



# Ghent

in collaboration with Visit Gent

Photo: Stad Gent/Visit Gent



Stad Gent/Visit Gent

Ghent is a compact, authentic city where the past and present co-exist in perfect balance. Walking through the city is like travelling through time: you turn the corner and just like that, you go from the fourteenth century to the twenty-first. In Ghent pounds the young heart of a cultural city filled with music, theatre, film and visual arts. Because of its central location in Flanders, Ghent is an ideal operating base to visit the Flemish Art Cities. Ghent is ready to welcome you with open arms!



Stad Gent/Visit Gent



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## Events



### Copacobana Festival

Every year the Sint-Baafskouterpark hosts the Copacobana Festival, a free fe...



### Gent Jazz Festival

Every year in July jazz enthusiasts can have a great time during the Gent Ja...



### The Ghent Festivities

A sparkling cultural popular festival with numerous performances of various ...



### Jazz in the Park

Jazz in the Park (Jazz in 't Park) presents Belgian contemporary jazz to a l...



### Ghent Festival of Flanders

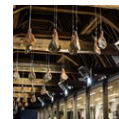
Ghent Festival of Flanders is an international music festival where diversit...

## Top 5



### Ghent city walk, quirky charm

Start your city break by visiting the heart of Ghent: the historic centre. T...



### Great Butchers' Hall

East Flanders has more than 175 traditional regional products. And in Ghent ...



### Patershol, culinary heart ...

This particularly beautiful corner of Ghent is a city within the city. Forge...



### Ghent City Museum (STAM)

The STAM is the ideal place to start your cultural holiday in Ghent, an unmi...



### St Peter's Abbey, peaceful...

This Benedictine abbey was founded in the 7th century by St Amand, who chris...

## THE CITY



*Stad Gent/Visit Gent*

Vibrant Ghent is well worth a weekend trip. It's ideal for a last-minute city trip as well. Quirky Ghent offers a fascinating cultural cocktail brimming with trendy, modern urban life. Ghent is a city where people enjoy life: a chilled-out place where anything goes and a city that feels human. Its friendly, welcoming people love the good life.

Don't miss the chance to admire the world-famous masterpiece—the Mystic Lamb by the Van Eyck brothers—during your weekend trip.

## TOP 10 TIPS

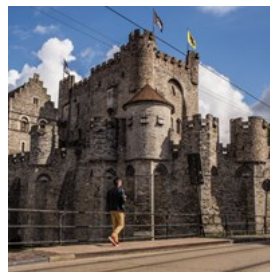


*Visit Gent*

Ghent has to be not just seen but experienced. Take your time, get lost in the historic centre, explore the museums, enjoy our culinary talent and throw yourself into the bustling nightlife.

Below are 10 tips on what to see and do. But this is just the beginning, discovering Ghent means this and so much more!

### The Castle of the Counts



A weekend trip to Ghent is simply not complete without a visit to the mysterious 'Castle of the Counts'. This important sight in Ghent is a castle

with a very turbulent past, closely intertwined with the complex—often stormy—political and social history of the city. It is the only remaining mediaeval castle with a moat and largely intact defence system in Flanders. Your visit to the Castle of the Counts will give you a complete picture of heraldic culture in the 12th century. The gatehouse, ramparts, keep, count's residence and stables are open to visitors.

Be sure to go up the long spiral staircase to the museum of torture devices on the top floor of the Castle of the Counts. Here, you will find a unique collection of instruments for torture and coercion, as well as a collection of weapons. The Castle of the Counts also hosts all kinds of cultural activities, events and activities, for example during the Ghent Festivities. It is also a popular place to get married for Ghent's locals.

Let's not forget the time the Castle of the Counts was occupied by protesting students in 1949! Explore the castle during your weekend trip in Ghent and find out all about the 'Battle of the Castle of the Counts'.

The keep, symbol of the Counts' power  
Go back in time inside this majestic fortress. Its history goes back to the time of the Roman occupation, when there was already a settlement

on a sand bank by the River Lys. After a brief period of Viking plundering, the Counts of Flanders converted the earlier wooden constructions into a keep (living quarters) in the Middle Ages, with ramparts built entirely of stone, replete with 24 towers. The imposing building with its military architecture was a symbol of the Counts' power in the turbulent city of Ghent.

Do you want to dig deep into the history of Ghent? This is where you need to be. Ghent, full of charming history and modern vibrancy.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Veerleplein 11, Gent

Phone: +32 9 225 93 06

Internet: [www.historischehuizen.stad.gent/en/castle-counts](http://www.historischehuizen.stad.gent/en/castle-counts)

### The Mystic Lamb: supreme divine art



The Mystic Lamb, or 'The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb' by the Van Eyck brothers, completed in 1432, is recognised worldwide as a great

work of art, and one of the most influential paintings ever made. It is an absolute must-see on your weekend break to Ghent. A total of 18 panels form a magical evocation of scenes from the Bible, as well as a portrait of the church warden, Joos Vijd, who commissioned the altarpiece, and his wife Elisabeth Borluut.

The monumental Mystic Lamb was painted on oak panels covered in thin layers of a mixture of chalk and animal glue. The figures were applied in several layers of oil paint. The combination of the painstaking work and transparent paint creates an extra dimension. Discover it for yourself as you stand in front of this masterpiece. You will see that an inner glow seems to radiate

from the painting: the light of the divine.

Hubert van Eyck painted part of the Ghent Altarpiece that includes the Mystic Lamb, but was never able to finish it. His younger brother Jan, an absolute master of the art of painting, is said to have finished this masterpiece a few years after Hubert's death.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Baafsplein, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Phone: +3292692045

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/mystic-lamb-supreme-divine-art>

Email: [visit@gent.be](mailto:visit@gent.be)

### Vegetarian restaurants



Ghent is a paradise for veggie lovers. Since, proportionally, our city has more vegetarian restaurants than say Paris or London, we can call ourselves the veggie capital of Europe. A title we should be proud of!

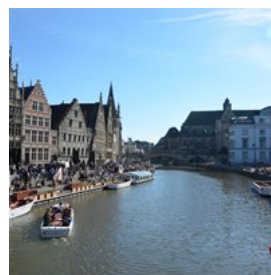
Discover our vegetarian restaurants.

Photo: Visit Gent

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/vegetarian-restaurants>

Email: [visit@gent.be](mailto:visit@gent.be)

### History on the Graslei and Korenlei



Ships have been docking here since the 11th century and Ghent wouldn't have it any other way. It is like the song of the Lorelei. The beauty of the Graslei in Ghent brings everyone and everything to a standstill. This is the place where beautiful façades are reflected in the River Lys. Tourists and residents alike relax on either side

of the water, whether dangling their legs over the quay, or sitting comfortably at a café terrace.

#### Lovely Grasbrug

This bridge is positively poetic. And it's every Ghent native's pride. On your visit to Ghent, it would be a sin to miss this little bridge just around the corner from the Korenmarkt. Cross the river at the Grasbrug and soak in the scenery. There are still boats moored at the quays today. Even better, nowadays you can take a boat ride yourself! There's nothing that will immerse you more in the history of Ghent.

#### Façades on the Graslei

The houses by the water live and breathe history. The Cooremetershuys is now an accessory store. In the Middle Ages, however, the official corn measurer presided over the grain trade there. Have a good look at the completely restored façade of the Guild House of the Free Sailors as well. A lot of money has been invested in this building over the centuries, and it shows! The stately stepped gable from the old corn store has been watching over the town since the 13th century.

The corn store—also known as 't spijker—has been redefined. It's come a long way from those old sacks of grain. Of course you don't have to push the boat out quite that far. You can also try a cosy brasserie on the Graslei or Korenlei. Or why not just buy finger food and sit down on the quayside! Because sometimes, appreciating the little things is the most romantic.

#### Aperitif in the sun

Tempted by all those café terraces? There is nothing more blissful than enjoying an aperitif—or two—by the waterside. When the sun is shining, this is a delightful spot to hang out

ensconced by beautiful old buildings. Enjoying the first warmth of a spring day with a chilled white wine, putting the world to rights...but anyway, we digress.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Graslei, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Opening hours: 24/7

Tickets: Free

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/history-graslei-and-korenlei>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

#### Old St Elizabeth Beguinage



The beguinages of Flanders and the Netherlands are always oases of calm and stillness, where you might still expect to see an old beguine mumbling her prayers in a doorway. Two of Ghent's three beguinages have been included on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Although the Old St Elizabeth Beguinage, in Begijnhofdries in Ghent, is no longer enclosed by a wall, making it simply part of the city, it still has a unique atmosphere. Today the Old St Elizabeth Beguinage is known as 'holy corner', a place of religious tolerance, because it has no less than three different churches: one is Roman Catholic, one is Orthodox and the other is Protestant.

#### From bleachfield to orchard

This open beguinage grew into something of a 'beguine city' in the 13th century, with a church, the 'Grootjuffer's House', an infirmary, a chapel, more than a hundred houses for beguines, a bleachfield (a field where linen was laid out to bleach) and an orchard. After the French Revolution, with increasing industrialisation, the

inhabitants moved to their new beguinage in Sint-Amandsberg in 1873.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Begijnhofdries, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Tickets: Free

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/old-st-elizabeth-beguinage>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Ghent Belfry, world heritage



Look up at the magical city skyline for a moment during your weekend trip in Ghent: you can't miss it. The Belfry is the middle tower in the

famous row of three, between St Bavo's Cathedral and St Nicholas' Church. A fiery dragon, the proud symbol and mascot of Ghent, guards the historic heart of the city.

The Ghent Belfry symbolises the city's prosperity and independence. The Cloth Hall, built onto the Belfry, was completed in 1907. The flamboyant Brabant Gothic style of the Cloth Hall is an ode to the industry to which Ghent owes so much. On the corner of the Cloth Hall is an old jailer's house.

The Ghent Belfry, a recognised UNESCO World Heritage, is well worth a visit. In 1402, it was the place where city privileges were kept: in a chest, locked up in the Belfry safe. The dragon, which has been up on the tower since 1377, kept an eye on the city as well as being the symbolic guardian of the belfry. The Belfry also proudly carried the alarm bell, the 'Great Triumphant'. Today you will find this bell, nicknamed 'Roland' by the people of Ghent, not far from the Belfort on Emile Braunplein.

Until 1442, St Nicholas' Church was the main watchtower. In 1442, the watchmen in the tower moved across to the newly completed Belfry. Along with the bell ringers, these watchmen, or the corps of 'men who guard the city', served until 1869. Fire was a particular danger in Ghent.

The Belfry tower is an absolute must-see! Climb the stairs, listen to the chiming sound of the carillon and enjoy the view of the vibrant city of Ghent. There is a lift from the first floor. The stunning view over Ghent is bound to enchant you. However, the Belfry is not accessible to visitors with reduced mobility.

The Mammelokker, a legend behind bars  
In 1741, a building was erected between the Belfry and the Cloth Hall, which served as the entrance to the city jail. You will see a relief sculpture above the entrance. The sculpture tells an old Roman legend of a man, Cimon, who was sentenced to death by starvation. He survived his sentence because his daughter visited every day and breastfed him. 'Mamme' means 'breast' and 'lokken' means 'suck' in an old Ghent dialect.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Baafsplein, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Phone: +3292333954

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/ghent-belfry-world-heritage>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### St Michael's Bridge, romantic Ghent



St Michael's Bridge is the place for romantic hearts. Grab your smartphone and take some spectacular selfies.

Wherever you look, there is a breathtaking view: you are surrounded by

360 degrees of Ghent's charming beauty. Get an extra-special fairy-tale view of the heart of Ghent at twilight, when all the historic sights are gorgeously illuminated.

In short, St Michael's Bridge is where you will find out what makes the people of Ghent and everyone who has been here love Ghent so much.

Experience a moment to remember on St Michael's Bridge during your weekend in Ghent. Pause here to enjoy the picture-postcard views: the Graslei and Korenlei with the Old Fish Market, the Castle of the Counts in the distance, St Michael's Church, the back of Het Pand and, of course, all three of Ghent's famous towers in a row. It is only from this bridge that you can capture all three of them in one single picture.

St Michael's Bridge used to be a flat turntable bridge, but it was replaced by stone arches at the beginning of the 20th century. In the middle of the bridge is a beautiful central lantern with a bronze statue of St Michael. Cameras at the ready!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Sint-Michielselling, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Opening hours: 24/7

Tickets: Free

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-michaels-bridge-romantic-ghent>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### St Bavo's Cathedral: majestic tower



This magnificent sight on Sint-Baafsplein in Ghent is a proud old lady: don't just walk past her on your city trip. St Bavo's Cathedral is the oldest parish church in the lively heart of Ghent. It

stands on the site of a 10th century church and a 12th century Romanesque church. The latter was dedicated to St John the Baptist. In the Middle Ages, Ghent was a rich and powerful city that had the means to commission ever-larger and more opulent churches. So the Church of St John the Baptist was converted during the 15th and 16th centuries into the imposing Gothic St Bavo's Cathedral.

Looking for a weekend getaway that is just that little bit different? Do you like to explore off the beaten track? Welcome to Ghent, the city of rebels! St Bavo's Cathedral literally carries Ghent's rebellious history in its very stones. In the crypt, the Romanesque style can still be seen in the central nave. In the 15th century, it was decided that the Romanesque structure would be replaced with a larger Gothic church that was completed in 1559. In 1540, the church became the seat of the Chapter of St Bavo, and St Bavo became the patron saint of the church. Later, in 1559, the church was converted into the cathedral of the Bishops of Ghent.

St Bavo's Cathedral has a rich history and it is also filled with art treasures that make many an art-lover's mouth water: from the baroque high altar in white, black and red flamed marble, the Rococo pulpit in oak, gilded wood and marble, to a masterpiece by Rubens: Saint Bavo enters the Convent at Ghent, and the Calvary Triptych by Justus van Gent, the Gothic chandelier/sanctuary lamp, the opulent tombs of the Bishops of Ghent - and of course the world-famous Mystic Lamb.

Admire the divine glow of 'The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb' by the Van Eyck brothers in St Bavo's Cathedral. Read all about this famous work by the Flemish Primitives. Do you want to visit the Mystic Lamb? Find out the opening

hours of the chapel where the Mystic Lamb is on display at St Bavo's Cathedral.

'Festive' view of the city of Ghent

You can only go up the tower of St Bavo's Cathedral during the Ghent Festivities.

