

# DISCOVER BEL'GEM'



A European Adventure in Luxury  
October 16—21, 2017  
Hosted by Kate Szirmay, Diamond Concierge

ONWARD TRAVEL   
EST 2014

discover bel'gem'



This October, travel to Belgium with Graduate Gemologist Kate Szirmay. Belgian culture is typified by a delightful merger of carefree attitudes with luxurious tastes, making the country a favorite destination for discerning travelers.

On this one of a kind European adventure, Discover Bel'gem', we'll visit three of the country's loveliest and most fascinating cities to taste chocolate and beer, learn about history and fashion, see one of art history's greatest masterpieces, soar in a hot air balloon, dine on Michelin-starred cuisine, and of course, go diamond shopping with Kate Szirmay, Diamond Concierge, who is changing diamond buying into the experience of a lifetime.

In partnership with the boutique travel experts at Onward Travel, Kate's unique approach brings travelers to Europe on a bespoke adventure where no request is too large, or too small. Take advantage of rare access by private appointment to the famous diamond cutters of Antwerp, with Kate serving as your guide and personal shopper to help you choose the diamond of your dreams.

OnwardTravel.co Based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the Hudson Valley, New York



Imagine yourself...

Sleeping in a historic hotel beside a picturesque canal.

Taking in one of Europe's loveliest cities from a hot air balloon.

Visiting the world's top diamond district with a certified gemologist as your guide.

## Welcome to Belgium!

DAY 1: MONDAY OCTOBER 16

- Get acquainted with one of the loveliest cities in Europe.

Welcome to Belgium! Your Onward Travel guide awaits you this morning at Brussels Zaventem Airport along with private luxury transportation to whisk you off to Bruges, less than 70 miles away. Bruges, a wonderfully preserved Medieval city situated in the heart of Flanders, has a longtime reputation as one of Europe's most beautiful and beloved destinations.

We'll enjoy a welcome brunch together followed by a local-led walking tour to orient us to this magnificent locale. We'll end our tour with a chocolate tasting at one of the city's best chocolate shops.

Then settle in at Relais Bourgondisch Cruyce, the upscale boutique hotel occupying a historic building beside a canal where we'll stay for the next two nights. An interesting aside, some scenes from the 2008 film "In Bruges" were shot here at our hotel. Tonight we'll set out for a festive dinner together at a fantastic little bistro near our hotel.

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Meals Brunch, Dinner

## Take to the Sky

DAY 2: TUESDAY OCTOBER 17

- Soar over the impressive cityscape in a hot air balloon.
- Dine at one of the region's most lauded restaurants.

We'll be up early this morning and grab a simple breakfast on the go because we have a very special treat... let's take in the gorgeous cityscape of Medieval Bruges from a hot air balloon! The spired buildings, green countryside, autumn colors in the trees and networks of criss-crossing canals look best from the air and this is a morning sail through the sky that you won't forget.

Once we come back down to land another treat is in store: lunch together at Michelin-starred Modern European restaurant De Gouden Harynck. After this fabulous meal at one of Northern Belgium's finest restaurants the rest of the day in Bruges is yours to enjoy at your leisure. It's hard to imagine a better place to do a little shopping and then relax and watch the world go by. Onward Travel will provide a destination guide to point you to all the best shops, historic sites, restaurants, cafes, beer bars and more that the city has to offer.

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Meals Breakfast, Lunch

## Masterpiece Up Close

DAY 3: WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18

- Experience one of art history's most prized works.
- Sip on local beer while cruising the canals of Ghent.

This morning you'll enjoy the hotel's beautiful breakfast buffet and then it's time to bid farewell to Bruges - we'll set off in our luxury transportation today and drive less than an hour to the cultural hub of Ghent. Upon arrival a guide will lead us in a walking tour of the city center that ends at St. Bavo's Cathedral - home of one of the world's greatest treasures and an absolute masterpiece of art history, Jan Van Eyck's nearly 700-year-old "Adoration of the Mystic Lamb," known more commonly as "The Ghent Altarpiece."

