



# Ghent

in collaboration with Visit Gent

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme



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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. A wide range of overnight facilities including one to four star full service hotels and B&B's, makes sure there is a choice for every budget. Ghent is ready to welcome you with open arms!

*NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit [ArrivalGuides.com](http://ArrivalGuides.com)*

## Events



### Copacobana Festival

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



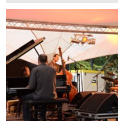
### Gent Jazz Festival

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



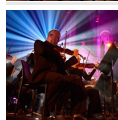
### The Ghent Festivities

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



### Jazz in the Park

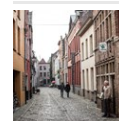
Jazz in the Park (Jazz in 't Park) presents Belgian contemporary jazz to a l...



### Ghent Festival of Flanders

In September, Ghent becomes a music-lover's Mecca for three whole weeks. Hun...

## Top 5



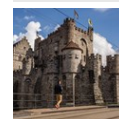
### Explore the city

The 'front' of the city is best explored on foot, while the 'back' is best d...



### The Adoration of the Mysti...

If there's one masterpiece you should not miss, it's this majestic altarpiec...



### Castle of the Counts

A medieval fortress in the heart of the city. Cold halls and even colder dun...



### Graslei-Korenlei

Today, this medieval port with its unique row of historical buildings is the...



### Great Butchers' Hall

This is where meat was sold during the Middle Ages. For fish, you had to go ...



## THE CITY



*Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme*

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



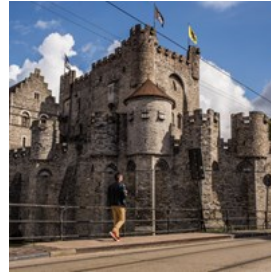
*Visit Gent*

### Top 10 things to do in Ghent

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



Visit the knights at the castle 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.

### Torture at the Castle of the Counts

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.

Torture chamber becomes tourist sight in Ghent  
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.

Visit the Castle of the Counts 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, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Public Transport: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/castle-counts>

Opening hours: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/castle-counts>

Phone: +3292259306

Tickets: 10 Euro

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/castle-counts>

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

More Info: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/castle-counts>

### The Mystic Lamb: supreme divine art



World-famous painting by Flemish Primitives 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

Inner glow, microscopic craftsmanship  
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.

Religious art by the Van Eyck brothers in Ghent  
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.

Daring theft of panels of the Mystic Lamb  
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.

The Mystic Lamb online: Ghent goes digital  
Follow Visit Ghent on Facebook and Instagram and stay up-to-date with the latest news about the Mystic Lamb and get golden tips to make your weekend trip to Ghent even more exciting. Try Ghent: historic charm and modern-day excitement.

Photo: Visit Gent  
Address: Sint-Baafsplein, 9000 Gent, Belgium  
Public Transport: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/mystic-lamb-supreme-divine-art>  
Opening hours: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/mystic-lamb-supreme-divine-art>  
Phone: +3292692045  
Tickets: 4 Euro  
Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/mystic-lamb-supreme-divine-art>  
Email: [visit@gent.be](mailto:visit@gent.be)  
More Info: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/mystic-lamb-supreme-divine-art>

## Vegetarian restaurants



Delicious places for vegetarian and vegan food 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!

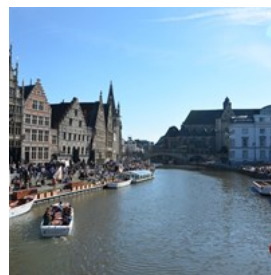
Photo: Visit Gent

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

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

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

## History on the Graslei and Korenlei



Ghent's beauty mirrored in the Lys 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.

### Taste the romance

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

Public Transport:

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

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)

More Info:

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

### 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-beguinage>

Opening hours:

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

Tickets: Free

Internet:

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

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

More Info:

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

### Ghent Belfry, world heritage



The dragon, Ghent's fiery mascot 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.

Ghent's guardian angel and treasure keeper 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 Gent, Belgium

Public Transport:

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

Opening hours:

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

Phone: +3292333954

Tickets: 8 Euro

Internet:

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

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

More Info:

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

### 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-Michielsdelling, 9000 Gent, 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>

## Magical Ghent in the evening



See Ghent in a whole different light. 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!

