

# Through Flanders' Riverland

6 days, € 606.5



## Introduction



The meandering rivers Dyle, Nete, Zenne and Rupel shape influence their surroundings. Together they are Regional Landscape Rivierenland, a region marked by an open landscape with streams, ponds, claypits, marshes, meadows, willow and poplar woods and caste domains. The four small rivers are tributaries of the large river Scheldt; and - even at a distance of 140 km from the sea, are subject to the influence of the tides that move through the Scheldt estuary. This makes the region a tidal freshwater zone, marked by high habitat and species diversity. This cycling holiday will take you through this beautiful wetland area between the diamond city of Antwerp and the cathedral city of Mechelen. You will start your journey in Mechelen with its impressive Sint-Romboutstower. Lier, a hidden gem between these well-known cities.

From Mechelen you will cycle along the river Nete to Lier, a hidden gem between the well-known cities from Antwerpen and Mechelen. Then to Antwerp, the port city situated on the river Scheldt. The Scheldt will lead you to Bornem. Next, the Rupel and the Dyle will take you back to the charming cathedral city of Mechelen.

Thanks to the short distances, this cycling holiday offers plenty of time to sightsee the cities where you spend the night. It also makes this trip suitable for families with children; and for people who want to cycle, but not too far.

## Day to Day

### Day 1 **Arrival in Mechelen**

Organize your own journey to Mechelen, a really charming city in the center of Flanders.

### Day 2 **Mechelen - Lier**

**24 km**

Mechelen is too much fun to leave in a hurry, so make the most of the morning and go for a walk in the city centre, climb the St. Rumbold's Tower, or take a boat trip on the Inner Dyle. Today's cycle route takes you through the hinterlands of Mechelen to Sint-Katelijne-Waver and further to the river Nete. On the cycling path on the riverbank enjoy the winding route to Duffel, where duffel cloth for duffel coats and bags was invented and produced. At the end of the day, arrive in charming Lier.

### Day 3 **Lier - Antwerp**

**28 km**

Leaving Lier behind you, you will soon find yourself cycling along the Kleine Nete, a riverlet that still harbours some rare fish species. The first part of this ride to the great city of Antwerp takes you along quiet country lanes between vast green (or yellow) meadows and through villages such as Boechout and Vremde. In Mortsel



you will pass Fort 4 of the seven remaining Brialmont Forts designed to defend Antwerp. In the park around the fort, children have a great time in the playground. From here the roads will be increasingly busy, but entering Antwerp is easy: a long and straight bike path along the railway will lead you to the city centre where your hotel is located directly behind the Central Station.

#### Day 4 **Antwerp – Bornem**

**32 km**

Fashion city, diamond city, port city, there are many ways to describe the biggest city of Belgium. Make the most of your morning and do some sightseeing. Are you traveling with children? Start the day with a visit to Antwerp Zoo, situated at walking distance from your hotel. Then mount your bikes, set off for Hoboken and catch the ferry to Kruibeke. That is where the pretty part of the route begins. Cycle through the floodplains of the Scheldt. This is Flanders' biggest flood control area with reduced tides. It is part of the Sigma works, a flood protection plan preparing Flanders for climate change. What the cyclo-tourist sees is a lovely polder area with tidal nature, mudflats, marshes, alders woods and meadow birds. Near Temse, cross the Scheldt and continue to the lively village of Bornem where you will stay the night.

#### Day 5 **Bornem – Mechelen**

**34 km**

A beautiful stage of the tour awaits. You will cycle on the former towpaths of the Scheldt, Rupel and Dyle, past water-rich floodplains that attract many different bird species. Moreover, you will cycle on neat, cobbled streets in charming Flemish villages and through the woods around d'Ursel Castle. Take your binoculars with you to spot the wetland wildlife, from cormorants to woodpeckers and beavers, all of them live in the Rupel Valley. Later, you will reach the Three Rivers Point where the Dyle and Nete join from the Rupel. Follow the Dyle into Mechelen and end the day with a tour through the beautiful city centre.

#### Day 6 **Departure from Mechelen**

After breakfast, your holiday will come to an end. It's time to return home.

## Prices, Data, Booking

### Starting dates:

Every Monday from the 7th of April to the 22nd of September

## Accommodation



**NH Hotel Mechelen\*\*\*\*  
(Mechelen)**

[www.nh-hotels.mechelen.com](http://www.nh-hotels.mechelen.com)



**Hotel Florent\*\*\* (Lier)**

[www.hotelflorent.be/](http://www.hotelflorent.be/)





**Mercure Antwerp City South\*\*\*\***  
**(Antwerpen)**  
<https://all.accor.com/hotel/B664/>



**De Notelaer\*\*\*\* (Bornem)**  
<https://hoteldenotelaer.be/>

## Practical Info



5 nights included



3/4 star hotels



Breakfast included



Tourist information on all the places of interest



Possibility of renting our bikes



7-days a week service hotline during your holiday



Luggage transport to your next hotel is included



The start hotel is 10-15 minutes walking distance from Mechelen Central Station



Parking possibilities at the hotel



GPS-tracks available



Any ferry crossings are not available

