



GHENT,

SPARKLING AUTHENTIC

VISITOR'S GUIDE





CONTENTS

- 4 A breathtaking journey through time
- 6 Enchanting illuminations
- 7 Walking on water
- 8 Art is emotion is art
- 10 Fallen angels - City of knowledge and culture
- 11 Have you already seen these?
- 12 Fun and joy of living
- 13 That Sunday on the Vrijdagmarkt
- 14 Follow the guide - An active stay
- 15 Practical info

GHENT MOST ENJOYABLE CITY 2005



Don't be a couch potato.
Get to your feet and come out.
Visit the most enjoyable and exciting city of Flanders.
Come to Ghent.

X The circled numbers refer to the map on page 15

The information in this guide is based on data sent to us before 31 January 2006.
Some data could have been modified in the meantime.





A dragon as watching town guard, a noose as symbol. It's only possible in Ghent, sparkling and obstinate. But above all rich in authenticity.

Nowhere else will you find so much history per square metre in a pedestrian historical city centre. The impressive medieval Castle of the Counts bears witness to an illustrious past. Unique masterpieces of the Flemish Primitives are shown within a stone's throw from the top of modern art in the S.M.A.K. Furthermore there are dozens of pubs and pavement cafés as well as a wide choice of original restaurants.

Also let's not forget the people. For they undoubtedly add to the unique atmosphere in our sparkling city of culture. It's for good reason that Ghent was chosen the most enjoyable city of Flanders in 2005. It is a crown worn with great pride. Not unlike the noose.



We extend a hearty welcome to you all!

Sas van Rouveroij
first alderman,
alderman for Culture and Tourism

A walk through the historical city centre of Ghent is as a journey through time: nowhere else do you zip so fast back and forth across the centuries, without feeling out of place.

The impressive Castle of the Counts is unique: every stone breathes history, every room fires your imagination. And if a visit to the chamber of torture leaves you unaffected, you are probably just the cold-blooded type.

The Mystic Lamb, a world-famous 15th century masterpiece, is not only a splendid painting, it is also a bundle of stories: the mystery of the theft of 'De Rechtvaardige Rechters' (The Fair Judges) has never been solved. And who knows, maybe you will be the one to find a clue in the beautiful St Bavo's Cathedral. During your search don't forget to admire the artworks of Rubens and Jeroen Bosch as well.

A BREATHTAKING JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

The dragon. The incarnation of evil on top of the Belfry: the inhabitants of Ghent are known for their obstinacy and they are proud of it too. The monster of steel and copper is over 3 metres long and weighs 400 kilos.

As you carry on walking, watching, enjoying, you'll go from one surprise to another. Across the Korenmarkt through the Donkersteeg. Along the exquisite City Hall to the Vrijdagmarkt square (I wish you good-day!, Jacob van Artevelde). Posing, in a fond embrace with the Dulle Griet cannon. Finally reaching the medieval Patershol quarter. Perfect timing for the hungry: many of the restaurants here have colourful names as well as delicious meals.

(Or you can choose a totally different route. Strolling across the Kouter, haggling on 'bij St Jacobs', shopping in the Veldstraat, no problem: there's something to experience everywhere).



SIGHTSEEING MUSTS

Saint Bavo's Cathedral ❶

Sint-Baafsplein - T. +32 9 269 20 45
www.sintbaafskathedraal-gent.be

Originally known as St John's church, it was the first parish church of Ghent and it is filled with art treasures. The cathedral has no less than 22 altars. From the rococo pulpit, fashioned from a perfect mix of marble and oak, many passionate sermons have overwhelmed the worshippers.

Cathedral + crypt

Open

01/04 > 31/10: 08.30 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

01/11 > 31/03: 08.30 a.m. > 05.00 p.m.

No visits in the morning on Sundays and religious holidays, during church services and 1 January. The choir will not be accessible for a number of years due to renovation.

The Cathedral will be closed exceptionally on 17 September 2006 for a deacon's ordination.

The tower of the Cathedral is only accessible during the Ghent Festivities (3rd week of July) from 11.00 a.m. till 6.00 p.m.

Ticket free

The Mystic Lamb

This unique masterpiece has an eventful history: it survived the iconoclastic fury in the 16th century, under Napoleon it was claimed by the French and during World War II by Nazi Germany, then it got nearly blown up whilst hidden in a salt mine in Austria. Finally, for the last fifty years, it is back where it belongs: in the St Bavo's Cathedral. The panel 'De Rechtvaardige Rechters' (The Fair Judges), stolen in 1934, however is still missing.

Open

01/04 > 31/10: Monday till Saturday

09.30 a.m. > 05.00 p.m.

Sundays and public holidays: 01.00 p.m. > 05.00 p.m.

01/11 > 31/03: Monday till Saturday

10.30 a.m. > 04.00 p.m.

Sundays and public holidays: 01.00 p.m. > 04.00 p.m.

Ticket

Adults: € 3.00 *

Groups (+15 people): € 2.50

Children +6 and -12 years: € 1.50

*personal audio guide included

accessible to wheelchair users

The Castle of the Counts ❷

Sint-Veerleplein - T. +32 9 225 93 06

www.gent.be/gravensteen

Showing who's the boss, that was the plan of Philip of Alsace. For this purpose he had the castle built. Overlooking the city from the battlements of the castle, far above the dungeon, one can sense the feelings of wealth and power the lord of the castle must have experienced. During some weekends you might even meet some real knights.

