



ENGLISH



OFFICIAL CITY GUIDE
of Europe's best kept secret

visit**gent**

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visitgent.be

official tourist office
city of Ghent





If you visit Ghent, don't forget to bring an extra bag. Because you won't be leaving empty-handed. Ghent is an Aladdin's Cave for those craving sweet and salty. Sharp Tienteyn mustard, Ganda ham, or the Ghentian classic dish 'waterzooi', ... Having a sweet tooth? Try the cuberdons or 'neuzekes', snowballs or the bun called 'gestreken mastel'. Feeling thirsty? Plenty of options: Gruut, Roomer or the craft beer brews of Dok Brewing Company. At every streetcorner there is something to tempt you.

DEAR VISITOR

'The historic heart of Flanders', 'a city of all times', 'the medieval Manhattan' and 'Europe's best-kept secret': the nicknames Ghent has acquired over the years are as colourful as the city itself. Wander through the city centre and you will immediately understand the numerous tourist awards and international praise.

This guide will help you explore our beautiful city. The practical map shows the numbered sights which are explained in words and images in the guide. Explore Ghent's history and discover what the Castle of the Counts, the Ghent Altarpiece, the three towers or the renowned Ghent museums have to offer. Do you like wandering leisurely through the city? The map features a basic walk as well as a few thematic exploratory walks tailored to all tastes. Ghent sparkles, day and night. When darkness falls, the city undergoes a genuine transformation. Until midnight, the city's unique lighting plan makes it look truly magical. There's so much to do and see in Ghent, come and discover it yourself!



tip

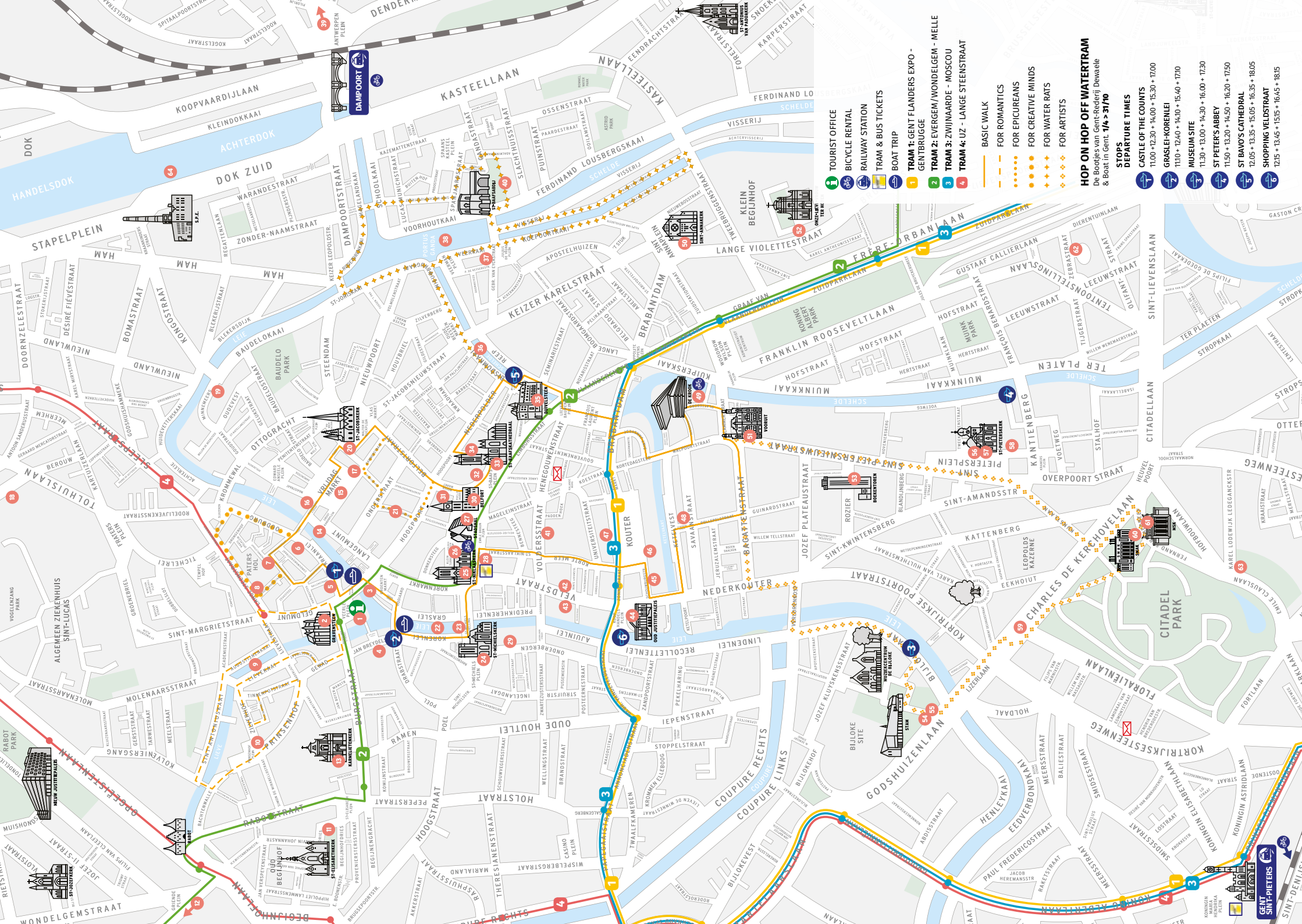
Get your visit to Ghent off to a good start. The advantageous CityCard Gent provides access to all of Ghent's top attractions, including public transport, at a rebellious minimum price. You can buy the CityCard Gent in the VisitGent Information Centre. The attractions with this logo are included in the CityCard.



citycardgent.be/advantage

Legend :

- 1 OLD FISH MARKET
- 2 CASTLE OF THE COUNTS
- 3 GREAT BUTCHERS' HALL
- 4 DESIGN MUSEUM GENT
- 5 LENA, NESTOR & LUNA
- 6 HOUSE OF ALIJN
- 7 PATERSHOL
- 8 KUNSTHAL GENT
- 9 LIEVEKAAI & ST-ANTONIUSKAAI
- 10 PRINSENHOF
- 11 OLD ST ELIZABETH BEGUINAGE
- 12 DR. GUISLAIN MUSEUM
- 13 CARMELITE CHURCH
- 14 BIG CANNON
- 15 VRIJDAGMARKT
- 16 ONS HUIS
- 17 TOREKEN
- 18 THE WORLD OF KINA: THE GARDEN
- 19 MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY
- 20 ST JAMES' CHURCH
- 21 GRAFFITI STREET
- 22 GRASLEI & KORENLEI
- 23 ST MICHAEL'S BRIDGE
- 24 ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH
- 25 ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH
- 26 "DE MAAGD" BY M. BORREMANNS & ROELAND BELL
- 27 CITY PAVILION
- 28 MASONS' GUILD HALL
- 29 PAND
- 30 BELFRY
- 31 TOWN HALL
- 32 ROYAL DUTCH THEATRE (NTGENT)
- 33 ST BAVO'S CATHEDRAL & GHENT ALTARPIECE
- 34 ACHTERSIKKEL
- 35 CASTLE OF GERALD THE DEVIL REEP
- 36 VAN EYCK SWIMMING POOL
- 37 PORTUS GANDA
- 38 GREAT ST ELIZABETH BEGUINAGE
- 39 ST BAVO'S ABBEY
- 40 UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM
- 41 HOTEL D'HANE-STEENHUYSE
- 42 ARNOLD VANDER HAEGEN HOUSE
- 43 OLD LAW COURTS
- 44 ROYAL OPERA
- 45 HANDELSBEURS
- 46 HOTEL FALLIGAN
- 47 ST BARBARA'S CHURCH
- 48 KROOK
- 49 ST ANNE'S CHURCH
- 50 VOORUIT - ART CENTRE VIERNULVIER
- 51 SMALL BEGUINAGE OUR LADY TER HOYEN
- 52 BOOKTOWER
- 53 MUSIC CENTRE DE BIJLOKE
- 54 STAM (GHENT CITY MUSEUM)
- 55 ST PETER'S CHURCH
- 56 ST PETER'S ABBEY AND GARDEN
- 57 THE WORLD OF KINA: THE HOUSE
- 58 FONTAIN C. DE KERCHOVE
- 59 S.M.A.K. (MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART)
- 60 MSK (MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS)
- 61 ZEBRASTRAAT
- 62 GHENT UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
- 63 OLD DOCKS



- TOURIST OFFICE
 - BICYCLE RENTAL
 - RAILWAY STATION
 - TRAM & BUS TICKETS
 - BOAT TRIP
 - TRAM 1: GENT FLANDERS EXPO - GENTBRUGGE
 - TRAM 2: EVERGEM/WONDELGEM - MELLE
 - TRAM 3: ZWIJNAARDE - MOSCOU
 - TRAM 4: UZJ - LANGE STEENSTRAAT
- BASIC WALK
 - FOR ROMANTICS
 - FOR EPICUREANS
 - FOR CREATIVE MINDS
 - FOR WATER RATS
 - FOR ARTISTS

HOP ON HOP OFF WATERTRAM
 De Bootjes van Gent (Bedrijf) Dewaele
 & Boat in Gent 1/4 > 3/10

STOPS
 DEPARTURE TIMES

- CASTLE OF THE COUNTS
11.00 - 12.30 + 14.00 - 15.30 + 17.00
- GRASLEI-KORENLEI
11.10 + 12.40 + 14.10 + 15.40 + 17.10
- MUSEUM SITE
11.30 + 13.00 + 14.30 + 16.00 + 17.30
- ST PETER'S ABBEY
11.50 + 13.20 + 14.50 + 16.20 + 17.50
- ST BAVO'S CATHEDRAL
12.05 + 13.35 + 15.05 + 16.35 + 18.05
- SHOPPING VELDSTRAAT
12.15 + 13.45 + 15.15 + 16.45 + 18.15

PLAN YOUR TRIP TO GHENT

Ghent is a city on a human scale, where it doesn't take long for people to feel at home. The top attractions are within walking distance of each other and the city is known for its conviviality and vibrant atmosphere. Discover Ghent at your own pace, in your own way.

ON FOOT

It is perfectly possible to visit Ghent on foot. The centre boasts an unbelievable wealth of sights, all within walking distance from one another. Incidentally, the city has the largest low-traffic pedestrian zone in Europe. So why not wander through the streets and experience Ghent at walking pace?

[VISITGENT.BE/WALKING](https://www.visitgent.be/walking)

BY BICYCLE

Discovering Ghent by bike is an absolute must: the city loves cyclists and the feeling is mutual. Don't have your own bike? You can rent one at the train stations and in the city centre (see map).

[VISITGENT.BE/CYCLING-GHENT](https://www.visitgent.be/cycling-ghent)

BY CAR

Ghent is easy to reach by car. There are plenty of paid public parking spaces in the city as well as free P+R on the outskirts of the city. Don't forget to register for the Low Emission Zone when you drive into the city by car.

[VISITGENT.BE/CAR](https://www.visitgent.be/car)

BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT



The city is also easy to explore by public transport. Buses and trams will take you to your destination from early morning till late at night. At the Gent-St.-Pieters railway station and Korenmarkt, you will find a Lijnwinkel where you can buy tickets or at one of

the many ticket machines at all major bus & tram stops. Tram lines no. 1, 2, 3 and no. 4 will take you from one side of Ghent to the other, straight through the centre.

[VISITGENT.BE/PUBLIC-TRANSPORT](https://www.visitgent.be/public-transport)

BY BOAT

Ghent is crisscrossed by waterways, which various ship lines would love to show you during one of their unforgettable boat trips. The 'hop on hop off' water tram is another option to view the city from this unique perspective. From 1 April to 1 November, you can board the boat at six water stops in the city. (see map)

[VISITGENT.BE/SAILING](https://www.visitgent.be/sailing)

BY TAXI

There are taxi ranks at strategic locations across the city. A taxi ride from the Gent-St.-Pieters railway station to Korenmarkt will cost at least 12 euros.

[VISITGENT.BE/TAXI](https://www.visitgent.be/taxi)

GUIDES

Keen on exploring Ghent from a different perspective? Then why not book a guide? You can join an organised tour or hire your very own private tourist guide.

[VISITGENT.BE/GUIDE](https://www.visitgent.be/guide)

USEFUL LOCATIONS

Looking for a place to store your luggage, have a sanitary pit stop, exchange money or send a postcard home? Here you will find all the useful locations.

[VISITGENT.BE/USEFUL-LOCATIONS](https://www.visitgent.be/useful-locations)

ACCESSIBLE GHENT

Ghent is working on an integrally accessible city, also for visitors. Therefore the walking tour in the historic city centre has been adapted to visitors with reduced mobility. Even families with small children can benefit from this adaptation.

