

THE SPRING CLASSICS TRIP '07 – TRIP OUTLINE

April 9 - 16th (8days / 7nights)

Join us for a fabulous excursion to the European Classic Professional Road Races : Gent-Wevelgem (Belgium), and Paris-Roubaix (France). Add on some days for an early arrival trip and see Tour de Flanders as well. Experience the legendary race courses for yourself and watch the tough warriors of the peloton battle it out, in the most exciting races of the spring season.

Who better to lead this tour than Steve Bauer himself? Two times 4th at Tour de Flanders, One time 2nd, 4th and 8th at Paris Roubaix. Let him share with you his expert knowledge, experiences, and memories at these World Cup races he focused on as a professional.

For your flexibility, we have created a **Main Trip Package** (April 9-16th) which includes the Gent-Wevelgem race and Paris-Roubaix. For those who have the extra time, we offer an **Optional Pre-Trip Add-On Package** (April 6-9), to include the Tour of Flanders race.

TRIP OVERVIEW

Monday April 9th

Our guides will greet our guests of the Main Trip Package at the airport of Zaventem/Brussels at 12pm/noon. The transfer to our hotel in Kortrijk will take about 1 hour.

For your comfort, we will be staying for the entire trip at Hotel Broel in Kortrijk, a very nice 4* property, centrally located in the vicinity of the races and surrounding cycling routes. Steve knows this area inside-out, as he lived here, at only a few KM from our hotel, for 11 years during his professional career.

Once everyone is settled, we will help you get your bike unpacked, dialed in, and ready to roll for a warm-up ride. A little cycling will help you wind down from your travel before our first group dinner at Hotel Broel in Kortrijk.

Dinner : Group Dinner in Hotel Broel

Hotel : Broel, Kortrijk

Tuesday April 10th

Today we pre-ride the exciting "monts" (hills) of West-Flanders and the historic battlefields of the World War, while we view the race course of Gent-Wevelgem (70-80km ride).

Dinner : On your own in Gent

Hotel : Broel, Kortrijk

Wednesday April 11th : "Gent-Wevelgem"

Early morning 'spin' before we hit the vans to follow this great "Classic".

Dinner : Group Dinner in Kortrijk

Hotel : Broel, Kortrijk

Gent-Wevelgem :

A race with less hills, albeit some tough ones... The wind usually plays a major role in determining race strategy. The main group often splinters into pieces if strong crosswinds are prevalent. Two times up the fabled "Kemmelberg" sporting an 18% cobbled grade, ensures fabulous race viewing and keeps the riders intent on making the front group in the final 30km. Fast and exciting, with a climactic finish as break-away groups attempt their chances – often to be absorbed by a charging group for a mass sprint.

Thursday April 12th

Perhaps you could not make it to see the Tour of Flanders last Sunday with us, but no worries. Today you can challenge yourself over the final 75km of this legendary race course. Optional shorter itinerary will be available for those who wish to “miss” a few challenges.

Dinner : On your own in Ieper

Hotel : Broel, Kortrijk

Friday April 13th

Off to the “Cobblestones of the North” and your most memorable ride: The race course of Paris-Roubaix. A full 75km of the most coveted race course into Roubaix. Options to make short cuts will be available. Test your skills on the cobblestone sections !

Dinner : On your own in Lille

Hotel : Broel, Kortrijk

Saturday April 14th

Good morning outing to early afternoon (75-80km). A few scenic hills and climbs over historical roads in the Kortrijk-Doornik area. We will want to be on time for the team presentations, building excitement for the big day.

Dinner : Group Dinner

Hotel : Broel, Kortrijk

Sunday April 15th : “Paris-Roubaix”

We’ll follow this race start to finish. It will be a crazy day, but we will want to catch as much of the race as we can, and you will love it ! We can’t miss the famous sprint of this incredible ‘07 Classic, at the Roubaix Velodrome.

Dinner : Group Final Dinner, Kortrijk

Hotel : Broel, Kortrijk

Paris-Roubaix :

The “Reine de classiques”, distinguished, extraordinary and the most unique of any bicycle race in the world. It begins in Compiègne, home to Kings and Emperors of earlier centuries, who now only give light to the battle that will ensue in the next 7 hours. The engagement begins proper at the first cobbled lane, 100km into the event. From this point until the finish on the Velodrome in Roubaix, every stone and crevice could be critical to the outcome. In the fabled forest of Arrenberg, where the stones are the most horrendous, race victims will be claimed and often retire. Each rider must never lose his focus, hunger or power if he wishes to arrive in Roubaix with a chance to be King.

