



Veterinary Continuing Education Abroad
Belgium
June 15-23, 2024

**Small Animal Continuing
Education and More**

Sponsored by
Kansas State University
College of Veterinary Medicine



An Unexpected New World !

Belgium is a compelling destination for its rich history, stunning architecture, and quaint towns like Bruges and Ghent. Renowned for its culinary delights, including world-famous chocolates, waffles, and a diverse range of beers, Belgium offers a unique gastronomic experience. The country's vibrant cultural scene, with museums, theaters, and a strong tradition of comic strip art, adds to its appeal. Brussels, as the de facto capital of the European Union, provides a glimpse into significant political and cultural hubs.

Whether you're interested in history, food, art, or simply enjoying the picturesque landscapes, Belgium offers a multifaceted and enriching travel experience.

Dear Veterinarians,

The Kansas State College of Veterinary Medicine is pleased to announce the return of its distance continuing education opportunity! Join us for an all-inclusive week-long journey to Belgium combining 10 hours of veterinary CE and unique tourism opportunities for you, your friends, and partners. Scroll down for more information about this very special offering!

Dr. Walter Renberg



Itinerary

Saturday June 15: Participants depart from airports in the U.S. near their homes for Brussels, Belgium.

Day 1—Sunday June 16

Participants arrive in Brussels and are met at the airport. They take the train to their hotel in the center of Brussels and check in.

In the evening, a brief tour of the Grand Place (Europe's most beautiful town square) will be followed by a welcome meal at the restaurant.

Day 2—Monday June 17

Morning:

- Vets : CE - Topics in Small An. Emergency
- Panel discussion on vet emergencies

Afternoon:

We will travel by private coach to Waterloo, where we will visit the Battlefield of Waterloo and offer you a fascinating journey into European history. The site is renowned for the historic Battle of Waterloo that took place on June 18, 1815.

We will eat lunch in a typical Belgian Brasserie, climb up on the Lion's Mound for a unique perspective and appreciate the scale of the historic events that unfolded there. Then we tour the museum of the Battle of Waterloo.

Day 3—Tuesday June 18

All day:

We will travel by private coach to Liege, where we will visit an American WWII cemetery. We'll have lunch in the historic center of Liège, which dates back to the 11th century, and enjoy tasting the famous Belgian waffles. Afterward, we will proceed to Bastogne to visit the Battle of the Bulge museum.

Day 4—Wednesday June 19

Morning

- Vets: CE — Topics in Small An. Surgery
- Panel presentation on surgeries

Afternoon

We will eat lunch and then begin a walking/tram tour to learn about Brussels' history, beer, and gastronomic traditions.

Day 5—Thursday June 20

All day:

We will take the train to Bruges and participate in a boat tour of its citywide canals. Bruges is also known for its medieval architecture, museums, it's Belgium's most photogenic city. The afternoon is left as free time to explore.

Day 6—Friday June 21

Morning

- Vets: CE - Topics in Small An. Anesthesiology
- Panel presentation on anesthesiology

Afternoon :

After lunch in Brussels we will travel by train to Ghent to explore the old city including canals, medieval castle, the cathedral and a thriving local food scene.

Day 7— Saturday June 22

Participants have several options:

1. Participate in a custom tour tbd based on interest survey
2. Engage in free time around Brussels
3. Arrange a day trip on their own (train to Paris, Amsterdam?) *Not included in the price*
4. Early depart for the U.S.

Sunday June 23: Participants depart from Brussels to the U.S



Testimonials

I had never been on a distance CE trip prior to our Belgium experience so I wasn't sure what to expect. I was so pleased to spend time with colleagues, learn cool new things and do it in a place I had never visited before.

Chocolate, lace, beer, new knowledge...what's not to love! The friendships have lasted and the memories are wonderful

Dr. Christen Skaer

This trip was my first time overseas ever. My nerves were quickly calmed, as the entire experience was well organized and perfectly executed. The lectures were in a relaxed and comfortable environment and the group excursions were fantastic. I left feeling refreshed, educated, cultured, and deeply connected to our colleagues in the group

Dr. Sarah Neisius



My wife Marilyn and I had the opportunity to travel to Belgium on a CE trip lead by Dr Walter Renberg. The CE was excellent as it was provided by great speakers in an intimate setting that provided much interaction with the presenters and other attending veterinarians. We also got to experience each day as we traveled the area, the history, culture and cuisine of Belgium. Dr Renberg's knowledge of the area served us as a personnel tour guide for the group. The trip offered structured time and free time for us to explore. We have traveled the world and this was one of our favorite trips.

Dr. William Rishel

Our All-Inclusive Package Pricing Information

Price per single veterinarian participant (single occupancy hotel room): \$7,000 total

Price per veterinarian + non veterinarian couple (double occupancy hotel room): \$11,500 total

Price per 2-veterinarian couple (double occupancy hotel room): \$12,000 total

What is included:

- Round-trip air travel from major U.S. airports to Brussels
- In-country transportation
- Admission to all tourist activities
- Breakfast and Lunch every day in-country and 1 Welcome dinner (we will feed you well!)
- Ten hours of CE for veterinarian participants
- Morning activities for partners not participating in CE

What is not included:

- Travel or activities beyond that described in the itinerary (although you are welcome to extend your stay)
- Other meals you select
- Souvenirs
- Costs associated with passports or other pre-travel preparation

Note 1: Costs are calculated on a minimal number of participants and may decrease if the maximum number of participants enroll.

Note 2: We do our best to refund any money possible in the event of cancellation. We require a deposit of 60% of the total cost by **March 15, 2024**. This deposit secures air tickets, in-country transportation, and hotel rooms. Some of that may not be refundable. The remaining 40% of the cost is due **May 1, 2024** and is refundable up to 1 week prior to departure. After that point, we would make every effort to refund unspent funds but the full amount may not be able to be returned.

