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love *Visitors guide* | 2009

Bruges

Flanders, Belgium



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GGE

WERELDERFgoedstad

www.brugge.be/tourism

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The Visitors Guide This is how it works!

This brand-new Visitors Guide gives all the information necessary for a successful stay in Bruges. Don't miss the classics served on page 4. A few pages further (page 8) you will find all you want to know about our most important events.

Would you like to set off straight away? Then leaf through to the three themed walks and discover Bruges whilst sauntering along its historic streets and squares. *Bruges, Proud World Heritage City* (page 14) neatly presents all highlights: an absolute must for first-time visitors. The *Bruges: B of Burgundian* (page 24) takes you back to Bruges' Golden Age, showing you a northern city with a southern character, whereas *Strolling Through Silent Bruges* (page 34) goes off the beaten track. A great experience from start to finish.

As if that isn't enough, we present you no fewer than five fascinating interviews (pages 44-83) with a fine selection of Bruges connoisseurs. Whether they be a renowned shock-o-latier, a trendy letter sculptress or a ground-breaking museum curator, they all welcome you to 'their' city with open arms and open mind, and they even give away their favourite addresses!

All practical information – from opening times and admission charges to bike rentals – is carefully compiled at the back of the guide (pages 84-117).

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Welcome to the World Heritage City of Bruges

Cultural, artistic, cosmopolitan and mysteriously medieval. Bruges is without doubt a city filled to the brim with fascinating stories. The entire historic city centre is a Unesco World Heritage site. Strolling through her network of medieval streets and alleys or sauntering along her picturesque canals and verdant ramparts you cannot but fall hopelessly in love with her elegant mysteriousness. In winter, her winding cobbled streets and canals shrouded in fog take on an even more poetic personality. It’s as if the city is waiting for darkness to descend before she’s willing to show her fairest face.

Although it is true that Bruges has one foot firmly in the past, it is equally true that she cherishes her future and that she fully invests in her cultural infrastructure and in her modern architecture. It is therefore no surprise that the sixteen city museums house the Flemish Primitives as well as contemporary art. Moreover, a fair number of enthralling cultural events set the city alight throughout the year, from ground-breaking dance productions and fascinating one-man shows to delightful festivals and international exhibitions.

The delights of Bruges’ Burgundian life can be sampled in one of the countless cafés and restaurants, from authentic pubs to trendy eating places and famous gourmet restaurants. Indeed, the citizens of Bruges have known for centuries how to eat and drink well. Would you like to spend some more time with us? Why don’t you book a room in a cosy Bed&Breakfast or in one of our charm hotels? We hope that this visitors guide will be your trusty companion in case you lose yourself in one of Bruges’ many stories.

We and our fellow townspeople wish you a memorable stay!



*Jean-Marie Bogaert, Alderman for Tourism
Patrick Moenaert, Burgomaster*

Ten Irresistible Bruges Classics!



1 THE FLEMISH PRIMITIVES: WORLD-FAMOUS ART FROM BRUGES

[\(more information on page 52\)](#)

Admire the unique and world-famous collection of pictures by the Flemish Primitives in the very city where they were painted. Or do you prefer ground-breaking contemporary art scene, or perhaps poignant and romantic folklore or majestic town palaces? The Bruges Museums will happily serve all your needs.

2 THE CANALS OF BRUGES: THE CITY'S ARTERIES

Experience the city by following an age-old tradition. Cruising Bruges' canals - these remarkable city arter-

ies - you will discover secret gardens, picturesque bridges and wonderfully beautiful still lives. Although it sounds incredible, Bruges' loveliest places ooze even more charm when you admire them travelling by boat.

3 THE BEGUINAGE AND MINNEWATER: HUSHED BEAUTY

Some places are so beautiful that you will have no choice but to fall silent. The beguinage is such a beauty spot. When you amble through its quiet inner court, its purity will leave you speechless. Therefore take your time and while away along the romantic Minnewater where you will fully enjoy the age-old view.

4 THE CENTURIES-OLD BRUGES SKYLINE: WELCOME CHURCH OF OUR LADY (ONTHAALKERK ONZE-LIEVE-VROUW), BELFRY, SAINT SAVIOUR'S CATHEDRAL

Three spires dominate the Bruges skyline each in their own way. The imposing Belfry has been the proud symbol of Bruges' independence for centuries. The stiff climb up its stairs will be rewarded with an unforgettable panorama. The brick tower of the Church of Our Lady - the highest of its kind in Europe - exemplifies the craftsmanship of Bruges' artisans. The spire of Saint Saviour's Cathedral has recently been completely renovated.



5 BURG AND CITY HALL: MEDIEVAL OPULENCE

[\(more information on page 18\)](#)

The Burg is one of the city's handsomest squares. For more than six centuries Bruges has been governed from its 14th-century city hall, one of the oldest and most venerable in the Low Countries. All this time this remarkable historic building has dominated this majestic square. Nowhere else will you be able to experience the city's wealth and affluence so strongly.



> 06



> 07



> 08



> 09



> 10

6 ALSMHOUSES (GODSHUIZEN): CHARITY FROZEN IN STONE

(more information on page 20)

Godshuizen are tiny villages within the city's ramparts. That's how these medieval residential courts are best described. Centuries ago they were built out of mortar and charity. Today their picturesque gardens, white-washed façades and glorious silence are the city's havens of peace par excellence.

7 BRUGES' CITY FESTIVALS: INFECTIOUS AMBIANCE

From the MA Festival's ancient music and the rousing world music sounds of the Bruges Festival to the rocking

Cactus Festival, the swinging Klinkers and the impressive film experience of Cinema Novo. Throughout the year the city's festivals guarantee a wonderfully infectious and varied ambiance that's impossible to ignore.

8 THE WORLD'S CAPITAL OF CHOCOLATE

(more information on page 68)

Forty chocolate boutiques, the chocolate museum Choco-Story, a chocolate trail and a chocolate fair. It goes without saying that Bruges is the world's capital of chocolate. The only way to discover this tasty universe is by eating and sampling chocolate, of course.

9 BRUGES' CULTURAL SHRINES: CULTURE WITH A CAPITAL C

(more information on page 100)

Bruges offers the possibility to experience culture under the best possible conditions. What about an opera at the state-of-the-art Concert Hall? Or perhaps a ground-breaking performance at the theatre? It is absolutely no coincidence that this grand building is one of Europe's best preserved city theatres. Whatever you choose, you will be assured of a great time in an exceptional setting.

10 LISSEWEGE: ONE OF FLANDERS' PRETTIEST VILLAGES

(more information on page 106)

Barely a handful of bicycle miles from Bruges, the fine polder village of Lissewege welcomes you with open arms. With its charming canal, its renowned barn complex of the Abbey of Ter Doest, its whitewashed polder cottages, its imposing church steeple and its vast flowering meadows, it is no coincidence that Lissewege was elected one of Flanders' prettiest villages.

Events 2009



> 01



> 02

Art by the Sea
28.03 – 04.10.2009

beaufort 03
Triennial of Contemporary Art

> 03

There is no better way to fraternize with the citizens of Bruges than to immerse yourself in the infectious ambiance at the countless events that sweep through the whole city.



The monthly magazine events@brugge offers a detailed events calendar. It is available free of charge at the information office at the Concertgebouw and the information office at the railway station. Exit, the free monthly Dutch-language culture newspaper, is also available at these locations.

1 THE FACE OF LACE, until 1 March 2009

Bruges will be shrouded in lace until March 2009. The city is one big exhibition space where contemporary design objects and monumental installations are in a continuous dialogue with the ancient buildings, canals and streets. A provocative mix of traditions and innovation.
www.brugge.be/musea

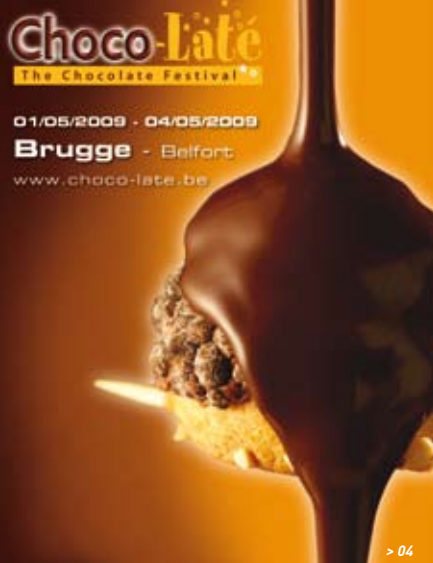
pageantry of the court festivities and of late medieval art, and follow the tragic demise of Charles the Bold. Masterpieces from the world's most renowned art collections come home to Bruges.
www.kareldestoute.org

2 THE EXHIBITION 'CHARLES THE BOLD. THE SPLENDOURS OF BURGUNDY', 27 March – 21 July 2009

The Groeninge Museum opens its doors to the high days of Burgundian court life and culture. Experience the

3 BEAUFORT 03, 28 March – 4 October 2009

Once again artists from all over the globe descend to the Belgian seaside to exhibit their work. Some mount new creations, others set to work with existing material. This is the third edition of this triennial for contemporary art.
www.beaufort03.be



**4 CHOCO-LATÉ,
1 – 4 May 2009**

The chocolate festival par excellence will appeal to young and old. For four days chocolate confectioners from across the world demonstrate their skills and serve up their most scrumptious delicacies. This is without any doubt ground-breaking chocolate gastronomy!
www.choco-late.be

**5 NOBLE LADIES OF FLANDERS,
15 May – 15 September 2009**

Central to this exhibition is the role of the countesses and counts' daughters in the eventful history of Flanders from the 9th to the early 16th century. We see them as

desirable political brides, as preservers of the blood-line and as fiery lovers fighting like lionesses for their offspring.
www.vrouwenvanvlaanderen.be

**6 THE PROCESSION OF THE HOLY BLOOD, ASCENSION DAY,
21 May 2009**

For centuries this popular municipal procession has been depicting arresting and moving scenes from the Old and New Testament. The procession's roots date back to 1291!
www.brugge.be

**7 ZAND FESTIVITIES (ZANDEFEESTEN),
5 July, 2 August, 27 September 2009**

Over the years this immense antiques and bygone fair has proven its international appeal. A crowd puller that attracts both the keen collector and the interested daytripper time and again.
www.brugge.be

**8 CACTUS FESTIVAL,
10 – 12 July 2009**

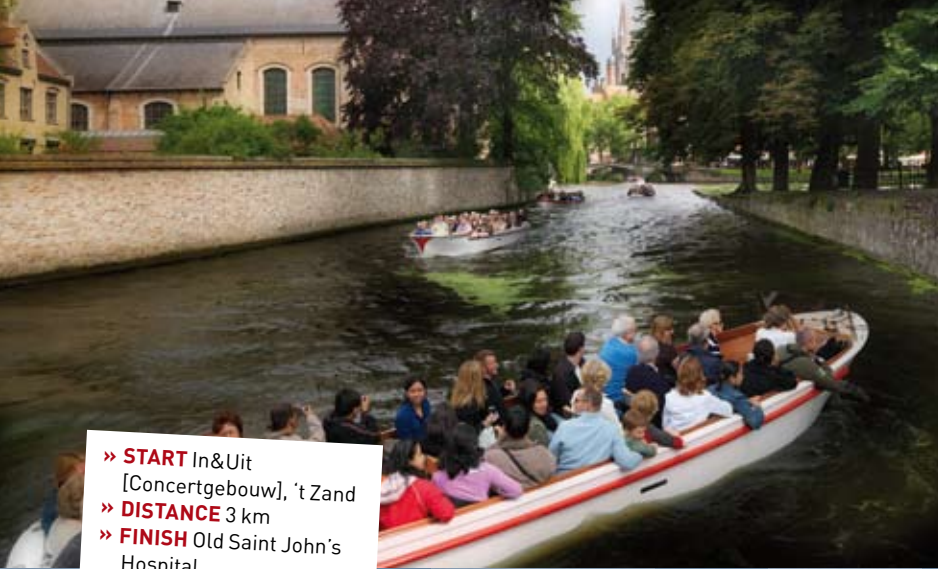
This open-air music festival is full of charm and atmosphere. It serves up a successful cocktail of rock, reggae, world music and a touch of dance. Infectious rhythms that set alight the whole of the Minnewater Park, its fixed festival location.
www.cactusmusic.be

**9 KLINKERS,
24 July – 8 August 2009**

This contemporary music festival takes in the whole of Bruges city centre. It offers a varied programme at numerous memorable locations. Its concerts are often free of charge. The summer always swings in Bruges!
www.klinkers-brugge.be

**10 MaFESTIVAL,
31 July – 8 August 2009**

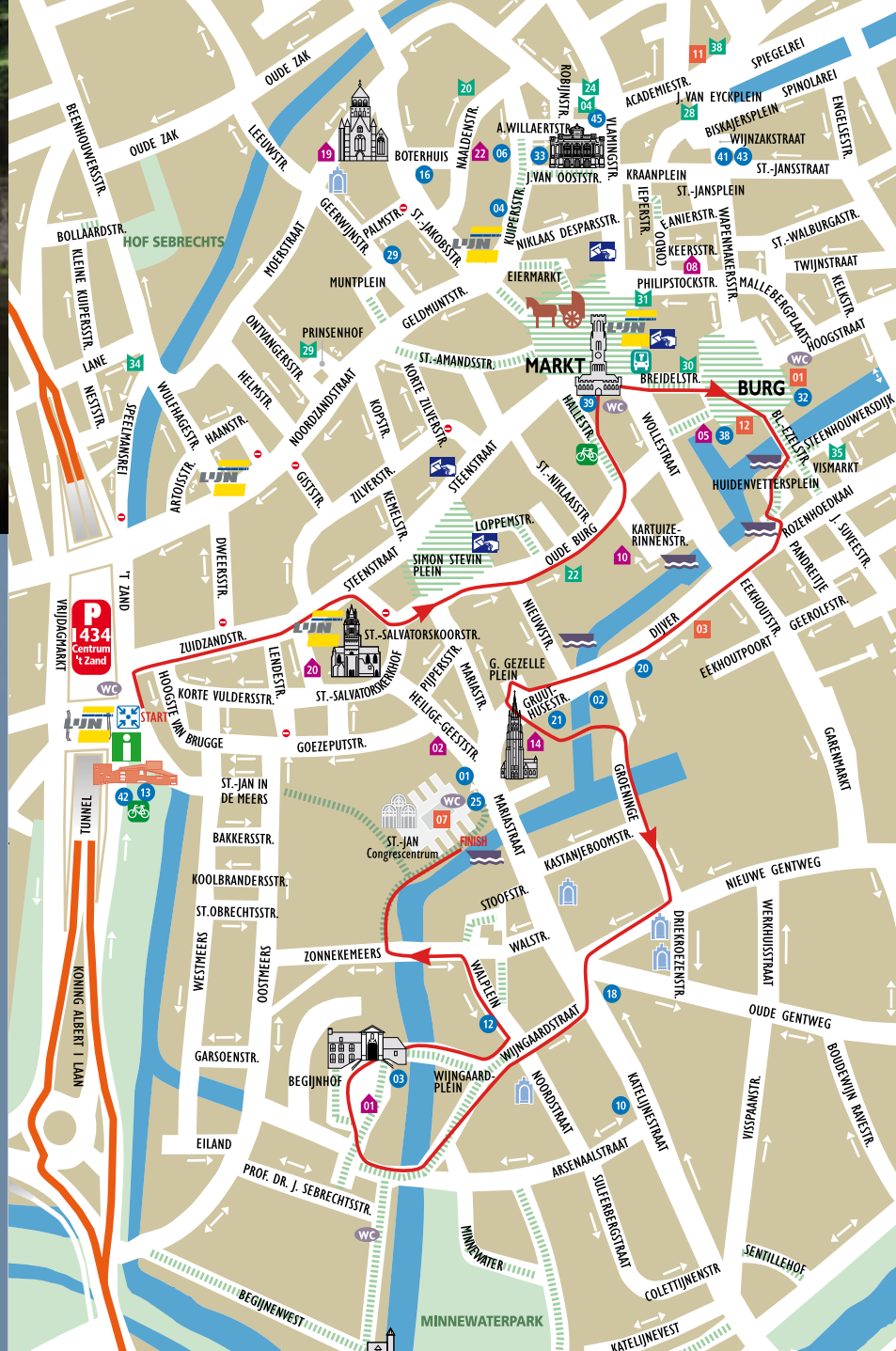
For the 46th time this renowned festival of ancient music brings together the world's most illustrious musicians. Together they sound out the boundaries of historic pieces and go in search of fascinating cross-fertilisation that roll back the centuries.
www.mafestival.be



» **START** In&Uit
 [Concertgebouw], 't Zand
 » **DISTANCE** 3 km
 » **FINISH** Old Saint John's
 Hospital

Bruges, Proud World Heritage City

Bruges may be rightly proud of her World Heritage status, the city happily embraces the future, too! This walk takes you along world-famous panoramic views, sky-high monuments and centuries-old squares invigorated by contemporary constructions. One foot planted in the Middle Ages, the other one firmly planted in the present. This walk is an absolute must for first-time visitors who would like to explore the very heart of the city straight away. Keep your camera at the ready!





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From 't Zand to Simon Stevinplein

This walk starts at In&Uit [Concertgebouw], 't Zand 't Zand is dominated by the Concert Hall **13**, Bruges' brand-new modern attraction. A clear-cut proof that this World Heritage city isn't afraid of the future. The top floor of this culture temple houses Forum+ **42**, where contemporary plastic art and a grandiose panoramic view await you. Don't forget to drop in at In&Uit on the ground floor: here you will find all the necessary tourist information as well as expert advice on all cultural events.

Leave In&Uit behind you, cross the square and turn into Zuidzandstraat, the first street on the right. Saint Saviour's Cathedral looms up ahead on your right after three hundred metres **20**. Bruges' oldest parish church finds itself on its original street level, i.e. lower than the present Zuidzandstraat. The street level gradually rose throughout the Middle Ages as people simply threw their refuse out onto the street where it was then flattened by passing carts and coaches. Inside Saint Saviour's the church tower's wooden rafters can be lit. The cathedral treasury displays a.o. interesting copper memorial plaques, fine examples of gold and silver and paintings by Dirk Bouts, Hugo van der Goes and Pieter Pourbus.

Continue past the cathedral and walk down Sint-Salvatorskerkhof immediately on the right. Turn left into Sint-Salvatorskoostraat. Simon Stevinplein opens up at the end of this street.

This attractive square, lined with cosy café terraces, is named after Simon Stevin, a well-known Flemish-Dutch scientist. His gracious statue naturally takes central stage.

Markt and Burg

Continue down Oude Burg, a street in the right-hand corner of the square. Before long you will see the Cloth Halls on your left. These belong to the Belfry. You're allowed to cross the halls' imposing inner court between 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. during the week, and between 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. at weekends. The Markt is at the other end of the yard. If the gate is closed, turn back and walk down Hallestraat, which runs parallel to the Halls. Walk II (page 27) comments extensively on Markt.

Return to the Belfry **39** and walk down Breidelstraat, a traffic-free alley on the corner. Continue to Burg.

Along the way on your right you will notice Garre, a narrow alley. This may be the narrowest street in Bruges (try walking here side by side!), it nevertheless boasts a fair number of cosy cafés.

Burg is the most majestic square in the city. So, take your time to admire its grandeur. The star player in this medieval story is the Bruggemuseum-City Hall **38** (1376-1420), one of the oldest city halls in the Netherlands and a gothic example for all its sisters and brothers that were built later, from Louvain to Oudenaarde and Brussels.

BURG: AN ARCHITECTURAL SYNOPSIS

Art lovers have already noticed that Burg projects a wonderful cross-section of stunning architectural styles. It is, indeed, a summing-up in one place of all the styles that have caught our imagination throughout the various centuries. From Romanesque (Saint Basil's Church) and Gothic (City Hall) by way of Renaissance (Liberty of Bruges) and Baroque (deanery) to Classicism (mansion of the Liberty of Bruges) and 21st-century architecture (Toyo Ito). There's no need to go and dash all around Bruges to see it all!



Having admired its exterior, enter the impressive Gothic Hall and gaze in admiration at the polychrome floating ribs of the vaulted ceiling. Hiding on the right-hand side of this gothic monument is the Basilica of the Holy Blood ⁰⁵, a mystical double chapel, below which sits the Romanesque church of Saint Basil (1139-1149). One floor up is a basilica in Gothic revival style where the reliquary of the Holy Blood has been kept since time immemorial. Each year on Ascension Day the reliquary is carried along in the Procession of the Holy Blood, a much-loved event that has been warming the heart of the entire population as early as 1291. Facing the basilica is the gleaming renaissance façade of the erstwhile Civil Registry (1534-1537), adjacent to the Bruggemuseum-Liberty of Bruges ³². Its showpiece is a splendid oak mantelpiece with an alabaster frieze (1529). The old mansion of the Liberty of Bruges (1722-1727) cuts right across the square. It is from here that the country around Bruges was administered. After 1795 a court of justice was installed. It has been the city's administrative centre since 1988. Once upon a time Saint Donatus' Cathedral graced the spot directly in front of the City Hall. The church was destroyed in 1799. Today it is Toyo Ito's furore-making futurist pavilion that grabs the attention. Adjacent to it is the deanery (1655-1666) of the cathedral.

Fishy Stories

Proceed to Blinde Ezelstraat, the little street to the left of the City Hall. Don't forget to look back to the lovely arch between City Hall and Old Civil Registry. Do you see Solomon? Left of him is the statue of Prosperity, to the right the statue of Peace. According to legend, Blinde Ezelstraat (Blind Donkey Street) owes its name to... a blind donkey. The house in the left-hand corner hugging the Canal used to house a

mill driven by a donkey. In order to preserve the poor animal from the depressing thought that the only thing it had to do was turn endless rounds, the donkey was put on a blindfold. A new street name was born. Look left on the bridge: Meebrug is said to be the oldest bridge of Bruges.



The Vismarkt opens up immediately past the bridge ³⁵.

At first fish was sold on one of Markt's corners, but as the townspeople complained about the stench, the fishmongers were forced to move and sell their wares here. In the covered arcade (1821), especially erected for the purpose of selling fish, fresh seafood was sold, a delicacy that only the rich could afford. Today you can still buy your fresh saltwater fish here every morning from Tuesday to Saturday.

Retrace your steps and turn left in front of the bridge towards Huidevettersplein. Whereas the Vismarkt served the rich, Huidevettersplein (Tanners Square) served the poor. No seafood on the menu here, but affordable freshwater fish. The post in the middle of the square used to have a twin brother: in between the two posts hung the scales that the fish were weighed on. The large, striking building dominating the square used to be the guildhall of the tanners. Here they turned cow hides into leather. As this was a rather smelly job, it is no coincidence that the tanners' guildhall adjoined the fish markets. Look out for the statuette adorning the corner of the hall.



ALMSHOUSES, THE QUICKEST WAY TO HEAVEN

These 14th-century dwellings were charitable institutions, sometimes set up by the guilds to lodge their elderly members, sometimes set up by widows or well-to-do burghers who wanted to insure their place in heaven. For that purpose, each set of almshouses had its own chapel where the occupants of the almshouses would be expected to send their prayers of thanks up to heaven. Practically all of the almshouses have been carefully restored and modernized and offer cosy living to today's elderly, whilst their small yet picturesque gardens and whitewashed façades offer welcoming peace and quiet to the present-day visitor. Feel free to enter these premises, but don't forget to respect their perfect tranquillity.

from the 18th and 19th centuries and postwar modern art. All in all, the museum shows a complete overview of Belgian and southern Dutch (Flemish) painting from the 15th to the 20th century. The museum entrance is reached through a few pictur-

It's no surprise that the little fellow raises his nose.

Continue to Rozenhoedkaai. Keep right. Rozenhoedkaai is the most photographed spot of Bruges! So, take out your camera! This used to be the salt port. In the Middle Ages salt was as expensive as gold: it served to preserve food and to season dishes. A word like *salaris*, *salaire*, salary still harks back to medieval times. The word derives from *sal*, which is Latin for salt. Roman soldiers' wages were paid in salt!

From Groeninge to Bonifaciusbrug

Continue along Dijver. Many centuries ago all manner of druids gathered on this holy spot to give praise to their gods and spirits. Along this atmospheric stretch of water, you will first find the College of Europe (numbers 9 to 11), **03** an international postgraduate institution that focuses on Europe, and next the Groeninge Museum (number 12) **20**, Bruges' most renowned museum. On display are world-famous masterpieces by Jan van Eyck, Hans Memling, Hugo van der Goes, Gerard David and many other Flemish Primitives. The museum also has a valuable collection of Flemish expressionists, neoclassical top notch paintings



20

esque courtyard gardens. Would you like to find out more about the Flemish Primitives? Then leaf through to the interview on page 52 with Till-Holger Borchert, the Groeninge Museum's chief curator.