[VISITGENT.BE/ACCESSIBLE](https://www.visitgent.be/accessible)

SUSTAINABLE GHENT

In Ghent, sustainability is not a fashion, but a do-word. From veggie capital since 2009 to the largest car-free city centre in Europe since 2017. Put together your own sustainable city trip from A to Z.

[VISITGENT.BE/SUSTAINABLE](https://www.visitgent.be/sustainable)

Discover even more practical tips

[visitgent.be/plan-your-trip](https://www.visitgent.be/plan-your-trip)





GHENT, CENTURIES-OLD & VIBRANTLY POPULAR

Around the year 630, a bishop decided to establish an abbey at the confluence of the Lys and Scheldt rivers [40]. It was the people of Ghent who wrote the history of their town for centuries to come. A history of a proud and rebellious city, which holds a special attraction worldwide to this day. Where culture is a party and where partying is part of the culture.

Throughout the centuries, Ghent has faced many turbulent times. From great wealth to uprisings, to revival and industrial progress. Charles V even had the rebellious inhabitants of Ghent walk through the city with a noose around their necks as a punishment. To this day, the people of Ghent proudly bear the name 'Stroppendragers' (noose-bearers). Nothing could bring down the people of Ghent. The city has never lost its proud, rebellious and progressive nature.

Wander through the city centre and you will immediately understand the numerous tourist awards and international praise. Nowhere else can you switch so quickly from the 14th to the 21st century (and back!), without ever having the feeling that something isn't quite right.

The Lys and the Scheldt, which made Ghent so powerful in the past, are still embraced today.

Along Graslei and Korenlei [22], where barges docked and were unloaded in the Middle Ages, you can now enjoy the hustle and bustle and the many welcoming cafés with terraces. You can even moor your boat in the heart of the city, at Portus Ganda [38].

Discover the history of Ghent

visitgent.be/history



OLD FISH MARKET



📍 St.-Veerleplein 5

🕒 **Open** Mon > Sun: 10.00 > 17.00
Closed 1/1 and 25/12

The fish market was given its definitive location at St.-Veerleplein in 1689, including the permanent open-air stalls and the monumental gatehouse (in the corner of the square). The statues on the facade of the gatehouse show the sea god Neptune keeping watch over the rivers Scheldt (man) and Lys (woman).

In the previous century, the neo-Gothic main building was put to various strange uses (such as a tyre centre, a car wash and a bowling alley) but recently underwent an extensive refurbishment. Today, the Old Fish Market houses the Tourist Office of the City of Ghent as well as 4 unique event rooms.

Among other things, it now houses the Ghent Tourist Office. The glass side of the building looks out over the Lieve and the Lys and offers a good view of the Great Butchers' Hall [3].

Fancy a treasure hunt with the whole family? Then join us in search of the glasses of Dragon Fosfor! Entertainment, exercise and a dash of culture: a wonderful combination, right?

visitgent.be/dragonfosfor

CASTLE OF THE COUNTS



📍 St.-Veerleplein 11

🕒 **Open** Mon > Sun: 10.00 > 18.00
Last entry at 16h40
Closed 1/1 + 24/12 + 25/12 + 31/12

The Castle of the Counts is about the only remaining medieval fortress in Flanders with its defence system still virtually intact. Its history dates back to the Roman occupation, when there was already an early settlement on the sandbank of the Lys.

With its military architecture, the impressive building clearly served to convey the power of the counts in turbulent Ghent. It formed a counterbalance to the tall stone houses of the wealthy patricians on the other side of the Lys.

In 1949, the castle was occupied by a large group of Ghent students who staged 'the battle of the Castle of the Counts' to protest against the increase in beer prices and the fact that the police were to replace their white helmets with blue caps. According to the students, this would make it harder to tell them apart from postmen and taxi drivers. The student prank ended peacefully and the Castle of the Counts was handed back to the authorities that same evening. To this day, the Battle of the Castle of the Counts is commemorated with a cantus song and the annual Castle of the Counts procession on November 16.

Dig deeper into the culture of the knights

visitgent.be/castle





GREAT BUTCHERS' HALL 3

Groentenmarkt 7
 Closed until 2026

In order to check the quality of the meat that was sold, every medieval city had a butchers' hall where the sale of meat was centralised. Ghent's version is a splendid, covered market hall with a guildhall that dates back to the 15th century. From the end of the 19th century onwards, meat could also be sold privately and from door to door, so the Butchers' Hall fell into disuse.

Next to the Butchers' Halls, there were always 'Tripe houses', where the inferior products (innards, tripe and meat scraps) were sold separately from the 'good' meat. Right next to the Butchers' Hall, you will find 'Galgenhuisje', a former tripe house that now houses the smallest café in Ghent.

The centre for regional products (Oost) has moved to the Goudenleeuwplein 3, near the City Pavilion. You can buy regional products there and taste them on the terrace.



DESIGN MUSEUM GENT 4

Jan Breydelstraat 5
 Closed until 2026

In 1922, this impressive 18th-century city residence in Rococo style was purchased by the city of Ghent and used to house its design museum. Behind the splendid facade there is a truly authentic interior with an open, modern wing at the back.

The temporary exhibitions supplement the outstanding permanent collection, which covers the period from Art Nouveau to the current design trends.

The museum is getting a complete renovation including a new extension. By 2026, all the buildings will be seamlessly connected and there will be extra space for presentations, workshops, events, sanitary facilities and an elevator.

LENA, LUNA & NESTOR 5

Kraanlei 19

While Brussels has Manneken Pis, Ghent boasts Manneke Nestor: a little boy flanked by two girls, Lena and Luna, on a façade in Kraanlei. Don't forget to look up and discover the three statuettes. Nestor is regularly dressed in a new outfit.

THE HOUSE OF ALIJN 6

Kraanlei 65

Open Mon + Tue + Thu + Fri:
9.00 > 17.00 & Sat > Sun +
School holidays & public
holidays: 10.00 > 18.00

Closed Wed + 1/1 + 24/12 + 25/12
+ 31/12

The House of Alijn museum puts the ordinary daily life of 20th century people in the spotlight. This was once the 'Children of Alijn hospice'. It is the only almshouse—a charitable institution where the old and sick were cared for—to have been preserved in Ghent.

A must-see during your city trip to Ghent with the kids. Visit the House of Alijn with your children or grandchildren and discover or re-discover together how daily life has changed. Dip into the dressing-up box, flick through photo albums from grandma's time, revel in the nostalgia of old films, enjoy Play-Doh, hopscotch and knucklebones: rediscover your inner child!

Afterwards, why not reminisce in the beautiful courtyard in an equally typical café? Highly recommended!

Tips if you are visiting with kids

visitgent.be/family





KUNSTHAL GENT

8

📍 entrance: Lange Steenstraat 14

🕒 Open Sat > Sun: 11.00 > 18.00

The thirteenth-century walls Caermersklooster monastery at the heart of the Patershol neighbourhood now accommodates Kunsthal Gent. This is an international development and presentation platform for visual arts in Ghent.

A new series of exhibitions with works by local and international artists is launched three times a year.

Immerse yourself in the art city of Ghent

visitgent.be/art

PATERSHOL

7

📍 Haringsteeg

This old neighbourhood in the shadow of the Castle of the Counts [2] has a street pattern of narrow alleys and winding lanes dating back to the Middle Ages. The neighbourhood's image has changed in line with the function of the surrounding areas: originally it was the military property of the Counts of Flanders, but after the departure of the monks (13th century) it became a residential area for magistrates and lawyers when the Castle of the Counts housed the Council of Flanders (in the late 15th century). Patershol remained an affluent neighbourhood when craftsmen and merchants subsequently settled there. However, when it became a working-class district in the 19th century, the town houses were split up into smaller workers' quarters. Patershol is now a trendy neighbourhood with lots of charming restaurants. During an evening walk through the narrow streets, you

will not only encounter all kinds of different cuisines, but you will also meet a wide range of people. The old houses have been renovated and around 500 families now live in these low-traffic streets.

The now largely covered canal known as the **Plotersgracht**, which runs right through the neighbourhood, gave the area its unusual name: the point where the canal disappears beneath a gate near the central friary was called the 'paters-hol' (the hollow of the fathers) by local residents.

Discover your favourite restaurant

visitgent.be/restaurant



LIEVEKAAI & ST.-ANTONIUSKAAI

9

In the 13th century, the Lieve Canal was dug in order to establish a direct connection with the Zwin tidal inlet and the sea. After the port fell into disuse, part of the canal was filled in during the mid-19th century, hence the current wide quay. Lievekaai now presents a typical streetscape in which little has changed over the past 200 years. The street boasts splendid mansions and the willows grow in peace here.

St.-Antoniuskai also provides relief from the hustle and bustle of the city. The highlights of this street include St.-Antoniushof (17th century), the home of the prestigious guild of arquebus shooters and cannons. You can still admire the symbols of the shooters which decorate the facade.

Brug der Keizerlijke Geneugten (the Bridge of Imperial Pleasures) was built across the Lieve in the year 2000 and features sculptures by Walter De Buck (1934-2014, Ghent-born sculptor and musician). These refer to various legends relating to the life of Charles V.



Stand in the middle of this remarkable bridge and enjoy a wonderful view of Rabot and the Augustinian monastery.



PRINSENHOF

10

In the 14th century, the Castle of the Counts [2] was no longer a suitable residence for the Count of Flanders, who moved to Hof ten Walle. Emperor Charles V was born here in 1500 and from then on, ten Walle became known as Prinsenhof.

The residence fell into disrepair in the 17th century and was ultimately sold. In the late 18th century, Prinsenhof suffered the same fate as the Castle of the Counts. A sugar refinery, soap factory and later a steam-powered cotton mill arose from the ruins. In the late 19th century, Donkere Poort (the Dark Gate) was all that remained of the magnificent complex.

The entire area around Prinsenhof lives and breathes the legacy of Emperor Charles, who occupies a special place in the history of Ghent. It was this emperor who returned to his city of birth when the citizens of Ghent rebelled against his measures. He received the city's governors at Prinsenhof on several occasions and in 1540 imposed the 'Concessio

Carolina', which considerably restricted their freedom. Dozens of Ghent dignitaries were literally forced onto their knees, dressed in hair shirts with nooses around their necks. Seventeen were decapitated and one was burnt to death. These days, the local residents are proud of their nickname 'noose bearers', but back then that certainly wasn't the case.

'Donkere Poort' is all that remains of Prinsenhof. It is said to have earned this name as it became very polluted by the factories in the 19th century.

Fancy staying in style, just like Charles V?

[visitgent.be/overnight](https://www.visitgent.be/overnight)

16



17

BEGUINES

11 39 52

Beguines were single women who lived together as a Catholic community in a 'beguinage'. The beguines took no religious vows but had to live by the rules of the beguinage for as long as they lived there. The three main rules were obedience to their superiors, chastity and austerity.

Because of their relatively independent status they were often persecuted as heretics

or witches throughout the years. By the end of the 18th century, they were only found in the Netherlands. The last Ghent beguine died in 2008, just before reaching the ripe old age of 100.

Two of Ghent's three beguinages have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List ([39] and [52]).



OLD ST ELIZABETH BEGUINAGE

11

📍 Begijnhofdries

In the 13th century, this open beguinage (which is no longer surrounded by walls, like the other two) grew into what you might call a beguinage town and included a church, the home of the 'mother superior', an infirmary, a chapel, more than 100 beguinages, a bleach-field (a field which was used for bleaching cloth) and an orchard.

Today, the Old St Elizabeth beguinage is known as the 'holy corner' as there are four different churches in the area: the Roman Catholic St Elizabeth church (which was originally the beguinage church), the Orthodox Church of St Andrew, the protestant Rabot church (on the former bleach-field) and St John's Anglican Church.



DR. GUISLAIN MUSEUM



12

📍 Jozef Guislainstraat 43

🕒 **Open** Tue > Fri: 9.00 > 17.00 & Sat > Sun: 13.00 > 17.00
Closed Mon + 1/1 + 24/12 + 25/12 + 31/12

A museum in Belgium's oldest mental institution, which dates back to 1857. The visionary Ghent-born doctor Guislain was one of the very first doctors to regard the mentally ill as patients who were entitled to humane treatment.

In 1986, the embarrassment about the way in which psychiatric patients were treated in the past provided the impetus for the museum to examine this shameful history.

Alongside the permanent collection, the museum showcases a unique, international collection of 'outsider art' or 'art brut'. The temporary exhibitions are always outstanding too.

CARMELITE CHURCH

13

📍 Burgstraat 46

On this monastic site, you can find the Carmelite Church, also known as the monastery church of the Discalced Carmelites. The friars of this Catholic mendicant order lived in the nearby Caermersklooster monastery in the Patershol neighbourhood, where Kunsthal Gent [8] is currently located.