### Ghent's award-winning light plan

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.

### Walk on light

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!

### Ghent Light Festival

To draw attention to its award-winning lighting, the city organises the Ghent Light Festival every three years. Hundreds of thousands of visitors head to Ghent from far and wide, Belgium and abroad. Almost 40 dazzling light installations are set up throughout the entire city, along a trail almost 4 miles long. Some of these works of art are made by Ghent residents. Others provide a platform for international light artists. Wander from one astonishing sight to another along the interactive trail! The best thing of all is that people come together for light art at the darkest time of year. There is nothing like this festival of light anywhere else in the world. Make sure you don't miss it the next time it comes to town!

Photo: Visit Gent

Address: Kouter, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Public Transport:

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

Opening hours:

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

Internet:

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

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

More Info:

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

### 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:

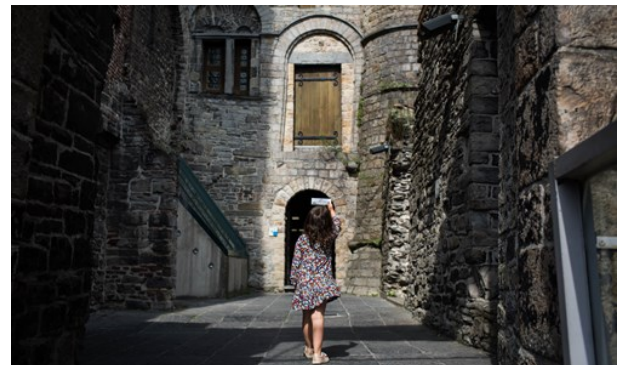
<https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/flea-market-bij-sint-jacobs>

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

More Info:

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

## SEE & DO



*Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme*

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.

## Belfry



A proud symbol of Ghent's independence. On top of the 95-metre tower the dragon has been watching over the city since 1380. The city's

(many) festivities are still announced by extraordinary carillon concerts. The adjoining Cloth Hall is a reminder of the industry which once made the city rich and prosperous. The strenuous walk up the stairs is rewarded with a splendid view of the city.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Sint-Baafsplein

Phone: +32 9 233 39 54

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

## Explore the city



The 'front' of the city is best explored on foot, while the 'back' is best discovered by boat. So join one of the guided walking tours starting

from the Tourist Information Centre or discover the city from the water. The guides and captain will give you a taste of history laced with juicy little anecdotes, in a language of your choice. Of course you can treat yourself to a carriage ride fit for a prince and princess.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

## The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb



If there's one masterpiece you should not miss, it's this majestic altarpiece by the Van Eyck brothers. It's considered the absolute masterpiece of

medieval painting, featuring some jaw-dropping details. It survived the Protestant iconoclasm, fell into French hands under Napoleon and was requisitioned by Nazi Germany during WWII. 'The Just Judges' panel, stolen in 1934, is still missing.

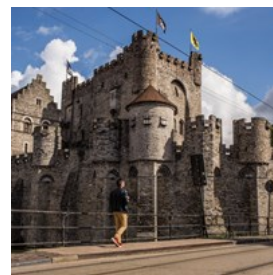
Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Sint-Baafsplein

Phone: +32 9 269 20 45

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

## Castle of the Counts



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

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: 11 Sint-Veerleplein

Phone: +32 9 266 85 00

Internet: [www.gravensteen.stad.gent](http://www.gravensteen.stad.gent)

## Graslei-Korenlei



Today, this medieval port with its unique row of historical buildings is the place to be if you want to feel the Ghent vibe. It's the beating heart of the

city centre. The Cooremetershuys (guild house of the grain weighers), The Guild house of the Free Sailors, Het Spijker (a granary)... are all impressive reminders of the city's economic growth.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Graslei and Korenlei  
Internet: [www.visitgent.be](http://www.visitgent.be)

### Great Butchers' Hall



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

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: 7 Groentenmarkt  
Phone: +32 9 223 23 24  
Internet: [www.grootvleeshuis.be](http://www.grootvleeshuis.be)

### Patershol



Thirty years ago, you could buy a little house here for next to nothing. Today, the Patershol is one of the city's most desirable neighbourhoods. For good dining, you can choose from one of the many restaurants which have sprung up in the medieval alleys. From Japanese to Thai, to delicious traditional Flemish cooking, you'll find everything here.

