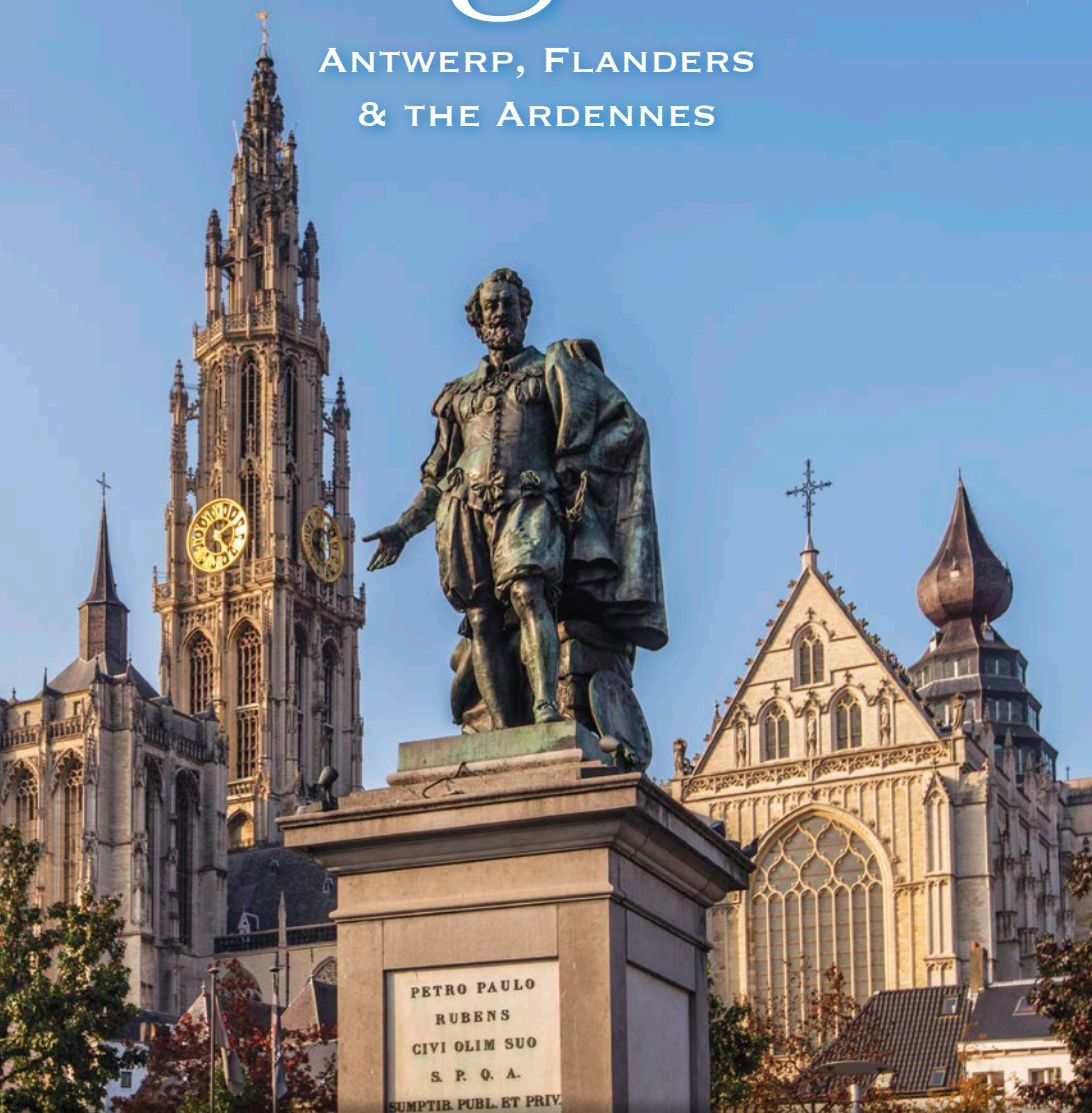


Icons of Belgium

ANTWERP, FLANDERS
& THE ARDENNES



Northwestern | **ALUMNI**

June 8-16, 2027

Northwestern | ALUMNI

Dear Northwestern University alumni and friends,

Join fellow Wildcat travelers on a delightful journey to Belgium and embrace its heritage as you get acquainted with historic cities and travel through the forested Ardennes region. Explore a wide scope of architecture, art, history, cuisine and more as you set out on excursions from your base in the vibrant city of Antwerp.