After you've been mesmerized like so many before you enjoy time for lunch and a little exploration on your own in the heart of this charming city. Then we'll set out together for a private cruise through the canals during which our guide will teach us even more about the history of this important city - and also guide us in an on-board beer tasting of three delicious Belgian beers.

In the late afternoon we'll transfer to our final destination, one hour away: Antwerp. Check in at Hotel de Witte Lelie, an absolutely chic one-of-a-kind tiny boutique hotel situated in a historic townhouse in the city center. Tonight our group will enjoy a classic Belgian meal together.

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Meals Breakfast, Dinner



The Bronze Bar, the perfect place to relax at Hotel de Witte Lelie in Antwerp.

## Diamond City, Round 1

DAY 4: THURSDAY OCTOBER 19

- Experience the world's best diamond shopping with a certified gemologist at your side.
- Take part in various activities to get to know the fascinating and dynamic history of Antwerp past and present.

This morning we'll grab a quick bakery breakfast together as we set out as a group for a guided bike ride that will orient us to Antwerp, with a special emphasis on the history of the city's diamond trade along with its Jewish culture and traditions since all of these are intertwined.

In the late morning our group will divide into smaller groups. Between this afternoon and the following morning and afternoon everyone will go diamond shopping with Katie and also have their choice of two of the three activities listed below.

**Diamond shopping with Kate Szirmay:** Each member of the group (or couple, or traveling companions) will be led by Kate Szirmay, Diamond Concierge, on a private diamond shopping trip. Kate has connections and know-how and will be able to help you find just what you're looking for in the world's greatest diamond district.

**Rubenshuis:** Enjoy a private guided tour of the home of Dutch Master Peter Paul Rubens, the "Palazzo on the Scheldt." In the early 17th century he renovated and designed much of this home himself and a great deal of his work was created and is still housed here.

**Plantin Moretus Museum:** This printing plant and publishing house dates from the Renaissance and Baroque periods and is associated with the history of the invention and spread of typography. The oldest printing presses in the world are located here and you'll enjoy a fascinating private tour that will truly take you back in time.

**Fashion Walk:** Find out more about Antwerp as a vibrant lifestyle city on this cultural exploration of the city, which focuses on contemporary design, architecture and history. The emphasis is on the more recent past when the city developed into a leading fashion centre. This isn't a shopping trip, but an exploration of local fashion culture.

Spend this evening in Antwerp as you please.

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Meals Breakfast



The fantastic Antwerp home of legendary Dutch Master Peter Paul Rubens.

## Diamond City, Round 2

DAY 5: FRIDAY OCTOBER 20

- Continue your adventures in Antwerp.

This morning everyone will enjoy the sumptuous champagne brunch spread at Hotel de Witte Lelie. Then the activities as described in Day 4 will be resumed.

This evening our group will gather for one final meal together - an unforgettable dining experience at De Godevaart, a fine dining restaurant where the chef is known for his experimental, creative cuisine with an emphasis on the local and the seasonal. We'll dine festively tonight on the gorgeous six course menu with thoughtful wine accompaniments.

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Meals Breakfast, Dinner

## Farewell!

DAY 5: FRIDAY OCTOBER 21

- Head home with wonderful memories.

Our driver will transfer us the 30 minutes to Brussels Zaventem Airport this morning to catch flights home, and we'll bring along a breakfast for the road. For those who wish to stay on in Brussels, it's only a short train ride from the airport to the city. *Vaarwel!*

