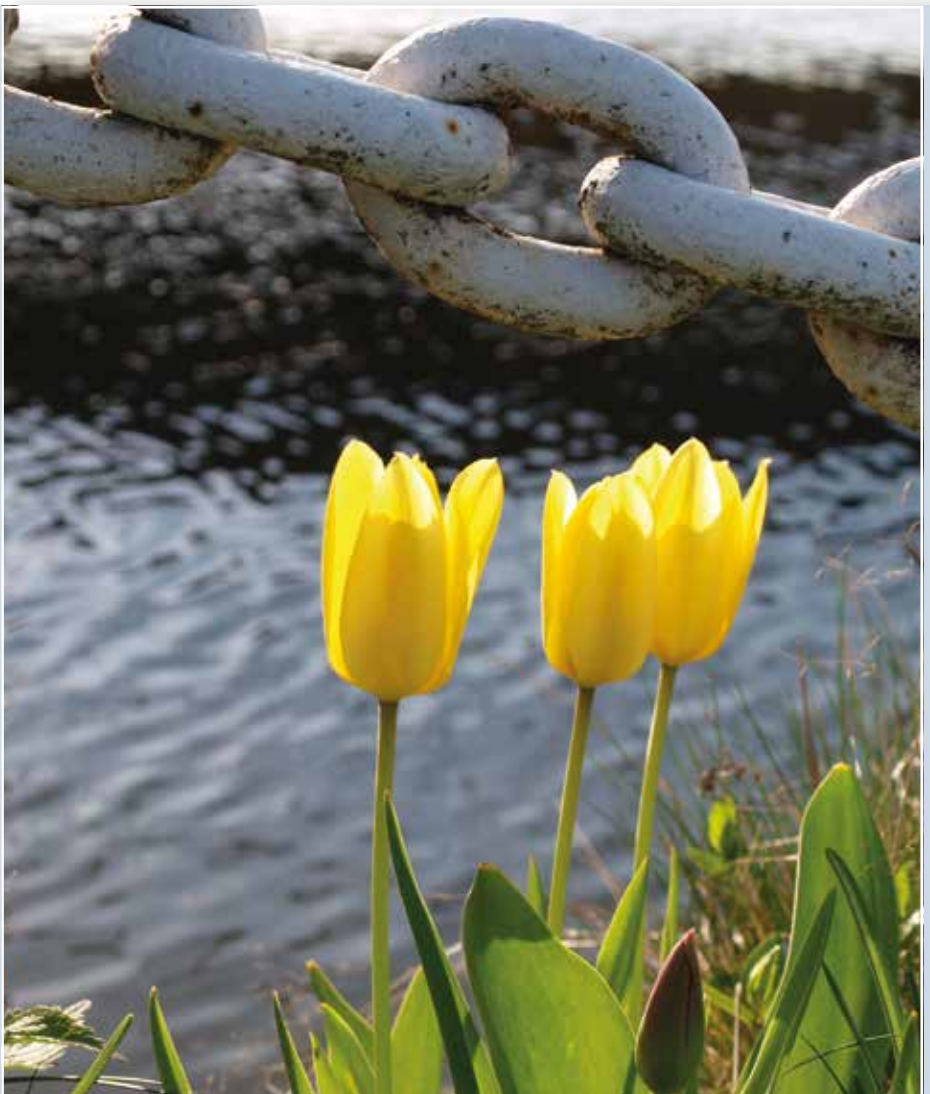


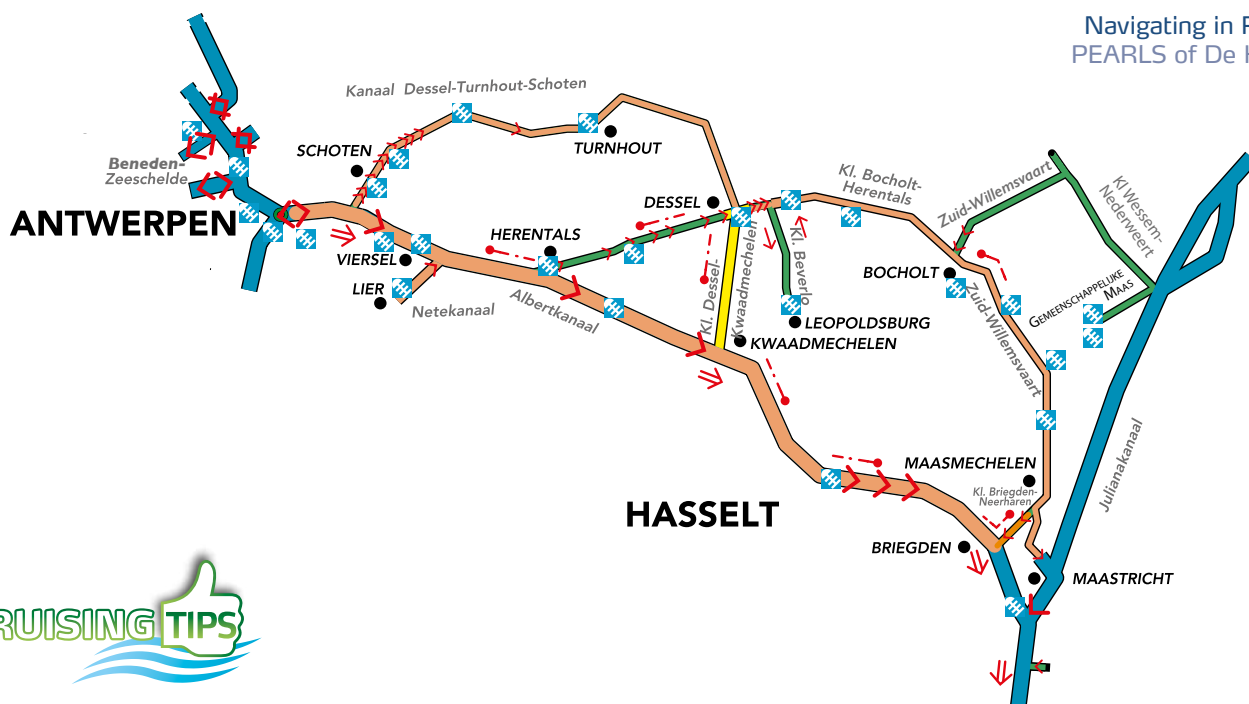
To find more lovely sites, attractions and practical information, please go to www.antwerpsekempen.be or www.toerismelimborg.be.

To find out which cycling routes connect with this cruising route, please go to www.fietsroute.org. More information on daily attractions on www.365.be



Maasplassen (Maaseik)





- The **Albert Canal** is a very busy waterway. It is less relaxed sailing, but you can make good time here. There are also several locations where you can tie up for an overnight stay: the marinas at Hasselt and Beringen, for example, in addition to sites such as Olen, Grobendonk and Viersel. Given the heavy shipping traffic, it is highly inadvisable to anchor in the canal itself.

- The **Dessel-Turnhout-Schoten Canal** has very little commercial traffic. The locks are partly operated by mobile teams. Requests for operations can be made via VHF channel 20 or lock 10 in Schoten (T 0496 57 85 04), Centrale Rijkvovorsel (T 011 24 40 01), and bridge 2 in Retie (T 014 37 91 55). Overnight stays can be arranged at the marinas in Schoten, Sint-Job-in-'t Goor, Brecht, Turnhout or the mooring in Arendonk.

- There is moderately heavy traffic on the canal from **Dessel to Kwaadmechelen**. You may encounter large ships on this route.

- The **Bocholt-Herentals Canal** is an attractive canal adjacent to beautiful nature areas and limited commercial traffic. Caution! The position of lock 3 in Mol is difficult to see as you approach it (information on VHF channel 18). You may encounter larger seagoing traffic commencing at Blauwe Kei. Be alert when crossing. Mooring places and overnight moorings

are available at the marinas in Herentals, Geel, and Blauwe Kei, the Zilvermeer marina at Mol, and the moorings at Lommel, Neerpelt, and Lille.

- The **Canal to Beverlo** has a moveable bridge at the Umicore/Nyrstar factory (T 014 44 95 03). Mooring and overnight places are available at the Balen mooring and the Leopoldsburg marina.

