

Welcome to the world heritage city of Bruges

There are places that somehow manage to get under your skin, even though you don't really know them all that well. Bruges is that kind of place. A place made for people. A city whose history made it great, resulting in a well-deserved classification as a Unesco World Heritage site.

In this guide you will discover Bruges' different facets. There are five separate chapters.

In **chapter 1**, you will read about the ten *must see* sights and get a brief summary of the city's history. After that, you will immediately set off to explore the most beautiful places in Bruges during three inspiring walks. The detailed **map of the city** – which you can simply fold out of the back cover of this guide – will make sure that you don't lose your way.

Chapter 2 provides a summary of the many different possibilities for exploring Bruges and gives details of everything the city has to offer in cultural terms: a calendar of the most important events and a complete summary of the Bruges museums, attractions and other sites of interest, including historical, cultural and religious buildings and locations. Bruges' beautiful squares and enchanting canals are the regular backdrop for top-class cultural events. And few cities have such a rich and diverse variety of museums, which

contain gems ranging from the Flemish primitives and beautiful lace work to the finest modern art of today. Further in this chapter, gourmets will be delighted by our summary of award-winning restaurants and shopaholics by our tips for authentic and high-quality shops and stores.

Bruges is a city with a lot to offer. In **chapter 3**, a number of 'outsiders' who found their way to Bruges and stayed, tell you why they love the city so much. They also reveal their favourite addresses for a bite to eat (from classy restaurants to trendy eateries), a glass to drink or a little bit of relaxing shopping.

Staying a bit longer in the region? **Chapter 4** suggests a number of excursions to the other Flemish historical cities, the Bruges' wood- and wetlands, the coast and the Westhoek.

Are you just dying to explore Bruges? In **chapter 5** we will give you all the practical info and tips you need to prepare for your visit.





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History in a nutshell

The Market Square in Bruges, 17th century
(painting by Jan-Baptist Meuninxhove)



Water played a crucial role in the birth and development of Bruges. At the place where the city was first born, a number of streams flowed together to form a river (the Reie), which then ran northwards through the coastal plain. Through a series of tidal creeks, the river eventually reached the sea. Little wonder, then, that even as far back as Roman times there was already considerable seafaring activity in this region. This has been proven by the discovery of the remains of two seagoing ships from this period, dating from the second half of the 3rd century or the first half of the 4th century. Even so, it would be another five centuries before the name 'Bruges' first began to appear – the word being a derivative of the old-German word 'brugj', which means 'mooring place'.

Bruges' growing importance also resulted in it becoming the main fortified residence of the counts of Flanders, so that from the 11th century onwards the city was not only a prosperous trading metropolis, but also a seat of considerable political power.

Taking off

When the city's direct link with the sea was in danger of silting-up in the 12th century, Bruges went through a period of anxiety. Fortunately, the new waterway of the Zwin brought relief. As a result, Bruges was able to call itself the most important trade centre of North-west Europe in the following century. The world's first ever stock exchange ('Beurs' in Dutch) was also founded in Bruges. These market activities took place in the square in front of the house owned by a powerful local family of brokers, the Van der Beurse family. As a result, their name became linked for all time with this kind of financial institution. In spite of the typical medieval maladies, from epidemics to political unrest and social inequality, the citizens of Bruges prospered, and soon the city developed a magnet-like radiation. Around 1340, the inner city numbered no fewer than 35,000 inhabitants.

The golden century

The success continued. In the 15th century, Bruges' golden century, business was better than ever before. The Burgundian dukes rebuilt and enlarged their residence in Bruges and the production and sale of luxury goods reached new heights. Famous painters such as Jan van Eyck and Hans Memling – the great Flemish primitives – found

their creative niche here. The fine arts flourished, and in addition to wonderful churches and unique 'nation houses' (embassies), the monumental town hall was also completed. Bruges' success seemed imperishable.

Decline

The sudden death in 1482 of the much-loved ruler, Mary of Burgundy, heralded the start of new and less fortunate times for the city. The relationship between the citizens of Bruges and their lord, the widower Maximilian of Austria, turned sour. The Burgundian court left the city, with the international traders following in its wake. Long centuries of wars and changes of political power took their toll. By the middle of the 19th century, Bruges had become an impoverished city. Strangely enough, its fortunes were changed for the better by the writing of a novel.