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Meals Breakfast

## TRIP INFORMATION discover bel'gem'

BEGINS	Bruges, Belgium on October 16, 2017 Transfer provided from Brussels Zaventum Airport
ENDS	Antwerp, Belgium on October 21, 2017 Transfer provided to Brussels Zaventum Airport
MOBILITY	This tour includes walking for 15-30 minutes at a time, plus stairs and cobblestones. If you have limited mobility, we can accommodate you, but it is essential to let us know at the time of registration. Travelers may always opt out of activities they deem too physically challenging but refunds will not be provided.
TRIP LENGTH	6 days, 5 nights
LODGING	<i>Relais Bourgondisch Cruyce</i>   2 Nights   Our four-star home base in the center of Bruges, in a historic canal-side building. <i>Hotel de Witte Lelie</i>   3 Nights   A uniquely designed and chic boutique hotel located in the heart of Antwerp.
TOUR DATES & PRICE	October 16-21, 2017 Double Occupancy \$3,650 per traveler Single Supplement \$775 additional  <i>\$1,150 deposit is due at the time of booking to hold your space. The balance is due 60 days before travel. Personal checks are welcome, please note a 3% processing fee applies to credit card payments.</i>

### AIR TRAVEL:

Discover Bel'gem' will start and end with airport transfers from Brussels Zaventum Airport (BRU).

Book flights that land before 9:00 AM on October 16 and depart after 10:30 AM on October 21.

Please confirm with Onward Travel that the tour is a "go" before booking non-refundable airfare. Onward Travel is more than happy to provide complimentary assistance finding the perfect airfare itinerary, get in touch if you would like assistance.

### Trip price includes the following:

- Airport transfers and ground transportation to/from all scheduled activities.
- Five nights accommodations at fabulous four star boutique hotels.
- Most meals: daily breakfasts, two lunches, and three dinners. We have fantastic gourmet experiences, wine included, of course!
- Guide services throughout the tour to truly understand Belgium.
- Unforgettable private diamond shopping expedition with the Graduate Gemologist Kate Szirmay, Diamond Concierge.
- Activities, tastings and tours as detailed in the itinerary.

### Register now!

Visit [www.onwardtravel.co](http://www.onwardtravel.co) to complete the registration form and submit payment.

**\$1,150 deposit due upon booking, balance due by August 16, 2017.**

## TRIP INFORMATION discover bel'gem'

### ABOUT KATE SZIRMAY, DIAMOND CONCIERGE

As a fourth-generation jeweler, diamonds have been Kate's passion from a very young age. She honed her skills working in the family business before graduating from the Gemological Institute of America with her Graduate Gemologist degree. For over a decade Kate worked as a diamond buyer and jewelry designer taking many trips to source diamonds in Antwerp, Belgium. There she made lasting connections with prominent diamond cutters who now welcome her private clients as old friends. Kate's mission is to make diamond buying into a memory that lasts as long as the diamond itself. When Kate isn't indulging her passion for diamonds she is the Mom of twin toddlers, a craft beer enthusiast and a highly caffeinated tea drinker.



### ABOUT ONWARD TRAVEL

Onward Travel is a boutique travel planning company that carefully crafts itineraries to create an authentic, engaging trip that exposes the destination and roots travelers to the place. Onward was founded by two sisters, inspired by their family's cooking school on a farm in Bucks County, PA that has offered culinary-focused travel to customers for over two decades.

### BELGIUM IN SEPTEMBER

Mid-October is a great time to visit Belgium, especially Bruges because the tourist crowds will have thinned out by then. The weather is still mild and agreeable, with temperatures in the high 50's during the day, dropping into the 40's at night. Plan to bring layers and prepare for possible rain. Onward Travel will provide packing notes in advance of the trip.

### MISCELLANEOUS TRAVEL INFORMATION

- Passports are required for American citizens travelling to Belgium. Visas are not required. **Note your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the date of travel.**
- To determine the current exchange rate, Google "USD to EUR."
- Travel Protection: Onward Travel recommends that you purchase a travel protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. Travel protection plans include coverage for Trip Cancellation, Trip Interruption, Emergency Medical and Emergency Evacuation/Repatriation, Trip Delay, Baggage Delay and more. For more information on the recommended plans or to enroll, contact Travelex Insurance Services at 800-228-9792 and reference location number 32-0704. For a summary of plan details on benefits, coverages, limitations and exclusions, please refer to the applicable Description of Coverage. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Transamerica Casualty Insurance Company, Columbus, Ohio; NAIC #10952. 1308294



## Get in Touch!

Contact Onward Travel with questions or special requests.

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