- The **Zuid-Willemsvaart** is a calm route with many possibilities for mooring. You may encounter larger ships on the route. Alertness is called for when crossing. Mooring and overnight stays are available in Lanaken, Maasmechelen, Dilsen-Stokkem, Bree and Bocholt.

- On the **Briedgen-Neerharen Canal** you go through two locks with a large drop.



Dessel-Turnhout-Schoten Canal (Turnhout)

WILLEMSROUTE

Maasplassen (Ophoven)



Extensive work on the locks on the Juliana Canal – with undoubted inconvenience and long waiting times for pleasure cruises – made it necessary to come up with an alternative route: the Willemsroute.

This offers an alternative for recreational shipping to sail from Maasbracht or 's Hertogenbosch via the Zuid-Willemsvaart and the Wessem-Nederweert Canal to Maastricht and vice versa.

For the tourist, it is a beautiful route for peacefully sailing past many historic villages and beautiful natural areas in the Netherlands and Belgian Limburg.

At the start of the route you can turn off and explore the Common Maas, with its adjoining Maasplassen and the many marinas which extend to Kinrooi and Maaseik.

Once on the Zuid-Willemsvaart, you can berth in the picturesque village of Weert.

On Belgian territory, the Willemsroute follows the "Pearls of the Kempen" route to Neerharen. Here the trip continues by either anchoring in the inner harbour of Maastricht or navigating the Maas via Bosscherveld lock.



- Gemeenschappelijk Maas: navigable as far as Ohé and Laak (NL), ± Ophoven (B), little commercial traffic, pretty, quiet river, moorings for overnight stays: various marinas.
- Wessem – Nederweert Canal: no special characteristics, pretty, quiet canal.
- Zuid-Willemsvaart: is a quiet route with various mooring options. As of Bocholt, larger vessels may be sailing so be careful when crossing. Mooring and overnight stays are possible in Weert, Bocholt, Bree, Dilsen-Stokkem, Maasmechelen and Lanaken (Rekem/Oud-Rekem).



ROUTE AND CRUISING TIMES

Wessem – Ophoven – Maaseik (Ohé and Laak):

Gemeenschappelijk Maas, ± 2.30 cruising hours.

Maasbracht (Wessem) >> Bocholt:

Wessem – Nederweert Canal, Zuid Willemsvaart, ± 5 cruising hours.

Bocholt >> Maasmechelen:

Zuid Willemsvaart, ± 4.30 cruising hours.

Maasmechelen >> Maastricht:

Zuid Willemsvaart, ± 2 cruising hours.

Optional:

⇒ An additional outing along the non-canalised Maas that forms the border between the Netherlands and Belgium where you can enjoy the natural beauty and the facilities of the marinas along it with their recreational opportunities is a must. ± 2.30 cruising hours.

WALLONIA

a string of pearls along the water

With more than 350 kilometres of navigable waterways, Wallonia has numerous assets to make your stay in this region an unforgettable experience. For Flemish recreational sailors, it is also almost mandatory to sail to France.

The Scheldt, the Spiere Canal, the Dender, the Nimy-Blaton-Péronnes Canal, the Brussels-Charleroi Canal, the Historic Centre Canal, the Maas and the Sambre offer as many opportunities as different views.

When you leave Flanders either via the Leie, the Deûle (see Tours through Northern France route) or via the Upper-Scheldt (Flemish Art Cities route) and sail up the Spiere Canal, have you stopped at the Maison du Canal in Leers-Nord to eat a cheese sandwich, the 'fromage des Satcheux'? And why not take advantage of the towpath to go on a bike ride?

After a stop at **Le Lucher d'Antoing**, the route continues in the direction of Doornik (Tournai), the city with the five clock towers and a beautiful historic centre.

Péronnes: here you should be sure to visit the marina. Make sure to go into the Club House and to try one of the specialities such as the 'steak au Maroilles'. Enjoy the atmosphere and listen to tips from other recreational sailors that you may meet.

In the direction of **Bergen (Mons)**. After you have sailed along the Blaton-Ath canal in Blaton in the direction of Dender, you arrive in Ladeuze, a very convenient place with perfect toilet facilities.

After this refreshing stop, you can cycle to the Musée de la Vie rurale (Museum of rural Life) in **Huissignies**, that offers you a journey through time.

Beloeil and its castle form the subject of another discovery, with highlights such

as the amaryllis exhibition and musical evening events.

The route continues in the direction of **Ath**, the City of the Giants, with its marina in the proximity of the city centre, its Giants' House and its Gallo-Roman museum that houses a well-preserved ancient boat among its collection.

We leave Ath for a trip on the Dender and arrive in **Lessen (Lessines)** and

its famous Our Lady with the Rose Hospital, the Belgian version of the Hospices of Beaune. From there, you can return to Flanders via the marina at Geraardsbergen.

Why not forget about the Dender and go to Bergen for a visit to this pretty town. In the proximity of the marina there are a multitude of activities available: you will find a water recreation centre, a bowling alley, a cinema and a shopping centre.



Antoing

Take time to visit the town, its centre and its new museums where you will find folklore at the Musée du Doudou (Museum of the Doudou), military history at the Mons Memorial Museum, special exhibitions at the museum of fine arts, the BAM (Beaux-Arts Mons), and lots more.

On leaving Mons, you are heading to the Historic Centre canal with its famous boat lifts (4 lifts which have been recognised by Unesco as a World Heritage site) or the huge boat lift of **Strépy-Thieu**. Take this opportunity to discover the town of **La Louvière** or the mine site of Le Bois-du-Luc which has also been classified as a World Heritage site by UNESCO.

By taking a small detour to the Brussels-Charleroi Canal, you first sail through the Plan Incliné (Sloping Lock) of **Ronquières** before stopping at the marina in Seneffe. After that, you sail in the direction of Charleroi and the Samber.

In **Marchienne-au-Pont** you can see the chapel boat and experience the so-called 'Pardon de la Batellerie', a tradition which is celebrated every year by various recreational sailors and skippers.

Discover the town, its environs, its famous Museum of Photography and then explore the town of **Thuin**. Walk through the bateliers quarter and visit the museum boat Thudo.

But Thuin has even more hidden attractions. Visit the belfry, the Maison de l'imprimerie (Museum of Typography) and the Musée du tramway Vincinal (Light Railway Museum).

In **Lobbes** you can visit the collegiate church of Saint Ursmer with an audio guide. It is the oldest church in Belgium.

On your return journey, you can berth in **Landelies** and more precisely, near the Abbey of Aulnes, which lets you go back in time and will enchant you with its charming garden with medicinal plants.

Continuing our boat trip in the direction of Namur, we pass **Charleroi** (major industrial area with few berthing opportunities) and

come to the very pretty "Abbey of Floreffe" (berth). As you approach **Namur**, you get your first sight of the Citadel; once moored in the marina of **Jambes**, you can take the "Namourette" (shuttle on the water) towards the town centre from where you can enjoy the view of the confluence of the Maas and Samber, the Citadel and the casino.

From Namur, you either go straight towards Liège or you take a detour in the direction of France via **Yvoir** (picturesque berth on an island), **Dinant** (Citadel, rocher Bayard), **Anseremme** (descent from the Lesse) with a pretty inner harbour and the beautifully located marina of **Waulsort**.

Sailing towards Liège, the first landmark is provided by the rocks of **Marche-les-Dames** (where King Albert I fell to his death), followed by the Citadel of Huy (the so-called wall of Huy). Then you sail past the nuclear power station at **Tihange**. Once past the lock complex of Ivoz-Ramet (the new lock was recently put into use) and the Liège industrial region, you can berth in the pretty marina of the lively city of Liège which is well worth a visit (among other places of interest, you will see the Liège-Guillemin station, Sunday market "Quai de La Batte", cathedral, etc.).

After sailing through the city of Liège with its many pretty bridges, you will reach the Maas-Albert Canal fork (King Albert I monument).

You can choose to end the trip through Wallonia in **Lanaye** and possibly joint the Willemsroute there, or continue a little further and sail through the marlstone karsts in **Kanne** to join the "Pearls of the Kempen" route in Lanaken.