Revival

With great care, Bruges took its first steps into tourism. In *Bruges la Morte* (1892), Georges Rodenbach aptly describes Bruges as a somewhat sleepy, yet extremely mysterious place. Above all, the 35 photographs included in the book made its readers curious about what they might find. Soon Bruges' magnificent patrimony was rediscovered and its mysterious intimacy turned out to be its greatest asset. Building on this enthusiasm, the city was provided with a new seaport, which was called Zeebrugge. The pulling power of Bruges proved to be a great success and UNESCO added the medieval city centre to its World Heritage list. The rest is history.

The highlights of Bruges

The 10 classic places
that no one should miss!



1

Rozenhoedkaai and the Bruges canals, a typical city view

The Rozenhoedkaai (Rosary Quay) links the Belfry with the city's network of canals, the true 'veins' of Bruges, and offers a unique and picturesque panoramic view. Hardly surprising, then, that the Rozenhoedkaai is the most popular photographic hotspot in town! You can discover many more special places and hidden gems during a boat trip on the canals. From the water, Bruges is even more enchanting. A classic that you really don't want to miss.

Markt, an absolute must

The vibrant centre of the city has been dominated for centuries by the 83-metre high Belfry. Today, you can climb right to the top of this impressive tower. You will be rewarded with a spectacular view of Bruges and the surrounding countryside. The Markt (Market Square) is also home to the Historium, a top attraction that takes you back in time to the city's medi-

eval past. Surrounded by colourful houses, the Market Square is also the regular standing place for the famous horse-drawn carriages. *[Read more on pages 56 and 63-64]*



Medieval splendour on the Burg

The Burg is the beating heart of the city. From the 14th century town hall, which is the oldest in the Low Countries, Bruges has been governed for more than 600 years. This majestic architectural square also contains the Palace of the Liberty of Bruges, the former Civil Registry and the Basilica of the Holy Blood. No other location in Bruges bears greater testimony to the city's former wealth. *(Read more on pages 55, 59 and 72-73)*



Strolling through the old Hansa Quarter

From the 13th to the 15th century, Bruges was the most important trading centre in North-West Europe. Spanish merchants settled along the Spaanse Loskaai (Spanish Quay) and in the Spanjaardstraat. The Germans or Easterners – 'oosterlingen' in Dutch – took up residence in the Oosterlingenplein. In this old Hansa Quarter, you can admire the mansions of the wealthy international merchants and the great trading nations of the day. You can almost still smell the atmosphere of the Middle Ages.



The Flemish primitives: timeless beauty

In Bruges' golden century – the 15th century – art was a major issue. Leading artists of the day, like Jan van Eyck and Hans Memling, came to live and work in the city. Today, you can marvel at the masterpieces of the world-famous Flemish primitives in the Groeninge Museum and the St. John's Hospital. Here you can come face to face with the great paintings that were created in the city all those centuries ago. *(Read more on pages 62-63 and 69-70)*