Negotiate the stairs and enjoy the magnificent view of this unique party for the people in the heart of Ghent. At other times of the year, you can enjoy the most beautiful view of Ghent from directly beneath the golden dragon, Ghent's mascot, on the Belfry tower opposite. From there you can continue exploring the heart of Ghent. Anything goes.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Baafsplein, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Phone: +3292692045

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-bavos-cathedral-majestic-tower>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Magical Ghent in the evening



As evening falls, the daylight in Ghent does not simply make way for the streetlights. There is light art to enjoy as well. Streets, squares and

buildings are covered in an artistic light display.

It is almost as though the city were getting dressed up for the theatre. The effect is awe-inspiring. Discover Ghent Alight and immerse yourself in this de-light-ful evening experience!

The Ghent Light Plan was first designed in 1998. The idea was to provide sustainable lighting for the city without wasting energy. But at the same time, it has transformed the centre of Ghent into a magical nocturnal landscape of light and shadow. Architectural accents, streets,

monuments and squares are lit up to display them at their best. Ghent is a leading light in combining environmentally conscious lighting with beauty. Let the play of atmospheric lights spark your imagination. Rediscover the city by night in a whole different way. The city has received many prizes and international acclaim for its pioneering role in integrated city lighting and illumination.

Would you like a sparkling tour of Ghent's most beautiful illuminated buildings and squares? Follow the light walk and discover it for yourself! Start at the Kouter for a walk of approximately three miles. The walk takes you past all the highlights of the Ghent illuminations. You will need about two hours to complete the entire walk. It's best not to start too late, because at the stroke of midnight, the atmospheric lighting is replaced by ordinary streetlights. Plan your walk with one of the guides. Or explore for yourself!

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Kouter, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/magical-ghent-evening>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Flea market at Bij Sint-Jacobs



A square steeped in folklore. Whether you visit during the Ghent Festivities in the summer or come to the weekly flea market, there is

always something going on here. It is a real hotspot for bargain hunters at the weekend. And in mid-July, it is the epicentre of the Festivities with a capital F. The main stage at St James' Church gets the whole city rocking!

## Ghent Festivities

Sint-Jacobs, the popular square around the stately St James' Church, has been the centre of the Ghent Festivities for decades. This was where the festivities were given a new lease of life in 1969 at Café Trefpunt, by the folk singer Walter De Buck. An old Ghent tradition was reborn. What started out as a small affair among artists around St James' has grown into an event that takes over the entire city centre, thanks to support from Ghent city council. The ten-day, non-stop party is packed with folklore, street theatre, puppet shows, and music, and has now grown into one of the biggest street parties in Europe!

Before and after the Ghent Festivities, the local atmosphere is never far away at Bij Sint-Jacobs. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, this lively square is taken over by trinkets, baubles, small antiques and old junk. The flea market is a real Ghent tradition. And the market is so firmly rooted in Ghent culture that a whole host of vintage and curiosity shops have moved into the streets around the Romanesque church of St James, beside the famous antiques gallery, Gallery St-John. Bij Sint-Jacobs is the absolute place to be for collectors!

The mighty St James' Church stands in the middle of the square. A rough, Romanesque fortress of God. Its imposing architecture, dating back to the 12th century, may be the reason that this old church is still standing. It has survived desecrations and an iconoclasm. It has been damaged, scarred and then repaired, restored and extended time and again. That has led to an interesting mixture of styles. The architecture is Romanesque with Gothic and Baroque elements. It is a genuinely remarkable piece of religious architecture.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Jacobs, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Tickets: Free

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/flea-market-bij-sint-jacobs>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

## SEE & DO



*Stad Gent/Visit Gent*

The vibrant city of Ghent is more than worth a weekend trip. Ghent offers you a quirky, fascinating cultural cocktail brimming with rich history, culture and a trendy city vibe. Ghent is a chilled-out city where anything goes: a city break on a human scale. Take a look at all the sights in the vibrant city of Ghent. There are so many must-see attractions to visit on your holiday.

You'll be spoilt for choice in Ghent! Choose. Do.

## Ghent city walk, quirky charm



Start your city break by visiting the heart of Ghent: the historic centre. This city walk takes about two hours. Absorb the mystery:

follow your guide to the Castle of the Counts, the Graslei and Korenlei and Ghent's famous Three Towers. Let your eyes drink in the modern architecture of the City Pavilion and the rustic charm of the Patershol, an old neighbourhood

with mediaeval streets full of restaurants. Join the sociable Ghent residents and enjoy life.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

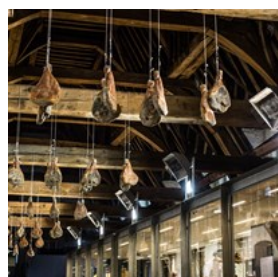
Phone: +3292333954

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/ghent-city-walk-quirky-charm>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Great Butchers' Hall



East Flanders has more than 175 traditional regional products. And in Ghent you can find them all handily displayed under one roof! The Great

Butchers' Hall houses the Centre for East Flemish Regional Products. You will find everything here, whether you want individual products or a gift hamper. Or why not put together your own delicious gift? If you can't wait to taste our specialities, reserve a table at the restaurant across the aisle and enjoy local dishes right there on the spot!

The Great Butchers' Hall was originally a covered market. This hall, which dates back to the 15th century, was the central place where meat was inspected and traded. This was partly because selling meat door-to-door was forbidden in the Middle Ages. Delicious Ganda Ham is now hung up to dry in the magnificent exposed wooden rafters. This ham is still salted and dried by craftspeople following an age-old traditional recipe.

You might want to experience Ghent on a miniature scale as well. Beside the Great Butchers' hall is the smallest pub in Ghent, 't Galgenhuisje. This vibrant little café used to be one of the tripe shops. Animal entrails were sold in these huts, separated off from the market hall

for reasons of hygiene. The little bar fills up quickly. But not to worry. There is plenty of room on the terrace, and it's heated in winter!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Groentenmarkt 7, 9000 Gent

Phone: +3292232324

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/great-butchers-hall-delicious>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Patershol, culinary heart of Ghent



This particularly beautiful corner of Ghent is a city within the city. Forget where you are for a moment and travel back in time to the Middle

Ages. Have fun discovering centuries of history in this gorgeous part of town! Breathe in the nostalgia of old customs. Enjoy art and architecture. You will love the picturesque streets full of cosy restaurants, down-to-earth pubs and trendy bars.

Ghent is heaven for foodies. But the Patershol is definitely at the top of everyone's menu. Eateries are almost shoulder to shoulder in these tiny cobbled streets. Take a culinary trip around the world from Japanese and Indonesian food, past Turkish, Italian and Spanish restaurants to traditional Flemish cuisine. Pick your style, whether it's modern, romantic, a bit eccentric or exclusive. You certainly won't be leaving with an empty stomach.

Real people live their lives in the shadow of the Castle of the Counts. Residents here go about their daily business. They welcome neighbours through their doors. Children play in the street. The Patershol is more than a tourist hotspot. Above all, it is a place where people live. There is

a festival committee that honours local traditions. All of this gives the mediaeval streets a unique historic value. Wander down the narrow alleyways and experience the real soul of the Patershol.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Economie

Address: Haringsteeg 3, 9000 Gent

Phone: +3292232324

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/patershol-culinary-heart-ghent>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Ghent City Museum (STAM)



The STAM is the ideal place to start your cultural holiday in Ghent, an unmistakably contemporary building against a historic

backdrop. Ghent is a city of every era, and the same applies to the modern Ghent City Museum: the 14th-century abbey, 17th-century convent and new 21st-century building all form part of the STAM.

The STAM tells the story of Ghent from the Middle Ages to the present day, with imaginative collections and interactive multimedia. The past, present and future of the city are presented in a clear and interesting way: from mediaeval metropolis to city of knowledge and culture.

The eye-catcher at Ghent City Museum, the STAM, is a gigantic aerial photograph of Ghent (measuring 300 m2!) that you are allowed to walk all over. Use the multimedia app to see Ghent in detail in four different centuries. 'Views of Ghent' shows a view of the city in 1534, maps from 1614 and 1912 and a contemporary aerial photograph.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Godshuizenlaan 2, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32 9 267 14 00

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/stam-ghent-city-museum>

Email: [info@stamgent.be](mailto:info@stamgent.be)

### St Peter's Abbey, peaceful vineyard



This Benedictine abbey was founded in the 7th century by St Amand, who christened the very city of Ghent itself. In the 14th and 15th centuries,

it grew into nothing short of an abbey village, with farms, gardens, homes and estates. The abbey owed its prosperity to the privileges it had gained and the taxes it was allowed to impose on its estates. It owned land all the way to the port in Ghent.

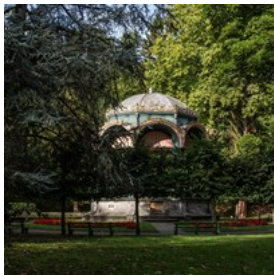
The virtual monk 'Alison' will give you a virtual tour of the abbey. 'Jean-François Alison' is your mystery movie guide during your visit to St Peter's Abbey. In seventeen episodes, he takes you on an exciting and mysterious journey in search of his friend's murderer. He takes you to places you would never otherwise go. The mediaeval dining hall, the majestic abbey church, a beautiful garden and endless attics: you will stumble from one surprise to the next, between heaven and earth. It is really thrilling, and suitable for children as well. Why not take a virtual look at St Peter's Abbey now?

The garden of this abbey is a real hotspot in Ghent that is particularly popular with the city's students who come here to chill out or revise in the sunshine. A must-see during your city break. The magnificent garden with its vineyard and ruin is an oasis of greenery in the city.

Prestigious exhibitions with an international allure are held every year in St Peter's Abbey. The dining wing of St Peter's Abbey is authentic, dating from the Middle Ages. Visit the ground floor of St Peter's Abbey for free (cloisters and quadrangle, as well as the permanent exhibition Between Heaven & Earth and the abbey garden).

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Sint-Pietersplein 9, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32 9 266 85 00  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-peters-abbey-peace-ful-vineyard>  
Email: [sintpietersabdij@gent.be](mailto:sintpietersabdij@gent.be)

### Citadelpark



The Citadelpark is a park in Ghent on the brow of a hill between the rivers Scheldt and Lys. This city park was created in 1875 on the place where the Dutch citadel of Ghent formerly stood, built between 1819 and 1831. The citadel, one of the largest and most modern in Europe at the time, was later used as an infantry and artillery barracks. It was in use until 1870.

Today it is a great place to enjoy botanical abundance. Spot the name tags that were placed in front of all the remarkable trees in 2005. Here, animal-lovers can take dogs from the rescue centre for a walk. Kids aged 10 and under can have fun in the playground. When the sun is shining, this spot is where Ghent residents and students come to chill out and have a picnic. Enjoy!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Citadelpark, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +3292333954  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/citadelpark-ghent>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Old Fish Market

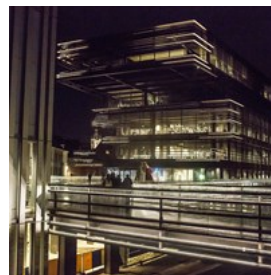


Opposite the Castle of the Counts on Sint-Veerleplein lies the monumental gateway (1689) to the Old Fish Market. Neptune keeps watch over the Scheldt (male) and the Lys (female).

This fully refurbished complex is home to, among other things, the Ghent Tourist Office: the showpiece of the office is the centrally located multimedia data table. Through innovative touch technology information can be obtained about Ghent, East Flanders and other art cities.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Sint-Veerleplein 5, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32 9 266 56 60  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/old-fish-market>  
Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### The Krook



This architectural work of art is a unique meeting place for residents, students and visitors. You can meet other people there, discover culture, enjoy a quiet drink or even try out innovations and technologies like 3D printing and virtual reality for yourself. As well as connecting people, the building links the Historic Centre with the Art Quarter.

Various institutions work together and offer services at the site. They are known collectively as 'the inhabitants of De Krook'. In addition to the city library, Imec (the Flemish research

centre for nanoelectronics and digital technologies) and UGent are housed at De Krook.

The building also includes a multi-purpose room, a study room and a reading café.

The monumental building, which incorporates works by artist Michaël Borremans, was designed by the Ghent architecture firm Coussée & Goris Architecten and their partner TV RCR Aranda Pigem Vilalta Arquitectes. This Spanish architecture firm also won the Pritzker Prize this year, the highest international distinction for architecture!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

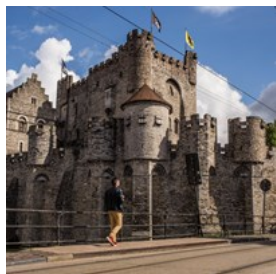
Address: Miriam Makebaplein 1, 9000 Gent

Phone: +3292101010

Internet: [https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/de-krook?context=tourist.com&from\\_category=3334](https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/de-krook?context=tourist.com&from_category=3334)

Email: [info@dekrook.be](mailto:info@dekrook.be)

### The Castle of the Counts



A weekend trip to Ghent is simply not complete without a visit to the mysterious 'Castle of the Counts'. This important sight in Ghent is a castle

with a very turbulent past, closely intertwined with the complex — often stormy — political and social history of the city. It is the only remaining mediaeval castle with a moat and largely intact defence system in Flanders. Your visit to the Castle of the Counts will give you a complete picture of heraldic culture in the 12th century. The gatehouse, ramparts, keep, count's residence and stables are open to visitors.

Be sure to go up the long spiral staircase to the museum of torture devices on the top floor of the Castle of the Counts. Here, you will find a

unique collection of instruments for torture and coercion, as well as a collection of weapons. The Castle of the Counts also hosts all kinds of cultural activities, events and activities, for example during the Ghent Festivities. It is also a popular place to get married for Ghent's locals.

Let's not forget the time the Castle of the Counts was occupied by protesting students in 1949! Explore the castle during your weekend trip in Ghent and find out all about the 'Battle of the Castle of the Counts'.

The keep, symbol of the Counts' power Go back in time inside this majestic fortress. Its history goes back to the time of the Roman occupation, when there was already a settlement on a sand bank by the River Lys. After a brief period of Viking plundering, the Counts of Flanders converted the earlier wooden constructions into a keep (living quarters) in the Middle Ages, with ramparts built entirely of stone, replete with 24 towers. The imposing building with its military architecture was a symbol of the Counts' power in the turbulent city of Ghent.

Count Philip and his castle: dominating the city Count Philip of Alsace wanted everyone to know that he was the boss. A Latin inscription above the entrance states that Count Philip (1168-1191) built the castle in 1180. The sense of wealth and power that his castle gave him is brought to life when you stand between the battlements at the top of the keep and gaze out over the vibrant city of Ghent.

