Visitor’s guide

ghent: more than a one night stay
Experience Ghent to the full!

Gent all-in
Check in at 5 spots from the City of Three Towers Foursquare City Badge List and be the first of your friends to unlock our Ghent city badge.
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Legend

2 REFERENCE TO MAP

FOOD & DRINKS

ADMISSION WITH CITYCARD

FREE WI-FI

FAVORED BY LOCALS

THEME MAP AVAILABLE FROM THE TOURIST OFFICE

SEE ANNEX WITH PRACTICAL INFO

REFERENCE TO THE PEDESTRIAN SIGNPOSTING (SEE P.53)

TRAM LINE No. 1

TRAM LINE No. 4
restaurants, theatres and concert halls, in the stunning museums and at our creative pop-up sites.

When night falls over the city, light returns. Discover our surprising lighting plan and admire Ghent from a different perspective. Walk straight into a dream.

Ghent is a city to be seen, but also to be experienced. So take your time and discover everything we have to offer. Go off the beaten track. Ride a bike. Have a drink with a charming stranger. Fall in love with our city. Become an inhabitant of Ghent, even if just for a moment. And come back in winter. You’re more than welcome here, all year long.

Annelies Storms  
Alderwoman for Culture, Tourism and Events

The inhabitants of Ghent – also known as Gentenaars – are said to be warm people. Authentic. Creative. Stubborn. And proud of their beautiful city, that is increasingly acclaimed by travel journalists. Ask any Gentenaar what the city’s gems are and there won’t be any stopping him.

Classics like the Castle of the Counts or St Bavo’s Cathedral, which is home to the mysterious must-see ‘The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb’, for example. Or the Belfry topped by the dragon that proudly watches over the city, St Bavo’s Abbey, the beguinages, the Ghent City Museum (STAM), Patershol, the Sunday flower market at Kouter... The list goes on and on.

To the inhabitants of Ghent feasts are culture and culture is a feast. There’s always something to experience. There’s always some tasty treat to devour under the controversial but internationally acclaimed City Pavilion, in the neighbourhoods surrounding the city centre, in our veggie...
Our city is stubborn and always will be. That will never change.

The noose with which Emperor Charles V subjected us to the ultimate humiliation in 1540 now proudly hangs around our necks on every festive occasion.

That stubbornness - or willfulness - is the thread that runs through our city's history.

From 1000 till about 1550, Ghent was one of the most important cities in Europe. Ghent was larger than London and second only to Paris in size. In the fourteenth century the city had 60,000 inhabitants, who were all very protective of their rights: counts and emperors experienced that feisty attitude first-hand. It was clear that the proud and rebellious inhabitants of Ghent would not give up their acquired privileges and rights without a fight.

At the end of the sixteenth century things started to go downhill. Ghent lost its access to the sea and its population halved. The city's economy only picked up two centuries later. Under Dutch rule, the city's university was founded and Ghent became a seaport once again thanks to the Ghent-Terneuzen canal.

And even then Ghent continued to go against the current: during the Belgian independence struggle, many inhabitants remained loyal to the Dutch House of Orange.

The city flourished into the first major industrial centre on the continent. It is therefore no coincidence that the socialist movement and the first trade unions were established here.

In 1913, during the world exhibition, Ghent highlighted its assets. Because the bombs of the two world wars had not caused much damage, the city's 1,000 years of historical heritage have remained largely intact right up to present day.

Get ready to discover that with your own eyes...
Ghent’s essentials

What is the essence of a city? Its inhabitants of course. They ensure that the city’s beautiful heritage is not a static backdrop, but a lively hotchpotch of cultures and ideas.

Must-do’s  P. 6
Ghent: stay the night!  P. 7
Top secret  P. 8
CityCard Gent  P. 9

Since September 2012 ‘The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb’ is being thoroughly restored. The works will be carried out in three phases over five years. You can follow the restoration live at the Museum of Fine Arts. The cathedral will still host two thirds of the original work. You can also head to the Caermersklooster for an in-depth exhibition on the restoration.

“THE MYSTIC LAMB IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE WORLD’S MOST BESIEGED AND COVETED ARTWORK. IN PARIS IT WOULD EASILY KNOCK THE MONA LISA OFF THE THRONE.”
Noah Charney, art historian

THE ADORATION OF THE MYSTIC LAMB
COME BACK
Dozens of festivals, feasts and events guarantee that no two visits to Ghent are alike! Discover them all on P. 48

SEE THE LIGHT
A Michelin-starred lighting plan: you cannot visit the city without an overnight stay! P. 46

UPDATE YOUR FACEBOOK
Photos taken on St Michael’s Bridge may not be the most original, but definitely the most beautiful photos of your stay! To share with your friends! P. 16

EXPLORE PATERSHOL
An authentic medieval neighbourhood. Thirty years ago it was a symbol of urban decay, today it’s the place to be for foodies. P. 20

AMBUSH THE CASTLE OF THE COUNTS
A medieval fortress in the heart of the city. Enjoy the magical view from the very top of the keep. P. 20

GO TO THE STAM CITY MUSEUM
A great overview of Ghent’s history: this museum offers the perfect introduction to the city. P. 42

ENJOY A CONCERT
At the Handelsbeurs, Charlatan or Arts Centre Vooruit, with its beautiful art-deco cafe where trendy people love to meet. P. 34

EMBRACE ART
The Museum of Fine Arts and the Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art are only a few metres from one another. P. 39

BEST BUYS
Second-hand items, antiques and vintage bric-a-brac, (organic) food and clothing. Soak up the atmosphere at the city’s busy markets. P. 44

SEE THE MYSTIC LAMB
‘The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb’ is the main – but not the only – masterpiece to be admired in the impressive St Bavo’s Cathedral. P. 12

Must-do’s

CHECK AS YOU GO
When visiting Ghent these activities are absolute musts! But don’t forget, there’s a lot more to discover... Write down your favourite spots on P. 56.
**Ghent: stay the night!**

**8 a.m.** In the shower, you reminisce about the night before: the typical Ghent waterzooi at that no-nonsense bistro, beers at De Dulle Griet (the well-known café where you exchange a shoe for a glass) and last but not least, a walk through the illuminated historical city centre.