Open

01/04 > 30/09: daily 09.00 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

01/10 > 31/03: daily 09.00 a.m. > 05.00 p.m.

Closed 1 January, 24, 25 and 31 December

Ticket

Adults: € 6.00

-25 and +55 years: € 1.20

Groups (+15 people): € 3.00

Children -12 years: free

Children in group: € 1.20

Last admission one hour before closing time

The Belfry ❸

Emile Braunplein - T. +32 9 233 39 54

Overlooking the city stands the Belfry as a testament to the past. The dragon on the top scans the horizon. The huge bell 'Klokke Roeland' warns the burghers of the city of an enemy invasion. The carillon would announce important visitors and executions and till today the start of the Ghent Festivities. The monument has been acknowledged by Unesco as World heritage.

The tourist office is located in the basement (Raadskelder).

Open

15/03 > 15/11: daily 10.00 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

(cash desk open till 5.30 p.m.)

Ticket

Adults: € 3.00

Students and +55 years: € 2.50

Groups (+15 people): € 2.50

Children -12 years: free

Free 45' guided tour: 01/05 > 30/09
at 2.10, 3.10 and 4.10 p.m.



People of Ghent, noose bearers

In 1537 Emperor Charles V found the inhabitants of Ghent guilty of disobedience, forgery, popular uprising, rebellion and lese majesty. He sentenced them to public humiliation: they had to walk the streets barefoot, with only a shirt on and wearing a noose around their neck. Nowadays they re-enact the incident with their head held high, as proof of their proud obstinacy.





ENCHANTING ILLUMINATIONS

Beautiful by day, the city of Ghent is born again by nightfall thanks to the magnificent and carefully sophisticated lighting of the buildings and monuments. Submerging the city centre in an entrancing atmosphere. Providing one enchanting snapshot after another.

The three Michelin stars, Ghent was awarded for its lighting, prove it: if you don't spend at least one night in Ghent, you haven't really seen the city.

And not only the lighting is fantastic, but the social and cultural nightlife too is bursting more than ever before. The youth finds Ghent to be one of the hottest towns in Europe. And as you know, youthfulness is of all ages.



Super, man!

Is there more to Ghent than the Castle of the Counts and the Mystic Lamb? Yes, indeed, absolutely. If you are young or young at heart, you can get plenty of information through Use-it. They offer alternative maps with unusual routes, specialised record shops, cheap sleeping accommodations, party-hotspots, the better pinball machines, public toilets (m/f), lush sunbathing lawns, 288 bars, unique comics shops, palatable museums and much more.

The information is obtained through strictly clandestine channels, tested by volunteers and what's more, it's absolutely free of charge. **Use-it!**

Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 21 (Monday till Friday from 01.00 p.m. > 06.00 p.m.)
T. +32 9 324 39 06 - www.use-it.be



WALKING ON WATER

Ghent, originally named Ganda, arose at the confluence of the Lys and the Scheldt. Through the centuries, these rivers were the pulsating veins of the flourishing city. Today, the historical centre enjoys more than ever the unique atmosphere provided by the rivers and canals.

From St Michael's bridge, you enjoy a unique view not only of the three towers (St Nicholas' church, Belfry and St Bavo's Cathedral), but also of the magnificent façades of the Graslei and the Korenlei ④, reflected on the water surface of the Lys.

Water plays a prominent role in the lives of the inhabitants of Ghent. During the recent opening of Portus Ganda ⑤, the wonderful new marina near the city centre, inhabitants and visitors could literally walk on water. A truly unique event!

NOT TO BE MISSED

A boat trip on the Ghent waterways

Open and roofed-over boats leave from the Graslei, the Korenlei and the Kraanlei. There are several companies and routes.

Duration of the boat trip: 40 to 90 minutes
Prices vary from 5.00 to 9.00 euros for adults
Discounts for children and groups
Thematic boat trips, package tours, ... reservation required.
Multilingual guides

BOAT IN GENT departure Kraanlei
T. +32 478 63 36 30 - www.boatingent.be

DE BOOTJES VAN GENT - REDERIJ DEWAELE
departure Korenlei
T. +32 9 223 88 53 - T. +32 9 229 17 16
www.debootjesvangent.be

GENT WATERTOERIST departure Graslei
T. +32 9 269 08 69 - www.gent-watertoerist.be

REDERIJ DE GENTENAER
departure Groentenmarkt bridge
T. +32 473 48 10 36 - www.rederijdegentenaer.be

Mini-yachts for rent

Be your own skipper and sail the Ghent waterways or discover the lovely villages along the idyllic river Lys. Neither navigation licence nor experience are required (min.16 years).

MINERVA BOAT COMPANY
departure Coupure Rechts 2a
T. +32 3 779 67 77 - www.minervaboten.be

Prices
From €47.00 / 2 hours

Open
Easter till 15 October: 01.00 p.m. > 07.00 p.m.
July and August: 10.00 a.m. > 08.00 p.m.
From September on: bookings only via
T. +32 9 233 79 17 - Closed on Mondays

Evening cruise on the Lys

Enjoy an exclusive cruise on the river Lys in one of the large salon boats.

BENELUX REDERIJ departure Recollettenlei 32
T. +32 9 225 15 05 - www.benelux-rederij.com

Prices
Adults: €38.00 (including aperitif, barbecue, dessert, music and dance)
Children -12 years: €28.00
Booking in advance is necessary!
Every Saturday evening from 08/07/2006 up to 26/08/2006 inclusive from 8.00 p.m. till 1.00 a.m.