Industrial revolution banishes knights from Ghent

You are bound to be fascinated by the twists and turns in the story of the Castle of the Counts

during your weekend getaway. In the late 18th century, the Castle of the Counts was sold to private owners who later converted it into a factory complex. In 1807, the fortress in the heart of Ghent housed a cotton mill, and its outbuildings served as primitive dwellings for about fifty families of workers. When the mill and its workers left, the Castle of the Counts was in a state of complete disrepair, ready for demolition.

By that point, the Castle of the Counts was a symbol of abuse of power, feudal repression, horrific torture methods and a cruel inquisition as far as the people of Ghent were concerned. Restoration gave the Castle of the Counts a new meaning and world fame as Ghent's most important tourist sight, partly due to the World Expo 1913, which took place in Ghent.

Do you want to dig deep into the history of Ghent? This is where you need to be. Ghent, full of charming history and modern vibrancy.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Veerleplein 11, Gent

Phone: +32 9 225 93 06

Internet: [www.historischehuizen.stad.gent/en/castle-counts](http://www.historischehuizen.stad.gent/en/castle-counts)

### Flower market Kouter



A Sunday morning on the Kouter means a pleasant stroll around the flower market, stopping now and then for a klapke: a glass of white wine with an oyster. Bask in the elegance of life in Ghent. And why not enjoy a relaxed bite to eat at one of the great restaurants nearby. It is a favourite ritual for Ghent residents.

You don't need to wait for spring! Thanks to the daily flower market, you can see a bright tapestry of flowers every day of the year on the Kouter. But the best time of all to visit is on a sunny Sunday morning in spring. Stretch your legs in the first rays of spring sunshine, enjoy the colours and listen to music playing in the background. Blissful. If you're lucky, a brass band will be playing in the bandstand. This is what we call the good life.

Ghent's most sophisticated gourmets gather at De Blauwe Kiosk at about eleven in the morning. This monument converted into an aperitif bar serves a glass of cava, fresh oysters and other amuse-bouches to connoisseurs at the market. Originally a hexagonal newspaper kiosk, this little building has stood on the Kouter since 1885, along with 38 other kiosks around the centre of Ghent. Today this one is the only survivor. Since 1990, it has had a new lease of life as an open-air bar.

There is more here than just strolling, flowers and wine! The Kouter is also a hub of music. There is something here for everyone! The 19th-century Opera Gent building and De Handelsbeurs concert venue on the Kouter span the entire music scene, from pop, rock and world music to jazz, opera and classical music. Perhaps running through the entire offerings would be a bit much. Simply rest assured that the Kouter is the place to be if you're a music lover.

The Kouter is the perfect place to start a shopping spree in the Veldstraat.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Kouter, 9000 Gent

Phone: +3292665660

Tickets: Free

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/sunday-stroll-kouter>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Boat trips in Ghent



Stretch your sea legs: the view of Ghent from the water is absolutely charming. Take a boat ride during your city break or weekend trip.

There are various boat tours organised on the rivers and canals in Ghent. Travel back in time. Immerse yourself in the city of Emperor Charles V and discover hidden secrets.

Ship ahoy!

Different boat companies offer enjoyable trips on Ghent's gentle waters. Traditional boat trips are held daily. The captain on board provides a guided tour in several languages.

During the weekend, Ghent also has a water tram that navigates in a circuit around the city. Jump aboard at one of the water stops. It's free with the CityCard!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Phone: +3292665660

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/good-know/practical-information/getting-around/boat-trips-ghent>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Gentbrugse Meersen



Gentbrugse Meersen is a park and nature reserve that is still being created.

You can come here for sports, play, gardening and picnics. Take a walk

in the woods and discover stretches of open water populated by water birds. A piece of wild nature close to the city.

The barefoot path is a 1-km long footpath that has not been laid artificially. It is a natural path which changes along with the weather and the seasons. A real treat for your feet!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Driebeekstraat, 9050 Gentbrugge

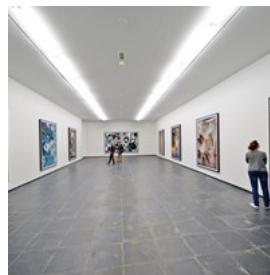
Phone: +3292665660

Tickets: Free

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/gentbrugse-meersen>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### S.M.A.K.: contemporary art in Ghent



Lovers of contemporary art absolutely can't afford to miss a visit to the S.M.A.K. during their weekend in Ghent. The Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art, or S.M.A.K. for short (in Dutch), was founded in 1999 and is located opposite the MSK in a former casino building.

The city of Ghent is known for its rebelliousness, and its contemporary art museum is every bit as dynamic and unconventional as Ghent itself. The collection is considered to be the most important collection of contemporary art in Flanders, with world-famous works of art from Belgium and abroad. Every four months, the museum exhibits a selection of these works in alternation with original, often daring exhibitions. Recover at leisure from the assault on your senses in the museum café.

Take a look at the sculpture by Jan Fabre on the roof: the body of 'The Man who Measures the Clouds' is modelled on Fabre himself, but the face belongs to his dead brother.

Under the inspiring leadership of the

controversial curator and 'art pope' Jan Hoet, the former 'contemporary art wing' of the MSK was given its own museum, the S.M.A.K. The permanent collection at this museum for contemporary art includes top Belgian and international works of art by Cobra, pop art, minimal art, conceptual art and arte povera artists, who are now among the most famous artists in the world.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Jan Hoetplein 1, 9000 Gent

Phone: +3292407601

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/smak-contemporary-art-ghent>

Email: [info@smak.be](mailto:info@smak.be)

### Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent (MSK)



The strength of the Museum of Fine Arts (MSK) in Ghent, one of the oldest museums in Belgium, lies in the varied nature of its collection,

which is nothing short of remarkable. Never before have old masters and modernists hung side-by-side so perfectly as in this iconic museum building.

At the end of the 18th century, Ghent was under French rule and many of the city's art treasures were seized. Some of them can still be seen in the Louvre in Paris today. Rebellious Ghent wasn't having any of it, and slowly began to establish a wide-ranging art collection, searching for years to find an appropriate building. The ideal location was found in the building designed by the architect Van Rysselberghe in the Citadelpark, a temple to the arts with a fantastic feeling of spaciousness and a lot of light.

The collection, which ranges from Hieronymus

Bosch to Rubens and Magritte, has never been shown more attractively than it is today. It covers an enormous variety of paintings, statues, drawings, etchings and tapestries, from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. An auditorium, a library, a children's workshop and a brasserie turn the MSK into a contemporary, multipurpose complex where you can spend many a pleasant hour surrounded by beauty during your weekend trip to Ghent.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Citadelpark, Fernand Scribbedreef 1, 9000 Gent

Phone: +3293236700

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/museum-fine-arts-ghent>

Email: [museum.msk@stad.gent](mailto:museum.msk@stad.gent)

### Arts Centre Vooruit



This bustling art centre is housed in an impressive 100-year-old monument and offers a variety of cultural events. The focus is on concerts and parties.

The spacious Art Deco café and the modern patio at the side of the building are a meeting place for a snack, drink and chat.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23, 9000 Gent

Phone: +3292672820

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/arts-centre-vooruit>

Email: [info@vooruit.be](mailto:info@vooruit.be)

### Opera Gent



Music theatre, concerts and recitals In the first half of the 19th century, rich Ghent industrialists initiated the building of a new and luxurious opera house. It was meant to be the showcase for their newly acquired wealth and no expense was spared. In the splendid horseshoe-shaped theatre, being seen was just as important as seeing.

The impressive chandelier is an attraction in itself, just like the three salons, measuring together 90 m long.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Schouwburgstraat 3, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +3292681011  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/opera-gent>  
Email: [info@operaballet.be](mailto:info@operaballet.be)

### Portus Ganda



Ganda, as Ghent was originally called, arose at the confluence of the Lys and the Scheldt. On that site there is now a marina for passing boat traffic, Portus Ganda.

Once filled in to make room for the mighty car, the Lower Scheldt has today been restored to its former glory. Bridges and parks, cosy pavement cafés and a wonderfully restored art deco swimming pool all make up one of Ghent's most beautiful (new) little corners.

Drop anchor at Portus Ganda, less than a kilometre from the heart of the city. You will find all the facilities you need in the splendid Van Eyck swimming baths.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Veermanplein 2, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32472417843  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/portus-ganda>  
Email: [portus.ganda@gent.be](mailto:portus.ganda@gent.be)

### Sunday shopping



Ghent is a shopping city that loves to pamper its shoppers! The shops in the city centre are open every first Sunday of the month. Happy shopping!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Economie  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/calendar/sunday-shopping>  
Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Sint-Pietersplein



Sint-Pietersplein is the city's square for large-scale events. Each year, the Mid-Lent Fair takes place on the square. Since 2007 an underground car park has been built up. Its construction led to many important archeological discoveries. They are symbolised by stainless steel markers.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Sint-Pietersplein, 9000 Gent  
Internet: [visit.gent.be/en/see-do/sint-pietersplein](https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/sint-pietersplein)  
Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Ghent Town Hall



This schizophrenic building is in two parts, as you can clearly see, making it a fascinating sight in political Ghent. The façade on the Hoogpoort side shows you the flamboyant Late

Gothic style that dates from the early 16th century. This style is in sharp contrast to the Renaissance style on the Botermarkt side. In this later wing (1559 -1618), you will see three-quarter Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns and pilasters inspired by Italian palazzi.

In the niches in the façade of Ghent Town Hall, you will see the Counts of Flanders, although they were only added in the early 1900s. Behind this façade are no less than 51 rooms, including the Wedding Chapel, where Ghent residents make their wedding vows. Many a bride has been captivated by the beautiful, romantic stained-glass windows or got lost in the labyrinth of corridors and chambers inside the building.

Would you like a tour of Ghent Town Hall during your city trip? Tours are only available with a guide.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Botermarkt 1, 9000 Gent  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/ghent-town-hall>  
Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### City pavilion



The multifunctional and open city pavilion is an architectural masterpiece designed by the architects Robbrecht & Daem / Marie-José Van

Hee. The roof structure and the use of glass, wood and concrete are very striking. This location can host concerts, dance performances and markets.

Discover the 'grand café' hidden under the city pavilion: the semi-underground 'Belfort Stadscafé en Stadsrestaurant' is already a bubbly establishment which can cater for 300

people. Head over there for a drink, a daily special or a selection of the à la carte menu.

The city park on the lower level, The Green, is surrounded by a stone wall. This is the place to be if you're looking to relax, read or simply hang around. Stairs and ramps connect the park with the street levels higher up. Diagonal walking paths connect the Donkersteeg with the Mageleinstraat and Cataloniëstraat, inviting you to shop and enjoy a stroll.

### Works of art

The existing art elements - the Minne sculptures and the Mathildis clock - were given a new place in the design.

### Spring of the Bereaved

The naked youngsters look at their reflection in the water of the fountain, just like Narcissus, the Greek mythological figure did, out of narcissism. When the statue was placed here in 1937, the bourgeoisie thought it was immoral. Today no one is shocked by these naked boys. George Minne, the artist, sought inspiration in the statues on the Gothic buildings.

### The Roeland Bell

The song "Klokke Roeland" (Roeland Bell) is probably the most famous folk song in Ghent. This bell is known as 'The Triumphant' and as 'Roeland', after the first large bell at the Belfry. The bell cracked in 1914 and was removed from the Belfry and restored. Today it is displayed on a specially designed base next to St Nicholas' Church. Are you interested in witnessing the Ghent carillon for yourself? Then you must visit the Belfry.

## De Maagd

The Belgian artist Michaël Borremans donated his fresco, "De Maagd" (The Virgin), to the city. It portrays a black-haired girl against a dark background. Except for a white collar, the girl is dressed entirely in black. Two crystal-clear rays of light emanate from her eyes. You can find the painting on the bell cage above the door of the lift. The artist's signature at the back of the work, in the bell cage.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Poeljemarkt, 9000 Gent  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/city-pavilion>  
Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

## Graffiti Street



People sometimes say you can recognise a vibrant city by its street art.

Ghent is a canvas for street artists, a hip and free-thinking cultural city

where everyone is welcome and free to do their thing.

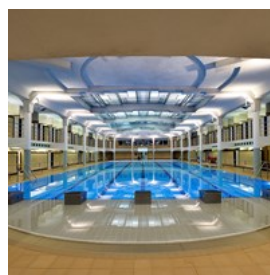
The car-free Werregarenstraatje in the centre of Ghent is a graffiti tolerance zone. Officially it is not permitted to do pieces and tags here, but the authorities turn a blind eye. The tolerance zone emerged during the Ghent Festivities in 1995 as a graffiti project with a limited number of works on the walls. Werregarenstraatje quickly earned the nickname "graffiti street".

Nowadays, the street is a cacophony of colours. Werregarenstraatje is a public canvas for young street artists. Here, street artists create striking spray-can art to their heart's content. This means that Graffiti Street in Ghent never looks the same from one week to the next. Do you like to explore off the beaten track? This alleyway is

worth a detour during your weekend getaway. An alley full of colourful Instagram shots.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Werregarenstraatje, 9000 Gent  
Tickets: Free  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/street-art-ghent>  
Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

## Van Eyck swimming pool



Belgium's oldest indoor swimming pool is also the newest: in 2001 it was fully restored so that the splendid art deco design is today more beautiful

than ever.

Furthermore, the swimming pool also retains its public function as a bathhouse: those without much space at home can pop round and enjoy a long relaxing bath.

In the 'Au Bain' lounge bar on the first-floor, you can enjoy a wonderful view of the swimming pool and the marina.

Photo: Stad Gent  
Address: Veermanplein 1, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +3292352740  
Internet:  
<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/van-eyck-swimming-pool>  
Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

## The Mystic Lamb: supreme divine art



The Mystic Lamb, or 'The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb' by the Van Eyck brothers, completed in 1432, is recognised worldwide as a great

work of art, and one of the most influential paintings ever made. It is an absolute must-see

on your weekend break to Ghent. A total of 18 panels form a magical evocation of scenes from the Bible, as well as a portrait of the church warden, Joos Vijd, who commissioned the altarpiece, and his wife Elisabeth Borluut.

“The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb is probably the most influential painting ever made, and it is also the most often stolen work of art in history!”  
Noah Charney

The monumental Mystic Lamb was painted on oak panels covered in thin layers of a mixture of chalk and animal glue. The figures were applied in several layers of oil paint. The combination of the painstaking work and transparent paint creates an extra dimension. Discover it for yourself as you stand in front of this masterpiece. You will see that an inner glow seems to radiate from the painting: the light of the divine.

