



Spring Tour – Flanders

13th – 19th May 2024

6 nights, full-board, from £1,170 *Discount for AIA members*

Flanders is the Dutch-speaking northern portion of Belgium and one of the communities, regions and language areas of Belgium. However, there are several overlapping definitions, including ones related to culture, language, politics, and history, and sometimes involving neighbouring countries. The demonym associated with Flanders is Fleming, while the corresponding adjective is Flemish, which can also refer to the collective of Dutch dialects spoken in that area. The official capital of Flanders is the City of Brussels, although the Brussels-Capital Region that includes it has an independent regional government. Geographically, Flanders is mainly flat, and has a small section of coast on the North Sea. It borders the French department of Nord to the south-west near the coast, the Dutch provinces of Zeeland, North Brabant and Limburg to the north and east, and the Walloon provinces of Hainaut, Walloon Brabant and Liège to the south. (*Wikipedia*)

The tour is all-inclusive: Lunches, dinners, bed & breakfast.

The tour starts at our hotel in Gent and ends at our hotel in Leuven. Optional coach transfers will be provided from London to our hotel at the start and returning to London at the end of the tour.

Non-AIA members are most welcome. Paid-up members of the AIA at the time of the tour enjoy a £30 discount per booking, one of the many benefits of becoming a member. *See page 8.*

Thanks are due to the Vlaamse Vereniging voor Industriële Archeologie (VVIA - the Flemish Association for Industrial Archaeology) whose guests we will be in Flanders and in particular to Patrick Gurdebeke and his colleagues who have given me a great deal of advice in devising the itinerary for the tour and making arrangements for our visits. A member of the Council of VVIA will be with us each day to help and guide us through the tour.

ITINERARY

Some of the visits are still subject to confirmation. We cannot at this time guarantee that they will all be included but we will make every effort to do so or find suitable alternatives. The order of visits may also change. Changes to the itinerary will be passed on to you before the final invoice is presented.

All prices are quoted in Pounds Sterling (GBP) whilst most of the costs are in Euros (EUR). Changes to exchange rates, accommodation, transport costs or taxes may necessitate a price change.

Monday 13th May

Members of the group make their way to our hotel in Gent.

08:00 Optional coach transfer from London

19:00 Dinner at our hotel in Gent

20:00 Illustrated talk by VVIA Council member: *The Industrial Heritage of Flanders.*

Tuesday 14th May



In the morning we will visit largest preserved steam engine in Belgium. At the end of the 19th century, the city council built this power plant to provide Izegem with electricity. The installation was steadily expanded and in 1936 a new steam engine was added which we can still admire today. Known as ‘**Stoom en Stroom**’ (Steam and Electricity) we can see a demonstration of the engine in steam.

After an early lunch (included) we will start on a busy afternoon of visits. The first is to **Preetjes Mill** the only remaining flax winding mill in Belgium powered by wind. This wooden standard mill from 1866 stands on a round brick tower with rectangular entrances and windows.

Next is **Vyncke** a company whose business today is in biomass & waste-to-energy solutions. With over 100 years of experience and craftsmanship in the field of combustion technology, they deliver tailor-made energy solutions to all industries and energy providers, globally. We will explore their historic collection of steam related items: engines, boilers and a preserved blacksmith shop.

Under the guidance of **Adriaan Linters**, we will then visit the flax scutching windmill and the flax rettery **Verschaeve**, one of the best-preserved flax companies from the interwar period. If time permits, after the rettery we plan to visit the **oil mill in Deerlijk**. An interesting windmill, also with a preserved steam engine as an auxiliary.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Gent.

Wednesday 15th May



In the morning we will visit the **Museum Of Industry in Gent** which is being opened that day especially for our party. Housed in a former cotton mill, this large museum has an important collection of textile and printing machinery. This year there is also a temporary exhibition on the history of metalworking in the area.

After lunch (included) we will visit the ‘**t Aloam Museum at Geraardsbergen** a unique working mill, converted into a museum with a collection of tools of

old crafts. ‘Aloam’ is the Geraardsbergen dialect for tools. The old water mill remained in operation between 1293 and 1992 but of course underwent several renovations. Two turbines, for example, were installed in 1905. In addition to the restored old mill, the original miller’s house and the old 1900 classroom are preserved showing a large collection of tools.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Gent.