Portus Ganda

Ganda literally means 'confluence'. Water is in more than one way at the origin of the city. The brand-new marina Portus Ganda is to become a meeting place for young and old.

"It is a marvellous city, the meeting place of four rivers, the Scheldt, the Lys, the Lieve and the Moere. A network of streaming water dividing the town in 26 islands. With its barges, its bridges and the reflection of the old façades in the water, Ghent is a kind of Venice of the North."

Victor Hugo, 1840



ART IS EMOTION IS ART

Art should be stimulating. Art should be touching.
Art should be talked about and should be baffling.
Art is useless and much-needed.

Ghent has many prominent museums. The S.M.A.K. is probably the best-known and the most notorious. But you should also meet the unique digital monk who guides you through St Peter's Abbey. You ought to experience the wonderful nostalgia in the Alijn House. And last but not least you should see the impressive collection of the Museum of Fine Arts and the magnificent art nouveau collection in the Design museum Gent.

Should? Nothing should.
Art is a choice.
And it might just choose you.



NOT TO BE MISSED

Municipal Museum for Contemporary Art (S.M.A.K.)

Citadelpark

T. +32 9 221 17 03 - www.smak.be

The city of Ghent is dynamic and obstinate and so is its museum for contemporary art. The permanent collection of national and international masterpieces is presented in continuous interaction with original, often daring exhibitions, with a finger on the pulse, but sometimes in the wound.

Open

Tuesday till Sunday and public holidays:
10.00 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

Free museum admission every first Friday of the month from 06.00 p.m. till 10.00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, 1 January, 24, 25 and 31 December

Ticket

Adults: € 5.00

Children -12 years, wheelchair users

and group leaders: free

Groups (+15 people) and discount card holders: € 3.80

Schools: € 2.50

Sunday from 10.00 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.: free
Free guided tour for individual visitors only at 11.00 a.m. (reservation required).

accessible to wheelchair users

Museum of Fine Arts (M.S.K.)

Citadelpark

T. +32 9 240 07 00 - www.mskgent.be

The 100-year-old museum is currently being restored. Some works have been moved to the 'Museum paviljoen' (Charles de Kerchovelaan 187A) in the nearby Leopold barracks and can be seen there, as well as temporary exhibitions, until the reopening. Other pieces of the collection were moved to other museums and to the crypt of St Bavo's Cathedral.

Open

Tuesday till Sunday and public holidays:
10.00 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, 1 January, 24, 25 and 31 December

Ticket

Adults: € 2.50

Groups (+15 people): € 1.20

-25 and +55 years: € 1.20

Children -12 years: free

Price adjustments in case of special exhibitions.

Sunday mornings, free visit for individual visitors only from 10.00 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Free guided tour at 11.00 a.m.

Design museum Gent

Jan Breydelstraat 5

T. +32 9 267 99 99 - www.designmuseumgent.be

Behind a magnificent façade of the 18th century is a modern open building. The central eye-catcher is an enormous vase by Italian designer Andrea Branzi. The overview of contemporary design extends from Jugendstil over art deco to the very latest contemporary design. Temporary exhibitions make sure there is always something new to be discovered.

Open

Tuesday till Sunday and public holidays:
10.00 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, 1 January, 24, 25 and 31 December

Ticket

Adults: € 2.50

Groups (+15 people): € 1.20

-25 and +55 years: € 1.20

Children -12 years: free

Price adjustments in case of special exhibitions.

Sunday mornings, free visit from 10.00 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Free guided tour through the permanent collection at 11.00 a.m.

Museum for Industrial Archaeology and Textiles (M.I.A.T.)

Minnemeers 9

T. +32 9 269 42 00 - www.miat.gent.be

Tools, machinery and reconstructed interiors illustrate the evolution of the industrial society up to the current information and consumer society. The museum is located in a former cotton mill.

Open

Tuesday till Sunday: 10.00 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, 1 January, 24, 25 and 31 December

Ticket

Adults: € 2.50

Groups (+15 people) and -25 and +55 years: € 1.20

Children -12 years: free

Sunday mornings, free visit for individual visitors only from 10.00 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

On Sundays: free guided tour at 11.00 a.m. for permanent collection and temporary exhibitions

accessible to wheelchair users

Museum Dr. Guislain

Jozef Guislainstraat 43

T. +32 9 216 35 95 - www.museumdrguislain.be

A museum in the oldest psychiatric hospital of Belgium: you would be 'crazy' not to pay it a visit. From primitive psychiatry with sometimes extreme treatment up to rudimentary art: outsiders' art by people who are 'different'. A very unusual experience!

Open

Tuesday till Friday: 09.00 a.m. > 05.00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: 01.00 p.m. > 05.00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, 1 January, 24, 25 and 31 December

Ticket

Adults: € 5.00

Groups (+15 people) and +60 years: € 2.50

+12 years and students: € 2.50

Children -12 years: free

Guided tour on request: € 38.00 (schools: € 25.00)

accessible to wheelchair users

Het Huis van Alijn

Kraanlei 65

T. +32 9 269 23 50 - www.huisvanalijn.be

This museum on the edge of the medieval 'Patershol' quarter takes you back to the beginning of the 20th century. You'll sense the atmosphere and the melancholy, especially in the wonderful courtyard or the old tavern. Children enjoy pure Ghent puppet theatre!

Open

Tuesday till Saturday: 11.00 a.m. > 05.00 p.m.

Sundays: 10.00 a.m. > 05.00 p.m.

