

WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST
Travel Solo Together

BELGIAN CHRISTMAS!

Delightfully Delicious!

with Women of the Midwest!

November 29 - December 8, 2025



Dear Women of the Midwest,

I am beyond excited to invite you to join me on our second journey to discover Christmas in Belgium! Come crisp winter days, give in to that warm, fuzzy feeling during Christmas in a fairy tale European country.

Belgium takes great pride in the grandeur of Christmas celebrations, and we will find ourselves at the most beautiful Christmas markets you've ever imagined.

Pretty medieval cities take on fairy tale airs as the temperatures drop; it's hard to judge which place is the most enchanting. The scent of fresh waffles lingers at all Christmas markets, and the streets are dressed like gingerbread houses with festive fairy lights reflected in the canals. Hop on a horse-drawn carriage for a tour of the cobbles or linger in some of Europe's most charming Christmas markets. Browse the stalls laden with handmade Christmas goodies and tasty treats. The opportunities for shopping are endless, and your only (luxury) problem is what to choose, and how much to bring back home for your favorite people.

Join me on this delightful and delicious journey to follow in the footsteps of kings and artists. Learn about art nouveau and the art of lace- and chocolate-making. Visit castles and stunning museums ...even the museum of "a girl's best friend!" Ladies, what's not to love?

Get into the festive spirit and celebrate with me; I guarantee you will burst out in an "I Love Belgium" once this trip ends!

Yours in travel and adventure,
Lora Black
Ambassador, Women of the Midwest



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 888-549-1186. Space is limited.

Brussels - Grand Place



November 29, 2025 - Saturday

Traveling to Brussels

Our fairy tale adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Brussels. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your dream vacation.

November 30, 2025 - Sunday

Brussels

Welcome to Belgium! Upon arrival, we will meet our private tour director and take a short drive to the center of Brussels. We will visit the Horta Museum, dedicated to the life and work of the architect Victor Horta and his time. The museum is housed in Horta's former townhouse and workshop, built in 1898. Antoni Gaudi, Gustav Klimt, and Louis Comfort Tiffany may sound familiar, but did you know Victor is the famous Belgian architect considered the Father of Art Nouveau? The interior of his house has been largely preserved: mosaics, stained-glass windows, furniture, and wall paintings form a harmonious whole that shows subtlety down to the smallest detail. By 1914, with the beginning of the First World War, Art Nouveau's elegant curves and long lines were largely replaced by the more sharp angles and geometrical shapes of Art Deco and later by the Modernism styles. A delightful welcome lunch is served at a restaurant at Grand Place (the beautiful main square of Brussels) before we check into our beautiful hotel. It is time to relax and unwind. If you are still awake, join us for a walking tour of the Christmas market at Grand Place. It is only a few minutes from our hotel. B (during flight) | L

Fall in Love with Art Nouveau



December 1, 2025 - Monday

Brussels

After breakfast, we will continue exploring Brussels. Brussels is the capital of Europe and home to several international institutions, such as NATO and the European Commission. We will drive through the European district, pass by the European Parliament, and visit the Atomium. The tall-standing (335 ft) monument is one of the tallest structures in Belgium. Its nine 59 ft stainless clad steel spheres are connected in the shape of a unit cell that could represent an iron crystal magnified 165 billion times. It offers stunning views and is the emblem of Brussels. Leisurely time for lunch before we take a walking tour of the center of Brussels, including a private chocolate workshop to learn everything about the world-famous Belgian pralines. The evening is a leisure to explore more of Brussels. B | T

December 2, 2025 - Tuesday

Gaasbeek Castle - Bruges

We are off towards beautiful Bruges. Our first stop today is at the Castle of Gaasbeek. The inside-out beautiful fortified castle was built around 1240 and contains impressive art collections displayed in lavishly decorated historical rooms; it will not disappoint. Our lunch today is served at a fun and traditional countryside tavern. A local brewery with some of the best beer in Belgium will welcome us to Bruges - tasting included! Belgians take their beers as seriously as the French do their wines. You will find beers corked and wired like a bottle of Champagne, and some beers will mature in the bottle

Chocolate Workshop & Tastings



for up to six years. We will check into our hotel for a relaxing evening. Take a stroll around the corner to discover the cozy Christmas atmosphere in one of the prettiest cities in Europe! B | L | T