Hubert van Eyck painted part of the Ghent Altarpiece that includes the Mystic Lamb, but was never able to finish it. His younger brother Jan, an absolute master of the art of painting, is said to have finished this masterpiece a few years after Hubert's death.

On the morning of 11 April 1934, Ghent woke up to news of a disaster. Two panels of the Ghent Altarpiece, ‘The Just Judges’ and ‘John the Baptist’ had been stolen from St Bavo's Cathedral! This daring theft has grown to become one of the most fascinating art robberies of the 20th century. It remains unsolved.

Later the ‘John the Baptist’ panel was returned anonymously, but ‘The Just Judges’ is still lost without trace. Today you can find the Mystic Lamb where it belongs: in St Bavo's Cathedral. Admittedly there is still a reproduction in the

place of the stolen panel, ‘The Just Judges’. Whether or not the missing panel is ever found, this theft has given rise to all sorts of exciting stories and mysterious conspiracy theories.

Head to Ghent city museum, STAM, for a spot of detective work to track down the world-famous missing panel, ‘The Just Judges’.

The Mystic Lamb: devoted restoration  
This world-famous masterpiece by the Van Eyck Brothers in Ghent has been restored many times in the past. It has been undergoing thorough restoration and conservation work since 2012. During its turbulent history, the Mystic Lamb has survived transportation, changes in temperature and humidity, horrifying attacks with a saw and fire damage. Contemplate the intensive renovation work on this religious masterpiece right before your eyes in the MSK. Stand behind bulletproof glass to watch 11 international restorers removing layers of varnish and later additions and touching up blemishes with paintbrushes. Unique and unbelievably fascinating! Does The Mystic Lamb make you want more? You're in luck, because once a month the restoration team gives a talk on the restoration of this masterpiece.

#### Adore the Lamb

Here's a fascinating fact: The Mystic Lamb was rescued in 1945 by the famous ‘Monuments Men’. The Mystic Lamb was welcomed home like a king by the ecstatic people of Ghent, who lined the streets in a respectful guard of honour. There is a film of the amazing story of the Monuments Men, American art commandos who brought confiscated art back to where it belonged. The film, ‘The Monuments Men’, begins in St Bavo's Cathedral in Ghent. The people of Ghent adore the Mystic Lamb, and

rightfully so, but they also have a sense of humour. You can see proof of this in this spoof video about the Mystic Lamb.

#### Heavenly graffiti in Ghent

Discover the graffiti version of the Mystic Lamb in Ghent during your city trip as well! When 'The Monuments Men' came out in the cinema, graffiti artist Bart Smeets spray-painted a huge mural on the side of the house on the corner of Van Stopenberghestraat, near St Bavo's Cathedral. The film producer, 20th Century Fox, was looking for a contemporary way to draw attention to 'The Monuments Men'. The city of Ghent welcomed this new painting with open arms as an ongoing promotion for the Mystic Lamb that plays a prominent role in the film.

#### Enchanted by the Mystic Lamb?

Does The Mystic Lamb make you want more? During your weekend getaway to Ghent, enjoy a guided walking tour around the city of Ghent. The Province of East Flanders and the guides' associations also adore the altarpiece and offer city walks in Ghent on the theme of the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Baafsplein, 9000 Gent, Belgium

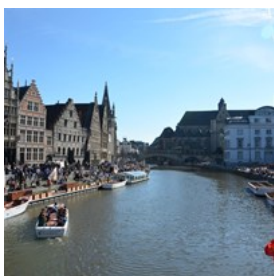
Phone: +3292692045

Internet:

[visit.gent.be/en/see-do/mystic-lamb-supreme-divine-art](https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/mystic-lamb-supreme-divine-art)

Email: [visit@gent.be](mailto:visit@gent.be)

#### History on the Graslei and Korenlei



the Graslei in Ghent brings everyone and

Ships have been docking here since the 11th century and Ghent wouldn't have it any other way. It is like the song of the Lorelei. The beauty of

everything to a standstill. This is the place where beautiful façades are reflected in the River Lys. Tourists and residents alike relax on either side of the water, whether dangling their legs over the quay, or sitting comfortably at a café terrace.

#### Lovely Grasbrug

This bridge is positively poetic. And it's every Ghent native's pride. On your visit to Ghent, it would be a sin to miss this little bridge just around the corner from the Korenmarkt. Cross the river at the Grasbrug and soak in the scenery. There are still boats moored at the quays today. Even better, nowadays you can take a boat ride yourself! There's nothing that will immerse you more in the history of Ghent.

#### Façades on the Graslei

The houses by the water live and breathe history. The Cooremetershuys is now an accessory store. In the Middle Ages, however, the official corn measurer presided over the grain trade there. Have a good look at the completely restored façade of the Guild House of the Free Sailors as well. A lot of money has been invested in this building over the centuries, and it shows! The stately stepped gable from the old corn store has been watching over the town since the 13th century.

The corn store—also known as 't spijker—has been converted into the gastronomic restaurant Belga Queen. It's come a long way from those old sacks of grain. Of course you don't have to push the boat out quite that far. You can also try a cosy brasserie on the Graslei or Korenlei. Or why not just buy finger food and sit down on the quayside! Because sometimes, appreciating the little things is the most romantic.

Aperitif in the sun

Tempted by all those café terraces? There is nothing more blissful than enjoying an aperitif—or two—by the waterside. When the sun is shining, this is a delightful spot to hang out ensconced by beautiful old buildings. Enjoying the first warmth of a spring day with a chilled white wine, putting the world to rights...but anyway, we digress.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Graslei, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Opening hours: 24/7

Tickets: Free

Internet: [visit.gent.be/en/see-do/history-graslei-and-korenlei](https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/history-graslei-and-korenlei)

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### Old St Elizabeth Beguinage



Beguine city in Ghent: a tolerant 'holy corner' The beguinages of Flanders and the Netherlands are always oases of calm and stillness, where you might still expect to see an old beguine mumbling her prayers in a doorway. Two of Ghent's three beguinages have been included on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Although the Old St Elizabeth Beguinage, in Begijnhofdries in Ghent, is no longer enclosed by a wall, making it simply part of the city, it still has a unique atmosphere. Today the Old St Elizabeth Beguinage is known as 'holy corner', a place of religious tolerance, because it has no less than three different churches: one is Roman Catholic, one is Orthodox and the other is Protestant.

From bleachfield to orchard

This open beguinage grew into something of a 'beguine city' in the 13th century, with a church, the 'Grootjuffer's House', an infirmary, a chapel,

more than a hundred houses for beguines, a bleachfield (a field where linen was laid out to bleach) and an orchard. After the French Revolution, with increasing industrialisation, the inhabitants moved to their new beguinage in Sint-Amandsberg in 1873.

The new Orthodox church in Sophie Van Akenstraat is a striking sight in Ghent. A visit here is more than worthwhile. Inside, the church is painted with frescos using the authentic Byzantine technique. The façade depicts the Twelve Apostles with mosaics in rounded niches.

Heavenly art on façades in Ghent

Do you want to see more of this colourful façade art during your city trip? You will find another gorgeous mosaic on the façade of the Royal Dutch Theatre on Sint-Baafsplein. Apollo, the Roman god of music and joy, is represented with his muses: song, dance and music. Ghent is full of historic charm and captivating interest.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Begijnhofdries, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Public Transport:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/old-st-elizabeth-beguinaage>

Opening hours:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/old-st-elizabeth-beguinaage>

Tickets: Free

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/old-st-elizabeth-beguinaage>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

More Info:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/old-st-elizabeth-beguinaage>

### Ghent Belfry, world heritage



Look up at the magical city skyline for a moment during your weekend trip in Ghent: you can't miss it. The Belfry is the middle tower in the

famous row of three, between St Bavo's Cathedral and St Nicholas' Church. A fiery dragon, the proud symbol and mascot of Ghent, guards the historic heart of the city.

The Ghent Belfry symbolises the city's prosperity and independence. The Cloth Hall, built onto the Belfry, was completed in 1907. The flamboyant Brabant Gothic style of the Cloth Hall is an ode to the industry to which Ghent owes so much. On the corner of the Cloth Hall is an old jailer's house.

The Ghent Belfry, a recognised UNESCO World Heritage, is well worth a visit. In 1402, it was the place where city privileges were kept: in a chest, locked up in the Belfry safe. The dragon, which has been up on the tower since 1377, kept an eye on the city as well as being the symbolic guardian of the belfry. The Belfry also proudly carried the alarm bell, the 'Great Triumphant'. Today you will find this bell, nicknamed 'Roland' by the people of Ghent, not far from the Belfort on Emile Braunplein.

Until 1442, St Nicholas' Church was the main watchtower. In 1442, the watchmen in the tower moved across to the newly completed Belfry. Along with the bell ringers, these watchmen, or the corps of 'men who guard the city', served until 1869. Fire was a particular danger in Ghent.

The Belfry tower is an absolute must-see! Climb the stairs, listen to the chiming sound of the carillon and enjoy the view of the vibrant city of Ghent. There is a lift from the first floor. The stunning view over Ghent is bound to enchant you. However, the Belfry is not accessible to visitors with reduced mobility.

The Mammelokker, a legend behind bars  
In 1741, a building was erected between the Belfry and the Cloth Hall, which served as the entrance to the city jail. You will see a relief sculpture above the entrance. The sculpture tells an old Roman legend of a man, Cimon, who was sentenced to death by starvation. He survived his sentence because his daughter visited every day and breastfed him. 'Mamme' means 'breast' and 'lokken' means 'suck' in an old Ghent dialect.

The Belfort, great fun for little dragons  
Ghent wouldn't be Ghent without children and young people, so Ghent Belfry also has plenty to offer little dragons. Here you will find activities for kids aged 6 to 18 years old. Kids up to the age of 100 are more than welcome here as well ;-).

Child-friendly Ghent: have fun on your weekend trip with the whole family. Do you know about the city game with Fosfor the dragon as well?

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Baafsplein, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

Phone: +3292333954

Internet: [visit.gent.be/en/see-do/ghent-belfry-world-heritage](https://www.visit.gent.be/en/see-do/ghent-belfry-world-heritage)

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

### St Michael's Bridge, romantic Ghent



Fairy-tale view: take your Ghent selfie! Click-click. St Michael's Bridge is the place for romantic hearts. Grab your smartphone and take some

spectacular selfies. Wherever you look, there is a breathtaking view: you are surrounded by 360 degrees of Ghent's charming beauty. Get an extra-special fairy-tale view of the heart of Ghent at twilight, when all the historic sights are gorgeously illuminated.

In short, St Michael's Bridge is where you will find out what makes the people of Ghent and everyone who has been here love Ghent so much.

Pause for a view of the three towers  
Experience a moment to remember on St Michael's Bridge during your weekend in Ghent. Pause here to enjoy the picture-postcard views: the Graslei and Korenlei with the Old Fish Market, the Castle of the Counts in the distance, St Michael's Church, the back of Het Pand and, of course, all three of Ghent's famous towers in a row. It is only from this bridge that you can capture all three of them in one single picture.

St Michael's Bridge used to be a flat turntable bridge, but it was replaced by stone arches at the beginning of the 20th century. In the middle of the bridge is a beautiful central lantern with a bronze statue of St Michael. Cameras at the ready!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Sint-Michielsdijk, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

Public Transport: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-michaels-bridge-romantic-ghent>

Opening hours: 24/7

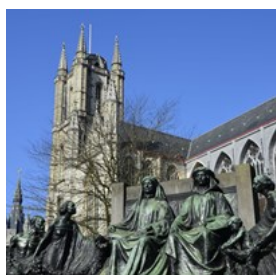
Tickets: Free

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-michaels-bridge-romantic-ghent>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

More Info: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-michaels-bridge-romantic-ghent>

### St Bavo's Cathedral: majestic tower



Powerful Ghent church and home of the Mystic Lamb This magnificent sight on Sint-Baafsplein in Ghent is a proud old lady: don't just walk past her on your city trip. St Bavo's Cathedral is the

oldest parish church in the lively heart of Ghent. It stands on the site of a 10th century church and a 12th century Romanesque church. The latter was dedicated to St John the Baptist. In the Middle Ages, Ghent was a rich and powerful city that had the means to commission ever-larger and more opulent churches. So the Church of St John the Baptist was converted during the 15th and 16th centuries into the imposing Gothic St Bavo's Cathedral.

A history of rebellion: from church to cathedral  
Looking for a weekend getaway that is just that little bit different? Do you like to explore off the beaten track? Welcome to Ghent, the city of rebels! St Bavo's Cathedral literally carries Ghent's rebellious history in its very stones. In the crypt, the Romanesque style can still be seen in the central nave. In the 15th century, it was decided that the Romanesque structure would be replaced with a larger Gothic church that was completed in 1559. In 1540, the church became the seat of the Chapter of St Bavo, and St Bavo became the patron saint of the church. Later, in 1559, the church was converted into the cathedral of the Bishops of Ghent.

Bursting with riches: Ghent's art treasures  
St Bavo's Cathedral has a rich history and it is also filled with art treasures that make many an art-lover's mouth water: from the baroque high altar in white, black and red flamed marble, the Rococo pulpit in oak, gilded wood and marble, to a masterpiece by Rubens: Saint Bavo enters the Convent at Ghent, and the Calvary Triptych by Justus van Gent, the Gothic chandelier/sanctuary lamp, the opulent tombs of the Bishops of Ghent - and of course the world-famous Mystic Lamb.

Admire the divine glow of 'The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb' by the Van Eyck brothers in St

Bavo's Cathedral. Read all about this famous work by the Flemish Primitives. Do you want to visit the Mystic Lamb? Find out the opening hours of the chapel where the Mystic Lamb is on display at St Bavo's Cathedral.

Fascinating fact about the Mystic Lamb: So that you have a chance to admire all the panels of the Ghent Altarpiece in all their glory, the outer panels of this masterpiece by Van Eyck are folded inwards every day between 12.00 and 13.00. Admission tickets for this chapel are sold until about 15 minutes before closing time.

Souvenirs galore: the cathedral shop

Of course you want memories to take home with you that are as beautiful as the cathedral itself. Pop into the cathedral gift shop for postcards, art books, posters etc.

