

VISITFLANDERS *Belgium*



**Flanders**  
State of the Art



January 2024

## The new Eurostar train network



The train companies Eurostar and Thalys have become one. Travelers visiting Europe this year will benefit from a larger high-speed network of routes on a single rail network connecting Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Germany, and the UK. This means connections to a wider range of European destinations, including Antwerp, as well as the cities the railway companies have always served, such as London, Paris, and Brussels.

The larger network will open up new opportunities for travel to and from Flanders, Belgium in a convenient, easy, and sustainable way. Travelers will find a streamlined booking system with a single website, a single ticket booking system, and a single app. Visit the [Eurostar website for more information.](#)

## Ensor2024 opens to a roaring review

On Friday 15 December, Ostend kicked off an ambitious themed year on the life and work of James Ensor. A festive opening weekend marked the start of a particularly ambitious and diverse city festival with, in addition to exhibitions, ample attention to performing arts, culinary experiences, music and participation projects. Art lovers big and small can already enjoy the exhibitions 'Rose, Rose Rose à mes yeux. James Ensor and still life in Belgium 1830 - 1930' and 'Great Art for Little



Connoisseurs'.

In 2024, it will have been 75 years since James Ensor passed away in Ostend, the seaside city where he lived and worked throughout his life. [Ensor2024](#) pays tribute to this great Belgian artist with a range of events and exhibitions in Ostend, Antwerp, and Brussels.

## Riding the Tour of Flanders Sportive



Do you have clients that would like to experience a sportive cycling adventure? Consider 'We Ride Flanders'. Saturday 30rd March 2024 will be another great day for cycling! A day before the pros you can ride your own Tour of Flanders. Suffering on the steep climbs and cobbled sections, enjoying the picturesque, meandering roads through the Flemish countryside, and being propelled by that typical, unparalleled atmosphere of 'We Ride Flanders'.

The longest distance (257 km) will start from Antwerp and finish in Oudenaarde. All other distances start and finish in Oudenaarde. For more information and to register, please visit ['We Ride Flanders'](#).

## Flanders Training site



The beginning of the year will be the perfect time to brush up on your knowledge of Flanders, Belgium. Discover Flanders via our online training site designed for Travel Professionals in the US and Canada. Our training program allows you to learn about Belgium and its beautiful cities and regions. Learn about the cities of Brussels, Antwerp, Bruges, and Ghent. Find out about our great hospitality, spectacular sights, unforgettable experiences, our amazing beers, waffles, and our delicious chocolate.

It is a great way to become familiar with our core travel themes of Art & Heritage, Culinary, and Cycling. Simply [log onto our online training portal](#), create a login and you are on your way.

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.