Keep straight ahead. This is Gruuthusestraat. On the right-hand side is the Gruuthuse Museum.

Would you like to know more about the Bruggemuseum-Gruuthuse **21**? Then leaf through to Walk II on page 24!

Continue to Guido Gezelleplein, then bear left in front of the Welcome Church of Our Lady **14** and follow the narrow footpath to picturesque Bonifaciusbrug.

The crosses that you see all over the place don't belong to graves at all! They are crosses taken down from church steeples during the First World War so as to disorient the enemy pilots. The crosses have never been put up again. Close to Bonifaciusbrug is Bruges' smallest Gothic window. Look up! It was through this window that the lords and ladies of Gruuthuse were able to peer down onto their private jetty. Across the bridge is the charming city garden of Arentshuis **02**, an elegant 18th-century abode. The top floor houses work by the versatile British artist Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956). The ground floor is reserved for temporary exhibitions. Rik Poot's remarkable sculpture group in the garden represents the Apocalypse: famine, death, revolution and the plague. A theme that Hans Memling found enticing, too. Go through the garden gate to reach the Groeninge Museum **20**, where more work by Memling is displayed.



01



12

On to the Beguinage!

Leave the garden through the narrow garden gate and keep to the right. Turn right again at the intersection with Nieuwe Gentweg. Notice the Saint Joseph Almshouses (17th century) and the De Meulenaere Almshouses (1613). Continue down the street. On the corner of Oude Gentweg and Katelijnestraat is the Diamond Museum **18**, Bruges' most glittering museum and the place to be for all lovers of bling. It goes without saying that an inspiring diamond museum simply couldn't be absent in the most romantic city of the western hemisphere!

Turn left into Katelijnestraat, then immediately right into Wijngaardstraat. Cross Wijngaardplein – a stopping place for coachmen – and Minnewater bridge to enter the Beguinage.

The Minnewater used to be the landing stage of the barges or track boats that provided a regular connection between Bruges and Ghent. Today it is one of Bruges' most romantic beauty spots. Equally atmospheric, yet of a totally different nature, is the Beguinage. Although the 'Princely Beguinage Ten Wijngaarde' **01**, founded in 1245, is no longer occupied by beguines, but by nuns of the Order of Saint Benedict, you can still form an excellent picture of how daily life looked like in the past. The imposing courtyard garden, the whitewashed housefronts and blessed peace create an atmosphere all of its own. The entrance gate closes without fail each day at 6.30 p.m. You have been warned!

Walk around the Beguinage and leave through the main gate. Turn left after the bridge and left again to reach Walplein.

De Halve Maan **12**, a brewery established as early as 1546, is at number 26. This is Bruges' last surviving city brewery. Their speciality is 'Brugse Zot' (Bruges Fool), a spirited top-fermented beer made from malt, hops and special yeast. The name of the beer refers to the nickname of the Bruges townspeople, a name allegedly conferred upon them by Maximilian of Austria. In order to welcome the duke, the citizens paraded past him in a lavish procession of brightly-coloured merrymakers and fools. When a short time later they asked their ruler to finance a new 'zothuis' or madhouse, his answer was as short as it was forceful: 'The only people I have seen here are fools. Bruges is one big madhouse. Close the gates!'

A Splendid Finish at Old Saint John's Hospital

Turn left into Zonnekemeers. Once across the water turn right through the large gate into Old Saint John's Hospital.

The former Hospital of Saint John (13th-14th century) **25** has a proud eight centuries-long history. The oldest documents even date back to the 12th century! Here nuns and monks took good care of pilgrims, travellers and the sick. And people sometimes chose to die here. Hans Memling used to be one of them. According to a much later legend, he rewarded his benefactors with no fewer than six masterpieces. Turn the corner, enter the building and weave your way through the medieval wards, the incorporated church, the Diksmuide attic and the old dormitory. Don't forget to pay a visit to the adjoining 17th-century pharmacy. The herb garden grows all the ingredients for *gruut*: lady's mantle, bog myrtle and bay laurel. On the picturesque square that leads to this garden is 'The Arteries of the Convent', a work by the contemporary Italian artist Giuseppe Penone. Or how history feeds the present. The World Heritage City of Bruges couldn't possibly find a better representation of her intentions.

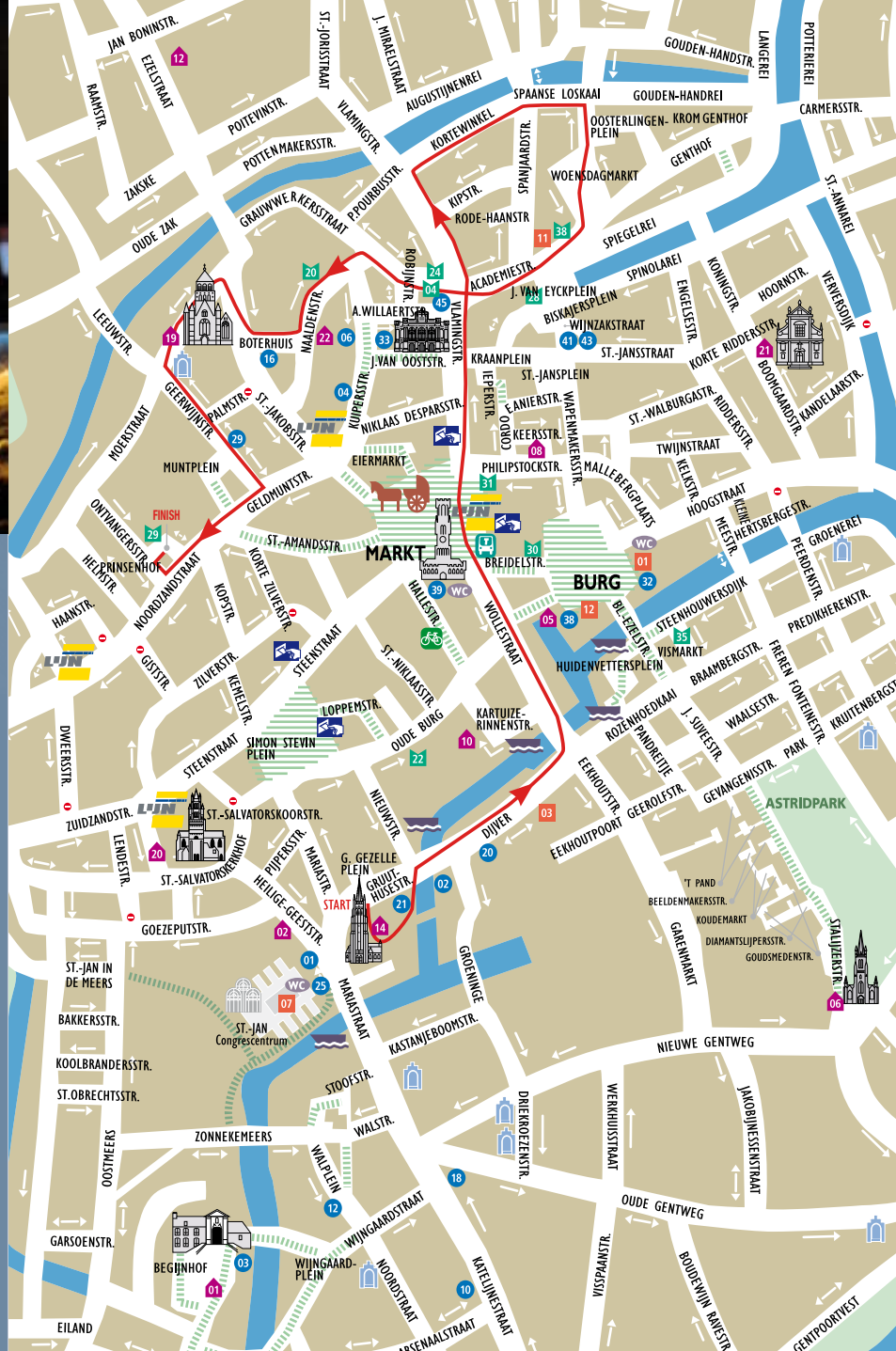




- » **START** Guido Gezelleplein, Welcome Church of Our Lady
- » **DISTANCE** 2,5 km
- » **FINISH** Prinsenhof

Bruges: B of Burgundian

When during Bruges' Golden Age Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, married Margaret of Male, the daughter of the last Count of Flanders, the county of Flanders suddenly found itself belonging to Burgundy. As the Burgundian court liked to stay in Bruges, the port city became a magnet for noblemen, merchants and artists. They naturally all wanted to get their share of the city's wealth. Today the Burgundian influence is still strongly felt throughout Bruges. Let's discover a northern city with a southern character.





14



21



39

From Guido Gezelleplein to Markt

This square is named after the Flemish priest and poet Guido Gezelle (1830-1899). Take a seat on one of the square's benches and enjoy Gezelle's lovely statue and the side-view of the Welcome Church of Our Lady **14**. Its one hundred and twenty-two metres high brick tower is sure proof of the craftsmanship of Bruges' artisans. Take a look inside and admire the rich art collection that includes Michelangelo's world-famous *Madonna and Child* and the 15th- and 16th- century mausoleums of Mary of Burgundy and Charles the Bold. On your left is the striking residence of the lords of Gruuthuse, now the Bruggemuseum-Gruuthuse **21**. The tower and well were status symbols, and evidence of the Gruuthuse family's great wealth. They made their fortune from their exclusive rights on *gruut*, a herb mixture that, ages before hops, was used to flavour beer. Lodewijk van Gruuthuse not only commanded the army of Charles the Bold, he was also the personal bodyguard to Mary of Burgundy. A cultured man, he owned the Gruuthuse manuscript, a famous medieval codex containing amongst its many texts no fewer than 147 songs. The family's motto was *Plus est en vous* (There is more in you than you think). It's proudly displayed above the door of their residence.

Continue along the narrow footpath to the left of the church.

Look up immediately beyond the bend. Do you see the chapel that seems to hold the Bruggemuseum-Gruuthuse and the Welcome Church of Our Lady in a close embrace? As the lords of Gruuthuse were far too grand to mingle with the populace, they had their own private chapel high above the street, where they could follow Mass. This intimate place of worship can still be visited.

Retrace your steps, cross attractive Gruuthuseplein and turn right into Dijver. Number 12 is the Groeninge Museum **20**, Bruges' most famous museum. An interview with chief curator Till-Holger Borchert is on page 52. Further along Dijver is one of the locations of the College of Europe, numbers 9-11 **03**, an international postgraduate institution that focuses on Europe.

Carry on down Dijver and turn left into Wollestraat.

Perez de Malvenda is an impressive mansion on the corner of Wollestraat. This 15th-century town house, now a food shop, has been restored from attic to cellar. Just before Markt are the Cloth Hall **39**, the Belfry's warehouses and sales outlets. Street side were countless stalls where the townspeople bought herbs for their medicinal powders and potions. Indeed, in Burgundian times Bruges used to import herbs from all over Europe.

Markt, Bruges' beating heart

Wollestraat leads to Markt.

Markt is dominated by its Belfry **39**, for centuries the city's foremost edifice and the perfect look-out in case of war, fire or any other calamity. You can still climb to the top! En route you pass the former medieval treasure-chamber and the forty-seven silver-toned bells of the carillon, altogether twenty-seven tons of bronze melodiousness. Your climb up the Belfry's 366 steps will be rewarded with an unforgettable panoramic view. At the foot of the Belfry are the world's most famous chippies (*frietkoten*)! The statue of Jan Breydel and Pieter de Coninck graces the middle of the square. These two popular Bruges heroes resisted French oppression and consequently played an important part

SWANS ON THE CANALS

After the death of Mary of Burgundy Bruges went through some troubled times. The townspeople, enraged by new taxes Maximilian of Austria, Mary's successor, had imposed upon them, even rose in revolt against their new ruler. As Maximilian was locked up in House Craenenburg on the market square, he helplessly witnessed the torture and eventual beheading of his bailiff and trusted councillor Pieter Lanchals. According to legend, once the duke had regained power, the citizens of Bruges were ordered to keep swans or *long necks* (langhalzen) on the canals for all eternity.



during the Battle of the Spurs in 1302. Their statue neatly looks out onto the Gothic revival style Provinciaal Hof (Markt 3) **31**. Until the 18th century this used to be the extremely busy Waterhalle, a covered warehouse where goods were loaded and unloaded along the canals

that ran alongside the square. Today the canals are still there, albeit underground. Would you like a break? Then treat yourself to a coach ride and explore the city by horse and carriage for half an hour. Or maybe you prefer a fifty-minutes city tour by minibus? You can continue your walk after your trip.

From Markt to Jan van Eyckplein

Ignore Markt on your left and continue straight ahead to Vlamingstraat.

In the 15th century this used to be the harbour area's shopping street. A fair number of banks had a branch here, and wine taverns were two a penny. Each of these had a deep cellar where French and Rhenish wines could easily be stacked. In the medieval vaulted cellars of Taverne Curiosa (Vlamingstraat 20), the alcoholic atmosphere of those bygone days can still be inhaled.

Halfway through Vlamingstraat is the elegant Stadsschouwburg **33** on your left. This royal theatre (1869) is one of Europe's best-preserved city theatres. Behind the austere façade in Gothic revival style lies a palatial auditorium and a regal foyer. Papageno, the bird seller from Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*, guards the entrance. His score lies scattered nonchalantly on the square opposite.

Continue along Vlamingstraat and turn right into Kortewinkel just before the canal.

Somewhat hidden from gazing eyes, Kortewinkel boasts a unique 16th-century wooden housefront. It is one of only two left in the city (you will come across the other one further along this walk). Just a few metres on another delicious discovery at number 10. The Jesuit College has a magnificent secretive courtyard garden. Is its door open? Then walk in and enjoy its heavenly peace.



Kortewinkel turns into Spaanse Loskaai, the home port of the Spanish merchants in Burgundian times.

The picturesque bridge on your left is Augustijnenbrug, one of Bruges' oldest specimens, what with its seven hundred summers. The stone seats were originally intended to display the wares of the diligent sellers. The bridge affords an excellent view of the house in the right-hand corner, which connects Spanjaardstraat with Kortewinkel. This used to be not only a monastery but also a haunted house, so say the locals. When an amorous monk was rejected by a nun, the man murdered her and then committed suicide. Ever since they have been haunting that ramshackle building...

Continue along Spaanse Loskaai, go down the first street on your right and proceed to Oosterlingenplein.

During Bruges' Golden Age this was the fixed abode of the so-called *Oosterlingen* or German merchants. Their imposing warehouse took up the entire left side of the square. Today the only remnant is the building to the right of Hotel Bryghia. Their warehouse must have been truly grand!

Beyond Oosterlingenplein is Woensdagmarkt. Hans Memling's statue takes centre stage here. Turn right into Genthof.

Here the second of two authentic medieval wooden housefronts attracts the attention. Notice that each floor juts out a little more than the next one. This building technique, which helped to avoid water damage, was consequently used in various architectural styles.



THE CORRECT TIME

A gleaming terrestrial globe proudly sits on top of Boechoute, the house on the corner. This building from 1477 with its original lean-to-roof is now the Meridian 3 tearoom. When the Brussels to Bruges railway line was inaugurated, not all clocks in Belgium were found to keep the same time. The shortcoming was cured by the globe. At noon exactly the sun coincided with its shadow through a hole in the globe. The line that was thus drawn can still be traced today thanks to a string of copper nails.

Burgundian Manhattan

Proceed to Jan van Eyckplein.

This was Burgundian Bruges' Manhattan, the place to be! Here ships docked, cargoes were loaded and unloaded, tolls were levied. In this unremitting hustle and bustle a cacophony of languages was heard above the din, the one sounding even louder than the other. What a soundtrack! Each business transaction required a few local sounds too, of course, as there always had to be a Bruges broker present who would naturally pocket his cut.

On the corner 16th-century Huis De Roode Steen has been sparkling in all its glory since its restoration in 1877. At numbers 1-2 is the Old Tollhouse (1477) **38**, where all tollage was settled. To the left of this monumental building is Pijnderhuisje, Bruges' narrowest dwelling. The house belonged to a *pijnder* or docker, a name that you can easily derive from its telling façade, that is if you keep your eyes peeled. The hunched *pijnders* were employed to load and unload sacks and casks.

Continue along Academiestraat.

Right on the corner with Jan van

Eyckplein is another remarkable construction, distinguished by its striking tower. This is Poortersloge **28**, a kind of 15th-century private club where prominent burgers of Bruges could mix socially with foreign merchants. Hidden in a niche of this Burgh-

THE LITTLE BEAR OF BRUGES

When Baldwin with the Iron Arm, the first Count of Flanders, visited Bruges for the first time, the first creature he saw was a big brown bear. According to legend, all this happened in the 9th century. After a fierce fight the count succeeded in killing the animal. In homage to the courageous beast he proclaimed the bear to be the city's very own symbol. Today the bear in the niche of the Burghers Lodge is festively rigged out during special celebrations.



ers Lodge is the little Bruges Bear, one of the city's most important symbols.

Proceed to Grauwwerkersstraat. The little square connecting Academiestraat with Grauwwerkersstraat has been known as 'Beursplein' since time immemorial. Here merchants were engaged in high-quality trade. The warehouses of Genoa (later renamed Saaihalle – Dull Hall – and today Frietmuseum) **04**, Florence (now De Florentijnen restaurant) and Venice (now De Slegte bookshop) once stood here side by side like brothers. In front of Huis ter Beurze (1276), the central inn run by the Van der Beurze family **24**, merchants from all over Europe used to gather to arrange business appointments and conduct exchange transactions. The Dutch word for stock exchange became 'beurs', derived from the name of the house. Many other languages would take over this term and name their stock exchange after the house of the Van der Beurze family of Bruges, such as French (*bourse*) or Italian (*borsa*).

Turn into Grauwwerkersstraat and stop immediately in your tracks.

The side wall of Huis ter Beurze, and more precisely the part between the two sets of ground-floor windows, bears the signatures of the stonemasons. This way everybody knew which mason cut which stones and which mason remained to be paid. The house next-door to Huis ter Beurze, called the Little Beurze, still sits on its original street level.



19

29

Turn left into Naaldenstraat.

On your right Hof Bladelin **20** with its attractive tower looms up ahead. In the 15th century treasurer of the Order of the Golden Fleece Pieter Bladelin, portrayed above the gate whilst praying to the Virgin Mary, leased his house to the Florentine banking family of De Medici, who set up one of their branches here. Today the edifice belongs to the Sisters of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows. We highly recommend you to ring at the door between 10.00 a.m. and noon and between 2.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. The sisters will allow you to have a peek inside, so that you can admire the magnificent courtyard garden and the city's first renaissance façade, embellished with two stone medallions representing Lorenzo de Medici and his wife Clarissa Orsini.

Somewhat further along, next to another ornamental tower, turn right into Boterhuis, a winding cobbled alley that catapults you back straight into the Middle Ages. Keep right, pass Saint James's Church and turn left into Moerstraat.

The Dukes of Burgundy and the large majority of foreign merchants patronized Saint James's Church **19**. Their extravagant gifts have left their glittering mark on the interior.

Prinsenhof, home base of the Dukes of Burgundy

Turn left into Geerwijnstraat and carry on to Muntplein.

Muntplein (Coin Square) belongs to nearby Prinsenhof **29**. As you might have guessed, this was where Bruges' mint was situated. Flandria Nostra (Our Flanders), which represents a noblewoman on horseback, was designed by the Belgian sculptor Jules Lagae.

PRINSENHOF GOSSIP

- > As Philip the Fair hadn't yet laid eyes on his future wife, he sent Jan van Eyck to Portugal to paint her portrait. This way the duke wanted to make certain he had made the right choice. The duke's ploy worked, because history teaches us that the couple had a happy marriage.
- > Although the popular Mary of Burgundy incurred only a minor fracture due to her fall off her horse, the accident would eventually lead to her death at Prinsenhof. Back in those times there was no cure for inflammation.
- > During the recent hotel renovation no fewer than 568 silver coins, minted between 1755 and 1787, were dug up. After some careful counting and calculations it is assumed that the energetic English nuns entrusted the coins to the soil so as to prevent the advancing French troops from stealing their hard-earned capital.

At the end of Geerwijnstraat turn right into Geldmuntstraat. The walk's finishing point is Prinsenhof

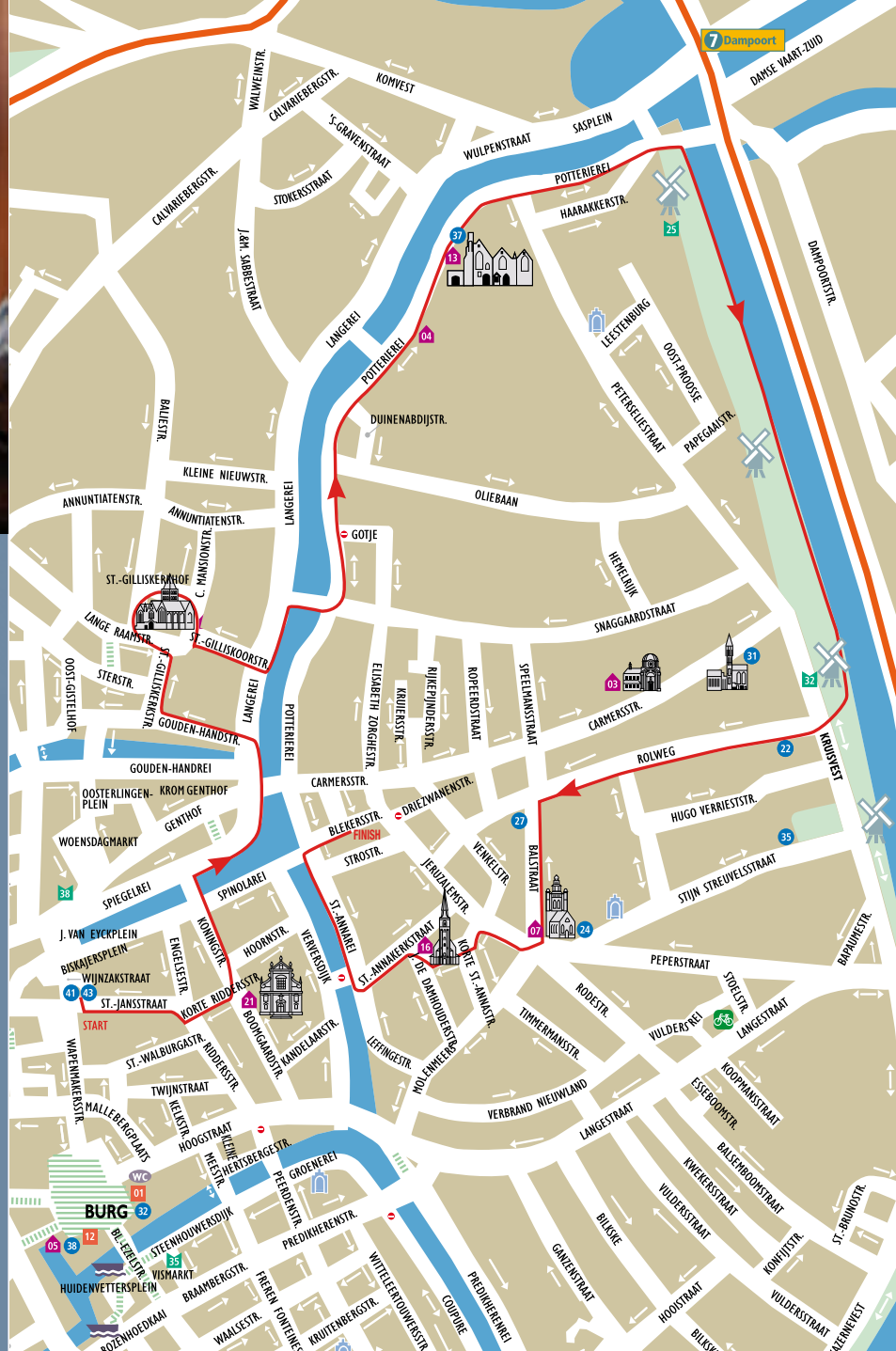
We end the walk on a highlight. Prinsenhof used to be the palace of the counts and dukes. This impressive mansion, originally seven times the size of what you see today, was erected in the 15th century by Philip the Fair to celebrate his (third) marriage to Isabel of Portugal. When Philip the Bold remarried Margaret of York, a swimming pool and a zoological garden were added to the ducal residence. It is no surprise that Prinsenhof not only became the favourite pied-à-terre of the Dukes of Burgundy, but also the nerve centre of their political, economic and cultural ambitions. Both Philip the Fair (d.1467) and Mary of Burgundy (d.1482) breathed their last here. After the death of the popular Mary of Burgundy the palace's fortunes declined, until it eventually ended up in private hands. In the 17th century English nuns converted it into a boarding school for girls of well-to-do parents. After the nuns had gone, the complex changed ownership many times. Today Prinsenhof belongs to the Kempinski hotel chain, which turned it into Bruges' first five-star hotel. Non-residents are allowed to have a look inside.



