

SPRING CLASSICS

Tour of Flanders & Paris Roubaix (2019)



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Tour of Flanders & Paris Roubaix



The 2018 Spring Classics saw Niki Terpstra and Peter Sagan winners of the Tour of Flanders & Paris Roubaix respectively. In 2019 both riders will return to Flanders & Roubaix with victories at each event. Can they both build on their impressive Spring Classics palmares? In 2019 you too can tear up the cobbles and pavé to make some history of your own!

The ‘**Spring Classics**’ as they are referred to are the most anticipated one day races of the European cycling season. Join us and your dream of cycling the magnificent pavé and cobbles that have played centre stage for up to a century will become reality! Our 11 day tour provides the ultimate Belgium & France cycling experience. During 2019 it will be our 6th year hosting cycling groups at the Spring Classics and many activities and excursions are also planned for **non cycling guests**, including visits to Oudenaarde, Gent, Bruges and Ypres!

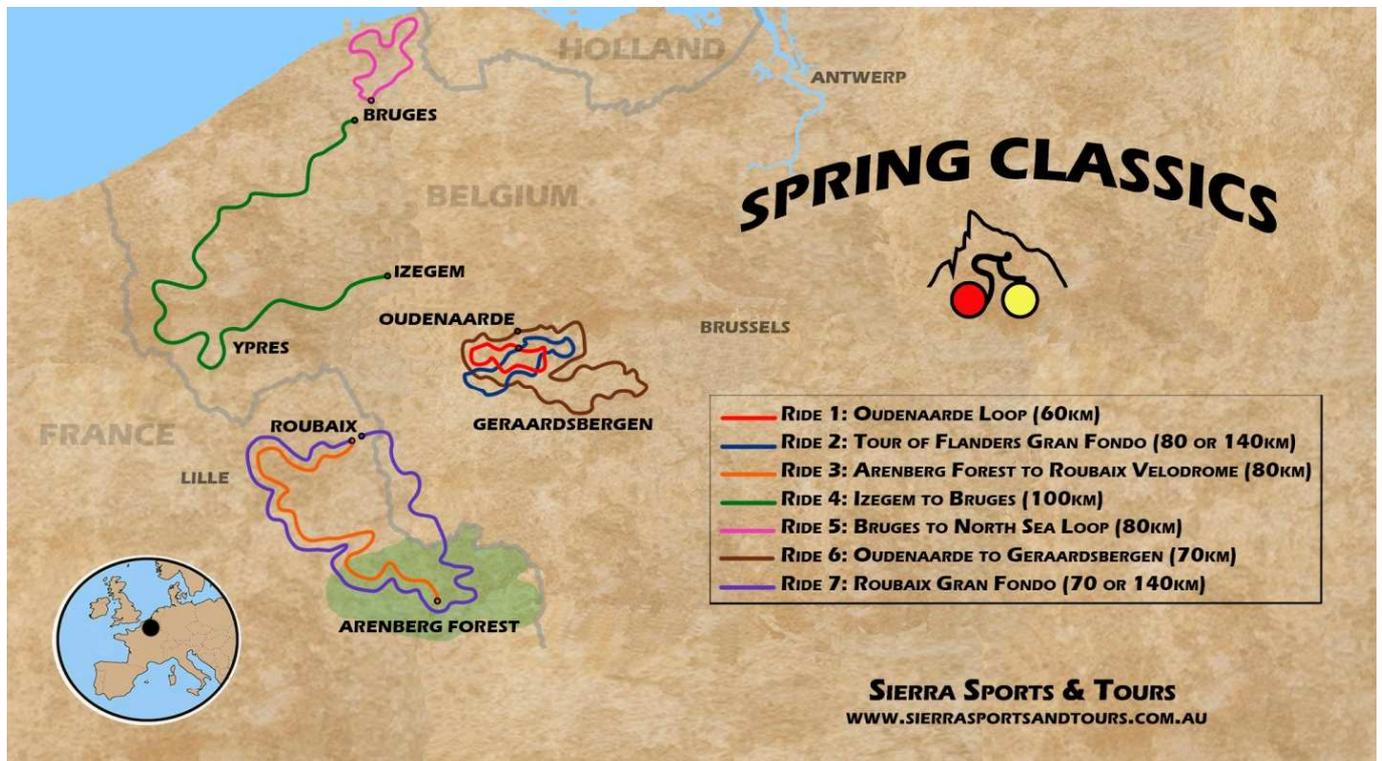
The Spring Classics tour includes seven (7) fantastic rides to experience first-hand the terrain of Flanders, Paris Roubaix and Gent Wevelgem. After cycling Flanders & Roubaix you will have ticked off **2 of the 5 Cycling Monuments!** The tour program also includes the opportunity to ride the Tour of Flanders & Paris Roubaix Cobbled Classic Cyclo Sportive events. Alongside other cycling enthusiasts you will ride critical sectors of these races before being on course the following day to watch the professionals battle it out live!

