

B R U
G G E

VISIT
BRUGES



**Bruges, accessible
for everyone** _____

EN

Contents

Explanation of pictograms	2
● Visit and experience: Walk along highlights	4
◆ Food and drink	48
▲ Accommodation	53
■ Public toilets	54
Care and equipment	57
Transport and parking	58
Guided tours	60
Practical information	61

Oooh! Welcome to Bruges

In Bruges, the rich offering of cultural-historical monuments and museums goes hand in hand with delightful cosiness and authentic charm. It is therefore an ideal destination for everyone. You included.

This brochure gives you the chance to explore the heart of the city that is protected by UNESCO. A **mapped out walking tour** guides you through the heart of Bruges, past tourist attractions, and includes excellent tips and

some surprising facts. A must for anyone visiting the city for the first time. The route description including a map keeps you on track and provides up-to-date accessibility information. You can also adapt the route to your own requirements. It is still advisable to take a companion with you. And yes ... it is true that the historic centre of Bruges has many cobblestones, but this brochure successfully guides you through the city with as few obstacles as possible. Therefore, round cobbles have been avoided as much as possible and where these are unavoidable, the cobbles are generally level and well laid.

You can also use this brochure as a **travel guide**, without following the trail. Thanks to the numbered tourist hotspots in the chapter 'Visit and experience: walk along highlights', you will quickly discover the top locations. Including the Market Square and its Belfry, the City Ramparts, the Lake of Love and the Gruuthuse Museum. These sights are located on or close to the trail. Those wishing to **prepare** carefully for their visit or stay can also immediately set to work using this brochure. There is a chapter for each aspect involved in an accessible tourist



visit to Bruges. Information is provided about museums, attractions, cafes, restaurants, accommodation, public toilets and tourist offices. You can also find out all about the care and equipment available, along with more details about transport and parking. The information is based on objective and expert local research.

But above all, enjoy your stay in the city. You can't help falling in love with Bruges. It is a special place, with an air of mystery, where you can have fun and will receive a warm welcome.

Explanation of pictograms

Visit and experience: Walk along highlights

In the mapped-out walk, you will come across a number of pictograms:



Descriptions next to the museums, attractions and venues explain which parts are accessible. An indication is given where extra help may be necessary.

Special provisions are marked with these pictograms:



Restaurants, cafes and public toilets

Coloured thumbs and measurements help you to decide whether a cafe, restaurant or toilet is suitable for you. Please note, catering establishments can often change, which means that the information quickly goes out of date.

Therefore, we recommend contacting the establishment before visiting. If a catering establishment moves away, undergoes renovation or is closed, you can report this to Inter (Flemish centre of expertise for integral accessibility) via: **brugge@inter.vlaanderen** and **T 0032 50 60 20 75**.



Accommodation and tourist offices

Accommodation providers and tourist offices use an accessibility label for people with limited mobility:



Would you like to know more about this accessibility label? Surf to www.visitflanders.com/en/travel-information/accessibility.

Handy to know

Not all initiatives included are accessible without help. For this publication we made a selection of the more accessible venues and facilities in Bruges. Using the descriptions you can decide for yourself which places are more or less suitable or prepare accordingly.



For more information and photos per location you can check the detailed report on www.toevla.be.



Visit and experience: Walk along highlights

This **3.8 kilometre** walk takes you past the highlights in the tourist centre of Bruges. Together with a helping of history, fun anecdotes and tips for the best photos along the way. Real quality time for people who enjoy life!

Beforehand

- > It is recommended to take a companion with you.
- > There is no need to follow the entire walk. Adapt the route to suit your own capabilities and requirements. The dark-orange lines  on the map are helpful in doing so.
- > You can also shorten the tour by following the indicated marks  on the map.
- > Keen to see a particular monument or museum? Use the numbered key locations to find it and head there directly. Please note, we have not included all tourist attractions in the list. You will only find venues that are on or close to the trail.

You will come across the following venues along the way

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Concertgebouw Brugge (Concert Hall) | 14 Rozenhoedkaai (Rosary Quay) and Passage Bourgondisch Cruyce |
| 2 Sint-Salvatorskathedraal (St Saviour's Cathedral) | 15 Dijver |
| 3 Sint-Janshospitaal (St John's Hospital) | 16 Groeningemuseum (Groeninge Museum) |
| 4 O.L.V.-kerk Museum (Museum of the Church of Our Lady) | 17 Hof Arents |
| 5 Gruuthusemuseum (Gruuthuse Museum) | 18 Begijnhof (Beguinage) |
| 6 Bourgogne des Flandres | 19 Minnewater (Lake of Love) |
| 7 Stadshallen (City Halls) and Belfort (Belfry) | 20 Vesten (City Ramparts) |
| 8 Historium Brugge | 21 Koning Albert I-park (King Albert I Park) |
| 9 Provinciaal Hof (Provincial Court) | |
| 10 Bruges Beer Experience | |
| 11 Basiliek van het Heilig Bloed (Basilica of the Holy Blood) | |
| 12 Stadhuis (City Hall) | |
| 13 Brugse Vrije (Liberty of Bruges) | |

Close to the route you will also find

- | |
|---|
| 22 Koninklijke Stadsschouwburg Brugge (Bruges Royal Municipal Theatre) |
| 23 Frietmuseum (Belgian Fries Museum) |
| 24 Kantcentrum (Lace Centre) |

Off to the start of the walk

The walk begins at **i** Tourist office 't Zand (Concert Hall). Those coming by train will find accessible toilets **1 2** in the station and you can eat or drink something at **1** Exki. If you still have some questions, the **i** tourist office Stationsplein will be happy to help you. You will find the office in the platform corridor by

following the signs towards the 'Centre' exit.

Leave the station via the 'Centre' exit and cross Stationsplein diagonally to the left. There are lines to guide you from the main exit to the opposite side of the square. These follow the circle of the bus platforms and lead you to the zebra crossing towards

the centre. The square itself is covered with level mosaic cobblestones.

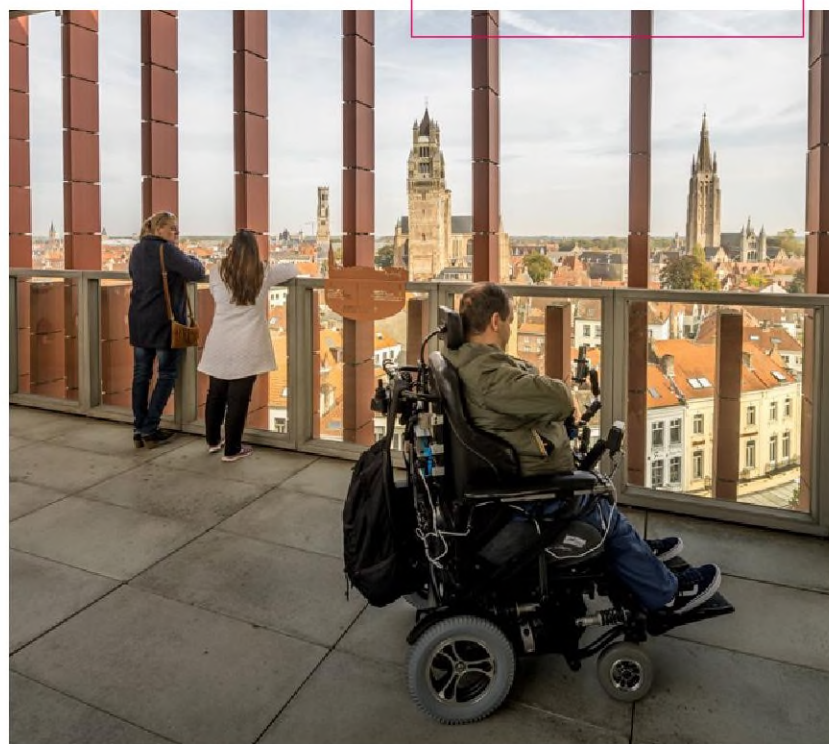
Cross the ring road (Buiten Begijnvest) at the traffic lights and take the path on the left through King Albert I Park. This even granite path takes you to 't Zand. It is easily accessible and slightly sloping.

1 Concertgebouw Brugge (Concert Hall)



't Zand 34, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 47 69 99 (general)
and 0032 78 15 20 20 (ticket line)
info@concertgebouw.be
www.concertgebouw.be

The Concertgebouw Brugge is one of the best venues in the world and it is impossible to imagine the international music and contemporary dance scene without it. The cultural temple at 't Zand Square stands out with its red colour and monolithic size. Less visible but equally important is the high acoustic quality of the halls. Both artists and audiences enjoy sublime sound in the imposing Concert Hall or intimate Chamber Music Hall. Concertgebouw Brugge is also an open house welcoming many different art forms. You can discover them thanks to the Concertgebouw Circuit, an experiential trail that takes you behind the scenes. The cherry on the cake is the roof terrace on the seventh floor, offering a magnificent view of the Bruges skyline.



Did you know that... 't Zand is the largest square in the city?