Thursday 16th May

In the morning we will visit the **papermill Herisem** and the former **cardboard factory Winderickx** which is a former 19th-century industrial complex that grew out of an old paper mill, with a history going back to 1536.

The complex as a whole is one of the best preserved examples of the paper and cardboard industry in the region of Flemish Brabant. It is on the national treasure list of protected buildings in Belgium as industrial heritage and is recognized by the European Commission as an example project for preserving architectural heritage.

Then we will visit the **Tram Museum at Schepdal**. This site has been completely preserved as a local railway depot. Trams were sheltered and repaired at this location, tram staff were at home and passengers boarded. Schepdaal was on the busy line for passenger and freight transport between Brussels and Ninove, which also made the Pajottenland accessible. The historically very valuable trams – even with a royal carriage! – are safe here again. Lunch is included in our visit.



We plan to **conclude the day** with a visit to the **Slaghmuylder Brewery**, a small Brewery which is notable also for having brewed one of the first of the modern tripels, a type of strong, golden pale ale. According to beer historian Michael Jackson, the first such beer was brewed in 1931 by Hendrik Verlinden, who was a brewer at the nearby Drie Linden Brewery and regularly assisted the monks of the Trappist Westmalle Brewery; in 1932, then working for Slaghmuylder, produced the tripel first called Witkap Pater, now known as Witkap Tripel - still praised as one of the best available.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Leuven.

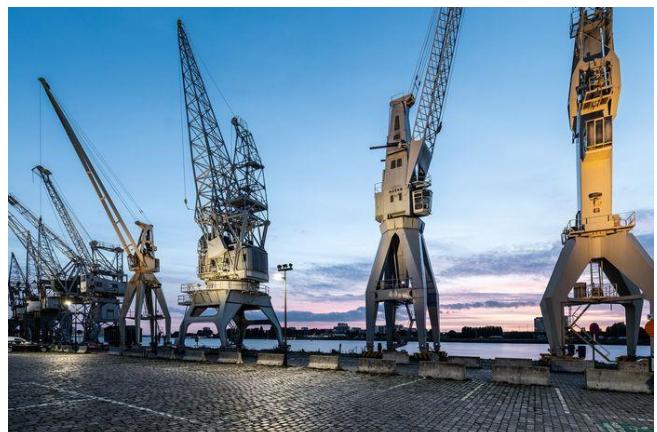
Friday 17th May



house. Despite the advance of electricity the Zuiderpershuis remained operational until 1977, to power the Nassaub Bridge (next to the MAS). Shortly after its closure, the building was recognised as a protected monument.

After lunch (included) we can enjoy a walk around seeing the **Museum aan de Stroom, Sint Felix warehouse** and perhaps even climb some of the **historic harbour cranes**.

In the morning we will visit the **hydraulic power station Zuiderpershuis** in Antwerp which provided power to 156 cranes, three sewer slides, 30 capstans, six locks and three bridges since 1883. The complex consisted of two towers with accumulators, a machine hall with two steam engines, centrifugal pumps, boiler rooms with fourteen boilers, a chain annealing furnace, a blacksmith shop with five fireplaces, workhouses with lathes and planers, a jig shop, a joinery and a dressing





Then later we will head for **Brik Boom** which pays tribute to the successful brick-making industry that brought prosperity to the region for years. The visitor centre is housed in the buildings of Novobric, once a brick factory.

It is located in the middle of the former labourers' district Noeveren, that even today is still characterised by typical workers' homes that give this district its unique appearance

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Leuven.

Saturday 18th May



For the first part of the day we will spend our time at the **Beringen Colliery site**. The history of the site began in about 1900 when the Belgian government decided to promote coal mining in the most easterly province of the country. The reason for this was the heavy demand for high-quality coal from steel producers at home and abroad.

Mining began in Limburg in 1901 and, in the course of time, expanded to comprise seven collieries. But as early as the end of the 1950s the industry came up against heavy competition from less expensive sources of energy like oil and gas. The last active colliery in the Limburg region closed down in 1992. Only the colliery near Beringen has survived – as the site of the Flemish Coal Mining Museum. The size of the site gives visitors a good idea of the huge amount of coal which was mined in the region. Four pithead buildings alone were responsible for connecting the overhead site with the galleries beneath.