» **START** Choco-Story
 (Wijnzakstraat)
 » **DISTANCE** 4 km
 » **FINISH** Café Vlissinghe
 in Blekerstraat

Strolling through silent Bruges

Although the parishes of Saint Anne and Saint Giles are known as places of great tranquillity, the fact that they are off the beaten track does not mean that the visitor will be short of adventure. How about a row of nostalgic windmills? Or perhaps some unpretentious working-class neighbourhoods or a couple of exclusive gentlemen's clubs? Will you be able to absorb all these impressions serenely? Don't worry. After the tour we invite you to recover your breath in Bruges' oldest café!





21



From Choco-Story to Gouden-Handstraat

Choco-Story (Wijnzakstraat 2) **41** is the perfect starting point for the longest walk in this visitors guide. The museum of chocolate doesn't only dip you in the yummy history of chocolate and cocoa, it also offers extensive chocolate tasting. If you wish, you can also buy your supplies here. No doubt the chocolate will help you to keep up a brisk pace! Master confectioner Dominique Persoone reveals even more chocolate mysteries on page 68. Fancy some more attractions at the same address? Lumina Domestica **43** contains the world's largest collection of lamps and lights. The museum also houses 6.000 antiques.

Turn left into Sint-Jansstraat, carry on to Korte Ridderstraat and turn left to Sint-Maartensplein.

Saint Walburgha's Church **21** rises up in all its magnificence right in front of you. This baroque edifice (1619-1642) boasts a remarkable marble communion rail and high altar. In summer glorious classical music recitals are offered free to church visitors. At number 4 is the erstwhile Scottish warehouse.

Continue down Koningstraat to the bridge.

This bridge, which connects poetic Spinolarei with Spiegelrei, affords a lovely view of Oud Huis Amsterdam on your left. Today this historic town house is an elegant hotel. This area used to be mainly populated by the English and Scots. The English merchants even had their own steegere or stair where their goods were unloaded. The stair is still there, and the street connecting it is appropriately called Engelse



17



Straat. The dignified white school building across the bridge once was a college of English Jesuits.

Saint Giles's, home base of workmen and artists

Cross the bridge, turn right along Spiegelrei and turn into Gouden-Handstraat, the fourth street on your left.

In the 15th century Gouden-Handstraat and the parish of Saint Giles were known as the artists' quarter. Hans Memling may have lived a few straats further down in Sint-Jorisstraat, the fact of the matter is that Jan van Eyck had a studio in Gouden-Handstraat, and that his somewhat lesser known colleagues also used to congregate in this neighbourhood.

Turn right into Sint-Gilliskerkstraat.

This street bumps into Saint Giles's Church **17** in the heart of the tranquil quarter of Saint-Giles's. Initially a chapel, this house of God was upgraded to a parish church in 1258. In spite of its interior in Gothic revival style and its superb paintings, the church takes on the appearance of a simple, sturdy village church. Don't be misled. In and around the church countless famous painters were buried, such as Hans Memling (d.1494), in his time the best paid painter, Lanceloot Blondeel (d.1561) and Pieter Pourbus (d.1564). Their graves and the cemetery may have disappeared, but their artist's soul still hovers in the air.

BRUGES AND THE SEA

For centuries Potterierei ensured the city's wealth. This canal ran to Damme where it was connected to a large lock, called 'Speie', which in turn was connected to the Zwin, a deep sea channel and tidal inlet. While Damme developed into an outpost, Bruges grew into Northwestern Europe's greatest business centre of the Middle Ages. The arts flourished, culture thrived, prosperity seemed to be for all eternity. The tide turned when Mary of Burgundy suddenly passed away. The relations between Bruges and the Burgundians turned sour and the Burgundian court left the city. The foreign merchants and their wealth followed in its wake. The Zwin silted up and Bruges lost her privileged commercial position. The city thus fell into a deep winter sleep.





Walk around the church and turn into Sint-Gilliskoorstraat.

Although the workmen's dwellings in these streets are rather small, they nevertheless display a bricked up window. As it happened, a tax on windows was levied in 1800. As a consequence, a large number of windows were walled up.



From Potterierei to the Ramparts

Turn right into Langerei at the end of the street. Cross lovely Snaggaardbrug, the first bridge you get to, and turn left into Potterierei. You will have to follow the canal for some time.

After a fair distance along Potterierei is Bruges' Great Seminary at number 72  on your right. A unique place with a lush orchard and meadows with cows at pasture. Between 1628 and 1642 a new Cistercian abbey was erected here, which later on would achieve great fame for the wealth and erudition of its occupants. During the French Revolution the abbey was brought under public ownership, and the abbot and monks were chased away. The 17th-century abbey buildings were first used as a military hospital and then as a military depot and a grammar school before they were eventually taken over by the Great Seminary in 1833. Up to the present day the Seminary has been training catholic priests here. Just a few yards further down at number 79 is the Hospitaalmuseum-Our Lady of the Pottery . Its history goes back

to the 13th century. Diligent nuns used to treat pilgrims, travellers and the sick here. The Gothic church with its baroque interior and its rich collection of works of art, accumulated by the hospital throughout the centuries, is open to the public. It's a well-hidden gem that's certainly worth a visit!

Carry on to the lock and turn right.

This idyllic spot is where the Damse Vaart heads out across the other side of the ring road towards the equally romantic town of Damme. It's hard to believe that this area around the canal was once a scene of great controversy. Up until the Eighty Years' War Bruges was connected to Sluis by way of Damme. Ambitious Napoleon Bonaparte had the link with the tidal inlet of the Zwin, the natural predecessor of the Damse Vaart, dredged by Spanish prisoners of war so as to create a watercourse that would run all the way to Antwerp. His plan then was to develop the port city of Antwerp into a naval base, which would enable him to avoid the English sea blockade. Napoleon's project left Damme cut in twain, even if the wild plans of the Little General were never fully realized. When Belgium became independent in 1830, the new authorities stopped the project, which in the end would go no further than Hoeke, one of Damme's boroughs.



Today the low-traffic bicycle path skirting the canal is a most attractive route linking Bruges with Damme. The trip is highly recommended, as it traverses *le plat pays*, that flat country made famous by Jacques Brel in the moving song of that name. Imagine! In the middle of a unique polder landscape this truly poetic



THE ARCHERS' GUILD: 165 MEN AND 1 QUEEN!

Although this used to be one of the poorer areas of the city for a very long time, the district includes two exclusive clubs. A greater contradiction cannot be found! Are you sitting comfortably out of harm's way on the slope of Saint John's House Mill? Then look down on your left. There is Saint George's Guild, a fellowship of crossbow men. Down on your right is Saint Sebastian's Guild with its remarkably elegant tower. This guild goes back more than six centuries, which makes it unique in the world. The society numbers 165 male members exactly and one notable female member: the Queen of England. Ever since the exiled English king Charles II took up residence in Bruges in the 17th century, the city and the British royal family have always been closely associated. Whenever the British royal family is on a state visit to Belgium, so the rumour goes, they first of all pop in at the Archers' Guild.

canal strip, bordered by lofty poplars bended down by eternal westerly winds. On page 76 travel journalist Sophie Allegaert, born and bred in Bruges, takes you along some more beauty spots around her native city.

Turn right and carry on along the verdant Vesten (ramparts), which surround the city like a ring of green.

In the 16th century more than thirty windmills were turning their sails here. Today only four are left. In the 18th century the millers stood by helplessly when bread consumption took a dive and people started to consume more potatoes. Eventually steam machines would take over the millers' tasks. The Bruggemuseum-Mills



22



Koelweij Mill ²⁵ and Saint John's House Mill ³² are open to visitors. The miller will happily explain the workings of his mill, and he will gladly give a milling demonstration, too. Make sure you climb the slope upon which Saint John's Mill (the third mill) is standing! The hill affords a fantastic panoramic view of the city. This is the perfect spot to brush up on your amassed knowledge of Bruges. And there's more! Down below on your right is Verloren Hoek (Lost Corner), now an authentic working-class district, but back in the 19th century an impoverished neighbourhood with such a bad reputation that even the police didn't dare enter its streets.

Silent Bruges

Descend down the slope and turn right into Rolweg.

Right on the corner is the Bruggemuseum-Gezelle ²², the birthplace of Guido Gezelle (1830-1899), one of Flanders' most venerable poets. On display are handwritten letters, writing material and a deliciously peaceful garden with an age-old Corsican pine. Gezelle's parents worked here as gardener and caretaker, in exchange for which they and their family received free board and lodgings. Little Guido grew up in these idyllic surroundings. He would eventually return to Bruges many years later and after many a peregrination. Upon his return he became curate of Saint Walburgha's Church. He also took over the running of the English Monastery (Carmersstraat 83-85), where he would die. These were his last words, reportedly: 'I have so loved hearing the birds singing.' Here, in this most verdant part of Bruges, we still know precisely what the priest and poet meant.



07

Turn into Balstraat, the second street on the left.

This picturesque working-man's alley houses the Bruggemuseum-Folklore ²⁷. The 17th-century row of single-room dwellings, restored and converted into authentic artisans' interiors such as a milliner's, a confectioner's and a small classroom, will take you back to bygone days. The tower of the 15th-century Jerusalem Chapel ⁰⁷ can easily be spotted from these premises. This exquisite private chapel was commissioned by the Adornes, a prominent Bruges merchant family of Genovese origin. In 1470 Anselm Adornes collected one of his sons (the father had no fewer than sixteen children) in Padova before setting off on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Upon his return to Bruges Anselm decided to build an exact copy of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The result can be said to be remarkable, indeed! Next door to the chapel is the Lace Centre ²⁴. Here the young as well as the more experienced can follow workshops as well as quick courses. The lace centre has its own museum. Until fifty years ago the row of restored almshouses used to be inhabited by lace-makers. If you enter the museum during a lace-making demonstration, then time will seem to have stood still all those years.



16

At the crossroads turn right into Jeruzalemstraat, then left onto Sint-Annaplein. The tiny square is dominated by the apparently simple church of Saint Anne ¹⁶. Her exterior may be austere, her interior on the other hand is one of Bruges' most splendid baroque examples. As this neighbourhood gradually went upmarket, so did the church, naturally!

With the church behind you turn left into Sint-Annakerkstraat and then right into Sint-Annarei.

At the corner of the confluence of the two waterways one of Bruges' most handsome town houses is proudly showing off its rococo credentials. Sit yourself down on a shady bench and enjoy this exceptional prospect.

Retrace your steps for just a few yards and turn right into Blekersstraat next to the bridge.

Café Vlissinghe at number 2 is undoubtedly Bruges' oldest café. This has been a tavern since 1515. It is no surprise then that you will find oodles of ambiance here. It is therefore the perfect place to settle down and let the wonderful memories of your walk slowly sink in. A local beer will be your ideal companion. Cheers!



The Magic of Bruges

Bruges World Heritage City

Guido Elias has been a travel journalist for twenty years. He writes for Het Laatste Nieuws, Belgium's daily newspaper with the widest circulation, as well as for the travel magazine Pasar. He is the author of several travel guides.

The whole inner city of Bruges is a Unesco World Heritage site, boasting beautifully preserved buildings each with their own glorious past, countless intimate and romantic corners, wonderful still lives, magnificent museums and world-famous artists such as Van Eyck, Memling, David and even Michelangelo. Alderman for Tourism Jean-Marie Bogaert correctly argues: 'As soon as our guests arrive in Bruges, reality exceeds their wildest expectations.'



> Identikit

Name: Jean-Marie Bogaert
Date of Birth: 6 September 1949
Born and bred in Bruges where he lives and works as Alderman for Tourism and for Zeebrugge-Bad

Picturesque, winding streets and alleys, romantic water features, proud palaces, museums displaying valuable collections, whitewashed cottages, majestic squares and innumerable churches: all these gems are the silent witnesses of an awesome past. Bruges is a true treasure-chamber that visitors will want to unlock. No one disputes the fact that Bruges has rightly earned her place on the World Heritage list. Indeed, the entire historic city centre has been a World Heritage site since 2000. It is an honour that very

Bruges amply met all conditions. The glorious collection of Flemish Primitives is the city's unique cultural trump card. Bruges also takes the lead in cherishing, renovating and preserving her impressive historic and architectural heritage. 'The city's financial penury in the 18th and 19th century proved to be a blessing in disguise. As excessive renovation therefore failed to materialize, our unique city street plan has remained intact throughout the centuries. Few cities find themselves in that situation.'

'You have to savour Bruges with all your senses.'

few cities has been conferred on. Usually Unesco chooses one monument to be on its prestigious list. That a complete cityscape should be awarded this status is quite exceptional. 'The whole city came through Unesco's rigorous test with flying colours', stresses Alderman for Tourism Jean-Marie Bogaert. Indeed,

That doesn't mean that Bruges is sniffy about modern architecture. What it does mean, however, is that modern constructions have to blend in perfectly with the older buildings and that materials and colours have to harmonize with their surroundings. The Concertgebouw (Concert Hall) is an excellent example:

A CITY FOR ALL SEASONS

Although Bruges is beautiful in any season, winter is a particularly attractive time. There are Christmas markets and cultural events aplenty, and great fun can be had on the skating rink in the very heart of the city and at the renowned Ice Sculpture Festival. And when the city is covered in snow, a walk along the Minnewater, the narrow alleys and the canals is an absolute must. Can you think of anything more idyllic and romantic?



its terracotta tiles fit in perfectly with the soft red hues of Bruges' roofs. It goes without saying that Bruges is extremely proud of her Unesco World Heritage status. In future the city will therefore make substantial investments so as to preserve her world heritage standing. 'We owe this to the three or four million people that visit us each year', says the alderman.

A City in Permanent Renovation

In 2002 Bruges was designated Cultural Capital of Europe. This induced the city to put in a great effort to restore all her monuments in an urgent rush. The fact of the matter was that Bruges wanted to show her fairest face to her visitors as

quickly as possible. What would normally take twenty to thirty years, now only took three. Obviously, much work still needs to be done. After all, restoration costs a lot of money. Yet, the city readily spends large amounts of cash in order to allow her public patrimony to shine in all its glory. Bruges also does her bit to restore private property. Since 1977 the city has placed a yearly subsidy of one million euro at the disposal of her citizens. The money is first and foremost meant to put in functional improvements to buildings and to renew roof constructions. A special financial subsidy can be obtained if statuettes or other works of art adorning a façade or building are to be renovated or repaired. All these efforts see to it that Bruges in her entirety looks so magnificent.

Water Deposited Wealth

Water has always played a crucial part in Bruges. It is therefore no surprise that the city is often compared to Venice. Romantic beauty spots such as the Minnewater and the canals are breathtakingly beautiful. These countless canals that connect the city with the nearby sea used to be of extremely great commercial importance during the Middle Ages. Along the tangle of waterways valuable goods such as carpets, furs, oil and diamonds were imported from far and wide. And as Bruges had close ties with countless Hanseatic towns and gained in political prestige after the marriage of Margaret of Male, Countess of Flanders, with Philip the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, the city naturally became the largest transit port in Europe.

CANALSIDE BRUGES

No visit is complete without a boat trip on the famous canals of Bruges. Floating down the canals, you will discover the city from a completely different angle. Indeed, some beauty spots are only accessible by water. The boats sail from five different locations. Each trip lasts thirty minutes. The captain of the vessel will give you expert explanation of all places of interest.



The Largest Car Port

In spite of Bruges' economic decline after the Middle Ages, water is still playing a prominent part. As a matter of fact, history seems to repeat itself. 'The seaport of Zeebrugge guarantees more than 20.000 jobs. It's been the largest car port in Europe for a few years now. Our present prosperity is a direct result of the success of Zeebrugge', reminds Alderman Bogaert.

Flying the Flag of Hospitality

Apart from her world heritage, Bruges' greatest gift to her guests is undoubtedly her unique hospitality. The citizens of

'Hospitality is a typical characteristic of the Bruges identity.'

Bruges are masters at welcoming them; not a surprising feat if you keep in mind that throughout the centuries the townspeople have always kept close ties with people from all corners of the world.

Spontaneity cannot be taught, that's for sure. It is something that's been running through their veins for ages, and it is this naturalness that is precisely the most typical characteristic of the local identity. Bruges' hospitality already attracted a great number of artists during the Middle Ages. They quickly realized the best possible working conditions were at their disposal: wealthy patrons and a serene atmosphere. The rich merchants and prominent politicians also contributed greatly to the spread of their artistic labours across the continent. As a consequence, the Flemish Primitives, being the most gifted and inspired artists of their time, succeeded in spreading Bruges' fame far and wide. That's why these

painters are invaluable for the image of the city. 'It goes without saying that we – as citizens of Bruges – are very proud of our city', Alderman Bogaert laughs. 'Quite rightly, too, I believe.'

Best of Bruges

by alderman Jean-Marie Bogaert

MY FAVOURITE SPOT

'Although I love the Concert Hall for its wonderful classical concerts, my favourite place in Bruges is **Forum+ on the Concert Hall's seventh floor**. There you can savour great contemporary plastic art as well as a fantastic panoramic view. There you are, face to face with the city's three most famous towers: the Belfry, the Church of Our Lady and Saint Saviour's Cathedral. As the latter is barely a stone's throw away, you can easily distinguish the different building layers. It's architectural geology, no less!'



MY RESTAURANTS

'Bruges has so many restaurants where I happily lunch or dine. I particularly like **De Diligence** for their excellent and affordable lunch menu, which is always a bowl of soup with a chunk of bread, a main course and a mountain of chips. A visit to the City Theatre is always combined with dinner at **Den Huzaar**. The chef is phenomenal, and his rabbit recipes are delicious. I prefer **De Gulden Spoor** when I fancy mussels or a salad. I'm a regular customer there. If I want to dine out gastronomically then I head for **Patrick Devos** in Bruges or **De Falstaff** on Zeedijk at Zeebrugge.'



De Diligence

MY CAFÉS

'**Brugs Beertje** is a cut above the rest. I have been a happy customer there for twenty-five years now, and they can still surprise me. Their secret? 300 local ales and beers, served at just the right temperature and in the appropriate glass. The premises are fairly small, yet very cosy. When with friends, I enjoy an ordinary pint at **De Reisduif**. **Vlissinghe** is Bruges' oldest café. I have known it well since my schooldays! What sweet memories! The interior is a peach. **De Halve Maan** is my destination for a Bruges Zot, a delicious local beer. **De Garre** is a beguiling place, too.'

MY SHOPPING LIST

'Ever since my college days **Brugse Boekhandel** has been one of my favourite shops. The shop owners are dedicated professional people, and whenever Bruges plans an event, they're happy to support the initiative. Their shelves are crammed with interesting titles, including foreign language and tourist publications. **Optiek Hoet** is another fascinating shop. I have been a customer ever since I was prescribed glasses. They sell unique pieces, beautifully designed yet reasonably priced, and service is very friendly and personal. Another jewel is **Geert Pollentier's** picture frame shop.

He also stores wonderful engravings and prints. When I need an exquisite fountain pen I toddle down to **De Corte**. And **Jan Deldycke's** delicatessen makes my mouth water with his diverse selection and original flavours.'

3



Vlissinghe

4



Optiek Hoet

MY SECRET TIP

'**Hospitaalmuseum-Our Lady of the Pottery** is an enchanting spot looking back to a rich past where the care for one's fellow man took up a central position. The history of this magnificent hospital complex dates back to the 13th century. The baroque church itself boasts a valuable collection of works of art such as paintings, sculptures, stained-glass windows, tapestries and an exclusive collection of silverware.'

5



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Jean-Marie Bogaert's Addresses

Forum+ [Concertgebouw], 't Zand. Closed Monday. www.museabrugge.be
» **De Diligence**, Hoogstraat 5, tel. +32 (0)50 33 16 60. Closed Wednesday
» **Den Huzaar**, Vlamingstraat 36, tel. +32 (0)50 33 37 97. Closed Wednesday and Thursday. www.geocities.com/denhuzaar
» **De Gulden Spoor**, 't Zand 22, tel. +32 (0)50 34 30 82. Closed Tuesday
» **De Falstaff**, Zeedijk 9, Zeebrugge, tel. +32 (0)50 54 67 62. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday in winter
» **Patrick Devos**, Zilverstraat 41, tel. +32 (0)50 33 55 66. Closed Saturday lunch and Sunday. www.patrickdevos.be
» **Brugs Beertje**, Kemelstraat 5. Closed Wednesday. www.brugsbeertje.be
» **De Reisduif**, Langerei 30. Closed Wednesday and Thursday
» **Vlissinghe**, Blekerstraat 2. Closed Monday and Tuesday. www.cafevlissinghe.be
» **Brouwerij De Halve Maan**, Walplein 26. www.halvemaan.be
» **De Garre**, De Garre 1
» **Brugse Boekhandel**, Dijver 2. Closed Sunday. www.brugseboekhandel.be
» **Optiek Hoet**, Vlamingstraat 19. Closed Sunday. www.hoet.eu
» **Kunsthandel Pollentier-Marechal**, Sint-Salvatorskerkhof 8. Closed Monday
» **De Corte V.&I.**, Noordzandstraat 23. Closed Sunday
» **Deldycke Delicatessen**, Wollestraat 23. Closed Tuesday. www.deldycke.be
» **Hospitaalmuseum-Our Lady of the Pottery**, Potterierei 79. Closed Monday. www.museabrugge.be



Treasures of Charles the Bold The Flemish Primitives in Bruges

Laurens de Keyzer is a former editor of and a current columnist with De Standaard, one of Belgium's quality daily newspapers. He is the author of various journalistic and literary publications.

He was born in Hamburg, he lives in Brussels, and he thoroughly enjoys his work in Bruges as he finds himself surrounded by six centuries of fine arts, and especially the magnificent masterpieces of the Flemish Primitives. In 2002 Till-Holger Borchert was one of the curators of Bruges, Cultural Capital of Europe. Today he is chief curator of the Groeninge Museum and the Arentshuis. 'Every day I go and greet two masterpieces in this city.'



A Formidable Magnet

'Bruges is a uniquely beautiful city. It is also a wonderfully livable place, partly because of the clever and careful way in which the city has been able to mix her medieval character with a modern ambience. For sure, I have discovered for myself abundantly that Bruges is no isolated locality. Indeed, the Flemish Primitives were of the same conviction all those centuries ago. Bruges was a formidable magnet for artists. As early as the 13th century the concentration of wealthy citizens enabled Bruges to become the commercial heart of north-western Europe. In the 15th century the Burgundian authorities took successful structural measures that resulted in an increase of the population, an intervention that strengthened the city's development in no uncertain way. And last but not least, Bruges is of course a well-preserved city, as it suffered far less than other towns from the iconoclastic fury

> Identikit

Name: Till-Holger Borchert
Date of Birth: 4 January 1967
Chief curator of the Groeninge Museum.
He is also the author of innumerable publications on the Flemish Primitives.

in the 16th century. That spirit of respect and tolerance still pervades the city today. I must say it is a great joy to be here. The innumerable inhabitants and visitors will surely fully agree with me.'

A Woman From Around the Corner

'Nearly every day I go and greet two masterpieces: Jan van Eyck's *Madonna With Canon Van der Paele* at the Groeninge Museum and Hans Memling's diptych *Madonna and Maarten van Nieuwenhove* at the Hospitaalmuseum-Memling in Sint-





The tomb of Charles the Bold isn't the only attraction of the Welcome Church of Our Lady. Mary of Burgundy, Charles' daughter and only child, lies buried in its crypt. She was barely twenty-five years old when she died after falling from her horse when hawking. The face on her coffin was modelled after her death mask. The metal casket with the heart of her son Philip the Fair is exhibited in the choir aisle.