'Festive' view of the city of Ghent

You can only go up the tower of St Bavo's Cathedral during the Ghent Festivities. Negotiate the stairs and enjoy the magnificent view of this unique party for the people in the heart of Ghent. At other times of the year, you can enjoy the most beautiful view of Ghent from directly beneath the golden dragon, Ghent's mascot, on the Belfry tower opposite. From there you can continue exploring the heart of Ghent. Anything goes.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Baafsplein, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Public Transport: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-bavos-cathedral-majestic-tower>

Opening hours: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-bavos-cathedral-majestic-tower>

Phone: +3292692045

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-bavos-cathedral-majestic-tower>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

More Info: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-bavos-cathedral-majestic-tower>

majestic-tower

## Flea market at Bij Sint-Jacobs



A ten-day party around ten centuries of history A square steeped in folklore. Whether you visit during the Ghent Festivities in the summer

or come to the weekly flea market, there is always something going on here. It is a real hotspot for bargain hunters at the weekend. And in mid-July, it is the epicentre of the Festivities with a capital F. The main stage at St James' Church gets the whole city rocking!

Ghent Festivities

Bij Sint-Jacobs, the popular square around the stately St James' Church, has been the centre of the Ghent Festivities for decades. This was where the festivities were given a new lease of life in 1969 at Café Trefpunt, by the folk singer Walter De Buck. An old Ghent tradition was reborn. What started out as a small affair among artists around St James' has grown into an event that takes over the entire city centre, thanks to support from Ghent city council. The ten-day, non-stop party is packed with folklore, street theatre, puppet shows, and music, and has now grown into one of the biggest street parties in Europe!

Flea market treasures

Before and after the Ghent Festivities, the local atmosphere is never far away at Bij Sint-Jacobs. Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, this lively square is taken over by trinkets, baubles, small antiques and old junk. The flea market is a real Ghent tradition. And the market is so firmly rooted in Ghent culture that a whole host of vintage and curiosity shops have moved into the

streets around the Romanesque church of St James, beside the famous antiques gallery, Gallery St-John. Bij Sint-Jacobs is the absolute place to be for collectors!

A scarred fortress

The mighty St James' Church stands in the middle of the square. A rough, Romanesque fortress of God. Its imposing architecture, dating back to the 12th century, may be the reason that this old church is still standing. It has survived desecrations and an iconoclasm. It has been damaged, scarred and then repaired, restored and extended time and again. That has led to an interesting mixture of styles. The architecture is Romanesque with Gothic and Baroque elements. It is a genuinely remarkable piece of religious architecture.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Jacobs, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Public Transport:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/flea-market-bij-sint-jacobs>

Opening hours:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/flea-market-bij-sint-jacobs>

Tickets: Free

Internet:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/flea-market-bij-sint-jacobs>

Email: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

More Info:

<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/flea-market-bij-sint-jacobs>

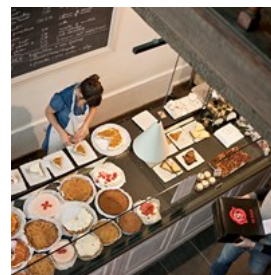
## COFFEE & BREAKFAST



Visit Gent

The first meal of the day is the most important. And in the city of Charles V, you can find plenty of breakfast menus which are fit for an emperor. Fresh and healthy, savoury and hearty, fast or leisurely: there are too many options to list.

### Julie's House



Luscious ladies who serve delicious breakfast, traditional cakes and colourful cupcakes with a dash of old-fashioned conviviality.

Photo: Visit Gent

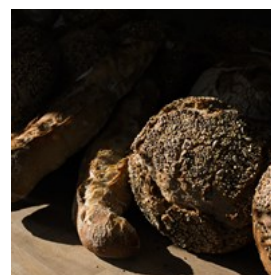
Address: Kraanlei 13, Gent

Phone: +32 9 233 33 90

Internet: [www.julieshouse.be](http://www.julieshouse.be)

Email: [info@julieshouse.be](mailto:info@julieshouse.be)

### Le Pain Perdu



Fancy a drink, a tasty breakfast or a hearty lunch? Then Pain Perdu, with its great atmosphere, is an absolute must! It's the place to be for the best and biggest sandwiches. The large, covered garden behind the shop provides a nice extra touch.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Walpoortstraat 9, Gent

Phone: +32 9 224 18 25

Internet: [www.painperdugent.be](http://www.painperdugent.be)

Email: [info@painperdugent.be](mailto:info@painperdugent.be)

### Tante Paula



A unique combination: a cafe serving breakfast and lunch-cum-coffee bar in a photo shop. "Tante Paula" does it all with flair, paying lots of attention to her customers. The menu includes fresh, generously filled sandwiches, pastries and soups.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Vlasmarkt 2, Gent

Phone: +32 486 51 99 54

Email: [info@tante-paula.be](mailto:info@tante-paula.be)

### Wasbar



Impressive launderette with adjoining bar. Young tourists, Erasmus students and young inhabitants of Ghent come here to do their laundry while sipping a cool beer or a coffee at the bar.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Korenmarkt 37, Gent

Phone: +32 9 311 69 08

Internet: [www.wasbar.be](http://www.wasbar.be)

Email: [GENT2@WASBAR.BE](mailto:GENT2@WASBAR.BE)

### Simon says



Trendy coffee bar in a beautiful building dating from 1904. The eye catchers are Panamarenko's golden murals while the coffee is roasted by the eccentric artist's wife.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sluizeken 8, Gent

Phone: +32 9 233 03 43

Internet: [www.simon-says.be](http://www.simon-says.be)

Email: [info@simon-says.be](mailto:info@simon-says.be)

### Labath



Coffee bar Labath is located near the Sint-Lucas art college and a few steps from Saint Michael's Bridge. This corner bar with gigantic windows has a big-city feel. Head over there to read the paper, work on your laptop, have a chat on the terrace and of course a cup of coffee.

Both Thomas and Valentine are true coffee connoisseurs, so they'll only serve you topquality brews, whether you prefer a regular or a "slow coffee".

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Oude Houtlei 1, Gent

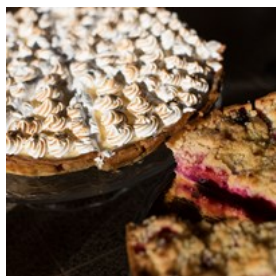
Opening hours: Mon-Fri 8am-5:30pm, Sat-Sun 9am-5:30pm

Phone: +32 9 225 28 25

Internet: [www.cafelabath.be](http://www.cafelabath.be)

Email: [cafelabath@gmail.com](mailto:cafelabath@gmail.com)

### Or Coffee



international awards.

OR Coffee is the place to be for a delicious cup of coffee or tea in a lively yet cosy setting, newspaper in hand. The barista has won several

The owners have an artisanal coffee roastery in Wetteren, where they roast their Direct Fair Trade coffee, which they purchase directly from the plantations in the coffee's country of origin.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 126A, Gent

Phone: +32 9 362 05 40

Internet: [www.orcoffee.be](http://www.orcoffee.be)

Email: [info@orcoffee.be](mailto:info@orcoffee.be)

### Paard van Troje



Bookshop slash coffeehouse with big summer terrace on Kouter square. Santé ! - Cheers !

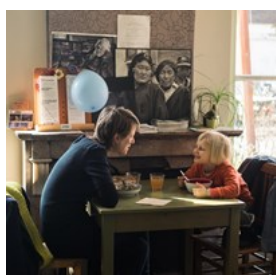
Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Kouter 113, Gent

Phone: +32 9 330 08 83

Internet: [www.paardvantroje.be](http://www.paardvantroje.be)

### Trafiek



Coffee and tea house serving vegetarian pasta or fresh soup. Almost everything is organic.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Haspelstraat 37, Gent

Phone: +32 488 261 888

Internet: [trafiek.blogspot.com](http://trafiek.blogspot.com)

Email: [trafiek@skynet.be](mailto:trafiek@skynet.be)

### Alice



At lunch restaurant Alice, named after the owner's deceased mother, chef Frederic Stas brings Alice's authentic recipes to life. Meanwhile, David

Sobrie, the grandson of the famous former patisserie chef from Ghent, blows new life into old pastry recipes.

The cherry on the cake? The French "boudoir chic" interior.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Onderbergen 6, Gent

Phone: +32 9 277 92 35

Internet: [www.alice-gent.be](http://www.alice-gent.be)

Email: [info@alice-gent.be](mailto:info@alice-gent.be)

### Barista



The name "Barista" or coffee sommelier says it all. This is the place to be if you want to enjoy a good coffee. At Barista coffee is the main

attraction but the pastries and bread are also delicious. They're all carefully baked at an organic bakery. The lunchtime menu includes soup, sandwiches, focaccia and toasted sandwiches. In the afternoon, you can enjoy a slice of homemade cake with coffee, tea or organic lemonade.

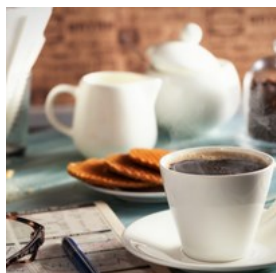
Take a seat at the long tables and admire the hustle and bustle of Ghent's Zuid neighbourhood.

A few years ago "Barista Zuivelbrug" opened its

doors, right in the city centre, near the bridge between Langemunt and Oudburg.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Hippoliet Lippensplein 25, Gent  
Phone: +32 488 46 98 30  
Internet: [www.mybarista.be](http://www.mybarista.be)  
Email: [info@mybarista.be](mailto:info@mybarista.be)

### Belle Histoire



Belle Histoire, in the heart of Ghent, is more than just a coffee shop. You can have breakfast there in the morning, and for lunch you can choose from salads, rolls, toasted sandwiches, soup and quiches. In the afternoon, Belle Histoire offers a wide range of homemade pancakes, fresh cakes and pastries, waffles, ice cream and milkshakes.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Korte Meer 4, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 336 35 33  
Internet: [www.bellehistoire.be](http://www.bellehistoire.be)  
Email: [info@bellehistoire.be](mailto:info@bellehistoire.be)

### Mokabon

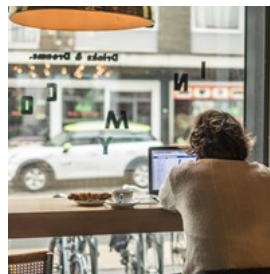


Nowadays coffee bars are everywhere but this is first coffee bar in Ghent. It is right in the city centre and has been serving excellent coffee since the very beginning, which can also be purchased and is always topped with a dollop of fresh whipped cream. Sometimes it's difficult to find a table in this small bar, but it has become custom to join other coffee lovers at their tables. Cosiness at its best!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Donkersteeg 35, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 225 71 95

Internet: [www.mokabon.be](http://www.mokabon.be)  
Email: [info@mokabon.be](mailto:info@mokabon.be)

### Clouds in my coffee



takes your fancy.

The ideal place for a relaxed breakfast in a colourful neighbourhood. Go for one of the delicious breakfast menus or just pick whatever

Hot coffee ready for you all day.

Children are welcome.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Dendermondsesteenweg 104, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 336 8 434  
Internet: [www.clouds9000.com/](http://www.clouds9000.com/)  
Email: [hello@clouds9000.com](mailto:hello@clouds9000.com)

### Maison Elza



Enjoy breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon tea in this little eatery with a 1920s interior. The interior was inspired by Elza, the owner's grandmother. It is the perfect place for a romantic breakfast, a quick cup of coffee, a fun afternoon tea with scones, cake and sandwiches, or an extensive dinner. Pure pleasure.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Jan Breydelstraat 36, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 225 21 28  
Internet: [www.maisonelza.be](http://www.maisonelza.be)  
Email: [info@maisonelza.be](mailto:info@maisonelza.be)

### Madam Bakster



Madam Bakster is the place to be if you like tasty, but healthy food. All cakes and desserts are made using only natural ingredients, such as nuts, oats and dates, without refined sugar or animal products. Delicious with a cup of coffee or tea... or a cappuccino made with almond and hazelnut milk!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Economie  
Address: Brabantdam 142, Gent  
Phone: +32 496 44 02 36  
Internet: [www.madambakster.be](http://www.madambakster.be)  
Email: [info@madambakster.be](mailto:info@madambakster.be)

### STAMcafé



The STAMcafé by Pain Perdu offers a wonderful view of the architecture and green spaces of the Bijloke site and the café's wonderful sun

terrace.

You can visit the café for breakfast, brunch, lunch, coffee, tea and cake.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Godshuizenlaan 2, Gent  
Phone: +32 493 40 13 80  
Internet: [www.stamcafe.gent](http://www.stamcafe.gent)  
Email: [info@stamcafe.gent](mailto:info@stamcafe.gent)

### BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Stad Gent/Visit Gent

The best night life can be found in Ghent. The thousands of students, lively atmosphere and cool music scene make Ghent the ideal destination for a night out.

At the Oude Beestenmarkt, you will be tripping over trendy places to go. De Vlasmarkt is a meeting place for real night owls. De Overpoort is where you will find the students and where you can party until late the next the morning.

### 't Dreupelkot



Small brown jenever cafe

chez Pol, located in one of

the nicest spots in Ghent.

In this little pub you can

choose from more than

200 kinds of Belgian

jenevers, more known in Ghent as 'dreupels'.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Groentenmarkt 12, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 224 21 20

### Afsnis



Cozy cafe where you can enjoy a chat. The place to be for beer lovers and a legendary spot in Ghent.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Economie

Address: Bij Sint-Jacobs 10, Gent

Phone: +32 495 38 39 11

### Bar Jan Cremer



This coffee bar and hotspot with a wood interior and a sunny terrace – just a stone's throw from Overpoort – serves bagels and

gestreken mastellen ('ironed buns') with coffee or a cool pint. A go-to spot for students.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Kramersplein 5, Gent

Phone: +32 474 24 85 93

Internet: [www.barjancremer.be](http://www.barjancremer.be)

Email: [info@barjancremer.be](mailto:info@barjancremer.be)

### Café Den Turk



The oldest café in Ghent with a beautiful brown interior and some of that typical Ghent arrogance, known for pouring the best draught beers in

Ghent.

Whiskies, cognacs and sandwiches 'mee uufflakke'. The regular haunt of many local councillors who go and enjoy a pint there after council meetings.

This 15th-century house was built during the

same period as Sint-Jorishof around the corner. The Den Turk house was the base of the young St George's guild (Sint-Jorisgilde). The façade is made of sand lime, which was often used for prestigious buildings in 15th- and 16th-century Ghent. The popular café Den Turk claims to be the oldest café in Ghent, and many councillors and civil servants like to pop in for a drink after their council meetings.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Botermarkt 3, Gent

Phone: +32 9 233 01 97

Internet: [www.cafedenturk.be](http://www.cafedenturk.be)

Email: [info@cafedenturk.be](mailto:info@cafedenturk.be)

### Café de Zoo



Cocktail bar – lounge cafe linked to restaurant "De Acht Zaligheden".