Construction of the Carmelite Church began in 1651, when the monks established a community in Ghent, and was completed in 1712. Its remarkable architectural style combines elements from Baroque and Classicism. The monks had to abandon the church during the French Revolution. The building has been listed as a monument since 1961.

18

19

BIG CANNON

📍 Grootkanonplein

This cast-iron mammoth weighs 12,500 kg and dates back to 1431. As a result of its original ox red colour, the cannon was also referred to as the 'Big Red Devil', but it is known in popular parlance as 'Dulle Griet' (Mad Meg).

VRIJDAGMARKT

📍 Vrijdagmarkt

This illustrious square has always played a prominent role in Ghent's history. Events both good and bad have played out here since 1199, when the weekly market already had to make way for formal receptions, parties and celebrations, not to mention popular uprisings and bloodbaths.

Vrijdagmarkt was also the setting of that other popular event: executions! The last beheading, that of a certain Van Butsel, dates back to 1822. He died under the blade of the guillotine, after his right hand had already been cut off.

14

→ STATUE OF JACOB VAN ARTEVELDE

An entrepreneur and politician (1290-1345), Jacob Van Artevelde was mainly known as the leader of Ghent's insurgents. He managed to undo the boycott of English wool imports and became a true hero of the city. Not without good reason, Ghent is known as 'the city of Artevelde'. It was also thanks to Van Artevelde that Edward III was crowned King of France at Vrijdagmarkt [15]. Later, Van Artevelde was murdered by the head of the rich weavers in the courtyard of his home on Kalandeberg.



tip

Belgian cartoon icon Nero once wondered whether "Jacob was feeling for rain" but in reality Jacob is pointing towards his former ally England.

Wander around the numerous markets

visitgent.be/markets



ONS HUIS

📍 Vrijdagmarkt

The end of the 19th century saw the establishment of the first socialist health insurance fund in Ghent's working-class circles. The symbolic building (1894) includes Ons Huis (the party headquarters) and Bond Moyson, which at that time was the warehouse of the cooperative association. Just like the building Vooruit [51], this complex points a challenging finger at the bourgeoisie and shows that even in its more recent history, Ghent has continued to live up to its unruly reputation.

Take a minute to admire the beautiful sculptures on the facade of Ons Huis.

16

TOREKEN

📍 Vrijdagmarkt

Take a look at the corner house on the Kamerstraat side, called Toreken. This 14th-century building is the oldest and most authentic property at Vrijdagmarkt and gives you a good impression of what the square might have looked like during the turbulent medieval period. The Toreken house still has the market clock which announced the start of the market, as well as a ring which served as a pillory and from which rejected cloths were hung. The building also houses Ghent's Poëziecentrum (poetry centre).

17

20

21





THE WORLD OF KINA: THE GARDEN



Berouw 55

Open Mon > Fri: 9.00 > 17.00 & Sun + Public holidays: 14.00 > 17.30

Closed Sat + 1/1 + 2/1 + 25/12 + 26/12

Educational garden with more than 1000 plant species, a bee colony and live tarantulas. Children and youngsters will know where the action is. Brave parents can also tag along.

Feel like relaxing in nature?

visitgent.be/walks

Museum of Industry is home to an original 'Mule Jenny', a revolutionary spinning machine which was invented in England and was not supposed to have been exported. Nonetheless, Ghent-born entrepreneur Lieven Bauwens managed to smuggle a 'Jenny' across the English Channel piece by piece, bringing the industrial revolution to the mainland as a result. This is how Ghent earned its nickname as the 'Manchester of the European mainland'.

MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY



Minnemeers 10

Open Mon + Tue + Thu + Fri: 9.00 > 17.00 & Sat > Sun + School holidays & public holidays: 10.00 > 18.00

Closed Wed + 1/1 + 24/12 + 25/12 + 31/12

As an important textile centre, Ghent was already the operating base for the first Industrial Revolution on the European mainland in the late 18th century. However, the city's industrial past rapidly fell into decline from the 1970s onwards. Luckily, at the same time a decision was made to safeguard this heritage by creating a museum to house the symbols of the Industrial Revolution. The Museum of Industry is based in a former cotton mill and provides a unique picture of the drastic technological changes which have taken place in our Western European society over the past 250 years. Although the building is an experience in itself, the exhibitions also reveal a great deal about industry, labour and textiles.



Walk all the way up to the top floor of this glazed building and enjoy a wonderful view over the city. Below, you can see how the industrial premises have been given a facelift.

ST JAMES' CHURCH

20

Bij Sint-Jacob

1/5>30/9 Tue, Wed, Thu, Sat: 14.00 > 18.00 + Fri: 10.00 > 18.00

Closed Mon, Sun + 3td Sat/month

1/10>30/4 Tue > Sat: 13.30 > 17.30

Closed Mon, Sun + 3td Sat/ month

As early as in 1093, a church stood on the site of what is now St James' church. It was probably a wooden chapel that served pilgrims on their way to the shrine of Saint James the Great in Santiago de Compostela. This wooden chapel was replaced by a stone building in the 12th century.

The current church still features two towers in Romanesque style, but having undergone numerous destructions and alterations, also includes elements of Early Gothic and Baroque architecture. Be sure to take a look inside the church, where you will discover a wonderful interior with beautiful paintings by artists such as Gaspar de Crayer and other treasures.

GRAFFITI STREET

21

Werregarenstraat

Conceived as a temporary project during the 1995 Ghent Festivities, this alley has now served for years as a dynamic sketchbook, a demonstration of current street art and above all as a free port for Ghent's many graffiti artists. The tags and pieces change on a daily basis, and sometimes the entire alley is painted out in order to serve as a blank canvas for new masterpieces. In this rule-free zone, there is only one rule, that of the spray can – or simply put, respect works that are better than yours!



While you are wandering down this narrow street, be sure to peer over the low walls of Hof van Ryhove: the wonderful courtyard garden was laid out in accordance with the original 16th century plans. The four parts of the garden represent the four seasons.

Crazy about street art?

visitgent.be/streetart



22

23

GRASLEI & KORENLEI

22

This is the beating heart of the historical city centre. From the 11th century onwards, the trading activities along these quays increased and the area became the city's port. In those days, Ghent had a grain staple right: all grain imported into the County of Flanders had to pass through this inland port. All the boats had to leave behind a quarter of their grain in this harbour. As a result, Graslei and Korenlei, together with Korenmarkt, became the centre of the grain trade in Flanders. You will find several outstanding buildings on both sides of the river Lys: Korenstapelhuis, which dates back to 1200 and has the oldest stepped gable in the world (Graslei 11), Tolhuisje from 1682 (Graslei 12) and the old post office which was built between 1898 and 1909 (Korenmarkt 16).

As an extra bonus, both quays feature sailors' guildhalls. The Guildhall of the Free Sailors from 1531 (Graslei 14) belonged to the sailors who had their own business and were able to sail freely over the Lys, the Scheldt and the Lieve into Ghent's inland port. On the other side, along Korenlei, you can see the Guildhall of the Unfree Sailors: these sailors were employees and were obliged to transfer their loads to 'free' ships (which were guaranteed safe conduct) at the edge of the city. Look out for the anchors and dolphins on the facade and the gold ship which serves as a wind vane. Both Graslei and Korenlei are certainly worth a visit. You won't be the only person to have the same idea: with a colourful mix of locals, students and tourists, it can get quite lively here. If there's no room on one of the numerous terraces, you can simply sit by the edge of the water.

Don't miss an evening stroll through the area. It is here that you can truly admire Ghent as a city of light with a fairy tale setting – the height of romance. Enjoy the reflections of the buildings in the river, feel protected by the shadow of St Michael's church [24] and St Nicholas' church [25], which flank the two quays, and you will briefly feel as if you've been transported back to the middle ages.

Look closely and you will see that some of the facades seem to 'lean' forward quite a bit. This is not due to subsidence but was a deliberate choice to make it easier to hoist the sacks of grain up the front of the warehouses. On some of the houses you can still see the pulley system hanging from the tip of the stepped gable, just waiting to hoist up a new load.



ST MICHAEL'S BRIDGE AND ITS VIEW OF THE THREE TOWERS

📍 St.-Michielshelling

Time for the perfect selfie! No matter which way you look, you will see picture-postcard views from this bridge over the Lys: Graslei and Korenlei with the Old Fish Market [1] and the Castle of the Counts [2] in the distance, St Michael's Church [24], the rear of the building Pand [29] and of course the famous row of towers, which you can only capture neatly lined up in a row from this one spot. There used to be a flat swing bridge here, but it was replaced with the stone arched bridge in the early 20th century. At the highest point of the arch, there is a beautiful central lantern which features a bronze statue of St Michael.

26

St Michael's bridge is almost completely traffic-free these days, so take all the time you need to capture your own picture-perfect postcard and admire St Nicholas' church [25], the Belfry [30] and St Bavo's cathedral [33] neatly lined up in a row.

23 ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH 24

📍 St.-Michielsplein

🕒 1/4 > 31/10 Tue > Sun: 14.00 > 17.00
Closed Mon + 1/11 > 31/3

Construction of this late-Gothic church started in 1440, but remarkably it was not completed until 1825. A design from 1662 planned a 134-metre tower (by way of comparison, the tower of St Bavo's Cathedral [33] is only 89 metres tall), but this ambitious plan was shelved due to a lack of funds. What should have been a triumphal monument with a majestic tower became after all a church with a flat-roofed tower of 24 metres. This turned out to be quite fortunate in the end, as major ground-stability problems were discovered at a later date. The location would never have been able to support a heavier weight, unless Ghent wanted its own version of the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

The brewers' guild, which was the main sponsor of the church, offered the insurgents free beer during the iconoclastic riots in the hope of distracting them from their destructive activities and saving the interior of the church.

Be sure to marvel at 'Christ on the cross' (1628-1630), a painting by the old master Anthony van Dyck.



ST NICHOLAS' CHURCH 25

📍 Cataloniëstraat

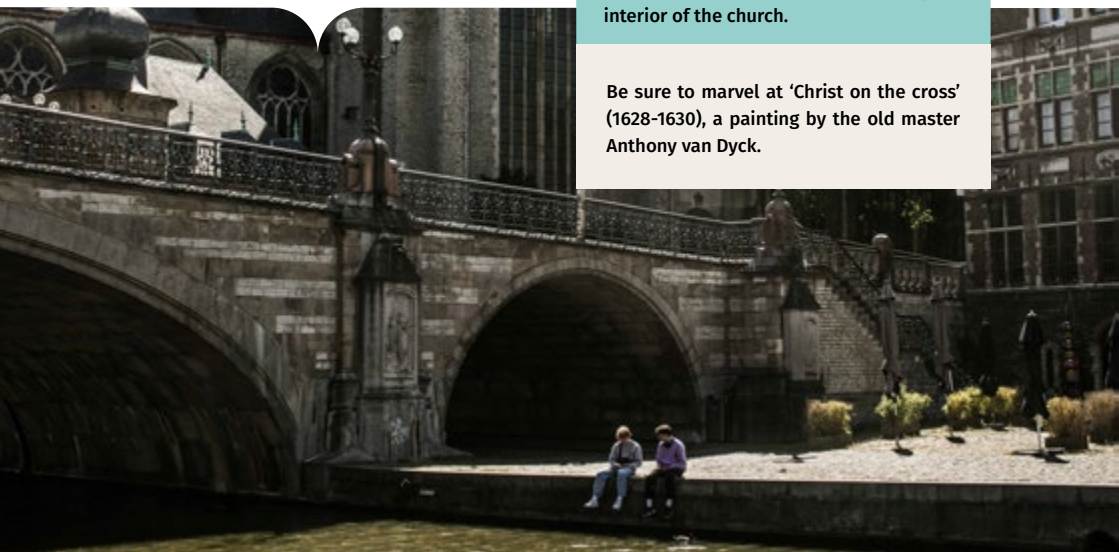
🕒 Open Mon > Sun: 10.00 > 16.00

This gem from the early 12th century looks out over Korenmarkt and has St Nicholas, the protector of merchants and sailors, as its patron saint. After all, they were the people who raised the money to build this impressive example of the Scheldt Gothic style. The splendour of the building highlights the wealth and power of the merchants.

The central tower is truly unique. It acts as a natural lantern, as the light shines directly into the transept.

Can't get enough of Ghent heritage?

[visitgent.be/heritage](https://www.visitgent.be/heritage)





ROELAND BELL

📍 Poeljemarkt

The Roeland Bell (Klokke Roeland) is the name of the alarm bells that have been hanging in Ghent's Belfry [30] since the 14th century. The first large bell was melted down in 1659 to form a carillon of 40 new bells. The largest was given the name of 'Roeland' and got a large crack when the bells began to be operated electrically in 1914. It was moved to the square next to the Belfry and was repaired in 2002. During the renovation of the square and the construction of the City Pavilion [27], the bell was given a new, specially designed base next to St Nicholas' Church [25].