**9 a.m.** Time for some more sparkling plans! Start your day (with champagne!) in one of the many cozy breakfast parlours in the city centre. *P. 45*

**10 a.m.** And then off to the must-see tourist attraction: ‘The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb’ is - though currently being restored - a timeless masterpiece one should see in real life! *P. 12*

**2 p.m.** Work up your appetite on the water! You’ve watched them pass by all morning, now it’s your turn to hop on a boat! After all, that’s the best way to see Ghent from a different perspective. The captain will give you a taste of history laced with juicy little anecdotes, in a language of your choice. *P. 16*

**2:45 p.m.** Time for some culture! The Design museum Gent, The House of Alijn, STAM or S.M.A.K.? The choice is yours! *P. 9*

**3:45 p.m.** Time for some culture! The Design museum Gent, The House of Alijn, STAM or S.M.A.K.? The choice is yours! *P. 9*

**6 p.m.** Back to the hotel, happy you decided to stay another night.

**7 p.m.** Filled with expectation you head to the restaurant. The Flemish Foodies, three culinary free spirits who chose to open their respective restaurants in Ghent, will introduce you to a playful, dynamic cuisine filled with tasty surprises. They’ve also inspired other chefs to launch similar initiatives. J.E.F., De Vitrine, Volta, Vrijmoed, Naturell...there’s something for everyone. *P. 45*

**8:30 p.m.** A healthy snack at a soup or veggie bar, wok a go-go... there’s plenty to choose from! *P. 45*

**9 a.m.** You walk through the city centre, following your intuition, and discover plenty of original typical stores in tiny side streets such as Bennesteeg, Jan Breydelstraat and Serpentstraat. *P. 43*

**11 a.m.** A healthy snack at a soup or veggie bar, wok a go-go... there’s plenty to choose from! *P. 45*

**10 a.m.** Time to sip a drink in the afternoon sun. Time goes by too fast when you’re having fun!

**10 p.m.** Time for a nightcap at that lovely jazz bar. One for the road? *P. 47*
The city also has its hidden gems we’d rather keep to ourselves. But we can’t do that, can we?

**BEGUINAGES**
Beautifully preserved mini villages screened from the hustle and bustle of the city. World Heritage sites.  
P. 21, 26 & 34

**PRINSENHOF & LIEVEKAAI**
Charles V’s cot is long gone. You’ll find a beautiful neighbourhood just outside the city centre, with a marvellous atmosphere.  
P. 20

**CAMPO SANTO**
Ghent’s celebrities and bourgeoisie found eternal rest at this cemetery on a 19-metre hill.  
P. 27

**ST PETER’S ABBEY GARDEN AND VINEYARD**
Hidden behind an impressive wooden gate, but freely accessible to all... who know how to find this hidden gem.  
P. 37

**TIP!**
**UNESCO**
The fourteenth-century Belfry, the fifteenth-century Cloth Hall and the two walled beguinages are all on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage list. Moreover, this organisation has crowned Ghent ‘Creative City of Music’ in honour of its many famous festivals and music schools, and its more than 600 pop and rock bands.  
P. 8

**ACHTERSIKKEL**
An oasis of peace, just a stone’s throw from the busy Sint-Baafsplein: the Achtersikkel from 1481. A small square with a soundtrack!  
P. 13
Museums not to be missed!

CITY MUSEUM (STAM)
The ideal introduction to the city. P. 42

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
The evolution of visual arts until WWII. P. 39

MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (S.M.A.K.)
Surprising, unique and always trendy. P. 39

DESIGN MUSEUM GENT
Functional design throughout the centuries. P. 17

MUSEUM ON INDUSTRY, LABOUR AND TEXTILE (MIAT)
A fascinating journey through the evolution of technology. P. 24

THE HOUSE OF ALIJN
Inspiring museum about the lives of ordinary men. P. 21

DR. GUISLAIN MUSEUM
History of psychiatry, as well as some ‘different’ art. P. 22

ST PETER’S ABBEY
Renowned exhibitions in a beautiful medieval building. P. 36

THE WORLD OF KINA: THE HOUSE
For children and parents who keep an open mind. P. 50

THE WORLD OF KINA: THE GARDEN
For children and parents who have nerves of steel. P. 50

TIP!
CITYCARD GENT
Kick off your visit to the city by purchasing the Ghent CityCard. For 30 or 35 euro you’ll get, respectively, 48 or 72 hours of access to all of the city’s museums, monuments and top attractions. Moreover, you’ll enjoy free public transport (bus and/or tram) and a boat trip. The CityCard offers you many attractions for the price of one.

You can purchase the CityCard at the Tourist Information Center Visit Gent, the participating museums, the Lijnwinkels (the sales points of public transport company De Lijn), the city shop and most hotels!
Neighbourhoods

Two quarters = hours of fun

Ghent is a compact city. All attractions are within walking distance from one another. The two tourist quarters seamlessly blend together. The Historical Centre boasts the highest concentration of historical buildings and monuments, while the Arts Quarter is home to the main museums.

There are no physical boundaries. You can easily walk from one neighbourhood to another, and pop into one of the many inviting cafes and restaurants along the way.

Torens  P. 11-14
Graslei  P. 15-18
Gravensteen  P. 19-22
Vrijdagmarkt  P. 23-24
Portus Ganda  P. 25-27
Kouter  P. 30-32
Zuid  P. 33-34
Sint-Pietersplein  P. 35-37
Citadelpark  P. 38-40
Bijloke  P. 41-42
The city's medieval skyline
This is where it all began. Wherever you look you will see important, interesting and impressive buildings and monuments. The Belfry, St Bavo’s Cathedral and St Nicholas’ Church form the famous three-tower row. But don’t forget to also catch a glimpse of the Town Hall, the Royal Dutch Theatre and the Castle of Gerald the Devil.
An impressive Gothic cathedral was built on the ruins of the twelfth century Romanesque church that once stood on this site. The cathedral will be scaffolded for five years due to thorough restoration works. St Bavo’s Cathedral houses numerous art treasures: the baroque high altar, the rococo pulpit, a Rubens masterpiece, tombs of the Ghent bishops and much more. However, one work stands out above the rest: The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb painted by Hubert and Jan van Eyck in 1432.

If there’s one masterpiece you should not miss, it’s this majestic altarpiece by the Van Eyck brothers. It’s considered the absolute masterpiece of medieval painting, featuring some jaw-dropping details. It survived the Protestant iconoclasm, fell into French hands under Napoleon and was requisitioned by Nazi Germany during WWII. ‘The Just Judges’ panel, stolen in 1934, is still missing. The masterpiece will be restored in several phases, but two thirds of the original will still be open to the public.

A proud symbol of Ghent’s independence. On top of the 95-metre tower the dragon has been watching over the city since 1380. The city’s (many) festivities are still announced by extraordinary carillon concerts. The adjoining Cloth Hall is a reminder of the industry which once made the city rich and prosperous.

The facade of an old jailer’s lodge is adorned with the Mammelokker, which depicts the legend of Cimon, who was condemned to starve to death. He was saved by his daughter who fed him daily from her breast (‘mamme’ = breast – ‘lokken’ = suck).
**TORENS**

Opposite St Nicholas' Church, across the street, is the only original sixteenth-century Masons' Guild House. There is also an exact copy in Graslei that was rebuilt for the World Exhibition in 1913. The original Masons' Guild Hall had in fact disappeared behind some ugly facades and had then been... forgotten. Until it was rediscovered during renovation works in 1976. High up on the stepped gable Moriscos dancers turn with the wind.

**THE MASONS’ GUILD HOUSE**

*Sint-Niklaasstraat 2*

This church in bluestone from the Tournai region is one of the most beautiful examples of the Scheldt Gothic style. One of its unique elements is the tower, which is not above the entrance, but above the crossing of the nave and the transepts. It functions as kind of natural lantern as the light shines directly into the transept from the tower.