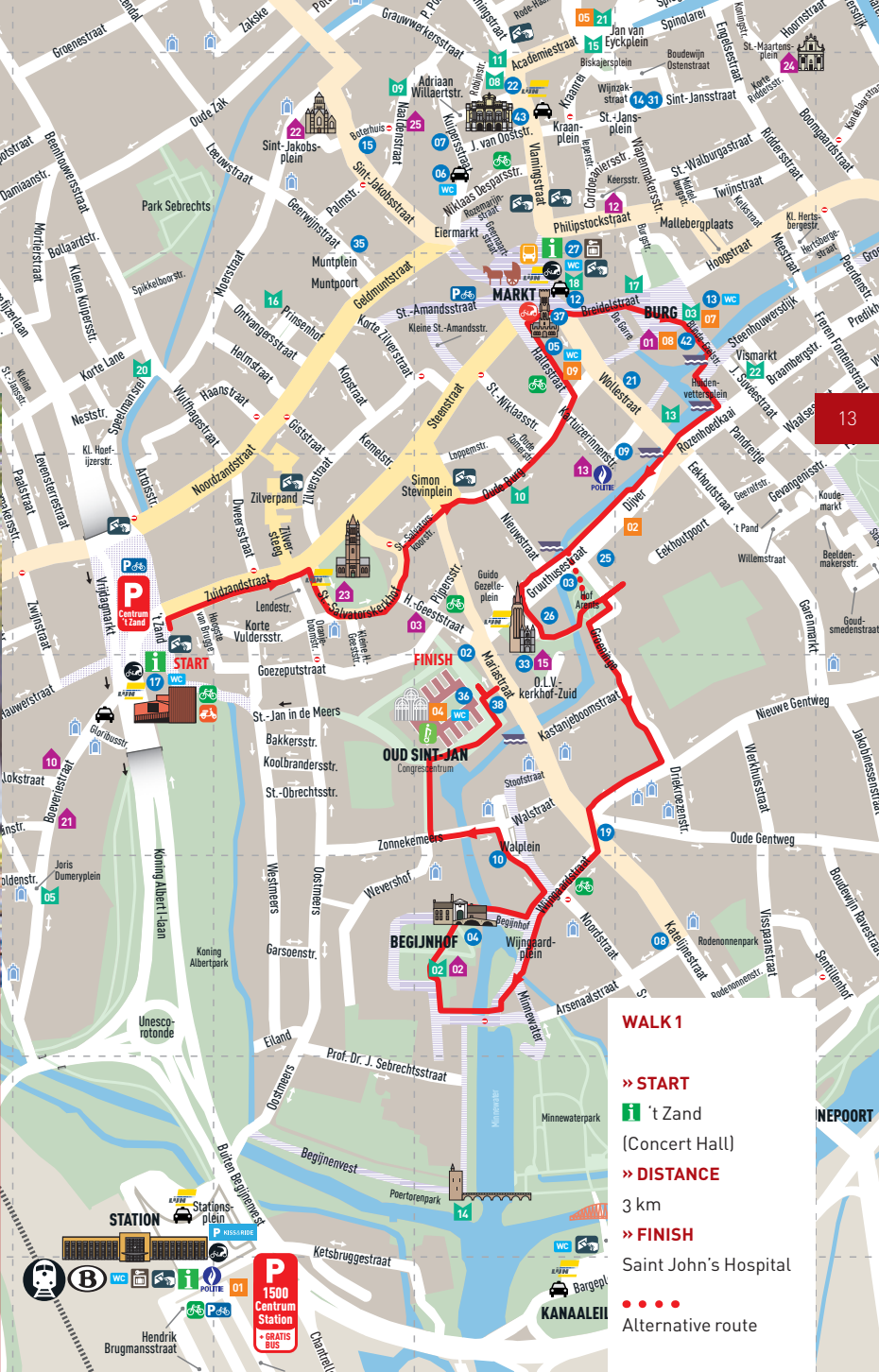
Walk 1

Bruges, proud World Heritage City



Beguinaige

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



WALK 1

» **START**

i 't Zand
(Concert Hall)

» **DISTANCE**

3 km

» **FINISH**

Saint John's Hospital

•••••
Alternative route

13

NEPOORT

KANAALLEI

P
1500
Centrum
Station
GRATIS
BUS

STATION

OUDE SINT JAN
Congrescentrum

BEGJNHOF

FINISH

MARKT

BURG

Park Sebrechts

Unesco-
rotonde

Koning
Albertpark

Koning
Albertlaan

St.-Jan in de Meers

Korte
Vuldersstr.

Zilverpand

Wolfestraat

St. Amandsstraat

Sint-Jakobs-
plein

Doue Zok

Gravenweest



From 't Zand to Simon Stevinplein

This walk starts at the tourist office **i** 't Zand (Concert Hall).

't Zand is dominated by the Concert Hall **17**, one of Bruges' most talked-about buildings. Clear-cut proof that this World Heritage city isn't afraid of the future. The Concertgebouw Circuit **17** will take you behind the scenes and right to the very top of this magnificent building, where you can find an interactive space for sound art. You can also enjoy the wonderful view over the Bruges skyline. Don't forget to drop in at the tourist office **i** 't Zand (Concert Hall) on the ground floor: here you will find all the necessary tourist information as well as expert advice on all cultural events, and you can buy your tickets immediately.