Monday April 12th : Departures

- Transfer to Zaventem Airport, Brussels, or you might have arranged an extension of your stay in Europe.

OPTIONAL PRE-TRIP ADD-ON PACKAGE (4DAYS/3NIGHTS)

Friday April 6th

Our guides will greet you at the airport of Zaventem/Brussels and bring you to the medieval town of Brugge, where we will be staying at Relais & Chateaux Hotel

Di Swaene for the first 3 nights.

In the afternoon, after we have assembled the bikes, we will go for a nice warm up ride to loosen up the legs from traveling.

Dinner : Group Dinner at Di Swaene, Brugge

Hotel : Di Swaene, Brugge

Saturday April 7th *The Tour of Flanders for enthusiasts*

Today we kick off our trip with an exhilarating experience : “*The Tour of Flanders for enthusiasts...*”. Ride along with 1000nds of other amature cyclists, the fabulous race course of the Tour of Flanders.

Dinner : On your own in Brugge

Hotel : Di Swaene

Sunday April 8th : “*Ronde Van Vlaanderen*”

This morning we head out for a short walk from our hotel, to the famous market place of Brugge to view the sign-in of the participants and the Start of the race. Today we will be watching the race at ideal points throughout the day, and witnessing the sprint to the finish line, life !

Dinner : On your own in Brugge

Hotel : Di Swaene

Ronde Van Vlaanderen :

The awe-inspiring “Ronde Van Vlaanderen” is famous for its repetitive and challenging Cobblestone hills full of history and cycling lore. The riders must attack each section individually, ensuring their position on the front, every time to avoid elimination from the front-runners. In the final 125km, the intensity of the race never wanes as some 15critical hills are tackled. Only the fittest and toughest racers will survive to the last 18km where the final strategies are played out for the victory at the “Muur de Grammont” and the “Bosberg” (Wall of Grammont and the Forest Mountain).

Monday April 9th :

Transfer day by bike. Today will be cycling from Brugge to Kortrijk, riding our own tour of Flanders, using Steve’s training routes and the tiny unique farm roads of Belgium. We cycle direction Kortrijk, where we will find our next hotel (60km), and rejoin the newly arrived guests.

MORE DETAILS

For Who ? This trip is designed for the cycling enthusiast who has always dreamed of watching and experiencing these incredible races up close. Find yourself center stage in the Mecca of the worlds best cyclists with the opportunity to meet them in person. Pre race day, take the challenge to test yourself on the cobblestone lanes and hills that will make or break the real champions every day. Then, see the races evolve, and feel the intensity mount from the pre-race media excitement through to the final sprint.

What Else ? Don’t think we are going for the bike racing only !!! We cannot forget our visits to architecturally beautiful and famous centers such as leper and Brugge in Belgium. How about indulging in some fresh, handmade Belgium chocolate. Specialty beers ? With more than 800 different varieties in Belgium alone we will not be able to taste them all ! Fine dining ? No worries at all... This small country excels in so many things. The thru Belgian is a gourmand in heart-and-sole, carrying a deeprooted culture of sharing great meals with others. Here, dining is a social event, and socializing usually goes together with a delicious meal.

Riding Distances : estimated: 75 to 100 km per day

Cycling itineraries will be developed based on the best available routes in each area, taking into consideration the potential to ride on the actual routes of the famous classic races. Our support guides and vans always do their best to provide flexibility for our travelers in choosing their daily cycling distance.

Itinerary Brief

Steve Bauer Bike Tours has developed this itinerary description above to give you an overview of this *classics trip*. *Steve Bauer Bike Tours Inc.* reserves the right to make changes to the above description. We work extremely hard to provide the best possible travel experience for our guests. If we make changes to the initial advertised trip plan; it will be an improvement to the trip.

Our Group Size

Our group size is a maximum of 22 people. Typically the group is smaller.

Guide Support

A minimum of 5 support staff on a fully booked trip ensures that your travel experience with us is prepared and runs smoothly for optimum enjoyment. Steve Bauer will join your group where possible. Some guide(s) will support the daily rides with vans shadowing the group while other guide(s) will be leading the ride on bicycle, along with the guests. Some days all vans are required with fewer cycling guides on the road. Where other days, such as loop rides, fewer vans are required and more guides can participate with travelers on road cycling. In addition, the support vans are well equipped with spare bicycles, wheels, tires and tubes during every ride in case you incur a flat tire or breakdown.