With more than 200 events a year, 't Zand Square is Bruges' main event square. As early as the early Middle Ages, important events took place here, such as the annual market, processions and public executions. Nowadays, it is predominantly a well-known gathering place for locals. They enjoy drinks on a terrace, meeting up with friends or relaxing on one of the many seats provided. It is also a popular place to go out in the evening. Take a moment to relax in this lovely spot.



Accessibility Concertgebouw Brugge (Concert Hall)

Access via the square in front of the building is sufficiently wide and level. There are various entrances with doors that are wide enough, however, they are manually operated and heavy. In the entrance hall there is a counter allowing limited wheelchair access. From here, you can easily reach the **2** Concertgebouwcafé on the ground floor, as well as the Foyer Parterre (via the lift and slope) on the first floor. The slope is too long and steep to manage comfortably

without assistance, however, the lift is easily accessible.

Adapted toilets are located in the entrance hall by the cloakroom (easily accessible except for a few obstacles), at the Foyer Parterre (small, stalls are obstructed by the installation of sanitary vending machines) and in the Lantern Tower (easily accessible).

The Concertgebouw Circuit is partly accessible to wheelchair

users. You can therefore request assistance to follow an alternative experience route using an iPad. This features the elements along the regular trail that you would otherwise miss out on. There is an audio guide, but no audio description. Some of the visit is dedicated to sound and music. If you are deaf or hard of hearing there is a sensory chair, a listening device in which sound is felt as well as heard.

Start of the walk

On the ground floor of the **1** Concertgebouw Brugge (Concert Hall) you will find the **2** Concertgebouwcafé and a **i** tourist office. Stand with your back to the entrance of the tourist office and cross the square diagonally to the left towards the pavilion of the underground car park. There is also an **3** accessible toilet here. A line will guide you from the corner of the Concertgebouw towards the square.

Go past the pavilion and continue straight on a little further across 't Zand Square. Keep the restaurants and cafes on your right. Then go right at the first street, called Zuidzandstraat. Stay on the right along this shopping street. When crossing the first side street you will need to cross two small **▲** kerbs. A little further along, turn right into Sint-Salvatorskerkhof. At this crossroads, opposite Zuidzandstraat you will find a **14** Panos, where you can grab a tasty takeaway. To visit the step-free and accessible **2** St Saviour's Cathedral, cross Sint-Salvatorskerkhof diagonally to the left.

Steenstraat, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 33 61 88
info@sintsalvator.be
www.sintsalvator.be

2 St Saviour's Cathedral



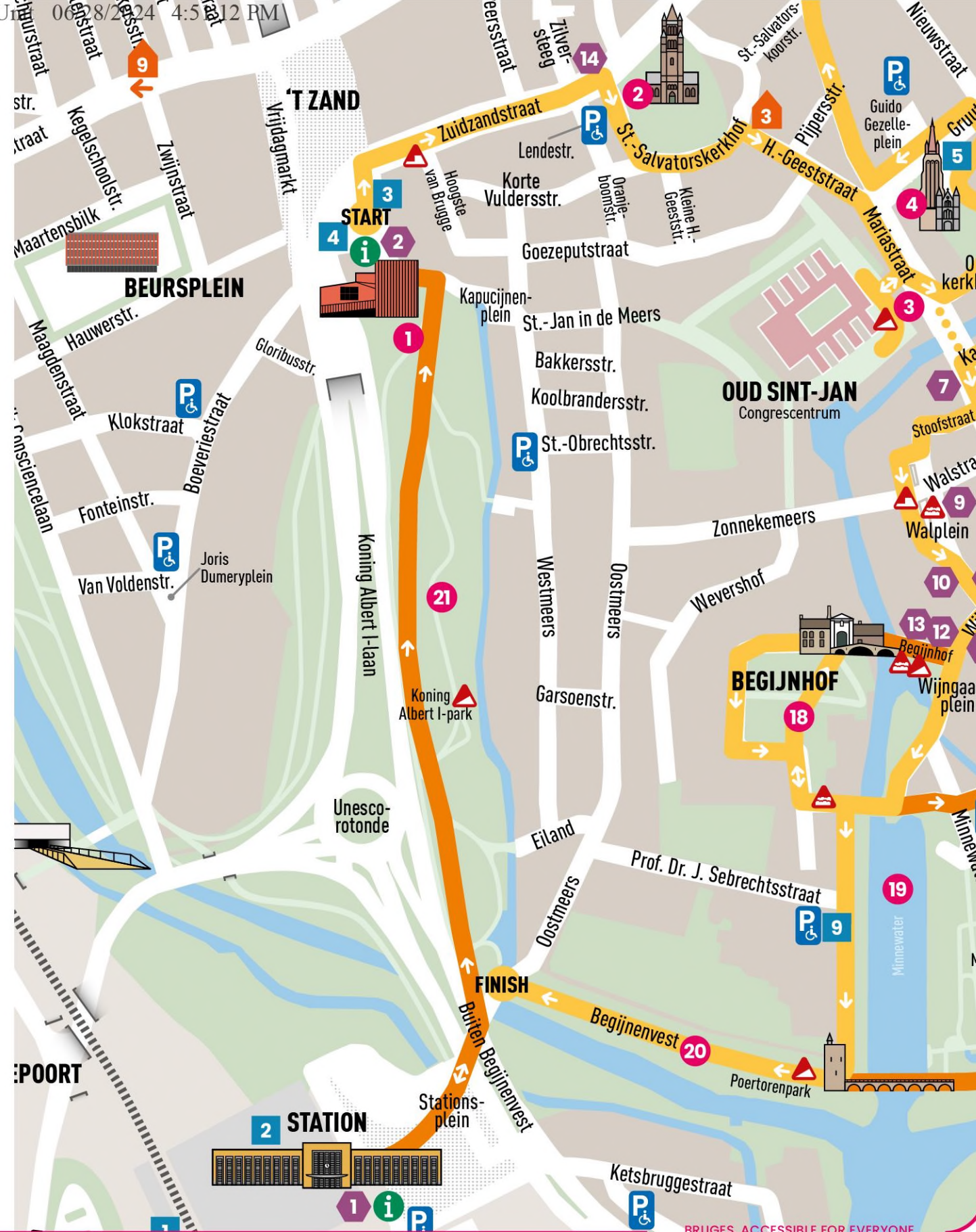
St Saviour's Cathedral is the oldest parish church in Bruges. A wooden church stood here as early as the 9th century, but the current Gothic building was constructed between the 12th and 15th centuries. Inside, in addition to a rich artistic patrimony, you will also find a number of well-preserved 14th-century painted crypts, typical of Bruges and the County of Flanders. Admire the

colourful stained glass windows, a stunning Baroque rood screen and Brussels tapestries. The treasure chamber houses a rich collection of Flemish paintings including Bruges' oldest painting (around 1400), masterpieces by Dirk Bouts, Hugo van der Goes, Lanceloot Blondeel and Pieter Pourbus, as well as typical Bruges copper burial plates and precious gold- and silverware.

Accessibility St Saviour's Cathedral

The square in front of the cathedral is designed with stairs. At the top of the stairs a studded warning strip has

been installed. At the side of Sint-Salvatorskerkhof an obstacle-free slope takes you to the entrance of the cathedral.



VISIT AND EXPERIENCE

VISIT AND EXPERIENCE

And off you go

From St Saviour's Cathedral, continue the trail via Sint-Salvatorskerkhof. Go along the back of the cathedral – there are several quiet benches here – and take the

third street on the right, Heilige Geeststraat. Stay on the right-hand side and at the end, when you reach the foot of the Church of Our Lady, turn right again, into Mariastraat. Keep following

Mariastraat on the right-hand footpath, until you notice a passageway on your right. Turn into this passage, into Eleonora Verbekehof, on the Old St John site.

3 St John's Hospital

St John's Hospital is one of the oldest hospital buildings in Europe. As early as the 12th century, the poor, sick, travellers and pilgrims came here for shelter and care. The immense domain included not only the infirmary wards and church, but also a cemetery, convent buildings, a pharmacy, brewery, bakery and orchard. In the 19th century, a new hospital was built in the centre of the site, which today serves as a conference and event venue. This Medieval complex is now a museum, featuring as its top attraction seven works from the Flemish primitive Hans Memling. The medical instruments, tin and silverwork, furniture and artefacts bear silent witness to more than 800 years of nursing and care. The oak truss of the Diksmuide Attic is one of the oldest in Europe. The former hospital pharmacy is definitely worth a visit.

Accessibility St John's hospital

St John's Hospital is easily accessible to wheelchairs and most halls can be reached, also thanks to a spacious lift and a second small platform lift (providing access to one hall). The lifts are equipped with buttons which are marked in relief. You will probably need some help on several slopes which are a little too steep and in managing a heavy door. The exhibited material is easy to view. Help will probably be necessary in the adapted toilet due to limited space and a wall bracket that is in the wrong place. As from autumn 2023, there will be a free audio tour in various languages, which you can follow using your own smartphone or tablet.

Mariastraat 38, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 87 11
musea@brugge.be
www.museabrugge.be



By scanning QR codes, you can hear an explanation on your device. So be sure to take a headset or earphones along with you.