Closed on Mondays, 1 January and 25 December

Ticket

Museum

Adults: € 2.50

Groups (+15 people): € 1.25

+6 and -18 years: € 1.75

Children in group: € 0.75

Children -6 years: free

Puppet theatre

€ 3.00

Sunday mornings, free visit for individual visitors only from 10.00 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Free guided tour at 11.00 a.m. for permanent collection and temporary exhibitions.

Reservation required.

De wereld van Kina: het Huis

Sint-Pietersplein 14

T. +32 9 244 73 73 - www.dewereldvankina.be

In 'het Huis' you can see amongst other things a unique fossil of a prehistoric reptile, a wonderful presentation room with indigenous birds, a scale-model of Ghent 450 years ago with an audio-visual show.

De wereld van Kina: de Tuin

Berouw 55

T. +32 9 225 05 42 - www.dewereldvankina.be

accessible to wheelchair users

In 'de Tuin' you can discover more than 1000 plant species, a bee colony and ... live spiders. Children and youngsters know where to go!

Open

Monday till Friday: 09.00 a.m. > 05.00 p.m.

Sunday and public holidays: 02.00 p.m. > 05.30 p.m.

Closed on Saturdays, 1 and 2 January, 25 and 26 December

Ticket

Adults: € 2.50

Groups (+15 people) and -25 and +55 years: € 1.25

Children -12 years: free

Children in group: € 0.50

Guide: € 25.00

Combined ticket (het Huis and de Tuin)

Besides these museums you will find in Ghent, amongst others, an archaeological and ethnographic collection, a museum for the history of medicine, one for the history of science, a pharmaceutical collection, an institute for social history, a weapons and court museum, an illuseum and a peace house.



MUSEUM PASS(ION)

Pay €12.50 once to visit the 14 most important museums and monuments of Ghent, including temporary exhibitions.

The Ghent museum card is valid during three days and can be purchased in the participating museums, the tourist information offices and the hotels. The validity starts from the first visit. Hence, the museum card can be bought in advance.

Participating museums and monuments

M.I.A.T., Museum of Fine Arts, S.M.A.K., Design museum Gent, Het Huis van Alijn, Museum Dr. Guislain, University Museum for the History of Sciences, Art Centre St Peter's Abbey, De wereld van Kina ('het Huis' and 'de Tuin'), Caermersklooster (friary of the Carmelites), the Castle of the Counts, the Belfry, St Bavo's Cathedral with the Mystic Lamb.

CHILDREN ARE LITTLE PRINCES

Children in the Ghent museums are looked after as royalty. The M.I.A.T. has a regular home narrator, the Alijn House has a weekly puppet show and De wereld van Kina (het Huis and de Tuin) has a natural history museum for children and youngsters! It goes without saying that the inner child in every adult will also be addressed.



Kunsthall Sint-Pietersabdij

Sint-Pietersplein 9

T. +32 9 243 97 30 - www.gent.be/spa

Open

Tuesday till Sunday: 10.00 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.
(last admission at 04.30 p.m.)

Closed on Mondays (not on public holidays),
1 January, 26 May, 24, 25 and 31 December

Ticket

Adults: € 3.00 - Groups (+15 people): € 2.00

Ticket + Alison: € 6.00 - groups: € 4.00

Guide (reservation required): € 75.00

Specific prices for large exhibitions

accessible to wheelchair users (except for 'Alison')

THE SECRET OF THE FALLEN ANGELS

Rafaël is found dead in St Peter's Abbey. Is it an accident? Or could it be murder?

It is the beginning of a captivating story full of intrigues and emotions. Monk Alison takes you on an exciting tour through the age-old corridors and rooms of the abbey and tries to unlock the truth about the death of his friend. Step by step, unexpected secrets come to light.

The interactive movie guide is a world's first: children and adults are carried away by the mysterious history of the abbey and its residents. Seventeen episodes make a movie of over 70 minutes which you can watch at your own rhythm on a palmtop computer. Visiting a museum will never be the same again!

ART CENTRE

Art Centre St Peter's Abbey is also the main exhibition hall of Ghent. It has staged prestigious exhibitions such as 'Hoogtij der Middeleeuwen', 'Carolus', 'De Vlamingen op de Titanic', '7000 jaar Perzische Kunst' and 'El Fruto de la Fe'. For the current expositions you can turn to an events calendar.



Boekentoren

Rozier 9 - T. +32 9 264 38 51 - www.lib.ugent.be

De Zwarte Doos - Dienst Stadsarcheologie en Stadsarchief

Dulle-Grietlaan 12 - 9050 Gentbrugge

T. +32 9 266 57 60

www.gent.be/historisch/deZwarteDoos

Open

Monday: 08.30 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

Tuesday till Thursday: 08.30 a.m. > 04.00 p.m.

Friday: 08.30 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

CITY OF KNOWLEDGE AND CULTURE

Accessible to everyone

Ghent is a university city and it shows. The many students of all sorts ensure the liveliness of the city at all times. If you want to party, then you'd better look up the neighbourhood of the Overpoortstraat on a Thursday night!

During the day, of course, the students can be held as example for industriousness and inquisitiveness. These merits can be put into practice in the 'Boekentoren', the library built by Henry van de Velde. This tower shaped library with its 24 floors is located on the highest spot in Ghent and is the modern rival of the classic three towers of the historical city centre.

Another proof of Ghent's pride in knowledge is the 'Zwarte Doos'. This brand-new heritage centre houses safely the enormous city archives. Its splendid reading room leaves you struck with silence. Which is best, for here you may only whisper!