On pages 120-123 you can learn more about the Concert Hall in an interview with Albert Edelman.

Leave **i** 't Zand (Concert Hall) behind you, walk along the square and turn into Zuidzandstraat, the first street on the right. Saint Saviour's Cathedral **23** looms up ahead on your right after three hundred metres.

Bruges' oldest parish church is located on a lower level than the present Zuidzandstraat, which is situated on an old sand ridge. What's more, in the Middle Ages people simply threw their refuse out onto the street where it was then flattened by passing carts and coaches. This raised the street level even further. Inside Saint Saviour's, the church tower's wooden rafters can be lit. The cathedral treasury displays interesting copper memorial plaques, fine examples of gold and silver and paintings by Dieric Bouts, Hugo van der Goes and Pieter Pourbus.



BURG SQUARE: AN ARCHITECTURAL SYNOPSIS

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



Turn right before the cathedral into Sint-Salvatorskerkhof. Walk around the cathedral and take the fourth street on the right, the Sint-Salvatorskoorstraat. This will take you to the Simon Stevinplein.

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

Markt and Burg

Continue down Oude Burg, a street in the right-hand corner of the square. Before long you will see the Cloth Halls 09 on your left. These belong to the Belfry 05. You're allowed to cross the halls' imposing inner courtyard between 8.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. during the week, and between 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. on Saturday. Markt is at the other end of the courtyard. If the gate is closed, turn back and walk down Hallestraat, which runs parallel to the Halls.

Walk 2 (see pages 25-27) comments more extensively on Markt.

Return to the Belfry 05 and walk down Breidelstraat, a traffic-free alley on the corner at the left. Continue to the Burg square.

Along the road on your right you will notice De Garre, a narrow alley. This may be the narrowest street in Bruges (try walking side by side here!), it nevertheless boasts a fair number of cosy cafés. The Burg is the most majestic square in the city, so take your time to admire its grandeur. The main character in this medieval story is the City Hall 08 42 (1376-1420), one of the oldest city halls in the Netherlands and a Gothic example for all its brothers and sisters that were built later, from Louvain to Audegarde and Brussels. Having admired its exterior, enter the impressive Gothic Hall and gaze in admiration at the polychrome floating ribs of the vaulted ceiling. Hiding on the right-hand side of this Gothic monument is the Basilica of the Holy Blood 01. It was originally dedicated to both Our Lady and Saint Basil, and was built as a fortress church on

Exploring Bruges



The canals of Bruges

You might want to stroll, amble and saunter down the streets of Bruges all day long. However, why not try to see the city from a different perspective? During a walking or bicycle tour, a guide will show you numerous secret places. Maybe you would prefer a boat trip on the mysterious canals – an unforgettable experience! And a ride in a horse-drawn carriage must surely be the perfect romantic outing. Sport-lovers can even do a guided run around the city. Or perhaps you simply want to tour all the highlights as quickly and as comfortably as possible? That's exactly what the minibuses do, and along the route you get plenty of explanation as well. Or what about a flight in a hot-air balloon, a ride in a bike carriage or a modern exploration on a segway? The choice is yours!

MYSTERIOUS CANALS AND THE RHYTHMIC CLOPPING OF HOOVES: TWO EXCURSIONS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS

The canals of Bruges - the 'reien' - are the arteries of the city. Nothing is as pleasant as chugging along in a boat on a sunny day as you sail past all the most beautiful places in the city. From the 'reien', it's almost like you are seeing Bruges for the first time. Unexpected views, hidden romantic corners, secret gardens: you discover them all from your vantage point on the water. There are regular daily sailings from any of the five moorings in the heart of the city. A voyage lasts half an hour and takes you past all the most photogenic spots Bruges has to offer.

Or why not opt for a romantic coach ride through the winding streets, over centuries old squares and charming bridges of the historic city centre? For half an hour, you can sit back and enjoy the rhythmic clapping of horse's hooves as you take in all the most picturesque spots in Bruges. During your ride the coachman will give you an expert commentary and about half way you make a short stop at the Beguinage.

Bruges by boat

OPEN > Sailings guaranteed from March to mid-November: in principle, daily, 10.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m., last sailing at 5.30 p.m.

