
OTGA/VLIZ training course
Research Cruise Planning & Management
15-19 October 2018

Local Information for Participants

4. WORKSHOP VENUE

UNESCO/IOC Project Office for IODE
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2. ARRIVAL IN BELGIUM

Please check your air ticket carefully and verify where your travel to Belgium terminates:

BRU - (BRUSSELS AIRPORT- ZAVENTEM – www.brusselsairport.be).

For those arriving at Brussels Airport (BRU in the air ticket) to reach Oostende you will have to take the train as follows:

Arrival is on the second floor of the airport (LEVEL 2). The train terminal is on LEVEL -1. Please take the lift or elevator to level -1 for the train. Buy a ticket to Oostende (the normal price of this ticket is at this moment 25 EUR). If at the time of your arrival the ticket office is closed, you can buy a ticket from the ticket machine as you will need to scan your ticket to gain access to the platform.

You will take a first train to Brussel Zuid (Bruxelles Midi), where you will have to change to another train for Oostende. There are frequent trains from the airport to Brussel Zuid (Bruxelles Midi) – about every quarter of an hour.

There are also direct trains (once an hour between Brussels Airport and Oostende. Note however that although a direct travel can be nice the duration of this trip is nearly twice as long (3 full hours) compared to the travel with a change in either one of the other Brussels stations, Ghent or Bruges (a travel of +/- 1h45).

Another 'easier' option might be the direct train (only during weekdays and once an hour) between Brussels Airport and Bruges. This direct train only takes 1h30 and from Bruges you have at least 3 times an hour a direct train to Oostende (travel time is +/- 16 min). Bruges is an easy and safe station to change.

IMPORTANT REMARK: Although travel planners can tell you to change in Brussels-Noord station we recommend you to change in BRUXELLES-MIDI/BRUSSEL-ZUID or GENT/GHENT or BRUGGE/BRUGES and this for security reasons. All trains passing through, what is called the North-South Connection will stop in Brussel-Noord/Bruxelles-Nord, Brussel-Centraal/Bruxelles-Central and Brussel-Zuid/Bruxelles-Midi.

Departure times for the Oostende train from Brussels Zuid (Bruxelles Midi) is usually once per hour. Consult the monitors at the station.

Oostende is the final stop for this train, so you will not miss this stop. If you leave the tracks in Oostende, we advise you to go through the main building, cross the square in front of the main building, take the first bridge and turn to the right in the direction of the hotel. If you want to take a taxi, you turn left after crossing the bridge. There you will find taxi's.

More information on trains can be found via
<http://www.belgianrail.be/en/Default.aspx>

ZYR - BRUXELLES MIDI – BRUSSEL ZUID (arrival by train)

For those arriving at Bruxelles Midi (Brussel Zuid) Station you can take a train directly to Oostende (cost about 17,40 EUR). The train times are usually once per hour. It is the same train that persons arriving from the airport shall take.

NOTE THAT YOU WILL TRAVEL FROM PARIS AIRPORT (<http://www.paris-cdg.com>) TO BRUSSELS MIDI BY THE HIGH SPEED TRAIN –THALYS (the train station, wherefrom this Thalys high-speed will leave, is located in Terminal 2 of the Charles de Gaulle airport).

Please be very aware of pickpockets in train stations

3. ACCOMODATION

A block booking at preferential rates for participants has been made at the:

Hotel Bero International
Hofstraat 1a
8400 Oostende, Belgium
Tel: +32-(0)-59-70 23 35
Fax: +32-(0)59-70 25 91
Email: info@hotelbero.be
Url: www.hotelbero.be

and most (if not all) participants will be booked in this hotel.

The hotel is about 15 minutes' walk from the train station (see red circle on the enclosed map). The cost of taxi from the train station to the hotel is about 5 Euros.

If you would like to book a room within this block booking, please either contact the hotel directly (not via a booking site) and tell them that you would like to book a room within the block booking for UNESCO/IOC project office or contact Sofie de Baenst indicating that you would like a hotel room and give your arrival and departure dates and times.

4. LOCAL TRANSPORT/INFORMATION

The hotel is located in the city centre close to many restaurants, cafes, shops, and near the beach.

A shuttle service (most probably using the **ferry-boat** – free of charge) between the hotel and our offices will be foreseen. Meeting point is every morning in the lobby of the Hotel Bero at 08:20 am. On the first day you will be picked up in the hotel lobby by 8:40. The person that will pick you up will be Ms Sofie de Baenst. All other days you come yourself to the project office.

You can reach the project office as well by tram (direction 'Knokke') from the railway station or from the city centre near the Kursaal (filled green circles on the map). The price of the ticket is max. 3,- EUR. You should leave the tram at the first stop after the railway station at 'Weg naar Vismijn' (empty green circle). Then follow the 'Vismijnlaan', in the direction of 'Vismijn' (green arrows on the map). The walk should take approximately 15 minutes. You can also take a taxi near both tram stops. The cost is approximately 15,- EUR.

5. WEATHER CONDITIONS

Please note that the average temperature in Oostende in October is +11,1 C (51,8 F). The average high and low temperatures are in October +14,7 (57,2F) and +7,8 C (44,6F). Average number of rainy days in October is 16.

6. Training/meeting information

Please take into account that we start the training/meeting at 9AM every day and finish at 5 PM. Only on Monday we only start at 9.30 AM
We appreciate to be on time. Coffee breaks are arranged at 10.30 AM & 3 PM. Lunch is at 12.30

Please note that if you want to use electric appliances you will need a convertor!

7. SMALL MAP

