



News from VISITFLANDERS - September 2025

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With the warmth of summer behind us, autumn opens the door to new discoveries across Flanders. This season brings a wealth of experiences: a new walking route in Mechelen, Rubens in Stone, offers a fresh perspective on the city's heritage, while the excitement of the cyclo-cross season returns for cycling fans. In Ostend, the beloved shrimp croquette takes center stage in a show dedicated to one of Flanders favorite snacks, and Poperinge welcomes visitors for its celebrated beer festival. Meanwhile, the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres unveils their compelling new exhibition "Displaced", and history comes full circle as the legendary Wipers Times returns home once again at Talbot House in Poperinge. Autumn is the perfect moment to embrace culture, history, and tradition in Flanders.

Arts and Heritage:

Ghent Film Festival

Rubens in Stone

October 8-19, 2025

From September 9, 2025

Ghent

Mechelen



Image credit: © KIK-IRPA

Rubens in Stone offers an engaging journey through the Baroque world of Lucas Faydherbe (1617–1697) and his mentor, Peter Paul Rubens, in Mechelen. Stroll through the historic city centre and visit Saint Rumbold's Cathedral, the Church of Our Lady across the Dijle, and the Basilica of Our Lady of Hanswijk, exploring Faydherbe's masterpieces and Rubens' iconic works. Using WhatsApp, you can "chat" with Faydherbe, uncover his connections with Rubens, and enjoy immersive visual and audio experiences inside the churches. Highlights include the high altar and Bishop Creuse's tomb, Rubens' The Miraculous Draught of Fishes, and Faydherbe's bozzetti for the domed Basilica. The two-hour walk costs €8 per device, is suitable from age 10, and is available in English, and German; a smartphone (and optional power bank) is required.

[Find out more](#)

## Cycling News

**Cyclo-Cross season kicks off  
in Flanders this October**

October in Flanders signals the start of the cyclo cross season, eagerly awaited by fans and riders. The first Superprestige races in Ruddervoorde and

The Film Fest Gent 2025 in Ghent, Belgium, celebrates international cinema with a special focus on film music. This year, the festival introduces Flanders Film Days, promoting Flemish filmmaking, and marks the 25th anniversary of the World Soundtrack Awards, featuring performances by British composer Simon Fisher Turner. The 2x25 project pairs 25 short films with original compositions by 25 composers, showcasing the synergy between music and film. Alongside screenings, the festival offers masterclasses, discussions, and networking opportunities, making it a vibrant hub for film fans and industry professionals.



Image credit: © Stad Gent -Dienst Toerisme

[Find out more](#)

## The Six Days of Ghent

**October 18, 2025**

**'t Kuipke. Ghent**

Image credit: © Belga

Overijse bring crowds who relish the mix of mud, atmosphere and close competition. It is a true celebration of Flemish cycling culture and the beginning of a long winter campaign. This autumn also features the 2025 UEC European Championships in Middelkerke on 8 and 9 November, with sand and dunes providing a dramatic setting for this continental competition.

[Find out more](#)



Image credit: © Flanders Classics



The Six Days of Ghent is one of Belgium's most celebrated track cycling events, held each November in the historic Kuipke velodrome. First staged in 1922, it blends world-class sport with a festival atmosphere, attracting top international riders and passionate local fans. Over six consecutive evenings, cyclists compete in a mix of disciplines, from madisons to sprints, testing stamina, speed and teamwork. The lively crowds, music and tradition give the event a unique character, making it a highlight of the European cycling calendar. It remains both a sporting spectacle and a cherished cultural occasion in Ghent.

[Find out more](#)

## Flanders Fields News

**The Wipers Times comes Home**

**Talbot House**

**Poperinge**

### *Displaced*

**October 4, 2025 - June 14, 2026**

**In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres**

In 1914, around 1.5 million Belgians, a quarter of the population, fled the violence of war, with some 600,000 spending the entire conflict abroad, mainly in France, Britain and the Netherlands. Others were displaced within Belgium, becoming refugees in their own country, and many-faced great hardship on returning, while some never came back. Twenty years after its exhibition *Fleeing the Great War*, the In Flanders Fields Museum will once again explore this often-overlooked history, drawing on new research, objects and personal testimonies collected over the past two decades. This major exhibition, presented both inside and

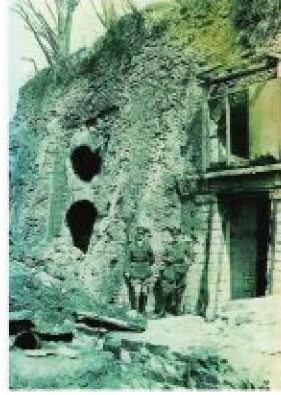


Image credit: © Talbot House

The Wipers Times has come home. Almost 110 years after the first edition rolled off a salvaged printing press in the ruins of Ypres, a complete set of the famous trench newspaper has returned to Talbot House, the Every Man's Club that gave countless soldiers peace behind the front lines. Written by soldiers for soldiers, the Wipers Times used humour and wit to lift spirits amidst the horrors of war. Thanks to the family of editor Captain Fred Roberts, these rare papers, with his original notes and censor stamps, are back where they belong. Visit Talbot House in the future to see them up close and look out for a new exhibition and battlefield tour in the footsteps of the Wipers Times editorial team. The image shows two soldiers outside the Kazematten, Casemates, in Ypres, where they lived, wrote and printed the paper. Today, it is home to Kazematten Brewery, which produces The Wipers Times beer.

[Find out more](#)

## Gastronomy and Beer

### Shrimp Croquette Festival

11-13 October 2025

beyond the Cloth Hall, will focus on individual experiences and how later generations have engaged with them.



Image credit: © In Flanders Fields Museum

[Find out more](#)

## *Craving for Ghent, now available in English*

September 5, 2025

Ghent

## Ostend

This year's Shrimp Croquette Festival in Ostend will take place at the distinguished ACEG Wellington Hippodroom. Eleven local restaurants will compete to create the most delectable artisanal shrimp croquette, with visitors sampling each specialty and voting for their favorite. A vibrant celebration of culinary craftsmanship and Flemish coastal tradition, the festival offers a delicious opportunity to taste, enjoy, and choose among the best that Ostend's chefs have to offer.



Image credit: © VisitFlanders

[Find out more](#)

A city cannot be eaten, but with a focus on food, you can get to know it in an original way. Throughout history, both residents and visitors have been daily supplied with food and drink. It is from this unique perspective that this walking guide allows you to taste and enjoy Ghent. Two beautifully mapped walks introduce you to Ghent during its prosperous periods: the late Middle Ages, with the fourteenth century as its peak, and the nineteenth-century Artevelde city awakened by the industrial revolution. Discover how medieval Ghent fed nearly seventy thousand mouths daily, where the provisions came from, and how they were sold. Or stroll through the area where not long ago a large slaughterhouse stood, a symbol of modernity and progress. One thing is certain: this walking guide will only make you hungrier for Ghent!

[Find out more](#)



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