You can reach the cloister which accommodates the hospital pharmacy via the Eleonora Verbekehof. This square with little traffic and a surface of flat cobbles is easily accessed via the covered passageway in Mariastraat. The entrance to the cloister can be found between some herb borders which have a neat border. A ramp has been provided in the cloister, allowing access across the two steps towards the hospital pharmacy.

* The lift is out of action until the autumn 2023, due to temporary exhibits and refurbishment of the museum. For this reason, the museum is temporarily inaccessible to wheelchairs.




Eleonora Verbekehof

On this photogenic square you can enjoy a view of three of the city's highlights: the Medieval St John's Hospital plus the towers of the Church of Our Lady and St Saviour's Cathedral. Here, you will also find the entrance to the former pharmacy of St John's Hospital. The herb borders are a reminder of the medicinal plants that were grown. And Eleonora Verbeke? She was the nun who ran the pharmacy in the 18th century and gathered all kinds of medicinal recipes.



And off you go

In order to see the contemporary work of art 'The veins of the convent' by Giuseppe Penone at the Old St John site, stand on Eleonora Verbekehof facing the Medieval infirmary wards, with the passage to Mariastraat on your left. Turn to the right and go around the corner to the left. You now go  down a slight slope. The work of art is just a few metres further on, literally in front of the door of the former convent and behind

the infirmary wards of **3** St John's Hospital.

Retrace your steps, in order to leave the Old St John site: return along Eleonora Verbekehof and then go straight ahead, into the covered passage leading to Mariastraat. In Mariastraat, turn right. At the museum entrance of **3** St John's Hospital cross the street to the O.L.V.-kerkhof-Zuid. Follow this street until you

reach the Boniface Bridge. The bridge cannot be crossed due to the steps with cobbles, however, beside the bridge you can enjoy the picturesque surroundings with the **4** Church of Our Lady and the **5** Gruuthuse Museum.



Boniface Bridge

Boniface Bridge may be one of Bruges' most recent bridges, yet it perfectly captures the spirit of the city. A veil of mystery, a touch of romance and amazing views all around you, all fighting for your attention. This spot along the canals, with its overhanging timbered

houses, majestic Church of Our Lady and adjacent Gruuthuse palace is magical at any time of day. Next door, as its close companion, stands the Gruuthuse bridge complete with the white painted House Arents, as the only bridge in the city with a building upon it.

Did you know... that St John's Hospital received a work of art as a gift?



With his work 'The veins of the monastery', artist Giuseppe Penone thanked the nursing nuns at **3** St John's Hospital for their nurturing of human life. A white marble island rises from the water, the original dark veins in the marble are clearly

visible. Like human veins, they symbolise flowing life. The black and white also refers to the nurses' habit. From an overhanging branch of an oak tree, with its bark wrapped partly in bronze, water drips and extends to the source. A symbolic reference to the circle of life.



And off you go

From Boniface Bridge, between the Church of Our Lady and the Gruuthuse Palace, there is a narrow path that leads you to the front and entrance of these monuments. On your right, you will see the modern reception pavilion of Musea Brugge,

that is accessible to wheelchair users. This is where you buy your tickets for the **4** Museum of the Church of Our Lady and the **5** Gruuthuse Museum. Along the underpass of the pavilion you can access the inner courtyard of the

Gruuthuse Palace and the adapted toilet **5** at the Gruuthuse Museum. A comfort strip between the cobblestones makes it easy for you to cross the square. You leave the square through the gate on the other side.

Accessibility Museum of the Church of Our Lady

The entrance to the Museum of the Church of Our Lady is located on the side of Guido Gezelleplein where you will also find two special parking bays. The entrance has steps and a rather steep **▲** slope where

you will certainly need some assistance. The nave of the church is easily accessible, although help can be handy for a number of slopes, for example, to reach the tombs. A sensory station has been installed in the

church. Blind or visually impaired visitors can touch a 3-D print of the statue 'Madonna and Child', feel the cold Carrara marble from which the statue is carved and discover the altar upon which the statue stands.

4 Museum of the Church of Our Lady



The 115.5-metre high tower at the Church of Our Lady (13th century) illustrates the craftsmanship of builders in Bruges. They worked for no fewer than 200 years on what eventually became the second highest brick church tower in the world. Inside you will find an incredible collection of paintings and painted tombs. The showpiece is the white marble 'Madonna and Child' by Michelangelo, as the only sculpture that left Italy during the life of this Renaissance master. The tombs of Mary of Burgundy and her father Charles the Bold (15th-16th centuries) are also spectacular. The two recumbent effigies provide a realistic image of the rulers.

Mariastraat 38, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 87 11
musea@brugge.be
www.museabrugge.be



5 Gruuthuse Museum



The life motto of Louis de Gruuthuse, the best-known resident of the Gruuthuse Palace, was, 'Plus est en vous' or 'There is more in you (than you think)'. This is displayed above the gate to this luxurious city palace. The Lords of Gruuthuse became very rich thanks to their monopoly on the distribution of

'gruut', a spicy, vital flavour enhancer for beer. Louis' father ordered the building of this chic city residence (15th century) and it was later extended by Louis himself. Today, the building accommodates a museum covering three important periods in Bruges' history: its Burgundian heyday,

the lesser-known 17th and 18th centuries, and the historical rediscovery of Bruges in the 19th century. Each era comes to life thanks to a magnificent collection of ancient objects.

Dijver 17C, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 84 11
musea@brugge.be
www.museabrugge.be



Gruuthuse Museum reception pavilion

The remarkable pavilion was designed by noAarchitecten. It is a fine example of contemporary architecture which glimpses the past. The pointed facades, which get smaller as they approach the palace, bear reference to the Gothic building traditions and remind us of an origami model. The dark-grey steel is in subtle harmony with the surrounding slate roofs. The large sections of glass give the whole structure a transparent and inviting feel. From the inside, these also allow a wonderful view of the tower of the Church of Our Lady.



Accessibility Gruuthuse Museum

The Gruuthuse Museum is not accessible to wheelchair users because the historic building has many complex differences in floor level. Even so, the museum is keen to be as inclusive as possible. For visitors with a visual impairment, there are models, replicas and other tactile objects to appeal to the senses, plus an adapted explanation in the audio guide. For visitors with a hearing impairment, sound

fragments have been replaced by alternatives, such as subtitles and texts. A visioguide in Flemish sign language and International Sign (IS) tops off a visit. Along the underpass of the reception pavilion you can reach the **5** adapted toilet at the Gruuthuse Museum.

And off you go

Leave the inner courtyard of the Gruuthuse Museum by the gate, turn left into Gruuthusestraat and stay on this side of the street for a few metres until just before the Church of Our Lady. Then, cross over to Guido Gezelleplein, which has flat cobble paving and some benches for a rest. Once you have crossed, turn left, go past the restaurants and immediately take the first street to the right. This is Mariastraat, which takes you to Simon Stevin Square.

At the end of Mariastraat, turn right into Oude Burg. Simon Stevin Square is now on your left. The square is covered with mosaic cobblestones. The terraces in the middle of the square are bordered with planter boxes and there are bicycle racks between the terraces. Not all terraces on the edges of the square have a border. There is a gutter on the left and the right of the central area. Benches on the square are best accessed from the Steenstraat direction. On Simon Stevin Square the bakery-restaurant **3** Le Pain Quotidien is open all day long.

To continue the trail, continue along the right side of Simon Stevin Square. While you are still on the square, turn right into an alley, called Loppemstraat. Go along this alley and when you reach the end, turn left into Oude Burg. Unless you fancy a snack or a drink in **4** De Verbeelding, in which case turn right.

Stay on the left-hand side of Oude Burg, where after a while the footpath **5** narrows to 70 centimetres. If this creates an obstacle for you, cross Oude Burg diagonally right towards the lowered footpath on the other side and continue to the left. You can cross the street diagonally again immediately past the bicycle racks or a little further along at Kartuizerinnenstraat. Now you are able to reach the **7** City Halls.

TIP: Pop along the Kartuizerinnenstraat to visit the Military Chapel and **6** Bourgogne des Flandres Brewery. On the right of the street the footpath is very narrow (83 centimetres) when reaching the planted area. The footpath on the left is easily

accessible until the bend. Bourgogne des Flandres is just beyond the bend on the right-hand side. To continue the trail, return to Oude Burg. Here, you cross diagonally towards the **7** City Halls.

Go under the gallery of the City Halls to reach the gate to access the inner courtyard of the City Halls. Here, you have a wonderful view of the Belfry and by crossing the inner courtyard you end up on the Market Square.



Did you know... Simon Stevin Square has something to do with maths?

The mathematician and scientist Simon Stevin stands proudly in the middle of this square that was named after him. Born in Bruges, Stevin moved to the more religiously tolerant Netherlands in the 16th century. He became the adviser to Prince Maurice. Filled with fresh ideas, he devoted his energy to science and formulated exciting new thoughts in his mother tongue in all kinds of scientific disciplines. He was famous, among other things, for inventing Dutch words – such as ‘wiskunde’ (mathematics) – for a number of scientific terms. He also invented the decimal system for fractions and gave fortification a mathematical foundation. What a guy!