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

### STAM



The City Museum, or STAM is your gateway to the city. The fourteenth-century abbey, the seventeenth-century monastery and adjoining infirmary, the twentieth-century gatehouse and the new twenty-first-century development introduce you to the history of Ghent.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: 2 Godshuizenlaan  
Phone: +32 9 267 14 00  
Internet: [www.stamgent.be](http://www.stamgent.be)

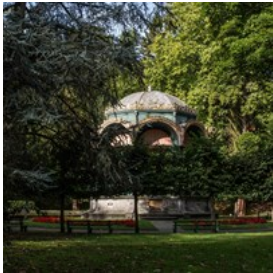
### St Peter's Abbey



You can visit the abbey with a unique movie guide. In seventeen episodes, the digital monk Alison will take you on an exciting journey through the centuries-old passages of the abbey and, with your help, will try to unravel the mystery. The refectory wing of St Peter's Abbey is authentically medieval. The splendid garden with its vineyard and ruins is a green oasis in the city. St Peter's Abbey hosts prestigious internationally-oriented cultural exhibitions every year.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: 9 Sint-Pietersplein  
Phone: +32 9 266 85 00  
Internet: [www.sintpietersabdij.stad.gent](http://www.sintpietersabdij.stad.gent)

## Citadelpark



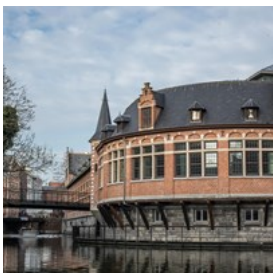
This national park is named after the large-scale Citadel built on this site following the fall of Napoleon.

However, this had to be moved when the park was laid as part of the World Exhibition in 1913. Hidden away amidst the greenery are two leading museums: the Museum of Fine Arts houses classic art and the S.M.A.K. shows what the contemporary artist has to offer.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

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

## 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.

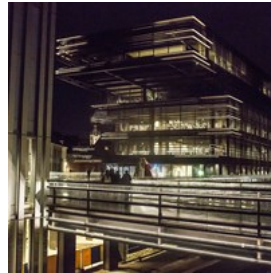
Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: 5 Sint-Veerleplein

Phone: +32 9 266 56 60

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

## The Krook



A wonderful piece of architecture! 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

Opening hours: 10am - 7pm

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

## 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>

### 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-Michiëlshelling, 9000 Gent, Belgium

Public Transport: <https://visit.gent.be/en/see-do/st-michaels-b-ridge-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.

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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>

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Photo: Visit Gent

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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:

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## CITYCARD GENT



Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Unique in Europe...and we're not just saying that. Experience, taste and feel the vibrancy of Ghent: a surprisingly good deal. The all-in CityCard Ghent gets you into ALL the top attractions in Ghent, including public transport at a ridiculously low price. In short, with this card in your hand you can keep your wallet in your pocket for your entire city trip.

With the CityCard Gent, you can get on and off all the trams and buses in the historic city centre of Ghent.

Do you want to explore Ghent by bike? Follow your nose: get on and off your bicycle wherever you want! Feel the Ghent city vibes, just like the free-spirited residents and students in Ghent. It's the ideal way to explore vibrant Ghent and its mysterious, winding streets. This CityCard entitles you to free bicycle rental for one day. Are you more at home on the river? Be sure to explore the centre of Ghent from the water. That's right: the CityCard also includes one guided tour by boat. Immerse yourself in Ghent's rich and rebellious history. It might just be the ideal starting point for your weekend trip. Oh, and with this advantage card, you can also get on and off the Ghent hop-on/hop-off water tram for one day.