Jan. This diptych, by the way, is one of a very few whose two tablets have never been separated. I will be the last to admit that I find something new and exciting every time I admire these masterpieces. Yet, as my curiosity remains as great as my enjoyment, I find myself constantly looking up as much as I possibly can about these fascinating works of art. I sometimes wonder why people from all corners of the world have always found the Flemish Primitives so absorbing. The

the woman from around the corner, a woman that we all know and remember. In other words, the Flemish Primitives laid the foundation of an artistic concept that in its realism is perfectly recognizable and therefore understandable to a modern-day observer. The Flemish Primitives discovered the individual. Quite a feat. Those Flemish painters were also dab hands at solving the problems of materials, colour and space. They explored space in an incredibly skilful and sophis-

'Every day I go and greet two masterpieces.'

answer perhaps lies in the fact that for the very first time in art history we are confronted with recognizable people and familiar objects that correspond to today's reality. Even a Madonna seems to look like

ticated way, for example by placing a mirror somewhere in the room. In Memling's diptych, which I have just mentioned, a round mirror on the left-hand side behind the Madonna reflects

the interior she is sitting in. In it her own silhouette is painted just a whisker away from the silhouette of the patrician Maarten van Nieuwenhove, Memling's patron. Truly magnificent. Are these works of art still capable of moving me? Absolutely. But I admit I experience more of a purely emotional reaction with Rogier van der Weyden than with Jan van Eyck. It is first and foremost the intellectual and conceptual element of van Eyck's or Memling's work that I find most poignant. Whenever I see how van Eyck is able to come up with solutions for, say, the painting's composition, he takes my breath away. Yet, it is above all van der Weyden who excites the spectator. He excites me as well. Van der Weyden and van Eyck may be poles apart, but both masters give us so much pleasure that

they alone make a visit to Bruges' chamber of treasures more than worthwhile.'

Treasures of Charles the Bold

There is another reason why you should visit Bruges: from 27 March to 21 July 2009 the Groeninge Museum puts on an exhibition celebrating Charles the Bold. The museum will display top notch works from Burgundian court culture, on loan from major art collections in the world. The exhibition was seen in Bern in 2007 and will move to Vienna after Bruges. Till-Holger Borchert: 'This is an exhibition no one can afford to miss. For the first time in five hundred years the so-called 'Burgundian booty' – the enormous art collection Charles the Bold lost to the

MUSEUMSHOP

'Whoever enters the museum shop of the Groeninge Museum will leave with some wonderful memories, that I can assure you. Perhaps you will take home your favourite art treasures in that handsomely illustrated book or as a reproduction on a poster maybe, or depicted on a few picture postcards. And why don't you surprise yourself with an original souvenir? I have not only caught some of my delighted fellow curators buying just such a present for themselves, but my wife as well!'



Swiss shortly before his death – will be allowed to leave Switzerland. It goes without saying that our Swiss colleagues have helped us put up the exhibition. And since we ourselves are at home in the Burgundian era, we naturally show work from our own collections.' Paintings, tapestries, manuscripts, silver and gold ornaments; you have to see it in order to believe it. All these treasures will be displayed in the perfect setting of the Groeninge Museum. Moreover, just a stone's throw away is the Welcome Church of Our Lady, where Charles the Bold was buried five centuries ago. I'm sure he will feel very much at home among his Burgundian splendour.

Art in Context

'Apart from the intrinsic beauty of the art and of the objects on show, the exhibi-

tion's additional value seems to me to lie in the fact that decisive manifestations and moments of both culture and history will meet for the first time, thereby helping to explain their mutual correlation. Here you do not only admire a painting by van Eyck or Memling for their artistic genius, but you will also be able to place their work in the context of their own time and of their *raison d'être*. It makes the achievements of those artists so much more lucid and comprehensible. There may be many reasons why you should visit Bruges all the time, and in all seasons. But could I just recommend the spring and summer of 2009? I'm sure you know what I mean.'

For all practical information on the Exhibition 'Charles the Bold – The Splendour of Burgundy': www.kareldestoute.org.

Best of Bruges by Till-Holger Borchert

MY FAVORITE SPOT

'The **great churches of Bruges** possess wonderful art collections, containing pieces that wouldn't disgrace any topflight museum. Don't forget to look up at the tower of the Church of Our Lady. It is with its 122 metres the tallest brick building in the world. When in Saint Saviour's, do go and marvel at the frescoes in the baptistry. And Saint James' Church is worth its while for the impressive mausoleum of the De Gros family, because this sculptural masterpiece reveals par excellence the self-confidence and power of the Burgundian elite, of whom dozens of representatives lie buried here.'



Mausoleum of the De Gros family

MY RESTAURANTS

'I once saw a German restaurant critic copy the complete menu at **Den Amand**. Need I say more? I took the opportunity of recommending my fellow countryman the chicory soup at the 15th-century **Cafedraal**, the regional dishes and the Karmeliet on draught at '**t Schrijverke**, and an exotic moment at the refined table of the Japanese restaurant **Tanuki**. The man is still talking about his experience! I didn't need to show him the way to **Den Gouden Harynck**, as he had known this restaurant for quite some time already. His choice didn't surprise me, of course, because it is one of the most delightful gourmet restaurants in the region.'



Den Amand



3

The Celtic Ireland

MY CAFÉS

'The Celtic Ireland breathes a pleasant international ambiance, and they're always having a ball there. I also like to drop by **The Druid's Cellar**, if only to see Drew at work, my favourite barman.

De Lokkedize is most atmospheric and within a stone's throw from the Concert Hall, so ideal for an after-concert drink or a chat with the

musicians. **Den Express** at the railway station is tailor-made for travellers such as me, because I can happily smoke a cigarette there and drink my last cup of coffee before I jump on the train. And if I yearn for a popular Belgian beer, then you can find me at **Hollandse Vismijn**. Cheers!'

MY SHOPPING LIST

'Music shop **Rombaux** sells listening treasures in all genres, and the shop has so much character that it is a real joy to go and browse there. I buy my socks at **Parallax**. They're old masters, too, at stylishly camouflaging my beer belly. The antiquarian bookshop of **Marc van de Wiele** offers one of the best art and history selections in the whole country. Reading matters of a different kind are found at **De Reyghere**, where the tourist immediately feels at home in a sea of foreign newspapers. And then there is **De Striep** for contemporary comic strip art, of course.'



4

Music shop Rombaux

MY SECRET TIP

'Whenever I want to take a breather, I saunter down **Saint Anne's**, Bruges' most striking working-class neighbourhood. You can still sense the charm of an authentic community in the streets around the **Folklore Museum**. It goes without saying that it is very peaceful there at night, a very rare occurrence in a city like Bruges. The area boasts many fascinating places, too. Off the cuff, if I may: **Our Lady of the Pottery**, the **Lace Centre**, medieval **Jerusalem Church** and the **Gezelle Museum**.'



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Jerusalem Church

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Till-Holger Borchert's Addresses

Den Amand, Sint-Amandsstraat 4, tel. +32 (0)50 34 01 22. Closed Sunday dinner and Wednesday » **Cafedraal**, Zilverstraat 38, tel. +32 (0)50 34 08 45. Closed Sunday. www.cafedraal.be » **'t Schrijverke**, Gruuthusestraat 4, tel. +32 (0)50 33 29 08. Closed Monday. www.tschrijverke.be » **Tanuki**, Oude Gentweg 1-3, tel. +32 (0)50 34 75 12. Closed Monday and Tuesday. www.tanuki.be » **Den Gouden Harynck**, Groeninge 25, tel. +32 (0)50 33 76 37. Closed Sunday and Monday. www.dengoudenharynck.be » **The Celtic Ireland**, Burg 8. www.celticireland.be » **The Druid's Cellar**, Sint-Amandsstraat 11B. www.thedruidscellar.eu » **De Lokkedize**, Korte Vulderstraat 33. Closed Monday and Tuesday. www.lokkedize.be » **Den Express**, Stationsplein » **Hollandse Vismijn**, Vismarkt 4. Closed Tuesday » **Muziekhandel Rombaux**, Mallebergplaats 13. Closed Sunday and Monday morning. www.rombaux.be » **Kleding Parallax**, Zuidzandstraat 17. Closed Sunday. www.parallax.be » **Antiquariaat Van de Wiele**, Sint-Salvatorkerkhof 7. Closed Sunday. www.marcvandewiele.com » **Boekhandel De Reyghere**, Markt 12. Closed Sunday. www.dereyghere.be » **De Striep**, Katelijnestraat 42. www.striepclub.be » **Museumshop**, Arentshof, Dijver 16. Closed Monday. www.museumshop.be » **Bruggemuseum-Folklore**, Balstraat 43. Closed Monday. www.museumshop.be » **Bruggemuseum-Gezelle**, Rolweg 64. Closed Monday. www.museumshop.be » **Hospitaalmuseum-Our Lady of the Pottery**, Potterierei 79. Closed Monday. www.museumshop.be » **Jerusalem Church and Lace Centre**, Peperstraat 3. Closed Sunday and public holidays. www.kantcentrum.com



Bruges: Defiantly Surprising Sampling Culture in Bruges

Journalist, author and globetrotter Pierre Darge toured ninety-five countries. He is the editor of the Flemish lifestyle magazine Weekend Knack.

Maud Bekaert is a cultural jack-of-all-trades who has achieved great fame chiselling letters in stone. She is also an avid consumer of Bruges' rich cultural life, which has grown considerably since 2002 and the opening of the Concert Hall. A young resident of Bruges on calligraphy, Klinkers (more on events on page 8), the dazzling dance scene and the charm of the Beguinage at dusk.



> Identikit

Name: Maud Bekaert
Date of Birth: 11 September 1976
Born in Bruges where she lives and works
Letter sculptress with her own city centre art studio

It is in Maud Bekaert's nature to get stuck in letters and literature. Occasionally, she will attend a classical concert, too. But Bruges 2002 certainly broadened her horizon, as it did for so many of her fellow townsmen and towns-

look at the movement of the stationary body. Sometimes standing still moves me more than the movement itself. And I have to admit that I have attended many a dance spectacle ever since, especially since contemporary dance

'The softness that hits you like a hammer on the head.'

women. 'When I saw Anne-Teresa de Keersmaecker's company Rosas at the Concert Hall, I felt shaken to the core. I had gone in as a music lover, and a few hours later I came out as a dance devotee. Although the dancers looked quite ordinary in their jeans and T-shirts, they put on an incredibly beautiful spectacle. They taught me that the body can be represented in many different beautiful ways, even if not every movement was smooth and flowing. It was the continuity that amazed me the most. There was a softness that could hit you like a hammer on the head. I became a fan there and then, and I have since learned to

performances have definitely come to the fore in Bruges. Dance is an art form I wasn't familiar with. I have always loved flamenco and





fado though, and each year I take the opportunity to go and watch a dance performance at the Klinkers festival. There is no shortage of dancing in summer, and as the festival takes place at the city's loveliest locations, I can't think of a better way to enjoy an exceptional and intimate performance. I remember being awestruck during *Misia*, a fado spectacle based on texts by Federico García Lorca.

'Bruges is the throbbing heart of calligraphy.'

Musical Summer

The Klinkers festival puts a smile on the summer in Bruges. If the weather's fine, a southern atmosphere suddenly sweeps the city. I grab the opportunity to go and attend a performance on the

spur of the moment, of somebody I have never heard of perhaps, just because the evening is so balmy and because I want to be pleasantly surprised by the unknown artist. The summer in Bruges is extremely musical, indeed.' Maud used to enjoy classical music in dlibs and drabs. Again, Bruges 2002 changed her habit. 'I think the Concert Hall is an architectural gem, and already

exceptional just because of its use of space and light. Of course, since Jos van Immerseel took up residence there with his ensemble Anima Eterna, the whole thing gained momentum. I am moreover a great lover of Bach, and though the Concert Hall's setting makes an over-

powering impression on me, I thoroughly enjoy the music, too.'

Waterside Treasures

Maud Bekaert is above all an avid consumer of visual experiences. As a consequence she untiringly roams around Bruges in search of the beautiful and the distinctive. 'I can intensely soak up the beauty of the old houses this city has such an abundance of. And I am privileged, too, in that I am allowed to gain admittance to many an interior. The façades of the houses mirrored in the canals send me into raptures, and that's why I often go out after ten o'clock at night to enjoy the floodlit housefronts and the intimate stillness along the canals.'

Calligraphy Set in Stone

It may seem odd, but the young artist also has a soft spot for the old cemetery of Bruges. 'I go and watch trees there and the ancient 18th-century moss-covered tombs. It is so peaceful, and sometimes I am given the opportunity to restore a tomb on site. These hidden treasures haven't escaped the attention of the city authorities either. That's why Bruges has taken the unique initiative to preserve the cemetery's authenticity by injecting a second life into valuable tombs. The townspeople have been presented with the chance to adopt a grave and bury their loved ones there, on condition that they take care of the restoration and that they keep the grave in pristine condition. The name of the recently deceased person is also added, whilst keeping the tomb and



CHISELLING STONE

If you want to watch Maud Bekaert's subtle artistry, you're welcome to enter her studio on Sint-Clarastraat 40 in the heart of the city. Whilst chiselling away at the stone for a few hours, she's gladly willing to take orders from her clients.

the ancient stone in its original state at the same time.' The cemetery is on Kleine Kerkhofstraat 62 in Bruges, barely a kilometre outside the city centre.

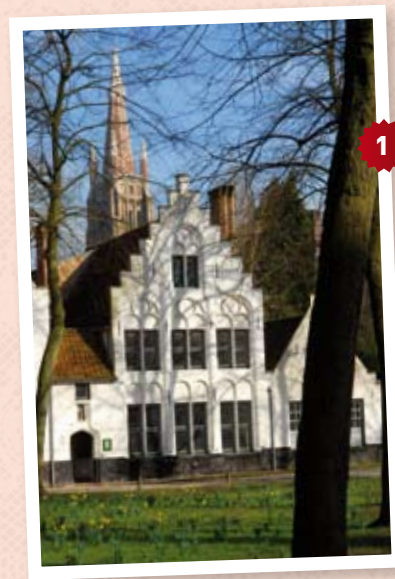
> **Opening Hours** Central Cemetery: Monday to Friday 8.00 a.m.-12.30 p.m., 1.30 p.m.-4.30 p.m., Saturday 9.00 a.m.-11.45 a.m. On the last working day prior to 1 November all cemeteries are closed for the preparation of All Saints' Day.

In the meantime Bruges has become the throbbing heart of this country's calligraphy. 'Many a famous calligraphists has settled here, not in the least because the city has taken a great number of initiatives. It gives Bruges an extra dimension.



My joy lies in small things: the chiselled house numbers, the names of the hotels or the stationer's shop in Oostmeers where I buy my material or greeting cards. But I find intense enjoyment, too, in the grandeur of Michelangelo's statue in the Welcome Church of Our Lady or a summery film on the beach at Zeebrugge or in Astridpark. Bruges is definitely a place that provokes and seduces her visitors and citizens no end.'

Best of Bruges by Maud Bekaert



MY FAVORITE SPOT

'I just love the **Beguinage at dusk**, when this peaceful enclosed place takes on a nostalgic air. This is an oasis of restfulness where the volume is turned down quite drastically and the city noises are muffled. It's heaven on earth.'

MY RESTAURANTS

'**Malesherbes** for an authentic French cuisine and the informal atmosphere, **Quatre Mains** for a light lunch on the cosy terrace at the back, and **De Twijfelaar** for creative food. **De Lotus** serves the most delicious vegetarian dishes. Their lunch is excellent, too. And for that special occasion? I opt for the intimacy of **Chez Olivier**'s elegant white interior. The restaurant is in one of Bruges' beauty spots, by the way.'



Chez Olivier



Café at the Concert Hall

MY CAFÉS

'In summer I am simply mad about the terrace of **De Republiek**. It's blissfully atmospheric. I also appreciate **Stokershuis** for their French chansons, the classical music and the good old-fashioned pubby ambiance. **L'Estaminet** is my choice for a chat, a toasted ham and cheese sandwich and a spaghetti. **De Kleine Nachtmuziek** is a divine café with a soul, and if I want to stay and talk about some show or spectacle I have just attended, then I definitely head for the **Café at the Concert Hall**.'



De Laurier

MY SHOPPING LIST

'**Raaklijn** is a bookshop with a wonderful array of art books and an extensive and idiosyncratic selection. I never leave without something. I also love **Kin Gin**, a jeweller's studio that sells its own creations in beautiful surroundings. **De Krokodil**, too, is very dear to me, not only because they sell wonderful and original toys there, from picture books to wooden doll's houses, but also because I sometimes treat myself to a trinket under the guise of a birthday present. **De Schacht** is the perfect stationer's. Yes, I buy my pencils and paper and charcoal there, but I also love the excellent advice, and I sometimes pop in just for the fun of it! And when shopping at **De Laurier**, I marvel at the ever-changing art, while my bananas and leeks are being wrapped.'

MY SECRET TIP

'The photo of **Dirk Braeckman at the Concert Hall** soaked in concrete is truly impressive. The photographer reveals as no other the essence of things by leaving out layers, even if the viewer is required to make an effort to see that. But what a reward when he is hit by new insights and new angles!'



Photo of Dirk Braeckman

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Maud Bekaert's Addresses

Princely Beguinage Ten Wijngaarde, Begijnhof 24-28-30. www.monasteria.org
 » **Malesherbes**, Stooftstraat 3-5, tel. +32 (0)50 33 69 24. Closed Monday and Tuesday
 » **Quatre Mains**, Philipstockstraat 8, tel. +32 (0)50 33 56 50. Closed Sunday and Monday. www.quatre-mains.be
 » **De Twijfelaar**, Eeckhoutstraat 24, tel. +32 (0)50 34 15 44. Closed Sunday and Monday. www.detwijfelaar.be
 » **De Lotus**, Wapenmakerstraat 5, tel. +32 (0)50 33 10 78. Closed Sunday. www.lotus-brugge.be
 » **Chez Olivier**, Meestraat 9, tel. +32 (0)50 33 36 59. Closed Thursday, Sunday and Saturday lunch
 » **De Republiek**, Sint-Jakobsstraat 36. www.derepubliek.be
 » **Het Stokershuis**, Langestraat 7. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday
 » **L'Estaminet**, Park 5. Closed Monday. www.lestaminetbrugge.be
 » **De Kleine Nachtmuziek**, Sint-Jakobsstraat 60. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday
 » **Concert Hall Café**, 't Zand. Closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. www.concertgebouw.be/cafe
 » **Raaklijn**, Sint-Jakobsstraat 7. Closed Sunday. www.boekhandelraaklijn.be
 » **Kin Gin**, Ezelstraat 27. Closed Sunday and Monday
 » **De Krokodil**, Sint-Jakobsstraat 47. Closed Sunday. www.krokodil.be
 » **De Schacht**, Katelijnestraat 49. Closed Sunday. www.de-schacht.be
 » **bvba De Laurier**, Langestraat 80. Closed Monday.



A Shock-o-latier With Taste

Bruges, Capital of Chocolate

Toni De Coninck is editor-in-chief of the lifestyle magazine UIT-Magazine and the mobility association VAB. He has been writing about tourism and gastronomy for fifteen years now.

Sexy, smooth and highly addictive. If you want to commit sweet-tasting sins, then Bruges will give you the occasion to be wicked each and every day. Chocolate – that noble culinary commodity – takes pride of place in no fewer than forty-seven different shops and boutiques. Dominique Persoone, chairperson of the Guild of Chocolate Confectioners of Bruges, describes how Bruges came to be the chocolate capital of a chocolate-crazy country.



> Identikit

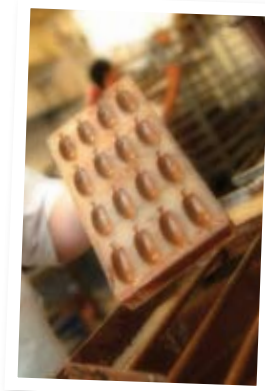
Name: Dominique Persoone
Date of Birth: 24 September 1968
Owner of The Chocolate Line and chairperson of the Guild of Chocolate Confectioners of Bruges

He is the man who had Rolling Stone Ronnie Wood sniff cocoa and who designed The Chocolate Shooter just for that purpose. He squeezed a former Miss Belgium into a chocolate corset and painted hundreds of naked female bodies for a photoshoot with the American art photographer Spencer Tunick. Dominique Persoone is undoubtedly the most controversial and most revolutionary chocolate confectioner of Belgium. On his name cards and website he likes to call himself a shock-o-latier. He is also one of the champions of the chocolate city of Bruges, a mantle that he proudly and dashingly dons. 'There are dozens of different chocolate confectioners in Bruges', says Dominique. 'It makes no sense if we all stay on our own little island or if we try and steal a march on one another. That's why the Guild of Chocolate Confectioners of Bruges does its utmost to try and promote Bruges as the capital of chocolate. We all pull our weight in different ways. But logic demands that we enter the pub-

lic domain as a single entity, as one block. A block of chocolate, if you like (*laughs*).'

Sparks In Your Mouth

Dominique has recently returned from a brainstorming session with Heston Blumenthal, the world-famous chef of the three-starred restaurant The Fat Duck in the United Kingdom. 'I try to visit Heston twice a year. It's like being at a creative fun fair. There's Heston, of course, but other



THE CHOCOLATE MUSEUM

The chocolate museum Choco-Story provides the visitor with a choice selection of reference books, production material and curiosities from the world of chocolate.

Dominique Persoone: 'I'm dead keen on the museum's antique books. Just unbelievable that you can browse through Maya writings!'

Choco-Story, Wijnzakstraat 2, 8000 Bruges. Tel. 050 61 22 37, www.choco-story.be



specialists, too, like the best barman in the world. I find our meeting of minds and skills extremely useful. You exchange recipes, you spill your secrets. We explore frontiers and break new grounds. I admit it sometimes looks like fiddling and fooling around. Last time I introduced my Chocolate Shooter, and I also showed a cocoa

mission to go and find answer to these mysteries. We have created a chocolate that consists of ganache of oyster in combination with white chocolate and finished off with a mother-of-pearl coloured coating. Believe me, when you taste this, it will shoot sparks through both your mouth and brain.'

'Believe me, it will shoot sparks through your mouth.'

lipstick, which is now available in our shop, by the way. The most important ingredients of a quality lipstick are cocoa butter and olive oil. Why then does lipstick taste so awful? Questions such as these keep me awake at night. Did you know that oysters and chocolate share identical taste molecules? What a surprising combination, don't you think? It is my

The Alchemist

The Chocolate Line was started in 1992. It has found a home on the quiet yet centrally-located Simon Stevinplein ever since. The shop with its warm living room colours of brown, sepia and yellow ochre oozes charm and cheerfulness. Chocolate confectioners are seen at work in a

room at the back, where they steadily turn white, pale brown and dark brown chocolate into a beautiful, gleaming mass in huge rustproof tubs. Then this rich gleaming mass is ready to be made into chocolates. This part of the process is the work of the master and his disciples. Or of the alchemist, if you like. Indeed, what Dominique Persoone achieves goes beyond what most chocolate confectioners strive for. His skill is phenomenal. Dominique has developed chocolates with a ganache of peas and wasabi. Or with a hint of coke, whereby the Coca Cola bubbles were replaced by little pearls that exploded in your mouth. That's why molecular cuisine is close to his heart. 'My original idea was to open an Italian caterer's', the chocolate confectioner laughs. 'My father thought it to be a job

with bright prospects. I would have it so much better than those restaurant chefs. And there was already a profusion of chocolate shops in Bruges! My passion for chocolate grew much stronger when I worked at Lucas Carton, the three-starred culinary temple in Paris, where I was responsible for the bread and the patisserie. One night, after a fourteen hours long working day, we went and made some chocolate. Simple creations, such as whisky truffles. I think I was the only chef who truly enjoyed doing that. Others had lost heart a long time before me.'

Quality and Taste

Brugge was already the chocolate capital of Belgium long before 1992,



THE BRUGSCH SWAENTJE

Fancy a bite of a medieval *gruut*? The *Brugsch Swaentje* is a traditional Bruges chocolate specially created by the Guild of Chocolate Confectioners of Bruges. This delicacy consists of almond praliné, crispy gingersnap and...gruut. A must for fine palates. Available at all chocolate confectioners! Look out for the official-dealer poster. As you can see, the Middle Ages are only a chocolate's bite away...

when The Chocolate Line was established. Dominique has never disputed this. 'The chocolate confectioners of the beginning of the last century never bought couverture – a *half-finished product*, *editor's note* – but the cocoa beans themselves, which they then processed into chocolate. In the fifties and sixties a number of chocolate shops sprang up in the city centre. It isn't easy to name names, as one tends to forget a few. I do remember the Verheecke family of Confiserie Kathy, which later became a chocolate confectioner's. And there is the question of supply and demand, of course. As the visitors and tourists demanded chocolate, so the production jumped.' But hasn't the supply outgrown the demand? A smile appears on Dominique's face, as he peers at the

life-size poster of a collection of chocolate-painted nudes in a cobbled Bruges alley. 'There have been a number of fantastic initiatives lately. There is for instance Choco-Story, the chocolate museum. And we came up with Choco-Laté, a chocolate festival. Then, in 2004, a bunch of businessmen set up the Guild of Chocolate Confectioners of Bruges. They're very dynamic. Everyone sets himself the same objectives: quality and taste. So many different events are organized. Each year we have a 'chocolate in the kitchen' competition for example. And six beauty farms have agreed to give their customers a chocolate treatment!'

