



News from VISITFLANDERS - March 2025

As we step into meteorological Spring, exciting new beginnings are emerging from the Flanders Region. Art enthusiasts can immerse themselves in the splendor of Flemish art with the launch of the Flemish Art in Situ project, showcasing hundreds of artifacts, objects, and artworks by master artists and craftsmen from throughout history. A newly launched website is now available to complement city visits. With the celebrations for the 600th Anniversary of Leuven just around the corner, we bring you news of a fascinating new sound art tour taking place there. Meanwhile, in West Flanders, the In Flanders Fields Museum continues its search for the owner of a misplaced letter. This long-running quest remains unresolved to this day. Meanwhile, we wish you a wonderful Easter in preparation for next month and trust you'll be indulging in plenty of Belgian chocolate!

Arts and Heritage:

Re-opening of the KBR - Brussels

May 23, 2025

Brussels

The KBR Museum, home to the manuscript collection of the Burgundian dukes, will reopen its doors on 23 May 2025 with a unique musical experience. The museum hopes to bring back the sound of polyphonic singers from the 15th and 16th centuries. In addition to the story of the Medieval miniaturists, they will now also

Hear Here

April 24 - June 9, 2025

Leuven

Hear Here invites visitors to embark on a walking tour of sound art in Leuven. Fifteen artworks exploring sound and silence reverberate across Leuven's historic sites. To celebrate the 600th anniversary of Leuven University, this initiative focuses on the university's historic buildings. Equipped with a map, visitors can wander from a medieval watergate,

share the tale of the Franco-Flemish polyphonic singers. Just as the Flemish primitives shaped the world of art and the miniaturists influenced manuscript illumination, composers, singers, and musicians from the Low Countries set the tone on the musical stage during the 15th and 16th centuries.



Image credit: (c) KBR -Creativeroom - Simon Beuzart

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past an abandoned school, to an impressive Baroque chapel. At each stop, a sound installation interacts with the acoustics and architecture. Historic works by pioneering sound artists are displayed alongside new installations by Belgian creators. The tour is free and suitable for all ages.



Image credit: (c) hearhere.be

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Cycling News

Spring Classics Season

March and April 2025

The Spring Classics season in Flanders is one of the most thrilling periods in professional cycling, showcasing legendary one-day races renowned for their cobbled roads, steep climbs, and unpredictable weather. Defined by

Flanders Finest adds a new Route

Leuven

Route number 25, the Dieric Bouts Cycle Route, is the latest addition to Flanders' Finest Cycle Routes. This marks the third route departing from Leuven and is dedicated to the

intense competition, challenging conditions, and an electrifying atmosphere. Here are some notable races to watch out for: **E3 Saxo Classic** 28-30 March – Often called the mini Tour of Flanders sharing the same climbs and cobbles. **Gent-Wevelgem** (30 March) – Known for its mix of cobbles, wind-exposed sections, and the famous climbs of the Kemmelberg, **The Dwars door Vlaanderen** (2 April) – A midweek race just before the Tour of Flanders, serving as a final test to the crown jewel of the races, **The Tour of Flanders (Ronde van Vlaanderen)** (5-6 April) – featuring legendary climbs like the Oude Kwaremont and Paterberg, drawing huge crowds and passionate fans.



(c)Pas Normal

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city's most renowned Flemish Master, Dieric Bouts. The new route will offer cyclists a chance to explore the landscapes and heritage linked to the famous painter while enjoying the scenic beauty of Flanders. Leuven, already a fantastic cycling hub, continues to expand its offerings for both recreational and cultural rides. Highlights of the route will include St. Peter's Church in Leuven's Grote Markt, home to Bouts' masterpiece, "The Last Supper." The trail winds through picturesque areas around Leuven, showcasing the region's natural beauty. Along the route, QR codes provide insights into Bouts' life and the significance of various sites.



Image credit: (c) Bas van Oort

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Flanders Fields News

The lost letter of Tyne Cot

Tyne Cot Cemetery

Since last year, the In Flanders Fields Museum has been searching for the owner of an original letter from the First World War, which was discovered by a British tourist at Tyne Cot cemetery in July 2024. Dated 9 May 1918, the letter was written by Lieutenant C.E. Prebble to inform the wife of S. Webb about her husband's disappearance since 24 April 1918. The tourist handed the letter to the museum, hoping to reunite it with its rightful owner. The museum's research team found that Lt Prebble was killed in action in August 1918 in France. Both Lt Prebble and Soldier Webb were members of a regiment that fought in the Westhoek. Meanwhile the search continues, and the owner of the letter is encouraged to contact the museum via the following email address: kenniscentrum@ieper.be.



Credit image © In Flanders Fields Museum

[Find out more](#)

The Chapel Fund is launched

Talbot House

Poperinge, West Flanders

Talbot House, the historic World War I soldiers' club in Poperinge, Belgium, has recently undergone several updates. The museum entrance now features a new glass door and signage, while the front office and museum shop have been refurbished with new furniture, enhancing the visitor experience. Extensive painting has been carried out both inside and around the building, with several rooms receiving updates to preserve its historical character. Meanwhile, to help preserve the Chapel and its valuable relics, Talbot House has launched the "Chapel Fund," aiming to raise €125,000. This initiative supports the ongoing preservation of the site. Due to the building's age, structural challenges have arisen, particularly with the Chapel's roof. Recent assessments have shown that parts of the roof require significant repairs or replacement by 2028 to ensure the site's integrity. The organization is actively seeking donations to fund these essential restorations.



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Gastronomy and Beer

Antwerp Proeft

May 1-4, 2025

Antwerp

Antwerpen Proeft is one of Belgium's premier culinary festivals, held at Waagnatie Expo & Events in Antwerp. The event features renowned restaurants, Michelin-starred chefs, emerging culinary talents, and TV chefs offering signature dishes in tasting portions priced at €6, €7.5, or €9. Attendees can explore a wide array of cuisines, participate in free cooking demonstrations and workshops, and enjoy scenic views of the Scheldt River. The festival provides both indoor and outdoor covered stands, ensuring a weatherproof experience come rain or shine.



Credit image © woodmokey

Horseback Shrimping Season starts

April 6, 2025

Oostduinkerke- Belgian Coast

On the Flemish coast, a centuries-old fishing tradition continues to thrive. In Oostduinkerke, sturdy carthorses wade through the surf, ridden by fishermen in distinctive yellow knee-high boots and rain slickers. Dragging large nets behind them, they work to haul in one of Flanders' prized delicacies—grey shrimp. This unique practice is found nowhere else in the world. Passed down through generations, horseback shrimp fishing remains an integral part of the region's culinary traditions and in 2013, UNESCO recognized this practice as part of Belgium's intangible cultural heritage. The skill and dedication of these fishermen ensure that this remarkable tradition endures, supplying some of the finest seafood in Belgium.

[Find out more](#)



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