### Price

48 h €30.00  
72 h €35.00

Buy your CityCard Ghent at:

The Visit Gent Tourist Office

All participating museums and sights in Ghent

All romantic and trendy Ghent hotels

The sales points for De Lijn public transport company

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Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Sint-Baafsplein

Phone: +32 9 233 39 54

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

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Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
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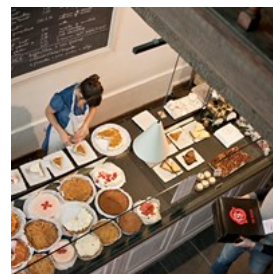
## COFFEE & BREAKFAST



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.

Address: Kraanlei 13, 9000 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, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32-9 224 18 25

## 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.

Photo: Stad Gent

Address: Annonciadenstraat 4, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32-474 41 65 95

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

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

## Tante Paula



A unique combination: a café 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.

Address: Vlasmarkt 2, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32-486 51 99 54

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

\* Brunch on Saturdays and Sundays.

Address: Nederkouter 109, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32 9 335 48 25

Internet: [www.wasbar.com/gent/](http://www.wasbar.com/gent/)

Email: [gent@wasbar.be](mailto:gent@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.

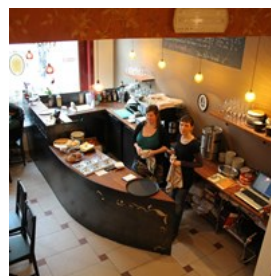
Address: Sluizeken 8, 9000 Gent

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)

## Huize Colette



Chocolate and literature, a delicious combo which contributes to the inimitable atmosphere at Huize Colette. Don't forget to taste the home-made lemonades and brownies, scones and cake!

Every morning you can have a simple or an elaborate breakfast here.

Address: Belfortstraat 6, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32 478 90 64 73  
Email: huizecolette@gmail.com

### Paard van Troje

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

Address: Kouter 113- 114, 9000 Gent

### Koffies De Draak



Traditional roasted coffee specialities, a wide range of teas, and exclusive sweets and gifts.

Address: Goudenleeuwplein 1, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32-9 233 02 05  
Internet: [www.dedraak.be](http://www.dedraak.be)  
Email: [koffiewinkel@dedraak.be](mailto:koffiewinkel@dedraak.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, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32 476 99 42 81  
Internet: [www.cafelabath.be](http://www.cafelabath.be)  
Email: [info@cafelabath.be](mailto:info@cafelabath.be)

### Or Espresso Bar



Right across the street from the Minard Theatre you will find OR Espresso bar. The owners of this coffee bar also have their artisan coffee brewery. Don't just head there for the coffee, but also for the cosy, busy atmosphere, to read the paper or to people-watch undisturbed at the long bar along the window.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: Walpoortstraat 26, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32 9 223 65 00

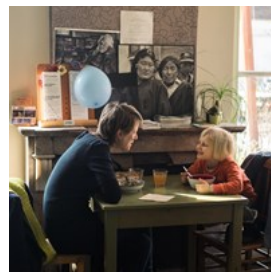
### Paard van Troje



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

Address: Kouter 113, 9000 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, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32-488261888  
Email: [trafiek@skynet.be](mailto:trafiek@skynet.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, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32 9 225 89 93

Internet: <http://www.stamgent.be/en/visit/cafe>

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

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

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.

*NOTE: This section has been limited to 20 points of interest.*

*For the full guide, please visit:*

*<http://arrivalguides.com/en/Travelguide/GENT>*

## 't Dreupelkot



In this little pub you can choose from more than 200 kinds of Belgian jenevers, more known in Ghent as 'dreupels'.

Address: 12 Groentenmarkt

Phone: +32 9 224 21 20

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

## Afsnis



Brown café where you can enjoy a chat. The place to be for beer lovers and a legendary spot in Ghent. Open from 8 a.m. on Friday,

Saturday and Sunday for stall holders and customers of the flea market.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Economie

Address: Bij Sint-Jacobs 10, 9000 Gent

## 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, 9000 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



This is a jazz and blues pub, still in its original setting. You can also grab a bite to eat in this oldest pub in Ghent.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: 3 Botermarkt

Phone: +32 9 233 01 97

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

### Café de Zoo



A stylish bar near the famous Patershol area. Feel like having a cocktail or a relaxing evening with friends, Café De Zoo is the place to be.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Oudburg 2

Phone: +32 9 224 31 97

Internet: [www.deachtzaligheden.be](http://www.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; 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, 9000 Gent

### Club 69



Trendy dance club for sexy people with great DJs and cool beats.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Oude Beestenmarkt 5-6

Internet: [www.club-69.be](http://www.club-69.be)

### De Geus van Gent



Beautiful café 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.