December 3, 2025 - Wednesday

Bruges

After breakfast, we are ready to step back in time and explore Bruges on foot. With its beautiful medieval architecture, cobblestone streets, picturesque canals, and Christmas markets, it seems straight out of a fairy tale. Often called "Venice of the North," it beckons its visitors to tour its grand squares as well as its tiny back alleys and discover all its beautiful charms. We will visit the Lace Centre Museum. By the 13th Century, Bruges was the epicenter of Europe's textile trade. The large volume of textiles moving into and out of the area developed a rich fashion industry, which paved the way for Bruges' unique lace industry. You will have the opportunity to watch a bobbin lace-making demonstration. Lunch is served at our favorite restaurant, right on the canal. The remainder of the day is free for shopping, more sightseeing, or simply "people-watching" and enjoying life. B | L

December 4, 2025 - Thursday

Bruges

How about a full day to explore more of Bruges on your own? Enjoy a laid-back breakfast, and then head out to enjoy the city. Shop your favorite souvenirs and beautiful Christmas gifts to bring back home, and warm up with hot chocolate

Beautiful Bruges



Antwerp - a Brilliant Story



Brussels Sprouts in Christmas Mood



from renowned chocolatiers; try Belgian waffles and speculoos cookies - the crispy, rich, and aromatic cookies with the floral character of Ceylon cinnamon and the caramelized sweetness. Oh, and don't miss a cone of fries with tartar sauce, yum! Too much walking? Experience the charm of Bruges by riding through its cobblestone streets in a horse-drawn carriage, complete with cozy blankets. B

December 5, 2025 - Friday

Loppem Castle - Ghent

After a delicious breakfast, we say a fond farewell to Bruges. A few miles away lies Loppem Castle, in the middle of a romantic English garden with age-old trees, ponds, and a maze. It is time to follow in the footsteps of kings and artists and enjoy a rich art collection, including medieval sculpture, Flemish paintings, stoneware, Mechelen alabasters, Portuguese ivories, illuminated manuscripts, prints, and drawings. We will arrive in Ghent in time for a guided walking tour, including a 90-minute boat tour with tastings of local delicacies. You will love this city, which was a prominent city-state during the Middle Ages. Today, it is a university town and cultural hub. Its pedestrianized center is known for medieval architecture and beautiful alleys. In December, Christmas is everywhere! This afternoon, we will visit the impressive St. Bavo Cathedral, including the Mystic Lamb augmented reality experience. Through special glasses, we will travel back to the distant past in the cathedral's crypt and witness the tumultuous history of the Ghent Altarpiece and the cathedral as if we were

right there. It is an exceptional experience, and we are thrilled to share it with you! In the late afternoon, we will check into our centrally located hotel for an evening at leisure. B | T

December 6, 2025 - Saturday

Antwerp

After a filling breakfast, we will drive to Antwerp. Many may not be familiar with this gem of a city. Antwerp is all about diamonds, jewelry, art, and shipping. It is only a short drive from Ghent, and we will begin with visiting the DIVA Museum to meet "a girl's best friend." We will follow the journey of a diamond from a raw material to a sparkling stone. Besides the diamonds, the museum also hosts a breathtaking collection of silverware. Lunch is at leisure before we continue with a visit to the Red Star Line Museum. The Red Star Line was the steamship line founded in 1872 by Clement Acton Griscom, a Philadelphia Quaker. The line was a joint venture that ran the American Line. Two million passengers traveled to America on the Red Star Line ships; one of them was Irving Berlin, who crossed the ocean to America in 1893, chasing his dream. Before we return to Ghent, we will visit the Cathedral of Our Lady. When people say that Antwerp's Cathedral is stunning, they are not exaggerating; it is a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. We return to Ghent in the late afternoon/early evening. Enjoy dinner on your own. B

December 7, 2025 - Sunday

Ghent

Enjoy breakfast at your own pace. Today,

we give you the opportunity to delight in Ghent on your own. Just like Bruges, this city has so much to offer. Discover unique items at boutique shops in the Patershol district, stroll through Gentse Winterfeesten, the city's Christmas market, which features over 150 stalls selling handmade crafts, local delicacies, and unique gifts, and don't miss the Belgian treats like waffles, mulled wine, and the local specialty, cuberdons. Admire the city's award-winning lighting design, which highlights its architecture in the most stunning and beautiful way. We will meet for a fun farewell lunch in a centrally located restaurant in Ghent. In the afternoon, we suggest you visit the traditional cafés to savor hot chocolate or jenever, a Belgian gin often served warm during winter. What's not to love?!