AND THESE ALSO

Historical archives and Documentation on Municipal Education

Klein Raamhof 8 - T. +32 9 225 29 03

The permanent exhibition 'Schools as they were' is housed in a typical school building from 1901 and illustrates the history of education and teaching.

Open

Schooldays: 09.00 a.m. > 12.00 p.m.

and 02.00 p.m. > 04.00 p.m.

Other days: open on request for groups

Ticket free

University Botanical Garden

K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35

T. +32 9 264 50 73 - www.plantentuin.ugent.be

There are more than 10,000 different plant species. Tropical and sub-tropical greenhouses. A Mediterranean garden, rockery, medicinal herbs and an arboretum.

Open

Monday till Friday: 09.00 a.m. > 04.30 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays:

09.00 a.m. > 12.00 p.m.

Closed from 25 December till 2 January

Ticket free

You can combine a tour of the garden with a visit to the University Museum of Zoology (same address).

HAVE YOU ALREADY SEEN THESE?

Our city enjoys dozens if not hundreds of major and minor places of interest. Please find a useful checklist below: easy to tick during your stay and a pleasant keepsake!

- ☐ St Bavo's Cathedral ❶ and the Mystic Lamb.
- ☐ Castle of the Counts ❷.
- ☐ Belfry ❸, adjacent to the Cloth Hall.
- ☐ Mammelokker, a relief on the façade of the warden's house beside the Cloth Hall. Old man Cimon was condemned to death by starvation, but was saved by his daughter who would visit him daily to breast-feed him.
- ☐ the spire of the St Michael's Church ❹ was meant to tower above all others, but history decided otherwise: instead of the 100 metres high triumphant monument stands an unfinished flat tower hardly 24 metres high.
- ☐ St Michael's bridge with a wonderful view of the three towers.
- ☐ the Castle of Gerald the Devil from 1245, one of the oldest buildings of Ghent. In spite of its grimness, the devil never resided here.
- ☐ St Nicholas' Church ❺ is the most explicit example of Scheldt Gothic in Belgium. The current restoration started in 1960 and will be completed in the near future.
- ☐ the Masons' Guild Hall with its gods and devils dancing on the roof.
- ☐ the City Hall ❻, partly flamboyant Gothic and partly Renaissance, bears witness to the development in architectural taste during the 16th century. The opulent interior decoration too is a mix of several styles.
- ☐ St Jacob's Church ❼ possesses many art treasures and the adjoining square is the epicentre of the Ghent Festivities.
- ☐ the statue of Jacob van Artevelde, a 14th century freedom fighter, is situated on the Vrijdagmarkt and was unveiled in 1863 by King Leopold I. This granted Ghent the name of City of Artevelde.
- ☐ the Dulle Griet, the big cannon, is 5 metres long, weighs 12,500 kilos and can be admired in its original red colour. This piece of artillery was meant to fire cannon balls of over 250 kilos, but in truth never fired once!
- ☐ the medieval Patershol quarter houses many original restaurants that serve delicious international dishes.
- ☐ the Caermersklooster (Friary of the Carmelites) is fully restored and now houses the Provincial art and culture centre.
- ☐ the Groot Vleeshuis (Great Butchers' Hall), with its fine early 15th century wooden truss, was the only location where, for reasons of hygiene, the meat trade was permitted. It is presently being used as a promotion centre for regional products from East Flanders.
- ☐ the renovated Hof van Rijnove illustrates the evolution of 7 centuries of living standards in a patrician mansion.
- ☐ the Rabot was completed in 1491 as part of the city's defences and as a floodgate.
- ☐ the Hall of Justice was built between 1836 and 1846 in a neoclassical style influenced by the Italian Renaissance.
- ☐ the former Dominican friary het Pand now belongs to the University of Ghent and is used as a cultural and congress centre. It houses a remarkable collection of stained-glass fragments and a permanent exhibition of full-size photographs of paintings by Hiëronymus Bosch.
- ☐ the Aula of the University. In 2000, Jan Fabre covered its columns with fresh Ganda Ham. This installation received attention from CNN but met with a lot of protest. The moment fungus set in, the ham was removed.
- ☐ the notorious 'glazen straatje' (officially known as the 'Pieter Vanderdonckt' passage, too complicated for any person/man to remember) where the girls will delight you.
- ☐ the Episcopal Palace on the Bisdomplein.
- ☐ the Graslei, the first port of Ghent with the Guild Hall of the Free Boatmen, the Corn Measurers' House and the Staple House.
- ☐ several facades of the Korenlei reflect the flourishing period of trade and the power of the guilds in the Middle Ages.
- ☐ the former Post office building at the Korenmarkt.
- ☐ the d'Hane Steenhuyse hotel in the Veldstraat, where the French king Louis XVIII resided in 1815.
- ☐ the Arnold Vander Haeghen hotel in the Veldstraat, with its museum dedicated to Maurice Maeterlinck and Victor Stuyvaert.
- ☐ the Opera House from 1840 with its splendid theatre and its elegant salons.
- ☐ the Handelsbeurs, recently renovated and one of the leading concert halls.
- ☐ the Decapitation Bridge with a unique view of the only wooden façade left in Ghent.
- ☐ opposite the Castle of the Counts is the monumental archway of the Old Fish Market, with allegoric sculptures of the Scheldt (man) and Lys (woman) and on the top Neptune, who stands proudly with his golden trident.
- ☐ Our Lady and St Peter's Church is a fine baroque church built on the foundations of the former abbey church and is considered to be the masterpiece of the architect Pieter Huyssens.
- ☐ the splendidly restored swimming bath Van Eyck is the oldest in the country: nowhere else can you swim more in style as here.
- ☐ at the confluence of the Lys and Scheldt rivers lie the ruins of St Bavo's Abbey. Emperor Charles V had the abbey demolished and in its place was built the notorious Spaniard Castle, to besiege the rebellious inhabitants of Ghent.