PRICE > €8; children aged 4 to 11 (accompanied by an adult): €4; children under 4: free

Bruges by horse-drawn carriage

OPEN > Daily, 9.00 a.m. to at least 6.00 p.m., but no later than 10.00 p.m.

PRICE PER CARRIAGE > €50; max. 5 people

MEETING POINT > Markt, but at the Burg square on Wednesday morning

INFO > www.hippo.be/koets





Bruges by bus

City Tour Bruges

The mini buses of City Tour provide a guided tour that will take you past all the most beautiful places in Bruges. Every half hour, they depart for a 50 minute drive along the most important highlights of the town.

OPEN > Daily, every half hour (also on public holidays). The first bus leaves at 10.00 a.m. During the period 1/11 to 31/1 the last bus leaves at 4.00 p.m.; 1/2 to 9/2 at 4.30 p.m.; 10/2 to 28/2 at 5.00 p.m.; 1/3 to 15/3 and 16/10 to 31/10 at 5.30 p.m.; 16/3 to 30/4 and 1/10 to 15/10 at 6.00 p.m. and 1/5 to 30/9 at 7.00 p.m. There are no departures at 6.30 p.m.

ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATE > 17/9

PRICE > Including headphones with explanation (available in 16 languages): €20; children aged 6 to 11 years: €15; children under 6: free

MEETING POINT > Markt

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 35 50 24 (Monday to Friday, 10.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m.), www.citytour.be



Photo Tour Brugge

Whether you are a photography expert or a novice, during the Photo Tour Andy McSweeney takes you to all the most photogenic spots in the city.

OPEN > Daily: *Edges of Brugge* (10.00 a.m.-12.00 p.m.) focuses on the side streets and canals; *Essential Brugge* (1.00 p.m.-3.00 p.m.) zooms in on the top sights; during *Hidden Brugge* (4.00 p.m.-6.00 p.m.) you will go in search of some of the city's less well-known corners; the private tour *Shades of Brugge* (8.00 p.m.-11.00 p.m.) allows you to experience the evening delights of the city.

PRICE > €60 (max. 5 photographers per tour); private tour: €220 (max. 3 photographers); children younger than 4 years: free; each participating photographer can bring along a non-photographer free of charge. Prior reservation is necessary, but is possible on the day.

MEETING POINT > Basilica of the Holy Blood, on the Burg square

LANGUAGES > English, but on request also Dutch and/or French

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)486 17 52 75, www.phototourbrugge.com

Bruges by heart

Top-quality walk with local guides

During this exclusive walk (max. 16 people), a city guide will take you on a fascinating journey. Not only will you discover many of the great historic buildings and sites, but also some hidden gems and secret places. The walk starts with a breathtaking view of the city from the roof terrace of the Concert Hall.

A unique experience!

OPEN > Find out via www.visitbruges.be when you can book a place on one of the walks or pop into one of the **i** info offices.

PRICE > (Subject to amendment) €12.50; children younger than 12 years: free

MEETING POINT > The walk starts from the info office **i** 't Zand (Concert Hall)

LANGUAGES > English, Dutch, French.

During certain periods, also in German and Spanish.

TICKETS > Info offices **i** Markt (Historium) and 't Zand (Concert Hall) or via www.ticketsbrugge.be

APP > Another way to explore the city on foot (or by bike) is to use the free Xplore Bruges app. *You can find more info on www.xplorebruges.be on page 98.*

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 44 46 46, www.visitbruges.be

Running around Bruges

Tourist Run Brugge – guided tours

Accompanied by a guide you run – at a gentle pace – through the streets and alleyways of Bruges. The circuit, which ends on the Markt, is 9.5 km long. With the explanation that you receive along

the way, you should allow 1 to 1.30 hours for completion.

OPEN > Daily, tours at 7.00 a.m., 8.00 a.m., 9.00 a.m., 5.00 p.m., 6.00 p.m., 7.00 p.m., 8.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. Reservation is required.

PRICE > €30/person; for 2 runners: €25/person; 3 runners or more: €20/person

MEETING POINT > At the statue of Jan Breydel and Pieter de Coninck on the Markt. If requested in advance, you can be picked up from wherever you are staying (hotel, etc.).