→ DE MAAGD BY MICHAËL BORREMANS

Since 2014, the concrete base of the Roeland Bell [26] has been adorned with Michaël Borremans' fresco of De Maagd (The Virgin). This is a portrait of a young woman with piercing beams of light projecting from her eyes. Borremans is an internationally acclaimed leading artist from Ghent. He often displays 18th century painting techniques but invariably adds a contemporary context, as he did here in De Maagd.

CITY PAVILION

📍 Poeljemarkt

The City Pavilion (2012) is a large, open building in the shadow of the Belfry [30], the Town Hall [31] and St Nicholas' Church [25].

The building is part of a larger urban development project by the Ghent-based architectural firm Robbrecht & Daem – Marie-José Van Hee. The pioneering design boasts a striking roof structure which spans 40 metres and contains 1,600 small windows. The city once again demonstrated its headstrong character with this design. Although the residents quickly took this striking building to heart, it was soon given the mocking nickname of 'the sheep pen'.



tip

Stand under the pavilion and enjoy the light show, the sounds and the view. On the side of the building, there are another two lower floors alongside the park!

Into modern architecture?

visitgent.be/architecture

MASONS' GUILD HALL

📍 St.-Niklaasstraat 2

Opposite St Nicholas' Church [25], you will find the original Masons' Guild Hall. The only original, indeed, as a copy of the hall (which was thought to have been lost) was built along Graslei [22] for the 1913 World Fair. In 1976, the original was discovered behind a facade which had been added at a later stage and the Masons' Guild Hall was restored to its former glory. On top of the stepped gable, the six dancers who seem to be turning with the wind, were created by the Ghent-born singer and city sculptor Walter De Buck (1934-2014).

At the end of the 20th century, the Masons' Guild Hall was given a contrasting side wall which features large metal and glass panels. This caused a lot of commotion in Ghent, so you'll have to decide for yourself whether it is a blessing or a curse.

HET PAND

📍 Onderbergen 1

The former hospital (1201) ended up in the hands of the Dominicans, an order of monks who preached and made converts in the cities and were therefore known as 'preachers'. However, the locals do not take kindly to being subjugated and grew tired of the sermons. As a result, this friary became one of the first victims of the iconoclastic riots. Ghent's first theological university saw the light of day in this friary in the 16th century. In the 19th century, the building became a 'tenement': almost every square metre was rented out to students, artists and tramps. Its nickname 'Flea Palace' also dates back to this time.



BELFRY

📍 St.-Baafsplein



🕒 **Open** Mon > Sun: 10.00 > 18.00
Closed 1/1 + 24/12 + 25/12 + 31/12

The belfries of Flanders and France were the ultimate symbols of freedom, power and urban prosperity. As these were the safest places in the city, they often housed the city's archives and vaults, and sometimes also its prison. Ghent's Belfry (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) symbolises the city's independence and proudly holds aloft the alarm bell [26], which served to protect its citizens. It is well worth heading to the top of the Belfry (take the stairs or lift from the first floor) to admire the impressive carillon and the view. The top of the 14th-century base of the Belfry boasts the 'Dragon of Ghent', the city's symbol.

Adjacent to the Belfry, you will find Ghent's Cloth Hall. Although construction of this hall started in 1425, it only gained its definitive shape in 1907. Such cloth halls are reminders of the industry and economic prosperity of the medieval cities.

A quirky fact about Ghent's cloth hall is that the fencers from St Michael's guild have practised on the top floor since 1613.

The facade of the small annex is adorned with a sculpture of the 'mammelokker': legend has it that this prisoner was condemned to starve to death but managed to deceive the prison guards and was saved by his daughter, who fed him daily from her breast ('mamme': breast - 'lokken': suck).



TOWN HALL

📍 Botermarkt 1

31

This schizophrenic building quite obviously has two faces. The Hoogpoort side shows the flamboyant, late-Gothic style of the early 16th century. You can see the Counts of Flanders in the niches on the facade, although these were only added in the early 1900s. Inside the building, there are no less than 51 rooms including the Wedding Chapel, where the inhabitants of Ghent say "I do". Many a bride has already stood by the wonderfully romantic glass windows or wandered through the labyrinth of hallways and rooms in the building.

In the younger Renaissance wing (1559-1618), you can admire Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns and pilasters inspired by Italian Renaissance palaces.

There are numerous explanations for the white and blue colour of this rain pipe; each one more fanciful than the next. Let's keep it simple: white and blue just happen to be the colours of the local football club, KAA Gent.

NTGENT

📍 St.-Baafsplein 17

32

🕒 **Open** Mon > Fri: 10.00 > 18.00
Sat: 14.00 > 18.00
Closed Sun

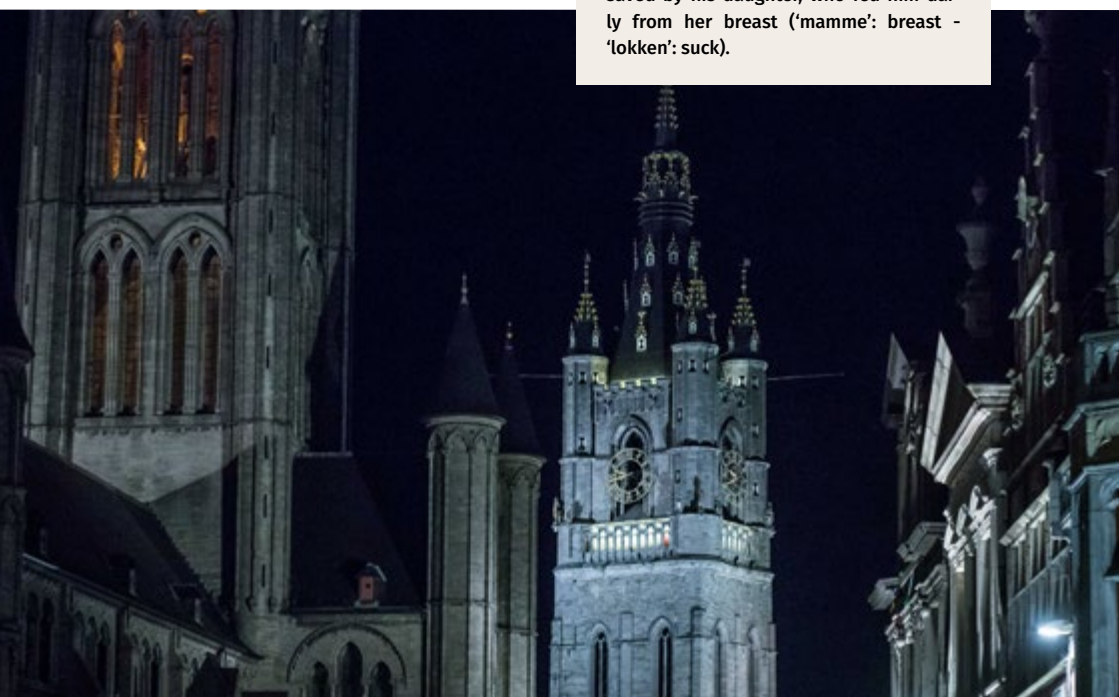
The Royal Dutch Theatre (KNS) on the majestic St.-Baafsplein is the home of NTGent, Ghent's municipal theatre with international allure. KNS – nestled between the cathedral, the Belfry and the town hall – simply breathes tradition. In the early 20th century, Ghent had three large cultural venues: KNS, Opera Gent [45] and Vooruit [51]. At the time, the theatre at St.-Baafsplein was the place to be for the art-loving bourgeoisie.



Take a look in the foyer and try to find a space on the outside terrace on the first floor. From here, you can enjoy the view over St.-Baafsplein: this spot breathes history and is also beautifully illuminated at dusk.

30

31






ST BAVO'S CATHEDRAL, HOME OF THE MYSTIC LAMB

33



32  St.-Baafsplein

 **Open** Mon > Sat: 8.30 > 17.30
Sun: 13.00 > 17.30

Mystic Lamb Mon > Sat: 10.00 > 17.00
Sun: 13.00 > 17.00

Closed 1/1

This cathedral, the oldest parish church in Ghent, was built on the site of a previous church dating back to the 10th century and a Romanesque church from the 12th century, dedicated to St John the Baptist. Ghent's rebellious history is still evident in the cathedral to this day, as the Roman nave can be seen in the crypt.

The cathedral has a rich history and therefore houses many art treasures: the Baroque high altar in flamed marble, the Rococo pulpit in marble and oak, a masterpiece by Rubens, the Calvary Triptych attributed to Justus van Gent, the tombs of the Ghent bishops and of course the world-famous Ghent Altarpiece.

(You can read all about the Ghent Altarpiece from page 50 onwards.)



tip

A bronze tactile scale model has been installed to the left of the cathedral's main entrance. This miniature cathedral is 150 times smaller than the real one. The braille text tells the history of the cathedral.

Would you like to find out more about the Mystic Lamb?

visitgent.be/mysticlamb

ACHTERSIKKEL

 Biezekapelstraat

34

CASTLE OF GERALD THE DEVIL

35

 Geraard de Duivelstraat 1

A little gem, this oasis of peace at the heart of Ghent's tourist epicentre is close to St.-Baafsplein. The name of this small square refers to the original owner, the wealthy Vander Zickelen family. The high, round tower (14th-15th century) was topped with an octagonal belvedere (vantage point) in Renaissance style; the building has also a plainer brick tower. On the small square, you can still see one of Ghent's five privately-owned wells, further proof of the Vander Zickelen family's wealth.

On summer days, your visit may have a musical accompaniment as the music academy has been located here since the beginning of the 20th century.

This 13th-century former Romanesque steen (the stone house of a nobleman) is named after the knight Geeraard Vilain. He earned his nickname of Gerald the Devil as a result of his appearance, as he had very dark hair and dark skin. His status is clear from the fact that Gerald and his wife are buried in the crypt of St Bavo's Cathedral [33].

Over the centuries, the building has served as a knight's residence, arsenal, monastery, school, episcopal seminary, mental institution and prison. In 1830, it was even used as a fire station. At the end of the 19th century it was purchased by the Belgian government, which added a new wing and used the building to house its archives.

The square keep on the corner of the building shows that the Castle of Gerald the Devil, nestled between the Scheldt and the moat which used to surround Ghent, served to defend the city and protect the former inland port, now Portus Ganda [38].





REEP

📍 Reep

Flowing through the city centre, De Reep or Nederschelde is part of the river Scheldt. Its banks are ideally suited for walking, picnicking or simply enjoying the view. This waterway connects De Krook [49] – the site of a library and meeting place – and Portus Ganda [38] – the historic confluence of the Lys and Scheldt rivers.

In the 1960s it was filled in to create parking spaces in the city. This stretch of the river has now been restored to its former glory. With a bit of luck, you can spot pleasure boats and kayaks at this beautiful waterfront location.

36

VAN EYCK SWIMMING POOL

📍 Veermanplein 1

This swimming pool may appear unremarkable on the outside, but appearances can be deceptive. It is the oldest indoor swimming pool still in existence in Belgium. Constructed in 1886, it boasts a wonderful Art Deco interior.

The building has been listed as a monument, not just for its artistic quality but also for its social and cultural value. In addition to a swimming pool, it served as public baths and thus contributed to the promotion of hygiene and public health in Ghent.

37

PORTUS GANDA

📍 Veermanplein 2

Ghent originally developed at the confluence (or Ganda) of the Lys and the Scheldt. On this site, there is now a marina known as Portus Ganda. Although this is meant to be a place for passing boat traffic, you will always be able to find a spot to moor your boat and go ashore, even in the high season. Portus Ganda is within walking distance of Ghent's lively centre.

The Nederschelde arm of the river was covered over to make way for concrete and cars but is now being brought back into view. As a result, water is once again put in the spotlight in Ghent and you can happily spend hours relaxing by the waterfront.

38

A red naked girl is sitting on a wooden construction in the water near the Van Eyck swimming pool. The locals have dubbed her "the Ghent Lorelei". The 'girl with the headphone' is a work by sculptor Johan Meirlaen, who used a small boat one night to put the sculpture on the wooden pier.

Musing along and on the water?

[visitgent.be/water](https://www.visitgent.be/water)



AULA

41

📍 Volderstraat 9

Ghent University is present throughout the city. Thanks to its numerous campuses, buildings and students, Ghent is a hive of activity day and night. The prestigious University Auditorium or Aula is the place where important events such as graduation ceremonies and the conferral of honorary doctorates are celebrated.

The entrance of this building in Neoclassical style features eight Corinthian columns topped by a triangular pediment. The auditorium was built circa 1820 and was designed by municipal architect Louis Roelandt (1786-1864).

