

## The European Quickstep IFFR 2024 Flyaway



**Put your name down early to join in all the fun and fellowship of this unique Fly-A-Way as we embark on *The European Quickstep*.**

Starting in Denmark and ending in Belgium, over the course of 9 days you will experience a taste of Scandinavia, Northern Germany and the Low Countries.

Organised as a collaboration between the Nordic, German/Austrian and Benelux Sections, cities, castles, museums, music, cars, boats, planes and islands are all on the agenda, as well as novel aviation experiences, and of course, thousands of years of European history and culture.

**Safety** is our first and foremost consideration.

**Comfort and Style** are our secondary tour guiding principles on this land, sea and air adventure. We will have a 50-seat luxury coach to take us on our ground-based visits, and to transport those not wishing to fly between the destination cities.

Our GA aircraft may take a **Long Way Around** on some of the flying days, exploring wider afield and increasing the aviation experience but all evenings and nearly all visits will be spent together.

**New this year** - our programme starts with the Nordic Section Annual Weekend Meeting and ends with the Benelux Section Annual Weekend Meeting. Fantastic opportunities for great IFFR fellowship.

**When:** 5<sup>th</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Where:** Starting in Copenhagen, Denmark, ending in Brussels, Belgium

**Cost Estimate:** inc luxury coach, tours, Gala Dinners in Copenhagen and Brussels and all other dinners, some light lunches & high-quality – typically 4\* - accommodation, (based on 45 participants):

- €2750 per person
- Single supplement to be confirmed: expect “a few hundred euros”.
- Separate pricing will be available for those only joining the Section Meetings.

**Max number of participants:** 50.

**Other:** GA aircraft hire may be available – further details to follow soon.

**Info Contact:** [George.Ritchie@BTInternet.com](mailto:George.Ritchie@BTInternet.com) or +44 771 422 3082.

# The 2024 European Quickstep IFFR Flyaway – 5 to 14 July

## Provisional Flyaway Programme (as at November 2023)

**Please note:** some details remain to be confirmed and with so much to see in Europe, we may adjust the precise details as arrangements are finalised. The updated programme will be circulated in the next few weeks with definitive pricing. We will also be operating in accordance with IFFR policies for fly arounds, and so some flexibility may be necessary in the programme in the event of non-VFR weather. Prices quoted include contingency: if not required, this will be returned after the event.

### Friday 5 July



We come together by land, sea and air in Copenhagen, the capital city of Denmark for the first part of our programme – **the Nordic Section Annual Weekend Meeting.**

The pilots will arrive at the GA friendly airport of Roskilde (EKRK) where lunchtime snacks will be provided. After lunch, they be transported to our typically Danish base at the Strand Hotel, located on the waterfront close to Nyhavn harbour. Those arriving commercially will find transfers into the city from Copenhagen airport quick and easy.

On our first Quickstep evening together, we will have a “*tapas and vine*” dinner cruise, including around the harbour which is the location of the world famous “Little Mermaid” statue.

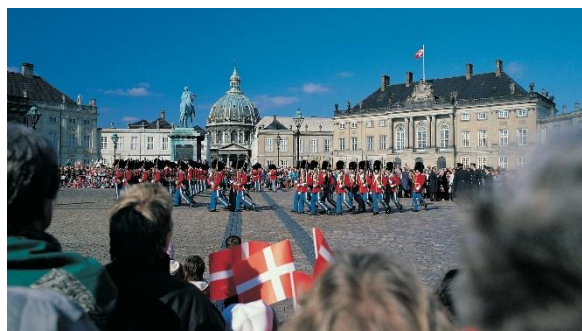


### Saturday 6 July

In the morning we will have a guided tour of the picturesque centre of Copenhagen, ending at the Amalienborg Royal Palace to see the ceremony of the changing of the Danish Royal Guard.

In the afternoon, you will have free time to explore Nyhavn, the 17th-century waterfront district lined by brightly coloured 17th and early 18th century townhouses and bars, cafes and restaurants, wander over to Strøget, Copenhagen's main shopping street or just relax.

In the evening we will celebrate in style as we participate in the Nordic Section Gala Dinner in the world-famous Tivoli Gardens. You will have the opportunity to explore the Tivoli Park and experience its vibrant night life.





## Sunday 7 July



After breakfast the pilots will be taken back to Roskilde to enjoy a scenic flight of a little over one hour to Säve (ESGP), near Gothenburg in Sweden to visit [Aerozeum](#). This is a world-unique aeronautical museum in an underground hangar hewn from rock during the Cold War, extending over 22,000 square metres.