LANGUAGES > English, Dutch, French, German

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)473 88 37 17, www.touristrunbrugge.be

Bruges by bike

QuasiMundo Biketours: Bruges by bike

Riding through the narrow streets, you will discover the charming character of Bruges. The fascinating stories of the guide will catapult you back in time to the era when counts and dukes ruled over the city.

OPEN > 1/4 to 30/12: daily, 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Reservation is required.



Bruges: World Heritage city

Sonia Papili reveals
the Italian side of Bruges



Rozenhoedkaai

During the week, Italian Sonia Papili studies the North Sea with academic sobriety; during the weekend, she guides her fellow countrymen with great passion around her adopted city. A passion that began gradually some twelve years ago, but now burns more brightly than ever.



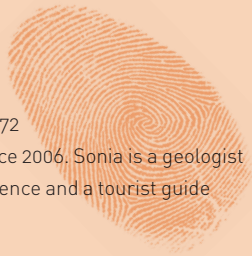
ID-CARD

Name: Sonia Papili

Nationality: Italian

Date of birth: 17 May 1972

Has lived in Bruges since 2006. Sonia is a geologist with the Ministry of Defence and a tourist guide in Bruges.



Two geologists – him attached to the University of Ghent, her attached to the University of Rome – who met on a ship in Istanbul to discuss climate change: there are worse ways to start a long-distance relationship. For three years, the pair commuted back and forth between Italy and Belgium before finally deciding to settle in Bruges. 'I had only been in Bruges once before,' says Sonia. 'I was much more familiar with Ghent, but my husband thought that Bruges better suited my personali-

ty and temperament. And he was right: Bruges really is my city!' In the meantime, Sonia learnt Dutch and started work here as a geologist. During her citizenship programme, she became more and more curious about the history of her new home town. 'During the language course they told us a little bit about the history of the place. This intrigued me and so I decided to take a three-year course to become an official guide in Bruges.'

'I was much more familiar with Ghent, but my husband thought that Bruges better suited my personality and temperament. And he was right: Bruges really is my city!'

WHY BRUGES IS A WORLD HERITAGE CITY

In 1998, the Bruges Beguinage was recognized as a World Heritage site. A year later, the Belfry received similar recognition. In 2000, this was extended to cover the entire city centre. Since 2009, the Holy Blood Procession has been listed as an item of immaterial World Heritage. Bruges also has a valuable and impressive architectural patrimony and is a fine example of an architecturally harmonious city. In particular, Bruges is famed for its Gothic style buildings in brick. In addition, its authentic and organically developed medieval urban fabric has been perfectly preserved and it is also the 'birthplace' of the Flemish primitives. In other words, reasons enough for UNESCO to label Bruges as a 'World Heritage city'.

The other Flemish historical cities

Antwerp (Antwerpen) 82 km

Antwerp has a lot to offer: a beautiful cathedral and numerous imposing churches, a magnificent Central Station, the ground-breaking Museum on the River (MAS), the tranquil Rubens House, a delightful sculpture garden (Middelheim), a zoo with a history and so much more. Antwerp is also Belgium's fashion capital, home to many internationally renowned designers. That is why in the Scheldt city you will find dozens of exclusive boutiques, rubbing shoulders with fun bric-a-brac shops where you can browse for hours! Not surprisingly, the local 'Antwerpenaars' – who are fairly loud by nature – are extremely proud of their city.

INFO > www.visitantwerpen.be; there is a direct train connection between Bruges and Antwerp (journey time: ca. 1.30 hours; www.belgianrail.be).

Brussels (Brussel) 88 km

The whole world comes together in Brussels, with a different continent around every corner, from the exotic Matonge quarter to the stately elegance of the European institutions. The capital of Belgium has a vibrancy like no other and the formality of its 'hard' metropolitan structure is softened by the authentic, working-class ambiance of its more popular districts. In the shadow of the majestic Market Square, *Manneken-Pis* is permanently peeing. This diverse city reconciles the chic sophistication of the Zavel with the folksy informality of the Vossenplein. Royalty watchers rush eagerly to the Paleizenplein, art lovers can do their thing at one of the more than hundred museums and galleries, such as the Magritte Museum, the BOZAR (Museum of Fine Arts) or the Horta Museum, foodies hurry to the numerous food temples, and vin-



tage-lovers climb to the top of the Atomium. And in the city where both Tintin and the Smurfs were born, comic lovers will find more than 50 comic-strip walls and a renowned Comics Museum.