Address: Kantienberg 9, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32 9 220 78 25

Internet: <http://www.geuzenhuis.be/cafe>

### De Roerkuip



Eclectic music and dance café with an elevated dance hall, where you can enjoy a quiet chat or a great party. \* DJs every Friday and Saturday.

Address: Oude Beestenmarkt 8, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32 488 48 16 00



### Dulle Griet



Here you have to trade your shoe for a typical 'Kwak' beer. But don't worry, you will get it back afterwards.

Address: 50 Vrijdagmarkt  
Phone: +32 9 224 24 55  
Internet: [www.dullegriet.be](http://www.dullegriet.be)

### Folklore



One of the last real brown cafés in the heart of Ghent where owner Jacky 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.

Address: Lange Steenstraat 69, 9000 Gent

### Galgenhuisje



The smallest pub in Ghent.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: 5 Groentenmarkt  
Phone: +32 474 93 00 34

### Gloria



Popular night-time café 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.

Address: Vlasmarkt 17, 9000 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 gruut, 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.

Address: Rekelingestraat 5, 9000 Gent  
Phone: +32-92690269  
Internet: [www.gruut.be](http://www.gruut.be)

### Hasta Mañana



Pub with Art Deco interior & Latin vibes.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Address: 19 Lammerstraat  
Internet: [www.polepole.be](http://www.polepole.be)

### Het onverwacht geluk



Stylish brown jazz pub where you can enjoy a chat in a swinging retro interior with matching atmosphere. There is also a room where you can

take on the dance floor.

\*Regular performances.

\*Swing, bebop and cool jazz from the 40s and 50s.

Address: Burgstraat 59, 9000 Gent

### Het Spijker

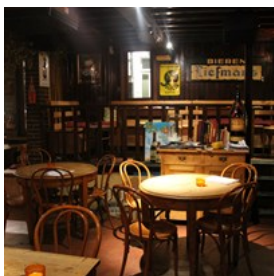


Brown café frequented by youngsters. \*Has a very popular joint summer terrace with the café next door, "t Gouden Mandeké".

Photo: Stad Gent

Address: Pensmarkt 3, 9000 Gent

### 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.

Address: Brabantdam 164, 9000 Gent

### Hot Club de Gand



Café - jazz club - bar that offers live performances

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: 15 Groentenmarkt

Phone: +32 486 74 07 99

Internet: <https://www.facebook.com/hotclubgent/?fref=ts>

### Hotsy Totsy



Chat-music-play café for students in a roaring twenties style complete with billiard table.

Address: 1 Hoogstraat

Phone: +32 9 224 20 12

## DINING



Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

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.

*NOTE: This section has been limited to 20 points of interest.*

*For the full guide, please visit:*

<http://arrivalguides.com/en/Travelguide/GENT>

### A food affair



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

Address: Hoogstraat 58, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32 9 280 01 00

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

### Aba-jour



Art deco brasserie with a view of the Lys river.

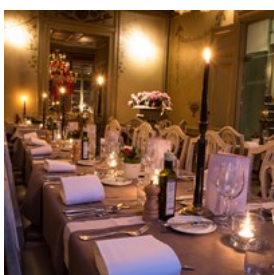
Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Oudburg 20, 9000 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.

Address: Korenlei 7, 9000 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, 9000 Gent

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

### 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.

Address: Oudburg 44, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32-92257818

### 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

Photo: John Brunton

Address: Jakobijnenstraat 6, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32-486678776

Email: [www.ballsnlglory.be](http://www.ballsnlglory.be)

### Belfort Restaurant



Ambitious city brasserie located underneath the very impressive City pavilion, and right in between three historical monuments: the Belfry, St

Nicholas' Church and the Town Hall.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Emile Braunplein 40, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32 9 225 60 05

Internet: <http://www.belfort-stadscafe.be/>

Email: [info@belfort-stadscafe.be](mailto:info@belfort-stadscafe.be)

### Lounge Bar café Theatre



Elegant brasserie in a metropolitan style.