Non-flyers will go by bus to Helsingør, to visit the 15<sup>th</sup> Century [Kronborg Slot](#) castle. Kronborg, famous from Hamlet, is on the coast from where one can look across the water to Helsingborg, Sweden. After lunch we will visit the [Luisiana Museum of Modern Art](#).

We will all return to our hotel for a “farewell to Copenhagen” dinner together.

## Monday 8 July

Time to leave Scandinavia and head for Germany for our next two night stay in Flensburg, a cosy city at the Flensburg Fjord and close to the Danish border.

The non-flyers will head west across Denmark by bus, breaking the journey near Odense for an visit to [Hans Christian Andersen’s House](#) offering a surprising and fascinating immersive journey into the author’s creative universe – and his beloved fairy tales.

The flyers will take a side tour to the nearby scenic “nearly island” of [Sylt](#) (EDXW) “The Queen of the North Sea”, Germany, and walk for 15 minutes to the seafront to find lunch. When duly nourished, the pilots will make the short flight back to Flensburg.

Once reunited, we will then have a guided tour of the city, including a visit to the [Maritime Museum](#).

We return to our hotel for a casual dinner.



## Tuesday 9 July



A day for relaxing and exploring the old and the new. Flensburg is an old seafaring city which, under strong Scandinavian influence, has developed from a fishermen's and merchants' town into a progressive touristic city with 2 universities without having lost its historic charm. In the morning, we plan to visit the [PHÄNOMENTA](#) science exhibition: lots to see, and lots to get your hands on.



After lunch we expect to take a trip on the historical 115 year old steamboat [Alexandra](#), starting at the Schiffbrück quay.

Alternatively, we may include a visit to the [Flensburger](#) brewery during our stay here.

Our stay in Flensburg will end with a relaxed group dinner in a local restaurant.

## Wednesday 10 July

We are moving on again, heading for the Low Countries for our next two night stay in Groningen, Netherlands. As the planes will probably be quicker than the bus, the pilots may break the journey at Wilhemshavn (EDWI) a very pleasant en-route stopping point (with an excellent airport restaurant) for lunch.

Groningen was established more than 950 years ago and gained city rights in 1245. Numerous canals (grachten) surround and run through Groningen which is now a university city, with some of the country's leading higher education institutes including the University of Groningen founded in 1614.

On arrival, we will have a personalized and undoubtedly humorous tour, led by IFFR member Maurice Tax, of the old city centre, including its central Grote Markt square, home to the centuries-old Martinitoren clock tower before we have our dinner.





## Thursday 11 July



This is “Frisian Islands Day”. The Frisian islands are a chain of environmentally protected barrier islands stretching all the way from the northwest of the Netherlands through Germany to the west of Denmark, protecting those countries from the might of the North Sea. Stunningly beautiful to fly over, many of them also have airfields on them. Flyers will have the opportunity make a scenic aerial tour along some of the islands, before landing on the German island of Borkum (EDWR).



The non-flyers will go by coach to Eemshavn and take the 50 minute ferry ride over to Borkum, as foot passengers,. On arrival, there will be the opportunity to ride the [Borkumer Kleinbahn](#) narrow gauge railway from the port to the centre of town. We will find our own lunch as takes our fancy and then have time at leisure to explore the island on foot, by “Petit Train” or even by rental bike. Pilots may wish to swap passengers for the return journey to allow more of the group to see the islands from the air. We will all return to Groningen for dinner.

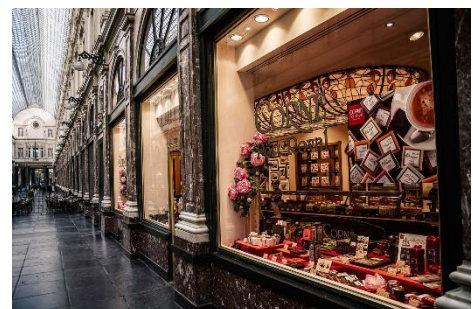
## Friday 12 July

An early start as we set off again, leaving the Netherlands for Brussels, capital of Belgium. Our stay here, and this final part of the flyaway, will be the **Benelux Section Annual Weekend Meeting**. For the non-flyers, this will be the longest bus journey. We will have a lunchtime stop coupled with a short cultural experience.

The flyers will arrive around mid-day at Grimbergen/Lint (EBGB), close to the city centre, where a lunch will be waiting for us at the clubhouse. Afterwards we will pay a visit to the unique hangars dating from WW2 before transferring to our hotel in the heart of Brussels to check-in and relax while waiting for the bus to arrive.

Brussels is rich in history, architecture, gastronomy, culture and so much more! Warm, welcoming and quirky, Brussels is a bustling city where there’s always something going on. During our time here, we will discover the must-see attractions of the city. But if you think you know Brussels like the back of your hand, think again! There are loads of secret spots and hidden gems to enjoy in this vibrant capital.