When it comes to live race action the tour program also includes catching the pro pelotón at the mid-week Scheldeprijs classic race on the outskirts of Antwerp!

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Alongside other cycling enthusiasts you will ride critical sectors of Flanders & Roubaix before being on course the following day to watch the professionals battle it out live!
- Seven fantastic rides to experience first-hand the terrain of Flanders, Paris Roubaix & Gent Wevelgem
- After cycling Flanders & Roubaix you will have ticked off 2 of the 5 Cycling Monuments
- The opportunity to ride the Tour of Flanders & Paris Roubaix Cobbled Classic Cyclo Sportive events
- **Non cyclists** will also visit Oudenaarde, Gent, Bruges & Ypres. From exploring medieval towns, Commonwealth WW1 memorials through to enjoying the local delights such as chocolate, waffles and more!

The drama of the 2019 Springs Classics awaits you all !!



ITINERARY

DAY ONE – Friday 5 April: Flanders Reconnaissance Ride

We can pick you up from Hotel Van Der Valk at 9:00am (5 min from Brussels Airport & 20 min from Brussels city centre). After a 1hr transfer to Oudenaarde you will be in the heart of Flanders! Here we will set-up the bikes and enjoy a warm-up ride over important sections of the Flanders route as practise for tomorrow's Cyclo Sportive ride. Cycling the famous Kwaremont, Paterberg and Koppenberg climbs before the Cyclo Sportive event is a good introduction to what is in store tomorrow!

In the afternoon you will visit the Centrum Ronde van Vlaanderen museum and collect your Flanders ride numbers for the following day. In the museum you will have the chance to soak up the history and atmosphere of the famous Tour of Flanders race! During the evening you will enjoy a welcome dinner with the tour leaders.

Meals: Dinner

Destinations: Oudenaarde

Today's Ride: 60km

Accommodation: Izegem (Belgium)



DAY TWO – Saturday 6 April: Flanders Sportive

Today you can choose between 80km or 140km of pure Cyclo Sportive action! Depending on which option you choose you will need to tackle 12 or 16 authentic cobbled stone walls; Kwaremont, Paterberg, Koppenberg, Berendries, Steenbeekdries to name a few. Our cycling guides will be on hand along the course should you require any assistance. A great intro to what the elite riders need to contend with tomorrow!

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Oudenaarde

Today's Ride: 80km or 140km cycling

Accommodation: Izegem (Belgium)

DAY THREE – Sunday 7 April: Tour of Flanders - Elite Race

You will watch the Flanders Elite Race from the critical Kwaremont and Paterberg climbs. The Kwaremont sees the peloton pass through narrow small village streets while the Paterberg is out in the farming fields and its fearsome 'wall' is where many race victories have been strategically planned! Who will win in 2018? This is a fun day for **cyclist and non cyclist** guests. LIVE action (at least 4 race viewing opportunities) and plenty of big TV screen action means you are really connected with this great race!

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Kwaremont village & Paterberg "Wall"

Accommodation: Izegem (Belgium)



DAY FOUR – Monday 8 April: Roubaix Pavé Experience

In the morning there is a 1hr transfer to northern France before you will cycle **eight sectors of the Paris Roubaix pavé**. Previous guests have really loved the chance to practise on the pavé before the following weekend (Roubaix Cyclo Sportive).

Your ride will also finish on the famous Roubaix Velodrome and there is nothing like having this stadium all to yourself! During the Cyclo Sportive ride you only get one chance on the Velodrome so today is your time to ride as many laps as you like! Be sure to practise your **Victory Salute** for your special arrival on Saturday!

In the evening, the entire group will visit Ypres and attend the WW1 Commonwealth Memorial Service.

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Arenberg Forest, Roubaix Velodrome & Bruges

Today's Ride: 80km cycling

Accommodation: Izegem (Belgium)



DAY FIVE – Tuesday 9 April: Gent Wevelgem Course

Cycling from the hotel, passing the Tyne Cot Commonwealth WWI field and linking up with the Cobbled Classic Gent Wevelgem course is what is in store for you today. You will follow an undulating course on winding roads which also includes the famous Kemmelberg cobbled climb.

During the evening there is the opportunity to visit Bruges, one of Europe's most attractive cities and considered by many as the Venice of the North!

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Kemmelberg & Ypres

Today's Ride: 100km cycling

Accommodation: Izegem (Belgium)

DAY SIX – Wednesday 10 April: Gent – Cycling Rest Day

There is always the chance for some time on the bikes (to discuss with the group) but from previous Classics campaigns we have found that today is the perfect chance for our guests to take a well earned rest before the demands of the upcoming Paris Roubaix Cyclo Challenge. While we move our base to Gent today you can take advantage of a visit to the impressive BMC Concept Store!