Student + Ghent = one

visitgent.be/studentcity

GREAT ST ELIZABETH BEGUINAGE

39

📍 Groot Begijnhof 67

🕒 Mon > Sun: 06.00 > 21.30

36

This beguinage was constructed between 1873 and 1874 and involved a herculean task: in less than two years, 18 builders and 600 labourers built a total of 80 houses, 14 convents, a communal house, an infirmary, a chapel and a church. Today, it is an exceptionally large beguinage which is located just outside the city in the borough of St.-Amandsberg. This site is also an oasis of peace and quiet amidst the hustle and bustle of the city.

The neighbours of the abbey, a colourful group of local residents, open the site on summer Sundays, organise concerts and run the welcoming inn known as 'Herberg Macharius'.

ST BAVO'S ABBEY

40

📍 Voorhoutkaai 43

🕒 Open 1/04 - 31/10: Fri > Sun:
14.00 > 18.00

🕒 Closed Mon > Thu

Originally founded by St Amand, this abbey was rechristened St Bavo's Abbey in the 9th century. The abbey had its heyday in the 11th century. In competition with the nearby St Peter's Abbey [57], its domain grew to include an abbey church in which the 'oldest wall in Ghent' is still standing. Macharius, a pilgrim who died of the plague here, lent his name to the neighbourhood which sprang up around the former church and abbey. In 1540, to retaliate for the Ghent uprising, Charles V ordered the demolition of the splendid abbey church and the surrounding village. This harsh ruling (the 'Concessio Carolina') also specified that a Spanish fortress would be constructed to replace the abbey, thus ensuring total defeat.

Today, the outline of the original Romanesque church has been recreated with green shrubs to give you an idea of the former grandeur of the site.



HOTEL D'HANE-STEENHUYSE

📍 Veldstraat 55
🕒 Fri > Sat: 14.00 > 18.00
+ Sun: 10.00 > 18.00

This impressive 'hotel' (city residence) has a complex front facade in quite an ornate Rococo style. It has welcomed many famous guests during its history, but the most illustrious remains the French king Louis XVIII. He 'governed' from here while he was in exile, accompanied by a large royal household. In those days, he became notorious in Ghent for his dissolute lifestyle.

The city palace consisted of several old mansions, which is still evident from the projecting facade and the asymmetrical location of the main entrance. Inside, features such as the 18th- and 19th-century interior, and the wooden mosaic floor are well worth a visit. Another impressive sight is the Italian ballroom, which occupies two floors.

ARNOLD VANDER HAEGHEN HOUSE

📍 Veldstraat 82
🕒 Fri > Sat: 14.00 > 18.00
+ Sun: 10.00 > 18.00

A beautifully restored 18th-century patrician's house. The patrician in question was Judocus Clemmen, one of Ghent's first textile barons, who purchased the half-finished 'hotel' (the former name for a city residence) to live in. He had the building decorated with lavish ornaments in Rococo and classical style, as is still evident from the facade: a pompous pediment, carved drapes beneath the windows and sculptures above the balcony doors.



Those interested in more background information would do well to join the guided tour which takes place every Sunday at 11 am (€7 pp). Everyone loves a good story and when it comes to the history of the house, the guide holds nothing back.

Wellington stayed in this building in 1815 as it allowed him to keep an eye on Louis XVIII: the king, who was in exile from France, was staying at hotel D'Hane-Steenhuysse on the other side of Veldstraat.

The courtyard was given a contemporary look and is open to the public. The former warehouse now houses the city's culture department.



OLD LAW COURTS

📍 Koophandelsplein

This majestic Neoclassical building was constructed in the 19th century to replace the former Recollect Friary, which had been demolished. As the town hall was also used as a courtroom and the noisy sessions often disrupted the local authorities, a decision was made to build a completely new courthouse at Recollettenplein. Following a fire in 1926, which lasted two days and completely destroyed all the contents, the building underwent a thorough renovation. As new law courts have now been built outside the city, these days the old building only houses the Court of Appeal.

During the First World War, the law courts were occupied by the German army and used as an arsenal and workshop. On the side wall facing Schouwborgstraat, you can still see the German inscription 'Etappeninspektion' above the large window, even though it has been painted over.

OPERA GENT

📍 Schouwborgstraat 3

In the first half of the 19th century, rich Ghent industrialists commissioned a new and luxurious opera house. As it was intended to showcase their newly acquired wealth, the building also boasts a sumptuous interior. In the splendid horseshoe shaped theatre, 'seeing' was just as important as 'being seen'. The impressive chandelier is an attraction in itself, just like the three adjoining salons, which together measure 90 metres in length. As well as opera, the venue is also a good place to attend recitals and (lunchtime) concerts.

Alongside the palace you will generally find the 'Gentse Barge', a reconstruction of an 18th-century historical boat and an original employment project which combines heritage with the creation of jobs and educational projects. This wooden tow barge travelled backwards and forwards between Ghent and Bruges and was renowned for its comfort and luxurious interior.



DE KROOK

📍 Miriam Makebaplein 1

🕒 **Open** Mon > Fri: 10.00 > 19.00
Sat: 10.00 > 18.00
Closed Sun + 1/1 + 2/1 + 1/11 +
2/11 + 11/11 + 25/12 + 26/12

De Krook is a library and hub for know-how, culture & innovation. This architectural work of art is a unique meeting place for residents, students and visitors who are here to discover culture, enjoy a quiet drink or simply to enjoy the view.

As well as connecting people, the building links the Historic Centre with the Art Quarter. The building also includes a multi-purpose room, a study room and a reading café.

49

SAINT ANNE'S CHURCH

50

📍 Sint-Annaplein 1

A chapel dedicated to Saint Anne was built on the site of Saint Anne's parish church in 1644. The current church was consecrated in 1869 and is an imposing feature of the square off Keizer Karelstraat. Its architectural style is eclectic, combining Byzantine, Lombard Romanesque and Early Gothic elements.

The church was vacant for a long time, but has now been repurposed.

40

HANDELSBEURS

📍 Kouter 29

Handelsbeurs is one of the most prominent concert halls in Ghent. This 18th-century monument used to serve as a barracks for the imperial guard of Holy Roman Empress Maria Theresa.

A prime example of Rococo architecture in Ghent, the building was designed by architect David 't Kindt (1699-1770), who also drew up the plans for Design Museum Gent [4]. Nowadays it is a centre of musical activity. Pop, rock, classical music, jazz and world music: every genre finds its place here for a memorable concert.

46

HOTEL FALLIGAN

📍 Kouter 172

This 18th-century townhouse located at Kouter square is another example of Rococo architecture in Ghent. French nobleman Hector Falligan had it constructed in 1755. The impressive façade is adorned with sculptures of Apollo and Diana on top of Corinthian columns and wrought-iron parapets.

47

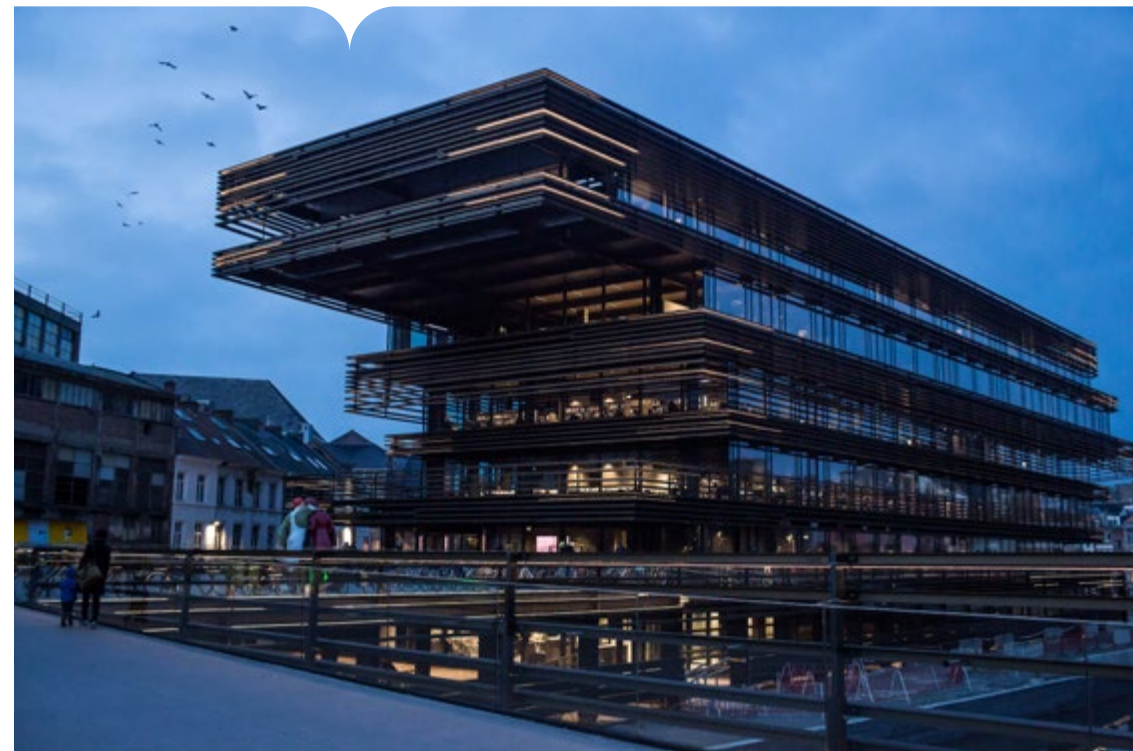
ST BARBARA'S CHURCH

📍 Savaanstraat 33

This church in Baroque Revival style was commissioned by the Jesuits and completed in 1858. It served the students of the Sint-Barbaracollege school. The church has since been deconsecrated and is no longer used.

48

41





SMALL BEGUINAGE OUR LADY TER HOYEN

📍 Lange Violettestraat 235

🕒 Mon > Sun: 06.30 > 22.00

Judging from the modest facade on the street side of the Small Beguinage, along Lange Violettestraat, you would not think that it conceals a church, around a hundred homes and a meadow (the former churchyard). The beguinage was founded as early as 1234 by the Countess of Flanders, after the Old St Elizabeth Beguinage. These days, it is a residential site and the former infirmary houses exhibitions and art studios.

52 BOOKTOWER

📍 Rozier 9

This 'fourth tower' symbolises Ghent's status as a university city. The building is 64 metres tall and has 24 floors, including 4 beneath ground level. It is a modernist masterpiece by the famous Belgian architect Henry van de Velde (1863- 1957), with a monotone concrete exterior and a wonderful belvedere.

The library has over 3 million books (46 km of paper).

A dog is perched on top of the Booktower. This bronze fox terrier is a work by Greta van Puyenbroeck based on an idea of Ghent photographer Michiel Hendryckx. The purpose of the sculpture is to put the lofty character of the monumental Booktower into perspective.

53

42

ARTS CENTRE VOORUIT - VIERNULVIER

51

📍 St.-Pietersnieuwstraat 23

In order to improve the plight of the working classes, labour movements developed all over Europe in the second half of the 19th century. Ghent's socialist consumer cooperative Vooruit was a classic example of its type and one of the first such establishments to be founded in Belgium, in 1880. 300 workers put together the starting capital by each saving half a franc. Around 1913, the Vooruit cooperative already had over 10,000 members.

After the bankruptcy of the Vooruit cooperative bank during the 1934 depression and the Nazi occupation, things quickly went downhill. By the early 1980s, when a group of volunteers set up Arts centre Vooruit in order to save the building, these splendid premises had literal-

ly become a dovecote. Like a phoenix, Vooruit arose from its ashes and today the arts centre forms the beating heart of Ghent's cultural scene, offering dance, theatre, performing arts, literature and a generous portion of rock-'n'-roll.

The spacious café, a popular meeting place, gained an external sibling in the form of a fantastic green terrace on the side of the building. From here, you have a wonderful view of the 'curtain wall' of the former offices of 'Dagblad Vooruit', the building on the other side which is beautifully illuminated at night.



43

MUSIC CENTRE DE BIJLOKE

54

📍 Jozef Kluykensstraat 2 (Bijlokesite)

The nuns of Mariahospitaal consecrated a new hospital here in 1228, with a ward which held forty beds. In those days the patients had to share beds, perhaps sharing their pain too... After the French Revolution, the Bijloke site became a civilian hospital, then a medical faculty and finally an internationally renowned music centre.

The former hospital infirmary with its splendid beamed apex ceiling was transformed into a concert hall where musicians fall in love with the unique acoustics. Attending a concert here is a treat for the ear and eye. The whole complex is well worth a visit as it is a perfect architectural symbiosis: buildings dat-

ing back to the medieval period, the 17th and 19th centuries are connected by a 21st-century walkway.

Like on many of Ghent's other historical sites, you can relax here in the peaceful green spaces, parks and gardens that stretch out alongside these impressive buildings.