Accommodations

As always, our mission is to find excellent hotels. Boutique hotels, luxury and Relais & Châteaux properties in proximity to the race course are likely choices for our trips. We believe that we have booked the best accommodation not paralleled by any other company providing this type of bicycle tour. It is necessary to do transfers by van throughout the trip. Check out our hotels :
www.hotelbroel.be
www.dieswaene.be

Dining

We will include all breakfasts, some lunches, and four group dinners. The other dinners (three) are on your own, but we will organize shuttles to nice town centers where we will point out some good restaurant options for you. Wine is included at all group dinners. A quality trip means dining at some fine restaurants. Fine food of high quality will be emphasized for all of our group meals at our hotel location as well as restaurant off property.

Insurance

Steve Bauer Bike Tours Inc. cannot alter our Cancellation Policy for ANY reason. Therefore, we highly recommend the purchase of Trip Cancellation/Interruption and Emergency Medical Insurance for all travelers. RBC Insurance can be purchased directly from *Steve Bauer Bike Tours*, by filling out the reservation form and sending it back to us along with trip payment. If you choose to decline the insurance coverage offered by *Steve Bauer Bike Tours Inc.*; please return the reservation form checked off "I decline" with your deposit.

Rental Bikes

Our rental and spare bikes are very high quality carbon fibre Argon 18 Heliums:
www.argon18bike.com. The bicycles are equipped with Shimano Ultegra. Spare parts on tour are Shimano. You may request to rent one for the trip. We have limited quantities and sizes. Requests will be managed on the basis of first request, first served.

Late Arrivals and Early Departures

There will be no compensation for a portion of the trip price on occasions where travelers arrive to the trip late or depart early. For early arrival, we will do our best to accommodate your needs (prior to our rendezvous location time.) If we are able to assist; we will quote an early pick up charge on specific need basis. For late departures, we cannot assist with departure after NOON on our departure date.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Price: CAN \$5,700 pp/based on double occupancy. **Single Supplement:** CAN \$850

Estimate of price in US Dollars: \$4,900 - Currency conversion is determined on website below
<http://www.rbcroyalbank.com/cgi-bin/travel/fxconvert.pl>

Price for Add-On Package : CAN \$1,100 pp/based on double occupancy. Single Supplement for Add-On Package : CAN \$500

Please note : Add-On Package can only be purchased in addition of the original trip, and not as a separate entity.

What is included?

- Accommodations at Hotel Broel, Kortrijk
- Services of our trip leaders, 4 to 5 logistical support guides;
- All breakfasts, some lunches, 4 group dinners;
- Wine with all our group dinners;
- Gratuities and taxes on accommodations and meals;
- All ground transfers for you, your bicycle and your luggage within the trip context
- 2 to 3 Support vehicles (passenger vans) for daily cycling itineraries, first aid and bicycle mechanical support (tools, spare wheels, spare bike and equipment);
- Fruit, nutritious snacks, energy bars, cold bottled water for all of our rides;
- Detailed daily route descriptions and mapped itineraries;
- Arrival pick up and departure drop-points, are 1 specific time scheduled at 1 designated place which will be at Brussels Zaventem Airport;
- Pre-departure information (how to prepare, information, hotels and visits);
- *SBBT* cycling water bottles as required
- Qualified mechanic on tour to help keep your bikes is rolling perfectly.

Extra with Add-On Package :

- 3 Nights Accommodations at Hotel Die Swaene, Brugge
- 1 Dinner including wine at Die Swaene
- 2 Lunches enroute

What's Not Included?

- Airfare;
- Some lunches and three dinners;
- Alcoholic beverages and drinks other than the wine included during our group dinners;
- Travel and personal insurance;
- Personal hotel expenses: mini bar, telephone, room service, laundry, Internet, fitness, spa services, movies, etc.;
- Any arrival/departure shuttle that does not meet our scheduled pickup/drop time and location.

HOW TO RESERVE

If you wish to make a reservation on this trip, please complete the attached **Reservation Form** and **FAX** it to our office in St.Catharines ON Canada at : **(001) 905 704 1235**

For any further information on this trip, you can contact us at one of our phone numbers below OR by email to trips@stevebauer.com

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