During the afternoon you can also watch the mid-week classic Scheldeprijs race LIVE. In recent years Marcel Kittel and Alexander Kristoff have made this race their own and the 'Schelde' has incredible access to the professional cyclists!

For the next 2 nights medieval Gent allows you to relax and enjoy a well earned drink or two. Did you know that there are over 1200 original Belgian beers to choose from? Many fine restaurants have been popping up in Gent over the last few years and your taste buds will have their work cut out.

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: BMC Concept Store & Schoten

Today's Ride: Optional (for discussion)

Accommodation: Gent (Belgium)

DAY SEVEN – Thursday 11 April: Bruges to North Sea Cycling

Belgium only has 70km of coast on the North Sea and your ride today will take you to the Belgian seaside at Knokke-Heist. The ride to the Belgian coastline follows the cycle path from Bruges and your ride will be 100% 'vibration' free! Non-cyclists might also like us to hire a city/hybrid bike so they too can explore and enjoy the Bruges bike path.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Bruges & Knokke-Heist

Today's Ride: 80km cycling

Accommodation: Gent (Belgium)



DAY EIGHT – Friday 12 April: Geraardsbergen (Flanders Route)

This morning we say goodbye to Gent and transfer to Oudenaarde. Cyclists will have the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with their favourite section of ‘cobblestones’ so to speak! In our experience it is important to have this final chance to ride the Flanders cobblestones as the spring conditions in Belgium mean not every cobbled berg (climb) is always in perfect cycling condition. Extra practise also makes perfect and previous guests have found that on the second or third attempt they have managed to scale the Koppenberg or Paterberg climbs without stopping! You will also have the chance to get an early night sleep in preparation for tomorrow’s Roubaix cycling challenge.

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Oudenaarde, Kwaremont & Geraardsbergen

Today’s Ride: 80km cycling

Accommodation: Oudenaarde (Belgium)

DAY NINE - Saturday 13 April: Roubaix Sportive

You will start and finish cycling in Roubaix with a visit to the infamous Arenberg Forest. Many Paris Roubaix dreams have been shattered along this cobbled sector. After passing the Arenberg Forest the technical Mons-en-Pevele and Carrefour de l’Arbre sectors await. Once out of the Carrefour de l’Arbre you only need to think about your glorious arrival to the Roubaix Velodrome which has been hosting the finish of this Cobbled Classic for more than 100 years!

Meals: Breakfast

Destinations: Arenberg Forest, Carrefour de l’Arbre & Roubaix Velodrome

Today’s Ride: 70km or 140km cycling

Accommodation: Oudenaarde (Belgium)

DAY TEN – Sunday 14 April: Paris Roubaix – Elite Race

HELL OF THE NORTH: In the morning everyone will transfer in the vans to the edge of the Arenberg forest. **Cyclists and non cyclists** alike love the Paris Roubaix race atmosphere! It will be incredible to hear the sound of the wheels as they 'whoosh' 50km/hr across the pavé. You will also visit the Carrefour de l'Arbre where thousands of supporters will be waiting and cheering for the cyclists! We will be sure to cheer right until the final cyclist passes us. In fact you should save the loudest cheer for the final rider! Watch the big screen TV with other passionate fans as the Paris Roubaix crown is disputed on the Velodrome! Following the race finish we will transfer 30min to central Roubaix for a final tour celebration!

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Destinations: Arenberg Forest & Carrefour de l'Arbre

Accommodation: Roubaix (France)



DAY ELEVEN – Monday 15 April 2019 – Tour Farewell

Following breakfast your guides will be able to transfer you 2hr to Charles de Gaulle Airport (Paris) with arrival by 12:00 noon. We hope you enjoyed your **2019 Spring Classics Cycling Holiday** and we look forward to seeing you again soon!

Meals: Breakfast

TOUR DETAILS

REGION: BELGIUM & FRANCE

LEVEL: INTERMEDIATE

TOUR DATES: 5 – 15 APRIL 2019

HOTELS: Izegem (x5), Gent (x2), Oudenaarde (x2), Roubaix (x1); min. 3 star hotels, twin share

PRICE: 3650 € p.p.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: 650 €

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

Carbon Road Bike Hire: 350 €

DURATION: 11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS

PAYMENT:

Option 1: In Euro to our Spanish bank account (via international bank transfer).

Option 2: In \$AUD to our Australian bank account. Refer to our T&C for €/AUD conversions.

ADDITIONAL TOUR OPTIONS:

Please ask us for 4 days / 3 night Flanders & Roubaix tour package information!

INCLUDED

Arrival & Departure transfers
10 nights accommodation including breakfast
5 dinners with beer & wine included
7 guided cycling stages with van support
Entry to Flanders & Roubaix sportives
Food & drinks during cycling stages
Spring Classics cycling tour jersey
Flanders Cycling Museum & Ypres War Memorial

NOT INCLUDED

Airfares
Pre or Post Tour Accommodation