Payment policy:

We will send interested individuals a link to a secure online payment portal. **Please indicate your interest** by responding to Dr. Renberg: renberg@vet.k-state.edu

More Info

Travel Directors:

Dr Walter Renberg

Dr Barbara Alexiou (She's Belgian!)

Keynote Speakers

Emergency - Dr. Kris Gommeren, ECVIM-CA, ECVECC

Surgery - Dr. Walter Renberg, AVCS

Anesthesiology - Dr. Julien Dupont, ECVA

Lodging

[Le Dixseptieme](#)

Hotel Le Dixseptième offers a warm welcome with flair and grandeur, set in a historic setting just a stone's throw from Brussels' Grand Place. Immerse yourself in the rich artistic heritage of Belgium while staying in this veritable work of art, shaped by the passage of time. Originally standing on Brussels' first road in the 14th century, the building witnessed historical events, including the bombardment of the city center in 1695. The current houses were reconstructed later that year, showcasing a remarkable wooden framework visible in the hotel's timber rooftops and a majestic 17th-century staircase, recognized for its architectural significance.



FAQs

Why Belgium?

Belgium is the Capital of Europe. In a small friendly country we find most of the reasons we might travel to Europe: Great food and drink (hello? Belgian beer? Belgian chocolate?), impressive historical architecture, castles, scenic mountains, crafts and art, military history, cathedrals, canals, and folk festivals. Belgium is divided in 3 different regions Flanders (North) Brussels (Center & Capital) Wallonia (South) If the pictures on this site prompt you to dig deeper, please check out our Belgium Information pages. <https://visitbelgium.com>

If I have to cancel my trip, will I receive a refund?

We do our best to refund any money possible in the event of a cancellation. We require a deposit of 60% of the total cost by March 15th, 2024. This deposit secures air tickets, in-country transportation, and hotel rooms. Some of that may not be refundable. The remaining 40% of the cost is due May 1st, 2024 and is refundable up to 1 week prior to departure. After that point, we would make every effort to refund unspent funds but the full amount may not be able to be returned.

Will there be opportunities for us to explore on our own apart from the group?

Absolutely! Some free-time is built in to our itinerary every night. Additionally, on the final Saturday, participants can participate in group activities, schedule their own activity (we will provide advice and help when we can), or return home a day early. All activities are optional, but the costs cannot be refunded if participation is declined.

How many people are going on this trip?

We believe that smaller groups lend themselves to more effective professional discussion and to the ability to better appreciate culture beyond standard tourist experiences. We will limit the trip to a maximum of 14 participants (veterinarians and partners) in order to maintain small-group dynamics.

Are my meals covered?

The price of the trip includes breakfast and lunch every day. Participants have their evenings free and will be on their own for dinner. We will provide advice and assistance as to where to eat and what to do if needed. We promise that lunch will be filling – a snack may be sufficient at dinner!

Is the CE approved for my annual requirements?

This continuing education event is organized by the Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The majority of state boards recognize university-provided CE, but we cannot guarantee the response of every state board in the event of an audit. A certificate of attendance will be provided.

Are partners welcome?

You are welcome to bring your spouse or partner. We have activities specifically for them if desired. Please see the cost page to see the pricing information when accompanied by a partner whether or not they are a veterinarian.

What will my partner do while I am in the CE meetings?

We have separate activities scheduled for partners during the morning CE meetings. Of course, they are welcome to sleep in or venture out on their own. We can provide advice if they have specific objectives.

Are the tourism outings mandatory?

Nothing is mandatory. Although we cannot refund the cost of the activities if you decide to skip one, we will do our best to facilitate any alternative plans you develop.

Are children welcome?

Unfortunately, this trip is not designed to cater to children.

Is this a safe trip?

We have made every effort to assure a safe and stress-free itinerary. Europe is a safe destination. Of course, accidents, natural events, and other random difficulties can occur to any of us in any location and traveling abroad is no exception. We have led multiple tours and have never had an untoward event. We are happy to discuss specific concerns.

Do I need a visa or vaccinations?

As an American citizen, you do not need a visa to travel to Belgium. If you extend your stay and journey to another country you will need to determine entry requirements on your own. You will need a U.S. passport valid for six months past the conclusion of the trip. No specific vaccinations are required to travel to Belgium. We urge you to consult your health care provider about routine vaccine recommendations and any medications they may recommend you keep with you.

I have never traveled abroad. Is this a good trip for first-time travelers?

This is the ideal trip for first-time travelers, but is also ideal for those with more experience. We have arranged a schedule that has all the details taken care of. At the same time, we have consciously included opportunities to dive deeper into the culture off the tourist track!

Can I extend my stay?

Participants are welcome to extend their time abroad on their own. The cost of the trip includes a return flight from Brussels International Airport. If you choose to return from a different airport or at a different time, you will be responsible for any increase in the cost of your ticket beyond what the original itinerary would have been.

What are the topics of the CE sessions?

For 2024, the topics will be small-animal focused, with a mix of disciplines. Speakers include both faculty from KSU and lecturers from the veterinary schools in Belgium.

Do I have to participate in the CE?

No. If you choose to only participate in the tourist activity you would be grouped with the spouses and partners – or can spend additional free time. A certificate of attendance will reflect any CE sessions you attended.

Do I need additional insurance?

We encourage you to check with your health-care provider as many do not cover medical expenses in other countries. Health insurance for traveling is easy to obtain and relatively inexpensive if you opt to purchase it.

How much physical activity is involved with this trip?

All activities are optional, but some walking is involved with the tourist outings. Bear in mind that old cities often have cobble-stone paving and many buildings are not accessible according to ADA standards.