Ghent sounds like music to your ears!

visitgent.be/creativecityofmusic



44



STAM



55

📍 Godshuizenlaan 2 (Bijlokesite)

🕒 **Open** Mon + Tue + Thu + Fri:
9.00 > 17.00 & Sat > Sun +
School holidays & public
holidays: 10.00 > 18.00
Closed Wed + 1/1 + 24/12 + 25/12
+ 31/12

On the Bijloke site, the Ghent City Museum or STAM tells the story of Ghent from the Middle Ages to the present day. The museum's highlights include the aerial photo of Ghent (measuring 300 sq. m!) visitors can walk on and the multimedia application which allows them to view Ghent in detail across four centuries.

'Zichten op Gent' shows a view of the city in 1534, maps from 1614 and 1912, and a current

aerial photo. Here too, you can sense the digital future against a historical backdrop. Past, present and future are illustrated in a clear and interesting trail, detailing Ghent's transformation from a medieval metropolis into a city of knowledge and culture. STAM is full of surprises, both in terms of its collection and presentation. In an unforgettable journey through time, you will discover what made Ghent the city it is today.

45

OUR LADY OF ST PETER'S CHURCH

📍 St.-Pietersplein

🕒 Tue > Sun: 10.00 > 17.00

The first St Peter's Church was a Romanesque building dating back to the 12th/13th century, which was converted into the current Baroque church in the 17th century. The Church of Our Lady, which did not survive the French Revolution, was not far away. Since then, this parish has been known as Our Lady of St Peter's. In the church you can admire wonderful sculptures and woodcuts, as well as plenty of paintings from the 17th and 18th centuries.



tip

At St.-Pietersplein look out for the pharmacy (no. 26). The 19th-century building was decorated by the socialist consumer cooperative Vooruit in 1923. The art deco interior is still intact, including the original stained-glass windows.

56

ST PETER'S ABBEY AND GARDEN

📍 St.-Pietersplein 9

🕒 **Open** Tue > Sun: 10.00 > 18.00
Closed Mon + 1/1 + 24/12 + 25/12 + 31/12

This Benedictine abbey was founded by St Amand in the 7th century, simultaneously laying the foundations for the city of Ghent. In the 14th and 15th centuries, it grew into a genuine abbey village complete with farms, gardens, homes and plenty of land. The abbey's prosperity stemmed from the privileges it had obtained and the taxes on its land, which ran all the way to Ghent's inland port.



tip

Be sure to wander through the gardens behind the abbey. In this green oasis, where monks once prayed and scribed with goose quills, you will now find Ghent students studying during the summer months. The monks grew grapes on the slope to the Scheldt behind the abbey and there are still vines here to this day.



57



THE WORLD OF KINA: THE HOUSE

📍 St.-Pietersplein 14

🕒 **Open** Mon > Fri: 9.00 > 17.00 & Sun + Public holidays: 14.00 > 17.30
Closed Sat + 1/1 + 2/1 + 25/12 + 26/12

A unique fossil of a prehistoric reptile, a splendid diorama room with native birds and a replica model of Ghent as it was in the 16th century, with sound and lighting effects. The House is a museum where you and your children will uncover one surprise after another.

Citytripping with the entire family?

[visitgent.be/family](https://www.visitgent.be/family)



58

CHARLES DE KERCHOVE FOUNTAIN

📍 Charles de Kerchovelaan

This boulevard was constructed in 1875 on the site of the old city ramparts. An imposing fountain has stood in the middle of Charles De Kerchovelaan since 1898. The monument commemorates Charles de Kerchove de Den-terghem, who was mayor of Ghent from 1867 to 1881.

Ever heard of a 'smart' fountain? This fountain is remote controlled. The water flow is adjusted to the wind strength, so that less water spills over the fountain's edge. The city administration is automatically informed of any problems. Isn't that smart?



59





S.M.A.K.



Citadelpark, Jan Hoetplein 1

Open Tue + Wed + Thu + Fri:
9.30 > 17.30 & Sat > Sun
+ School holidays & public
holidays: 10.00 > 18.00

Closed Mon + 1/1 + 2/1 + 25/12
+ 26/12

The Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art, or S.M.A.K. for short, was established in 1999 and is located opposite MSK [61] in a former casino.

Under the inspiring leadership of curator and art connoisseur Jan Hoet, the former 'Contemporary Art' department of MSK was given its own museum. The permanent collection includes outstanding national and international works by artists from the COBRA, pop art, minimal art, conceptual art and arte povera movements, who are all at the top of their field.



Look out for Jan Fabre's sculpture on the roof: the body of 'The man who measures the clouds' was modelled on Fabre's own body, while the face is that of his deceased brother.

Why not relax afterwards at the Mub'art restaurant at MSK, the Wilde Weide at S.M.A.K. or enjoy a walk through Citadelpark?

MSK



Citadelpark, Fernand Scribbedreef 1

Open Tue + Wed + Thu + Fri:
9.30 > 17.30 & Sat > Sun +

School holidays & public
holidays: 10.00 > 18.00

Closed Mon + 1/1 + 2/1 + 25/12
+ 26/12

The strength of the Museum of Fine Arts (MSK) lies in the diversity of its collection. This is particularly striking as Ghent was under French rule at the end of the 18th century and many of the city's art treasures were confiscated. Some of them are still in the Louvre to this day. However, Ghent did not lose heart. The city gradually acquired a comprehensive art collection and spent years searching for the right location to showcase it. This building at Citadelpark, designed by the architect Van Rysselberghe, is an art temple with a fantastic spacious feel and plenty of natural light, and proved to be the perfect solution.

Discover the current exhibitions

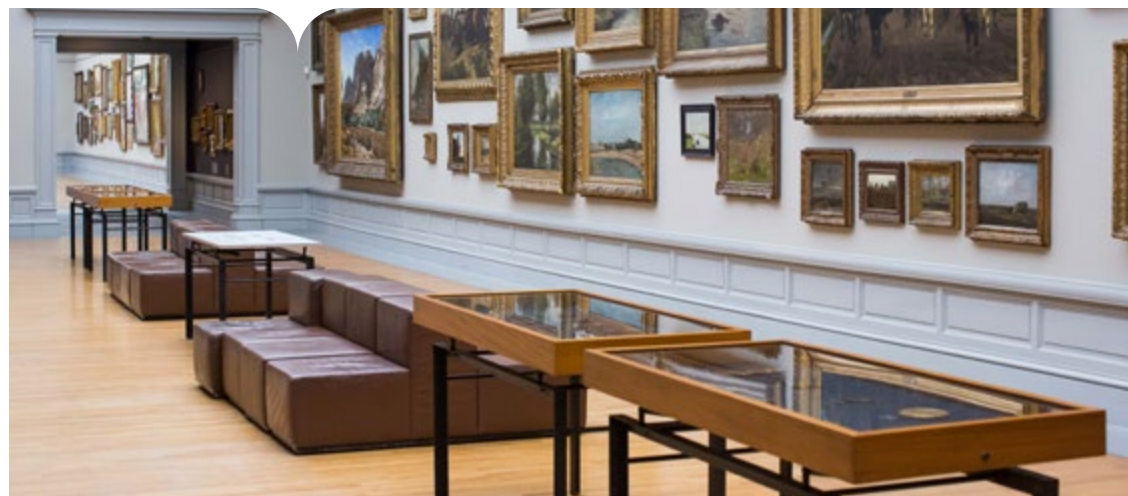
[visitgent.be/exhibition](https://www.visitgent.be/exhibition)

After a period of austerity during the Second World War and alterations in the mid-20th century, MSK (one of the oldest museums in Belgium) recently underwent a complete and drastic renovation. The collection, which ranges from Jeroen Bosch and Rubens all the way to Magritte, has never been presented more effectively and includes a huge variety of paintings, sculptures, drawings, etchings and tapestries which date from the medieval period through to the 20th century.

ZEBRASTRAAT

62

This project started in 1906, when the former city zoo was cleared to make way for workers' houses. Since the turn of the century, the residential complex has offered a platform for young artists as well as many social and cultural activities. The numerous works of art are one of the striking features of the site. They include the bright yellow mesh structure on the roof and veil on the rear wall (both by Nick Ervinck), the mirrored wall and the giant nail in the courtyard.





THE OLD DOCKS

64

A view of the water, beautiful sunsets, plenty of space. The Oude Dokken district has it all. Oude Dokken is the collective name for an urban regeneration project in the area surrounding the former docks Houtdok, Achterdok and Handelsdok, which used to be where the city's port activities took place. For almost twenty years now, this part of the city has been evolving into a modern, lively district.

Want to learn more about the Old Docks?

[Visitgent.be/the-old-docks](https://www.visitgent.be/the-old-docks)

50

GHENT UNIVERSITY MUSEUM (GUM) AND BOTANICAL GARDEN



63

📍 Ledeganckstraat 35

🕒 **Open** Mon + Tue + Thu + Fri:
9.30 > 17.30

Sat > Sun + school &
public holidays: 10 > 18

Closed Wed + 1/1 + 24/12 + 25/12
+ 31/12

At the science museum, you can discover a highly valuable and exceptional collection covering various disciplines, ranging from Biology, Psychology to Medicine. The collection is where the history of science and contemporary research meet, while simultaneously offering a glimpse into the future.

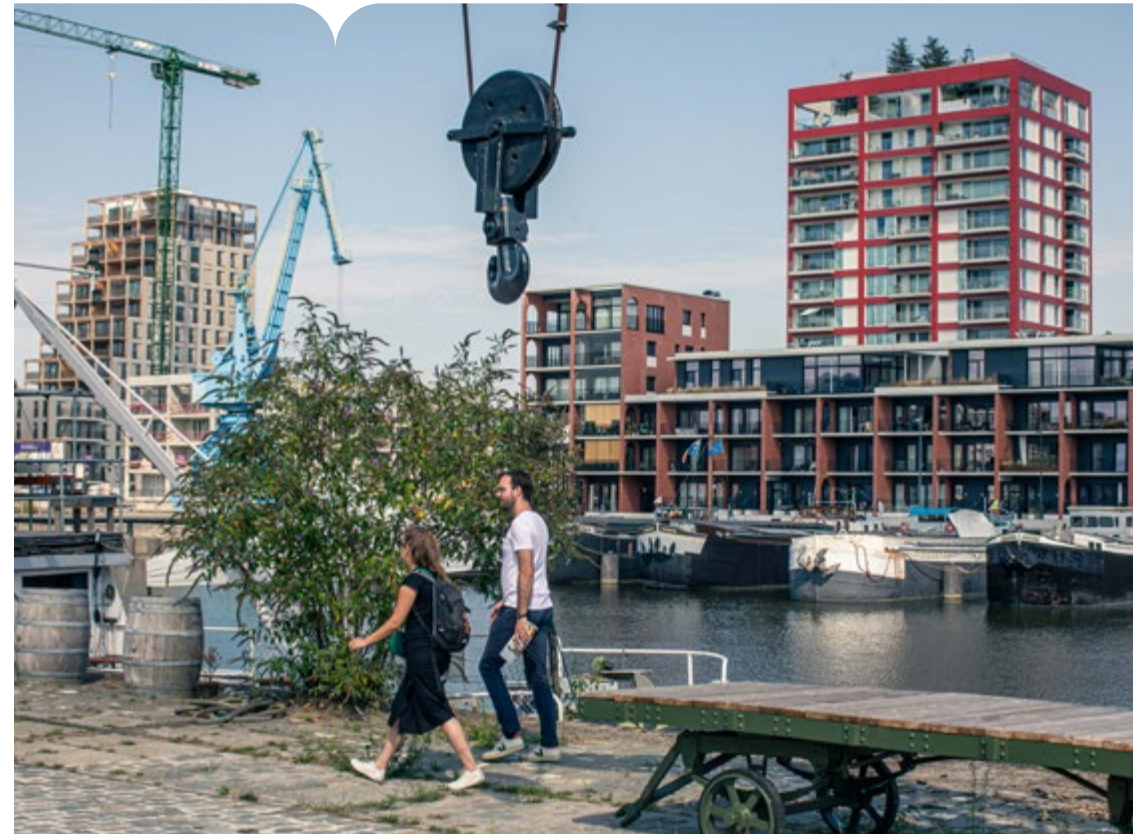
With a surface area of 27,500m², the Ghent Botanical Garden offers a safe haven for more than 10,000 plant species from all over the world. From flowers to edible plants and medicinal herbs, you'll find them all on this

beautiful domain. In addition to a large outdoor garden including an arboretum, a rock garden and a Mediterranean garden, you will also find heated and unheated greenhouses.



tip

From the Botanical Garden you can admire the enormous mural by Roa. The 290 square metre façade constitutes the canvas for his skeletons of an elephant, a grizzly bear, an okapi and a rhinoceros.





