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Ghent city maps now available for download



Ghent is always worth a trip! The lively city impresses with world-famous art treasures, historic buildings, romantic alleys, and canals. It is also known for its vibrant gastronomic scene. For a relaxing trip to Ghent, there is now an 'essential city map' available for download: You will find suggestions for themed walks through different city districts and a list of the most important sights with brief explanations. Tips on accommodation, restaurants, and public transport are also included.

Besides the 'essential city map' Ghent has a number of other downloadable maps and brochures that can easily be accessed on the Visit Ghent website.

New art exhibitions in Leuven and Antwerp



Two new significant art exhibitions opened on October 20th in Leuven and Antwerp.

'DIERIC BOUTS. Creator of images' at M Leuven gives Bouts a new place in art history. Dieric Bouts (ca. 1410-1475) is regarded as a 'Flemish Primitive of the second generation' or the 'painter of silence'. For the first time, nearly 20 of Bouts's works come together in Leuven.

The concept of this exhibition is radical: we are not allowed to look at Bouts as an artist, he was a picture

maker. He painted what was expected of him and excelled at it. So, it makes sense to confront him with today's image-makers: sports photographers, filmmakers, game developers. At M Leuven, they stand side by side with the old master.

'Turning Heads', from 20 October 2023 to 21 January 2024 at the KMSKA in Antwerp, is a unique exhibition featuring absolute masterpieces from around the world by Bruegel, Rubens, Vermeer, Rembrandt, and many others. The expo highlights old masters' fascination with the face. You will discover how the artists experimented extensively with expressions, lighting, and accessories. And how they explored the language of the face in a time without emojis.

Turning Heads brings together 76 Belgian and international masterpieces. For their creative experiments, old masters used anonymous models on their own initiative. Ordinary people with unusual faces. In five themes, the exhibition deals with how the fascination for the head grew into a genre.

Sint Jans-Hospital museum reopening



Sint Jans Hospital in Bruges is one of the oldest surviving hospital buildings in Europe, but at the same time a top-class museum with works from the Flemish master Hans Memling, contemporary works, and an outstanding collection of medical instruments, which show hospital life from centuries ago.

After extensive renovation, the Sint Jans Hospital will reopen its doors in mid-December and re-stage its extraordinary exhibits. They tell historical and universal stories about care, empathy, and hospitality. The new St. Jans Hospital will be a warm place where experience, openness and healing are given high priority - as they have been over the centuries. The new concept of the museum puts the visitor at the center and, based on the fascinating history of the hospital, offers a contemporary and dynamic art experience for everyone.

Beaufort24 participating artists announced

The Province of West Flanders and Westtoer present the eighth edition of Beaufort Triennial on the Belgian coast in 2024, from 27 March to 3 November 2024. 18 participating artists have just been announced. They will create unique works in the nine participating coastal municipalities.



Beaufort builds on the well-known elements: national and international visual artists creating unique sculptures, accessible and visitable 24/7. Together, the artworks form an exhibition in public spaces along the entire coastline, 41 miles long. The artistic creations integrate with the surroundings, adding another dimension to the place where they can be seen.

Feel Flanders Fields - new projects presented



The project '50,000 flowers for Flanders Fields', organizes a series of pop-up actions and planting days between 3 October and 11 November. On 31 sites flower bulbs will be planted, which will bloom every year during May and June. The project actively brings visitors and residents together in the memorial landscape and delivers a connecting message of peace across all nationalities.

The city of Nieuwpoort is tackling the ambitious 'Where Water Was' project. The event focuses on the story of the 1914 flooding, when the IJzer plain was deliberately flooded via to stop the German advance. 'Where Water Was' is set up on the site where the events took place: on and around the 'De Ganzepoot' lock complex. Following the recent recognition as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, these new projects also contribute to commemorative tourism in the West Flanders.

Situated in the north of Belgium, Flanders boasts six beautifully preserved historic cities: **Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, Leuven, and Mechelen.**

This material is distributed by the Tourist Office for Flanders, Belgium on behalf of the Flanders Tourism Board. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.