**ST NICHOLAS’ CHURCH**

*Cataloniëstraat*

Ghent’s town hall gives you an overview of architecture from the fifteenth to the eighteenth century. The flamboyant Gothic style of the facade at Hoogpoort contrasts sharply with the rather sober Renaissance style of the Botermarkt side. The inhabitants of Ghent say their ‘I do’s’ at the Wedding Chapel. Unless you’re planning to get married, the only way to visit the Town Hall is with a guide.

**TOWN HALL**

*Botermarkt 1*

Just around the corner from busy Sint-Baafsplein you will find an oasis of tranquillity: the Achtersikkel, where one of Ghent's five wells was located. That proves that one of the richest patrician families in Ghent lived there. With a little luck, while you’re admiring this beautiful little square, you’ll be able to enjoy a private concert by a student of the Ghent Conservatory, right above.

**ACHTERSIKKEL**

*Biezekapelstraat*

[Stadhuis]

[Stadhuis]

[Sint-Niklaaskerk]

[Sint-Niklaaskerk]
The city pavilion is one of Ghent’s new architectural highlights. Striking features include the roof structure and the use of glass, wood and concrete. There is space for concerts, dance shows and markets. Beneath the hall the Belfort Stadscafé & Stadsrestaurant has turned into a lively catering establishment. The existing art elements - the Minne sculptures and the Mathildis clock - were given a new place in the design.
History reflected in the water of the River Lys
Graslei is where ships would unload their goods. The Cooremetershuys (guild house of the grain weighers), The Guild house of the Free Sailors, Het Spijker (a granary)... are all impressive reminders of the city’s economic growth.

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TIP!
12 POETIC PICKNICK
Enjoy a sandwich and sip a drink on the quayside. And while doing so, have a chat with a real Gentenaar. Maybe he’ll translate the words you can see opposite, just above the water.
VIEW FROM ST MICHAEL’S BRIDGE

Here you can admire a breathtaking cityscape from all directions. Millions of photos have been taken from this spot. But your own photo remains a unique shot. This is the only place in the city where you can see the three towers form a perfectly straight line.

GRASLEI & KORENLEI

Ask ten inhabitants of Ghent what they consider the most beautiful spot in their city and nine will definitely answer Graslei. Today, this medieval port with its unique row of historical buildings is the place to be if you want to meet people. It’s the beating heart of the city centre.

BOAT TRIPS

Five boating companies will let you discover Ghent from the water. Fancy a traditional tour? Then just hop on board! Use your CityCard at boating companies De Gentenaer and Gent-Watertoerist. The captain will guide you through the city’s history in various languages. Would you like to sip a regional beer or a glass of champagne on board, or are you looking to organise a children’s boat party? Then contact the boating companies in advance. For the contact details go to ‘Useful addresses’ P. 55

ST MICHAEL’S CHURCH

Sint-Michielsplein

134 metres to the sky. It should have been the highest tower in Flanders but history decided otherwise: the ‘monument of triumph’ has remained at a paltry 24 metres. The church does however house many masterpieces, including ‘Christ on the Cross’ by Anthony Van Dyck.
Design is timeless, just look at the beautiful salons with eighteenth- and nineteenth-century furniture in this town house. The modern wing is dedicated to furnishings and objects from the first half of the twentieth century. Of course modern design is also plentiful. Keep your eyes open for thematic exhibitions!

**DESIGN MUSEUM GENT**
*Jan Breydelstraat 5*

Cosy up on the bench along the Lys and enjoy the marvellous view. The park has existed for a long time, but the Appelbrugje, a glass fibre bridge, is brand-new. It takes you to the entirely renovated Old Fish Market, where you will find, among other things, the equally innovative Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent.

**APPLEBRUGPARKJE**
*Jan Breydelstraat*

This thirteenth-century former Dominican monastery now belongs to the University of Ghent. This cultural centre also houses three scientific museums where you can admire, amongst other things, a wonderful collection of stained-glass fragments (upon reservation). Tip: have lunch or dinner (and some philosophical talk!) at the à la carte restaurant.

**PAND**
*Onderbergen 1*

This is where meat was sold during the Middle Ages. For fish, you had to go to the Groentenmarkt (Vegetable Market, then called Vismarkt - Fish Market) and later to the nearby fish market. Today the trusses of the Great Butchers' Hall are used to hang Gandaham, a Ghent speciality - simply delicious, just like the other East Flemish delicacies you can buy here.

**THE GREAT BUTCHERS' HALL**
*Groentenmarkt 7*
GALGENHUISJE
Groentenmarkt

Ghent’s smallest cafe used to be the tripe house, where the less well-to-do could buy tripe. For hygienic reasons, this meat could not be sold at the Great Butchers’ Hall. The name of the cafe – which translates as ‘gallows house’ – refers to the function of the back wall, where criminals would await the death penalty.

KORENMARKT

Twenty years ago, the inhabitants of Ghent would sit here surrounded by parked cars. Today this square is the heart of the largest pedestrianised shopping area in Europe. The former Post Office building from 1909 has a facade decorated with numerous statues and coats of arms. Don’t forget to look up at the beautiful tower clock. A smaller version of Big Ben.
On the merlons of history
You’ve crossed an invisible border: originally this area was property of the count and therefore did not belong to the city. You can get the best ‘taste’ of the Middle Ages in the splendid Patershol: the old street plan is authentic, two monasteries have been beautifully preserved and the numerous charming little restaurants offer unrivalled culinary (and cultural) variety.
CASTLE OF THE COUNTS
*Sint-Veerleplein*

Cold halls and even colder dungeons. Endless staircases leading up the towers. Wells of oblivion and a torture museum. You can’t really call the Castle of the Counts a cosy retreat. But it is impressive... Overlooking the city from high up on the keep, you feel like the Counts of Flanders, with Ghent lying at your feet. An experience not to be missed!

TIP!
LIGHT IS LIFE

Whether it is day or night, the lanterns in Sint-Veerleplein can slowly flicker at any time. And when they do, a child was born somewhere in Ghent. The inspiring art installation ‘Ai Nati Oggi’ by Alberto Garutti was featured during the first Light Festival and was purchased by the city for permanent use.

PATERSHOL

The medieval heart of the city. The evolution and look of the neighbourhood were determined by its inhabitants: artisans in the Middle Ages, notables and magistrates in the 17th and 18th century, and labourers during the industrial revolution. From patrician houses to derelict accommodation barracks. Today, the small alleys are filled with lovely restaurants.

PRINSENHOF & LIEVEKAAI

This is where Charles V was born on February 24th in 1500. Today, little remains of his impressive palace with 300 rooms, idyllic gardens, ponds and even a lions’ den. This is a lively neighbourhood with a fantastic atmosphere, right under the weeping willows along the Lieve.
THE HOUSE OF ALIJN
Kraanlei 65
Get ready to escape from both the city and present day: at The House of Alijn you’ll discover how ordinary people used to live. Stroll from the beginning of the twentieth century past the two World Wars to the seventies. Every room tells a different story. After your visit, reminisce in the delightful internal garden, in a typical pub.

THE OLD FISH MARKET
Sint-Veerleplein 5
Opposite the Castle of the Counts in Sint-Veerleplein lies the monumental gateway (1689) to the Old Fish Market. Neptune keeps watch over the Scheldt (male) and the Lys (female). This fully refurbished complex is home to, among other things, the Tourist Office Visit Gent. Do you need some information? Then look no further!