Islets of peace and quiet.

Ghent has three authentic beguinages, wonderfully selfcontained little islands, where you can find peace and collect your thoughts. The beguines however don't live here any more. At the age of ninety-six, Marcella, the eldest living beguine of Ghent, enjoys her old age in a nursing home.

The **Oud Begijnhof Sint-Elisabeth** is situated in the Rabotstraat, the **Klein Begijnhof O.L.Vrouw ter Hoven** in the Lange Violettestraat and the **Groot Begijnhof** at the outskirts of the city in the suburb of St-Amandsberg near the Dampoort. Since 5 December 1998 these splendid sites have been granted World heritage status by Unesco.



FUN & JOY OF LIVING

If you feel like visiting the most enjoyable city of Flanders during the second half of July, you'll get drawn in an exciting popular feast, the 'Gentse Feesten'. During ten days the city bursts with fun and joy of living.

But the city also sparkles during the rest of the year, just like the fountains in its many parks. Music, theatre, exhibitions, events and each year the internationally renowned film festival: you just can't get bored in Ghent.

Theatre

NTGent Schouwburg
Sint-Baafsplein 17
T. +32 9 225 01 01 - www.ntgent.be

NTGent Minnemeers
Minnemeers 8

NTGent in Arca
Sint-Widostraat 3
accessible to wheelchair users

Minardschouwburg
Walpoortstraat 15 - T. +32 9 265 88 30
Reservations
T. +32 9 267 28 28 - www.minard.be
accessible to wheelchair users

Tinnenpot
Tinnenpotstraat 21
T. +32 9 225 18 60 - www.tinnenpot.be

Kopergietery
Blekerijstraat 50
T. +32 9 266 11 44 - www.dekopergietery.be

Backstage
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 128
T. +32 9 233 35 35 - www.backstage-gent.be

Victoria
Fratersplein 7
T. +32 9 225 37 32 - www.victoria.be

Art centres

Kunstencentrum Vooruit
Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23 - T. +32 9 267 28 20
Reservations
T. +32 9 267 28 28 - www.vooruit.be

Kunstencentrum Nieuwpoorttheater
Nieuwpoort 31-35
T. +32 9 223 00 00 - www.nieuwpoorttheater.org
accessible to wheelchair users

Music
de Bijloke Concertzaal Gent
Jozef Kluyskensstraat 2 - T. +32 9 233 68 78
Reservations
T. +32 9 269 92 92 - www.debijloke.be
accessible to wheelchair users

Concertzaal Handelsbeurs
Kouter 29 - T. +32 9 265 91 60
Reservations
T. +32 9 265 91 65 - www.handelsbeurs.be
accessible to wheelchair users

De Vlaamse Opera
Schouwburgstraat 3 - T. +32 9 268 10 11
Reservations
T. +32 70 22 02 02 - www.vlaamseopera.be

Capitole

Graaf van Vlaanderenplein 5 - T. +32 9 233 29 99
Reservations
T. +32 77 37 38 39 - www.musicallgroup.be
accessible to wheelchair users

Intercultureel Centrum De Centrale
Kraankindersstraat 2 - T. +32 9 265 98 28
www.decentrale.be

De Rode Pomp
Nieuwpoort 59 - T. +32 9 223 82 89
www.rodepomp.be

Cinema

Kinepolis Gent
Ter Platen 12
T. +32 9 265 06 00 - www.kinepolis.com
accessible to wheelchair users

Studio Skoop
Sint-Annaplein 63
T. +32 9 225 08 45 - www.studioskoop.be

Sphinx
Sint-Michielsdelling 3
T. +32 9 225 60 86 - www.sphinx-cinema.be

At least once in your life you should take part in the Ghent Festivities. The programme is a book of 64 pages, so it is not possible to go into detail. Please note the four major events: the Blue Note Jazz Festival, the International Street Theatre Festival, the Puppetsbuskersfestival and 10 Days Off, a unique dance event. On the many squares in the city centre there is also music, music and more music, of all kinds and for free!

CLASSICS

During one month the **Festival van Vlaanderen** brings classical music on the most mind-boggling locations, ranging from a symphony in the St Bavo's Cathedral to mini-concerts in over 150 student flats.

The **Internationaal Filmfestival van Vlaanderen** has evolved to one of the most important festivals of Europe. Hence the chance of bumping into a famous movie star in Ghent is quite real.

And surely one of the true classical events in spring is the **Omloop Het Volk**, which starts off the Belgian cycling season. The racers gather at the entrance of the ... S.M.A.K., because Cycle Racing has kind of a Culture Ranking too.



THAT SUNDAY ON THE VRIJDAGMARKT...

Flowers

Kouter

Monday till Sunday from 07.00 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Birds

Vrijdagmarkt

Sunday from 07.00 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Small animals and poultry

Oude Beestenmarkt

Sunday from 07.00 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Flea market

Bij St.-Jacobs / Beverhoutplein

Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 08.00 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Traditional products

Groentenmarkt

Jewellery, toys, ceramic, ...