From medieval spires and fortresses to a mid-century futuristic structure, admire a dazzling array of architecture in Bruges, Brussels and Ghent. Marvel at exquisite works of art by van Eyck and other Flemish masters as well as Michelangelo's Madonna and Child statue. Learn about Belgium's three geographic regions and their corresponding languages: Flemish, French and German. Explore the story of World War II's pivotal Battle of the Bulge as you visit Bastogne, the city successfully defended by U.S. troops against surrounding German forces.

Along the way, you'll meet some local artisans, such as a chocolatier, who will teach you how to make a delicious Belgian chocolate confection, and visiting a brewery, where you'll sample famous Belgian beer!

This exceptional program has been thoughtfully designed with educational enrichment from expert guides and lecturers. It also offers you the security, ease and value of group travel with plentiful opportunities for independent exploration. You'll appreciate the camaraderie with other curious travelers and make your own discoveries during free time. Guarantee your spot by making your reservation today!

Sincerely,



Jay Mastin '10 MS
Director, Alumni Engagement
Northwestern Alumni Association
alumni.northwestern.edu/travel
giving.nu/NAA-Travel

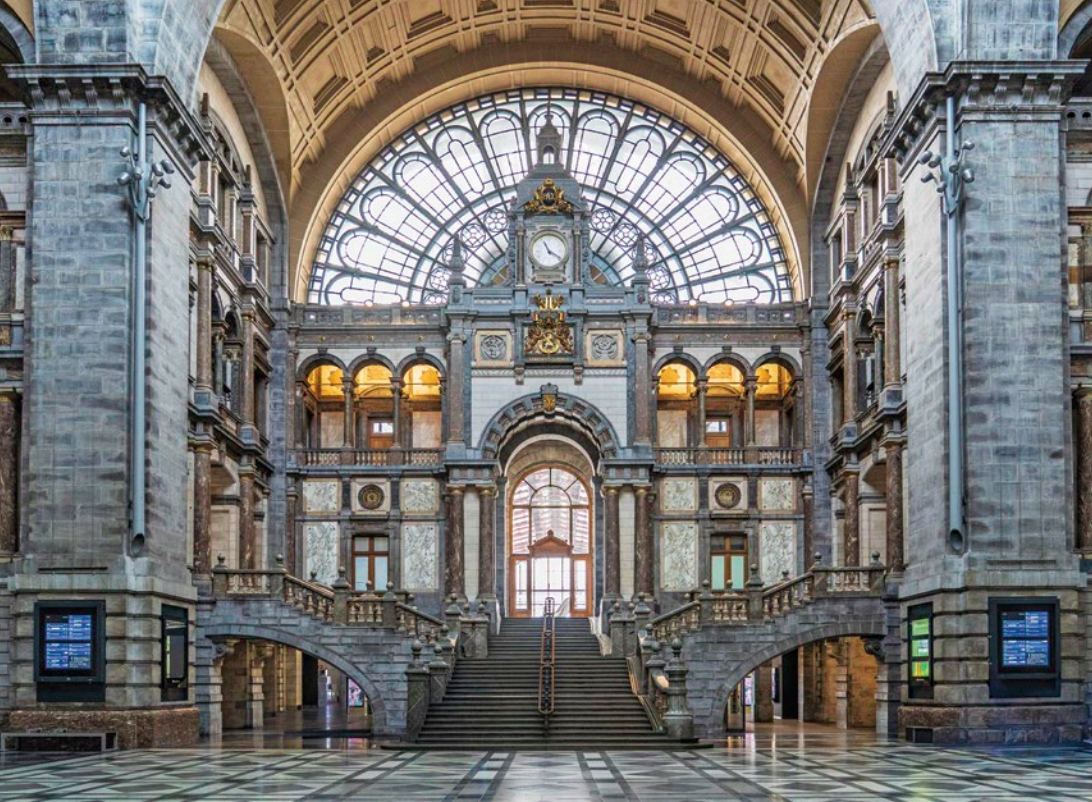
UNESCO World Heritage

1. **La Grand-Place**, Brussels
2. **Historic Centre of Brugge**, Bruges
3. **Belfries of Belgium**, Antwerp, Bruges & Ghent



University Travel Disclaimer

The University is not the tour operator. The University acts merely as an agent for the supplier by selling travel-related services, accepting reservations, and booking for services that are not directly supplied by the University. The University, therefore, shall not be responsible for breach of contract; failure to comply with any state or federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act; or any intentional or negligent actions or omissions on the part of such suppliers that result in any loss, damage, delay, inconvenience, or injury to travelers, travelers' companions, or group members. To review the University disclaimer in detail, visit alumni.northwestern.edu/universitydisclaimer.