The **Handelsdok** is the largest of the three old docks. Along Dok Noord, new life has been breathed into the ACEC industrial site. This site is alive 24/7 thanks to the combination of modern businesses, flats and a wide range of leisure shops and restaurants. On the other side is Schipperskaai, where new jetties for - sometimes impressive - houseboats have been created, with a wide quay alongside them. It's the perfect place to go for a walk, discover Ghent's most eccentric school Melpee and browse a flea market now and then.

The **Achterdok** is the lowest of the old docks, on the side of Dampoort. The Kleindokkaai has already been beautifully redeveloped and now creates a perfect connection with the other docks for pedestrians and cyclists. Green areas have been developed and the neighbouring streets have been turned into a low-traffic residential area. A delight!

The Kapitein Zeppos park, the first park that was finished in **Houtdok**, is a great place to relax. It has a surface area of three hectares and features references to the maritime past of the site. The lowered quays, the beach area and the restored quay walls create a very distinct atmosphere. Everyone can have fun thanks to the two play areas, the sports grounds and the outdoor fitness area.



tip

Want to explore the industrial heritage of the Old Docks on your own? Then follow the walking and cycling route along former quays, warehouses, harbour cranes and so much more.

[Visitgent.be/visit-the-old-docks](https://www.visitgent.be/visit-the-old-docks)



GHENT ALTARPIECE



When you say Ghent, you think Ghent Altarpiece. After all, the two are inextricably linked. Ghent is the city where Van Eyck painted his world-famous masterpiece and where for the past six centuries, millions of visitors have gathered from all over the world to admire the altarpiece. 'The Adoration of the Mystic

Lamb' is therefor recognised as a great work of art, and one of the most influential paintings ever made.

Still not convinced you should admire the Ghent Altarpiece? We gladly give you **8 additional reasons**.



Facts

1. THE WANDERING LAMB

The Ghent Altarpiece is inextricably linked to St Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent. However, the painting has had an eventful history. The painting ended up in Paris after the French Revolution in 1789. It was the Duke of Wellington who returned the altarpiece to St Bavo's Cathedral. A year later, six panels were sold to art dealer L.J. Nieuwenhuys for 3000 guilders. The panels eventually came into the possession of the king of Prussia. After the First World War, Germany was forced to return the panels to Belgium. During the Second World War, the polyptych was taken to a salt mine near the Austrian village of Altaussee. At the end of the war, Hitler ordered the salt mine with all works of art to be blown up. A few heroic miners prevented the destruction of the Ghent Altarpiece. They averted a major disaster in art history! The Ghent Altarpiece finally went back to its home, St Bavo's Cathedral.

2. DASTARDLY THEFT

Restorations succeeded each other and panels were stolen, found and copied. The theft of *The Just Judges* and *Saint John the Baptist* panels of the altarpiece was just one in a long series of tribulations! In the early hours of 11 April 1934, two witnesses saw two shadows in the dark putting flat objects into a car. The two shadows absconded with the altarpiece panels. Only a note stating 'Taken from Germany by the Treaty of Versailles' was left. A few weeks later, a letter was delivered to the cathedral demanding a ransom of 1 million Belgian francs. The authorities did not wish to pay the ransom, and after exchanging more letters, the thief returned the *Saint John the Baptist* panel. The mystery of *The Just Judges* has remained unsolved. Lots of exciting theories exist, but so far no-one has come up with the crucial clue!

JOOS VIJD



eye operated as a microscope and telescope. He was one of the first painters to depict a realistic moon with craters. Jan Van Eyck worked as court painter to Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, and undertook several diplomatic visits abroad. Thanks to his travels with Philip the Good, he discovered new landscapes and plants, which he depicted with effortless detail on the Ghent Altarpiece. Did you know that the rocks in the painting are probably based on rock masses in Liège or Dinant? He would never have been able to paint them without his incredible photographic memory! Jan portrayed Joos Vijd, the donor, not in an idealised but in a realistic manner, warts and all. The details in the work are phenomenal!

3. FINALIST JAN VAN EYCK

Ghent alderman Joos Vijd and his wife Lysette Borluut commissioned Jan and Hubert Van Eyck to paint the Ghent Altarpiece. They had a chapel added to St Bavo's Cathedral specially for this work. This chapel is called *Vijdkapel* or Vijd's chapel. You are probably not aware of the fact that it was mostly Jan Van Eyck who painted the Ghent Altarpiece. Hubert Van Eyck started work on the altarpiece, but no-one knows exactly what his contribution was, since he died in the early stages on the artwork's creation. His brother Jan finished the altarpiece in 1432.

4. A MICROSCOPIC EYE

Jan Van Eyck was a true genius! He was the first artist to perfect the oil painting technique. He did not just have great technical skills, his eye for detail was also phenomenal! Jan Van Eyck's

5. VAN EYCK'S COMET

Jan Van Eyck made his mark on art history like a 'comet'. We have few sources at our disposal that inform us about his life or career, but he suddenly appeared as one of the greatest painters of his age. His style can be described as unique and revolutionary, unlike that of his predecessors or contemporaries. Numerous art lovers praise his best-known work, the Ghent Altarpiece. According to legend, Hugo Van der Goes went mad when he tried to equal the painting and eventually took his own life. Jan Van Eyck is said to have inspired numerous artists such as Hans Memling, Dieric Bouts and Gerard David.

The 15th century can, without exaggeration, be called Van Eyck's century. Jan Van Eyck is held in even higher esteem than Da Vinci!

6. MYSTERIES AND RIDDLES

The Ghent Altarpiece is a unique work of art with lots of unsolved riddles and mysteries. It is said that on the panel with the townscape and the *Erythraean Sibyl*, human faces can be seen in the sky, but no-one knows whom they represent. The skyline on the central panel is said to be a collage of fictional and real buildings. During a restoration of the Ghent Altarpiece in 1951, the lamb appeared to have four ears. The animal's ears had been painted over when modifications were made around 1550. The otherworldly, mysterious four-eared lamb was on display for a while during the restoration process in MSK. Who knows, you may even discover another mystery?

7. VAN EYCK'S DNA TRACES

The Ghent Altarpiece abounds in details, and restorers found some brush hairs during the recent restoration process. The hairs are stuck in the paint and have different lengths. Painters sometimes leave fingerprints on their work as they manipulate the paint with their fingers, making the fingerprints permanent. If you look closely, you may find a hair or a fingerprint.



8. BIGGEST VAN EYCK COLLECTION IN THE WORLD

Jan Van Eyck has left about twenty masterpieces scattered all over the world in museums and collections. The artist's life is still largely a mystery, but his works have withstood the centuries! As far as we know, one work by Van Eyck is still privately owned. All other works are held in museums across the world. *The Arnolfini Portrait* and *Portrait of a Man*, for instance, are on display at the National Gallery in London. The *Madonna of Chancellor Rolin* is kept in the Musée du Louvre, Paris.



tip

Thanks to augmented reality glasses, you will be able to travel back to the distant past in the cathedral's crypt and be witness to the tumultuous history of the Ghent Altarpiece and the cathedral as if you were there. Both the masterpiece and the imposing building are brought to life down to the smallest detail. Come and experience the supreme mystery!

Would you like to find out more about the Mystic Lamb?

visitgent.be/mysticlamb

From 2023, the 7 top panels of the inner register will be restored in the MSK. This restoration phase runs until 2026. On weekdays you can even see the restorers of the Royal Institute of Cultural Heritage (KIK-IRPA) working live in the studio. The other panels remain on display in St. Bavo's Cathedral.



get
inspired

GHENT ON A PLATE

There's always something to do in Ghent. Ghent is the historic heart of Flanders where you can shop, discover and taste to your heart's content.

Do you love great food? You're in luck: Ghent is the foodie capital of Europe (according to Ghent's inhabitants of the world, of course), and its young, rock-star chefs are causing a sensation on the international food scene.

Ghent is attracting more and more innovative gastronomic talents and bold concepts. In Ghent, young Michelin-starred chefs really pull out all the stops. Ghent is an organic haven for vegetarians: besides dozens of cool,

trendy, quirky restaurants, you will find organic stores and an entire organic supermarket in the city.

In 2009, Ghent launched 'Thursday Veggie Day'. Ghent encourages its citizens not to eat meat or fish on Thursdays. Cities like São Paulo in Brazil and Bremen in Germany have followed in Ghent's footsteps. Ghent has been proclaimed the veggie capital of Europe.

Discover your favourite restaurant

visitgent.be/restaurant



LIVELY GHENT

You guessed it. The cultural city of Ghent is hot and happening! The city has an exciting mixture of rich history and funky events, exhibitions, festivals, theatre plays and concerts unrivalled anywhere else in the world.

Ghent is trendy, urban and loves the good life. You won't have a dull moment on your holiday. Come and sample Ghent's unique urban energy at the Ghent Festivities, book a ticket at one of the many theatres or view top-quality classic and contemporary exhibitions in Ghent.

The Ghent Festivities, held every year in July, are the top event in Ghent, taking over the entire city centre for ten days. Get ready for 765,000m² of party mayhem.

-  **The entire city centre**
-  **Ten full festival days**
- Starts on the Friday preceding the Saturday before 21 July, Belgium's national holiday**

Browse through our events

 60 [visitgent.be/calendar](https://www.visitgent.be/calendar)

DEAR VISITOR

We will gladly help you on your way to enjoying everything Ghent has to offer on top of the more obvious attractions in this guide. Our promise: Ghent will enchant and continue to astound you with its amazing gastronomy, splendid cityscapes, charming pavement cafés and much, much more.

These great lists reveal just some of the city's many delights. For nostalgics and adventurers, for sweet lovers and party animals, and for foodies and young talents. How many of them will you explore during your stay?



Eat & Drinks :

VISITGENT.BE/EAT-DRINK

Beer

Gruut	City brewery and beer based on herbs.	Rembert Dodoensdreef 1
Dok Brewing Company	Microbrewery and 30 beers on tap in Dok Noord.	Dok Noord 4b
Artevelde	Microbrewery in the beating heart of Ghent.	Botermarkt 5
Stroom	Sustainable microbrewery with unique creations	Forelstraat 27

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Wine

Ona	Organic wine to sip or share.	Belfortstraat 29
Win	Wine only. A wine-win!	Burgstraat 8
SOMM	Magic tricks at your table and in your mouth.	Steedam 39
Edelrot	Wine bar on wheels - no more whining!	Belfortstraat 6

visitgent.be/wine-bars

Cocktails

Jigger's	Prohibition bar with spiritual secrets.	Oudburg 16
Limonada	Bubbly lounge bar with an edge.	Heilige Geeststraat 7
Polé Polé	African rhythms for a great night out.	Lammerstraat 8
The Cobbler	Warm & stylish 19th-century grandeur.	Graslei 16
Bar Mòris	Bricks and a fireplace. What a hotspot!	Klein Turkije 20
The Mix	Colourful cocktails and sensual salsa.	Hoogpoort 19

visitgent.be/cocktails

Local pubs

De Dulle Griet	1 beer in a boot. 500 others in a glass.	Vrijdagmarkt 50
Café Den Turk	Have a drink with the Mayor.	Botermarkt 3
't Dreupelknot	Get sloshed, one drop at a time.	Groentenmarkt 12
Jan van Gent	Hip or dip? Either way, have a sip!	Annonciadenstraat 1
De Geus van Gent	Share liberal ideas, liberally!	Kantienberg 9
Afsnis	First drinks, then flea market.	Bij St.-Jacobs 10
Trollekelder	Underground pub with mythical flair.	Bij St.-Jacobs 17
De Alchemist	Turn water into gin... An alchemist's dream!	Rekelingenstraat 3
't Gouden Mandeken	Authentic pub, large terrace, golden team.	Pensmarkt 9

visitgent.be/local-pubs-ghent

Music

Charlatan	Party hotspot for night owls, not charlatans.	Vlasmarkt 6
Club 69	Hip. And hop. Two clubs in one.	Oude Beestenmarkt 5-6
Kinky Star	From kinky to sweaty to stinky. Over and over.	Vlasmarkt 9
Missy Sippy	New Orleans along the Lys. Blues, jazz, swing and roots.	Klein Turkije 16
Club Central	Latin, merengue, bachata, salsa. Dance the night away!	Hoogpoort 32
Hot Club Gent	Seek and you will find (this hotspot).	Schuddevisstraatje 2
Minor Swing	Tiny café, big jazz.	Ottogracht 56
Misterioso	Slightly bigger café, equally good jazz.	Krommewal 96
Hotsy Totsy	Literary café, where words come to life.	Hoogstraat 1