INFO > www.visit.brussels; there is a direct train connection between Bruges and Bruxelles-Central (Brussels-Central, journey time: ca. 1.00-1.15 hours; www.belgianrail.be).

Damme 6 km

Until the silting up of the tidal inlet Zwin, Damme was the transshipment port of Bruges. To reach the literary home of Tjil Uilenspiegel (Owlglass), you drive straight along the banks of the Damse Vaart (Damme Canal), one of the most beautiful pieces of nature in all Belgium. The canal is lined with magnificent poplars, some of which are over 100 years old. Their wind twisted trunks add to the charm of the setting. You can also experience their beauty from the water. The nostalgic paddle steamer *Lamme Goedzak* travels to and fro between the small medieval town and Bruges' Noorweegse Kaai (Norwegian Quay). And every second Sunday of the



month, Damme is transformed into one big book centre!

INFO > www.visitdamme.be; scheduled bus no. 43 (not on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, see www.delijn.be for the time schedule), bus stop: Damme Plaats; or by the paddle steamer *Lamme Goedzak*, www.bootdamme-brugge.be (for more information see page 51). You can also easily cycle to Damme (for bicycle rental points see pages 150-151) or hire a scooter to ride there (see page 158 for scooter rental points).

Ghent (Gent) 39 km

The people of Ghent have always been a bit rebellious. It's in their genes. They rose in revolt against Emperor Charles. As punishment, he made them walk through the streets with nooses around their necks. Ever since they have been known as 'noose wearers', a name they wear with pride. In Ghent you can find the medieval alongside the trendy. The centuries old Belfry stands majestically alongside the new City Hall. The picturesque Patershol district, with its narrow streets and fun restaurants, stands in the shadow of the imposing Gravensteen Castle. The city is creating an international gastronomic furor with its young star-rated chefs and as the veggie capital of Europe. Art-lovers will find their way to the world-famous *The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb* by the van Eyck brothers in St. Bavo's Cathedral or one of the many museums. The S.M.A.K. (contemporary art), the Design Museum, the MSK (fine arts) and the STAM (city museum) will

Practical information

Accessibility

If you see the wheelchair icon  in this guide, it means that some provision has been made for disabled people. For more details about the different levels of accessibility at different places in Bruges, you can pick up a free brochure (in Dutch or English) from the  info-offices.

Bicycle rental points

» Bauhaus Bike Rental

LOCATION > Langestraat 145

PRICE > 3 hours: €6; full day: €10

OPEN > Daily, 8.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m.

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 34 10 93,

www.bauhaus.be/services/bike-rental

» B-Bike Concertgebouw

LOCATION > Concert Hall, 't Zand

PRICE > 1 hour: €4; 5 hours: €8; full day: €12. Tandem, 5 hours: €14; full day: €22.

Electric bike, full day: €20

OPEN > 1/3 to 31/10: daily, 10.00 a.m.-

7.00 p.m.; 1/11 to 28/2: open by

appointment only

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)479 97 12 80,

www.bensbike.be

» Bruges Bike Rental

LOCATION > Niklaas Desparsstraat 17

PRICE > 1 hour: €4; 2 hours: €7; 4 hours: €10; full day: €13, students (on display of a valid student card): €10. Electric bike,

1 hour: €10; 2 hours: €15; 4 hours: €22, full

day: €30. Tandem, 1 hour: €10; 2 hours: €15; 4 hours: €20; full day: €25, students

(on display of a valid student card): €22

OPEN > 1/2 to 31/12: daily, 10.00 a.m.-

8.00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATE > 25/12

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 61 61 08,

www.brugesbikerental.be

» De Ketting

LOCATION > Gentpoortstraat 23

PRICE > Full day: €8. Electric bike,

full day: €22

OPEN > 1/4 to 15/10: Monday to Saturday,

10.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m. and Sunday,

10.30 a.m.-6.00 p.m.; 16/10 to 31/3:

Monday to Saturday, 10.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m.

