

Bridge Weekend in Antwerp

7th - 9th September 2018

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to join me this September on a bridge weekend in Antwerp. The main event is a Saturday afternoon café drive in the heart of one of Europe's great cities. We will also be welcomed at the Royal Squeeze Club, one of Belgium's pre-eminent bridge clubs, and there will be plenty of opportunities for sightseeing and relaxation.

The package which I have negotiated with Eurostar permits outward travel on either Thursday morning or Friday lunchtime, and return on either Sunday or Monday evening. All itinerary choices take in the café bridge and the Royal Squeeze games. Non-bridge playing friends, spouses and partners are also welcome, and there is an abundance of things to see and do in Antwerp.

Please book by debit card using the electronic payment link at <https://www.brianbridge.net/antwerp2018>

I have now exhausted my initial supply of Eurostar tickets, so please consult either the online payment form to find the up-to-date price, or mail me directly with an enquiry at antwerpbridge2018@gmail.com

I hope that many of you will be able to join in this event, and look forward to hearing from you soon.

About Antwerp - I didn't write this, but it's all true..

Antwerp is a beautiful city in the north of Belgium. Full of fine buildings and with a rich history, it has been named in the world's top 10 of must-see destinations. It has the second largest harbour in Europe after Rotterdam, and has numerous architectural highlights, most of which date from the city's golden era in the 16th and the 17th century. While the destruction during the Second World War scarred the old town somewhat, there are still enough monuments to spend a few days admiring them. The past is also on show at the house Peter Paul Rubens who lived in Antwerp during the early 17th century, and at a fascinating museum of printing based in the old factory of the Platijn printing dynasty. There are numerous restaurants and cafés, situated in some of the most attractive surroundings in Europe.

Sinjorentocht Cafe Drive - Saturday

Our main event is the Sinjorentocht club's annual Café Bridge Drive in the centre of Antwerp starting at 1pm. Each pair will play at six or seven cafe/bars close together around the central plazas, with a free drinks voucher for every location. Play ends at about 6.30pm, and results are announced at 9pm. Although Dutch is the primary language, English is widely spoken and full English instructions are given.

Royal Squeeze Bridge Club - Friday evening / Sunday brunch

An historic bridge club with its own premises in the Charlottalei across from our hotel, frequented by many of the best players in Belgium. We are invited for dinner and bridge at their Friday evening game, and perhaps a further event there on Sunday.

Leopold Hotel

Comfortable hotel overlooking the Stadspark, five minutes walk from the station and Royal Squeeze Bridge Club. Set in the diamond quarter of Antwerp. You can read more about it on the website (<https://leopoldhotelantwerp.com/>).

Trip itinerary

Thursday 6 Sep 2018

- Relaxed trip, leaving on Eurostar from St. Pancras at 1058.

Friday 7 Sep 2018

- Leave on Eurostar from St. Pancras at 1258.
- Arrive Antwerp Central Station at 1700 local time.
- Check into hotel
- Evening dinner and duplicate at the Royal Squeeze **or** a chance to explore the city.

Saturday 8 Sep 2018

- Breakfast at the hotel (0700 - 1100)
- Sinjoorentocht café drive registration (before 1145)
- Café bridge (1300 - 1830)
- Evening: dinner in Antwerp, results of the Sinjooren.

Sunday 9 Sep 2018

- Breakfast at the hotel (0700 - 1100)
- Afternoon: Social bridge **or** more time to explore
- Return to London on Eurostar, leave Brussels at 1756, arrive St. Pancras at 1903 UK time.

Monday 10 Sep 2018

- Breakfast at the hotel (0700 - 1100)
- Return to London on Eurostar, leave Brussels 1756, arrive St. Pancras at 1903 UK time.

Prices

Consolidated price payable on booking (incl. Eurostar, Café Bridge registration, admin):

- Please ask or check at <https://www.brianbridge.net/antwerp2018>

Plaza hotel room prices per night, payable on checkout, no advance payment required

- Superior Single €99.00 or Twin/Double €109.00
- Deluxe and Junior suite rooms available, prices on inquiry.
- Prices are exclusive of €2.50 tourist tax per person.
- Breakfast is included.

Optional events, payable in Antwerp

- Bridge dinner at the Royal squeeze: €19 approx
- Sunday bridge in the Plaza hotel: €5 approx

Booking Form

Please complete and send to Victor Lesk, Flat 15, 27 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3LP, or email a scan or photo to antwerpbridge2018@gmail.com

Partnership 1 - please write names, and circle which apply

Name 1 _____ Outbound: *Thurs Fri* Return: *Sun Mon*

Name 2 _____ Outbound: *Thurs Fri* Return: *Sun Mon*

Cafe bridge shorter walking route Yes No

Partnership 2 (if applicable)

Name 1 _____ Outbound: *Thurs Fri* Return: *Sun Mon*

Name 2 _____ Outbound: *Thurs Fri* Return: *Sun Mon*

Cafe bridge shorter walking route Yes No

Any not participating in Café bridge, use these lines

Name 1 _____ Outbound: *Thurs Fri* Return: *Sun Mon*

Name 2 _____ Outbound: *Thurs Fri* Return: *Sun Mon*

Name 3 _____ Outbound: *Thurs Fri* Return: *Sun Mon*

Amount to pay: £ _____

Payment method: *Cheque enclosed** *BACS transfer** Other: _____

I would like to reserve the following rooms at the Leopold hotel

Room 1

Size: *Deluxe Park view Junior suite* Occupancy: *Single Twin Double*

Occupant name(s): _____ Smoker(s): Yes No

Room 2 (if applicable)

Size: *Deluxe Park view Junior suite* Occupancy: *Single Twin Double*

Occupant name(s): _____ Smoker(s): Yes No

Room 3 (if applicable)

Size: *Deluxe Park view Junior suite* Occupancy: *Single Twin Double*

Occupant name(s): _____ Smoker(s): Yes No

Full refunds will be given for cancellations before **1 August 2018**, afterwards on a case-by-case basis.

*Please remit cheques to Victor Lesk

*Please remit BACS transfers to:

Beneficiary: Victor Lesk Account: 3187 5426 Sort code: 40 05 19 Reference: <your surname>A18