To clear the coal dust from our throats we will certainly need a drink and that will be found at our last stop, the **Nationaal Jenevermuseum in Hasselt**. The museum buildings are an I.A. pioneer project for re-use and restoration from the 70's. The museum includes a steam engine (of course!) as well as lots of information about the gin distilling processes and its history and the tour finishes with a tasting.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Leuven.

Sun 19th May

The tour ends after breakfast at our hotel.

08:00 Optional coach transfer to London.

ACCOMMODATION

The first three nights are in Gent :

The Novotel Gent Centrum, Hoogpoort 52, 9000 Gent, Belgium. All rooms are en suite with Air Conditioning minibar, safe, work desk and free WiFi. <https://all.accor.com/hotel/0840/index.en.shtml>

The hotel is situated in the historic centre of the city.

The final 3 nights are in Leuven :

Novotel Leuven Centrum, Vuurkruisenlaan 4, 3000 Leuven, Belgium. All rooms are en suite with Air Conditioning minibar, safe, work desk and free WiFi. <https://all.accor.com/hotel/3153/index.en.shtml>

We are sorry to say that the hotels do not offer twin bedded rooms.

TRANSPORT

The tour starts at the Gent hotel on the Monday evening and ends after breakfast on the Sunday morning in Leuven.

We leave you to choose the optional coach transfers from/to London or make your own travel arrangements to Gent and from Leuven to suit your own convenience and use of alternative departure points.

Travel during the tour will be by luxury, air-conditioned coach.

Detailed joining instructions will be supplied about two weeks before the start of the tour.

All site visits will include some walking which may include stairs.

PASSPORTS, VISAS & IMMIGRATION

You must ensure that you have a valid passport for travel in the European Union (and possibly visas for Non-EU citizens).

For UK residents, the Global Health Insurance Card (UK GHIC) replaces the former European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). If you have an EHIC which is still in date you may use it. If yours has expired then you should apply for a GHIC here: <https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/> They are free and usually come quite quickly.

COST

The cost of the trip is £1,170 per person sharing with a single supplement of £350. The supplement represents the additional cost applied by the hotels for single occupation of a double room. The cost includes:

- A programme packed with visits to fascinating sites
- 6 nights dinner, bed & breakfast accommodation
- Lunch on 5 days
- Entrance fees at all sites and local guiding fees (amounting to around EUR 100.00 per person)
- Luxury air conditioned coach transport throughout including driver tip
- Local expert guiding and services of an experienced tour manager throughout
- Research for the visit and professionally produced, comprehensive tour notes

Excluded are:

- Drinks and any other expenses at the hotel

Additional cost options:

- Monday 13th : Transfer from Victoria Station, London to Gent, £50 per person
- Sunday 19th : Transfer from Leuven to Victoria Station, £50 per person

All prices are quoted in Pounds Sterling (GBP) whilst most of the costs are in Euros (EUR). Major changes to exchange rates, accommodation, transport costs or taxes may necessitate a price change.

Inflation has hit the cost of these tours, the increase in prices for hotel accommodation, meals and the rate of city taxes has surprised us. The cost of the coach hire has doubled since we last arranged a tour like this. Nevertheless, for this unique and very full itinerary we believe the price represents excellent value for money and compares very well with other specialist tour operators.

Paid-up members of the AIA at the time of the tour enjoy a £30 discount per booking. (So you can book now and claim the discount as long as you join before the tour). The discount will be calculated on the invoice when it is issued.

CANCELLATION CHARGES, HEALTH & INSURANCE

Please note that cancellation charges will apply from **18th March 2024** and, although these will be modified to the extent that costs are not actually incurred, you are strongly advised to insure against the need to cancel and to cover medical treatment and repatriation charges in the event of illness etc. Participants who do not have travel insurance must nevertheless accept full responsibility for these eventualities.

BOOKING

Booking and management of this tour has been entrusted to Heritage of Industry Ltd which is run by Bill Barksfield. Bill is Overseas Tour organiser on the AIA Council and will accompany the tour.