visitgent.be/nightlife

Terraces

Green terrace VIERNULVIER	Vertical garden, horizontal terrace. Artsy!	St.-Pietersnieuwstraat 23
De Bergen	Relaxing in the park with some local goodies.	F. Lousbergkaai 33
't Galgenhuisje	Tiny café. Perfectly executed.	Groentenmarkt 5
Waterhuis aan de Bierkant	Water fights the pest. Beer fights the rest!	Groentenmarkt 9
Petit Grand Café 't Kanon	Watching passers-by along the Lys.	Meerseniersstraat 17
Eetcafé Multatuli	Along the Lys, in the sun. MAXimum fun!	Huidevetterskaai 40
Geuzenhuis	Eclectic café along the river next to St.-Peter's Abbey.	Kantienberg 9

visitgent.be/nicest-outdoor-cafes-ghent

Breakfast & Brunch

Modest	From the fields on your plate	Brabantdam 50
Belle Histoire	Parisian bistro tables and French chansons.	Korte Meer 4
Maison Elza	Nostalgic interior, authentic flavours.	Jan Breydelstraat 36
Gust	Sandwiches with Gust - a must!	Papegaaistraat 55
Le Pain Perdu	Lose yourself with a delicious breakfast.	Walpoortstraat 9
Le Pain Quotidien	Long, long table. Endless food fun!	Korenmarkt 16
Clouds in my coffee	Start the day with a moment of zen	Dendermondsesteenweg 104

visitgent.be/breakfast-and-brunch

Lunch

Boon	Yummy lunch? Don't spill the beans!	Geldmunt 6
FranzGustav	Brunch bar with Berlin flair.	Ham 163
Soupbar Sordo	Order your lunch in sign language.	Lange Steenstraat 2
Café Parti	Final destination for foodies.	Kon. Maria Hendrikaplein 65a
Estelle	Have lunch in the Arts Quarter.	Kunstlaan 30
Lousbergmarkt	Tasty local food - four peas in a pod.	Ferdinand Lousbergskaaai 33

visitgent.be/lunch

Coffee & Sweets

Full Circle Coffee	Coffee with a dash of oat milk.	Zuidstationstraat 5
Barista	Pampering by the coffee sommelier.	Hippoliet Lippensplein 25
Bar Bidon	Time for a drink. Set your bikes aside.	Bisdomkaai 25
Mokabon	The first coffee bar. Comfort since 1937.	Donkersteeg 35
Julie's House	Breakfast fit for a princess. Pink icing and all.	Kraanlei 13
Madam Bakster	Sugar- and guilt-free cakes.	Brabantdam 142
Yuzu	Tangy. Hot. Pralines with a passion.	Walpoortstraat 11/A
Mayana	Hot and cold in Chocola-la-land.	St.-Pietersnieuwstraat 99
Aux Merveilleux de Fred	Delicious merveilleux. Pick your flavour!	Magelseinstraat 38
Chocolaterie Van Hoorebeke	A family-run chocolate shop.	Sint-Baafsplein 15

visitgent.be/cosy-coffee-bars

Gastronomy

Vrijmoed	Free spirit and daredevil. Two stars!	Vlaanderenstraat 22
Publiek	Rock 'n' roll with a Michelin star.	Ham 39
Horseele	Food heaven in a football temple.	Ottergemsesteenweg Zuid 808
OAK	Let the chef surprise you! Delightful!	Burgstraat 16
Roots	Open kitchen, open menu.	Vrouwbroersstraat 5
Souvenir	An explosion of unforgettable flavours.	Brabantdam 134

visitgent.be/gourmet

Traditional

Pakhuis	Spectacular setting. Equally spectacular food.	Schuurkenstraat 4
Café Théâtre	Draw the curtains, standing ovation!	Schouwburgstraat 7
De Stokerij	Pub serving up its own beer.	Tichelrei 2A
Du Progrès	Progress, three centuries and counting.	Korenmarkt 10
't Vosken	Chips, stew & other authentic local dishes.	St.-Baafsplein 19
Meme Gusta	Flemish cuisine with a touch of nostalgia.	Burgstraat 19
Brasserie HA'	Brunch or dinner, with or without concert.	Kouter 29

visitgent.be/classics

Vegetarian

Lokaal	Deliciously fresh from the nearby fields.	Brabantdam 100
Plus+	Vegetarian with a surplus.	Ajuinlei 14
Lekker Gec	Quirkiness for a cleaner planet and better life.	Kon. Maria Hendrikaplein 6
Le Botaniste	Healthy, for you and for the planet.	Hoorstraat 13
Warempel	Flexitarian - the best of both worlds.	Zandberg 8
Pacha Mama	Mother Earth at her best.	Jan-Baptist Guinardstraat 9
Knol & Kool	Exclusively vegan marketplace and foodcourt.	Heilige Geeststraat 30

visitgent.be/vegetarian

Belgian Fries

Frituur Tartaar	The best tartar sauce in Ghent.	Heilige Geeststraat 3
Bij Filijp	Ghentian-style fries.	Pensmarkt 8
Gouden Saté	Ask for a 'Julienke'.	Sint Pietersplein
Frietketel	Walhalla for veggies and vegans.	Papegaaistraat 89

visitgent.be/frites-stands

See & Do :

Green

Ghent university	Green oasis with plants of all sizes.	K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35
Botanical Garden		
The World of Kina: the Garden	Fauna and flora for little munchkins.	Berouw 55
Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen	Sanctuary for birds flying free.	Driepikkelstraat 32, 9030 Mariakerke
Gentbrugse Meersen	Nature reserve for barefoot hikes.	Driebeekstraat, 9050 Gentbrugge
Parkbos	Winding paths and castles in a green oasis.	Kortrijksesteenweg 1177 9051 St.-Denijs-Westrem
Blaarmeersen sports and recreation	Leisure, sport and nature outside Ghent centre.	Strandlaan 24

VISITGENT.BE/SEE-DO

visitgent.be/walks

Surprising panoramas

De Krook	Free access to books, education and life.	Miriam Makebaplein 1
Belfry	Sky-high world heritage.	St.-Baafsplein
Castle of the Counts	Where the Counts looked down on us.	St.-Veerleplein 11
Terrace HEMA	Terrace overlooking terraces.	Korenmarkt 3
Museum of Industry	Museum of man and machines.	Minnemeers 10
Yalo Urban Boutique Hotel	Rooftopbar with a phenomenal view.	Brabantdam 33

visitgent.be/panorama

Instagram Hits

St Michael's Bridge	Three towers in a row. Graslei & Korenlei.	St.-Michielshelling
Graffiti Street	Canvas for street artists.	Werregarenstraat
Portus Ganda	Idyllic yacht marina with Art Deco pool.	Veermanplein 2
Patershol	Medieval alleys for foodies.	Haringsteeg 3
Graslei	Great view of Korenlei.	Graslei

visitgent.be/spots-instagram

Street art

'Broche' & 'HD 400'	Pinpricks on the square.	Korenmarkt
'Ai Nati Oggi'	A light for every newborn.	St.-Veerleplein
'De Passanten'	Putting heads together. Large artwork by Borremans.	Miriam Makebaplein
'De Maagd'	Small woman's portrait by Borremans.	Goudenleeuwplein
The Ghent Altarpiece in graffiti	A masterpiece reinvented yet never found.	Predikherenlei
Mystic Leaves	Artsy leaves at the flower market.	Kouter
Les oiseaux bleus de M. Maeterlinck	Blue birds light up your evening walk.	Predikherenbrug

visitgent.be/art

Where time stands still

Priem	Retro wallpaper for castles, filmsets and... for you!	Zuivelbrugstraat 1
Temmerman	Muilentrekkers and tjoepkes. Untranslatable goodness.	Kraanlei 79
Café Folklore	So many stories, so much to discover since 1667.	Lange Steenstraat 69
Bric-a-brac Bij St.-Jacobs	Bric-a-brac market with a rich history.	Bij St.-Jacobs
Limerick	Literary bookshop and typewriter museum.	Kon. Elisabethlaan 142

visitgent.be/vintage

When it rains

Visitor's centre	Discover the Ghent Altarpiece and its history.	St Bavo's square
St Bavo's Cathedral		
O'Learys	American sportsbar with bowling, pooltables, karaoke, etc.	Dok Noord 4b
Studio Skoop	Sit back, relax and enjoy the film.	Sint-Annaplein 63
Comic Sans	Butter beer and boardgame ready? Set, play!	Klein Turkije 8

visitgent.be/tips-rainy-days

For children

Aap.Noot.Mies	Expert in kids' footwear. Nostalgic charm.	Kalandestraat 4
Mister Jones and Miss Katie	Trousers and dresses for mini trendsetters.	Gouvernementstraat 7
Skatepark	A disaster. Not a catastrophe.	Zuiderlaan (Blaarmeersen)
The Fallen Angels	Knickknack paradise with a very cool shoptaly.	Jan Breydelstraat 29-31
Lago Gent Rozebroeken	Swishing through the water slides.	Victor Braeckmanlaan 180
Jumpsy	Jump, fly, dive, fall, get up and move on.	Dok Noord 4b
House of Alijn	A journey back through time.	Kraanlei 65

visitgent.be/family

Gifts

PIET Moodshop	Gifts for your house. Or housemates.	St.-Pietersnieuwstraat 94
A'priet	Spring in the land of fun, quirky stuff.	Burgstraat 27
Mus in een plas	A shop of wishes and wisdom.	Serpentstraat 22
Axeswar	Design gadgets, funny accessories and typos.	Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 12
Au Bon Marché	The luxury of the perfect gift.	Hoornstraat 4
L'Amuzette	Drinks, nibbles, knick-knacks and more.	Krommewal 2
Bookz & Booze	Wrap yourself in a world of boozy gifts.	Hoogpoort 35

visitgent.be/find-ideal-gift-ghent

Fashion

Ateliers Gaston	Pre-loved brand clothing with a Ghent twist	Korte Meer 6
La Fille d'O	Lingerie to bare the soul.	Burgstraat 21
Nathalie Engels	Original and flamboyant (M/F).	Serpentstraat 1A
Paarl	Hand-made handbags. Arm candy!	Nieuwland 1
Oorcussen	Belgian top designs behind a 17th-century façade.	Vrijdagmarkt 7
Jan Welvaert	Cult label. Offbeat and pretty neat.	Brabantdam 61
Seraphine	Fashion for youthful women of all ages.	Hoogpoort 30

visitgent.be/shopping

Worth a detour

Café Botèco	Cosy, local cultural café. Feel right at home!	Forelstraat 114, 9040 St.-Amandsberg
STAM café	Have a glass at this glass museum café.	Godshuizenlaan 2
Clouds in my coffee	Dream of Carly Simon. Head in the clouds.	Dendermondsesteenweg 104
Dok Noord	Shopping, activities and good food in an old factory building.	Dok Noord 7
De Appelier	Veggie daily specials & budding artists.	Citadellaan 47
Alberte	Intimate tables and bar... The cosiest by far!	Dendermondsesteenweg 78
Campo Santo	Burial mound for VIPs and more.	Verkortingsstraat / Visitatiestraat 13

visitgent.be/detour

Ghent style

Vrie wijs	[vri: wa:s]	Really cool.
Nie neut, nie pleuje	[ni: nøta, ni: pløja]	Don't complain, don't give up.
Tuupe tegoare	[typø tøjøara]	All together now.
Negen duust	[ne:γadyst]	9000. Ghent.
Tsiepmuile	[tsipmøla]	Whiner. Wimp.

SCAN & WIN



CityCard Gent : Experience Ghent to the fullest!

CityCard Gent is the special access card to the main historical buildings, museums and top attractions. You can use the CityCard Gent on the bus or tram and it even includes a boat trip and free bicycle rental for 1 day.

INCLUDED IN THE CARD

- › The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb (discount)
- › St Bavo's Cathedral
- › Castle of the Counts
- › Belfry
- › MSK - Museum of Fine Arts
- › S.M.A.K. - museum of contemporary art
- › STAM - Ghent City museum
- › Museum of Industry
- › Design Museum Gent
- › St Peter's Abbey
- › The House of Alijn
- › Dr. Guislain Museum
- › GUM - Ghent University Museum
- › The World of Kina: the House
- › The World of Kina: the Garden
- › Hotel D'Hane-Steenhuysse - city palace
- › Arnold Vander Haeghen House - city palace
- › Public transport
- › Boat in Gent / De bootjes van Gent / Rederij Dewaele / Gent Watertoerist/ Rederij De Gentenaar
- › Hop on hop off watertram
- › De Fietsambassade (bicycle rental)

 **48 hours / 72 hours**



Do you have a recommendation or know an interesting fact about Ghent? Share it with us!

[visitgent.be/feedback](https://www.visitgent.be/feedback)

Credits

V.u. Mieke Hullebroeck - algemeen directeur stadhuis, Botermarkt 1, 9000 Gent - 2024

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Disclaimer

The Tourist Office aims to achieve accuracy. However, a business might naturally relocate or shut down once this guide has been published. All information is therefore subject to change. For the latest situation, please visit our website www.visitgent.be

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    #visitgent

Open 7/7

(exceptionally closed on 25/12 and 1/1)

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