CARMELITE FRIARY
Vrouwebroersstraat 6
This friary of the Calced Carmelites dates back to 1329. At the end of the last century, it was fully restored and reopened as an exhibition space. During the renovation works, an impressive mural was discovered under a layer of wallpaper. The beautiful staircase can also be admired.

OLD ST ELIZABETH BEGUINAGE
Begijnhofdries
One of the three authentic beguinages. Though it is no longer walled and thus became part of the city, it still has a unique atmosphere. It is now more than ever a place of religious tolerance since it has three different churches: Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant.
GRAVENSTEEN

In 1488, Maximilian of Austria took advantage of a weakness in Ghent’s defences to seize the city. When, after 40 days of siege, his army withdrew without having accomplished their mission, the city authorities used the opportunity to strengthen the central building with two towers. By opening a lock, a 15 km² area could be flooded.

RABOT
Opgeëistenlaan 1

[ Rabot 1 ]

In 1488, Maximilian of Austria took advantage of a weakness in Ghent’s defences to seize the city. When, after 40 days of siege, his army withdrew without having accomplished their mission, the city authorities used the opportunity to strengthen the central building with two towers. By opening a lock, a 15 km² area could be flooded.

DR. GUISLAIN MUSEUM
Jozef Guislainstraat 43

The permanent collection confronts you with the history of psychiatry. But even more striking is the museum’s international collection of outsider art or art brut. The temporary exhibitions are always very original and provocative. The museum is housed in Belgium’s oldest psychiatric hospital, built in 1857, and can easily be reached with tram 1.

TIP!
THE BEST OF MANY WORLDS

Turkish pizza or Moroccan pita, tajine or couscous... If you want to discover the most colourful side of Ghent, you should walk from Oudburg to Sleepstraat and surrender to the temptations of the wonderful mix of cultures. You’ll find countless restaurants, but also original bric-a-brac shops.
The Wise man, pointing to England

Jacob van Artevelde succeeded in reversing the English boycott on wool imports. Thanks to him, the Ghent textile industry could finally breathe again. He became a hero. And an antihero, because he was murdered during a public uprising in 1345. Since 1863 he has been pointing towards England, the country that both made him great and led to his death.

A busy transit road made way for a park. Now you only need to watch out for kids on rollerblades, skateboards or bike while you’re enjoying your picnic in the sun.

The appearance of the Werregarenstraat changes constantly. That comes as no surprise, given that street artists are free to decorate it as they please. Definitely worth a detour!
For centuries, this square was the heart of the city's public political and social life: this is where rulers were solemnly received, feasts were celebrated and feuds were settled. Today it hosts a weekly market and the occasional fair. Enjoy a drink and a snack at one of the many outdoor cafes.

This impressive cast-iron cannon weighs 12,500 kg and is commonly known as ‘Dulle Griet’ (Mad Meg). It has a big mouth but that’s as far as the evil goes, because it has never fired a shot. The ox red colour is original - it looks like blood, but this cannon has never caused any blood to flow.

Until after WWII, Ghent was an important textile centre. The Museum on Industry, Labour and Textile (MIAT) is housed in an impressive old cotton mill and gives a unique picture of the radical technological changes our society has undergone over the last 250 years. From the upper floor of this building you can enjoy a wonderful view of the entire city.

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, the square ‘Bij Sint-Jacobs’ plays host to an antique market (or a jumble sale). This also happens to be the heart of the Ghent Festivities, the popular festival that sets the city alight every year in July. Vlasmarkt is the place to be for a fun night out.
Where two rivers cross paths

Ghent once consisted of an archipelago of 72 islands. Small rivers were constantly bridged, canalised and diverted. Floods were a matter of course. The open sewers were the cause of many epidemics and from the second half of the nineteenth century as many as possible were covered. Today, we are witnessing the opposite: watercourses are being reopened to become the pumping arteries of this living city.

**TIP!**

**PARTY TIME!**

Many famous bands have a rehearsal room above one of the hip bars at the Oude Beestenmarkt. And after rehearsal they don’t head home without stopping in Vlasmarkt, with its equally famous dance pubs.
PORTUS GANDA
Veermanplein, Nieuwbrug-kaai, Voorhoutkaai

Visitors’ yacht marina in a unique location, at the confluence of the rivers Lys and Scheldt, where Ghent (then Ganda) was founded. Bridges, parks, outdoor cafes and the splendid Van Eyck pool create one of the most beautiful (new) corners of Ghent.

GREAT BEGUINAGE
SINT-AMANDSBERG
Engelbert van Arenbergstraat
9040 Sint-Amandsberg

This exceptionally large beguinage in Sint-Amandsberg (just outside the city) was built between 1873 and 1874 as a replacement for the St Elizabeth beguinage. In less than two years eighty houses were built, as well as fourteen convents, a communal house, an infirmary, a chapel dedicated to St Anthony of Padua and a church. The beguines have long since disappeared but the exceptional hushed calm remains.

ST BAVO’S ABBEY
Voorhoutkaai,
Spanjaardstraat

In the seventh century, Amandus founded St Bavo’s Abbey here in an attempt to convert the inhabitants of the city of Ganda. In 1540, Charles V demolished the Abbey in order to build a fortress, known as Spanjaardenkasteel. The enormous square fortress with its bastions was demolished in the nineteenth century. Today the abbey’s ruins lie in a new, green neighbourhood with passionate inhabitants.
**VAN EYCK POOL**
*Veermanplein 1*

Belgium's oldest indoor swimming pool was fully refurbished and is today more beautiful than ever. The splendid art-deco interior turns sports into an almost artistic experience. In the ‘Au Bain’ lounge bistro on the first floor you can enjoy a wonderful view of the swimming pool and the marina.

**CAMPO SANTO**
*Visitatiestraat 13*
*9040 Sint-Amandsberg*

Gent has its very own Père-Lachaise. Numerous renowned painters, sculptors and writers found their final resting place on this 19 metre-high burial mound just outside the city centre. They have to share it with the traditional bourgeoisie from Ghent who paid a lot of money to have splendidly sculpted tombs and family vaults installed there.
city map
HISTORICAL CENTRE
& ARTS QUARTER
www.visitgent.be

SITES
1. TORENS
2. GRASLEI
3. GRAVENSTEEN
4. VRIJDAGMARKT
5. PORTUS GANDA
6. KOUTER
7. ZUID
8. SINT-PIETERSPLEIN
9. CITADELPARK
10. BIJLOKE

www.visitgent.be
In the Middle Ages it was the site of military parades and jousting tournaments, horse fairs and archery competitions. In the nineteenth century, the common people had to make way for the well-to-do citizens, who chose this square for their traditional Sunday stroll. And that’s how it still is today, except… everybody’s welcome!

**Open on Sundays**

Your shopping trip starts in Veldstraat, where all the major brands have a store. Do look up from time to time, because above the inviting shop windows you’ll unexpectedly discover authentic facades. You can also bag a bargain in the adjoining streets.  