Discovery begins here



From picture-perfect medieval towns to poignant 20th-century battlefields, take a cultural journey through beautiful Belgium. Amble along the timeworn cobblestone streets and wander through the market squares of historic cities, admiring well-preserved castles and Gothic churches. Feast your eyes on a trove of priceless artwork and indulge in creamy Belgian chocolate and thirst-quenching local brews. Unforgettable Belgium will leave you with memories of a lifetime.

Top: Antwerp Central Station | Above: Het Steen, Antwerp
Cover: Grote Markt, Antwerp | Mail panel: Atomium | Ghent

Inspiring Moments



- Delight in **Antwerp's historic quarter** and step inside **Antwerp Central Station**, one of the world's most beautiful train stations.
- Savor smooth **Belgian chocolate** and create your own treats at a workshop.
- Glide through the canals of **Bruges** and admire artwork at the Groeninge Museum.
- Stroll through lovely **Ghent** and its well-preserved medieval quarter.
- Explore historic **Brussels** and take an architectural tour of the Atomium, built for the 1958 World's Fair.
- Delve into World War II history and the Battle of the Bulge at **Bastogne**.
- Trace the journey of 2 million European emigrants at the **Red Star Line Museum** and learn about the iconic shipping line.
- Experience three **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



Town Hall, Antwerp

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Brussels, Belgium. 🌐

Day 2 | Brussels, Belgium

Upon arrival, transfer 🔄 to Antwerp and the Sapphire House Antwerp.

Antwerp. Marvel at beautiful Antwerp during a walking tour of the historic quarter and learn about its history as a commercial powerhouse in the late Middle Ages. Pass by the medieval castle Het Steen, the city's oldest building, and Vleeshuis, the former butchers' guildhall. Stroll through the bustling Grote Markt, the main market square surrounded by medieval guild-halls and a Renaissance city hall. Continue to Vlaaikensgang, a picturesque medieval alley next to the Cathedral of Our Lady, which has one of the most famous belfries in the country. Gather for a Welcome Reception and Dinner.

Day 3 | Antwerp

Enrichment: Contemporary Netherlands.

Learn about Belgium's geographical regions and their corresponding linguistic divisions: Dutch, French and German.

Red Star Line Museum. At the Red Star Line Museum, discover the stories of the European emigrants who boarded ships destined for North America. Between 1873-1934, 2 million men, women and children hoping for a better life came to Antwerp from all over Europe to sail across the Atlantic on a Red Star Line ship. Among the shipping line's most famous passengers were Irving Berlin and Albert Einstein. Einstein was

a frequent passenger, choosing Red Star Line for his journeys to the United States. He traveled aboard a Red Star ship on his final 1933 journey to the U.S. to escape Nazi Germany.

Break for lunch with your fellow travelers.

Antwerp Central Station. Tour Antwerp Central Station, nicknamed the "Railway Cathedral" for its opulent architecture. Architect Louis Delacenserie drew upon many influences, including the Pantheon in Rome, to create his eclectic design.

Free Time: Enjoy a free evening to explore Antwerp's dining scene on your own.

Day 4 | Bruges

Bruges. Medieval Bruges enjoyed many prosperous years. Stroll through the Market Square and pass by the Town Hall, Belfry Tower and the Chapel of the Holy Blood. Visit the Groeninge Museum to admire a rich collection of paintings, including several from the Flemish Primitive era. At the Museum of the Church of our Lady, stand before Michelangelo's sculpture Madonna and Child.

Red Star Line Museum





Afterward, visit a local brewery for a beer tasting and a delicious lunch.

Canal Cruise. Board a relaxing cruise through Bruges' famous canals as you glide through leafy parks and pass under charming bridges as you see the city's famous landmarks.

Free Time: Enjoy a walk around Bruges during some time to explore independently.

Free Time: After returning to Antwerp, spend an evening at leisure.

Day 5 | Antwerp

Free Time: Explore Antwerp on your own through early afternoon.