Did you know... the Military Chapel was formerly a convent church?

Kartuizerinnenstraat is a rather secret spot, nestling just behind the Belfry. Until the end of the 18th century, it was home to the Carthusian nuns. Their convent now serves as a Military Chapel and a reminder of the victims of the two World Wars. The striking memorial gate at the beginning of the street pays tribute to those who died in the First World War. As such, every street in Bruges has its own story.

6 Bourgogne des Flandres

In this romantic brewery, you will meet the brewer himself. Up in the brewing loft, he will tell you how two of the most traditional beers are blended to create the iconic Bourgogne des Flandres. Then, you can turn your attention

to personalising a bottle with your own photo. During your visit, you can also explore the distillery, where two unique Bruges genevers are produced on the basis of beer. Children can do a fun treasure hunt and,

if your visit makes you thirsty, refreshments are available in the cafe or on the cosy waterside terrace. You can enjoy finger food, plus, of course, the delicious beers and genevers from Bourgogne des Flandres.



Accessibility Bourgogne des Flandres

There are no steps when entering the brewery via the entrance of the brasserie. The adapted toilet can be accessed using the lift. In the exhibition area there are several slopes. Ramps and mobile sloping ramps make it easier

to get around, but you will still require some assistance. The outdoor terrace is also accessible to wheelchairs and they fit nicely under the tables. The terrace beside the water is not accessible to wheelchair users.

Kartuizerinnenstraat 6,
8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 33 54 26
visits@bourgognedesflandres
www.bourgognedesflandres.be

Exploring the Market Square

The Market Square is one of the central squares in the city. It features easily accessible mosaic cobblestones. The many terraces are situated around the sides and most of the year they are enclosed with planter boxes. On the middle square, around the statue of Bruges' folk heroes Jan Breydel and Pieter De Coninck, there are a number of benches. With your back to the Belfry, and after passing a 3-cm high kerb,

you can cross the Market Square diagonally to the right to get to the Historium Brugge. In the same building, you will also find a tourist office and the Duvelorium Grand Beer Cafe.

From the Historium Brugge, turn left and we recommend staying on the left to pass first the Provincial Court then, on the corner with Breidelstraat, the building which accommodates

Bruges Beer Experience. On this side of the Market Square, a row of detectable, smooth stones has been laid, which you can use as a guide. Both on the Market Square and nearby you will find an accessible toilet on the inner courtyard of the City Halls, an accessible toilet in the Historium Brugge or a 'changing place' in the Provincial Court (as from spring 2024).



7 Belfry and City Halls

The Belfry with its stately tower is protected as UNESCO world heritage. In 1280, the very first city hall with tower, which was possibly built from wood, was partly destroyed by fire, after which work began almost immediately on the construction of the splendid building you see

here today. The Belfry was a symbol of urban power, prosperity and autonomy, and the citizens of Bruges are still very proud of their 'Halletoren' (tower on the halls). Those able to climb the 366 steps in the tower will learn about the history of the Belfry and can

stop in the treasury, at the impressive clock or with the carillonneur. A breathtaking view awaits you at the very top. Temporary exhibitions and events are held down below in the City Halls. A visit to the City Halls and the Belfry are two different things.



Markt 7, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 87 11
musea@brugge.be
www.museabrugge.be

Accessibility Belfry and City Halls

The Belfry is not accessible to wheelchairs, but the City Halls are. The path to enter the City Halls and the inner courtyard are covered in flat cobblestones. There is an easily accessible **6** toilet on the inner courtyard. The Garemijn hall is the most accessible of all. The halls on the upper level are reached by lift, but help may be necessary to manage some steeper slopes and in the narrow pass when leaving the lift on the first floor. If you come from Garemijn hall, you will find a sensory model with information in Braille on the Market Square, on the left in front of the building and between the benches.

Did you know... on the Market Square, the time is told by a golden ball?

On top of the house on the corner, called Bouchoute, there is a ball clad in gold leaf. When the Brussels-Ghent-Bruges railway was inaugurated, people discovered that the Belgian clocks were out of sync. This problem was resolved by professor Quetelet, by installing a midday pointer and a midday line in various cities, which displayed the right time without dispute. In Bruges this was done in 1837. These days, the 'midday line' can be both seen and felt thanks to copper nails integrated in the paving on the Market Square. When the shadow of the ball falls directly on the 12 o'clock line, it is midday or 12 o'clock local sun time.



8 Historium Brugge



In the Historium Brugge you can immerse yourself in the exciting Golden Era of Bruges during a thrilling journey back in time. Film, decors and special effects tell the tale of Jan van Eyck's apprentice in 'Historium Story'. In the 'Historium Virtual Reality' you can experience an impressive virtual flight past the 15th-century architecture,

including the Water Halls, a large storage area that stood on the Market Square for five centuries but has since disappeared, and the former St Donatian's Cathedral on Burg Square. From the 30-metre high 'Historium Tower' you can enjoy a unique view of the Market Square. This is a perfect spot for a selfie with the Belfry in the

background. Take a break with a drink at the 5 Duvelorium Grand Beer cafe.

Markt 1, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 27 03 11
info@historium.be
www.historium.be

Accessibility

Historium Brugge

The Historium Brugge has alternative access with a lift. Go straight on as you enter the entrance hall, and just before reaching the inner courtyard you will find the lift on the left in a small hall. An alternative route and assistance is provided for wheelchair users at the attraction 'Historium Story', since you are required to take the lift in certain places. The sporadic cobblestones along the way are an easy ride. The 7 accessible toilet has plenty of room and rails, only there is limited room beside the door handle on the inside. The texts at this attraction are very small, and not legible for everyone, however, thanks to an audio guide you can hear everything in your own language (ten languages available). A hearing loop is provided for the hard of hearing.



Markt 3, 8000 Brugge
provinciaalhof@west-vlaanderen.be
www.provinciaalhof.be

9 Provincial Court

On the site where this neo-Gothic Provincial Court now stands, there was once the iconic Water Hall (a Gothic maritime warehouse) between the 13th and the 18th century, and then in the 19th century

a monumental neo-classical housing complex. The provincial council held meetings in the Provincial Court until 1999, but it is currently being converted into a proverbial gate to the province. Once the building

is ready, you will be able to discover all about the many wonders of the province of West Flanders, including Bruges, as provincial capital. The building's historic past will also be highlighted.

Accessibility Provincial Court

Until spring 2024, the Provincial Court will be undergoing thorough restoration, renovation and refurbishment, which means the building will be closed to visitors. Once it reopens, the building will be accessible to everyone. Beside the wide stair-

case on the Market Square, there will be a new lift for wheelchair users. Inside the building, a second accessible lift will provide access to every floor. The new sanitary units will be fitted with adapted toilets and a spacious and comfortable 'changing


place', including room for assistance. The visitor experience will also be appropriate for everyone, featuring adapted information channels, furniture where wheelchairs fit underneath, and high and low-level experience elements.

And off you go

On the corner of the Market Square and Breidelstraat, turn left in the direction of Burg Square. At the turn there are concrete poles with chains in between. To avoid these, keep as left as you can on the Market Square. The entrance to the

10 Bruges Beer Experience, which is inaccessible to wheelchairs, is directly after the turn into Breidelstraat on your left-hand side.

Half-way on your right you will see a narrow alley, called De

Garre. It is just wide enough (77 centimetres) to go in. The alley  slopes steeply downwards and is covered with very bumpy cobblestones. Just beside the entrance to the alley you will find **15** Chez Albert, a takeaway for Liege waffles.

10 Bruges Beer Experience



In this interactive beer experience centre you can discover all about the beer brewing process, the raw materials, Trappist and abbey beers, beer in Bruges and food pairing. Look or listen, touch, smell

and taste! Children can follow the Kids Tour, featuring the story of the Little Bear from Bruges. Just want to taste it? The bar is open to everyone, and offers sixteen different beers on tap, complete with a view of the Market Square.

Breidelstraat 3, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 69 92 29
or 0032 496 76 45 54
info@mybeerexperience.com
www.mybeerexperience.com



Did you know...

De Garre was actually a fire alley?

If you blink you will certainly miss De Garre. Not surprising, as it is one of the narrowest alleys in Bruges. A 'garre' is West Flemish for crack or crevice. Stretch out your arms and you can touch the walls on both

sides. This former fire alley used to run down to the canals, allowing people to reach water quickly in order to put out a fire. Despite being blocked off, its authentic Medieval character has been retained.



Accessibility Bruges Beer Experience

The museum is inaccessible to wheelchairs. If you are blind or have a visual impairment you can listen to all the texts on a tablet.

The iPad is handed over with two headsets, allowing visitors who are blind or visually impaired to experience the attraction

together with a companion. For visitors with a hearing disability, a translation into Flemish sign language is available.