And don't forget, dear recreational sailors, that in **welcoming Wallonia** you can always find a brewery or distillery where you can indulge your taste buds.

▪ **Upper Scheldt:** busy commercial traffic; attention for alternating traffic in Doornik - report on VHF channel 80; many companies; mooring/overnight stay locations: Antoining harbour, Doornik floating jetty.

ROUTE AND CRUISING TIMES

Bossuit >> Leers: Upper-Scheldt, Spiere Canal, ± 3 cruising hours.

Spiere >> Péronnes: Spiere Canal, Upper-Scheldt, ± 3 cruising hours.

Péronnes >> Mons: Nimy-Blaton-Péronnes Canal, ± 4 cruising hours.

Mons >> Thieu: Centre Canal, ± 2.30 cruising hours.

Thieu >> Marchienne-au-Pont: Centre Canal, Charleroi-Brussels Canal, Samber ± 5 cruising hours.

Marchienne-au-Pont >> Jambes: Samber, Maas, ± 7 cruising hours.

Jambes >> Huy: Maas, ± 4.30 cruising hours.

Huy >> Liège: Maas, ± 4 cruising hours.

Liège >> Lanaye/Lanaken: Maas, Albert Canal, ± 2 to 3 cruising hours.

Optional: Péronnes >> Blaton >> Beloell (Ladeuze): Péronnes-Blaton-Nimy Canal, Blaton-Ath Canal, ± 6 cruising hours.

Beloell >> Ath: Blaton-Ath Canal, ± 5 cruising hours.

Ath >> Geraardsbergen: Dender, ± 4 cruising hours.

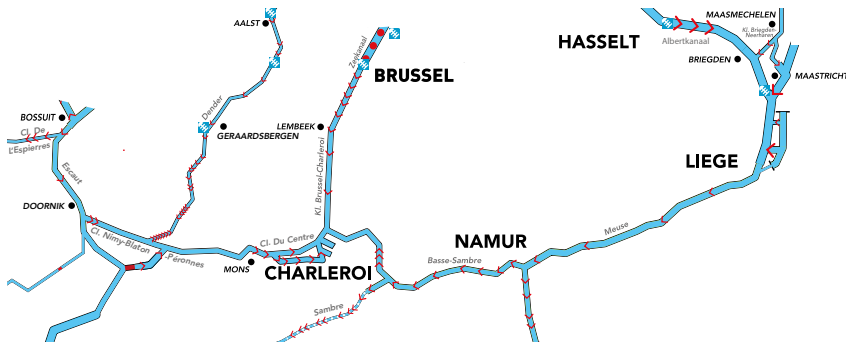
Thieu >> Ronquières: Centre Canal, Charleroi-Brussels Canal, ± 3.30 cruising hours.

Marchiennes-au-Pont >> Lobbes: Samber, ± 6 cruising hours.

Jambes >> Dinant: Maas, ± 6 cruising hours.

Dinant >> Waulsort: Maas, ± 2 cruising hours.

Alternative: In Espierres, take the "Tours through Northern France" route and join the "Flemish Art Cities" route via Kortrijk.



▪ **Spiere Canal:** no commercial shipping, relatively narrow canal sections, mobile teams operate the locks and bridges, mooring/overnight stay locations: Spiere, Leers.

▪ **Nimy – Blaton – Péronnes Canal:** moderate commercial traffic; no special characteristics; pleasantly calm canal, cuts through heights between Blaton and Peruwelz; beautiful natural surroundings; Grand Large in Péronnes; mooring/overnight stay locations: Peruwelz marina, Blaton anchorage, Péronnes marina.

Blaton – Ath Canal: little or no commercial traffic. Many closely-consecutive locks.

Operation by mobile teams available via T 0475 81 22 20, 0477 38 14 21, 0475 81 22 19 sequence from Blaton. Lovely, quiet sailing. Mooring/overnight stay locations: Ladeuze, Boleoil, Ath.

▪ **Dender:** lovely, quiet sailing; operation by mobile team available on T 0475 67 91 24

▪ **Canal du Centre:** moderate commercial traffic; no special characteristics; Strépy-Thieu boat lift; pleasant, calm canal; mooring/overnight stay locations: Thieu marina, Thieu anchorage, Mons marina (Large in Nimy)

▪ **Charleroi – Brussels Canal:** moderately busy commercial traffic; no special characteristics; lovely, quiet canal; boat lift Ronquières, cuts through Seneffe plateau; mooring/overnight stay locations: upstream of Viesville lock, Luttre berth, Seneffe marina, downstream of Ronquières.

▪ **Samber:** downstream of Charleroi: heavy commercial traffic; many companies, not pleasant cruising - but fast; try to get from Namur to beyond Charleroi in Viesville (Charleroi-Brussels Canal) in a single session; watch for meandering section just upstream from the Salzinnes lock; try to avoid overnight stay between Auvelais and Viesville (Charleroi-Brussels Canal) - air and water pollution due to industry; mooring/overnight stay locations: downstream from Auvelais lock. Upstream of Charleroi: little commercial traffic, beautiful natural surroundings, mooring/overnight stay locations: Landelies marina, berth at Thuin, Lobbes, Erquelinnes marina. Pay special attention at Samber/Maas fork – report in on VHF radio channel 10.

▪ **Maas:** very heavy commercial traffic between Liège and Namur; many companies; Ivoz-Ramet lock gives priority to commercial traffic (must report in on VHF channel 22); good cruising from the lock at Ampsin-Neuville to Namur; mooring/overnight stay locations: Liège marina, marinas at Huy, marina at Jambes (Namur). Particularly beautiful natural surroundings upstream of Namur, steep cliffs going down into the water. mooring/overnight stay locations: Dinant; marina in Yvoir, Anseremme, Waulsort.

▪ **Albert Canal:** very busy commercial traffic, not pleasant, but certainly fast; many companies; mooring/overnight stays: Kanne marina - good location; cuts through the marlstone hill.



Landelies

Texte FX Allard, Photos HCT Carpentier, informations www.visithainaut.be

NOORDZEE



Cruising Routes

WATERWAYS IN FLANDERS

(Situation January 2017) © Promotie Binnenvaart Vlaanderen



SAILING

with a standing mast

It is also possible to cruise the inland Belgian waterways with a sailing boat with a standing mast. You can easily get to Brussels and back (94 km), Bruges (24 km), Ghent (70 km) and even past Antwerp as far as Baasrode (76 km) and back again.

- See, also, the route along the Flemish art cities on p. 12.
- Between Antwerp and Temse, you pass the 13th century Abbey of Saint Bernard at **Hemiksem**. It is not possible to tie up here.
- In the vicinity of **Kruikeke**, you can see how an overflow area is created. It is not possible to tie up here.
- The 16th-century Castle of Marnix of Sint-Aldegonde is located along the Old Scheldt in **Temse**. You can visit the old lock via the Scheldt Bridge. The green surroundings are ideal for taking lovely cycling trips.
- In **Sint-Amands**, you will find the grave and museum of Emile Verhaeren, a famous Flemish writer from the 19th century who wrote in French. Cycling in the polders here is also very enjoyable.
- In **Baasrode**, you can tie up next to the Maritime Museum, one of the most attractive industrial archaeological sites in Flanders.
- In **Driegoten**, you will find a number of eel restaurants. You can take the ferry to visit the polder village of **Weert** on the Old Scheldt; the village is renowned for its nature area and basket weavers.
- **Klein-Willebroek** has a picturesque village centre. You can also see the remains of the Widow of Enschoot Bridge, which was bombed during WW II.
- The Fort of Breendonk in **Willebroek** is one of the best preserved Nazi camps in Europe. Today, the building is a monument that wants to serve as a sign of hope.
- Close to the church square of **Grimbergen**, you will find the Prinsenbos. In the woods, you will encounter what remains of the Prinsen castle, the former residence of the Lords of Grimbergen. In the Grimbergen marina, you can waterski, wakeboard, kayak, surf or take a boat cruise.
- **Vilvoorde** is the city of horses. The residents are known as 'pjeirefretters' (horse-eaters); a lovely statue - made by Rik Poot - of a farm horse stands on Heldenplein (Heroes' Square). The Church of Our Lady of Good Hope is on the same square.
- In the House of the Future in Vilvoorde, you will be introduced to the technological marvels of tomorrow.
- Close to the Royal Yacht Club in **Brussels**, you will find **Laken** Park. Here, you can stroll through the gardens of the royal domain and the garden of the Chinese pavilion and the Japanese tower.
- A bit further along, the **Heizel** is home to the Atomium.