Best of Bruges by Dominique Persoone

MY FAVORITE SPOT

'Since my childhood I have had great admiration for Gerard David's *Judgment of Cambyses*. The painting hangs in the **Groeningemuseum**. I remember vividly that I was mightily impressed by the man being skinned alive in the centre of the picture.'



MY RESTAURANTS

'I'm sure Bruges is the culinary capital of Belgium, what with its many Michelin-starred restaurants. It makes my choice that more difficult. Gert de Mangeleer at **Hertog Jan** and Filip Claeys at **De Jonkman** are two young gods, I'm sure. They're both revolutionary and they cook insanely delicious food. **Le Menu Belge** at De Tuilerieën Hotel is very good, too, especially when you want to try authentic

Belgian classic dishes. I think **Breydel De Coninc** is the best place for mussels. I would also like to recommend 't **Zwaantje**, on two occasions already the winner of the renowned chocolate competition that holds our city spellbound every year.'



MY CAFÉS

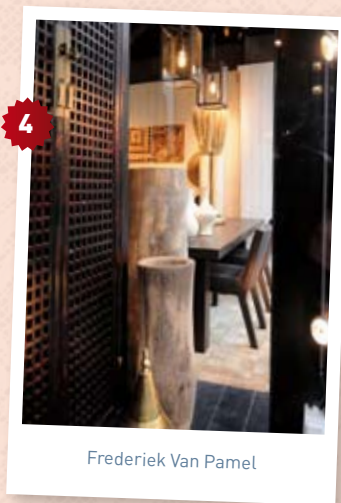
'**Barsalon** is my favourite spot when I fancy an aperitif, especially since I can then go and have lunch or dinner at Rock-Fort next-door. If I want to read a newspaper amongst my fellow townspeople and the tourists, I head for **Craenburg**. If it's a romantic tête-à-tête you want with your lover, then **Vino Vino** is an excellent meeting place. **B-in** is an unfussy lounge bar with one of the best panoramic views in town. A touch of fusion, too, and close to the water. As I am a smoker, there is no greater luxury than to enjoy an excellent cigar at **Jerry's Cigar Bar**.'



Vino Vino

MY SHOPPING LIST

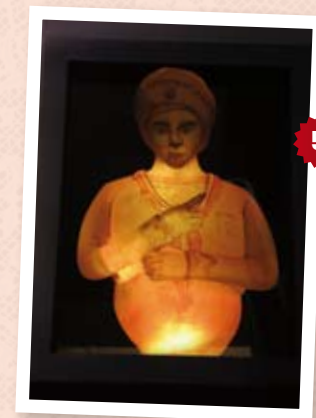
'Every gastronome and gourmet will show you the way to **De Olijfboom**. Yes, you can find the most ludicrously priced olive oil or balsamic vinegar there, but also hundreds of other delicacies. Around the corner **Ark van Zarren** is an interior design shop ideal for a romantic rummage. I also love the work of **Frederiek van Pamel**. This floral and interior designer now has a shop on Markt. At Christmas he tied a Christmas tree to an old Fiat 500! **De Westhoek** is a delicatessen selling culinary specialities from the Western Flemish region with the same name. And I can never pass by **De Kaasbolle** without a peek at their truly extensive selection of cheeses.'



Frederiek Van Pamel

MY SECRET TIP

'Nearby the chocolate museum Choco-Story, which is close to my heart for obvious reasons, is **Lumina Domestica**. This museum tells the story of lamps and lighting in a truly wonderful way. It's unique in the world, and a real treat for children, too!'



PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Dominique Persoone's Addresses

Groeningemuseum, Dijver 12. Closed Monday. www.museabrugge.be » **Hertog Jan**, Torhoutsesteenweg 479, Sint-Michiels, tel. +32 (0)50 67 34 46. Closed Sunday and Monday. www.hertog-jan.com » **De Jonkman**, Maalse Steenweg 438, Sint-Kruis, tel. +32 (0)50 36 07 67. Closed Sunday dinner and Monday. www.dejonkman.be » **Le Menu Belge**, Hotel De Tuilerieën, Dijver 7, tel. +32 (0)50 34 36 91. Closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. www.hoteltuilerieen.com » **Breydel De Coninc**, Breidelstraat 24, tel. +32 (0)50 33 97 46. Closed Wednesday. www.breydel-deconinc.be » **'t Zwaantje**, Gentpoortvest 70, tel. +32 (0)50 34 38 85. Closed Wednesday and Thursday. www.hetzwaantje.be » **Rock-Fort**, Langestraat 15, tel. +32 (0)50 33 41 13. Closed Saturday and Sunday. www.rock-fort.be » **Barsalon**, Langestraat 17. Closed Saturday and Sunday » **Craenburg**, Markt 16 » **Vino Vino**, Grauwwerkersstraat 15. Closed Sunday and Monday » **B-in**, Zonnekemeers (Oud Sint-Jan). Closed Sunday and Monday. www.b-in.be » **Jerry's Cigar Bar**, Simon Stevinplein 13. Closed Sunday. www.jerrycigarbar.com » **De Olijfboom**, Smedenstraat 58. Closed Sunday and Monday. www.deolijfboom.be » **Ark van Zarren**, Zuidzandstraat 19. www.arkvanzarren.be » **Frederiek van Pamel**, Eiermarkt 3. Closed Sunday. www.frederiekvanpamel.be » **De Westhoek**, Noordzandstraat 39. Closed Sunday and Monday morning » **De Kaasbolle**, Smedenstraat 11. Closed Wednesday and Sunday afternoon. www.dekaasbolle.be » **Lumina Domestica**, Wijnzakstraat 2. www.luminadomestica.be



Bruges Is Out of This World

Beauty Spots in the Vicinity

Sandra Genijn writes for various Belgian tourist magazines; she is also an editor and a reporter for the Belgian television company Canvas.

There is no limit to the beauty of Bruges. The idyllic places outside its city centre are sure-fire proof of that. An enjoyable bike ride away from the Bruges ramparts are fascinating destinations such as Damme, Lissewege and Zeebrugge or one of the extensive areas of natural beauty. Tourist journalist Sophie Allegaert happily shows the way to the polder.



> Identikit

Name: Sophie Allegaert
 Date of Birth: 5 October 1972
 Born and bred in Bruges, Sophie Allegaert is currently living in Bruges
 A journalist who writes for the tourist and lifestyle magazine 'Genieten'. She is also the author of the guide 'Brugge onder vriendinnen' (Bruges amongst girl friends).

With its whitewashed polder cottages, picturesque canal and extensive fields Lissewege has recently been elected one of Flanders' prettiest villages. 'It is a prime example of how a Flemish village ought to look like', says Sophie. 'Lissewege is lively, adorable and a touch nostalgic.' Although it contains no more

Sophie. 'In medieval times Lissewege used to be an established stopping place for pilgrims en route to Santiago de Compostela.' Today the flat roof of the church affords a wonderful panoramic view of the endless polder landscape. An ideal spot to rest awhile and recover your breath. And why don't you pay a visit to the erst-

'Lissewege is a prime example of how a Flemish village ought to look like.'

than a few dozen houses, it boasts the imposing Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-Bezoekingskerk (Church of Our Lady Visitation). 'A souvenir from the past', according to

while Cistercian abbey of Ter Doest? Its impressive early gothic barn, only recently fully restored, is open to the public free of charge. I'm sure you're dying for a drink now. 'Café Den Overzet is the best address for an authentic drop', so Sophie's tip. 'The café is on the other side of the canal. As there is no ferry you will have to make a detour by way of Dudzele. The reward, however, will match the effort: a local beer with a handful of unpeeled shrimps in wonderfully authentic surroundings.'





GUIDED BICYCLE TOURS

Would you like to enjoy the wetlands and woodlands around Bruges to the full without having to consult your map all the time? Then join the group outings of The Green Bike Tour, The Pink Bear Bike Tour or QuasiMundo Bike Tours Brugge. Expert guides will show you around the most attractive nooks and crannies of Bruges and Damme.



Picture Postcard View

Another must is picturesque Damme. This small medieval town hugs the Damse Vaart (Damme Canal) between Bruges and the North Sea coast. 'Just travelling up to Damme makes the excursion worth its while', believes Sophie. 'The low-traffic bicycle trail that runs parallel to the canal offers innumerable picture postcard views, and as Damme is but a short distance from Bruges, you can easily afford to spend only a couple of hours there.' Damme keeps much more in store, however. As Flanders' very first town of books, it offers a goodly number of second-hand bookshops filled to the brim with comic strips, art books and novels. You can also visit the information centre Huyse de Grote Sterre, or learn everything you have always wanted to know about Till Eulenspieghel in the museum of the same name. Culinary delights can be found in one of the cheerful town centre

restaurants that have rightly placed Damme on the gastronomic map. 'If you happen to have some more time, I'd certainly recommend an exploration of Damme's hamlets. Oostkerke and Hoeke in particular are touchingly beautiful. They just look like the peaceful settings in an old Flemish film', Sophie adds. Finally: you can also reach Damme on board Lamme Goedzak, a nostalgic river craft that departs at Noorweegse Kaai. A bus from the railway station or the Markt will transfer you there.

From the Canals to the North Sea

Everyone knows Zeebrugge as an international seaport of some stature. But Zeebrugge offers much more: an extensive sandy beach, authentic fisherman's quarters harbouring authentic cafés, and a fashionable marina. 'Zeebrugge is all-round. Although I have only slowly made its

The Green Bike Tour +32(0)50 61 26 67 or +32(0)479 97 12 80 The Pink Bear Bike Tour, +32(0)-50 61 66 86 or +32(0)476 74 45 25, www.pinkbear.freeservers.com/ QuasiMundo Bike Tours Brugge, +32(0)50 33 07 75, www.quasimundo.eu

acquaintance, I am now definitely a great fan. Its diversity is unique along our coast', according to Sophie. In winter the beach is the ideal spot to get a breath of fresh air, whilst the summer months offer safe bathing, sunbathing and idling about. 'In summer a train from the centre of Bruges will set you down on the beach. From the Canals to the North Sea in no time!' Zeebrugge also connects cyclists to the Coastal Bicycle Route that links up all Belgian seaside resorts. And if you want to admire the hustle and bustle of the seaport, then hop aboard Euro-Line's craft River Palace. Children on the other hand will find Seafront to their liking. At this maritime theme park they are encouraged to take a dip in order to see what's living beneath the water's surface.

'But my favourite place remains the old fishing port. As soon as you enter one of its little cafés for a refreshing glass of beer and a delicious morsel of fish, you immediately find yourself in a glorious holiday mood.'

Unspoilt Leafy Polders

Bruges colours green. A few extensive areas of natural beauty close to Bruges are solid evidence of the city's green credentials. 'The Abbey of Saint Trudo in Male is just such a gem', says Sophie. 'The surroundings are idyllic: a diminutive hamlet with an abbey, a sprinkling of houses and a pillory on the village square, surrounded by unspoilt leafy polders. A perfect spot for a jaunt with the children.' The Tillegembois Provincial



BICYCLE ROUTE NETWORKING WORKS LIKE THIS!

The bicycle route network of Bruges' Ommeland covers well over a thousand kilometres. Its operating procedure is simple. Wherever two bicycle tracks join, a junction appears with its own number. Just connect one juncture with another when you map your route to your own liking. If you then add up the distance between each juncture, you can easily measure the mileage of your trip.

All maps consist of tearproof and waterproof paper. They are available at the information office at the Concertgebouw and at the railway station. One bicycle route network map: € 6.00. The northern and southern route maps combined: € 11.00.

Domain also finds favour with youngsters. 'There are vast sunbathing areas and playing fields as well as enchanting public footpaths, an imposing moated

Beieren Provincial Domain. 'Thickly wooded canals, gnarled poplars, an abundance of dainty bridges and an ancient castle garden. What more do you

'Zeebrugge is all-round. It is both sophisticated and authentic at the same time.'

castle and a country inn.' Lovers of fauna and flora will find the Tudor Municipal Domain much to their liking. The magnificent Tudor castle is surrounded by a vast castle park with a herb garden and a hall devoted to apiculture. These attractions can be visited from May to October. The Beisbroek Municipal Domain not only boasts a handsome park but also impresses with a public observatory. Sophie happily refers romantic souls to the Fort van

want if you're in search of a romantic tête-à-tête? If it is a waft of religion that you're looking for, then head for the Abbey of Saint Andrew at Zevenkerken. 'This Benedictine abbey tempts the visitors with a pleasant stroll around its buildings and a refreshing abbey beer at its Benedictine homestead.' All these leafy areas lie at the junction of the bicycle route network. They are all within easy reach of the city centre by way of safe and attractive cycle tracks.

Best of Bruges by Sophie Allegaert

MY FAVOURITE SPOT

'Fairly unknown yet extremely idyllic is the **Coupure's** marina. The humble working-class houses, the waterside benches, the comings and goings of the yachts, but also the peace and quiet that always reign there create a small slice of Provence in Bruges. Really beautiful, too, is Conzett Bridge, an ingenious bicycle bridge with a clever lifting mechanism designed by the Swiss architect Jurg Conzett. The view over Coupure from the bridge is magnificent.'



MY RESTAURANTS

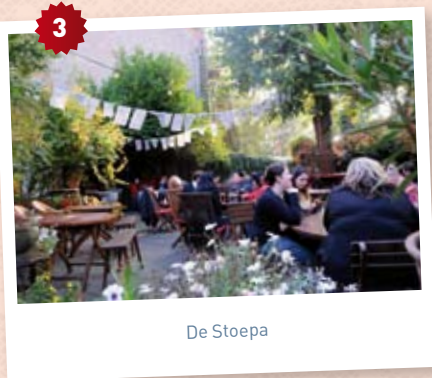
'The starred restaurant **Sans Cravate** is one of those rare places where you can still sample an El Bulli-inspired cuisine in a relaxed way. A pleasant lunch address is **De Belegde Boterham**. On the board simple but yummy cottage cheese sandwiches as well as inventive wok salads and soups. Do you perhaps fancy Belgian classic dishes with an international touch? Then **Mojo** is where you should pull up a chair. **Bhavani** on Simon Stevinplein is without a doubt Bruges' best Indian restaurant. And if you want to dine Moroccan style in a Thousand and One Nights setting, then **Ryad** is the place to be.'



Sans Cravate

MY CAFÉS

'**De Kuisbank** in Zeebrugge is an authentic harbour café. Order a glass of beer and you get some shrimps to shell on the side. At **Den Overzet** in Lissewege the fish are still hanging up to dry. An opportunity to stock up on your dried fish here! I also like **De Belleman**, a typical Bruges café where the lively discussions about soccer at the bar are part and parcel of its great atmosphere. **Wijnbar Est** is a super wine bar offering countless wines by the glass, and the gigantic patio of **De Stoepa** is the ideal spot to sip your cocktail in the sun.'



De Stoepa

MY SHOPPING LIST

'At **Lunabloom**, Sophie Wildemeersch has collected the most gorgeous living space and fashion accessories. The brightly coloured **Bazar Bizar** is the place par excellence for that exotic souvenir, and at **Quicke** you will find the prettiest shoes, including expensive dream designs, but also reasonably priced creations. **Villa Maria** is a fashion store selling one-year-old collections by Annemie Verbeke, Essentiel, Natan and others. **L'Héroïne** is a focal point for all Belgian fashion devotees. Dries van Noten, Just in Case, Wouters&Hendrix: they're all there on the shelves!'



Lunabloom

MY SECRET TIP

'Although the baroque **Church of Saint Walburgha** is the setting for concerts during the MA-Festival, you are also treated to some enjoyable classical music whenever you happen to pop in during the summer. The music is presented by a priest with DJ ambi-

tions. And as the church is fairly big and rather dimly lit, this creates the ideal surroundings for a romantic evening with Bach or Beethoven. The excellent acoustics add to the enjoyment.'



Church of Saint Walburgha

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Sophie Allegaert's Addresses

Coupure borders the Vesten (Ramparts) between Boninvest and Kazernevest » **Sans Cravate**, Langestraat 159, tel. +32 (0)50 67 83 10. Closed Sunday and Monday. www.sanscravate.be » **De Belegde Boterham**, Kleine Sint-Amandsstraat 5, tel. +32 (0)50 34 91 31. Closed Sunday » **Mojo**, Schaarstraat 4, tel. +32 (0)50 68 05 09. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. www.restomojo.tk » **Bhavani**, Simon Stevinplein 5, tel. +32 (0)50 33 90 25. Closed Wednesday. www.bhavani.be » **Ryad**, Hoogstraat 32, tel. +32 (0)50 33 13 55 » **De Kuisbank**, Werfkaai 15, Zeebrugge. Closed Saturday and Sunday » **Den Overzet**, O.L.-Vrouwewader 10, Lissewege. Closed Monday and Tuesday » **De Belleman**, Jozef Suvéestraat 22. Closed Sunday and Monday » **Wijnbar Est**, Braambergstraat 7. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday. www.wijnbarest.be » **De Stoepa**, Oostmeers 124. Closed Monday. www.stoepa.be » **Lunabloom**, Eeckhoutstraat 17. Closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. www.lunabloom.be » **Bazar Bizar**, Sint-Jakobsstraat 3-5. Closed Sunday. www.bazarbizar.be » **Schoenenhuis Quicke**, Zuidzandstraat 23. Closed Sunday. www.quicke.be » **Villa Maria**, Gistelsesteenweg 18-28. www.knapp-targa.com » **L'Héroïne**, Noordzandstraat 32. Closed Sunday » **Church of Saint Walburgha**, Sint-Maartensplein



Know Your Way around Bruges Super Easy and Handy!

*Do you want to check the exact opening times of a museum?
Perhaps you want to organise a jolly day out with the kids,
or you fancy a ride in a horse-drawn carriage. This extremely
practical overview of all Visitors Guide information shows
you everything you wish or need to know!*

PAGE 86 > MUSEUMS, a complete overview of all Bruges museums including information on their most important collections, opening times and admission charges.

PAGE 94 > PLACES OF INTEREST, six special places that are dying to be discovered by you.

PAGE 98 > ON FOOT, BY BOAT, HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE, MINIBUS, HOT AIR BALLOON, no matter how you want to travel, you will find all the detailed information here.

PAGE 100 > OUT IN BRUGES, have a great time with music, dance or theatre in a city perfect for culture.

PAGE 102 > BICYCLE RENTAL POINTS, looking for a bike to rent? The choice is all yours!

PAGE 104 > GUIDED BICYCLE TRIPS, if you want to make a guided bike tour suited to your wishes, then take your pick from these pages.

PAGE 106 > LISSEWEGE, broaden your horizon and discover this whitewashed polder village.

PAGE 108 > ZEEBRUGGE, a family beach resort as well as a seaport of international stature.

PAGE 110 > DAMME, this medieval book town is a highly recommended destination, and handily close to Bruges.

PAGE 112 > BATTLEFIELDS, how to travel to the Westhoek, the region of the Great War, and what to see and do there.

PAGE 114 > TAILOR-MADE FOR CHILDREN, children's farms, amusement parks or child-friendly walks. Whatever you're looking for, there is no time for boredom here.



Bruges Museums

Although the Flemish Primitives are undoubtedly Bruges' showpiece attraction, museum devotees in search of much more will not be disappointed. Indeed, the choice is truly magnificent. From contemporary plastic art by way of Michelangelo's world-famous Madonna and Child to a sumptuous Burgundian palace. It's all there for you to discover!

GROENINGE MUSEUM ²⁰

The Groeninge Museum offers a varied overview of the history of Belgian plastic arts. Although the Flemish Primitives are a high point, you will also marvel at top 18th and 19th-century neoclassical pieces, masterpieces from Flemish Expressionism and postwar modern art.

OPENING TIMES >

Tuesday to Sunday,
9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
Tickets till 4.30 p.m.

ADMISSION > Including Arentshuis, Forum+ and audio guide: € 8.00. 65+: € 6.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >**

1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December. Due to the preparations for the Charles the Bold Exhibition only galleries 1 to 4 will be open to the public from 5 January to 1 February. The museum will be closed from 2 February to 26 March.

INFORMATION >

Dijver 12,
www.museabrugge.be

FORUM+ ⁴²

Forum+ is the Concert Hall's museum space, focusing on contemporary plastic arts, sculptures and installations by famous modern artists. The exhibitions change every three to four months. The splendid panoramic view of the city is a wonderful bonus!

OPENING TIMES >

Tuesday to Sunday,
9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m.

ADMISSION > € 2.00. 65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00.

ADDITIONAL CLOSING

DATES > 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December.

INFORMATION >

[Concertgebouw],
www.museabrugge.be



ARENTHUIS ⁰²

In this elegant 18th-century town house with its picturesque garden the work of the versatile British artist Frank Brangwyn (1867-1956) is on display on the top floor. Brangwyn's talent as an architect, painter and designer of glassware, furniture and jewellery is breathtaking. The ground floor is the setting for temporary plastic art exhibitions.

OPENING TIMES >

Tuesday to Sunday
9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m.

ADMISSION > € 2.00.

65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES**

> 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December

INFORMATION >

Dijver 16,
www.museabrugge.be



BRUGGEMUSEUM-CITY HALL ³⁸

Bruges' City Hall (1376) is one of the oldest in the Netherlands. It is from here that the city has been governed for more than 700 years. An absolute masterpiece is the Gothic Hall with its late 19th-century murals and polychrome vault. The adjoining historic hall calls up the city council's history with a number of authentic documents and works of art. A multi-medial exhibition on the ground floor illustrates the evolution of the Burg square.

OPENING TIMES > Daily: 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m.

ADMISSION > Including Bruggemuseum-Liberty of Bruges and audio

guide, € 2.00. 65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >** 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Burg 12, www.museabrugge.be

BRUGGEMUSEUM-LIBERTY OF BRUGES ³²

From this mansion, erected between 1722 and 1727, Bruges' rural surroundings were governed. The building functioned as a court of justice between 1795 and 1984. Today the city archives are stored here. They safeguard Bruges' written memory. The premises also boast an old assize court and a renaissance hall with a monumental 16th-century timber, marble and alabaster mantelpiece.

OPENING TIMES > Daily: 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m.

ADMISSION > Including Bruggemuseum-City Hall and audio guide, € 2.00.

65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >** 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Burg 11a, www.museabrugge.be



BRUGGEMUSEUM-WELCOME CHURCH OF OUR LADY ¹⁴

The 122 metres high brick tower of the Welcome Church of Our Lady is a perfect illustration of the craftsmanship of Bruges' artisans. The church displays a valuable art collection: Michelangelo's world-famous *Madonna and Child*, countless paintings, 13th-century painted sepulchres and

the tombs of Mary of Burgundy and Charles the Bold.

OPENING TIMES > The church: Monday to Friday: 9.30 a.m. - 4.50 p.m. Saturday: 9.30 p.m. - 4.40 p.m.. Sunday and Holy Days: 1.30 p.m. - 4.50 p.m. The museum: Tuesday to Friday: 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (last tickets 4.30 p.m.). Saturday: 9.30 a.m. - 4.45 p.m. (last tickets 4.15 p.m.). Sunday: 1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. (last tickets 4.30 p.m.) **ADMISSION >** Church: free. Museum: € 2.00. 65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **INFORMATION >** Mariastraat, www.museabrugge.be

BRUGGEMUSEUM-GRUUTHUSE ²¹

The opulent palace of the lords of Gruuthuse include splendid tapestries, a unique prayer chapel, a five-centuries-old kitchen and a collection of objects illustrating daily life between the 15th

and the 19th century, from everyday kitchen ware to superb silverware.

OPENING TIMES > Tuesday to Sunday: 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m. **ADMISSION >** € 6.00 65+: € 5.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >** 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Dijver 17, www.museabrugge.be

BRUGGEMUSEUM-ARCHEOLOGY ⁰¹

This museum presents the unwritten history of Bruges. Its motto: *feel your past beneath your feet*. Discover the history of the city through different kinds of search and hands-on activities. A fascinating mix of archaeological finds, riddles, replicas and reconstructions shed light on daily life in times gone by, from the home to the workplace and from birth till death.

OPENING TIMES > Tuesday - Sunday: 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m. **ADMISSION >** € 2.00. 65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >** 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Mariastraat 36a, www.museabrugge.be



BRUGGEMUSEUM-FOLKLORE ²⁷

These restored 17th-century single-room dwellings accommodate a.o. a classroom, a millinery, a pharmacy, a confectionery, a grocery and an authentic bedroom. Conclude your visit with a pleasant stroll in the garden and a thirst-quenching drink at *De Zwarte Kat*, the

museum's tavern.