Exploring Burg Square

When you reach Burg Square, turn right immediately, because in the right corner of the square you will find the famous **11** Basilica of the Holy Blood. The **12** City Hall stands on the left and in the middle. The building in white with gold next door is the Civil Registry,

with access to the **13** Liberty of Bruges in the corner. Burg Square is covered in flat mosaic cobblestones. Benches are provided at the Liberty of Bruges. St Donatian's Cathedral stood directly opposite City Hall until the late 18th century. Nowadays, this section of

Burg Square is planted with trees, with benches underneath. At the Crown Plaza hotel there is a lowered footpath, allowing access to the benches by wheelchair. On Burg Square, you will also find two special parking bays.

11 Basilica of the Holy Blood



The lower chapel of the Basilica of the Holy Blood, dedicated to St Basil, is the only well-preserved Romanesque church interior in West Flanders. The simplicity of the lower chapel contrasts with

the ornate embellishment of the (neo)-Gothic upper chapel. The relic of the Holy Blood has been kept here ever since the 13th century. The relic is said to have been brought to Bruges

by crusaders. The church was elevated to the status of Basilica in 1923, due to the special veneration of the Holy Blood.

Burg 13, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 33 67 92
info@holyblood.com
www.holyblood.com

Accessibility Basilica of the Holy Blood

The lower chapel has no steps and is accessible, however, there is limited room to manoeuvre at the entrance and the door is very heavy. A rather steep slope provides access to a number of smaller rooms. If you wish to visit the upper chapel and treasury, place a call at the lift and talk into the speaker. Some manoeuvring is required in order to enter and exit the lift. The double door to the upper chapel is very heavy. There are narrow, but accessible passageways on the upper floor. There is plenty of room to manoeuvre in the halls. The exhibited material in the treasure chamber is hard to see if you are in a wheelchair.

Did you know... the Procession of the Holy Blood is centuries old?

The relic of the Holy Blood has been carried in the annual Procession of the Holy Blood since the end of the 13th century on Ascension Day. This occasion is still honoured throughout the city and, in 2009, was recognised as Immaterial Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. The procession attracts spectators from Belgium and abroad, and provides evidence of the fact that the past lives on. In the upper chapel of the **11** Basilica of the Holy Blood there is a daily service to honour the relic. It is also possible to attend this ceremony.



Burg Square, birthplace of the city

If the Market Square is the heart of Bruges, then Burg Square with its monumental buildings is surely the soul. Bruges began growing here as from the 9th century and Burg Square has served as the city's administrative centre for centuries. The Counts of Flanders had their residence here, and today the City Hall is home to Bruges' city council. The buildings surrounding the square have emerged over the centuries, and each portrays the construction style of its day. What majestic riches!



12 City Hall



The City Hall in Bruges (1376–1421) is one of the oldest in the Low Countries. The city has been governed here for over 600 years. In its day, the Gothic building was an example for other city halls, including those in Leuven and Brussels. The innovative use of façade

sculptures was particularly admired. An absolute must is the Gothic Hall which is a stunning work of art with its wall paintings from around 1900 and polychrome vaulted ceiling. Bruges couples still get married here today, and it is also where the city council holds its

meetings. In the adjacent historical hall you can discover the importance of the sea in Bruges' prosperity. This is possible with an interactive display about the lost Zwin ports and a number of original artefacts and archaeological objects. The evolution of Burg Square and the City Hall is illustrated on the ground floor.

Accessibility City Hall

The entrance, reception and City Hall galleries are easily accessible. You will probably require some help in opening the sluice doors and operating the buttons. Simply ask at the wheelchair-accessible counter. In the historical hall you can make use of a free audio guide in 3 languages (NL FR EN). Please note: the Gothic Hall and historical hall are not open to visitors during wedding ceremonies.



Burg 12, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 87 11
musea@brugge.be
www.museabrugge.be

13 Liberty of Bruges



From this mansion, Liberty of Bruges was once governed, as the name given to the countryside around Bruges, which had a separate status. The Liberty of Bruges was dissolved by the French in 1795, after which the building served as a court until 1984.

Now, among other things, it is home to the City archives and used to store the collective written memory. The mansion has an old courtroom featuring a 16th-century, monumental ornamental mantelpiece, made of wood, marble and alabaster by Lanceloot Blondeel.

Burg 11A, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 87 11
musea@brugge.be
www.museabrugge.be

Accessibility Liberty of Bruges

The entrance with its three steps is not accessible. Therefore, ask at the reception of the Liberty of Bruges to put down a ramp. This ramp is very steep, so you will definitely need a strong companion to push you up. The renaissance room with

its ornamental mantelpiece is accessible without steps, although you may need some help to open the double door. A free audio tour is available for this hall in five languages (NL FR DE EN ES) and can be followed with your own

smartphone or tablet. By scanning QR codes you can hear an explanation on your device. So be sure to take a headset or earphones along with you. Please note: buy your tickets for the Liberty of Bruges in the 12 City Hall.

Did you know... Blinde-Ezelstraat is definitely worth a visit?

There is something remarkable to discover along every square metre of the Blinde-Ezelstraat. From the stunning vaulting between the City Hall and the Civil Registry to the somewhat special black square on the side wall of the City Hall. The conscious decision was made not to clean this piece of wall after restoration in the 1970s, in order to demonstrate the effects of car pollution on the façade. There are many legends to explain the amusing street name, which means Blind Donkey street, but in fact there was an inn here called 'Den Blinden Ezel' (The blind donkey) in the 15th century.



And off you go

At Burg Square, go through the archway between the Civil Registry and the City Hall directly into Blinde-Ezelstraat. This pedestrian street without obstacles is paved with level cobblestones. It emerges on the Fish Market, which is also covered in flat mosaic cobblestones. Just before reaching the Fish Market, there are some benches in the Steenhoudersdijk from which you can enjoy a lovely view. Turn 180 degrees and, with your back to the Fish Market, turn left just

before reaching the water. You end up on Tanners Square. Cross Tanners Square. You may need help to go up the ▲ slight slope towards Rosary Quay. Right in front you will find a street called Pandreitje. At 14 Rosary Quay, turn right and continue on the right-hand side. At Nepomucenus bridge, at the junction with Wollestraat, you might need help in negotiating the tricky crossing with a ▲ kerb and ▲ slope. Fancy a look in the photogenic Passage Bourgondisch Cruyce?

Then, before crossing the bridge, go right and follow Wollestraat. When you reach Kartuizerinnenstraat (left), the Passage appears on your right-hand side. Along the way you pass 6 restaurant Delicious.

Return to continue the route towards the Dijver. Stay on the right in the Dijver. The smooth granite kerb ▲ slopes gradually downwards at the beginning of the Dijver.

14 Rosary Quay and Passage Bourgondisch Cruyce

If you want to make an impression on Instagram, you should definitely take some photos on Rosary Quay. This place was once called Salt Dike, because it is where ships moored to unload salt. In the 18th century, it was the place to be if you wanted to buy a rosary (paternoster), which explains the current name of the street. Today, it is one of the most beautiful cityscapes. Summer or winter, morning or evening, sun or rain, there is always romance in the air at

Rosary Quay. Somewhat less familiar and quieter, but just as idyllic is the Passage Bourgondisch Cruyce. Those finding the passage (see 'And off you go'), are rewarded by a fantastic view of the canals. So it's worth the hunt!

Accessibility Rosary Quay and Passage Bourgondisch Cruyce

The footpaths in Rosary Quay and Wollestraat are made of level granite. Passage Bourgondisch Cruyce has a level surface.



Did you know...

the Fish Market and Tanners Square are side by side?

Fresh North Sea fish used to be a delicacy for the rich, and was originally sold on the Market Square. However, in the 18th century, because of the unpleasant smell, the fishmongers were banished to the Fish Market. In 1820, city architect Jean-Robert Calloigne designed a colonnade that is now considered the oldest remaining fish market in Belgium. While the Fish Market served the rich, the poor of the 19th century bought cheap freshwater fish on Tanners Square, referred to locally as 'the little Fish Market'. In Medieval times, however, this square was where tanners worked. Today, these pleasant squares are dedicated to the good life.



Did you know...

there's a reason why Pandreitje is so wide?

It is understandable that the Rosary Quay attracts all the attention. But turn around for a moment. After all, with its cobblestones and many trees, Pandreitje is as enchanting as an avenue. Until the late 18th century, a street and canal ran side by side. The canal was filled in – a task that took no less than 24 years – which explains why the street is so wide.

At the end of the street you can see the only remains of a former 19th-century prison, which was once one of the largest prisons in Belgium.



15 Dijver

Due to the absence of quay walls, this is the only place in the city where the river Reie has preserved some of its natural appearance. Yet this canal is not called a 'rei' as most others are, but Dijver, which means 'holy water' in Celtic. It is possibly the oldest place name in the city. Due to the presence of a forest of oak trees,

the Celts most likely considered this spot along the water as a sacred cult site. For the Celts, the oak was a sacred tree. Today nature has made way for culture and education, as it now home to the famous **16** Groeninge Museum and College of Europe, a post-university course for students from all corners of the world.

Accessibility Dijver

The path at the Dijver has a semi-paved surface made of dolomite. There is no border between the path and the water by the rows of trees. In the middle section, you will find various benches between the trees.