ROUTE AND CRUISING TIMES

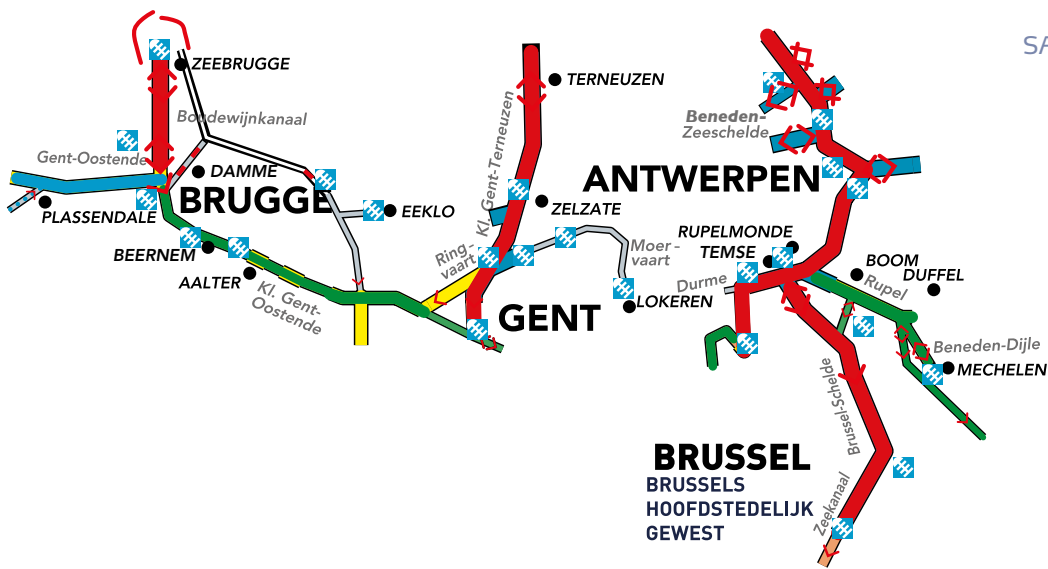
To Temse - ending in Baasrode:

from Antwerp via the Lower-Zeescheldt and Upper-Zeescheldt. Mooring and overnight stays in Steendorp, Temse, Driegoten, Sint-Amands, or Baasrode. Cruising time: ± 1.45 to Temse and 2.45 to Baasrode.

To Bruges: via the Boudewijn Canal. Mooring and overnight stays at the Bruges marina on the Boudewijn Canal, ± 1.30 cruising hours.

To Ghent: via the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal. Mooring and overnight stays at the Langerbrugge marina or in the outport of Ghent, ± 3 cruising hours.

To Brussels: from Antwerp via the Lower-Zeescheldt, the Upper-Zeescheldt and the Brussels-Scheldt Sea Canal. Mooring and overnight stays in Klein-Willebroek, Grimbergen, Brussels Royal Yacht Club, ± 5 cruising hours.



Ijzermondig (Nieuwpoort)



- The Upper-Zeescheldt is a tidal river. One should therefore always take the bends fully (never take short cuts). Bear in mind that current speeds up to 7 km/h are possible and listen out on VHF channel 10. The Temse bridge is operated Mon. to Fri. from 5.30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sat., Sun. and holidays from 6.10 a.m. to 11.50 p.m., operation must be requested 45 minutes in advance via Wintam lock on VHF 68 or T 03 860 62 93 (navigation VHF 20). Beyond Sint-Amands, there are no beacons and commercial traffic is heavy. Do not cruise into the Durmemonding. In Sint-Amands and Uitbergen, hug the inside bend.
- Brussels-Scheldt Sea Canal: bridges operated via "Zemst control centre" VHF 25, locks VHF 68, Buda Bridge VHF 20.
- Ghent-Terneuzen Canal: Zelzatebrug VHF 11, Meulestedebrug VHF 20
Boudewijn Canal: bridges and locks VHF 68.

i More lovely spots, attractions, cycling and hiking routes, and other practical information available at:
www.tov.be,
www.westtoer.be,
www.scheldeland.be,
www.toerisme.vlaamsbrabant.be,
www.tpa.be,
www.brussel.be.

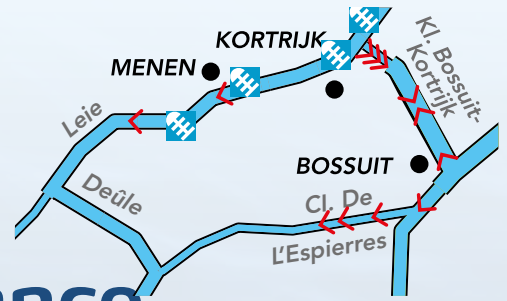
i For sailing charts, boat rentals and background information: see p.36

More information about day events on www.365.be



Mouth of the Yser (Nieuwpoort)

TOURING through Northern France



- Lovely nature on the Canal d'Espierres and Canal de Roubaix
- Jenever (gin) Museum and distillery in Wambrechies
- Tobacco Museum in Wervik
- Recreation Centre De Balokken in the Wervik marina



- Shipping traffic is heavy on the **Upper-Scheldt**. There are no mooring places between Bossuit and the mouth of the Spiere Canal.
- **Spiere Canal** and **Canal de Roubaix** are canals that are used almost exclusively for pleasure boating. They are relatively narrow in parts, but navigable without difficulty. Mobile teams operate the 15 locks and 10 moveable bridges. Ask for operation by calling 0032 56 48 95 17 (VHF 79)



Canal de Roubaix

for the French section or 0032 56 48 95 17 (VHF 79) for the Belgian section. Mooring and overnight stays can be arranged at the following locations: reach of Marcq-en-Barœul, reach of Tourcoing, reach of Roubaix: downstream from the Pont de La Vigne, upstream from the Sartel lock, at the Leers-Nord lock.

- The **Deûle** is a calm but busy river (a French permit is required). Mooring and overnight stays are possible at the ma-

rinars in Wambrechies and Deûlémont, and at the anchorage in Quesnoy-sur-Deûle.

- Considering the large ships that sail in it, the **Leie** is relatively small in several places, such as Komen and Wervik. Because of the alternating traffic, extra attention is required at the crossing at Kortrijk. Mooring and overnights stays are possible at the marinas in Wervik and Menen and at the anchorages in Menen and upstream and downstream from Kortrijk-Centrum.



Spierekanaal

ROUTE AND CRUISING TIMES

Bossuit-Kortrijk Canal, Upper-Scheldt, Canal d'Espierres, Canal de Roubaix, Deule, Leie, Kortrijk,
± 22 cruising hours.

Or departing from Kortrijk in the direction of France and connecting in Bossuit on the return.