OPENING TIMES >

Tuesday - Sunday: 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m. **ADMISSION >** € 2.00. 65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >** 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Balstraat 43, www.museabrugge.be



BRUGGEMUSEUM-SINT-JANSHUIS MILL, KOELEWEI MILL 32 25

Windmills have graced Bruges' ramparts ever since the construction of the outer city wall at the end of the 13th century. Today four specimens are left on Kruisvest. Saint John's House Mill (1770) is still in its original spot and still grinding grain and still grinding grain just like its neighbour the Koelewei Mill.

OPENING TIMES > Bruggemuseum-Sint-Janshuis Mill: May - August: Tuesday to Sunday, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets 4.30 p.m. September: Saturday and Sunday, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets 4.30 p.m.

Bruggemuseum-Koelewei Mill: July and August: Tuesday to Sunday, 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets 4.30 p.m. **ADMISSION >** € 2.00. 65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **INFORMATION >** Kruisvest, www.museabrugge.be



BRUGGEMUSEUM-GEZELLE 22

The literary and biographical museum of Guido Gezelle (1830-1899) is incorporated in the house where the famous

Flemish poet was born. Gezelle's birthplace in a quiet working-class district displays handwritten letters and writing paraphernalia.

OPENING TIMES >

Tuesday to Sunday: 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets 4.30 p.m. **ADMISSION >** € 2.00. 65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >** 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Rolweg 64, www.museabrugge.be



BRUGGEMUSEUM-BELFRY 39

This most important of Bruges' towers stands 83 metres tall. It houses a treasure-chamber, an impressive clock mechanism and a carillon with 47 silver-toned bells.

Your reward after a climb up the tower's 366 stairs is a breathtaking and unforgettable panoramic view of Bruges and her surroundings.

OPENING TIMES > Daily: 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.15 p.m. **ADMISSION >** € 8.00. 65+: € 6.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 4.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >** 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Markt 7, www.museabrugge.be



BRUGGEMUSEUM-GENTPOORT 03 Gentpoort (Gate of Ghent) is one of four remaining medieval city gates.

An entrance for foreigners, a border with the outside world for the townspeople of Bruges. The gate was a part of the city's defences as well as a passageway for the

movement of produce and merchandise.

The museum opens its doors in 2009. **INFORMATION >** Gentpoortstraat, www.museabrugge.be

HOSPITAALMUSEUM-MEMLING IN SINT-JAN 25

Saint John's Hospital has an eight hundred-year-old history of caring for pilgrims, travellers and the sick. Visit the medieval wards where the nuns and monks did their work of mercy and marvel at the impressive collection of archives, art works, medical instruments and six paintings by Hans Memling. Also worth a visit: the Diksmuide attic, the old dormitory, the custodian's room and the adjoining pharmacy.

OPENING TIMES > Tuesday to Sunday: 9.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m. The pharmacy is open from Tuesday to Sunday: 9.30 a.m. - 11.45 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 5.00

p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m. **ADMISSION >** Including Hospitaal-museum-Our Lady of the Pottery and audio guide. € 8.00. 65+: € 6.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00 **ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >** 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Mariastraat 38, www.museabrugge.be



HOSPITAALMUSEUM-OUR LADY OF THE POTTERY 37

This hospital dates back to the 13th century, when nuns took on the care of pilgrims, travellers and the sick. Over the centuries the hospital developed into a modern home for the elderly. The hospital wards with their valuable collection of works of art, monastic and religious relics and a range of objects used in nursing have been converted into a

museum. The Gothic church with its baroque interior can also be visited.

OPENING TIMES > Tuesday to Sunday: 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.30 p.m. **ADMISSION >** € 2.00. 65+: € 1.00. Children under 6: free. Youngsters under 26: € 1.00
ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES > 1 January, 21 May (afternoon) and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Potterierei 79, www.museabrugge.be



BRUGES DIAMOND MUSEUM ¹⁸

This museum illustrates the history of Bruges as the oldest diamond centre in Europe. Today, diamond remains one of Belgium's most important export products. The daily demonstration of diamond cutting is a sparkling affair.

OPENING TIMES > Daily: 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

The daily diamond cutting demonstration starts at 12.15 p.m. Your presence is required by noon at the latest. **ADMISSION >** Museum: € 6.00. Museum + Diamond Cutting Demonstration: € 9.00

ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES > 1 January, 5 to 16 January and 24 and 25 December **INFORMATION >** Katelijnestraat 43, www.diamondmuseum.be

LUMINA DOMESTICA ⁴³

The museum contains the world's largest collection of lamps and lights. More than 6.000 antiques tell the complete story of interior lighting. From torch and paraffin lamp to light bulb and LED.

OPENING TIMES > Daily: 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 3.30 p.m.

ADMISSION > € 6.00. 65+ and students: € 5.00. Children between 6 and 12: € 4.00. Children between 3 and 6: free.

ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES > 1 January, 5 to 16 January, 24, 25 and 31 December **INFORMA-**

TION > Wijnzakstraat 2, www.luminadomestica.be



CHOCO-STORY ⁴¹

The museum dips its visitors in the history of cocoa and chocolate. From the Maya and the Spanish conquistadores to the chocolate connoisseurs of today. A chocolate hunt gives children the chance to discover the museum. Chocolates are made by hand and sampled on the premises.

OPENING TIMES > Daily: 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.15 p.m.

ADMISSION > € 6.00. 65+ and students: € 5.00. Children between 6 and 12: € 4.00. Children between 3 and 6: free.

ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES > 1 January, 5 to 16 January, 24, 25 and 31 December **INFORMATION >** Wijnzakstraat 2, www.choco-story.be



BELGIAN FRIES MUSEUM ⁴⁵

This didactic museum sketches the history of the potato, Belgian fries and the various sauces and dressings that accompany this most delicious and most famous of Belgian comestibles. The museum is housed in Saaihalle, one of Bruges' most attractive buildings.

OPENING TIMES > Daily: 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Last tickets: 4.15 p.m.

ADMISSION > € 6.00. 65+ and students: € 5.00. Children between 6 and 12: € 4.00. Children between 3 and 6: € 1.00

ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES > 1 January, 5 to 16 January, 24, 25 and 31 December **INFORMATION >** Vlamingstraat 33, www.frietmuseum.be

WALLET-FRIENDLY MUSEUM HOPPING

3-DAY TICKET

The 3-day ticket giving unlimited access to all city museums only costs € 15.00. Youngsters between 6 and 25 pay € 5.00. The ticket, valid for three days, can be obtained at all city museums and at In&Uit [Concertgebouw].

COMBINATION TICKET CHOCO-STORY/ DIAMOND MUSEUM

Combine a tasty visit to Choco-Story with a dazzling look at the Diamond Museum. This combination ticket costs € 10.00. For sale at the above-mentioned museums and at In&Uit [Concertgebouw].

COMBINATION TICKET CHOCO-STORY/ LUMINA DOMESTICA/BELGIAN FRIES MUSEUM

Visit these three museums at reduced rates.

Combination ticket (3 museums): adults: € 15.00, 65+ and students: € 12.00, children between 6 and 12: € 9, children under: 6 free.

Combination ticket (select 2 museums): adults: € 10.00, 65+ and students: € 8.00, children between 6 and 12: € 6.00, children under 6: free.

These combination tickets are for sale at the above-mentioned museums and at In&Uit [Concertgebouw].



Places of Interest

Some places are so special, so breathtaking or so unique that you simply have to see them. Bruges is filled to the brim with wonderful witnesses of a prosperous past, whether they be peaceful and picturesque, spiritual or, on the contrary, extremely entertaining.

BEGINNINGS ⁰¹ ⁰³

The 'Princely Beguinage Ten Wijngaarde' with its whitewashed house-fronts, tranquil convent garden and beguinage museum was founded in 1245. Today the nuns of the Order of Saint Benedict inhabit the site. The Beguinage entrance gate closes without fail at 6.30 p.m.

OPENING TIMES >

Beguinage: daily from 6.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m.
 Beguine's house: Monday to Saturday, 9.30 a.m. - 12.00 a.m. and 1.45 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Sunday from 10.45 a.m. **ADMISSION >**
 Beguinage: free.
 Beguine's house: € 2.00, youngsters: € 1.00, 60+: € 1.50 **INFORMATION >**
 Begijnhof 24-28-30, www.monasteria.org



SAINT SAVIOUR'S CATHEDRAL ²⁰

Bruges' oldest parish church (12th-15th century) has amongst its treasures a rood loft with organ, medieval tombs, Brussels tapestries and a rich collection of Flemish paintings (14th-18th century). The treasury displays a.o. paintings by Dirk Bouts, Hugo van der Goes and other Flemish Primitives

OPENING TIMES >

Cathedral: Monday: 2.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. Tuesday to Friday: 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. Saturday: 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Sunday: 9.00 a.m. - 10.00 a.m. and 2.00

p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Treasury: Sunday to Friday: 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. **ADMISSION >**
 Cathedral: free. Treasury: € 2.50, students € 1.50. Closed from the middle of January to the middle of February

INFORMATION >

Steenstraat, www.sintsalvator.be



MUSEUM OF THE BASILICA OF THE HOLY BLOOD ⁰⁵

This double chapel consists of the Romanesque church of Saint Basil (1139-1149) on the ground floor and the Basilica on the first floor, rebuilt in Gothic revival style in the 19th century. The Relic of the Holy Blood is kept in the Basilica.

OPENING TIMES >

April-September: 9.30 a.m. - 12.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. October-March: 10.00 a.m. - 12.00

a.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m. **ADMISSION** > Double chapel: free.

Treasure-chamber: € 1.50, students € 1.00, children under 13 free

ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >

1 January, 1 November, 25 December. October-March: Wednesday afternoon

INFORMATION > Burg 13, www.holyblood.org

BREWERY

DE HALVE MAAN 12

De Halve Maan (1546) is the city's last working brewery. Their house brew is *Brugse Zot*, a spirited top-fermented beer made from malt, hops and special yeast. This deliciously refreshing beer can be tasted on the premises. A guided tour of the brewery can be arranged.

OPENING TIMES > April-October: daily 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. (Saturday till 5.00 p.m.) Guided tours every hour. November-March: weekdays 11.00 a.m. & 3.00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Guided tours every hour. **AD-**

MISSION > € 5.50 (including refreshment), children between 6 and 12: € 2.75

INFORMATION >

Walplein 26, www.halvemaan.be



HOF BLADELIN 20

In around 1440, Pieter Bladelin, treasurer of the Order of the Golden Fleece, commissioned the construction of Hof Bladelin. In the 15th century the powerful Florentine banking family of De Medici set up a branch here. The stone medallion portraits of Lorenzo de Medici and his wife still grace the picturesque inner court.

OPENING TIMES > Inner court: Monday-Saturday 9.00 a.m. - 12.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Hof Bladelin: by appointment, tel. +32 (0)50 33 64 34.

Closed on Sundays and public holidays. **ADMISSION** > Inner court: free

Hof Bladelin: € 1.00

INFORMATION >

Naaldenstraat 19



LACE CENTRE 24

The Lace Centre is housed in 15th-century almshouses funded by the Adornes family, who also built the Jerusalem Chapel. Lace demonstrations are regularly given. The shop sells all kinds of lace paraphernalia.

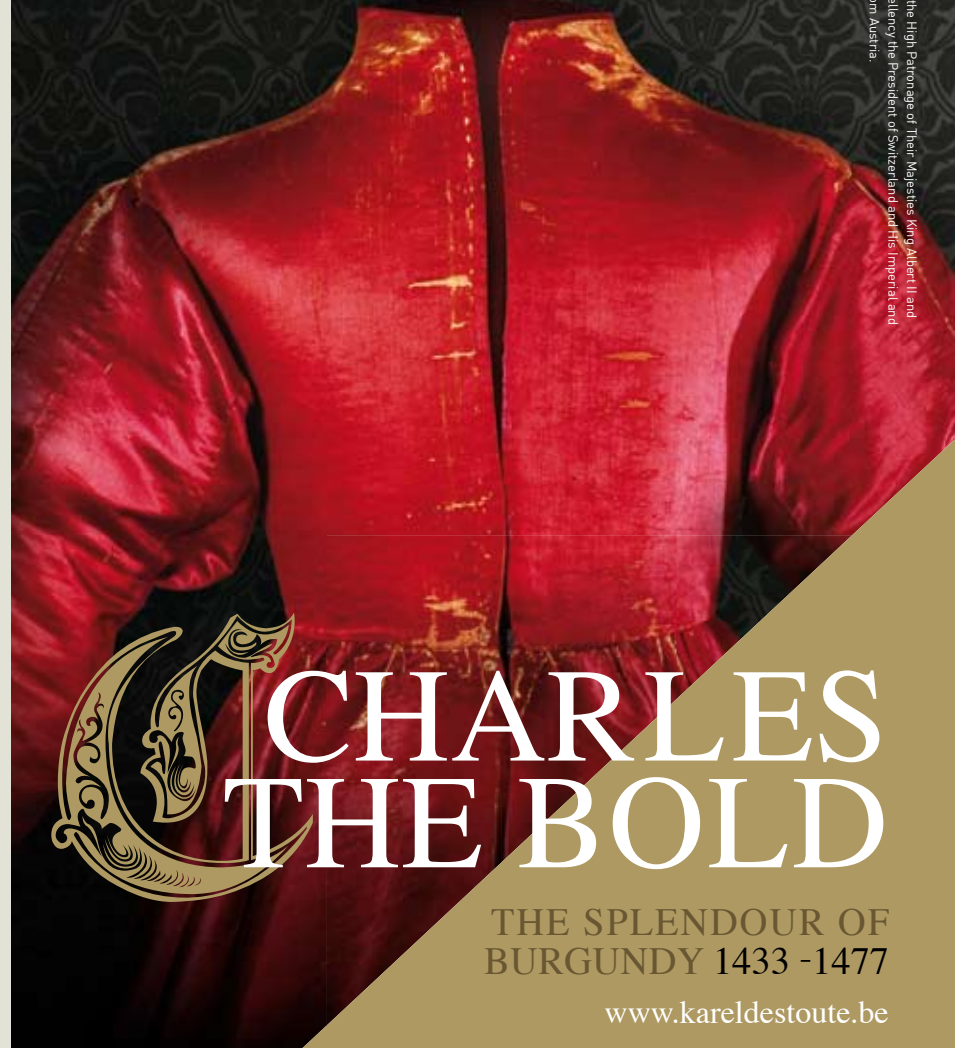
OPENING TIMES >

Monday-Friday: 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Saturday till 5.00 p.m. Closed on 25 December, 1 January, Sundays and public holidays

ADMISSION > € 2.50. 65+, students and children 7-12: € 1.50, children under 7: free. **INFORMATION** > Peperstraat 3a, www.kantcentrum.com

GROENINGE MUSEUM BRUGGE

27.03.09
21.07.09



CHARLES THE BOLD

THE SPLENDOUR OF BURGUNDY 1433 -1477

www.kareldestoute.be

The exhibition will be held under the High Patronage of Their Majesties King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium, His Excellency the President of Switzerland and His Imperial and Royal Highness Archduke Karl from Austria.





Discover Bruges

On Foot, By Boat, Horse-drawn Carriage, Minibus or Hot Air Balloon

You might want to stroll, amble and saunter down the streets of Bruges all day long or even for a whole weekend. Nothing wrong with that. Yet, it won't do you any harm if you look at the city from a different perspective. During a walking tour a guide will show you numerous secret places. Maybe you prefer a boat trip on the mysterious canals. An unforgettable experience! And a ride in a horse-drawn carriage must surely be the perfect romantic outing. Perhaps you simply want to tour all the highlights as quickly and as comfortably as possible? Then a minibus is what you need, and expert commentary is what you will get. And what about a balloon ride?

BRUGES ON FOOT

Are you not exhausted from walking yet? Are you still in the mood for a tour with a seasoned guide? Then hurry to In&Uit [Concertgebouw] and register for a fascinating guided walk. The two-hour tour starts at 2.30 p.m.

June and September: weekends; July - August: daily; November - March: evening walks.
www.brugge.be/winter
INFORMATION > Information office at the railway station or at the Concertgebouw.

BRUGES BY BOAT

A visit to Bruges isn't complete without a boat trip on its canals. Go aboard at any of the five landing stages (consult city map) for a half-hour trip that allows you to appreciate the most noteworthy delights of the city from a completely different angle.

March - November: daily from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00

p.m. **FEE >** € 6,70. Children aged 4 to 11 (accompanied by an adult): € 3,10. Children under 4: free

BRUGES BY HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGE

The half-hour carriage ride along Bruges' historic winding streets trots off on Markt (at Burg on Wednesday afternoon). Halfway through the ride the carriage briefly stops at the Beguinage. The coachman gives expert commentary en route.

9.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m., and 9.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m. in July and August **FEE >** € 35.00. A carriage seats up to 5 people. **INFORMATION >** www.hippo.be/koets

CITY TOUR BRUGES

The minibuses call at the different highlights of the city. They leave every hour from Markt for a fifty-minute trip. Headphones provide commentary in English, Dutch, French, German, Spanish, Italian and Japanese.

The first bus leaves at 10.00 a.m. The last bus leaves at 4.00 p.m. in January and February, 5.00 p.m. in March, November and December, 6.00 p.m. in October, 7.00 p.m. in April, May and June, and 8.00 p.m. in July, August and September. **PRICE >** € 11.50. Children aged 3 to 5: free. Children aged 6 to 11: € 6.00. Families (2 adults and 2 children): € 30.00 **INFORMATION >** www.citytour.be

BRUGES BY HOT AIR BALLOON

Why don't you discover the city from the exciting observation post of a hot air balloon? Bruges Ballooning takes off in the morning (including extensive breakfast) or in the evening (including extensive breakfast) for a four-hour flight over Bruges. By request only. **PRICE >** € 160.00. Children under 13: € 100.00 **INFORMATION >** www.bruges-ballooning.com



Out in Bruges

The city's high-quality cultural life flourishes as never before. Devotees of modern architecture stand in awe of the Concert Hall whilst enjoying to the full a top international concert or an exhilarating dance performance. Romantic souls throng the elegant City Theatre for an unforgettable night. Jazz enthusiasts feel at home at De Werf, whereas MaZ is the place to be for young folk who want to be 'in'.



The monthly magazine *events@brugge* offers a detailed events-calendar. It is available free of charge at the information office at the Concertgebouw and the information office at the railway station. *Exit*, the free monthly Dutch-language culture newspaper, is also available at these locations.



CONCERT HALL ¹³

The impressive Concert Hall with its 1,295 seats and the intimate Chamber Music Hall with its 320 seats serve a delightful mix of music, musical theatre and dance of international quality. The acoustics and intimate comfort of both halls are exceptional.

INFORMATION > 't Zand, tel. +32 (0)50 47 69 99. www.concertgebouw.be



CITY THEATRE ³³

One of Europe's best preserved city theatres (1869) boasts a palatial foyer and a majestic auditorium. It is the perfect setting for concerts and contemporary dance and theatre performances.

INFORMATION >

Vlamingstraat 29, tel. +32 (0)50 44 30 60. www.cultuurcentrumbrugge.be



DE WERF ¹⁷

Celebrated den for jazz lovers. An established concert venue for countless Belgian and foreign musicians as well as a perfect spot for that enjoyable contemporary play or kids' production.

INFORMATION >

Werfstraat 108, tel. +32 (0)50 33 05 29. www.dewerf.be

MAGDALENE HALL (MaZ) ³⁴

The place to be for dynamic young theatre and dance talent as well as for concerts. Big names next to intimate club discoveries. Regular shows and activities for children.

INFORMATION > Magdalenastraat 27, tel. +32 (0)50 44 30 60. www.cultuurcentrumbrugge.be



Bicycle Rental Points

Bruges is bicycle heaven. Haven't you brought your own bike? Don't worry! The following bicycle rental firms will happily provide you with an iron steed. Let's mount that saddle!

STATION

LOCATION > Railway station
PRICE > ½ day: € 6.50 (from 2.00 p.m., full day: € 9.50 (bike must be returned before 7.30 p.m.)

CYCLE MAP > no free map, no sale of maps
DETAILS > collection point Luggage subject to handing in your ID card and paying a € 12.50 deposit
CONTACT > Stationsplein, tel. +32 (0)50 30 23 29

DE KETTING

LOCATION > Gentpoortstraat 23
PRICE > € 5.00
CYCLE MAP > free city map (not cycle map!), no sale of maps
DETAILS > a deposit may be required
CONTACT > tel. +32 (0)50 34 41 96

ERIC POPELIER

LOCATION > Mariastraat 26
PRICE > A bike for 1 hour: € 4.00; for 4 hours: € 8.00; for a full day: € 12.00. Price of a tandem for 1 hour: € 10.00; for 4 hours: € 17.00; for a full day: € 25.00
EXTRA > scooters and tandem bicycles
CYCLE MAP > free city map (not cycle

map!), no sale of maps
CONTACT > tel. +32 (0)50 34 32 62



KOFFIEBOONTJE

LOCATION > Hallestraat 4
PRICE > A bike for 1 hour: € 4.00; for 4 hours: € 8.00; for a full day: € 12.00. A tandem for 1 hour: € 10.00; for 4 hours: € 17.00; for a full day: € 25.00
EXTRA > mountain bikes, tandem bicycles, buggies, wheel-chairs and scooters
CYCLE MAP > free city map (not cycle map!), no sale of maps
DETAILS > credit card number or a € 150.00 deposit per bike
CONTACT > tel. +32 (0)50 33 80 27, www.adventure-bike-renting.be

BAUHAUS BIKE RENTAL

LOCATION > Langestraat 145
PRICE > for 1 hour: € 3.00; for 3 hours: € 6.00; for a full day: € 10.00 (students are charged only € 9.00)
EXTRA > mountain bikes
CYCLE MAP > free

city and cycle maps, no sale of maps
DETAILS > you have to hand in your credit card
CONTACT > tel. +32 (0)50 34 10 93, www.bauhaus.be/bikes

SNUFFEL BACKPACKER HOSTEL

LOCATION > Ezelstraat 47-49
PRICE ½ day: € 6.00, full day: € 6.00
CYCLE MAP > free city and cycle maps, no sale of maps
DETAILS > you have to hand in your ID card or driving licence
CONTACT > tel. +32 (0)50 33 31 33, www.snuffel.be

CONCERTGEBOUW B-BIKE

LOCATION > 't Zand
PRICE > for 1 hour: € 4.00; for 4 hours: € 8.00; for a full day: € 12.00
OPENING TIMES > 1 April-15 October: daily 10.00 a.m. -12.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m., 16 October-31 March: weekends only 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m.
CYCLE MAP > free city map and numerous city maps on loan
DETAILS > you have to hand in your ID card
CONTACT > tel. +32 (0)479 97 12 80



Guided Bicycle Trips

Are you game for some great sightseeing but loath to have to rummage for your map in your rucksack all the time? Then join one of the guided bike tours and follow the tracks of a local guide. You will discover tiny villages chock-a-block with atmosphere like Damme and Oostkerke, ride along canals that are straight as a poker and traverse one of Europe's loveliest rural regions. In short, we promise you an idyllic day out topped off with a local ale in an authentic Flemish café.



QUASIMUNDO BIKE-TOURS BRUGGE

'Bruges By Bike': March - October, daily 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Discover the city's unique character and medieval street pattern riding along quiet backstreets.

'Bruges By Night': July and August only, 7.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. Bruges at night is even more alluring and romantic than by day. Discover the city during this fairy-tale bike ride.

'The Ommeland By Bike': March - October, daily 1.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. A tour through the flat countryside around Bruges, passing through medieval towns such as Damme, peaceful Flemish agrarian villages and dead straight canals.

MEETING POINT > Toyo Ito pavilion on Burg, ten

minutes before departure of tour. English and Dutch spoken. Guides are also available in French, German and Spanish. Booking is recommended. Tailor-made group arrangements. **FEE >** € 22.00. Youngsters under 27: € 20.00. Children under 9: free. € 15.00 if you bring your own bike. Tour includes guide, raincoat, water and refreshment in a local café. **INFORMATION >** tel. +32 (0)50 33 07 75, www.quasimundo.eu

THE PINK BEAR BIKE TOURS

10.25 a.m. - 2.00 p.m. : 'Damme and the Polders' takes you to medieval Damme and allows you to discover the flat Flemish polders and the Damse Vaart, the dead straight canal that leads to Damme. **MEETING POINT >** Belfry. English spoken. Tailor-made group arrangements. A Dutch- or French-speaking guide can be arranged. Booking recommended. **FEE >** € 20.00. Youngsters under

27: € 18.00. Children under 9: free. € 14.00 if you bring your own bike **INFORMATION >** tel. +32 (0)50 61 66 86, www.pinkbear.freeservers.com



THE GREEN BIKE TOUR

A guided trip to the polders, the flat countryside around Bruges. The tour pulls up at medieval Damme and other important sights along the way for a little extra commentary. 10.00 a.m. to early afternoon from April to October. By appointment only during the low season.