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays from

10.00 a.m. > 06.00 p.m. (01/04 > 30/09)

Except during the Ghent Festivities

New goods

Vrijdagmarkt

Friday from 07.30 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Saturday from 11.00 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

Fresh foods

St.-Michielsplein

Sunday from 07.30 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Biological foods

Groentenmarkt

Friday from 07.30 a.m. > 01.00 p.m.

Except during the Ghent Festivities

Information: Stadsbedrijf De Markten
en Foren van Gent

T. +32 9 221 45 28 - markten@foren@gent.be

Free walk round the markets with the Belleman, the town crier of Ghent

Tour of the 5 typical markets on Sunday mornings from the first Sunday of May till the last Sunday of September

Departure: Kouter at 10.30 a.m. near the kiosk

Orde van de Belleman

T. +32 9 222 67 43 - +32 9 220 48 02

www.towncriers.be





FOLLOW THE GUIDE

Of course, you can visit Ghent with a qualified multilingual guide. There is a wide variety of guided tours ranging from a classic tourist walk to a nocturne or even a 'nibble' tour 'in good taste'.

Koninklijke Gidsenbond van Gent en Oost-Vlaanderen

T. +32 9 233 07 72 - www.gidsenbond-gent.be
The ultimate introduction to Ghent.
You can join the fixed guided tours, which leave from the Tourist Information Office:
01/05 > 31/10: Monday till Sunday at 02.30 p.m.
01/11 > 30/04: only during weekends at 02.30 p.m.
Ticket
€ 7.00 (2 hours)
Reservations
T. +32 9 233 53 11 or at the Tourist Information Office from 11.30 a.m.

Gandante

T. +32 479 51 52 42 - www.gandante.be
Reservations only.
Thematic walks with highly qualified guides.

ViZit

T. +32 9 233 76 89 - www.vizit.be
An original and especially delicious exploration of Ghent.
Each Saturday at the Tourist Information Office:
'Sneukelen met stijl'
Ticket
€ 10.00 (at 04.00 p.m. / 2 hours)
'Amuse-gueule'
Ticket
€ 50.00 (at 06.00 p.m. / 4 hours)
Reservations
T. +32 9 233 76 89 - T. +32 473 49 34 55
or at the Tourist Information Office from 03.00 p.m.
or via the website
Reservations necessary.
Guided walks in Dutch and English only.

Horse-drawn carriage trip

Departure: Sint-Baafsplein - T. +32 9 227 62 46
A horse-drawn carriage trip through the centre may not be the hippest thing, but certainly a very pleasant way to discover the city. As soon as weather conditions are favourable, you'll find the horses and horsemen all over the city.
Ticket
€ 25.00 (30 min. / up to 5 persons)

AN ACTIVE STAY

If, besides strolling, relaxing, dining and generally enjoying, you would like to exercise during your stay in Ghent: no problem, that's possible too. You can go for a swim in the wonderfully restored Van Eyck swimming bath or in one of the three other indoor swimming baths in Ghent. On a warm day, you can sunbathe on the beach of the Blaarmeersen sports and recreation park. The Blaarmeersen has plenty of other facilities: there are an athletics track, a roller-skating rink, a skate park, pitches for soccer, courts for squash and tennis. And from September onwards the indoor cycling track is open! Top-class sport is nearby too: there is a great top-class Sports Hall with additional sports hotel. A visit to Ghent doesn't leave you sedate!



Sports and Recreation park Blaarmeersen

Zuiderlaan 5
T. +32 9 266 81 70 - www.gent.be/blaarmeersen
The brand new miniature golf course will be open to the public from May 2006.

Campsite Blaarmeersen

The only four-star campsite in the area of Ghent!

Topgymnastiekhal en Topsporthal Vlaanderen

www.topsporthal.be

For more information on sports facilities and swimming baths, contact Gentinfo



PRACTICAL INFO

Taking public transport.

Exchanging money. Calling a taxi.

Renting a bicycle. It's possible.

Train - tram - bus

Station Gent-Sint-Pieters

Kon. Maria Hendrikaplein 1 - T. +32 2 528 28 28
www.nmbs.be

Tram 1 (www.delijn.be) takes you to the city centre (stop Korenmarkt).

Station Gent-Dampoort

Octrooiplein 10 - T. +32 2 528 28 28
www.nmbs.be

Bus 3, 17, 18, 38, 39 (www.delijn.be) take you to the city centre (stop Korenmarkt).

Taxi

Youssef Ait Daoud: T. +32 477 30 40 00

Patrick Buytaert: T. +32 9 222 77 77

Taxi Willy: T. +32 475 82 55 10

Palitax: T. +32 498 24 04 04

Chicane.be: T. +32 477 88 88 08 - 0800/10 111

Julien Verstappen: T. +32 475 95 26 47

V-TAX: T. +32 9 222 22 22 - 0800/22 225

Franky Sedeyns:

T. +32 475 28 79 32 - +32 473 37 07 13

Taxi's rank: Sint-Pietersstation, Station Dampoort, Korenmarkt, Woodrow Wilsonplein

Transfer Ghent - Brussels National Airport

In need of a cab? Please phone!

Bicycle rental

Station Gent-Sint-Pieters (Bagage)

Kon. Maria Hendrikaplein 1 - T. +32 9 241 22 24

Open

Monday till Sunday: 07.00 a.m. > 08.00 p.m.