CRUISE INTO Flanders from the adjacent countries

| Cruise into Flanders (Belgium) from | First possible anchorage |
|---|--|
| North Sea via | |
| Nieuwpoort | Sea side: IJzermonding marinas Inland waterways: Westhoek Marina, VVW Westhoek marina and Veurne marina |
| Ostend | Sea side: Oostende marinas, via Mercator lock: Mercator marina Inland waterways (via Demeys lock): jetty Plassendale/Stalhill |
| Zeebrugge | Sea side: Zeebrugge marinas Inland waterways: Brugge marinas |
| Netherlands/Zeeland/Western Scheldt via | |
| Ghent-Terneuzen Canal | Watersportvereniging Zelzate marina |
| Lower-Zeescheldt and | Palingplaat Quay/Linkeroever marina |
| Upper-Zeescheldt/Rupel/Lower-Nete/Lower-Dijle/ Louvain-Dijle Canal | W.V. Rupelmonde Quay/jetty Boom Quay |
| Netherlands/Rotterdam/Maas etc ... | |
| Scheldt-Rhine Canal | Willemdock Marina |
| Lower-Zeescheldt/Port of Antwerp | Willemdock Marina |
| Netherlands (Limburg) / Germany via | |
| Zuid-Willemsvaart | Bocholt Marina |
| Juliana Canal/Maas/Boscherveld Lock/Zuid-Willemsvaart | Rekem/Maasmechelen |
| Juliana Canal/Maas/Lanaken | Kanne or Luik marinas |
| France through Wallonia via | |
| Meuse (Givet) and | Waulsort marina / |
| Albert Canal | Kanne marina |
| Sambre | Erquelines marina |
| Escaut and | Péronnes marina / Antoing |
| Upper-Scheldt | Bossuit / Kerkhove marina (Kloron) |
| Canal de Roubaix en canal de l'Espierres and Upper-Scheldt | Leers-Nord Lock |
| Lys and | Comines Lock |
| Leie | Wervik marina |
| France/ Dunkirk | |
| Nieuwpoort-Dunkirk | Veurne marina |

NOORDZEE



High-speed, water ski and jet ski
WATERWAYS IN FLANDERS
(Situation january 2017) © Promotie Binnenvaart Vlaanderen



CRUISING TIPS



- The **ultimate** sailing tip: www.waterrecreatie.be
- Good **preparation** is half the trip; documents, maps, sailing guides, equipment, weather report and Notices to Skippers are the basis.

1

Sailing area

- **Tidal waters (Scheldt to Ghent, Rupel, Lower-Nete and Lower-Dijle):** ensure you have tidal tables - use the outside bends - do not take short cuts through bends.
- **Scheldt to Ghent:** difficult visibility in bends (especially between Baasrode and Dendermonde) - much commercial traffic - downstream Temse fairly open water. Ignore the Durme.
- **Albert Canal:** busy and not calm. There are better alternatives.
- **Touristic Leie:** lovely meander with many private jetties. Be alert in the bends
- **Occasional mandatory convoys:** please consult the sailing guides/official brochures.
- The same applies for **automatic locks** (remotely operated), in Schipdonk and elsewhere - obtain magnetic card in advance.
- **Sailing at high speed, jetskiing and waterskiing** is only permitted in sections where it is indicated by signs.
- **Waterskiing:** apart from the helmsman, a lookout of 15 years minimum must be present.

2

Sailing colleagues

- Remember: the inland shippers sail for their living, you are doing it for fun.
- Your fellow shippers can be contacted by radio. When necessary, make contact when approaching other commercial vessels and in other situations. They have right of way at locks and bridges. In cases of propeller wash in locks, ask politely on VHF channel 10 or via the lock control if the propeller can be turned off.
- Inland waterways ships are big and slow to manoeuvre, but they move surprisingly fast straight ahead! Check behind you regularly.
- Inland waterways ships often have a large blind spot up to 500 metres. Make sure that the captain of the ship can see you. Never cut him off! If you can see the captain in the wheelhouse, he can see you, too.
- Ships with blue cones/lights are carrying hazardous substances. Maintain a safe distance!
- Ferries - they check conditions when they depart but after that, you have to look out for them.
- Stay to the right, without being extreme about it.

3

Vessel

A few useful tips:

- **Equipment:** extra attention for safety with the standard equipment.
- Adjusted life vest within reach for everyone on board. Lifebuoy and swimming ladder/platform.
- Fire extinguisher min. 2 kg.
- Gas detector as far down as possible in the ship.
- Radar reflector as high as possible (always required on the Lower-Zeescheldt and the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal).
- Hand bilge pump and wells (in addition to electrical bilge pump, if present).
- AIS (Automatic Identification System) - mainly as a receiver very useful in identifying, contacting and following commercial shipping

4

Radio

- Required for motor boats longer than 7 m.
- Listen out on VHF channel 10 (unless indicated otherwise on the bank signage or charts) - easy contact with inland shipping and fellow shippers.
- Bridges and locks have their own channel - see list on p. 24

5

Environment

Good for nature and the environment:

- No noise or excessively loud music.
- Moored or in the lock: engine off if possible and propeller definitely off.
- Moor only on specific berths.
- Avoid making annoying waves.
- Rubbish goes in the bin.
- There are many options for wastewater: dispose of black water (toilet), oil and bilge water at environmental stations (see navigation charts). A wastewater tank solves many problems, however, shore toilets are the preferred option.

6

Emergencies

- **At sea:** contact the MRCC (Maritime Rescue and Coordination Centre) on VHF channel 16/67. State the name of the vessel, position and nature of emergency.

At the inland waters:

Police assistance: call 101

All the rest:

1. Contact Oostende Radio on VHF channel 24.
2. Call 112.
3. Contact the nearest bridge, lock or shore station via VHF radio or mobile; telephone numbers and VHF radio channels can be found on navigation charts and in sailing guides.

Information required:

name of vessel, name, kilometre pole or other visual reference point (e.g. name of bridge or lock), possibly provide the coordinates via GPS, whether closer to left or right bank, as well as the nature of the emergency.



Ferry service Upper-Zeescheldt

MOST IMPORTANT traffic rules of navigation

Rules of right of way

1st general rule of right of way

The vessel that is closer to the starboard bank has right of way (unless the commercial vessel requests an exception from the oncoming vessel by means of a blue sign with a white edge). You should therefore keep as much to the right/starboard as possible.

- starboard: right side of a vessel when looking towards the bow
- port: left side of a vessel when looking towards the bow

2nd general rule of right of way

Large (> 20 m) and commercial shipping has right of way over small.

There are 3 additional categories/situations:

1. Opposing courses/two-way traffic:

- motor gives way to muscle and muscle gives way to sail
- two muscle-powered, both turn to starboard

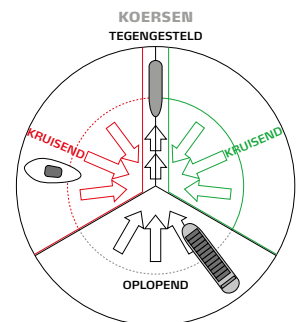
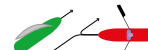
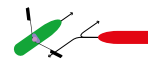
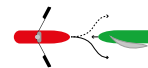
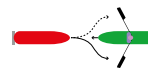
2. Intersecting courses:

- motor gives way to muscle and muscle gives way to sail
- muscle-to-muscle: vessel on right has right of way

3. Overtaking course



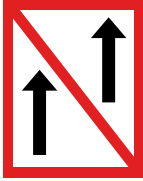












The overtaker always gives way. Large vessels ask for cooperation from small vessels, e.g. that they reduce speed.

Large ships and all empty ships also have a blind spot, resulting in reduced visibility from the wheelhouse about what is happening in front of the ship. They respond more slowly, and can therefore not stop or change course quickly. Small ships are asked to reduce wash for canoes and kayaks.

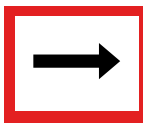
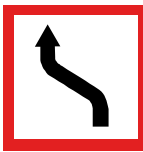
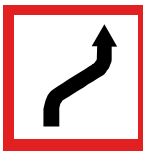
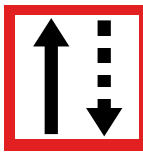
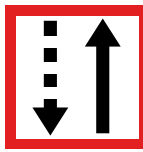
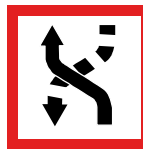
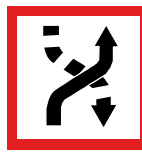
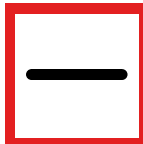

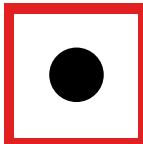
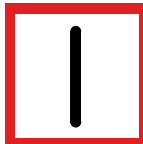




TRAFFIC SIGNS

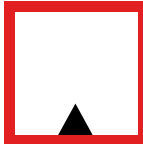
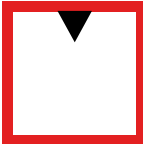
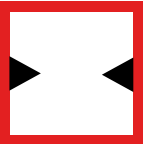

Prohibition signs

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Forbidden to sail through | Section of the waterway that has been taken out of service | Overtaking is not permitted | Approaching on opposing courses is not permitted | Forbidden to anchor here | Anchoring and dragging anchors, cables and chains is prohibited | Forbidden to tie up on the bank | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Or  | Making obstructive water movements is prohibited | Sailing outside the marked area is forbidden | End of zone where waterskiing is permitted | Forbidden for vessels powered by muscle | End of the zone where high speeds are permitted | Putting vessels to water or taking them out is forbidden here | End of the zone where jet boats are permitted |