Dijver from the Nepomucenus Bridge

From the Nepomucenus Bridge, you can enjoy the best panorama of the Dijver. Point your lens at the sacred Nepomucenus. Framed by the green Dijver and with the Church of Our Lady as an elevated eyecatcher in the distance, the view is a real treat.

The saint wards off drowning and flooding, and protects the bridge from collapse. Chance would have it that the statue was thrown into the water by unknown persons in the late 18th century, but fortunately was quickly returned to its pedestal.



And off you go

Keep going straight on along the Dijver. Almost at the end of the row of trees, cross the street to go through the rococo gate to the **16** Groeninge Museum, over a lowered kerb. A flat cobblestone path guides you through the gardens of the museum to the entrance. In order to reach the entrance, you must first also negotiate a short strip of difficult cobbles and a very steep slope made of chequer plate. Then, you end up at gate that emerges on Groeninge street. Go straight across to reach a second gate in **17** Hof Arents, a picturesque city park. Would you also like to visit the museum? In that case, after the chequer plate, turn left and the museum entrance is directly in front of you.

If you wish to avoid the chequer plate in the garden courtyard of Groeninge Museum, go past the rococo gate on Dijver and turn left into the very next street, called Groeninge. A little further along on your left, you will find the side entrance of the **16 Groeninge Museum and, on the right, the gate to **17** Hof Arents. Hof Arents is close to Boniface Bridge we mentioned earlier (see page 13).**

16 Groeninge Museum



The paintings by the Flemish primitives are the main reason why visitors come to the Groeninge Museum. These master painters lived and worked in the County of Flanders from the late 14th to early 16th centuries. However, the museum has even more to offer than Jan van Eyck or Hans Memling. You will also find an overview of six centuries of Belgian visual art. Ranging from Flemish expressionism

and surrealism, to 20th-century modern art. And the future is even brighter. Close to the museum, Bruges is planning the construction of the exhibition hall BRUSK, as the epicentre of a top-class museum and art site, focusing on various art forms.

Dijver 12, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 87 11
musea@brugge.be
www.museabrugge.be

Accessibility Groeninge Museum

The museum entrance through the double door has no doorstep. All rooms are sufficiently large and easily accessible, only the slope to the museum shop and the first museum gallery is a little steep. The paintings are visible for everyone and the accompanying texts are legible. There is a free audio tour that you can follow using your own smartphone or tablet. By scanning QR codes you can hear an explanation (choice of NL FR DE EN) on your device. So be sure to take a headset or earphones along with you. Visitors with a visual

disability can request an adapted guided tour. The route to the toilet and the adapted toilet itself are a squeeze. You will probably need some help in manoeuvring. A bracket is provided, but the basin is difficult to reach. At Guido Gezelleplein, less than 200 metres from the museum, there are two special parking bays. Those wishing to visit the courtyard garden as well should take account of the path of flat cobblestones and with a slope. You can avoid the slope by entering the garden using the side entrance in Groeninge street.

Did you know... 'Untitled' is a strokable sculpture?

The elegant and undulating statue 'Untitled' by Pablo Atchugarry stands in the courtyard garden of the Groeninge Museum, but is also visible from the side entrance of the museum in Groeninge street. This is a statue that begs to be touched. Just feel how silky-soft the hard stone feels. With its smooth surface, it reflects light and shadow and plays with the opposites of open and closed. Like the spire of the neighbouring Church of Our Lady, it reaches for the sky. Atchugarry, who had a retrospective exhibition in Bruges in 2006, is among the fans of the one and only Michelangelo Buonarroti. Indeed, his statue is a clear hint at the maestro's white marble 'Madonna and Child' in the Church of Our Lady.



17 Hof Arents

Hof Arents is filled with a sense of intimacy: greenery with secret benches in-between, a touch of art and a magnificent view of the **4** Church of Our Lady and the **5** Gruuthuse Palace. At the beginning of the 20th century the city decided to purchase the white classicist building, on the bridge linking the nearby Gruuthuse domain, with its 18th-century coach house and garden. The private garden became a public park and






House Arents was transformed into a museum containing works including those of the British-Bruges artist, Frank Brangwyn. In the garden you notice the two pillars of the Water Halls, a former maritime station with warehouse that once stood on the Market Square. The group of statues 'The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse' by Rik Poot is a chilling evocation of four abominations: Revolution, War, Hunger and Death.

Accessibility Hof Arents

Hof Arents can be accessed without obstacles along wide paths of flat cobblestones. At the entrance gate on the side of Groeninge street there is a small drop in the doorstep. Within the small park, several paths are unpaved, however, they are all flat. House Arents is not accessible to wheelchair users. There are steps at the entrance and the top floor can only be accessed by the stairs.



And off you go







Leave Hof Arents using the gate left of Bonifacius Bridge and you end up back on Groeninge. Go straight on and take the first street to the right, Kastanjeboomstraat, which  slopes upwards.


Would you prefer a shorter route? Then, turn right at the end of Kastanjeboomstraat into Mariastraat     . Then you follow part of your earlier route, but in the opposite direction. A little further along Mariastraat, at the foot of the Church of Our Lady, turn left into Heilige Geeststraat. At the end, turn left, into Sint-Salvatorkerkhof. Walk behind St Saviour's Cathedral, follow the bend to the right and you end up back in Zuidzandstraat. Here, turn left, where you can return to the start of the walk, at 't Zand Square.

If you wish to continue the walk, at the end of Kastanjeboomstraat, go left into Katelijnestraat. In this street, you will find the  tearoom De Proeverie and the  restaurant Less is

More. Cross diagonally in the direction of Stoofstraat, then turn into this street. Stoofstraat emerges on Walplein. Go immediately to the right-hand side of the square, then follow your route straight on, along the footpath past Brewery 'De Halve Maan'. You will need to cross the road once in order to reach the footpath. The pavement has a  small kerb.

The middle section of Walplein is difficult to access, because the stones are very  uneven. There are many unmarked terraces. Are you hungry or thirsty? You will find something at  Bistro Boreas. Pass Brewery 'De Halve Maan' and,

at the end of Walplein, turn right into Wijngaardstraat. This brings you to Wijngaardplein, with its famous swans, and to the  Beguinage. Along the way you pass the restaurants  Tonka,  La Dentellière,  Venezia del Nord and  Maximiliaan van Oostenrijk. If you fancy an ice cream, don't miss a visit to  Pralifino.

 **Curious to discover an almshouse in Bruges?** Then, at the end of Walplein, continue straight on, into Noordstraat. A few metres further on you will find almshouse de Vos on your right-hand side.



A Bruges almshouse

Almshouse de Vos is only one of the many attractive almshouses in Bruges. With their characteristic white-painted façades and picturesque gardens they are true spots of serenity in the city. Their history dates back to the 14th century. Impoverished citizens were given a roof over their heads in these small homes. Sometimes, the initiative came from good citizens who were keen to earn a place in heaven with their good deeds. On other occasions, it was the guilds of craftsmen who wished to provide a comfortable home to the needy within their community. These days, they serve as social housing for the City of Bruges.



Did you know... in Brewery 'De Halve Maan' the beer flows under the ground?

Walplein is home to the official Bruges city beer 'Brugse Zot'. Ale has been brewed here since the 16th century, but real fame came about thanks to Brewery 'De Halve Maan'. This authentic family business was founded in 1856 and is the oldest active city brewery in Bruges. Since 2016, a three-kilometre underground beer pipeline has connected the brewery to the bottling plant outside the city centre. An innovative solution that eliminated the need for environmentally damaging transport by lorries. Feel free to go through the gate and fix your


gaze on the ground to glimpse this now world-famous beer pipeline.



And off you go

The footpath on Wijngaardplein is covered with flat mosaic cobblestones which are uneven from time to time. At the water pump with horses' heads, you can turn right to the main gate of the **18** Beguinage. The Beguinage Bridge that leads to the entrance has a  steep slope followed by a section of  round cobblestones.

Wheelchair users are better off going straight on across Wijngaardplein towards the Lock keeper's house beside the **19** Lake of Love. It is best to keep as far right as possible, close to the stones bordering the fence which protects the city's swans. The cobbles are more even here than those in the middle. In this way, you have a flat path and can easily reach the Beguinage. If you fancy a rest, there are some benches on the left-hand side.

Once you arrive at the Lock keeper's house, turn right and walk along the water, and use the gate to enter the Beguinage. Again, the  cobblestones are round, however, you will also find a comfort strip in flat cobblestones.

18 Beguinage

The Bruges Beguinage has been on the UNESCO World Heritage List since 1998. On entering the Beguinage, you cannot help but be impressed by this tranquil oasis of white-painted houses and the charming courtyard garden. The Princely Beguinage 'Ten Wijngaarde' was founded around 1245 as a closed community of


beguines. These single ladies, who did not take eternal vows and led a freer and more independent life than we might think, each had their own reason for living in a beguinage. Even today, the Beguinage is a serene place of contemplation. Single women from Bruges and some nuns from the Order of Saint Benedict still live here.