Biker

Steendam 16 - T. +32 9 224 29 03

Open

Tuesday till Friday: 09.00 a.m. > 12.30 p.m. and 01.30 p.m. > 06.00 p.m. (Saturday till 05.00 p.m.)

Money exchange & transfer

Goffin - Western Union

Henegouwenstraat 27 - T. +32 9 225 60 95

Open

Monday till Saturday: 09.15 a.m. > 06.00 p.m.

kristel.devogelaere@goffin.be

Camrail - Western Union

Steendam 108 - T. +32 9 223 25 79

accessible to wheelchair users

Open

Monday till Saturday: 10.00 a.m. > 12.00 a.m.

and 01.00 p.m. > 05.30 p.m.





For more information feel free to contact the organizations listed below.
Our people are at your disposal!

Tourist Office

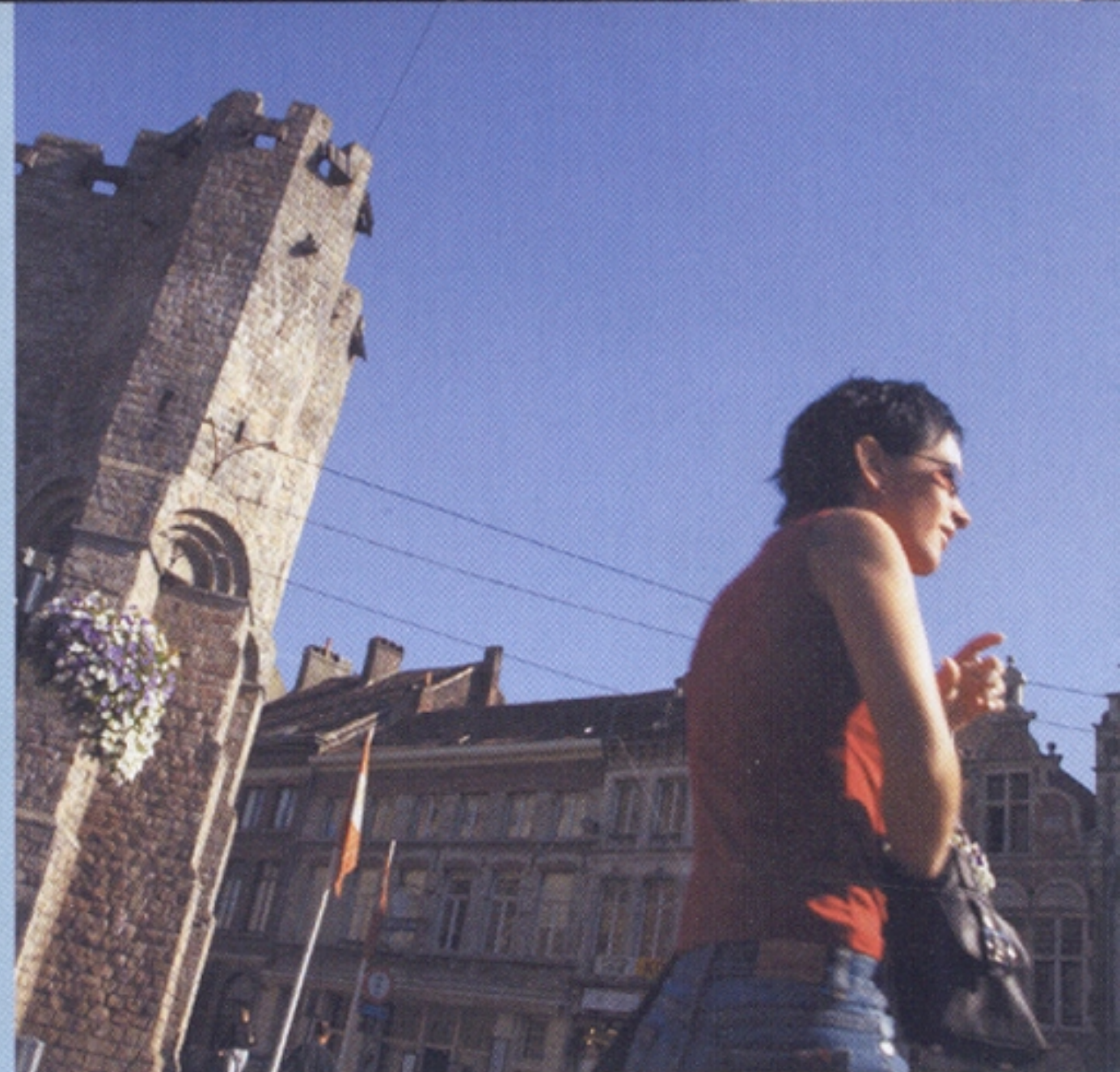
i Inquiry desk
Belfort (Raadskelder)
Botermarkt 17A
T. +32 9 266 52 32 - www.visitgent.be
Accessible to wheelchair users
Toilets available
Open
every day from 09.30 a.m. > 04.30 p.m.
01/04 > 31/10: till 06.30 p.m.
Closed on 1 January and 25 December

Gentinfo

T. +32 9 210 10 10
www.gent.be/gentinfo
Monday till Saturday:
08.00 a.m. > 07.00 p.m.

Toerisme Oost-Vlaanderen

Het Metselaarshuis
Sint-Niklaasstraat 2
T. +32 9 269 26 00 - www.tov.be
Open
Monday till Friday:
09.00 a.m. > 12.00 a.m.
and 01.15 p.m. > 04.45 p.m.



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