Directing signs

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Must travel in the direction of the arrow | Must move to the port side of the channel | Must move to the starboard side of the channel | Must stay on the port side of the channel | Must stay on the starboard side of the channel | Must cross the channel to port | Must cross the channel to starboard |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | |
| Must stop in front of the sign under the conditions stipulated in the regulations | Maintain the speed as indicated | Give an audible signal | Pay particular attention | Use of VHF radio is mandatory | Use of the channel indicated on the VHF radio is mandatory | |

Restriction signs

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| The water depth is limited | The head clearance is limited | The width of the channel or passage is limited | The channel is some distance from the right (left) bank |

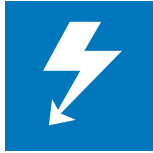
Recommendation signs

| | | | | | | | |
|---|----|---|---|---|----|---|---|
|  | of |  |  |  | of |  |  |
| In both directions: sailing coming from the opposite direction is permitted (yellow sign or yellow light) | | | | One way: sailing from opposite direction is forbidden (yellow signs or yellow lights) | | | |

Information signs



Passage permitted



High tension line



Ferry does not move freely



Ferry moves freely



Permission to anchor



Permission to anchor



Permission to moor



The channel serves as a main channel with respect to the channel that flows into it



End of a prohibition or a mandatory condition for one direction of travel or the end of a restriction



Drinking water



Start of zone where waterskiing is permitted



Vessels powered by muscle permitted



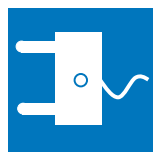
Beginning of the zone where high speeds are permitted



Putting a boat to water or taking it out of the water is permitted.



Start of the zone where jet boats are permitted



Electricity



Environmental station

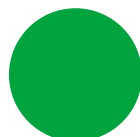


Marina

Signs on locks and bridges



Passage forbidden

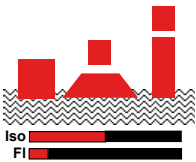


Enter now (lock), passage permitted

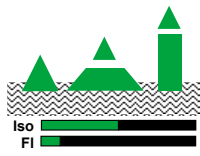


Buoys and beacons

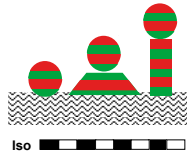
Lateral marking



Right side of the channel from upstream to downstream

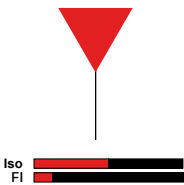


Left side of the channel from upstream to downstream

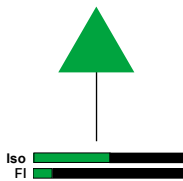


Splitting of the channel

Marking dangerous points and obstacles



Right side from upstream to downstream



Left side from upstream to downstream

Audible signals

GENERAL SIGNALS

| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| | Attention |
| | I am leaving to starboard |
| | I am leaving to port |
| | I am reversing |
| | I cannot manoeuvre |
| | Imminent danger of collision |

SIGNALS FOR TURNING

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| | I am going to turn to starboard |
| | I am going to turn to port |

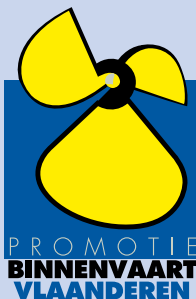
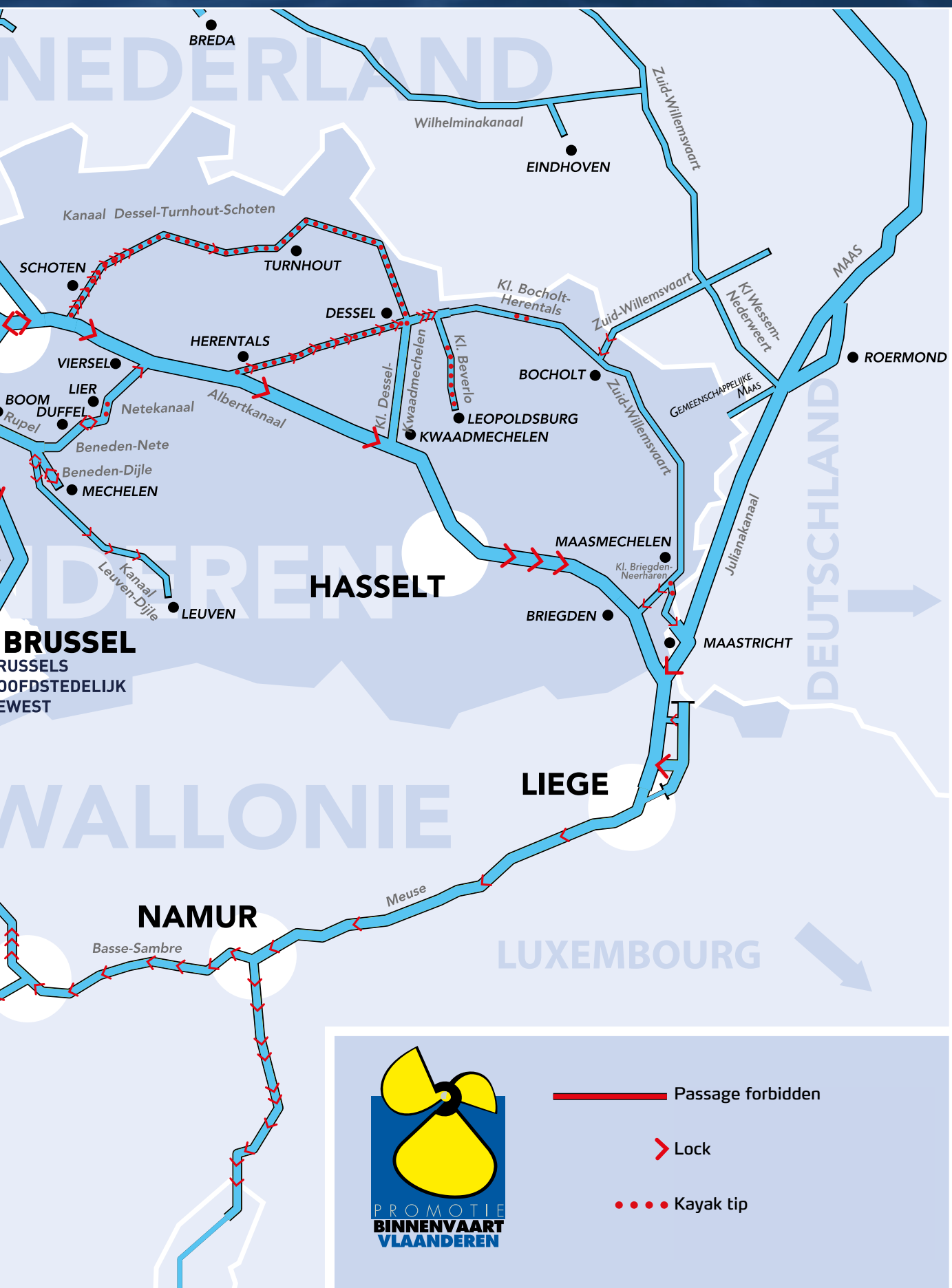
SIGNALS FOR OVERTAKING

| | |
|--|--|
| | I want to overtake you on the port side |
| | Agreed. You may overtake me on the port side (not mandatory audible signal) |
| | Do not agree, you must overtake me on the starboard side |
| | Agreed, I will overtake you on the starboard side |
| | I want to overtake you on the starboard side |
| | Agreed. You may overtake me on the starboard side (not mandatory audible signal) |
| | Do not agree, you must overtake me on the port side |
| | Agreed, I will overtake you on the port side |
| | You may not overtake me |

NOORDZEE



Tips for your canoe and kayaktrips
WATERWAYS IN FLANDERS
(Situation January 2017) © Promotie Binnenvaart Vlaanderen



— Passage forbidden

> Lock

•••• Kayak tip

FAQ'S

Is a sailing certificate (or ICC) mandatory?