If you have access to an internet connected computer and use email please make your booking online at <http://www.heritageofindustry.co.uk> In the event that you are unable to use a computer then please fill in the attached form and post it to us at the address below.

If you give an email address on your application then confirmation and all subsequent communications with you will be by email.

Bookings will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis, subject to space availability. Booking is subject to a minimum of 36 people and a maximum of 50 people. Book as soon as possible and **by 18th March 2024** to ensure a place **but please feel free to enquire after that date if a place is still available**. We will contact you as soon as possible to confirm the booking and to issue an invoice for the balance of the price about 8 weeks before the tour starts. **You are advised not to make contingent travel arrangements until we have confirmed that the minimum number of people required to operate the tour has been reached.** We will inform you as soon as the minimum is reached.

A non-refundable deposit of £110 per person is required on booking. Bookings can be made definite only when the booking information and deposit are received and accepted in writing/email by Heritage of Industry Ltd. The company's standard terms and conditions apply.

The balance of the price is to be paid to Heritage of Industry Ltd on presentation of the invoice. All monies paid to Heritage of Industry Ltd will be held, in accordance with government regulations*, in a customer protection account until the tour is complete so that *your money is safe no matter what happens*.

We are pleased to announce that we are now able to take debit/credit card and GooglePay payments.

Payment may also be made via your bank's online banking facilities, the necessary details are shown on the booking form. Please send an email note when you have made payment in this way.

We prefer not to handle cheques for payment.

Enquiries about this tour should be directed to Bill Barksfield, Managing Director, Heritage of Industry Ltd, The Gables, 20 Main Road, East Hagbourne OX11 9LN UK Tel/Fax: +44 1235 352275

Email: bill@heritageofindustry.co.uk

17th January 2024

* *The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 (SI 1992 No. 3288)*



The Association for Industrial Archaeology

*Promoting the study, preservation and
presentation of industrial heritage*

For the last three centuries industry has had a major influence on the society, environment and landscape in which we live and its remains provide a link with the past that can also serve the future.

Uniting individuals, local societies, academics and field professionals the AIA:

- Promotes Industrial Archaeology and Heritage both nationally and internationally
- Supports the development and sharing of knowledge about Industrial Archaeology
- Publishes IA Review - the leading Industrial Archaeology journal
- Seeks to ensure the value of industrial sites is recognised in planning decisions
- Supports local and special interest societies

Through its programme of awards and grants it:

- Sponsors research and rewards excellence
- Assists preservation and restoration of Industrial Heritage assets
- Encourages research and publication

And through its Young Members Board it:

- Promotes the aims of the AIA through broader engagement with people in their early careers

Heritage of Industry Ltd is very pleased to support the activities of the Association and very much hopes that you do too and will become a member.

Apart from the discount available on Heritage of Industry tours AIA members enjoy a range of benefits which are shown on the Membership page of the AIA website where you can also find full details of how to join:

<https://industrial-archaeology.org/membership/>

An AIA member joining this tour will already have recouped 66% or more of the standard AIA membership fee (and *more than* the on-line only membership fee) but, more importantly, the support members give enables the AIA to continue its work, so why not join now?

Heritage of Industry

Journeys into the Industrial Past



BOOKING FORM

AIA SPRING TOUR - Flanders 13th – 19th May 2024

Please book on-line if possible at <http://www.heritageofindustry.co.uk>

Otherwise print out and complete this form in block letters and return it to:

Heritage of Industry Ltd, The Gables, 20 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Oxon OX11 9LN

PLEASE BOOK BY 18th March 2024 **but please enquire after that date for available places.**

NAME:

TELEPHONE

Day:

ADDRESS:

Evening:

Mobile:

Email:

I WISH TO BOOK (subject to availability) place(s)
on the AIA Spring Tour - Flanders, 13th – 19th May 2024.