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 34 41 96,

www.deketting.be

» Electric Scooters

Rental of electric bikes.

LOCATION > Gentpoortstraat 55 and 62

PRICE > 2 hours: €10; 4 hours: €18;

full day: €30

OPEN > 1/4 to 31/10: Monday, 1.00 p.m.-

6.00 p.m., Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00 a.m.-

6.00 p.m.

EXTRA > Rental of electric scooters (*see page 158*)

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 61 16 46 and +32 (0)475

94 20 02, www.electric-scooters.be

» Fietsen Popelier

LOCATION > Mariastraat 26

PRICE > 1 hour: €5; 4 hours: €10; full day: €15. Electric bike or tandem, 1 hour: €10;

4 hours: €20; full day: €30

OPEN > 15/3 to 31/10: daily, 9.00 a.m.-

7.00 p.m.; 1/11 to 14/3: daily, 10.00 a.m.-

6.00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >

1/1, 10/5 and 25/12; closed on Monday in

January and December

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 34 32 62,

www.fietsenpopelier.be

»  **Fietspunt Station**

LOCATION > Hendrik Brugmansstraat 3 (Stationsplein)

PRICE > 1 hour: €6; 4 hours: €10; full day: €15. Electric bike, 4 hours: €20; full day: €30

OPEN > Monday to Friday, 6.55 a.m.-7.00 p.m.; 1/5 to 30/9: also during week-ends and public holidays, 9.00 a.m.-5.00 p.m.

ADDITIONAL CLOSING DATES >

Closed for a number of days during the Christmas period; please contact the bicycle point in advance for details.

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 39 68 26, fietspunt.brugge@groepintro.be

»   **Koffieboontje**

LOCATION > Hallestraat 4

PRICE > 1 hour: €5; 4 hours: €10; full day: €15, students (on display of a valid student card): €11.25. Tandem, 1 hour: €10; 4 hours: €20; full day: €30, students (on display of a valid student card): €22.50

OPEN > Daily, 9.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m.

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 33 80 27, www.bikerentalkoffieboontje.be

»   **La Bicicleta**

LOCATION > Wijngaardstraat 13

PRICE > Full day: €15

OPEN > Daily, 11.00 a.m.-10.00 p.m., book in advance via the website.

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)478 33 49 69, www.labicicleta.be

»   **Snuffel Hostel**

LOCATION > Ezelstraat 42

PRICE > Full day: €8

OPEN > Daily, 8.00 a.m.-8.00 p.m.

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)50 33 31 33, www.snuffel.be

»   **Steershop**

LOCATION > Koolkerkse Steenweg 7a

PRICE > Full day: €10

OPEN > Tuesday to Saturday, 8.00 a.m.-

11.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.-8.00 p.m. (Saturday until 6.00 p.m.)

EXTRA > Guided tours (see page 142)

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)474 40 84 01, www.steershop.be

Most of the bicycle rental points ask for the payment of a guarantee.

 **Bike taxi**

A bike taxi will bring you to your destination in an ecological way.

BIKE TAXI STANDS

- » Markt (near the Historium)
- » 't Zand (near the Concert Hall)
- » Stationsplein (Kiss&Ride)

PRICE > Rates can be obtained (on-site) from the individual taxi companies.

INFO > Tel. +32 (0)472 67 35 25 or www.taxifietsbrugge.be, tel. +32 (0)478 40 95 57 or www.fietskoetsenbrugge.be and tel. +32 (0)478 51 41 15 or www.greenrides.eu

  **Campers**

The Kanaaleiland ('Canal Island') at the Bargeweg offers an excellent camping site for at least 57 camping cars all year round. Once your camper is parked, you are just a five-minute walk from the city centre (via the Beguinage). It is not possible to make prior reservations.

PRICE > 1/4 to 30/9: €25/day; 1/10 to 31/3: €19/day. Free electricity; it is also possible to stock up on free clean water (€0.50) and dispose of dirty water.

OPEN > You can enter the site until 10.00 p.m. You can leave at any time.

INFO > www.interparking.com

Church services

 **01 Basiliek van het Heilig Bloed (Basilica of the Holy Blood)**

Daily, except Mondays: 11.00 a.m.-