B | L

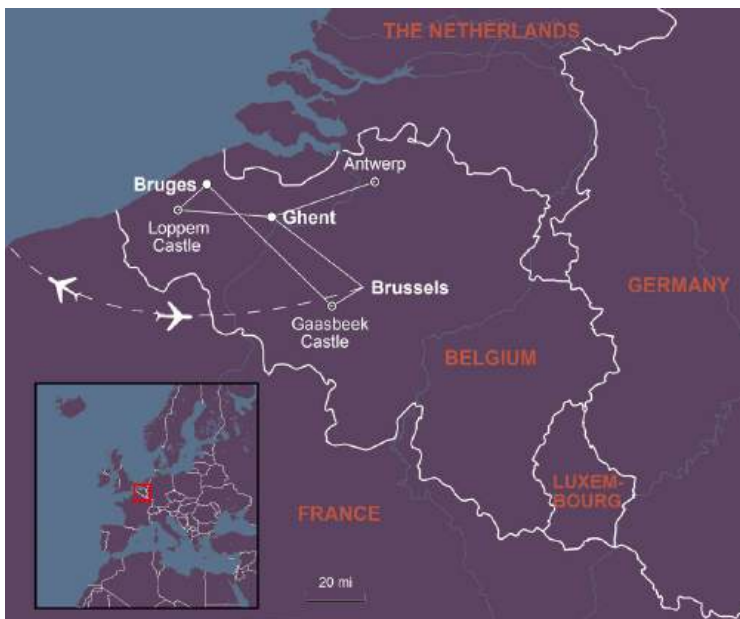
December 8, 2025 - Monday

Return Home

All too soon, our fairy tale has ended. Transfer to Brussels airport in plenty of time to check in and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before flying back to the United States. B | In-flight meals

Itinerary subject to change.

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch,
T = Tasting, D = Dinner



To register contact:



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GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com

www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

Via our website www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys

Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$3,995

Per person in a single room: \$4,995

Triple rooms are on request.

We offer "Pair & Share"-service. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. Deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on August 1, 2025, and is non-refundable. The balance can be paid in cash or by check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% fee.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:

Register at least eight (8) months prior to departure and receive a **\$200 DISCOUNT!**

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 21 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

Level 3: This tour involves a considerable amount of walking, some stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and steep areas within the places visited. We walk between 4-5 miles over the course of a day. Add to this the walking you do outside the group activities. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties.

Group airfare:

Group airfare becomes available by the end of January 2025. We are happy to assist with airfare from any city within the U.S.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travelex Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Insurance coverages underwritten by individual member companies of Zurich in North America, including Zurich American Insurance Company (NAIC #16535, state of domicile: New York), 1299 Zurich Way, Schaumburg, IL 60196.

Hotel Accommodations (announced 30 days prior to dep.):

Brussels - The Dominican Hotel or similar

Bruges - Dukes Palace or similar

Ghent - Grand Hotel Pillows Reylof or similar

Included:

- 8 nights during the tour in Belgium at hotels mentioned above or similar (4-star)
- 7 x breakfast
- 4 x lunch
- All tastings as per the tour program (chocolate, beer, Ghent delicacies)
- All transportation as per the tour program
- Admissions to all sites mentioned in the tour program
- Headphones where required
- Porterage at hotels (one bag per person)
- Professional English-speaking tour director, November 30 - December 8, 2025
- Step-on guides where required
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, November 29 - December 8, 2025
- Detailed travel documents, handed out three weeks prior to departure (hard-copy and electronic)
- All local taxes and fees as of January 2, 2025

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Additional airline baggage fees (first checked piece up to 50 lbs is FREE)
- Gratuities (estimate \$15 per person per day in total)
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than those mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at the time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

A wholly-owned division of Executive Travel

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours

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