**TIP!**

**PEDESTRIANISED SHOPPING MECCA**

Shopping map
KOUTER

On a Sunday morning, at the weekly flower market, you'll come across the real locals. On arrival they sip a delicious espresso and before they go home, they enjoy a fresh oyster and a glass of white wine at the Blauwe Kiosk. A perfect way to start the day!

TIP!

MARKET TOUR

Sunday, a day of rest? Not if you work at the market! Why don't you follow the Town Crier to the flower, book, animal or antiques market? Enjoy the juicy stories for free along the way!

VLAAMSE OPERA GHENT
Schouwburgstraat 3

In an open-minded city like Ghent, the luxurious opera and the modern concert hall Handelsbeurs are good neighbours. Discover the beautiful hoof-shaped theatre with its impressive chandelier at the opera and the unique, height-adjustable stage of Handelsbeurs.
Eight Corinthian pillars crowned with a triangular pediment. In 2000, they inspired the artist Jan Fabre to create an installation which caught the attention of CNN but received a lot of criticism in Belgium: he wrapped the columns in fresh ham. Unfortunately, the ham did not stay fresh and had to be removed earlier than planned.

This building has been in use for more than 160 years. To solve the problem of the permanent lack of space in the neo-classical building, a modern building for the law courts was erected on the edge of the city. Today the old law courts are still used by the Assize Court and the Court of Appeal.
A lively business centre

Officially, this is called the Graaf Van Vlaanderenplein/Woodrow Wilson-plein, but all the locals call it de Zuid (the South). Trams and buses journey back and forth, bringing residents to the administrative centres of the city and the province, or to the Public Library. The shopping centre opposite houses 40 shops and a supermarket.

KONING ALBERT PARK  P. 34
SMALL BEGUINAGE OUR LADY TER HOYEN  P. 34
ARTS CENTRE VOORUIT  P. 34
DE KROOK  P. 34

TIP!

GRUUT- THE GHENT CITY BREWERY

Grote Huidevettershoek 10

For centuries Ghent was at the centre of all beer breweries. Now the city brewery is bringing this lost tradition back to life. Whether you’re into lager, brown or wheat beer, Gruut always goes down well. Needless to say all group visits to the brewery end with a tasting. Cheers!
ZUID

Statues and fountains surrounded by nature. In the 1930s, a park in neo-baroque style was laid out here on the site of the former Zuidstation. When entering the city from the motorway, you can drive straight into the underground car park.

KONING ALBERT PARK

The Small Beguinage was founded in 1235. Today, it is one of the best preserved and most attractive beguinages from before the French Revolution. The last beguine who lived here passed away in 2005. Now the houses are leased and the larger buildings have become artists’ workshops. UNESCO world heritage!

SMALL BEGUINAGE OUR LADY TER HOYEN

Lange Violettestraat 235

Dance, theatre, performance, literature and a generous portion of rock ‘n’ roll. Vooruit has been a household name in Ghent for many decades. This listed building has 366 different rooms, the main ones being the concert hall, the ballroom and the beautiful art deco café. The latest addition: a bicycle shed covered with a green sun terrace.

DE KROOK

Soon ‘De Krook’ will be opening its doors opposite Kuiperskaai in Ghent. This bubbly platform for knowledge, culture and the economy will include a brand-new city library, a digital media innovation cluster and a beautifully renovated Winter Circus.

ARTS CENTRE VOORUIT

Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23

(image: © TV Coussée & Goris Architecten en RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes)
Where knowledge and temptation go hand in hand

Ghent is a student city and this is its beating heart. The Book Tower is the symbol of the knowledge accumulated in this university city. Overpoortstraat represents the temptation to which every student is exposed: it’s not easy to resist the lure of the numerous student cafés. Good luck!

**TIP!**

**WHISPERING BOOKS**

Culture is everywhere in Ghent, even in underground car parks. Voices escape from Anouk De Clercq’s abstract bookcase, whispering age-old knowledge and scientific secrets to visitors. This ‘Monument to Students’ is part of an international art project.
SINT-PIETERSPLEIN

Sint-Pietersplein is the city’s square for large-scale events. Each year, the Mid-Lent Fair is held here. Many important archaeological discoveries were made during the construction of the underground car park. You can admire them at the St Peter’s Abbey.

OUR LADY OF ST PETER’S CHURCH

This imposing church was built in 1629 on the foundations of the previous Romanesque abbey church. The architect, Pieter Huysens, was inspired by the great Italian Renaissance churches. The interior is impressive and the art treasures are unique. Not to be missed.

ST PETER’S ABBEY

The refectory wing of St Peter’s Abbey is authentically medieval. The splendid garden with its vineyard and ruins is a green oasis in the heart of the city. Every year, the St Peter’s Abbey hosts prestigious exhibitions with international allure.

ALISON, THE SECRET OF THE FALLEN ANGELS

Raphael was found dead in St Peter’s Abbey. An accident? Or murder? In seventeen episodes, the digital monk Alison will take you on an exciting and mysterious journey through the centuries-old passages of the abbey.
ST PETER’S ABBEY GARDEN AND VINEYARD
Sint-Pietersplein 9

No need to leave Ghent to feel like a God in the south of France. The vineyard produces a very limited number of bottles of ‘In Monte Blandinio’. This singular white wine goes exclusively to the Wijnmetersgilde, which presents the City of Ghent with part of the lot as a gift and uses the remainder for its ceremonies and celebrations.

THE BOOK TOWER
Rozier 9

Ghent’s fourth tower is a modernist masterpiece by the Belgian architect Henry Van de Velde. The 64-metre concrete building from 1933 has 24 floors. To better protect this exceptional monument and its three million books, the university and the authorities have invested in its sustainable renovation. The works should be completed by 2017.

‘HUG-A-TREE’ IN VAN DUYSEPLEIN
Van Duyseplein

Do you want to add a tree to your Facebook friends? No problem! Kiss or hug the plane tree in Prudens Van Duyseplein, take a snap and post it online via www.facebook.com/gentfan. Numerous (backpacking) tourists have already done so. And that’s how an anonymous tree became an online hype.
Art surrounded by nature
To visit the city’s two main art museums, you only have to cross the street. Very handy! The Museum of Fine Arts gives you a nice overview of visual arts up until WWII, while the Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art shows you what contemporary artists have to offer. The conference centre close by hosts businesspeople from all over the world and the Kuipke hosts the cycling event, Six Days of Ghent.

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S.M.A.K.  P. 39
CITADELPARK  P. 39
BOTANICAL GARDEN  P. 40
’T KUIPKE  P. 40
MUSEUM FOR THE HISTORY OF SCIENCES  P. 40

TIP!
LIGHT AT THE END OF / IN THE TUNNEL
What used to be a dark passageway to the train station is now an art installation: a 106-m high photo collage by Swiss artist Beat Streuli shows dozens of people strolling through the city and going about their lives. The perfect way to welcome visitors to Ghent! Bright panels light up between the photographs every time a train enters the station.
The power and the charm of the Museum of Fine Arts lies in the variety of its collection, which ranges from Rogier van der Weyden and Hieronymus Bosch to Rubens and Van Dyck, James Ensor, van Rysselberghe, Permeke and Magritte. An auditorium, a library, and a café and restaurant make it a modern, multifunctional complex where you can spend many happy hours surrounded by beauty. In 2011 it was crowned the most child-friendly museum in Flanders.

The Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art is just as stubborn as the city in which it was established. The permanent collection of national and international masterpieces is presented in continuous interaction with original and often daring exhibitions. Keeping a finger on the pulse. And sometimes adding insult to injury.

This park was named after the large-scale Citadel built on this site following the fall of Napoleon. This military structure gradually lost its function and was replaced by a park. Large exhibition halls were built here for the 1913 World Exhibition. The largest remaining hall is the Floraliënhal. Soon the large and protected park, which covers an area of 15 hectares, will undergo a thorough facelift. The aim: to turn it into one of the city’s main green lungs.
BOTANICAL GARDEN

K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35

Yet more flora (and fauna) opposite Citadelpark. Tropical and subtropical greenhouses flank the gardens of Ghent University. Student botanists have an enormous variety of flowers and plants to study. As a visitor, you can just enjoy their beauty.

'T KUIPKE

Citadelpark

The Six Days of Ghent has welcomed many legendary cyclists. Every year in November, the great atmosphere and the steep track make this a popular event not to be missed.
Gateway to the city
The Bijloke is the epicentre of culture in all its forms. It is home to famous music, dance and theatre ensembles, students meet up at the brand-new art campus, and creativity and inspiration are in the air.

**GHENT JAZZ FESTIVAL**
For a decade now the Ghent Jazz Festival has brought jazz legends and new talents to the city. The key to this success: a great location, a fantastic atmosphere and a wildly enthusiastic audience. Not purism in the programming, but music with a broad scope makes this one of the best festivals in Belgium.
The City Museum, or STAM, is your gateway to the city. The fourteenth-century abbey, the seventeenth-century monastery and adjoining infirmary, the twentieth-century gatehouse and the new twenty-first-century development introduce you to the history of Ghent. It won both the 2012 Flemish Museum Prize and the audience award.

This medieval infirmary with its beamed apex was transformed into a contemporary concert hall with unique acoustics. Attending a concert here is a treat for the ear and eye. Treat yourself to a culinary delight at the Bijloke Bistro, which looks out onto the hall.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the Coupure was a busy canal that linked Ghent to Bruges. When the first town houses were built along the shore, the workers were banished (and until the beginning of the twentieth century, they were literally expelled). Nowadays you can cycle, walk or jog along the shore, or even fish (!).
No city trip is complete without a day of shopping. Ghent has a vast and surprising offer: from large chains to small boutiques and original bric-a-brac shops. During the weekend go to one of the many markets to shop for food, clothing, flowers, pets, antiques and curiosities, artworks and books. No excuse to go home empty-handed!

Tasty treats P. 44
Markets P. 44
Ghent fashion P. 44
Design & retro, art & antiques P. 44

Shopping map

“A CITY SHOULDN’T TRY TO BE COMPLETE, IT SHOULD OFFER LOTS OF TASTY TREATS, PREFERABLY OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY, FOR US - THE NEW NOMADS - TO ENJOY.”

‘Art Pope’ Jan Hoet
TASTY TREATS
In Ghent, all you need to do is follow the delicious scents. They’ll take you to tons of authentic sweets shops. Fill your cone with poepkes, muilkes, cuberdons, pralines or any other sweet delight. Don’t worry about the calories! You’ll burn them in Europe’s largest pedestrianised shopping area.

MARKETS
An old vinyl record, a trendy jacket, Tunisian olive oil or a kilo of tulip bulbs... There are plenty of special offers at the various markets. Follow the special tour that takes you along the markets on the shopping map that is available from the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent.

GHENT FASHION
Hand-made dresses, handbags made from recycled materials, original jewellery or second-hand vintage items: all across the city you will find authentic little shops selling clothes or accessories that will forever remind you of your visit to Ghent.

DESIGN & RETRO, ART & ANTIQUES
Did you still have some space in your cabinet before you visited Ghent? Probably not anymore! The city is a treasure trove of cool knickknacks and irresistible design. If you’re a collector, get up early and go to the second-hand market at ‘Bij Sint-Jacobs’ every Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. Follow your instinct - or better, the handy shopping map that is available from the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent.  

Shoppingmap
Ghent: simply delicious

Cooking shows and other TV programmes about food are extremely popular, but we believe there’s nothing better than dining out. And if you agree, Ghent is the place to be!

Pub & Resto map with 9 locals’ favourite spots.

Sandwich or soup bars, heavenly lobster or pasta restaurants... We have them all – and they’re all equally delicious. Young, talented chefs who’ve just taken over a restaurant or passionate amateurs who’ve launched a bold new concept – together they’ve put Ghent on the (culinary) map!

From RoomeR, Ghent’s typical elderflower blossom aperitif to Tierenteyn, the tangy mustard that is delicious on a sandwich with uuflakke (pig’s head), and sweet neuzekes or cuberdons: your taste buds will have a lot to discover in Ghent!

You can have it all: Belgian or exotic specialities, a quick bite or a five-course meal, fish or meat. Or, no meat... because Ghent was crowned Veggie Capital of Europe. Ask for the veggie plan at the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent!

Guide to Veggie Ghent

And don’t forget to taste the world-famous Gentse Waterzooi... the authentic chicken- or fish-based meal soup that has been a favourite for centuries.

BREAKFAST OR BRUNCH

A tasty breakfast before you head out into the city? Or a lie-in followed by a hearty brunch? Crispy bread, fresh orange juice and why not, a glass of champagne... Dozens of eateries open their doors very early so you don’t need to start your day on an empty stomach, but with a big smile.

ROCK ‘N’ ROLL CUISINE

Three culinary geniuses chose to open their restaurants in Ghent. The ‘Flemish Foodies’ hate to stick by the rules. The result is a playful, dynamic and delicious cuisine. They’ve also inspired other chefs to launch similar initiatives. Discover the addresses of Volta, De Vitrine, J.E.F., Vrijmoed and Naturell, as well as many more great eateries, in the Pub & Resto map that is available from the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent.

Pub & Resto map
NIGHTLIFE

THE NIGHT IS STILL YOUNG

Ghent received three Michelin stars for its lighting plan. So you really need to stay at least one night to explore Ghent to the full. The city is spectacular during the day, but at night it comes to life once again. The beautifully lit buildings and monuments in the city centre create a magical atmosphere. The ‘Gent illuminated’ map shows you the way!

Promenade ‘Gent illuminated’

Light Festival

The first Light Festival was held in January 2011 and surpassed all expectations. International lighting artists put the city’s buildings and monuments in the spotlight. The Belfry seemed to be on fire, while the former Post Office building was struck by an explosion of colours. The following year, Belfortstraat was transformed into a giant rainbow of light, with hundreds of thousands of coloured lamps. Thousands of Gentenaars weathered the cold time and time again... Both editions were so successful that we’ve turned it into a tradition. Looking forward to it? So are we!