MEETING POINT > In&Uit [Concertgebouw], 't Zand. English, Dutch and French spoken. Booking recommended. Tailor-made group arrangements. **FEE >** € 15.00. € 9.00 if you bring your own bike **INFORMATION >** tel. +32 (0)50 61 26 67



Lissewege: one of Flanders' Prettiest Villages

Time in Lissewege seems to move just that tad slower. With its picturesque canal, whitewashed polder houses and extensive fields and meadows this polder village is a classic example of how every Flemish village once looked: lively, charming and a touch nostalgic.

INFORMATION

Toerisme Lissewege, Oude Pastoriestraat 5, Lissewege, www.lissewege.be. The train to Zeebrugge stops at Lissewege. If you want to travel by car, Lissewege is on the road to Zeebrugge.



CHURCH OF OUR LADY VISITATION

This impressive brick church was erected in an early Gothic style in the 13th century. The remarkable interior counts amongst its treasures a miraculous statue of the Virgin Mary (1625), a striking organ-case and an equally stunning rood loft and pulpit. A truly great attraction is the monumental church tower. The top offers a magnificent panoramic view of the polders.

OPENING TIMES > The tower: July and August, 2.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. September at weekends, 2.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. The church: daily, 10.30 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. In summer till 6.00 p.m. **INFORMATION >** Stationstraat 23, Lissewege, tel. +32 (0)495 38 70 95 (tower guard after 2.30 p.m.), www.lissewege.be



VISITORS CENTRE

The visitors centre traces the one thousand-year-old history of this white village by way of unique photos, maps, models and a collection of archeologic finds from the erstwhile Cistercian abbey of Ter Doest.

OPENING TIMES > 1 July - 30 September: 2.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m., except Monday and Saturday
ADMISSION > € 1.50
INFORMATION > Oude Pastoriestraat 5, Lissewege, www.lissewege.be



TER DOEST ABBEY BARN

The commanding early Gothic abbey barn (14th century) of this former 12th-century Cistercian abbey has only recently been completely restored. The dovecote (1651) and monumental gatehouse (1662) have also withstood the ravages of time brilliantly.

OPENING TIMES > Daily 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
INFORMATION > Ter Doeststraat 4, Lissewege, www.lissewege.be



Zeebrugge: imposing international seaport and family beach resort

Zeebrugge is much more than a seaport of stature. It is also a pleasant seaside resort with an extensive beach, bathing in an informal holiday atmosphere and boasting a fashionable marina as well as authentic fishermen's districts with genuine fishermen's pubs. In short, the entire world has a rendezvous in Zeebrugge. In addition, the town is both on the Coastal Bicycle Route Network that connects all Belgian seaside resorts and the Bruges' Ommeland Bicycle Route Network.

INFORMATION

www.brugge.be/zeebrugge

HARBOUR ROUND TRIP

The harbour round trip on board the River Palace, operated by Euro-Line, passes the naval base, the Pierre Vandamme lock (one of the largest locks in the world), the LNG terminal and the wind farm park. Watch the spectacle of the gigantic container ships sailing in and out of the port.

OPENING TIMES > Easter holidays: 12-13 April, 16-19 April, Thursday - Sunday at 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. May, June and September: Sundays and public holidays, 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. July and August: daily at 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. In August an extra trip at 11.00 a.m. Dinner-dance on Saturday night. **FEE** > € 9.00. 60+: € 8.50. Children aged 3 to 12: € 6.80. Combination ticket Seafront/Euro-Line: € 17.50. Children under 12: € 15.30 **INFORMATION** > Jacques Brelsteiger, Old Fishing Port, Zeebrugge. www.euro-line.be



THE BEACH

In winter this is the place par excellence to get a breath of fresh air. In summer the townspeople of Bruges flock to this wide and safe sandy strip to sunbathe, swim and potter about. And why not take a train to the beach? It's a piece of cake! Adjacent to the beach is the summer railway station!



SEAFRONT

This maritime theme park in the old fish market plunges the visitor in the harsh world of the fisherman, the history of Zeebrugge's port and life below the sea. Children will enjoy the Russian submarine Foxtrot, the lightship West-Hinder and the brand-new pirates' paradise.

OPENING TIMES > Daily 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. July and August 10.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m. Closed 25 December, 1 January and 5-23 January.

ADMISSION > € 10.50. Children up to 1 metre (accompanied by parent): free. Children under 13: € 6.25. 60+: € 10.00

INFORMATION > Vismijnstraat 7, Zeebrugge, www.seafront.be



Damme: a Book Town in a Medieval Setting

Picturesque Damme – Flanders' one and only book town – is an absolute must. This medieval jewel is just a few miles from Bruges. Its location halfway between Bruges and the North Sea coast couldn't be more perfect. The town is reached by way of a traffic-low and exceptionally charming bicycle path that skirts the dignified Damme Canal. Damme's narrow streets invite you to saunter along countless gastronomic restaurants and second-hand bookshops that sell everything from novels to comic strips and valuable antiquarian books.

INFORMATION

Huys de Grote Sterre, Jacob van Maerlantstraat 3, Damme, www.damme.be



LAMME GOEDZAK

The nostalgic river boat Lamme Goedzak sails between Noorweegse Kaai in Bruges and the centre of Damme. A bus takes you from Bruges' railway station or Markt to the river boat's jetty and back.

1 April-15 October: Departures from Bruges to Damme: daily at 10.00 a.m., 12.00 a.m., 2.00 p.m., 4.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. Departures from Damme to Bruges: daily at 9.15 a.m., 11.00 a.m., 1.00 p.m., 3.00 p.m. and 5.20 p.m.

CHARGES > € 5.50 (one-way ticket) or € 7.00 (return ticket); 65+: € 5.00 (one-way ticket) or € 6.00 (return ticket); children aged 3 to 11: € 4.00 (one-way ticket) or € 5.00 (return ticket)

INFORMATION > Noorweegse Kaai 31, www.bootdammebrugge.be

TRIPLE TREAT QUASIMODO: CHOCOLATE, WAFFLES AND COUNTRY ALE

This minibus trip (English spoken!) takes you along mighty castles to medieval Damme. En route the passengers regularly alight to sample delicious waffles, finger-licking chocolate and thirst-quenching country ales.

EXCURSIONS > from February till the end of December: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 9.15 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. Departure from the Parkhotel on 't Zand. **CHARGES >** € 55.00; youngsters under 27: € 45.00; including packed lunch and entrance fees
INFORMATION > Tel. 0800 975 25 or +32 (0)50 37 04 70, www.quasimodo.be



CITY TOUR

City Tour minibuses bring you to Damme. Having sailed back to Bruges on Lamme Goedzak two hours later, you will be picked up by the bus at the jetty and transferred to Markt, Bruges' central square.

EXCURSIONS > April-September, daily at 4.00 p.m. Commentary in French, Italian, Dutch, English, German and Spanish. Departure from Markt. **CHARGES >** € 16.50; children aged 6-11: € 8.25

INFORMATION > www.citytour.be





Battlefields: Flanders and the Great War

The Westhoek is a region in West-Flanders, some 50-odd kilometres from Bruges. This green and pleasant land borders the North Sea and France. Its rolling landscape was also the scene for some of the fiercest battles of the Great War. Today the relics and scars of that First World War still dot the landscape. A visit to this area is an absolute must. It will leave an indelible impression.



WWI BATTLEFIELDS TOUR

Quasimodo Tours takes you by minibus to all highlights, from Passchendaele by way of the Poppy Fields to the Menin Gate and innumerable trenches and bunkers. Expert commentary provided in English.

February - December: Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. April - October: daily except Monday. Departure at Parkhotel on 't Zand at 9.15 a.m. Tour finishes around 5.00 p.m. **FEE > € 55.00.** Youngsters under 27: € 45.00. Tour includes packed lunch and admission fees. **INFORMATION >** Tel. 0800 975 25 or +32 (0)50 37 04 70. www.quasimodo.be



FLANDERS FIELDS BATTLEFIELD DAYTOURS

Small parties (maximum 8 people) and individual passengers are collected at their hotel for a minibus tour to the Great War sights of the Westhoek. The Flanders Inside Out Tour alights at the German cemetery in Langemark, Tyne Cot Cemetery in Passchendaele, the Menin Gate, the Pool of Peace on Kemmelberg, Talbot House in Poperinge, the Trench of Death at Diksmuide, the In Flanders Fields Museum at Ypres and the Passchendaele Museum. Canadian, Australian, Irish and American monuments can be visited on request.

Tuesday - Sunday. Departure: 8.45 a.m. The tour finishes at 5.30 p.m. Booking essential. English, Dutch and French commentary. **FEE > € 65.00.** Youngsters under 27: € 60.00.

The Last Post Tour is a short evening trip to Ypres and back to see the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate. Departure 6.15 p.m. The tour finishes at 9.15 p.m. English, Dutch and French commentary. **FEE > € 40.00** **INFORMATION >** Tel. 0800 99 133 or +32 (0)50 34 60 60. www.visitbruges.org



Tailor-made for Children

A dolphinarium full of happy dolphins, a public observatory that allows you to gaze endlessly at the stars, a working children's farm and countless swimming pools and indoor playgrounds. Bruges spoils her smallest visitors rotten with an exciting mix of tailor-made animation. Or do you prefer a city walk with the whole family? Then join the adventurous kids' walk and unlock Bruges' secrets by way of amusing look&search assignments.



BOUDEWIJN SEAPARK BRUGGE

A jolly dolphin amusement park chock-a-block with attractions. The dolphins steal the show at the dolphinarium, the sea lions perform a spectacular show at the open air theatre, and the panoramic aquaramas provide a thrilling underwater view.

OPENING TIMES > July and August: daily 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. Easter Holidays: 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. May and June: daily (except Wednesday) 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. September: every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday 10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. **ADMISSION >** € 22.00. Children under 13 and 60+: € 18.00. Children under 1 metre tall: free; Pay&Display car park: € 6.00 **INFORMATION AND TICKETS >** A. De Baeckestraat 12, St.-Michiels, www.boudewijnseapark.be.

Tickets at the amusement park entrance or at the information office In&Uit [Concertgebouw], 't Zand. Boudewijn Seapark is situated just outside the city centre and is connected to the Bicycle Route Network. Bus: nr. 7 & nr. 17 - departure 't Zand (map: C10) & Biekorf, Kuipersstraat (map: E8).

ADVENTUROUS KIDS'TRAIL

This adventurous walk allows kids to discover the city through varied look&search assignments, funny anecdotes and amusing facts. The accompanying map includes child-friendly tips and detailed information on museums, cinemas and amusement parks. *Bruges - children allowed* costs € 2.00 and is available in Dutch, French and English at the information office at the Concertgebouw.

SPEELDORPEN

These indoor playgrounds offer a handy solution for boisterous birthday parties, school excursions or rainy days. And

whilst the kids let their hair down, the adults can keep an eye on them from the cafeteria.

DE TOVERPLANEET:

OPENING TIMES > Wednesday 1.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. Friday 3.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and school holidays 10.30 a.m. - 8.00 p.m. May be closed on hot summer days. **ADMISSION >** € 6.00. After 5.00 p.m. € 5.00. Children under 3 and accompanying adults: free. **INFORMATION >** Legeweg 88, St.-Andries, www.detoverplaneet.be Bus: nr. 9. Departure: Rozenhof (map A10)

SPEELDORP:

OPENING TIMES > School holidays, weekends, public holidays and Wednesdays: 1.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Booking mandatory outside these periods. **ADMISSION >** € 5.00. Children under 3 and accompanying adults: free **INFORMATION >** Diksmuidestraat 5, www.speeldorp.be. Bus: nr. 14. Departure: Krakelebrug or De Veste (map E3)



BEISBROEK MUNICIPAL DOMAIN

These huge castle grounds covering 98 hectares include woods, heathland, a deer enclosure and an educational nature trail.

Its nature centre spoils nature lovers with an interactive exhibition and a field laboratory. Picnic sites dot the domain for that unforgettable picnic.

OPENING TIMES >

Domain: daily from sunrise to sunset. Nature centre: every day 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. (except Saturday). Sunday and public holidays 2.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.

ADMISSION > Free **INFORMATION >** Free Zeeweg 96, Sint-Andries Bus: nr. 52 Brugge/Gistel/Oostende – nr. 53 Brugge/Jabbeke. Departure: 't Zand and railway station (map C10 and B13)



BEISBROEK PUBLIC OBSERVATORY

This public observatory zooms in on the sun, the stars and the planets. Its modern planetarium, interactive exhibition and well-equipped observatory unlock the secrets of the galaxies. The planet trail that starts at the castle is a clever scale model illustrating the distance between the various planets: each footstep corresponds to nine million space kilometres.

OPENING TIMES >

Planetarium presentations: Wednesday and Sunday at 3.00 p.m. and 4.30 p.m., Friday at 8.30 p.m. Extra presentations during school holidays: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 3.00 p.m. Information on foreign language presentations at the information office

at the Concertgebouw and at the railway station. **ADMISSION >** € 5.00 Youngsters under 18: € 4.00 **INFORMATION >** Zeeweg 96, Sint-Andries, www.beisbroek.be Bus: nr. 52 Brugge/Gistel/Oostende – nr. 53 Brugge/Jabbeke. Departure: 't Zand and railway station (map C10 and B13)

SWIMMING POOLS

Jan Guillini: Keizer Karelstraat 41. Bus: nr. 9. Departure: Visartpark

Interbad: Veltemweg 35, Sint-Kruis. Bus: nr. 11. Departure: Sint-Andreaslyceum

Olympia: Doornstraat 110, Sint-Andries. Bus: nr. 25. Departure: Jan Breydel

All opening times available at the information office at the Concertgebouw or at the Station.

CITYMAP BRUGES

Big city map for sale at the information office at the railway station or at the Concertgebouw.



COLOPHON

This is a publication of Toerisme Brugge.

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RESPONSIBLE EDITOR > Dieter Dewulf,

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PRACTICAL INFORMATION

CASHPOINTS

DE POST > Markt 5 | Map: E8
KBC > Steenstraat 38 | Map: D9
FORTIS BANK > Simon Stevinplein 3 | Map: D9
EUROPABANK > Vlamingstraat 13 | Map: E8
RAILWAY STATION > Stationsplein | Map: B13

CINEMAS

>> Programmes: In&Uit [Concertgebouw], 't Zand
>> All films are shown in their original language
LUMIÈRE > Sint-Jakobsstraat 36
www.lumiere.be | Map: D7
KINEPOLIS BRUGGE >
Koning Albert 1-laan 200
www.kinepolis.com/brugge | Map: A14

CHURCH SERVICES

>> **BEGINNAGE** > Sunday 9.30 a.m.
>> **BASILICA OF THE HOLY BLOOD** > Sunday 11.00 a.m.
>> **HOLY MAGDALENE** > Sunday 11.30 a.m.
>> **CHURCH OF OUR LADY** > Saturday 5.30 p.m.,
Sunday 11.00 a.m.
>> **CAPUCHINS** > Saturday 6.00 p.m., Sunday
7.00 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.
>> **SAINT ANNE'S** > Sunday 10.00 a.m.
>> **SAINT GILES'** > Sunday 10.00 a.m.
>> **SAINT JACOB'S** > Saturday 6.30 p.m.
>> **SAINT SAVIOUR'S** > Saturday 4.00 p.m.,
Sunday 10.30 a.m.
>> **SAINT WALBURGHA'S** > Sunday 7.00 p.m.
>> **ENGLISH CHURCH** / Saint Peter's Chapel,
Keersstraat 1 > Sunday 6.00 p.m.
>> **UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH** / Saint Peter's
Chapel, Keersstraat 1 > Sunday 10.00 a.m.
>> **FREE EVANGELICAL CHURCH** /
Naaldenstraat 18 > Sunday 10.00 a.m.
>> **ORTHODOX CHURCH** /
Ezelstraat 85 > Sunday 10.00 a.m.

INTERNET

>> **TELEBOUTIQUE**
OPEN > Monday to Saturday 10.00 a.m. -
10.00 p.m. - Sunday 11.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m.
CLOSED > Friday afternoon 2.00 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

CHARGE > € 3.00 per hour
ADDRES > corner of Langestraat with
Predikherenstraat
INFORMATION > telephone +32 (0)50 61 67 39 |
Map: G8
>> **SNUFFEL BACKPACKER HOSTEL**
CHARGE > € 1.00 for a half hour
ADDRES > Ezelstraat 47-49
INFO > telephone +32 (0)50 33 31 33
info@snuffel.be | www.snuffel.be | Map: D6

>> **BAUHAUS**
CHARGE > € 1.00 for the first 15 minutes,
then € 0.05 per minute
ADDRES > Langestraat 145
INFORMATION > telephone +32 (0)50 34 10 93
info@bauhaus.be | www.bauhaus.be | Map: I7

MARKET DAYS

>> **WEDNESDAYS** > 8.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. |
Markt | Food & Flowers
>> **SATURDAYS** > 8.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. |
't Zand & Beursplein | Miscellaneous
>> **SUNDAYS** > 8.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. | Ten Briele, Ge-
meenteafdeling Sint-Michiels | Miscellaneous
>> **TUESDAYS TO SATURDAYS** > 8.00 a.m. -
1.00 p.m. | Vismarkt | Fish
>> **SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND PUBLIC**
HOLIDAYS > 15 March to 15 November | 10.00
a.m. - 6.00 p.m. | Dijver | Antiques and bibelots

MEDICAL HELP

>> **DOCTORS ON DUTY**
7.00 p.m. - 8.00 a.m. | telephone 078 15 15 90
>> **PHARMACISTS ON DUTY**
9.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m. | telephone 0900 10 500
10.00 p.m. - 9.00 a.m. | telephone 101
>> **S.O.S. EMERGENCY SERVICE** > telephone 100
>> **HOSPITALS**
A.Z. St.-Jan > telephone +32 (0)50 45 21 11
St.-Lucas > telephone +32 (0)50 36 91 11
St.-Franciscus Xaveriuskliniek > telephone
+32 (0)50 47 04 70
>> **POISONS ADVICE CENTRE** >
telephone 070 245 245

BUREAUX DE CHANGE

GOFFIN CHANGE > Steenstraat 2 | Map: E8
PILLEN R.W.J > Rozenhoedkaai 2 | Map: F9

PARKING

Bruges is a compact city. Most places of interest are within walking distance from your accommodation. In order to keep the historic city centre attractive and accessible, aboveground parking in the city centre is limited to a maximum of 4 hours in the Blue Zone and to 2 hours in the Pay&Display Zones. You can safely park your car in one of the underground car parks where you will pay a maximum of € 8.70 for 24hrs. The cheapest and largest car park is next to the railway station: the € 2.50 charge per day includes a bus transfer with De Lijn to the city centre. These buses leave every three minutes.

>> CENTRUM-ZAND

CAPACITY > 1,400 cars
OPEN > Sunday - Thursday: 7.00 a.m. - 1.00 a.m., Friday - Saturday: 24/24hrs
RATES > day rate: maximum € 8.70/24hrs evening rate: maximum € 2.50 (from 7.00 p.m. to closing time)

>> CENTRUM-STATION

CAPACITY > 1,500 cars
OPEN > 24/7
RATES > € 0.50 per hour
(maximum € 2.50/24hrs)

BUSES

City Line 12 Centrum-Station-Bargeplein is a continuous shuttle between the most important city stops such as Markt (map E8), Biekorf (map E8), the railway station and the Katelijne car park. The map at the back of this brochure contains a handy overview of all bus stops.

>> **TIMETABLE** > Monday-Friday: 7.39 a.m. - 18.59 p.m. Saturday: 7.31 a.m. - 18.28 p.m. Sunday and Public Holidays: 9.11 a.m. - 18.59 p.m.
>> **TICKETS** > Ticket: € 1.20 advanced booking | € 1.60 on bus. Day Pass: € 5.00 advanced booking | € 6.00 on bus
ADVANCED BOOKING OFFICES >
De Lijn shop, NMBS railway station concourse | In&Uit [Concertgebouw], 't Zand | Various city centre book shops.
>> **INFORMATION** > www.delijn.be

TAXIS

TAXI RANKS >

Markt: telephone +32 (0)50 33 44 44
Stationsplein: telephone +32 (0)50 38 46 60

GETTING THERE

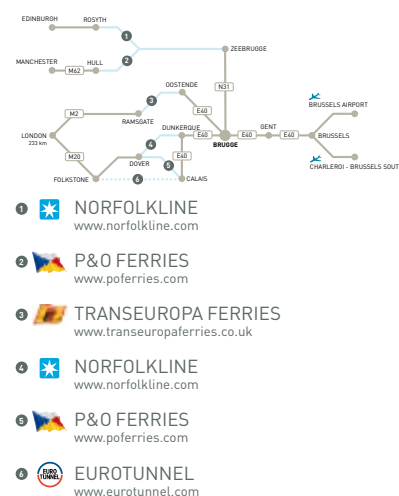
>> BY TRAIN



>> BY PLANE

Bruges can easily be reached through the airport of Brussels national, Brussels South Charleroi and Lille. Frequent coach and bus connection between Brussels South Charleroi/Brussels National Airport and Bruges. More info: www.brugge.be/transport

>> BY CAR/FERRY



E40 Motorway, Exit 8 Brugge - follow Brugge Centrum
Detailed train, bus and ferry timetables can be obtained at the information office at the Concertgebouw or at the Station.

