



News from VISITFLANDERS - February 2024

Greetings from VISITFLANDERS in our first press newsletter of 2024. In this edition, we'll be bringing news on what to expect in Flanders in the coming months. Art lovers can look forward to two much anticipated architectural/sculptural triennials in Bruges and The Coast. Elsewhere, in Ostend, the birthplace of James Ensor, there's a spotlight on one of Belgium's most famous modernist painter. 2024 marks a special celebratory year for his work. Meanwhile, beer enthusiasts are looking forward to the biannual Toer de Geuze celebrations and we bring news of what to expect. We also report about a new beer tour at celebrated, West-Flanders-based St Bernardus Brewery. Also in West Flanders, is news of a couple of new exhibitions at the Memorial Museum Passchendaele and the In Flanders Fields Museums to look forward to. And cycling fans will be hanging onto their seats at the forthcoming annual Tour de Flanders - the biggest cycling event of the year which also marks the beginning of Spring!

Arts and Heritage:

Beaufort '24 at the Coast

March 30 - November 3, 2024

and

Bruges Triennial

April 13 - September 1, 2024

This April 'Beaufort24 - Triennial by the Sea' and 'Bruges Triennial 2024: Spaces of Possibility', will take place on the Belgian Coast as well as in the city of Bruges. Of the 18

SELF PORTRAITS - James Ensor

March 21, 24 - June 16, 2024

James Ensor House - Ostend



installations being displayed at [Beaufort24](#), a total of 8 will be permanently integrated into the Beaufort sculpture park after the festival has ended. Meanwhile Bruges Triennial will once again dominate the streets of the historic city centre with 12 contemporary art and architectural installations. Both triennials meet in Zeebrugge where they present a shared artwork to the public by British artist Ivan Morison. Other British artists participating include Richard Deacon and Mona Hatoum.



[Find out more](#)

Image credit: (c) Westtoer

As part of a [special year](#) dedicated to the Belgian Artist James Ensor, Ensor House hosts a special exhibition dedicated to Ensor's self-portraits. Ensor House is the original home where he worked and lived from 1917 until his death and has been preserved in its original state. The first three known painted self-portraits by James Ensor date from 1879. His best-known self-portrait is undoubtedly Self-Portrait with Flowered Hat (Mu.ZEE, Ostend), painted in 1883 and updated around 1888. By adding a flowered hat, he referenced Rubens' famous self-portraits.

[Find out more](#)

Cycling News

Bike-packing Flanders style

9 ICON cycling routes

Did you know that Flanders has 9 separate iconic cycling routes that allow keen cyclists to explore our region on two wheels? In fact, each offers a unique perspective of the region, ranging from art and history themes to scenic river and maritime coastal scenery on offer. Each route offers signposted routes in both directions and routes vary between 39 miles to 600 miles (circumnavigating the whole of Flanders). A great way to travel light, and stopover at some very interesting hotels. Flanders is relatively flat but there are a few hilly climbs to negotiate. With a cold beer and a great array of restaurants and cafes en route, a great cycling adventure is guaranteed.



Image credit: (c) Tim De Waele

Tour de Flanders



Image credit: (c) Bas van Oort

[Find out more](#)

March 31, 2024

Oudenaarde - Antwerp

This event is widely regarded as the spring classic that attracts the most attention. The primary objective this year is to successfully finish the entire course from Antwerp to Oudenaarde, spanning a distance of 147 miles, in the amateur race. The professionals, on the other hand, will conquer this challenge on the second day. Nevertheless, the 99 80, and 46-mile routes present numerous chances for cyclists of varying capabilities to showcase their expertise on the challenging inclines and cobblestone paths of the We Ride Flanders Sportive.

[Find out more](#)

Flanders Fields News

Echos of War

Memorial Museum Passchendaele

Zonnebeke

A brand-new temporary exhibition and immersive experience have opened at The Passchendaele Museum in Zonnebeke. These new additions will help in continuing to tell the story of the Battle of Passchendaele and its victims. The immersive experience will serve as an introduction to the battle with powerful custom-made visual displays and music created by Jef Neve. In addition, as part of the Landscapes theme year, a new temporary exhibition has opened entitled "The Echoes of War" which focuses on the landscape's role as a witness and bearer of war stories.

[Americans in Flanders Fields](#)

In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres

Now -May 31, 2024

A new temporary exhibition entitled "Americans in Flanders Fields – Names & Places" has just opened at the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres. The focus of the exhibition will be on the presence of Americans in Belgium during the First World War and their role in the conflict. The exhibition has been created in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution (Washington DC) and the Embassy of the United States of America in Belgium.



Image credit: © Eric Compennolle

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Image credit: (c) In Flanders Fields Museum

[Find out more](#)

Gastronomy and Beer

Toer de Gueuze

May 4-5, 2024

Pajottenland -Senne Valley

Toer de Geuze is a biennial occasion where the lambic breweries and gueuze blending houses welcome the public to find out more about their respective breweries and watch the production of the lambic beers. Encompassing complimentary guided tours and, naturally, an opportunity to savour the delightful lambic beers that are created via spontaneous yeasts that exist in the green belt region around Brussels.

St Bernadus Brewery

New brewery tour

Watou- West Flanders

Founded in 1946, The St Bernardus Brewery produces some 5 million liters of beer each year and exports to over 80 countries worldwide. Its biggest customers are consumers from the US but continues to grow in size. Now, the brewery boasts a brand new bottling plant to satisfy worldwide demand. For enthusiasts, the brewery also has invested in a brand new [brewery tour](#) since 2021 and visitors can now go behind the scenes to discover its unique history, its product range and the brewing process as a whole via a new interactive audio-visual tour. Of course all good beer tours end with a chance to sample the goods and St Bernardus is no exception. the tour concludes with a delicious beer in its rooftop bar Bar Bernard. Bike hire, accommodation, and a Beer Shop add to this fabulous visitor experience.



Credit image © Toerisme Pajottenland & Zennevallei

[Find out more](#)



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