“YOU’RE IN THE FUNKEST PLACE IN THE WORLD RIGHT NOW!”

Prince to his audience in Ghent
**Ghent by night**
The lights are fantastic, but so is the city’s social and cultural nightlife.

**One last drink**
According to the last census, the Ghent city centre is home to an impressive 320 cafés, each with its own atmosphere, audience and draught beer.

**Dance the night away**
You’ve been walking all day but still you feel like partying? No problem! Just like Bologna, Glasgow and Seville, Ghent has officially been crowned *Creative City of Music*. In pubs, bands take the rickety stage by storm, while DJs do their thing at trendy clubs. The British Face Magazine even named the Culture Club the hippest place on earth. And who are we to question that?

You’ll find all cultural hotspots and programmes on www.visitgent.be. Alternatively, check the multimedia information table at the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent in the Old Fish Market.

**On stage**
Stage fright? Not at all! The entire city breathes an air of excitement. Singer-songwriters at the Handelsbeurs, musical actors at Capitole, rock stars at Vooruit and divas at the Opera, they all have one thing in common: they love performing in Ghent.

Dozens of theatre companies bring classics and their own creations to stages big and small: from the Royal Dutch Theatre to the Minard Theatre, Campo, Arca, Tinnenpot, De Centrale and De Koperkietery.

If you love films, admire the actors on the big screen at Kinepolis, Studio Skoop and Cinema Sphinx. Once a year, the stars walk the red carpet at the Film Fest Gent and the World Soundtrack Awards.
FESTIVALS, FEASTS AND EVENTS

The Ghent Festivities
In the second half of July Ghent goes crazy for ten days with hundreds of performances, street theatre and plays, fairs and entertainment for kids, an opening parade and a closing concert. We party the night away and down litres of delicious beer!

All year long
But during the rest of the year, the city is equally bubbly. The Ghent Jazz Festival and the Festival of Flanders Ghent make Ghent a UNESCO Creative City of Music. In October, film lovers and stars flock to the Film Fest Gent. The four-yearly Floralies are an event with international allure that even attracts our royals. In a nutshell: every visit to Ghent is different, fun and unforgettable!

Below you will find a list of regular events. To check what’s on this weekend go to the website or have a look at the multimedia information table at the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent in the Old Fish Market.

LIGHT FESTIVAL / EVERY THREE YEARS - JANUARY 2015
Flamboyant art trail that puts the city in an entirely new light

GHENT JAZZ FESTIVAL / JULY
The best jazz has to offer

THE GHENT FESTIVITIES / WEEK OF JULY 21ST
Ten days of fun for all ages

FESTIVAL OF FLANDERS / SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER
The power of classical music

FILM FEST GENT / OCTOBER
Film feast with a focus on music

SIX DAYS OF GHENT / NOVEMBER
Spectacular classic indoor cycling race

GHENT FLORALIES / EVERY FOUR YEARS - SPRING 2016
The world’s largest indoor flower garden
Don’t forget the guide

A professional guide is a walking encyclopaedia who knows everything about buildings and monuments, but – more importantly – also spices things up with juicy anecdotes and fun facts, so many things we can’t possibly include in this brochure.

The Ghent Guides provide you with the perfect introduction to the city. From May till September you can simply join their walks, which all start at the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent.

On Saturday, Vizit organises culinary walks for those who’d love to taste the city’s delicacies. Mouth-watering!

And Gandante adopts a playful approach to exploring the city with its treasure hunts.

You can make a personalised tour of Ghent, too, with the guides’ association Ghent-Authentic, for example.

The ‘front’ of the city is best explored on foot, while the ‘back’ is best discovered by boat.

Of course you can treat yourself to a carriage ride fit for a prince and princess. Or enjoy a ride with your group – on a tram from 1971!

If you love cycling ask about (thematic) bike tours at the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent. More of a water rat? Then you can rent a canoe or even a miniyacht!

Are you the sporty type? Discover the city during the six, eight or even ten km tour while burning off those calories!
Out with kids

It’s nice to visit Ghent with your partner, but of course children are also more than welcome in the city. At the Castle of the Counts they’ll feel like knights and noblewomen, at The House of Alijn they’ll be welcomed by a little ghost and at the City Museum by Fosfor the Dragon. The Design museum Gent, the Museum on Industry, Labour and Textile and the Dr. Guislain Museum also have a children’s tour.

THE WORLD OF KINA: THE GARDEN | map page 19
More than 1,000 plant species, a beehive and live tarantulas: children and youngsters will love this place. Their parents can join them, if they’re not scared that is!
Berouw 55

THE WORLD OF KINA: THE HOUSE | map page 35
A unique fossil of a prehistoric reptile, a beautiful diorama room with indigenous birds and a model of the city as it was in the 16th century, with lights and sounds.
Sint-Pietersplein 14
Outside the city

Have you been here a while and have you seen enough buildings and monuments for now? Then why not relax and catch a breath of fresh air in three green areas on the edge of the city? The one focuses on sports and leisure, the other on hiking surrounded by fauna and flora and the third on both.

Blaarmeersen P. 52
S&R Rozebroeken P. 52
Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen P. 52

TIP!
Ghent is the perfect city for pedestrians and cyclists. And cycling is also the perfect way to explore the city’s surroundings. Discover where to rent a bike (or even a tandem!) in the list of useful addresses at the back and in the annex with practical information. At the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent you’ll find brochures with cycling routes.
**BOURGOYEN-OSSEMEERSEN**
Many inhabitants of Ghent are unaware of the beautiful nature reserve they have just outside the city. Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen is a 230-hectare flood plain where hundreds of bird species hibernate. You can explore these ‘floralies in the wild’ from three hiking paths.

The visitors’ centre sets an example of sustainability. It is freely accessible throughout the week, so is the cafe. Here you’ll find information and maps, and you can rent binoculars.

**BLAARMEERSEN**
Weather permitting, you must go to the Blaarmeersen Sports and Recreation Park. The large lake is perfect for swimming, diving, surfing, kayaking and water-skiing. Let loose on the five slides and wooden walking bridge, while the lifeguards watch over your safety from three different towers.

There is also an athletics track surrounded by greenery, as well as a skating rink, a skate park and a mini golf course, football and rugby pitches, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, and badminton and squash courts.

You can camp here as well, at the only four-star campsite in Ghent.

**S&R ROZEBROEKEN**
In this swimming pool complex you can enjoy a swim in the Olympic-size pool, have a dip in the wave pool and enjoy two rapid rivers and various slides. The complex also boasts a children’s and toddler pool and a cafeteria. Moreover, there are two outdoor pools and an outdoor playground. You can also treat yourself to some relaxation at the wellness centre.
NEVER GET LOST
It’s very difficult to get lost in Ghent, especially now that the city has special, clear signage for pedestrians in 114 locations.

Ghent is divided into two quarters: the Historical Centre and the Arts Quarter. Each quarter has several sites. Coloured arrows take you from one site to the next. Of course, every signpost also shows the different train stations.

In this brochure, you will find the names of each site between square brackets, accompanied by the pedestrian symbol. These are the names you will also find on the signposts in the city.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT
An extensive tram and bus network will take you wherever you need to be in and around Ghent.