Photo: Stad Gent

Address: 5-7 Schouwburgstraat

Phone: +32 9 265 05 50

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

### Carte Blanche



Gastronomic restaurant, also serving vegetarian dishes.

Address: Martelaarslaan 321, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32 9 233 28 08

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

### Chambre Séparée



Chambre Séparée is the new concept by 'Flemish Foodie' Kobe

Desramaults. The

restaurant only seats 16 people. The guests sit

surrounding the kitchen, which creates an intimate atmosphere in the setting of an old industrial building.

Photo: Piet De Kersgieter

Address: Keizer Karelstraat 1 9000 Gent

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/chambre-separee>

### 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.

Photo: Cochon de Luxe

Address: Brabantdam 113 9000 Gent

### 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

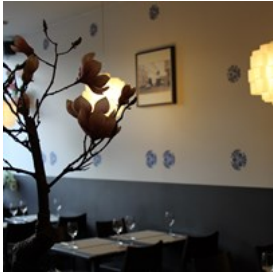
people and an ideal place for a nightcap

afterwards

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Address: Oudburg 4, 9000 Gent  
 Phone: +32 9 224 31 97  
 Internet: [www.deachtzaligheden.be](http://www.deachtzaligheden.be)

### De Fobie



Delicious pasta and healthy salads, vegetarian lasagne.

Address: Brusselsepoortstraat 61, 9000 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.

Address: Sint-Baafsplein 17, 9000 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. Head to this traditional bakery and brasserie with a wood-burning oven for breakfast, a sandwich and a drink. The woman behind the oven is the American bread expert Sarah Lemke.

Address: Guldensporenstraat 29, 9000 Gent  
 Phone: +32 9 278 08 08  
 Internet: <http://www.indewulf.be/desuperette/>  
 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: 10 Korenmarkt  
 Phone: +32 9 225 17 16  
 Internet: [www.duproges.be](http://www.duproges.be)

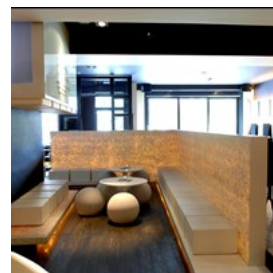
### Wereldrestaurant de Centrale



World cuisine in a multicultural centre serving delicious dishes from the four corners of the globe

Photo: ENTR  
 Address: Kraankindersstraat 2, 9000 Gent  
 Phone: +32 9 266 13 21  
 Internet: <https://www.facebook.com/Wereldrestaurant-De-Centrale-60301901832/?fref=ts>  
 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.

Address: Hooiaard 8, 9000 Gent

Phone: +32 9 329 82 08  
Internet: [www.godotgent.be](http://www.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.

Address: Annonciadenstraat 4, 9000 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.

Address: 52 Nederkouter  
Phone: +32 9 269 07 69  
Internet: [www.greenway.be](http://www.greenway.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.

Photo: Stad Gent  
Internet: [www.copacobana.be](http://www.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.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme  
Internet: <http://www.gentjazz.com/news>

## 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

Internet: <https://gentsefeesten.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

## Ghent Festival of Flanders



In September, Ghent becomes a music-lover's Mecca for three whole weeks. Hundreds of performers provide a varied mixture of classical, jazz and world music. It opens with the festive OdeGand. The streets alongside Ghent's waterways overflow with music, animation, art and spectacle. And to top it off: a sparkling firework display. The perfect start!

Photo: Visit Gent

Internet: <http://www.gentfestival.be/>

## Film Fest Gent



The Film Fest Gent takes place every year in October and has developed into one of the most important festivals of Europe and the world. At least 200 films from every corner of the world struggle for your attention. It is here too that the prestigious World Soundtrack Awards are handed over every year.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: <http://www.filmfestival.be/nl>

## 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

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

More Info: Every year in November

## Winter Festivities



Every year in december the city centre will become a winter wonderland with an ice-skating rink under the City Pavilion. From the giant Ferris wheel you'll enjoy a view of the city from the air. There is also a Christmas market with international stands and the Castle of the Counts changes into a winter wonderland castle.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

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

## The Light Festival



Every three years the Light 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.