A sailing certificate is required for sailing on Belgian inland waters for the operation of a pleasure craft that:

- has a length of 15 m or more; or
- can move faster than 20 km/h using its engine (regardless of length).

No sailing certificate is therefore required for kayaking, rowing or surfing.

There are two types of sailing certificates:

- with the general sailing certificate, you may sail on all Belgian inland waterways, without exception.
- with the restricted sailing certificate, you may sail everywhere in Belgium except for the Lower-Zeescheldt.

For more information www.mobiliteit.belgium.be

There you can also check whether your own certificate is accepted in Belgium.

If your sailing certificate (or ICC) has been lost or stolen, how can you apply for a new one?

If the sailing certificate has been lost or stolen, or has become damaged or illegible, or if the information on it is no longer correct, a new certificate can be applied for. The sailing certificate: from the Federal Ministry of Mobility and Transport, Maritime Transport, T 02 277 35 32. For ICC: from the federation where you have requested your ICC.

For more information, please see www.mobiliteit.belgium.be

How much does a waterway licence sticker cost and where can I buy one?

The waterway licence stickers (and accompanying identification certificate) are applicable to vessels which:

- are suitable for the transport of persons, and do not aim to make a profit (no charges for passenger transport);
- are larger than 6 metres and/or travel faster than 20 km per hour;
- sail or are moored to a licensed or non-licensed berth on the navigable waterways of the Flemish Region.

The permit is renewed annually and must be clearly displayed on the portside stern no later than 31 March of that year. The price of the waterway licence sticker is dependent on the length of the vessel (measured overall), whether it sails at high speed and the period in which you may wish to sail. If you do not wish to sail during the year, the purchase of a temporary sticker is therefore sufficient.

The waterway licence sticker is available from the Waterways Authorities. More information about the prices, points of sale and digital purchase can be found at www.wenz.be and www.devlaamsewaterweg.be.

Is travelling by kayak or canoe permitted everywhere?

It is permitted to kayak on the navigable inland waterways in Flanders/Belgium, with the exception of

- the Ghent-Terneuzen Canal;
- the Lower-Zeescheldt (part of the Zeescheldt downstream from Burcht);
- the inner branches of waterways such as the Reien in Bruges, the Diversion of the Nete in Lier;
- some parts of Ghent and
- the sea harbours.

You are expected to comply with the maritime regulations (especially: commercial shipping always has right of way).

For safety reasons the use of locks for small unmotorised craft is prohibited unless prior permission has been applied for and obtained from the Waterways Authorities in case of group activities or events.

Questions concerning canoes and kayaks can be addressed to: Vlaamse Kano en Kajak Federatie, www.vkkf.be

Questions concerning rowboats: Vlaamse Roeiliga, www.vlaamse-roeiliga.be

Water ski and Jet ski: where - when?

Water skiing

Water skiing is permitted where high speeds are permitted. That is the general rule; some exceptions may apply (e.g. prohibition on high speeds in some areas and during some periods, or a restriction in the skiing direction). Pleasure craft pulling one or more skiers and the water-skiers themselves must ensure that they do not obstruct or endanger other users of the waterway. In addition to the steersman, there must also be a lookout at least 15 years old.

Jet ski

Definition of a jet boat: any small motorised vessel with a length of less than 4 metres, primarily driven by a waterjet pump and designed to be operated by one or more persons sitting, standing or kneeling on and not inside the hull.

All of these types (both sitting and standing versions) fall under the definition of 'jet boat' and may therefore only travel at high speed in the jet ski zone, and not outside it.

FAQ'S



To the borders of the zone and everywhere outside it, the speed must be kept low.

These zones are indicated by signposts as well. When pulling one or more skiers, there must also be a lookout at least 15 years old.

FD-number for the Port of Antwerp: what is that and where can I apply for it?

The Antwerp Port Authority always wants to know which ships are in the harbour. To keep track of that efficiently, each ship needs a registration number, known as the Financial Services Number (Dutch abbreviation: FD).

The number is assigned to a vessel, not to the owner. The FD number therefore always stays with the ship.

The information is used to calculate your passage fees. Pleasure craft that are sailing to the marina in the Willemdok

are exempt from passage fees. They are included in the port charges for the marina. Passing through the harbour to get to the Albert Canal via the Royers lock or Kruisschans lock is also free. In all other cases, the bill for your passage fees is sent to your home address.

You can use the application procedure as seen in the scheme.

Where can I find the Notices to Skippers and the Notices to Mariners?

Notices to Skippers: you can consult the Notices to Skippers on the websites www.nts.flaris.be and www.ris.vlaanderen.be.

Notices to Mariners + Scheldt Shipping: the Notices to Mariners can be found on the websites www.vlaamsehydrografie.be, (select language: EN) and <http://www.vts-scheldt.net>.

FAQ'S

What is the required equipment for navigating the inland waterways in Flanders?

The required equipment for Inland Waterways (excluding canoe, kayak, and sailboat)

- Rescue equipment: lifebelt for everyone on board;
- Nautical instruments: VHF radio for motor vessels > 7 m long + fog horn (only Gemeenschappelijke Maas and Brussels-Scheldt Canal);
- Equipment (except for jet boats): anchor or drag, pump or bailer, reserve means of propulsion depending on the type of vessel (paddles, oars, reserve motor, etc.), two ropes, at least equal to the length of the vessel (30 and 10 metres on Gemeenschappelijke Maas and Brussels-Scheldt Canal), fire extinguisher for motorised yachts.

Canoe and kayak

- Rescue equipment: inflatable rescue buoy or inflatable cushions;
- Nautical instruments: small fog horn or double pitch pipe;
- Equipment: reserve paddle for one-person boats, boatrope (at least 10 m), inflatable air bags fore-and-aft for collapsible boats, grappling hook, and possibly the designation of the association that the owner belongs to or is a member of.
- White light: when it is dark, you must make yourself visible with a white light to prevent collisions.

Where can I find a berth?

On the website www.waterrecreatie.be you will find all the marinas in Flanders with all the information for each marina (number of berths, fees, infrastructure and services, etc.) and their contact details.

All the marinas are also listed on the "Navigation Chart for Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels Capital Region, Limburg (NL), North Brabant (NL) and Nord-Pas de Calais (FR)" from PBV which you can order from www.waterrecreatie.be.

Where can I rent a sail yacht, canoe or kayak?

You can find all information about renting sailboats and motorboats in Flanders on our website www.waterrecreatie.be. The selection ranges from small sailboats to large motor-

powered yachts in all parts of Flanders. Similar lists can also be found at www.nautiv.be and www.nautibel.be.

The rental possibilities of canoe and kayak can be downloaded from www.waterrecreatie.be.

Where to Stand Up Paddle (SUP)?

You can find the locations where supping is permitted on the Flemish waterways on the website www.waterrecreatie.be.



Stand Up Paddle (SUP)

Where can I find round-trip boats, where can I charter a passenger boat or a party boat?

In several Flemish cities you will find these sorts of boats. See for information on the website of **vzw Vlaamse Federatie Passagiersvaart**: www.vlaamsepassagiersvaart.be and on website www.waterrecreatie.be.

You can also get information from the local tourist offices.

FAQ'S

What is the ICC and how can I request it?

The ICC (International Certificate for Operators of Pleasure Craft) is an international certificate that is recognised in most European countries. That is different from national certificates (such as e.g. the RYA-certificates), which are not automatically accepted in other countries as proof of sailing competence by local authorities or boat renters.

On the Flemish inland waterways you will need the ICC (Inland). To receive a Belgian ICC, being born in Belgium or having an official adres in Belgium, is sufficient. There is no need to do an extra test or exam. The ICC is for a lifetime.

There are several categories:

According to place of berth:

According to type of boat:

- "I" (Inland): for inland shipping
- "M" (moto): for motorised crafts
- "C" (coast): for coastal shipping
- "S" (Sail): for sailing boats

Application: choose one of the designated organisations (you don't need to be a member and the conditions are all the same) from the list of designated organisations available at www.mobilit.belgium.be. Go to the website of the chosen organisation where you can download the application form. Send the organisation the signed and completed form together with the necessary enclosures (copy of licenses, passport photo, any documents which demonstrate sailing experience). After payment of the total amount due of approx. 60 euro, the organisation will process the request and send you the ICC.

