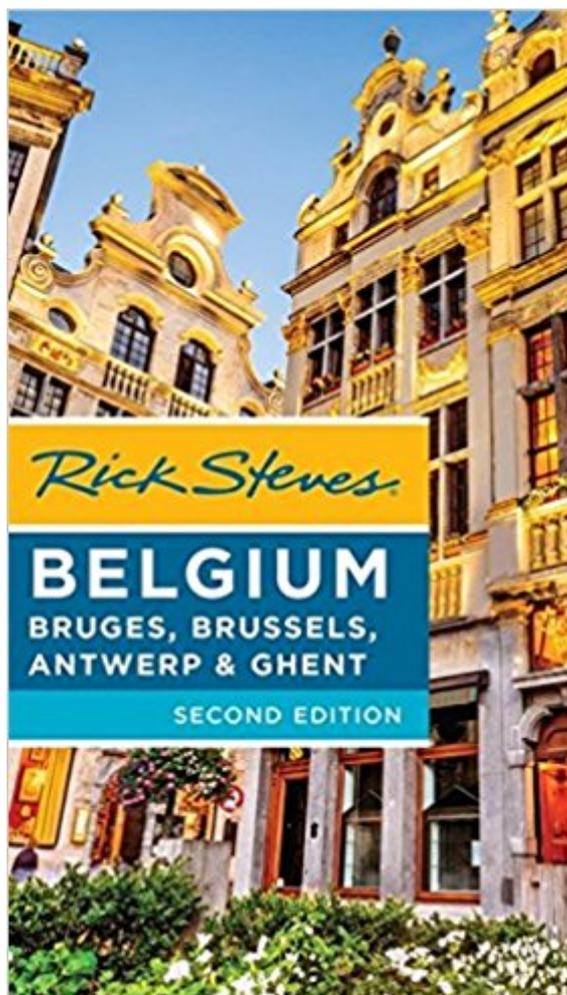


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# Rick Steves Belgium: Bruges, Brussels, Antwerp & Ghent



## Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling in Belgium. With this guide, you'll ride bikes over cobblestone streets and embark on cruises through charming canals. Stop and smell the tulips as you hike past whirring windmills. Visit the ultramodern European Parliament. Explore beyond the cosmopolitan bustle of Brussels with trips to Ghent and Antwerp. When it's time for a break, sample fine chocolates or sip local beers—each served in its own distinctive glass. Rick's candid, humorous advice will guide you to good-value hotels and restaurants. He'll help you plan where to go and what to see, depending on the length of your trip. You'll get up-to-date recommendations about what is worth your time and money. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves guidebook is a tour guide in your pocket.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Since 1973, Rick has spent about four months a year exploring Europe. His mission: to empower Americans to have European trips that are fun, affordable, and culturally broadening. Rick produces a best-selling guidebook series, a public television series, and a public radio show, and organizes small-group tours that take over 20,000 travelers to Europe annually. He does all of this with the help of a hardworking, well-traveled staff of 100 at Rick Steves' Europe in Edmonds, Washington, near Seattle. When not on the road, Rick is active in his church and with advocacy groups focused on economic justice, drug policy reform, and ending hunger. To recharge, Rick plays piano, relaxes at his family cabin in the Cascade Mountains, and spends time with his partner Trish, son Andy, and

daughter Jackie. Connect with Rick: facebook: Rick Steves twitter: @RickSteves instagram: ricksteves europe

The thought of tackling Belgium without Rick Steves was daunting when we booked our flights earlier this year. Thankfully, this 1st Edition was released and available on ! With overnight shipping, it arrived just 12 hours prior to boarding our flight on April 2. Rick's recommendations have accompanied me through 12 countries (and many major cities) since I started vacationing in Europe on and off since 2005. These books have NEVER ....repeat NEVER....steered me wrong. My journeys were planned using the always-reliable guidance; my travels were enhanced by information that helped me be a bolder adventurer; and my experiences were richer for the treasures revealed by entering "Through the Back Door". And, with this guide, he's done it again!

In the opinion of this frequent traveler, Rick Steves's guides are the ONLY ones you need if you're going anywhere in Europe! In the past, I've bought two or three guidebooks for the same country before I felt like I had all of the information I needed. Once I found the Rick Steves books, I have never bought another version of any travel guide again. The Rick Steves guides are so thorough, that the only way you could get better, more complete guidance would be to have Rick or one of his tour guides along with you. Each guide takes you through the country city by city, including what to do before you leave home, what to pack, where to stay, where to eat, and what to see. He'll tell you what sights will need advance booking or reservations. There are walking guides for cities, as well as detailed walking tours for museums, churches, and other major sights. For the history lovers, there are beautifully written sections to educate you about what you're seeing, which makes your experience measurably more meaningful. The information is so detailed that Rick tells you things like, "When exiting the front of the train station, turn to your left and walk 20 yards to the bus stop. Take bus #11 to go directly to the castle." It doesn't get any easier to plan your sightseeing than that! And of course, there are simplified city maps to help you navigate once you get there, usually marked with his suggested walking tour route. Other helpful sections include tips about money, shopping, climate, and transportation. But one of my favorite parts of Rick's books is that he tells you how to really see a place by becoming what he calls a "temporary local." In other words, don't miss the real heart of the country by seeing only the well known tourist hot spots. He tells you how the locals live and how you can have that experience, too. Finally, each book includes a list of survival phrases and words to help you communicate while you're there. As Rick says, and I can confirm, the locals will very much appreciate your attempt to use their language instead of just

assuming that they speak English. Don't worry about your pronunciation - just try it! There is so much valuable information in the Rick Steves guides that I'm sure I'm leaving something out. In my opinion, they have no equal!

Typical Rick Steves quality guide book. We have been purchasing his European books since 1999 and they are helpful and the print size and color is easily readable. We don't pay much attention to his lodging and restaurant recommendations anymore but his descriptions of sites to see, choices of places to visit on a schedule and other basic information are very good. When we plan a trip to Europe our first purchase is his book but we always do so with other books and especially internet research.

Rick Steves travel guides have lots of practical information, very useful for planning trips to Europe. The walking tours in the book are also very good for self guided tours.

Rick Steves is the best travel book out there. It is not even embarrassing carrying this around because you get to meet other Rick fans. My daughter and I just returned from the Netherlands and Belgium and these were constantly with us. We especially like Rick's philosophy about traveling--it's not about shopping, but about gaining experiences. His suggestions on where to eat were especially helpful. And the walking tours in each city were terrific.

I love the way Steves formats his books. They combine history, facts, and lots of information. This helps you decide where you want to spend time. Do more research, and recommendations for both.

So far this book has been super helpful for planning my first trip across the pond. I really learned a lot and have places to visit I would not have known about on my own

Great!

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