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: <https://lichtfestival.stad.gent/nl/>

## SHOPPING



Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

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-infor>

[mation/inspiration/shopping-ghent-so-much-fun](https://visit.gent.be/en/good-know/practical-information/inspiration/shopping-ghent-so-much-fun)

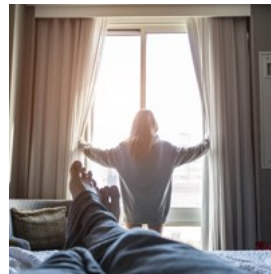
## SLEEPING



Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

If you've never spent the night in Ghent, you've never really experienced the city. Ghent shines day and night. When the sun goes down, Ghent is transformed with fairy-tale lighting. Find B&Bs, design hotels and distinctive boutique hotels, no-frills hostels and chic apartments in Ghent. In Ghent, everyone is welcome.

## Bed & Breakfast



Dozens of Ghent's residents will welcome you in their own, unique bed & breakfasts, in the bel étage of a town house, in an

Asian-inspired suite, or in a cabin on the water. Often original, always hospitable.

<https://visit.gent.be/en/overnight-stay/bed-breakfast>

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/overnight-stay/bed-breakfast>



## Campsites



Photo: Stad Gent

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/overnight-stay/accommodations?f%5B0%5D=category%3A34&f%5B1%5D=category%3A34&map=hide>

## Hostels

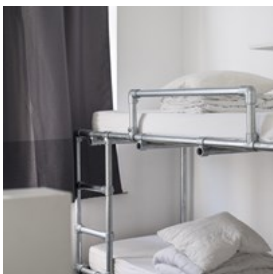
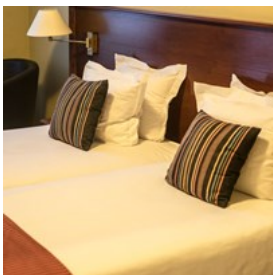


Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/overnight-stay/accommodations?f%5B0%5D=category%3A33&f%5B1%5D=category%3A33&map=hide>

## Hotels



Staying the night in Ghent? You've got nothing to worry about, because every licensed hotel meets the quality standards of the Flemish

Tourist Accommodation decree.

The number of stars awarded to a hotel indicates the comfort level you can expect. A first class establishment, mid-range or standard hotel? Find a hotel that suits you!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/overnight-stay/accommodations?f%5B0%5D=category%3A30&f%5B1%5D=category%3A30&map=hide>

## Holiday homes



Photo: Duco Devries

Internet: <https://visit.gent.be/en/overnight-stay/accommodations?f%5B0%5D=category%3A32&f%5B1%5D=category%3A32&map=hide>

## Yacht marinas

<https://visit.gent.be/en/overnight-stay/accommodations?f%5B0%5D=category%3A37&f%5B1%5D=category%3A37>

## ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

## 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!

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

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

## Plane



and Brussels South Charleroi Airport.

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

Photo: Stad Gent - Dienst Toerisme

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

## Taxi



Korenmarkt, Woodrow Wilsonplein ('de Zuid') and Flanders Expo.

Taxis are waiting for you at the Gent-Sint-Pieters and Gent-Dampoort train stations, and at many other strategic locations around the city:

Photo: Stad Gent

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

## 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.

Belgium has a temperate maritime climate, with unpredictable, volatile weather. Ghent is not far from the North Sea and has a temperate rainy

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/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

259.000 inhabitants

## Currency

Euro  
€

## Opening hours

7/7 - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## Internet

<https://visit.gent.be/en>

## Emergency numbers

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Drug hotline Belgium

+32 800 99 533

LGTBQ hotline Belgium

## Tourist information

Inquiry Desk for tourist information:

Oude Vismijn

Sint-Veerleplein 5

9000 Gent

T. + 32 9 266 56 60

e-mail: [visit@stad.gent](mailto:visit@stad.gent)

wheelchair accessible

open every day from 10 am till 6 pm  
closed on 1 January and 25 December