Begijnhof 24-28-30, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 33 00 11
liturgischcentrum@gmail.com



Accessibility Beguinage

The main gate at Wijngaardplein has a steep bridge. As an alternative, use the entrance via the gate close to the Lock keeper's house at the Lake of Love. After the gate, turn immediately right. The entire inner circle of the Beguinage is covered in flat and easy cobblestones. In order to reach this accessible path you must first cross some  uneven cobblestones.



Did you know... Wijngaardplein is a hotspot for animals?

Around a hundred swans bob around on the Bruges canals. At Wijngaardplein, they eat their fill of nutritious grain, supplementing their natural diet of water plants. The horses too look forward to Wijngaardplein, because the coachmen are obliged to rest here.

At the fountain, with its sculpture of horses' heads carved by Jef Claerhout, the horses enjoy a lovely drink of fresh water. Can you spot the hook on which the coachmen hang their bucket? (Between the horses' teeth, that's right!)

Towards the end of the walk

Leave the Beguinage through the gate at the Lock keeper's house. **Then, you have two options to go along the Lake of Love to the City Ramparts** and complete the final section of the walk.

1. Via Gunpowder Tower

After exiting the gate of the **18** Beguinage, turn right immediately. Follow the path along the **19** Lake of Love until you reach the sturdy-looking Gunpowder Tower at the end, and then turn right. There is a slight **▲** slope. Follow the path across the **20** City Ramparts and turn left at the end, into Oostmeers. Along

the Lake of Love you will also find an adapted toilet **9**.

2. Through Lake of Love Park

A alternative route takes you through Lake of Love Park. When you leave the **18** Beguinage, go straight on, keeping the **19** Lake of Love on your right. Cross Wijngaardplein and into Arsenaalstraat. Almost at the beginning of this street you will find the unpaved entrance to Lake of Love park. Go across the park to go up the **20** City Ramparts on the other side using a path that is accessible to wheelchairs. This path is very **▲** steep and can be slippery, so assistance

will be required. Once you are on the City Ramparts, turn right and follow the path. There is an adapted toilet nearby **10**. Cross the Lake of Love bridge and be sure to stop and take in the view. Then, continue straight on, past Gunpowder Tower, until you reach Oostmeers, where you turn left.

Regardless of whether you choose option 1 or 2, you will now see Bruges train station ahead of you. **If you wish to return to 't Zand Square, i.e. the start of the walk**, then cross the zebra crossing to the right and take the path through the **21** King Albert I Park.

19 Lake of Love

The mysterious atmosphere makes Lake of Love and its park the ultimate romantic hotspot. But what are the origins of the Lake of Love? To find out, we have to go back to the 12th or 13th century. At the point where a number of streams converged into the river Reie, to flow northwards through the city, the citizens of Bruges constructed a lock complex, making it easier to manage water levels in the river. And that's how a dam and the Lake of Love were formed. The 16th-century Lock keeper's house is on the exact site of the former locks. The eyecatcher

on the east side of the lake is Castle de la Faille (19th century), built in neo-Gothic style by a Bruges city councillor. An ideal place to steal a kiss from your loved one perhaps?

Accessibility Lake of Love

Most streets and paths along the Lake of Love and in the Lake of Love Park are accessible and easy to navigate. There are many unpaved sections, but they are flat. Two lovely routes are described above.

Lovers' Bridge

Post on Instagram? The best photo can undoubtedly be taken from Lovers' Bridge. A hit, even without filters. Rain, sun, snow or mist, love conquers all here. According to popular legend, those who cross Lovers' Bridge with their beloved will be blessed with eternal love. Do you feel a bit like the star in your own romantic movie?



VISIT AND EXPERIENCE

VISIT AND EXPERIENCE

20 City Ramparts

The City Ramparts are the largest protected cityscape in Bruges and form the perfect promenade. The park-like panorama was created in the 19th century, however, the City Ramparts date back to the second city fortifications from the 13th century. The population of Bruges was growing fast. Many, especially poorer people and religious communities, went to live outside the first city walls. As from 1275, the City of Bruges also expanded its official territory, but was still missing its fortifications. After the French king Philip

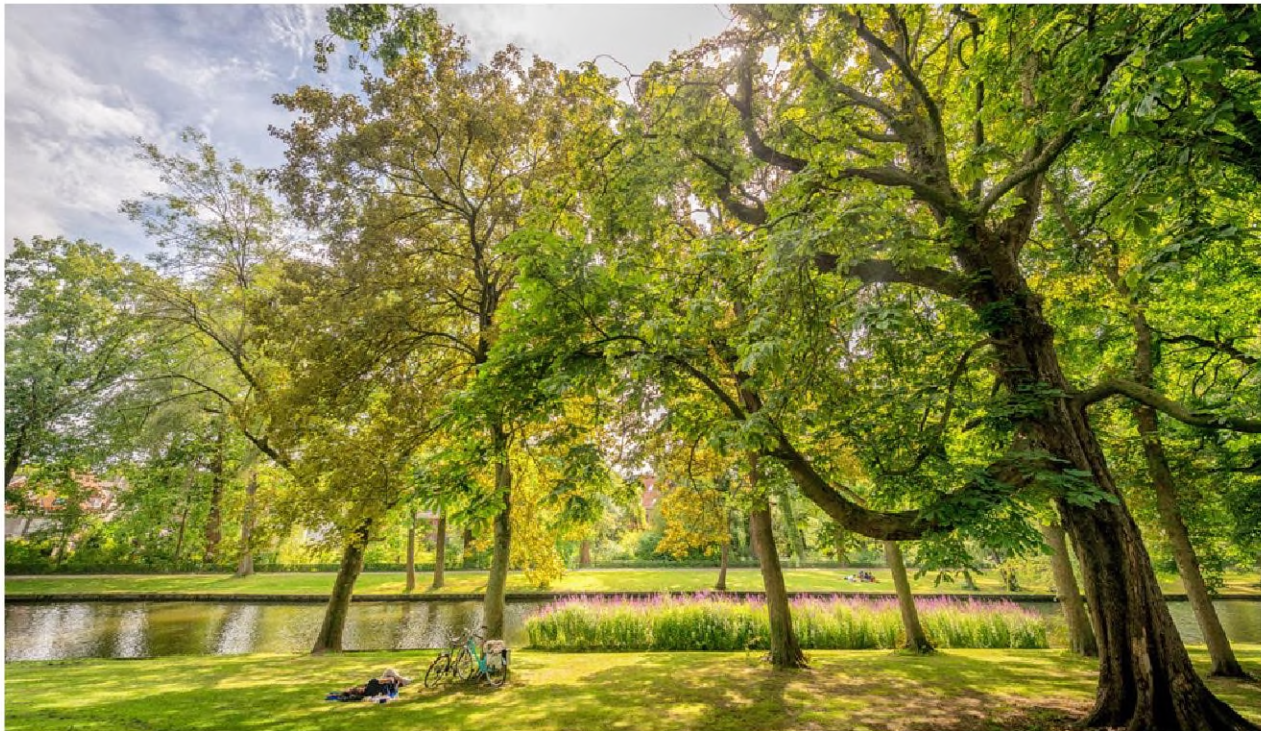
IV the Fair occupied Bruges and saw the sorry state of the military lines in the city that had burst its seams, he ordered the creation of a new defences. It took about three years to complete the 6.8-kilometre-long ramparts. So, now you know how Bruges acquired its recognisable egg shape.

Accessibility City Ramparts

This section of the City Ramparts has a semi-paved surface in dolomite.

Did you know... that Bruges station was once located at 't Zand Square?

It is always a hive of activity on Stationsplein (Station Square). Commuters, cycling office workers, chatting students, city hoppers and foreign visitors all criss crossing each other on the open square. Add the comings and goings of taxis and buses, and it's naturally a lively spot, with the train station as the eyecatcher. Before the Stationsplein came into existence, the station was located at 't Zand Square. In fact, this is already the third station to be situated in Bruges. It was erected just beyond the historic heart of the city and was opened in 1939.



21 King Albert I park

There was a time when women spread out their linen here to bleach in the sun, but later, as from the 1830s, trains chuffed along their tracks towards the station. The tracks disappeared when the station moved from 't Zand Square to the city perimeter. This space was almost used to build high-rise flats or a wide residential

boulevard, however, the city council opted to create a landscape park to elegantly lead visitors into the city. In doing so, the city gained a new park. Slopes were created in the terrain to hide a series of shabby houses from view in the Westmeers. Some of these slopes were kept during the renovations in 2022.

Need a break? Take a rest by the spots on the water at either end of the park.

Accessibility King Albert I Park

A path of smooth granite runs through the park. It is easily accessible and slightly sloping.

Close to the route, you will also find

22 Bruges Royal Municipal Theatre



The Bruges Royal Municipal Theatre (1869) is one of the best-preserved civic theatres in Europe. To make space for the construction of this stately building, many streets were straightened out and Medieval buildings were demolished. One hundred and fifty residents lost their homes to the wet dream of the bourgeoisie of the time: a cultural temple that could rival the major theatres in Ghent, Antwerp and Brussels. Behind its sober, but grand, neo-renaissance façade you can find a palatial foyer and a

majestic auditorium decorated in red gold. Besides some unique (free) festivals and activities, the theatre is mainly used for concerts, dance, circus and theatre performances.

