

Overview Excursions

IUCN Regional Conservation Forum for Europe, North and Central Asia

1. Grenspark Saefthinghe

- Discover the wonders of the Saefthinghe marshes during this excursion. Step into a world where nature and industry coexist in harmony as we embark on a guided walk through this unique habitat nestled within the bustling harbor. As we traverse the winding paths and meandering waterways, you'll witness the breathtaking beauty of the marshlands, alive with the vibrant colors of flora and the melodious songs of native birdlife. After our immersive marshland exploration, we'll venture to an ancient mill nestled within the heart of the site. Here, amidst the rustic charm of this historic setting, we'll unveil the secrets of a visionary project linked to harbor development and NATURA 2000 goals.
- Practical details
Duration: Full Day Tour
Transportation: Bus
Lunch: Included



2. National Park Scheldt Valley – River Scheldt (FULLY BOOKED)

- Embark on a journey along the scenic River Scheldt with our exclusive boat trip excursion. As we glide along the tranquil waters, prepare to be mesmerized by breathtaking views and natural beauty. This excursion includes two immersive stops, where we'll disembark to explore restored tidal habitats and other wetland wonders. Guided walks through these pristine landscapes offer a rare opportunity to reconnect with nature and witness firsthand the remarkable restoration efforts taking place. During our time on the boat, experts will deliver engaging presentations on two groundbreaking initiatives: the SIGMA Plan and LIFE Sparc. Learn how these innovative projects harness the power of nature-based solutions for climate adaptation and flood control, ensuring the resilience of our communities in the face of environmental challenges.
- Practical details
Duration: Full Day Tour
Transportation: Bus/ Boat
Lunch: Included



3. Sonian Forest – UNESCO World Heritage site Ancient and primeval beech forests of Europe (FULLY BOOKED)

- Discover the wonders of the Sonian Forest on an electric cycling tour, exploring points of interest and the UNESCO World Heritage Site's core zone. Expert guides and forest managers provide insights into conservation and sustainable management practices during the ride. Perfect for nature lovers and history enthusiasts alike, this tour offers a unique blend of exploration and education amidst the forest's serene beauty.

- Practical details

Duration: Full Day Tour

Transportation: Train and electric bike

Lunch: Included



4. Zwin nature park – dune restoration project DUNIAS

Embark on a journey through coastal conservation as we explore the serene Zwin nature domain and the innovative LIFE DUNIAS project within it. Starting in the tranquil beauty of the Zwin tidal marsh site, expert guides will lead us through its diverse habitats, introducing us to its resident bird species and unique ecosystems. Continuing our exploration, we'll delve into the LIFE DUNIAS project, guided by Reinhardt Strubbe from ANB. Learn about dune nature, invasive plants, and ongoing restoration efforts in a relaxed and informative setting. Trip is combined with a small biking trip along the coastline.

- Practical details

Duration: Full Day Tour

Transportation: Train and bike

Bike ride details: Distance 8 KM one way, Difficulty Easy

Lunch: Included



5. Marshes and wet polder grasslands around Damme

- The wet grasslands near Damme are part of the larger polder area along the Belgian coast. Tidal flats and marshes, part of the former Zwin estuary, have been embanked gradually over several centuries and been used since as grazing land. Intensification of the agriculture in the last decades increased the pressure to drain these grasslands and convert them to arable land. Around the small city of Damme, the grasslands Natuurpunt was able to protect many of these grasslands and now several projects are implemented to return to a more nature oriented water management. During this excursion the different habitats will be visited, and attention will be given to the problems of water and nature management.

We combine this visit with a guided biking tour from the city center of Bruges along the typical Polder landscape to Damme.

- Practical details

Duration: Full Day Tour

Transportation: Bike

Bike ride details: Distance 8 KM one way, Difficulty Easy

Lunch: Included



6. Cultural landscapes and their contribution to climate and biodiversity challenges through a participatory and transversal management approach

- Bulskampveld exemplifies how historic estates shape today's landscape. Explore these estates and their surroundings with a holistic perspective, focusing on landscape, nature, heritage, and tourism, while also considering how these landscapes are managed.
- Practical details
Duration: Full Day Tour
Transportation: Bus
Lunch: Included



7. Polder and grasslands in Uitkerke

- Nestled between the busy seaside resorts of Blankenberge and De Haan and the quiet village of Zuilenkerke is where you'll find this ancient meadow landscape: the Uitkerkse Polder. Laced with canals and dotted with dozens of cattle ponds, this area is an oasis of calm along the bustling coastline. But looks can be deceiving – thousands of geese flock here in winter, and in spring it's the setting for hundreds of mating meadow birds. It's West Flanders' largest nature reserve.
- Practical details
Duration: Half Day Tour
Transportation: Bus
Lunch: Not included



8. What happens in Bruges?

- We take you on a half-day walking adventure through the cobblestone streets of Bruges, where tradition meets innovation and sustainability intertwines with heritage. As we meander through the streets, we'll encounter more than just the typical tourist attractions. Our path will lead us to some local initiatives like Kopje Zwam, a circular city farm breathing life into urban sustainability. Here, we'll learn about innovative approaches to agriculture and witness firsthand the harmony between nature and city life. But our exploration doesn't stop there. Along the way, we'll uncover the hidden gems and iconic landmarks that make Bruges truly one-of-a-kind. From the towering Belfry of Bruges to the serene Minnewater Lake, each sight carries a tale of the city's rich history and cultural heritage.
- Practical details
Duration: Half Day Tour
Transportation: None, walking tour
Lunch: Not included