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Oudburg 2, Gent

Phone: +32 9 224 31 97

Internet: [www.deachtzaligheden.be](http://www.deachtzaligheden.be)

Email: [info@deachtzaligheden.be](mailto:info@deachtzaligheden.be)

### Charlatan



Popular nightlife and music café, the epicentre of the Ghent nightlife scene. The place to dance the night away during the weekend; free

performances on Thursdays and Sundays; open till the wee hours; large indoor and smokers' terrace (weather permitting) and so much more...

Also known as the "House of Perdition".

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Vlasmarkt 6, Gent

Phone: ++32 9 224 24 57

Internet: [www.charlatan.be/](http://www.charlatan.be/)

### De Geus van Gent



Beautiful cafe at the "Geuzenhuis" with a lounge area and a peculiar rounded ceiling where you can enjoy a chat; meeting place for liberal people (whether they share the same views or not) with a waterside terrace.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Kantienberg 9, Gent

Phone: +32 9 220 78 25

Internet: [www.geuzenhuis.be/cafe](http://www.geuzenhuis.be/cafe)

Email: [geusvangent@gmail.com](mailto:geusvangent@gmail.com)

### Dulle Griet



"Brown cafe" in an old, beautiful medieval interior decorated with cartwheels. This cafe offers the largest beer selection in Ghent: more than 500 local and international beers.

Exchange your shoe for a Max beer poured in a bootshaped glass. But don't worry, you will get it back afterwards.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Vrijdagmarkt 50, Gent

Phone: +32 9 224 24 55

Internet: [www.dullegriet.be](http://www.dullegriet.be)

Email: [info@dullegriet.be](mailto:info@dullegriet.be)

### Folklore



One of the last real brown cafes in the heart of Ghent where owner Jacques has been doing whatever he pleases for the past three decades.

Your drinks are served with cooked eggs on the side, following an old tradition.

Building dating back to 1667 that has known quite a few historical owners, filled with stories and decorated with chamber pots on the ceiling.

Jukebox with six catchy tunes for 1 euro.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Lange Steenstraat 69, Gent

Phone: +32 9 224 31 18

### Galgenhuisje



What is now the smallest cafe in Ghent, used to be the tripe house, where less well-off people could purchase entrails.

Because of hygienic reasons these could not be sold in the Butchers' Hall itself. The name of the cafe, however, refers to the function of the rear side. Condemned men and women waited there for the execution of their sentences.

18th-century "brown cafe", the smallest in Ghent, which has been a cafe non-stop since 1776.

The terrace is larger than the cafe.

Two basement halls for parties, also larger than the actual cafe.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Groentenmarkt 5, Gent

Phone: +32 474 93 00 34  
Internet: [www.galgenhuis.be](http://www.galgenhuis.be)  
Email: [galgenhuisgent@outlook.com](mailto:galgenhuisgent@outlook.com)

### Gloria



Popular night-time cafe located in a basement run by two fun owners, the chubby buddies Igor and Bert. Every month the window is decorated with controversial, satirical quotes by Igor, one of the owners.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Vlasmarkt 17, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 224 24 57

### Gruut



The Gruut Brewery is one of the rare breweries to use a mix of spices, known as gruit, instead of the traditional hops. Although this brewery uses modern technology it brews its beers in keeping with the ancient traditions. Currently Gruut produces five beers: a white beer, a blonde, an amber beer, a brown beer and a beer called Inferno.

A group visit to the brewery ends - of course - with a tasting session. Cheers!

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Rembert Dodoensdreef 1, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 269 02 69  
Internet: [www.gruut.be](http://www.gruut.be)  
Email: [info@gruut.be](mailto:info@gruut.be)

### Hasta Mañana



Pub with Art Deco interior & Latin vibes.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: 19 Lammerstraat, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 233 54 00  
Internet: [www.polepole.be](http://www.polepole.be)

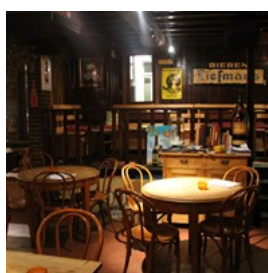
### Het Spijker



Brown cafe frequented by youngsters. \*Has a very popular joint summer terrace with the cafe next door, "t Gouden Mandekke".

Photo: Stad Gent  
Address: Pensmarkt 3, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 329 44 40  
Internet: [www.cafehetspijker.be](http://www.cafehetspijker.be)  
Email: [contact@cafehetspijker.be](mailto:contact@cafehetspijker.be)

### Het Trappistenhuis



Brown beer pub where you can enjoy a chat; owned by a beer expert. More than 170 Belgian specialty beers, according to someone who's tasted them all.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Brabantdam 164, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 224 29 37  
Internet: [trappistenhuis-bar.business.site](http://trappistenhuis-bar.business.site)  
Email: [bierman@telenet.be](mailto:bierman@telenet.be)

### Hot Club Gent



Very well hidden jazz bar with a southern feel and a small indoor terrace in a narrow side alley of Groentenmarkt.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Groentenmarkt 15, Gent  
Phone: +32 486 74 07 99  
Internet: [www.hotclub.gent](http://www.hotclub.gent)  
Email: [info@hotclub.gent](mailto:info@hotclub.gent)

### Hotsy Totsy



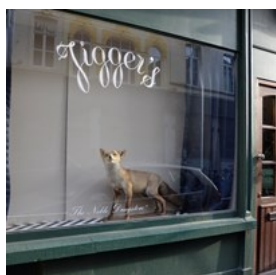
Pub with a glorious past and a beautiful decor. The ideal place to have a chat. Known for its poetry readings, conferences, stand-up comedy, cabaret and jazz concerts.

Founded by the Claus brothers; in 1984 it was the backdrop for the presentation of the novel 'Het Verdriet van België (The Sorrow of Belgium)'.

Pool table and many party games. Jazz, variety shows and chansons.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Hoogstraat 1, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 224 20 12

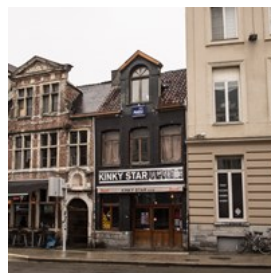
### Jigger's



Timeless cocktailbar. A weekly changing drinks menu. Ask for your favourite classic or allow yourself to be pleasantly surprised with a mix of homemade products.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Oudburg 16, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +3293357025  
Internet: [jiggers.be/](http://jiggers.be/)  
Email: [welcome@jiggers.be](mailto:welcome@jiggers.be)

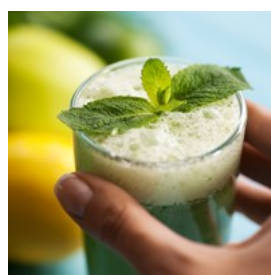
### Kinky Star



Alternative music and nightlife caft known for its Irish coffees. Notably, the home base of Ghent's Kinky Star record label. Check out their weekly performances; usually there are also DJs.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Vlasmarkt 9, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 223 48 45  
Internet: [www.kinkystar.com](http://www.kinkystar.com)

### Limonada



Cocktail bar with retrofuturistic 'Clockwork Orange' lounge interior. Electro and lounge music is played.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Heilige Geeststraat 7, Gent  
Phone: +32 498 45 94 72

### Marimain



This cafe next to the Minard theatre is frequented by regulars and students. It has the most popular terrace in Ghent, from where you can admire and rate passers-by.

The name 'Marimain' is inspired by the previous owner, Mary Brouillard, and Ghent-born comedian Romain Deconinck.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Walpoortstraat 17, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 324 37 66

### Minor Swing



Small, but cosy brown jazz bar serving good wines and whiskies with a small but very popular terrace. \*Features a piano. Regular jazz

performances.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Ottogracht 56, Gent  
Phone: +32 497 12 65 28

### Polé Polé



In this Polé Polé bar you will find a mixture of tropical music and an authentic African decoration.

Afro-latin-southern.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Lammerstraat 8, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 356 67 00  
Internet: [www.polepole.be](http://www.polepole.be)  
Email: [info@polepole.be](mailto:info@polepole.be)

### Rococo



An intimate bar in the style of a cosy drawing room, perfect for a tête-à-tête entirely by candlelight or a chat with Betty, the fiery landlady,

at the bar.

This is not the place for downing pints; instead enjoy a preserved sausage or a Liqueur d'Amour. There are live piano recitals whenever anyone

with talent is in the mood to play.

The bar also opens on demand in the daytime for groups, meetings and private parties.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Corduwaniersstraat 57, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 224 30 35

### Trollekelder



Brown beer pub with a 15th-century basement where you can enjoy a quiet, intimate chat.

\*Here you can't order a normal pint, only

top-quality Belgian specialty beers!

Photo: Stad Gent  
Address: Bij Sint-Jacobs 17, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32 9 223 76 96  
Internet: [www.trollekelder.be](http://www.trollekelder.be)

### Vooruit Café



Large cultural chit-chat cafe and eatery with an Art Deco interior; originally the heart of Ghent's socialist movement. Cultural

temple for theatre, concerts, dance and parties. Many organic and/or fair-trade products and a veggie daily special.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 23, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 267 28 20  
Internet: [www.vooruit.be](http://www.vooruit.be)  
Email: [info@vooruit.be](mailto:info@vooruit.be)

### Waterhuis aan de Bierkant



“Brown pub”, very popular among beer lovers and tourists; take a seat at the bar! Pick one of the 165 beers on the menu, including three house beers: Gandavum, Klokke Roeland and Mammelokker. Jazz, blues and oldies played.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Groentenmarkt 9, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 225 06 80

## DINING



Stad Gent/Visit Gent

Love great food? You're in luck. Ghent is the place to be for the good life and great food. Ghent residents love to enjoy life. Whet your appetite during your weekend trip with the huge array of restaurants, bars and cafés in Ghent. Make your mouth water with gastronomic or fusion cuisine. Foodies will be right at home here. Ghent is the veggie capital of Europe, and its young rock-star chefs are causing a sensation on the international food scene. Taste. Enjoy.

### A Food Affair



It is all about wok in this world cuisine restaurant and healthy light dishes with refreshing taste combinations.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Hoogstraat 58, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 224 18 05  
Tickets: [www.afoodaffair.be](http://www.afoodaffair.be)  
Internet: [www.afoodaffair.be](http://www.afoodaffair.be)

### Aba-jour



Art Deco brasserie with a view of the Leie, specialised in regional Ghent produce and beer gastronomy.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Oudburg 20, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 234 07 29  
Internet: [www.abajour-gent.com](http://www.abajour-gent.com)

### Allegro Moderato



Traditional French restaurant in an 18th century listed building filled with splendour of days gone by: impressive chandeliers, baroque fireplaces and decorative frescos, and still it will feel like home. It has a lovely terrace with a view of historical Ghent.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Korenlei 7, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 233 23 32  
Internet: [www.restoallegro.com](http://www.restoallegro.com)

### Amadeus



Restaurant serving a liberal supply of spareribs. The Vichy-style table-cloths and nostalgic knick-knacks are reminiscent of the

twenties and thirties. Be careful not to overdo, because it is 'all you can eat'!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Plotersgracht 8-10, Gent

Phone: +32 497 43 85 71

Internet: [www.amadeus-resto.be](http://www.amadeus-resto.be)

More Info: Second location in Gent at Goudenleeuwplein 7

### Ankara



Typical Turkish restaurant with Turkish specialities (think Turkish pizza, stews and mezze) at reasonable prices. The interior is basic, with a

noisy cosiness and there is quite a terrace.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Oudburg 44, Gent

Phone: +32 9 225 78 18

Internet: [www.ankararesto.be](http://www.ankararesto.be)

### Balls & Glory



Wim Ballieu's meatball concept is a big success: meatballs with fillings served with mash or a salad. Try them at the lunch restaurant in

Sint-Jacobsnieuwstraat. The open-plan kitchen allows you to see how these delicious meatballs are made. You can eat in or choose the takeaway option

There's something for vegetarians too: there is a

different vegetarian alternative on the menu every week.

Photo: John Brunton

Address: Jakobijnenstraat 6, Gent

Phone: +32 486 67 87 76

Internet: [www.ballsglory.be](http://www.ballsglory.be)

### Café Theatre



This is the place to be for a delicious overture or a tasty encore! And the interior of Café Théâtre deserves a round of applause as well. Come

here at any time of the day: for a delightful breakfast in the morning, or a quick lunch or leisurely dinner later on. In the evening, the bar staff will be happy to mix you a fantastic cocktail!

It's absolutely true: Café Théâtre is where you will officially find the Best Steak Tartare in Flanders and Brussels. Awarded first prize by the leading Belgian magazine Knack, this dish comes highly recommended. But you can also opt for one of the chef's suggestions or three-course set menu, or you can eat à-la-carte. There is a varied selection of starters, main courses and desserts to choose from.

At night the real magicians appear behind the bar. A juice with the right punch, a stiff shot from the bottle, and as if by magic a fabulous cocktail appears. The bar staff at Café Théâtre have won several prizes, so you know you've found the right mix!

Café Théâtre is a great place for breakfast as well!

The impressive coffee and breakfast menu at Café Théâtre is based on the local traditional

Bloch Bakery: a household name in Ghent with a history going back 100 years. The family bakery with a name that is famous far beyond the city will spoil you with its unique pastry recipes from far and wide.

Photo: Stad Gent

Address: Schouwburgstraat 7, Gent

Phone: +32 9 265 05 50

Internet: [www.cafetheatre.be](http://www.cafetheatre.be)

Email: [info@cafetheatre.be](mailto:info@cafetheatre.be)

### Cochon de Luxe



Chef Tom Van Lysebettens and his partner Alison Roels look forward to welcoming you to their restaurant Cochon de Luxe. Enjoy

original, contemporary gastronomy in a delightful setting.

The refined menus are based on classic French cuisine with contemporary interpretations. Chef Tom creates playful dishes in a balanced combination of rich flavours and touches of freshness. He often uses Roomer, a natural, locally produced, alcoholic drink based on elderflowers in his desserts.

Cochon de Luxe has space to seat 20 diners. If you want to be sure of a place, don't forget to reserve in advance.