For more information on the official organisations, please refer to www.mobilit.belgium.be.



The Damme Canal (Damme)

USEFUL addresses

Promotie Binnenvaart Vlaanderen v.z.w. (PBV)
Promotion Office for Inland Navigation in Flanders (PBV)
Havenstraat 44, 3500 Hasselt, T: (0)11 23 06 06,
F: (0)11 23 06 09, pbv@binnenvaart.be, www.waterrecreatie.be

RIS Vlaanderen
In case of emergency (only in Belgium): 0800 30 440
and all information: RIS Hasselt: T: +32 (0)11 27 99 00,
ris.hasselt@vlaamsewaterweg.be and
RIS Evergem: T: +32 (0)9 253 94 71, ris.evergem@wenz.be

Flemish government, Maritime Services and Coast Agency (MDK), Coast Division
Vrijhavenstraat 3, 8400 Ostend, T: + 32 (0)11 27 99 00,
ris.hasselt@devlaamsewaterweg.be, www.afdelingkust.be

De Vlaamse Waterweg nv
Havenstraat 44, 3500 Hasselt, T: (0)11 29 84 00,
info@vlaamsewaterweg.be, www.vlaamsewaterweg.be
www.facebook.com/devlaamsewaterweg,
www.twitter.com/devlaamsewaterweg

Waterwegen en Zeekanaal N.V.
Headquarters and Sea Canal Division:
Oostdijk 110, 2830 Willebroek,
T: (0)3 860 62 11, F: (0)3 860 62 00, info@wenz.be,
zeekanaal@wenz.be, www.wenz.be

Coordination and Support Division:
Koning Albert II-laan 20/14, 1000 Brussels, T: (0)2 553 77 66,
marleen.demaeyer@wenz.be

Upper Scheldt Division: Guldensporenpark 105, 9820 Merelbeke,
T: 09/292 12 11, bovenschelde@wenz.be
Zeescheldt Division: Lange Kievitstraat 111-113/44,
2018 Antwerpen, T: (0)3 224 67 11, zeeschelde@wenz.be

Federal Ministry of Mobility and Transport:
City Atrium, Vooruitgangstraat 56, 1210 Brussel,
T: (0)2 277 31 11, info@mobiliteit.belgium.be,
www.mobiliteit.belgium.be

Brussels Capital Region: www.havenvanbrussel.be
Region of Wallonia: http://voies-hydrauliques.wallonie.be
France: www.vnf.fr

The Netherlands: www.rijkswaterstaat.nl and
www.varendoejesamen.nl

Watersport federations

**Landelijke Bond Waterrecreatie Beoefening -
Motoryachting v.z.w. (LBWB-MY)**
T: (0)55 49 71 03, info@lbwb.be, www.lbwb.be

Nautibel v.z.w.
T: (0)2 741 24 44, info@nautibel.be, www.nautibel.be

NautiV v.z.w.
T: (0)58 51 17 43, administratie@nautiv.be, www.nautiv.be

Vlaamse Federatie Passagiersvaart v.z.w.
T: (0) 2 206 12 02, www.vlaamsepassagiersvaart.be

Vlaamse Kano en Kajak Federatie v.z.w. (VKKF)
T: (0)11 64 28 35, info@vkkf.be, www.vkkf.be

Vlaamse Sport Federatie v.z.w.
T: (0)9 243 12 90, info@vlaamse-sportfederatie.be,
www.vlaamse-sportfederatie.be

Vlaamse Pleziervaart Federatie v.z.w. (VPF),
T: (0)476 905 251, info@vpf.be, www.vpf.be

Vlaamse Roeiliga
T: (0)9 243 12 50, info@vlaamse-roeiliga.be,
www.vlaamse-roeiliga.be

Vlaamse Yachting Federatie v.z.w. (VYF)
T: (0)9 243 11 20, info@vyf.be, www.vyf.be

**Verbond van Vlaamse Watersportverenigingen Recrea
v.z.w. (VVW Recrea)**
T: (0)3 219 69 67, info@vww.be, www.vww.be

Waterski Vlaanderen v.z.w.
T: (0)3 271 19 59, wsv@waterski.be, www.waterski.be

Tourism

Tourism Flanders
Informatiekantoor « Visit Flanders », Grasmarkt 61, B-1000
Brussel, T: (0)2 504 03 90, www.vlaanderen-vakantieland.be,
www.toerismevlaanderen.be

Tourism Limburg
T: (0)11 305 500, info@toerismelimburg.be,
www.toerismelimburg.be

Tourism East-Flanders
T: (0)9 269 26 00, toerisme@oost-vlaanderen.be, www.tov.be

Tourism Province of Antwerp
T: (0)3 240 63 73, info@tpa.be, www.tpa.be

Tourism Flemish-Brabant
T: (0)16 26 76 20, toerisme@vlaamsbrabant.be,
www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be

Westtoer
T: (0)50 30 55 00, info@westtoer.be, www.westtoer.be

PUBLICATIONS

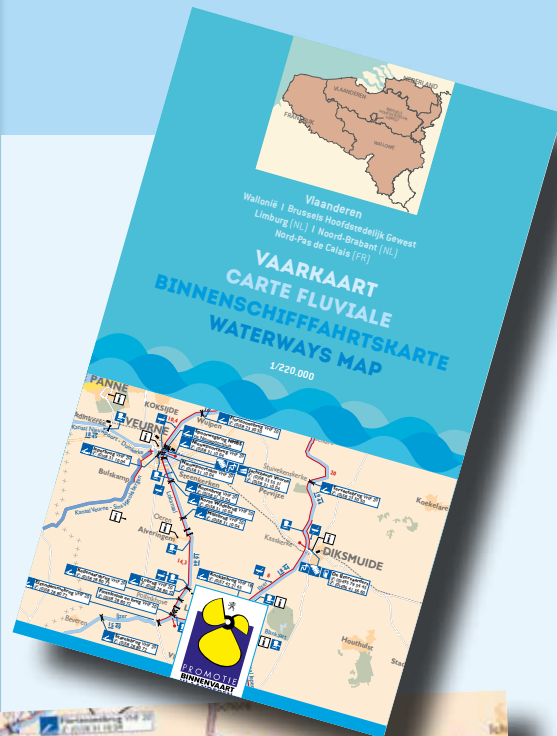
what are they and where can you get them

Navigation chart for Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels Capital Region, Limburg (NL), North Brabant (NL) and Nord-Pas de Calais (FR) (2016)

This is a recto-verso navigation chart which indicates the jet ski zones, high-speed zones, telephone numbers and VHF radio channels for locks, bridges and marinas. They also distinguish between marinas with full facilities, mooring places with connections for water and electricity, and anchorages where no special facilities are provided. Combined, they cover all of Belgium and the adjoining sailing areas in France and the Netherlands.

Price: 10 euro per copy.

For sale at the PBV booth at boat shows or by order:
www.waterrecreatie.be





(no charge) Publications

Operation times of locks and bridges on navigable waterways in Flanders

This brochure contains the operation times of all locks and moveable bridges in Flanders.

Downloaden or request via www.waterrecreatie.be

Available in Dutch

(no charge) Pleasure cruising on navigable waterways in Flanders

This brochure gives a brief overview of the regulations that apply to the Flemish waterways.

Download via: www.waterrecreatie.be

Available in Dutch, French and German



(no charge) Vademecum van de pleziervaart in België

This brochure gives an overview of the most important regulations for water sports in Belgium.

Only available by download: www.waterrecreatie.be

Available in Dutch and French



(no charge) Touristic maps

"Leie en Schelde", "Zeeschelde en Rupel", "Gent",
"Dender" en "Flanders Fields"

These tourist maps offer pleasure sailors suggestions, useful tips and information about attractions and pleasant stops along the way.

Download or request via www.waterrecreatie.be



(no charge) VHF Radio Channels of Belgium

This publication provides an overview of the VHF radio channels available in Belgium.

Simple to download: www.waterrecreatie.be





Marinas and Sanitary stations
WATERWAYS IN FLANDERS
 (Situation January 2017) © Promotie Binnenvaart Vlaanderen