The names of the other members of my party are:

Hotel accommodation: single room(s) double room(s)

Coach transfer London - Gent Hotel Mon 13th May: place(s)

Coach transfer Leuven Hotel – London Sun 14th May: place(s)

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS (Dietary etc. Please give details, or any other comment):

I am making payment of £ (non-returnable deposit of £100 each for persons)

{ By direct transfer to HSBC, 1 Cornmarket, High Wycombe

Branch Code: 40-09-29 Account: 41352261 Account name: Heritage of Industry Ltd

BIC: HBUKGB4118D IBAN: GB97HBUK40092941352261 Using reference: *Your surname* }

{ By the enclosed cheque, payable to Heritage of Industry Ltd } { *delete as required* }

We prefer not to handle cheques if possible.

If you wish to pay by credit card please book online.

I heard about this tour: { Previous client / Recommended by friend / AIA / Social media /
Local IA Group / Newsletter or email / Web search }

I am a member of the AIA: { Yes / No }

I have read the terms and conditions which are accepted by me on behalf of all the persons named above. We agree to your maintaining such records as are appropriate to this and other tours and understand that the information will only be released to those involved with the organisation of these tours or used to inform me about other events. I will make arrangements to cover all medical and repatriation expenses and will ensure that I have all necessary documents for travel in the European Union.

SIGNATURE:

Date:

Heritage of Industry Ltd, The Gables, 20 Main Road, East Hagbourne, Oxon OX11 9LN

Tel/Fax: +44 1235 352275 Email: info@heritageofindustry.co.uk <http://www.heritageofindustry.co.uk>

Registered No 2374281

Heritage of Industry

Journeys into the Industrial Past

Terms and Conditions

1. Heritage of Industry Ltd undertakes tours on the basis of these terms and conditions, which, read with the booking form and the information accompanying it, set out the full terms of your agreement with Heritage of Industry Ltd ('the Company'). No variation can be accepted unless made in writing and signed by the Company.
2. Bookings can only be made definite when the completed booking form plus the deposit specified on the booking form is received and accepted in writing by the Company. The deposit is not refundable.
3. The balance of the tour price must be received by the Company not later than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour or as specified in the booking arrangements failing which the booking may be cancelled and cancellation charges (equivalent to the amount of deposit) levied.
4. In the event that the booking is made less than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour then the full amount of the tour price will need to be paid immediately.
5. In the event that you wish to cancel your booking, you must notify the Company in writing. If the notification of cancellation is received by the Company more than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour then only the deposit will be forfeit. If the notice is received less than 8 weeks before the first day of the tour the following charges will apply: 6 to 8 weeks, 50% of the tour price; 4 to 6 weeks, 75% of the tour price; 4 weeks and under, 100% of the tour price. No refund at all will be given for any cancellation on or after the first day of the tour or for any meals, trips or other facilities not used or taken.
6. The Company will make every effort to operate the tour as confirmed to you. However, the Company reserves the right to cancel or vary any aspect of the tour should this become necessary due to any circumstances beyond the Company's reasonable control such as war, political unrest, industrial action, exceptionally inclement weather or other circumstances amounting to force majeure, or any other circumstances which in the opinion of the Company require the cancellation or variation of the tour. In the event of cancellation, you will be notified immediately and offered either an alternative comparable tour or a refund of all monies paid as appropriate.
7. **All persons joining the tour must have been fully vaccinated against the Covid 19 (SARS-CoV2) virus at least 3 weeks prior to the start of the tour.**
8. The Company does not own or operate any of the means of transport you will be using or the hotels, restaurants, buildings or other sites that you will be staying at or visiting. Accordingly, the Company cannot accept any liability whatsoever for any loss injury or damage that may occur or that you or those accompanying you may suffer as a result of any negligence or breach of contract or failure to perform any other duty by any owner employee servant or agent of any such means of transport, hotel, restaurant, building or other site.
9. The Company also cannot accept any responsibility for any loss damage or personal injury howsoever arising suffered by you or those accompanying you whilst on any tour unless such loss damage or personal injury is the direct result of negligence by the Company itself.
10. In the event that you have any complaint in connection with the management or operation of any hotel, restaurant or other premises which are on part of the tour organised by the Company then that complaint should be made immediately to the management of that hotel, restaurant or premises so that the complaint can, if possible, be acted upon immediately.
11. No claim or complaint that you may have against the Company can be accepted unless such claim or complaint is notified in writing to the Company within 7 days from the end of the tour.

Last revised: March 2021