Tickets are cheaper when bought before boarding. You can purchase them at the ‘Lijnwinkels’, newspaper vendors, supermarkets, and at some grocers or from the vending machines at certain bus and tram stops. The tickets need to be validated in the yellow machine on the bus or tram.

Ask for the free bus and tram map at the ‘Lijnwinkels’ at the Gent-Sint-Pieters train station, at Korenmarkt and at Gent-Zuid. You can also find the map at the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent.
HANDY TIPS FOR EXPLORING THE CITY

If you’re thinking of exploring the historical city centre on foot, get your free map - available in eight languages: Dutch, French, German, English, Spanish, Italian, Russian and Japanese - at the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent or download it from www.visitgent.be.

There are also four cycling routes to choose from, each highlighting a different aspect of our city: ‘Religious Heritage’, ‘City of green’, ‘Origins of a city by the water’ and ‘A green belt around the city’.

Every route passes by famous and less-known sites in and around the city. You can buy the maps from the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent and via www.visitgent.be. Do you have a bicycle GPS? Then you can download the routes for free as gpx files!

Go to www.citytripplanner.com and create your own personalised visit to Ghent in a jiffy. Answer a few short questions about your interests and download or print your bespoke visit!

Thematic plans allow you to explore Ghent from a completely different angle. They are all available from the Tourist Information Centre of Visit Gent.

Would you like more details about the information in this brochure? Or about something that is not included? Then go to www.visitgent.be.
Useful addresses

GUIDED TOURS

Ghent Guides
T. +32 9 233 07 72 (info)
info@gentsegidsen.be
www.gentsegidsen.be
Specialised in welcoming visitors.

Vizit
T. +32 9 233 76 89
info@vizit.be - www.vizit.be
Original and bespoke theme walks.

Gandante
T. +32 9 375 31 61
info@gandante.be
www.gandante.be
The city from an unexpected angle.

Ghent-Authentic
T. +32 498 10 99 61
info@ghent-authentic.com
www.ghent-authentic.com
An authentic visit to Ghent with a personal touch.

Jog-Tours Gent
T. +32 499 53 23 65
info@jog-tours.com
www.jog-tours.com
Guided jogging tour of the city.

City Running Tours Gent
T. +32 485 32 44 20
wimvdputte@gmail.com
www.cityrunningtours.be
Let’s have some run!

BOAT TOURS

Boat in Gent
Departure: Kraanlei.
T. +32 478 63 36 30
info@boatingent.be
www.boatingent.be

De Bootjes van Gent – Rederij Dewaele
Departure: Korenlei.
T. +32 9 228 62 63
T. +32 9 229 17 16
info@debootjesvangent.be
www.debootjesvangent.be

Gent Watertoerist
Departure: Graslei
T. +32 9 269 08 69 (Mon. to Fri., 9-17hr)
T. +32 473 48 10 36 (Sat. & Sun., 9-17hr)
info@gent-watertoerist.be
www.gent-watertoerist.be

Rederij De Gentenaer
Departure: Vleeshuisbrug Groentenmarkt.
T. +32 9 269 08 69 (Mon. to Fri., 9-17hr)
T. +32 473 48 10 36 (Sat. & Sun., 9-17hr)
info@rederijdegentenaer.be
www.rederijdegentenaer.be

Viadagio vzw
Eco boat tours upon request (min. 6 persons)
Departure: Zuivelbrug.
T. +32 9 225 07 86
ipman@belgacom.net
www.viadagio.be

Benelux Rederij
Cruise on the Lys from Ghent to its surroundings
Departure: Recollettenlei 32.
T. +32 9 225 15 05
info@benelux-rederij.com
www.benelux-rederij.com

Minerva Boat Company
Miniyachts for rent.
Departure: Coupure Rechts 2a
T. +32 9 233 79 17
www.minervaboten.be

Yachtcharter Gent
Rental of electric boats and steel yachts.
Departure: Coupure Links 9
T. +32 476 57 18 18
info@yachtchartergent.com
www.yachtchartergent.com

Leie Yachting
Rental of luxury boats.
Departure: Drogen motorway exit.
T. +32 50 33 55 69
T. +32 497 05 79 49
sloepenverhuur@leie-yachting.be
www.leie-yachting.be

Rafting & Outdoor Events
Historical or photo treasure hunts with rafting boats.
Departure: Minnemeers car park.
T. / F. 32-9-225 37 69
raft@skynet.be
www.rafting.be

Boat tours on Ghent’s rivers and canals

BOAT TOURS

Boat tour on Ghent’s rivers and canals

TRIPS IN HORSE-DRAWN CARRIAGES

Minerva Boat Company
Miniyachts for rent.
Departure: Coupure Rechts 2a
T. +32 9 233 79 17
www.minervaboten.be

Yachtcharter Gent
Rental of electric boats and steel yachts. Departure: Coupure Links 9
T. +32 476 57 18 18
info@yachtchartergent.com
www.yachtchartergent.com

Leie Yachting
Rental of luxury boats. Departure: Drogen motorway exit.
T. +32 50 33 55 69
T. +32 497 05 79 49
sloepenverhuur@leie-yachting.be
www.leie-yachting.be

Rafting & Outdoor Events
Historical or photo treasure hunts with rafting boats. Departure: Minnemeers car park.
T. / F. 32-9-225 37 69
raft@skynet.be
www.rafting.be

iboat.be - K25 bvba
Luxury captained cruise through the city centre and its surroundings.
T. +32 473 82 60 80
info@iboat.be
www.iboat.be

Max Mobiel vzw
Voskenslaan 27
T. +32 9 242 80 40
max-mobiel@gent.be
www.max-mobiel.be

Het Verzet BVBA
Nieuwstraat 41 - 9800 Deinze
T. +32 9 380 27 20
info@hetverzet.be
www.hetverzet.be

VESPA RENTAL
La Bella Vespa
Beukenlaan 65 - 9051 Sint-Denijs-Westrem
T. +32 485 46 49 49
labellavespa@hotmail.be
www.labellavespa.be

BLAARMEersen SPORTS AND RECREATION PARK
Zuiderlaan 5 - T. +32 9 266 81 70
www.blaarmeersen.be

Go to www.visitgent.be for the updated details.
This brochure aims to give you an overview of not-to-be missed experiences and locations, interesting extras and surprising insider tips. Spending several days in Ghent? You definitely won’t be bored! Do you have any suggestions on how to further improve or supplement this brochure? Don’t hesitate to e-mail us at Promotie.toerisme@gent.be

Write down your favourite spots and experiences here:

- Ghent Altarpiece
- Castle of the Counts
- Saint Michael’s Bridge
YOUR MEMORY IS SAFE WITH US

#visitgent
VISIT GENT
Tourist Information Centre
Sint-Veerleplein 5 - 9000 Gent
T +32 9 266 56 60
www.visitgent.be - visit@gent.be
@visitgent

Open:
9.30 > 16.30 (15/10 > 14/03)
9.30 > 18.30 (15/03 > 14/10)

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The Ghent Tourist Office is reducing its ecological footprint.
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