STREET NAMES






















A

Academiestraat	E7
Achiel Van Ackerplein	D6
18-Oktoberstraat	A10
Adriaan Willaertstraat	E7
Albrecht Rodenbachstraat*	H7
Altebijstraat	J9
Annuntiatenstraat	F5
Arsenaalstraat	E12
Artoisstraat	C9
Augustijnenrei	E6
Azijnstraat*	D6
B	
Bakkersstraat	C10
Baliestraat	F5
Balsemboomstraat	I8
Balstraat	H7
Bapaumestraat	I7
Bargeplein	E13
Bargeweg	E13
Baron Jos. Ryelandtstraat	A5
Baron Ruzetelaan	F14
Baron Ruzetepark*	E3
Beaupréstraat	J9
Beeldenmakersstraat	F10
Beenhoudersstraat	C7
Begijnvest	D12
Begijnhof	D11
Bekeweg	B1
Beursplein	B10
Bevrijdingslaan	A7
Biddersstraat	E5
Biezenstraat	D5
Bilkske	H8
Binnenweg*	G1
Biskajersplein	F7
Blankenbergse Steenweg	A2
Blekerijstraat	I11
Blekersstraat	G7
Blinde-Ezelstraat	F9
Bloedput	B7
Bloemenstraat	H13
Blokstraat	D5
Boeveriestraat	B10
Bollaardstraat	C8
Boninvest	H11
Boomgaardstraat	G8
Boterhuis	D7
Boudewijn Ostenstraat*	F7
Boudewijn Ravestraat	F11
Braambergstraat	F9
Brandstraat	B8
Breidelstraat	E8
Britse Kaai	F1
Brugse-Mettenstraat*	J7
Buiten Begijnvest	C13
Buiten Boeveriest*	B11
Buiten Boninvest	H11
Buiten de Dampoort*	H3
Buiten de Smedenpoort*	A10
Buiten Gentpoortvest	G12
Buiten Katerijnevest	F13
Buiten Kazernevest	J9
Buiten Kruisvest	I6
Buiten Smedenvest*	A9
Burg	F8
Burgstraat*	F8
C	
Calvariebergstraat	F4
Camiel v/d Buschestraat	J14
C. v/d Walle de Gheckestr	G14
Carmersstraat	G6
Cesar Gezellestraat	H12
Chartreusweg*	A14
Coeltjijnstraat	E12
Collaert Mansionstraat	F5
Cordoeaniersstraat	E8
Coupure	G9
D	
Dampoortstraat	J6
Damse Vaart-Zuid	I3
Daverlostraat	H12
De Garre*	E8
Delaplacestraat (Julius)	J6
De Tuinjes	J4
Dhoorestraat	I13
Diamantslijpersstraat	F10
Dijver	E9
Diksmuidestraat	E3
Dirk Boutsstraat	C4
Dokwerkersstraat	I1
Driekoningenweg*	J8
Driekroezenstraat	E11
Driezwanenstraat	G7
Dudzeelse Steenweg	G1
Dweersstraat C9	
E	
Edestraat	J4
Edward De Denestraat*	G13
Eekhoutpoort	F10
Eekhoutstraat	F9
Eiermarkt	E8
Eiland	C12
Elf-Julistraat	D5
Elisabeth Zorghestraat	G6
Emile Cousindok	F1
Emman. De Neckerstraat	B5
Engelstraat	F7
Engelstraat	G9
Esseboomstraat	I8
Eugeen Van Oyestraat	G14
E. van 't Padstraat	H12
Ezelpoort	C5
Ezelstraat	D6
F	
Filips De Goedelaan	B6
Filips Wielantstraat	H13
Fonteinstraat	B10
Fort Lapin	H2
Freren Fonteinstraat	G9
G	
Genzenplein*	H9
Genzenstraat	H9
Gapaardstraat	G10
Garenmarkt	F10
Garsoenstraat	C11
Geernaartstraat*	E8
Geerolfstraat	F9
Geerwijnstraat	D8
Geldmunstraat	D8
Generaal Lemanlaan	I12
Genthof	F7
Gentpoortstraat	G11
Gentpoortvest	F12
Gerard Davidstraat	A4
Gerechtshof	I8
Gevangenisstraat	F9
Gietenijstraat	C6
Gistelse Steenweg*	A10
Giststraat	D9
Gloribusstraat	C10
Goeeputstraat	D10
Gombertstraat (Nikolaas)	D3
Gotje	G5
Gouden-Boomstraat	B5
Gouden-Handrei	F6
Gouden-Handstraat	F6
Goudsmedenstraat	F10
Graaf Visartpark	B6
Graaf de Mielenaerelaan	H2
Grauwwerkersstraat	D7
Greinschuurstraat	B9
Groenerei	G8
Groenestraat	C7
Groeninge	E10
Gruthusestraat	E10
Guido Gezellelaan	B9
Guido Gezelleplein	E10
Guido Gezellewarande*	H7
Guiden-Vlieslaan	C6
G. Vincke-Dujardinstraat*	B4
H	
Haanstraat	C9
Haarhakkerstraat	H4
Hadewijchstraat	H13
Hallestraat	E9
Hans Memlinglaan	A7
Hauwerstraat	B10
Havenstraat	G2
Heilige-Geeststraat	D10
Helmstraat	D8
Hemelrijk	H5
Hendrik Conscienceaan	B10
Hendrik Waelputstraat	A2
Hendrik Waelputstraat	A2
Hertsbergstraat	F8
Hoedenmakersstraat	E6
Hoefijzerlaan	B8
Hof Sebrechts	C8
Hoogste van Brugge	C10
Hoogstraat	F8
Hoogstuk	H10
Hooistraat	H9
Hoornstraat	G7
Hortensiastraat	H14
Houthulststraat	C4
Hugo Losschaertstraat	D6
Hugo Verrieststraat	H7
Huidenvettersplein	F9
I	
Ieperstraat	E8
Ijzerstraat	E3
J	
Jagerstraat*	A14
Jakobijnensstraat	F11
Jakob van Ooststraat	E7
James Wealestraat	E4
Jan Blockxstraat	G12
Jan Boninstraat	D6
Jan Breydellaan	A8
Jan Miraelstraat	E6
Jan Moritoenstraat*	G13
Jan van Eyckplein	F7
Jan van Ruusbroecstraat	G13
Jasmijnstraat	H14
Jeruzalemstraat	G7
Joe Englishstraat	A4
Joost de Damhouderstr.	G7
Jozef Suvéestraat	F9
Jozef Wautersstraat*	A14
Julius Delaplacestraat	J6
Julius Dooghelaan	J5
Julius & M. Sabbestraat	F4
J. Van Praetstraat	J1
K	
Kalkovenstraat	D6
Kammakersstraat	B9
Kandelaarstraat	G8
Kantwerkersplein*	H7
Kapelstraat	E5
Kardinaal Mercierstraat	C4
Karel Deffoustraat	A4
Karel de Stoutelaan	A6
Karel van Manderstraat	J5
Kartuizerinnenstraat	E9
Kartuizersstraat	J6
Kastanjeboomstraat	E10
Kasteelgeleed	B1
Katelijnestraat	E12
Katelijnevest	E12
Kazernevest	I9
Keersstraat	E8
Kegelschoolstraat	B9
Keizer Karelstraat	B6
Kelkstraat	F8
Kemelstraat	D9
Kersenboomstraat*	H8
Ketsbruggestraat	C13
Kipstraat	E7
Klaverstraat	D5
Kleine H. Geeststraat*	D10
Kleine Hertsbergstraat*	G8
Kleine Hoedenmakersstr.*	E6
Kleine Hoefijzerstraat*	C9
Kleine Kuipersstraat	C8
Kleine Nieuwstraat	F5
Kleine Sint-Amandsstr.*	E8
Kleine Sint-Jansstraat	B8
Klokstraat	B10
Kloostermuur	J5
Koetelwijk	H2
Kolenkaai	C3
Korwest	E3
Konflijstraat	I9
Koning Albert I-laan	A13
Koningin Astridpark	G10
Koningin Elisabethlaan	D4
Koningstraat	F7
Koolbrandersstraat	D10
Koolkerkse Steenweg	I2
Koolstuk	J5
Koopmansstraat	I8
Kopstraat	D8
Korte Blekersstraat*	G7
Korte Raamstraat*	F6
Korte Riddersstraat	F7
Korte Rijkepijndersstraat*	H6
Korte Roperdstraat*	H6
Korte Sint-Annastraat	G7
Korte Speelmanstraat*	H6
Korte Sporsstraat	J4
Korte Vuldiersstraat	C10
Kortewinkel	E7
Korte Zilverstraat	D8
Koudemarkt	F10
Kraanplein	E7
Kraanrei*	E7
Krakeleweg	E1
Kreupelenstraat	B9
Krom Genthof	F6
Krommestraat	G2
Kroonstraat	B4
Kruisboogstraat*	I12
Kruisvest	I6
Kruitenbergstraat	G9
Kuipersstraat	E8
Kwakersstraat	I8
Lane	B9
Lange Raamstraat	F6
Langerei	G4
Langestraat	H8
Lange Vesting	A9
Lauwerstraat	A5
L. De Potterstraat	J1
Leemputstraat	B9
Leestenburg	H4
Leeuwstraat	D7
Leffingestraat	G8
Leliestraat	H14
Lendestraat	D10
Leo van Geluwestraat	A2
Leopold I-laan	A5
Leopold II-laan	C3
Loppemstraat	E9
Louis Coiseaukaai	G1
Luikstraat	D3
M	
Maagdendal	E5
Maagdenstraat	B10
Maalse Steenweg	J8
Magdalenstraat	A11
Mallebergplaats	F8
Marcus Laurinstraat	J6
Mariastraat	E10
Maria van Bourgondielaan	A6
Markt	E8
Meestraat	F8
Middelburgstraat*	F8
Minderbroedersstraat	G9
Minneboplein*	G8
Minnewater	E12
Moerkerkestraat	H9
Moerkerkse Steenweg	J7
Moerstraat	D8
Molenmeers	G8
Mortierstraat	C8
Muntplein-Muntpoort	D8
Muur Der Doodgeschotenen	I8
N	
Naaldenstraat	D7
Neststraat	C8
Nieuwe Gentweg	F10
Nieuwstraat	E9
Nijverheidsstraat	I10
Niklaas Desparsstraat	E8
Nikolaas Gombertstraat	D3
Noord-Gistelhof	E6
Noordstraat	E11
Noordzandstraat	D9
Noorweegse Kaai	I3
O	
Oliebaan	H5
O.-L.-V.-kerkhof-Zuid*	E10
Ontvangersstraat	D8
Oostendse Steenweg	A1
Oosterlingenplein	F7
Oost-Gistelhof	F6
Oostmeers	D11
Oost-Proosse	H4
Oranjeboomstraat*	D10
Oude Burg	E9
Oude Gentweg	F11
Oude Zak	C7
Oude Zomerstraat*	E9
P	
Paalstraat	B9
Palmstraat	D8
't Pand	F10
Pandreitje	F9
Pannebekerstraat	I1
Paradijsstraat	I4
Park	E8
Past. V. Haecke plantsoen*	C6
Pater Damiaanstraat	C7
Pathoekeweg	D1


Paul Delvauxstraat	J1	's-Gravenstraat	G3	Spinolarei	F7	Vlamingstraat	E8
Peerdenstraat	G8	Simon Stevinplein	D9	Spoorwegstraat	B14	Vrijdagmarkt	C10
Peperstraat	H7	Singel	A10	Sportstraat	J5	Vrijheidstraat	G14
Peter Benoiltaan	A7	Sint-Amandsstraat	D8	Stalizerstraat	G10	Vuldersreijte	I7
Peterseliestraat	H5	Sint-Annakerkstraat	G7	Stationslaan	A11	Vuldersstraat	H8
Philipstockstraat	E8	Sint-Annaplein*	G7	Stationsplein	C13	W	
Pieter Poursbusstraat	E7	Sint-Annarei	G7	Steenhouwersdijk	F9	Waalsestraat	F9
Pijpersstraat	D10	Sint-Brunostraat	I8	Steenkaai	A3	Wagnerstraat	G12
Pleinstraat	B1	Sint-Claradreef	E4	Steenstraat	D9	Walplein	E11
Poitevinstraat	D6	Sint-Clarastraat	E5	Sterstraat	F6	Walstraat	E11
Potentestraat	A1	Sint-Gillisdorpstraat*	F5	Stijn Streuvelsstraat	I7	Walweinstraat	F3
Pottenmakersstraat	D7	Sint-Gilliskerkhof	F6	Stoelstraat	I7	Wantestraat	G14
Potterierei	G4	Sint-Gilliskerkstraat	F6	Stokersstraat	G4	Wapenmakersstraat	F8
Predikherenrei	H9	Sint-Gilliskoorstraat	F6	Stoofstraat	E10	Weidestraat	H14
Predikherenstraat	G8	Sint-Godelievedreef	J3	Strostraat	G7	Werfplein	D4
Prinsenhof	D8	Sint-Jakobsplein*	D7	Sulferbergstraat	E12	Werfstraat	D4
Prins Albertstraat	J8	Sint-Jakobsstraat	D8	T		Werkhuisstraat	F11
Prof. Dr. J. Sebrechtsstr.	D12	Sint-Jan in de Meers	C10	Ter Pannestraat	E3	West-Gistelhof	E6
R		Sint-Jansdreef	A8	Ter Lake	G14	Westmeers	C11
Raamstraat	D6	Sint-Jansplein	F8	Ter Looigemweg	H1	Wevershof*	D11
Riddersstraat	F8	Sint-Jansstraat	F7	Timmermansstraat	H8	Wijnenburgstraat	A3
Rijkepijndersstraat	G6	Sint-Jorisstraat	E6	Torenbrug*	F6	Wijngaardplein	D11
Rijsetstraat	A14	Sint-Jozefsplein	H1	Torhoutse Steenweg*	A10	Wijngaardstraat	E11
Robijnstraat	E7	Sint-Katarinastraat	G14	Tornooistraat*	B5	Wijnzakstraat	F7
Rode-Haanstraat	E7	Sint-Maartensbilk	B10	Tuiniersstraat	J5	Willemijndreef	G11
Rodestraat	H7	Sint-Maartensplein*	F7	Tuinstraat	H14	Witteleertouwersstraat	G9
Rolweg	H6	Sint-Niklaasstraat	E9	Twijnstraat	F8	Woensdagmarkt	F7
Rond den Heerdstraat	B1	Sint-Obrechtsstraat	C11	't Zand	C9	Wollestraat	E9
Ronsaardbkestraat	H1	Sint-Pietersgroenestraat	C1	't Zweerd*	G9	Wulfhagestraat	C8
Roompotstraat	B7	Sint-Pieterskaai	C3	V		Wulpenstraat	H3
Ropeerstraat	G6	Sint-Pietersnoordstraat	B1	Vaartstraat	D2	Z	
Rozemarijnstraat*	E8	Sint-Pieterszuidstraat	C1	Van Arteveldestraat	D1	Zakske	D7
Rozendal	C6	Sint-Salvatorskerkhof	D10	Van Steenestraat	I13	Zandstraat*	A10
Rozenstraat	H14	Sint-Salvatorskoorstraat	D9	Van Voldenstraat	B11	Zevensterrestraat	C9
Rozenhoedkaai	F9	Sint-Walburgastraat	F8	Veemarktstraat	C2	Zilverstraat	D9
Rubenslaan	H13	Slachthuisstraat	B2	Veldmaarschalk Fochstr.	D4	Zonnekemeers	D11
Rustenburgstraat	A3	Sledestraat*	D6	Veldstraat	A14	Zuidervaartje	J3
S		Sluisstraat	F1	Venkelstraat	H7	Zuidzandstraat	C9
Sasplein	H3	Smedenstraat	B9	Verbrand Nieuwland	H8	Zeger Van Malestraat*	A6
Schaarstraat	G10	Snaggaardstraat	H6	Verversdijk	G7	Zuider Boomgaard	I14
Scheepsdalelaan	B4	Spaanse Loskaai	E6	Vestingstraat	F13	Zwaluwenstraat	C3
Schottinnenstraat*	F6	Spanjaardstraat	E7	Violierstraat	G10	Zwarteleertouwersstraat	G9
Schouwwegersstraat	B8	Speelmansrei	C9	Vismarkt	F9	Zwijnstraat	B9
Schrijnwerkersstraat*	F7	Speelmansstraat	H6	Visspaanstraat	F12		
Schrijversstraat	E6	Speelpleinlaan	J10	Vizierstraat	H10		
Schuttersstraat*	D6	Spiegelrei	F7	Vlamingdam	E5		

(*not indicated on the map)


















LEGEND

-  Ring: two-way traffic
-  Pedestrian area or area with limited traffic
-  Tunnel for pedestrians and bikes
-  No through traffic
-  One-way-traffic
-  Two-way-traffic
-  Parking area
-  Coach parking
-  Parking mobil homes
-  Motor home overnight parking area
-  Railway station
-  Access road or entrance gates
-  Bus-stop De Lijn
-  Boats
-  Horse-drawn cabs
-  Sight-seeing Line
-  Cash machines
-  Boudewijn Seapark Brugge
-  Almshouses
-  Meeting point guides
-  Bike Rental


 Public toilet


 Information office

HISTORIC SITES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

- H10  Conzett bridge
- C5  City gate
- G11  Bruggemuseum - Gentpoort
- E7  Genoese Lodge (Saaihalle)
- D7  Hof Bladelin
- E9  Hof van Watervliet
- E7  Ter Beurze House
- H4  Bruggemuseum - Koelewei mill
- J7  City gate
- D13  Gunpowder Tower
- E7  Burghers' Lodge (State archives)
- D8  Prinsenhof
- E8  Proosdij
- E8  Provincial Palace
- I6  Bruggemuseum - Sint- Janshuis mill
- B9  City gate
- C8  Minstrels Guild's Chapel








F9  Fish Market

E13  Barge bridge







F7  Old Toll House


















B11  Dumery Bell

PUBLIC OR SEMI-PUBLIC BUILDINGS

- F8  Administrative Centre 't Brugse Vrije
- B10  Exhibition Centre
- E9  College of Europe
- I8  Courthouse
- D10  Meeting Event & Conference Centre Oud Sint-Jan
- F9  City Hall
- B6  Swimming pool-Jan Guilini
















CHURCHES

- D11  Beguinage church
- D10  Episcopal Palace
- H6  English convent
- G4  Episcopal seminary
- F9  Basilica of the Holy Blood
- G10  Church of the Holy Magdalena


- H7  07 Jerusalem Chapel
- E8  08 Saint Peter's Chapel (United Protestant Church & English Church)
- B10  09 Capucins
- E9  10 Military Chapel (Carthusian Chapel)
- C6  11 Oecuminal Chapel
- D6  12 Discalced Carmelites
- G4  13 Church of our Lady of the Pottery
- E10  14 Welcome Church of Our Lady
- D6  15 Orthodox Chapel (St Helen and Constantine)
- G7  16 St Anne's Church
- F6  17 St Giles' Church
- B10  18 St Godelieve's Abbey
- D7  19 St Jacob's Church
- D10  20 St Saviour's Cathedral
- F7  21 St Walburgha's Church
- E7  23 Free Evangelical Church
- B9  23 Chapel of Our Lady of the Blind

CULTURE - MUSEUMS

- D10  01 Bruggemuseum - Archeology
- E10  02 Museum Arentshuis
- D11  03 Beguine's house
- E8  04 Biekorf Library
- E8  06 Biekorf Theatre (CC)
- E11  10 Bogarden Chapel
- E11  12 Brewery 'De Halve Maan'
- C10  13 Bruges Concert Hall
- A9  14 De Bond (CC)
- D7  16 De Republiek (Cinema Lumière, Cactus)
- D4  17 De Werf
- E11  18 Diamond Museum Brugge
- G1  19 Entrepôt (Youth and Cultural Centre)
- E10  20 Groeninge Museum
- E10  21 Bruggemuseum - Gruuthuse
- I6  22 Bruggemuseum - Gezelle
- D6  23 Joseph Rylandt Concert Hall
- H7  24 Lace Centre
- E10  25 Hospital Museum - Memling in Sint-Jan

- H7  27 Bruggemuseum - Folklore
- D8  29 Organ Hall (Music Academy)
- I6  31 St Sebastian's Archers Guild
- F8  32 City Archives - Bruggemuseum - Liberty of Bruges
- E7  33 City Theatre (CC)
- I7  35 St George's Archers Guild
- A11  36 Magdalena hall
- G4  37 Hospital Museum - Our Lady of the Pottery
- F8  38 Bruggemuseum - City Hall
- E8  39 Bruggemuseum - Belfry
- F7  41 Choco-Story (chocolate museum)
- C10  42 Forum+ (Concertgebouw)
- F7  43 Lumina Domestica
- A14  44 Kinopolis Brugge
- E7  45 Belgian Fries Museum

 Wheelchair access

 Accessible with assistance

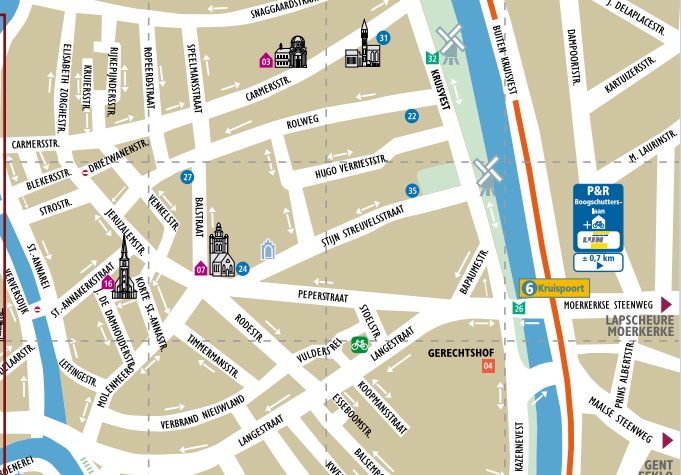
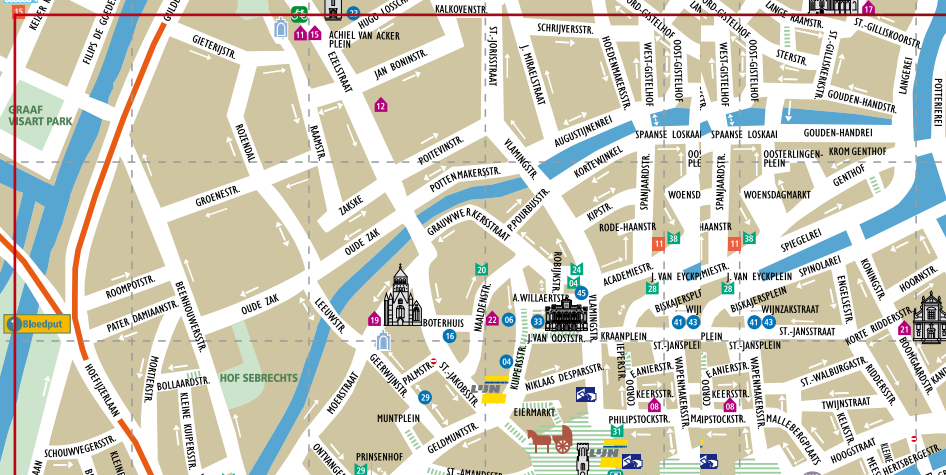
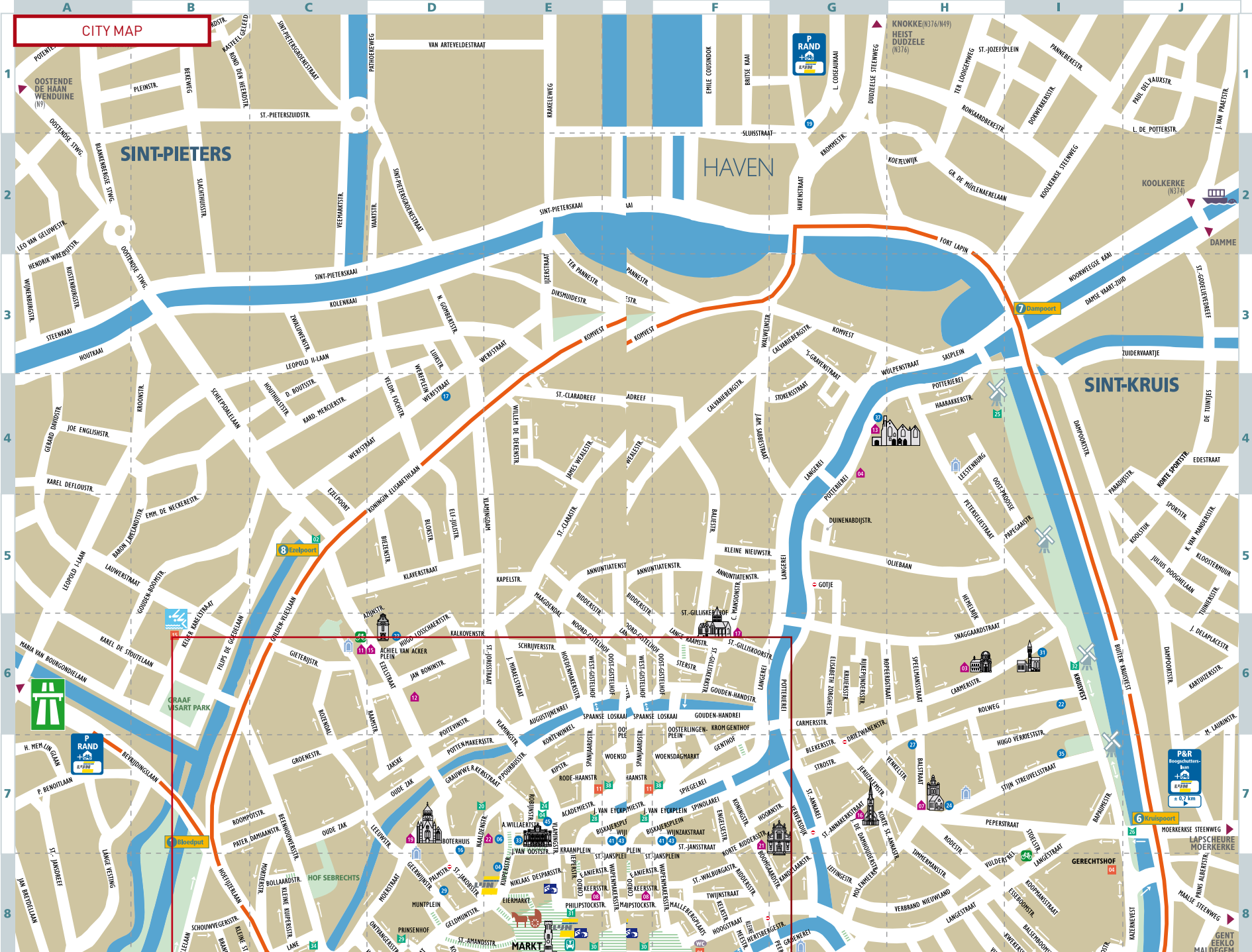


CITY MAP

SINT-PIETERS

HAVEN

SINT-KRUIS



8 **Stadsplein**

7 **Dammpoort**

6 **Stadsplein**

P RAND
+6.00
4.50

P RAND
+6.00
4.50

P&R
Boguspoort
+6.00
4.50
= 0,7 km



If you want to discover Bruges, this is the guidebook you can't do without!

- Three attractive walks along museums, monuments, famous locations and quaint corners
- Fascinating interviews with well-known citizens of Bruges, ranging from the Bruges World Heritage and the Flemish primitives to chocolate, Bruges as a city of culture and the surrounding area
- A survey of all places of interest, museums and attractions, including a short description and practical information
- Idyllic spots in the vicinity of Bruges, ideal to discover by bike
- An overview of the most important events of 2009
- A list of the most charming and attractive cafés, restaurants and shops



Information Offices

[Concertgebouw], 't Zand
Mon-Sun: 10.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m.

Railway Station, Stationsplein
Mon-Fri: 10.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.
Sat-Sun: 10.00 a.m.-2.00 p.m.

More information

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