Photo: Cochon de Luxe

Address: Brabantdam 113, Gent

Phone: +32 9 336 16 72

Internet: [www.cochondeluxe.be](http://www.cochondeluxe.be)

Email: [info@cochondeluxe.be](mailto:info@cochondeluxe.be)

### De Acht Zaligheden



Restaurant located in 'Oudburg' with a warm interior and a view of the 'Lys' river at the back, serving a refreshing French cuisine. 'Café

Zoo', next to the restaurant, is run by the same people and an ideal place for a nightcap afterwards

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

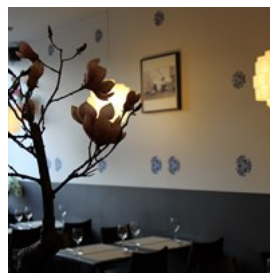
Address: Oudburg 4, Gent

Phone: +32 9 224 31 97

Internet: [www.deachtzaligheden.be](http://www.deachtzaligheden.be)

Email: [info@deachtzaligheden.be](mailto:info@deachtzaligheden.be)

### De Fobie



Delicious, no-nonsense food. Vegetarian dishes also available. Sunny terrace at the back of the restaurant.

Photo: Visit Gent

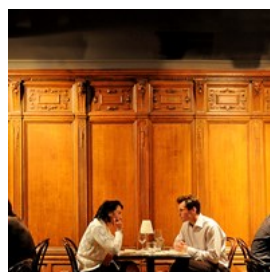
Address: Brusselsepoortstraat 61, Gent

Phone: +32 9 234 17 67

Internet: [www.eethuisdefobie.be](http://www.eethuisdefobie.be)

Email: [info@eethuisdefobie.be](mailto:info@eethuisdefobie.be)

### De Foyer



Restaurant on the second floor of the impressive municipal theatre NTGent serving Belgian-French cuisine. Balcony terrace with a lovely view of St Bavo's Cathedral and the Belfry. Abundant brunch on Sunday.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Baafsplein 17, Gent

Phone: +32 9 234 13 54

Internet: [www.foyerntgent.be](http://www.foyerntgent.be)

Email: [info@foyerntgent.be](mailto:info@foyerntgent.be)

## De Superette



Kobe Desramaults is everywhere in Ghent: first he opened his bistro De Vitrine and now De Superette at Hofstraat.

Visit this craft bakery and brasserie with a wood stove at any time of day: for breakfast, brunch or a drink as well as for a full lunch or dinner. The woman behind the oven is the American bread expert Sarah Lemke.

And of course you can just buy a loaf of bread here, made with a sourdough base.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Guldensporenstraat 29, Gent

Phone: +32 9 278 08 08

Internet: [www.de-superette.be](http://www.de-superette.be)

Email: [info@de-superette.be](mailto:info@de-superette.be)

## Du Progrès



One of Ghent's oldest brasseries which has been run by the same family for generations. People come for the honest and substantial

brasserie cuisine without all the frills. An established value in Ghent.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Korenmarkt 10, Gent

Phone: +32 9 225 17 16

Internet: [www.duprogres.be](http://www.duprogres.be)

Email: [info@duprogres.be](mailto:info@duprogres.be)

## ENTR



ENTR is a culinary free zone where scents and flavours meet and blend. The menu features Belgian classics, tapas, world cuisine, halal and veggie dishes. This is a cosy hangout, not only to enjoy a meal but also to drink a coffee or sip a cocktail.

Photo: ENTR

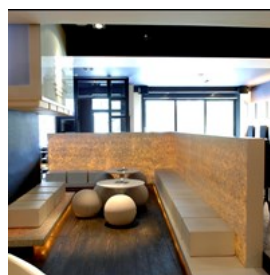
Address: Ham 147, Gent

Phone: +32 9 278 26 99

Internet: [decentrale.be/nl/entr](http://decentrale.be/nl/entr)

Email: [decentrale@gent.be](mailto:decentrale@gent.be)

## Godot



Lounge restaurant at 10 meters from the Graslei with a big summer terrace. Serving both classics and world cuisine.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Hooiaard 8, Gent

Phone: +32 9 329 82 08

Internet: [www.godotgent.be](http://www.godotgent.be)

Email: [info@godotgent.be](mailto:info@godotgent.be)

## Gust



Gust is a cosy breakfast, lunch and take-away restaurant decorated with soft pastel shades and light wood. Everything on the menu is home-made and the lunch menu changes on a weekly basis.

The decor is all soft pastel tints and pale wood. Everything is homemade and the lunch menu is different every week.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Annonciadenstraat 4, Gent

Phone: +32 474 41 65 95

Internet: [www.gustgent.be](http://www.gustgent.be)

Email: [gustgent@gmail.com](mailto:gustgent@gmail.com)

### Greenway



Vegetarian eatery serving world cuisine and healthy fast-food in a green and trendy interior. Take away possible.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Nederkouter 52, Gent

Phone: +32 9 269 07 69

Internet: [www.greenway.be](http://www.greenway.be)

Email: [nederkouter@greenway.be](mailto:nederkouter@greenway.be)

### Groot Vleeshuis



Centre for the promotion of local East Flemish products in the impressive medieval and covered Great Butchers' hall. The ideal base to discover the East Flanders' cuisine, from appetizer to dessert. The 'Ganda' hams that hang from the ceiling are a remarkable sight. Also arrangements for groups.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Groentenmarkt 7, Gent

Phone: +32 9 223 23 24

Internet: [www.grootvleeshuis.be](http://www.grootvleeshuis.be)

### Het Gouden Hoofd



Het Gouden Hoofd is more than just a cafe, it is also the place to be for dinner. The suggestions change every five weeks and include meat, fish

and vegetarian dishes.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Slachthuisstraat 96, Gent

Phone: +32 487 20 65 01

Internet: [www.hetgoudenhoofd.be](http://www.hetgoudenhoofd.be)

Email: [hetgoudenhoofd96@gmail.com](mailto:hetgoudenhoofd96@gmail.com)

### Horseele



Restaurant 'Horseele' on the fourth floor of Ghelamco Arena has a Michelin star as well as 16 points from the Gault&Millau restaurant guide.

Horseele serves dishes made with fair-trade products in a large open space with wide windows and a partial view of the pitch. The restaurant, with its traditional take on a modern interior, seats 150 people, and an additional 100 people at the bar.

Suitable for groups, business lunches or romantic dinners

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Ottergemsesteenweg Zuid 808, 4th floor, Gent

Phone: +32 9 330 23 20

Internet: [www.restauranthorseele.be](http://www.restauranthorseele.be)

Email: [reservaties@restauranthorseele.be](mailto:reservaties@restauranthorseele.be)

### Borluut



Restaurant at Korenmarkt in the heart of Ghent, housed in a 12th-century town house. The building is only a few years older than the Castle of the Counts.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Korenmarkt 7-8, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 225 45 41  
Internet: [www.restaurantborluut.be](http://www.restaurantborluut.be)  
Email: [janborluut@hotmail.com](mailto:janborluut@hotmail.com)

### Keizershof

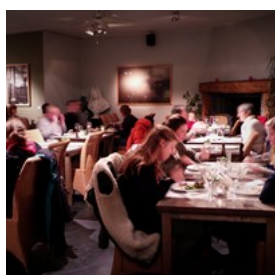


Large brasserie, situated in an old mansion with inner and outdoor terrace. This family-run brasserie serves traditional Belgian dishes

with fresh chips.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Vrijdagmarkt 47, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 223 44 46  
Internet: [www.keizershof.net](http://www.keizershof.net)  
Email: [info@keizershof.net](mailto:info@keizershof.net)

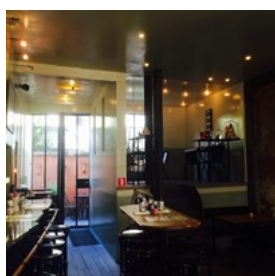
### Komkommertijd



Vegetarian buffet restaurant with cold and warm dishes, all you can eat, for a reasonable price. On sunny days you can sit on the terrace.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Reep 14, Gent  
Phone: +32 485 73 16 17  
Internet: [www.komkommertijd.be](http://www.komkommertijd.be)  
Email: [info@komkommertijd.be](mailto:info@komkommertijd.be)

### La Malcontenta



A lovely tapas bar in the heart of Ghent with a seasonal menu and delicious, honest food. The menu includes homemade tapas, wines originating from the Canary Islands and a wide selection of vegetarian dishes.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Haringsteeg 7-9, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 224 18 01  
Internet: [www.lamalcontenta.be](http://www.lamalcontenta.be)  
Email: [info@lamalcontenta.be](mailto:info@lamalcontenta.be)

### Korenlei Twee



Gastronomic restaurant located in the middle of the historical centre of Ghent. The terrace at the front offers a view of the Graslei and the Korenlei.

Terrace at the back ( closed and heated in winter) with a magnificent view of the Old Fish Market and the Great Butchers' Hall. There is also a heated lounge zone in winter.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Korenlei 2, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 224 00 73  
Internet: [www.korenleitwee.be](http://www.korenleitwee.be)

### Le Grand Bleu

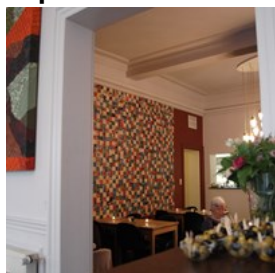


Here you can enjoy refined dishes at affordable prices. The specialities are fish, crustaceans and shell fish. The restaurant is

even mentioned in the Gault Millau Restaurant Guide as a place to have an excellent lunch.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Snepkaai 15, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 220 50 25  
Internet: [www.legrandbleu.be](http://www.legrandbleu.be)  
Email: [info@legrandbleu.be](mailto:info@legrandbleu.be)

### Lepelblad



Eatery in an artistic and homely setting with an open kitchen and small cosy outdoor terrace. Emphasis on seasonal products supplemented

with world cuisine

Photo: Visit Gent

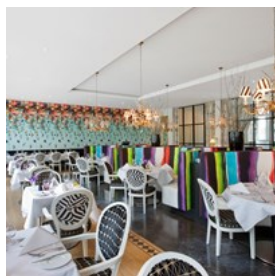
Address: Onderbergen 40, Gent

Phone: +32 9 324 02 44

Internet: [www.lepelblad.be](http://www.lepelblad.be)

Email: [info@lepelblad.be](mailto:info@lepelblad.be)

### Lof



Gastronomic restaurant going with the luxury hotel Grand Hotel Reylof. Suprising, contemporary cuisine, but also afternoon tea as well as a champagne and cocktail bar.

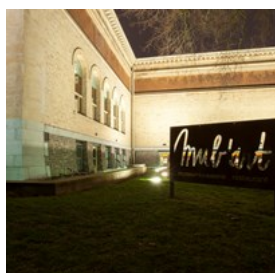
Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Hoogstraat 36, Gent

Phone: +32 9 235 40 71

Internet: [www.lof-restaurant.com](http://www.lof-restaurant.com)

### Mub'art



Brasserie serving mainly French-Belgian cuisine, in the basement of the Museum of Fine Arts. Minimalist interior and terrace.

Photo: Visit Gent

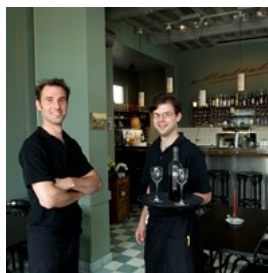
Address: Fernand Scribedreef 1, Gent

Phone: +32 9 221 44 89

Internet: [www.mubart.be](http://www.mubart.be)

Email: [bart@mubart.be](mailto:bart@mubart.be)

### Multatuli



Pleasant restaurant located in a corner of the centre in a former director's home. The interior is rustic and cosy and the large patio is very

lovely. The meals are substantial, the portions ample and the cook flirts with the classic recipes. Extra cosy rooms for groups. Vast selection of veggie dishes.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Huidevetterskaai 40, Gent

Phone: +32 9 223 07 11

Internet: [www.eetkaffee-multatuli.be](http://www.eetkaffee-multatuli.be)

Email: [info@eetkaffee-multatuli.be](mailto:info@eetkaffee-multatuli.be)

### OAK



OAK is a top restaurant run by Marcelo Ballardin, a young chef serving a contemporary cuisine with surprising flavour combinations. OAK was

awarded one Michelin star.

Marcelo Ballardin studied at the London Cordon Bleu School, and completed a placement at Heston Blumenthal's restaurant and at Tim Raue in Berlin. He also worked at Sergio Herman's Pure C. In a nutshell, Marcelo definitely had what it takes to open his very own restaurant, where he serves up exceptional dishes made with seasonal and daily fresh products.

At OAK you can enjoy a set menu, either a 3-course lunch or a 7-course dinner. Ready for a surprising culinary treat?

Photo: John Brunton

Address: Hoogstraat 167/001, Gent

Phone: +32 9 353 90 50

Internet: [www.oakgent.be](http://www.oakgent.be)

Email: [info@oakgent.be](mailto:info@oakgent.be)

### Pakhuis



This former warehouse was transformed into a stylish restaurant. The warm interior contrasts sharply with the basic industrial elements of the building. The chef prepares dishes with fresh and fair products. The menu is both contemporary and classic. Pakhuis also serves its own 'Principale' house beer, available as lager and dark beer.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Schuurkenstraat 4, Gent

Phone: +32 9 223 55 55

Internet: [www.pakhuis.be](http://www.pakhuis.be)

Email: [info@pakhuis.be](mailto:info@pakhuis.be)

### Patyntje



Restaurant Patyntje is a hotspot in Ghent. This stately restaurant opened its doors in the late 1920s and serves refined Flemish dishes with style!

This brasserie exudes pure class. Both the imposing villa with colonial interior and the refined French-Belgian cuisine are truly impressive. Definitely try one of the classics, like Flemish stoverij (stew) or sole.

The terrace along the Lys is a real eyecatcher! Enjoy the amazing views of the water in summer, either in the sun by day or lit by romantic lighting by night.

The restaurant offers ample parking, as well as a charging station for electric cars and a jetty.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Gordunakaai 91, Gent

Phone: +32 9 222 32 73

Internet: [www.patyntje.be](http://www.patyntje.be)

Email: [info@patyntje.be](mailto:info@patyntje.be)

### Per Bacco



Restaurant serving decent Italian food. Only quality ingredients, prepared according to the Italian rules. You can have dinner in a southern, warm interior or on the small inner terrace. The restaurant also has a little shop where you can buy Italian products or taste wine. Il Mezzogiorno at Baudelokaai and the new wine bar Le Baccanti at Waaistraat are also run by this Italian family.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sint-Jacobsnieuwstraat 56, Gent

Phone: +32 9 324 83 32

Internet: [www.perbacco.be](http://www.perbacco.be)

Email: [perbacco@telenet.be](mailto:perbacco@telenet.be)

### Publiek



Publiek is the restaurant of Flemish Foodie Olly Ceulenaere and Kelly Dehollander. This trendy bistro serving high-quality dishes was awarded one Michelin star.