 **AHI Connects | Belgian Chocolate Workshop.** Visit an artisanal chocolatier for expert instruction on making Belgium's famous chocolate. Learn the history of Belgian chocolate while creating your delicious treat! Savor delicious Belgian cuisine at a group dinner tonight.

Belgian chocolate



Day 6 | Bastogne

Battle of the Bulge. Journey to the city of Bastogne in the Ardennes region to explore its role in the World War II's Battle of the Bulge. The U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division successfully defended Bastogne, which was surrounded by German forces, until relief came from Patton's Third Army. Visit the Bastogne War Museum, the Battle of the Ardennes Museum in La Roche-en-Ardennes and the Mardasson Memorial to fallen U.S. soldiers. Enjoy lunch today as a group.

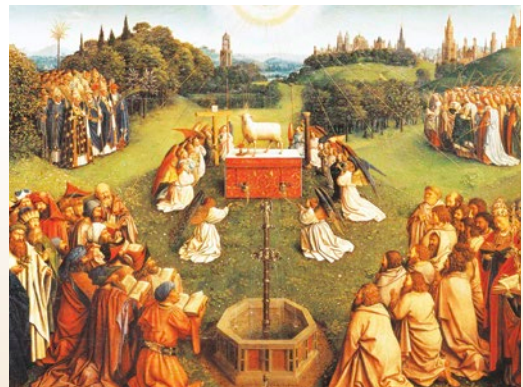
Free Time: Enjoy a free evening upon your return to Antwerp.

Day 7 | Brussels

Atomium. En route Brussels, visit the Atomium, a futuristic structure built for the 1958 World's Fair. Shaped like an atom on the outside, the inside passages are straight out of a sci-fi movie.

Arrive in Brussels, where you'll have time for lunch on your own.

Detail of Jan van Eyck's "The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb"





Brussels. Get acquainted with Brussels' charming old town, known as the Îlot Sacré. Stroll through Le Grand-Place, the historic market square, and admire the centuries of architectural styles represented in the surrounding buildings.

Have dinner as a group tonight in Antwerp.

Day 8 | Ghent

Ghent. Stroll through Ghent, one of Belgium's oldest cities, on a walking tour. See the Town Hall, which combines late Gothic and Renaissance architectural styles; the famous Belfry, the tallest in Belgium; Gravensteen, or the Castle of the Counts; Patershol Quarter, one of Ghent's most popular neighborhoods; the guildhall-lined Vrijdagmarkt square, where locals gather for weekend markets. Step inside Gothic St. Bavo's Cathedral to see Jan van Eyck's "The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb."

Free Time: Have lunch on your own in Ghent before returning to Antwerp.

Tonight, revel in your favorite memories of your Belgian journey with your new friends during a festive Farewell Reception and Dinner.

Day 9 | In Transit

Transfer ➡ to the Brussels airport for the return flight ✈ to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

✈ Flights and ➡ transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Activity Level

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and a boat

Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- 7 nights in Antwerp, Belgium, at the first-class Sapphire House Antwerp.

Extensive Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome Dinner; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

Belfry Tower, Bruges





Castle of the Counts, Ghent



Above: ©Tempora - Bastogne War Museum | Below: Canal cruise, Bruges



2027 | Departure Details

Program Dates

Travel dates † **June 8-16, 2027**

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates* **June 9-16, 2027**

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price **\$5,145**

Special Savings **\$500**

Special Savings Price* **\$4,645**

***This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$250 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single accommodations are an additional \$995 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://norwes.ahitravel.com/destinations/2011A?schoold=122>.

AHI FlexAir

Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights.

Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

AHI Travel Expertise

Travel Consultants guide you through the reservation process.

Travel & Air Coordinators offer assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides and Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Accommodations

Antwerp's historic sites are at your doorstep while staying at the first-class Sapphire House Antwerp. This 16th-century town house originally was known as Den Grooten Robijn, the Great Ruby, a nod to the city's prominent role in the gem industry. Experience warm hospitality, enjoy delicious seasonal cuisine at the Sapphire Bistro and fit in a workout at the 24-hour gym. Inviting guest rooms are well appointed with your comfort in mind, featuring thoughtful details, such as USB ports and complimentary Wi-Fi.



Sapphire House Antwerp | Antwerp



Aerial view of Old Town, Antwerp



Book your journey today!

844-291-0533

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