At 19h00 we dive into the bustling city life of Brussels. We’ll go on foot to dinner at a very typical Belgian brasserie. After dinner we’ll enjoy a guided evening walk through the medieval city center of Brussels: the UNESCO World Heritage listed Grand Place, the Manneken Pis statue, the famous Galleries, and the Royal Palace. Those wanting to end a warm summer evening with a nightcap will find many nearby street cafes and bars.



## Saturday 13 July



Our morning will start with a private guided tour of the Brussels City Hall. Afterwards we will take a guided bus tour to the European district (Brussels being the administrative centre of Europe) and ending at the Atomium, again a must-see symbol of Brussels. After these visits, we will return to the city centre to have lunch in the '[Maison des Ailes](#)', by kind invitation of Tony Debruyne, IFFR Benelux member. This club "The House of Wings" brings together all Belgian aviation associations.



After lunch, again we take the bus to go to the Cinquantenaire Park, the museum district of Brussels where we will visit [Autoworld](#). This private museum holds a collection built on the extensive and well-preserved car collection of the Mahy family, one of the largest in the world. For those who are not so into cars, but more into aviation, ancient or modern art, at the Cinquantenaire there are the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and the Royal Museum of Art & History.

On the Saturday evening, our final night together, we will hold our Flyaway Reflections Gala Dinner, ending the evening with the traditional Benelux Section party – bring your dancing shoes.

## Sunday 14 July

The flyaway formally ends after Sunday breakfast. But there is so much to see in Brussels that we strongly recommend you book another day here. And if you want to party hard on Saturday night, we also recommend you to stay on for the Sunday and recuperate before flying home. We will have a range of recommendations for you of places to explore and if enough folks choose to stay on, we can arrange an informal casual dinner (at cost).

Please note that all participants will receive a Museum pass 'Visit Brussels', valid for 48 hours, with which you can visit some 49 museums spread over the Brussels Area. For those who want to extend their visit, please let us know in time: 72 hour museum passes are also available.





## Further information

### By land or by air?

As we saw with the Tango Round the Outback in Australia, we expect there may well be IFR pilot members from other regions who wish to have the experience of flying in Europe. We believe there are two options.

- Members may take advantage of the EU's streamlined process for converting pilot licenses from non-European countries, and the issuing of a 28-day holiday license. This license can be issued once per year for one 28-day period. Germany and several other European Union (EU) countries now offer the license.

See <https://airfactsjournal.com/2023/09/the-european-28-day-holiday-license/>

- Or, for those who hold US FAA licences, it may be possible to rent an "N" registered aircraft – as has been done for previous European flyaways.

We are still investigating these options. It is unlikely that rental aircraft will be as freely available as they were in Melbourne, but we have started to identify some options and will advise further on this as soon as we can.

### Getting to and from the Quickstep

Our flyaway starts and ends in capital cities with excellent connections to other parts of the world. Both have direct flights to and from North America and both are well-served by airlines offering easy connections to Asia and Australasia. You may find airlines offering "open-jaw" returns, but if not, flights between Brussels and Copenhagen are readily available.

### Extending your stay – exploring further

If you are coming from outside Europe, why not extend your stay and explore further.

- Before the flyaway starts, why not explore Scandinavia more. Copenhagen is well connected with Sweden, Norway and Finland.
- And after the Quickstep has ended, so much of western Europe is nearby. From Brussels, London UK, Paris France and Amsterdam Netherlands can all be reached by train in 2 hours or less. Or low costs flights can take you anywhere in Europe in 3 hours or less!

Europe really is your oyster. Let us help you with plans and suggestions if you would like.



**PLEASE LET US KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING US!**



## Photo credits.

### Friday 5 July

1. Strand Hotel
2. Pixabay

### Saturday 6 July

1. Expedia.co.uk
2. Condé Nast

### Sunday 7 July

1. Tripadvisor LLC
2. [Kronborg Castle - Palaces and Gardens - Kongelige Slotte](#)

### Monday 8 July

1. VisitOdense
2. Pixabay

### Tuesday 9 July

1. [www.dampfer-alexandra.de](http://www.dampfer-alexandra.de)
2. Pixabay

### Wednesday 10 July

1. Pixabay
2. George Ritchie

### Thursday 11 July

1. [Borkum Island \(Germany\) cruise port schedule | CruiseMapper](#)
2. Pixabay

### Friday 12 July

1. Vliegveld Grimbergen Facebook page
2. Pixabay

### Saturday 13 July

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### Sunday 14 July

1. Pixabay
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### Extending your stay

1. Wikimedia Commons
2. <https://mediacentre.easyjet.com/>
3. <https://www.dfds.com>