Publiek is a hotspot in Ghent for anyone who loves surprising combinations, original flavours and a good dose of rock 'n' roll. The restaurant serves healthy lunches and 6-course dinners. Or why not let the chef surprise you with fresh specials? Quench your thirst with delicious draught beers and exquisite wines that perfectly complement the dishes.

Another tip for real foodies: the kitchen is right in the centre of the restaurant, so book a table with a view of the kitchen to experience the magic up close!

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Ham 39, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 330 04 86  
Internet: [www.publiekgent.be](http://www.publiekgent.be)  
Email: [info@publiekgent.be](mailto:info@publiekgent.be)

### Noedelbar Ramen



Tom Vandenberghe has been putting the spotlight on Asian cuisine for a few years now with cookery workshops, cookbooks and the Street Food

Market culinary festival. He has recently also acquired an Asian restaurant: Ramen.

The restaurant takes its name from the Japanese ramen noodles. Every day, the menu features about four set noodle dishes and a number of suggestions.

The restaurant seats twelve. So, if you want to slurp noodles, the message is to be quick and to be patient because booking is not an option.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Oudburg 51, Gent  
Phone: +32 472 33 72 36  
Internet: [www.eetramen.be](http://www.eetramen.be)  
Email: [info@eetramen.be](mailto:info@eetramen.be)

### Revue



Revue breathes new life into Nederkouter. This sleek and cosy gastropub/tapas bar with lots of wood touches serves small bites and

classics.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Nederkouter 1, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 391 49 79  
Internet: [www.revue-gent.be](http://www.revue-gent.be)

### STAMcafé



The STAMcafé by Pain Perdu offers a wonderful view of the architecture and green spaces of the Bijloke site and the café's wonderful sun

terrace.

You can visit the cafe for breakfast, brunch, lunch, coffee, tea and cake.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Godshuizenlaan 2, Gent  
Phone: +32 493 40 13 80  
Internet: [www.stamcafe.gent](http://www.stamcafe.gent)  
Email: [info@stamcafe.gent](mailto:info@stamcafe.gent)

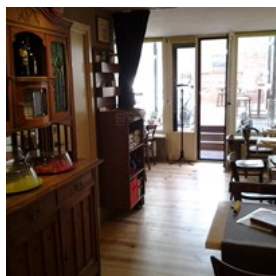
### Tasty World



Smoothie, juice, shake and veggieburgerbar.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Hoogpoort 1, Gent  
Phone: +3292257407  
Internet: [www.tastyworld.be](http://www.tastyworld.be)  
Email: [hoogpoort@tastyworld.be](mailto:hoogpoort@tastyworld.be)

### Tuin van Eten



Organic/vegetarian child-friendly restaurant with covered and heated terrace, also serving gluten-free dishes.

Photo: Visit Gent

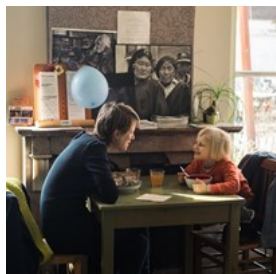
Address: Kortrijksesteenweg 573, Gent

Phone: +32 9 245 54 66

Internet: [www.restauranttuinvaneten.be](http://www.restauranttuinvaneten.be)

Email: [contact@restauranttuinvaneten.be](mailto:contact@restauranttuinvaneten.be)

### Trafiek



Coffee and tea house serving vegetarian pasta or fresh soup. Almost everything is organic.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Haspelstraat 37, Gent

Phone: +32 488 26 18 88

Internet: [www.trafiek.blogspot.be](http://www.trafiek.blogspot.be)

Email: [trafiek@skynet.be](mailto:trafiek@skynet.be)

### Volta



This restaurant is located in the former transformer station of Electrabel at Groene Vallei. Top-class gastronomic cuisine in a relaxed atmosphere and at reasonable prices. Volta also serves the local pilsner '13' - deliciously obstinate, in true Ghent-style!

Volta bar looks out over the restaurant and boasts a lovely atmosphere. This is the place to be for pre-dinner drinks or a fun night out.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Nieuwewandeling 2b, Gent

Phone: +32 9 324 05 00

Internet: [www.voltagent.be](http://www.voltagent.be)

Email: [info@voltagent.be](mailto:info@voltagent.be)

### Villa Bardon



Casual restaurant, run by Anna Vella Bardon (origin of the restaurant's name) from Malta and her Belgian husband. Known for its simple but decent

Mediterranean cuisine in a southern atmosphere.

During the summer a small terrace is available at Sluizeken square.

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Sluizeken 10, Gent

Phone: +32 9 336 17 13

Internet: [www.villabardon.be](http://www.villabardon.be)

Email: [info@villabardon.be](mailto:info@villabardon.be)

### Vrijmoed



Award-winning young chef Michaël Vrijmoed concocts creative dishes with his signature touch. His restaurant has been awarded two Michelin stars.

Treat yourself to a series of culinary surprises in a beautiful townhouse in the heart of Ghent. Michaël Vrijmoed and his young team present you with a delectable mix of exquisite products and intense flavours served in beautiful plates.

This young top chef learned the tricks of the trade from Peter Goossens, chef of three-star Michelin restaurant Hof van Cleve in Kruishoutem. At his own restaurant, Michaël Vrijmoed showcases his personality and tastes through a range of innovative dishes. Not to be

missed!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Vlaanderenstraat 22, Gent  
Phone: +32 9 279 99 77  
Internet: [www.vrijmoed.be/en](http://www.vrijmoed.be/en)  
Email: [info@vrijmoed.be](mailto:info@vrijmoed.be)

## FESTIVALS



Visit Gent

During the ten-day Ghent Festivities in July, the city centre is transformed into one giant festival. The Ghent Jazz Festival and the Festival of Flanders earned Ghent the title of UNESCO Creative City of Music. In October, film lovers and stars flock to the Ghent Film Festival. See what's on!

### Copacobana Festival



Every year the Sint-Baafskouterpark hosts the Copacobana Festival, a free festival at the park for all ages. Come and enjoy music, theatre and dance workshops and much, much more.

Photo: Stad Gent  
Address: Ledestraat 38, 9040 Ledeborg  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/calendar/copacobana-festival>  
Email: [info@copacobana.be](mailto:info@copacobana.be)

### Gent Jazz Festival



Every year in July jazz enthusiasts can have a great time during the Gent Jazz Festival. Renowned artists from Belgium and abroad make up the programme. Head to Restaurant Lof to enjoy lunch concerts.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Sint-jacobsnieuwstraat 50, 9000 Gent  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/calendar/gent-jazz-festival>  
Email: [info@gentjazz.com](mailto:info@gentjazz.com)

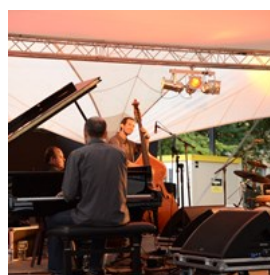
### The Ghent Festivities



A sparkling cultural popular festival with numerous performances of various national and international artists: a unique event in Europe, thanks to the varied and free offer of (music) performances, (street)theatre, exhibitions, animation for children, fairs, parades and so much more!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Gent  
Phone: +3292694600  
Internet: <https://gentsefeesten.stad.gent/>  
Email: [evenement.feesten@stad.gent](mailto:evenement.feesten@stad.gent)

### Jazz in the Park



Jazz in the Park (Jazz in 't Park) presents Belgian contemporary jazz to a large audience by organising free concerts. Discover established names and local talent, bringing light-digestible jazz as well as the more complicated genre.

Photo: Stad Gent

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/calendar/jazz-park>

### Ghent Festival of Flanders



Ghent Festival of Flanders is an international music festival where diversity, creativity and top quality are essential. Discover classical and world music in a surprising artistic way, at different exclusive locations in and around the city of Ghent.

Every year you can find at least 180 concerts listed on the program, where more than 1500 national and international artists are participating. Original concepts like OdeGand and Parklife make sure that the festival attracts above 60 000 visitors yearly and leave an unforgettable experience for young and old.

Go to the website to view the full programme

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Bijlokekaai 8 bus 9

Phone: +3292439494

Internet: [www.gentfestival.be/](http://www.gentfestival.be/)

Email: [info@festival.be](mailto:info@festival.be)

### Film Fest Gent



The Film Fest Gent has become a not-to-be-missed event on the Flemish and international cultural scene. It owes its success to events that keep making their return: dozens of quality films, major film music concerts by top composers and extraordinary exhibitions in the margin of film.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Leeuwstraat 40b, 9000 Gent

Phone: +3292428060

Internet: [www.filmfestival.be/en](http://www.filmfestival.be/en)

Email: [info@filmfestival.be](mailto:info@filmfestival.be)

### The six-days bicycle race



Every year in November, the very best track racing cyclists compete for the victory in the legendary 'Kuipke' cycling stadium. Every day you can watch

the race for points, the team race, the elimination race, the time trial, the super sprint and the derny. Don't miss this spectacle!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: 't Kuipke, Citadelpark, 9000 Gent

Phone: +3211459900

Internet: [www.z6sdaagse.be](http://www.z6sdaagse.be)

More Info: Every year in November

### Winter Festivities



At the beginning of December, it feels as though Ghent is getting all dressed up and making a beeline for Christmas and New Year.

The historic centre gradually metamorphoses into a winter landscape, from Sint-Baafsplein to the St.-Veerleplein.

Wander past the stalls of the Christmas Market selling snacks and drinks, fancy trinkets and authentic crafts. The scent of pine resin and mulled wine make the experience complete. Emile Braunplein looks like a tableau from a Brueghel painting: warmly wrapped-up skaters whirl around in a mediaeval setting.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: [www.visit.gent.be/en/good-know/practical-information/inspiration/winter-ghent](http://www.visit.gent.be/en/good-know/practical-information/inspiration/winter-ghent)

## The Light Festival



Every three years, Ghent is set ablaze with lights during the free Ghent Light Festival. This festival lights up the city with works by

international light artists. The city's nights will become the backdrop for a surprising spectacle, ingenious installations, spectacular performances and beautiful events, all based on light. Get ready to discover Ghent's historic sites and monuments from a different angle. The Light Festival puts the internationally acclaimed Ghent lighting plan in the spotlight and gives you the opportunity to catch a glimpse of Ghent's unique hidden charm after sunset.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Tickets: Free

Internet: [www.visit.gent.be/en/calendar/ghent-light-festival](http://www.visit.gent.be/en/calendar/ghent-light-festival)

## SHOPPING



Stad Gent/Visit Gent

Shopping in Ghent is wonderful. Ghent has the largest pedestrian shopping area in Belgium and a highly varied range of shops and markets, all within a stone's throw of each other. In Ghent, you will find the big, famous clothing stores alongside authentic boutiques. Shops are also open on the first Sunday in the month in Ghent. They are closed on all other Sundays and public

holidays.

<https://visit.gent.be/en/good-know/practical-information/inspiration/shopping-ghent-so-much-fun>

## TOURIST INFORMATION



Stad Gent/Visit Gent

## Emergency numbers



112 is the general number used in all countries of the European Union to contact the emergency services: police, fire brigade or medical assistance. The number operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

112

Ambulance/Fire Department/Police

+32 9 266 61 11

General telephone number Ghent Police

+32 2 475 44 99

Child Focus Belgium

+32 70 245 245

Poison Control Centre Belgium

+32 78 15 10 20

## Drug hotline Belgium

+32 800 99 533

## LGBTQ hotline Belgium

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/good-know/good-know/useful-locations/emergency-services>

## Public Transport



Ghent's public transport is well organised, with a wide network of trams and buses. The buses and trams in Ghent will take you to where you want to go from early in the morning until late in the evening: for free if you have a CityCard. The CityCard Ghent allows you to use all the trams & buses in Ghent without paying extra!

What if you haven't got a CityCard Ghent with all its great benefits?! You will find a 'Lijnwinkel', or ticket shop, at Gent-Sint-Pieters railway station, Korenmarkt and Gent-Zuid (Woodrow Wilsonplein) where you can buy tickets. Always buy your ticket in advance from the Lijnwinkel or a machine at the tram or bus stop.

Tram lines 1, 2 and 4 take you from one end of Ghent to the other, passing right through the city centre.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/good-know/good-know/getting-around/public-transport-ghent>

## Plane



Choosing to fly in for your city trip? Ghent does not have an airport of its own but is easy to reach from the two main airports in Belgium: Brussels Airport and Brussels South Charleroi Airport.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/good-know/practical-information/how-get-ghent/plane>

## Climate



Belgium has a temperate maritime climate, with unpredictable, volatile weather. Ghent is not far from the North Sea and has a temperate rainy climate. You can never be certain it will remain dry, but generally, spring is the least rainy of all the seasons. January and February are the coldest months, with average minimum temperatures of 0 to 1 °C. The summer months are sunny, with an average maximum temperature of 21 °C.

Don't postpone your visit to Ghent because of the weather, because it's a beautiful city all year round. In summer, the many festivals make it a bubbly place to be and in winter, the magical evening lighting gives it an extra cosy touch. On a rainy day, you can satisfy your craving for culture with a museum visit, topped with a culinary treat in one of the many cafés and restaurants. And remember... at the end of the day, the weather in Ghent is just as quirky as the city and its inhabitants.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/good-know/practical-information>

tion/inspiration/mystic-lamb-lights-and-delicacies

## Telephone



Country Code: 32 Area  
Code: 9

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

## Electricity



220 V

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

## Population

265,086 (2022)

## Currency

Euro, €1 = 100 Cents

## Internet

[www.visit.gent.be/en](http://www.visit.gent.be/en)

## Emergency numbers

112 is the general number used in all countries of the European Union to contact the emergency services: police, fire brigade or medical assistance. The number operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

112

Ambulance/Fire Department/Police

+32 9 266 61 11

General telephone number Ghent Police

+32 2 475 44 99

Child Focus Belgium

+32 70 245 245

Poison Control Centre Belgium

+32 78 15 10 20

Drug hotline Belgium

+32 800 99 533

LGTBQ hotline Belgium

## Tourist information

Inquiry Desk for tourist information:

Oude Vismijn

Sint-Veerleplein 5, Gent

+ 32 9 266 56 60

[visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

wheelchair accessible

Open daily 10am–6pm