Vlamingstraat 29, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 30 60
cultuurcentrum@brugge.be
www.ccbbrugge.be

Accessibility Bruges Royal Municipal Theatre

The municipal theatre is accessible using an alternative entrance along the side of the building in Adriaan Willaertstraat, via the ticket office. Throughout the building, you may need some assistance in opening double

swinging doors. A lift in the building goes as far as balcony 2. There are two adapted toilets with rails on the ground floor. There are some special parking bays beside the municipal theatre and nearby.

23 Belgian Fries Museum



This educational museum sketches the history of the potato, Belgian fries and their sauce accompaniments. It is housed in one of Bruges' most beautiful buildings: the Saaihalle. Show your entry ticket and you get a 0,40 euro discount on an order of fries.

Vlamingstraat 33, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 34 01 50
info@frietmuseum.be
www.frietmuseum.be

Accessibility Belgian Fries Museum

The path leading to the museum is easily accessible. You may need a hand opening the door and negotiating the short steep slope at the entrance. Otherwise, the entrance is spacious, there is room to manoeuvre in the galleries and the floors are accessible by lift (110 by 124 centimetres). The passage to the lift on the ground floor is narrow, but functional. Some units and display cabinets are more challenging and less visible

from a wheelchair, and the texts are sometimes too small. There is limited space in the adapted toilet, which prevents turning, however, there is room to line up beside the toilet bowl. There is only a bracket on the open side of the toilet bowl. Two special parking bays can be found in the area.

24 Lace Centre



The Bruges Lace Centre is world famous among lace lovers and for its unique knowledge, expertise and education. It is housed in the renovated old Lace school run by Apostolic nuns. In the Lace museum on the ground floor you can discover the story of Bruges lace. Multimedia installations and testimonials from international experts zoom in on the different types of lace and their origins, the lace industry and lace education in Bruges. If you come during one of the demonstrations (between 2pm and 5pm, except on Sundays and Bank Holidays), you will immediately notice the popularity of lacemaking among people of all ages. Fervent fans of all nationalities delight in coming here to master the incredible art.

Accessibility Lace Centre

On the path towards the entrance you need to cross some semi-repointed round cobblestones. The entrance, shop and other areas are easily accessible by wheelchair. There is a lowered reception counter accessible to wheelchairs. A spacious lift with Braille indications takes you to all floors. In two places the lift buttons are



Balstraat 16, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 33 00 72
info@kantcentrum.eu
www.kantcentrum.eu

more difficult to reach. The toilet has the necessary room to line up and includes brackets. The experience elements are easily accessible and can be operated from a wheelchair, and the exhibited objects and texts are easily visible, also thanks to mirrors in the lace-viewing cabinets. The film fragments have subtitles

and there is a feely box with different types of lace for people with a visual impairment. The museum texts are available from the counter in large print or can be sent by e-mail upon request. The centre also offers visits and workshops to suit people with a disability.

Food and drink

This chapter contains a short summary of restaurants, cafes and take-away addresses that are easily accessible. They are located either along or close to the trail.

Would you like to see detailed photos of each location? You can find them on www.toevla.be.

Allowing you to relax and enjoy your visit

- 1 Exki
- 2 Concertgebouwcafe
- 3 Le Pain Quotidien
- 4 De Verbeelding
- 5 Duvelorium Grand Beer cafe
- 6 Delicious
- 7 Tearoom De Proeverie
- 8 Less is more
- 9 Bistro Boreas
- 10 Tonka
- 11 La Dentellière
- 12 Venezia del Nord
- 13 Maximiliaan van Oostenrijk

Takeaway for a quick bite or drink

- 14 Panos Brugge – Zuidzandstraat
- 15 Chez Albert – Breidelstraat
- 16 Pralifino

FOOD AND DRINK

FOOD AND DRINK



1 Exki Brugge

Stationsplein 5, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 38 83 43
www.exki.com

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👍
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	👍
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	👎
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	You can use at 1 or 2, see page 54 in this brochure.	
Accessibility toilet		
Turning circle at the toilet door		
Width of toilet door		
Space in front of the toilet		
Space beside the toilet		
Number of supporting brackets		
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath		

2 Concertgebouwcafe

't Zand 34, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 47 69 99
info@concertgebouw.be
www.concertgebouw.be/en/concertgebouwcafe-1

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👍
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	👍
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Yes	👍
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	212 x 260 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	147 cm	👎
Width of toilet door	90 cm	👍
Space in front of the toilet	120 cm	👍
Space beside the toilet	90 cm	👍
Number of supporting brackets	2	👍
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Yes	👍

3 Le Pain Quotidien

Simon Stevenplein 15, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 34 29 21
belgium@lepainquotidien.be
www.lepainquotidien.com

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👎
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	100 cm	👍
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	👎
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	190 x 170 cm	
Accessibility toilet	Narrowest point: 70 cm	👎
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	👍
Width of toilet door	87 cm	👍
Space in front of the toilet	120 cm	👍
Space beside the toilet	108 cm	👍
Number of supporting brackets	1	👎
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	No	👎

4 De Verbeelding

Oude Burg 26, 8000 Brugge

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👍
Doorstep at the entrance	4 cm	👎
Door width	81 cm	👎
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	👎
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	190 x 151 cm	
Accessibility toilet	Narrowest point: 70 cm	👎
Turning circle at the toilet door	90 cm	👎
Width of toilet door	88 cm	👍
Space in front of the toilet	75 cm	👎
Space beside the toilet	90 cm	👍
Number of supporting brackets	1	👎
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	No	👎

5 Duvelorium Grand Beer cafe

Markt 1, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 33 53 94
 info@historium.be
 www.historium.be/en/duvelorium

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	120 cm	
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	176 x 237 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	
Width of toilet door	93 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	120 cm	
Space beside the toilet	90 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	2	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	

6 Delicious

Wollestraat 30, 8000 Brugge

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	77 cm	
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	208 x 167 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	
Width of toilet door	86 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	147 cm	
Space beside the toilet	87 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	2	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Yes	

9 Bistro Boreas

Walstraat 11, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 31 86 57
 team@bistrobarboreas.be
 www.bistrobarboreas.be

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	211 x 172 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	120 cm	
Width of toilet door	86 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	126 cm	
Space beside the toilet	100 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	0	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	No	

10 Tonka

Walplein 18, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 495 20 73 99
 johan@tonkatearoom.com
 www.tonkatearoom.com

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	85 cm	
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	150 x 150 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	
Width of toilet door	86 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	96 cm	
Space beside the toilet	90 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	0	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	

7 Tearoom De Proeverie

Katelijnestraat 6, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 33 08 87
 info@sukerbuyc.be
 www.deproeverie.be

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance	5 cm	
Door width	85 cm	
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	163 x 173 cm	
Accessibility toilet	Narrowest point: 62 cm	
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	
Width of toilet door	85 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	95 cm	
Space beside the toilet	104 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	2	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	

8 Less is More

Katelijnestraat 46, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 70 94 31
 steveouyin@telenet.be

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance	2 cm	
Door width	84 cm	
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Yes	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	162 x 185 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	
Width of toilet door	87 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	120 cm	
Space beside the toilet	70 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	2	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	No	

11 La Dentellière

Wijngaardstraat 33, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 33 18 98
 info@ladentelliere.be
 www.ladentelliere.be

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	150 x 140 cm	
Accessibility toilet	Narrowest point: 66 cm	
Turning circle at the toilet door	114 cm	
Width of toilet door	81 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	70 cm	
Space beside the toilet	100 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	0	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	No	

12 Venezia del Nord

Wijngaardstraat 28, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 68 30 50
 contact@veneziabrugge.be
 www.veneziabrugge.be

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Table: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	150 x 150 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	140 cm	
Width of toilet door	87 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	98 cm	
Space beside the toilet	94 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	0	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	No	

13 Maximiliaan van Oostenrijk

Wijngaardstraat 16, 8000 Brugge | T 0032 50 33 47 23
www.maximiliaanvanoostenrijk.be

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	60 cm	
CONSUMPTION AREA		
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	147 x 145 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	85 cm	
Width of toilet door	85 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	90 cm	
Space beside the toilet	93 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	0	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	

Takeaway for a quick bite or drink

These locations have:

- > step-free access or a maximum of one step of less than 10 centimetres;
- > no entrance door or a door of at least 77 centimetres wide.

- 14 Panos Bruges**
Zuidzandstraat 10, 8000 Brugge
delibrugge@salef.be
www.panos.be
- 15 Chez Albert**
Breidelstraat 16, 8000 Brugge
breidelstraat@chezalbert.be
www.chezalbert.be
- 16 Pralifino**
Wijngaardstraat 16, 8000 Brugge

Accommodation

Hotels

- 1 Academie**
Wijngaardstraat 7-9
8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 33 22 66
info@hotelacademie.be
www.hotelacademie.be
- 2 Boterhuis**
Sint-Jakobsstraat 40
8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 34 15 11
boterhuis@telenet.be
www.boterhuis.be
- 3 De Castillion**
Heilige Geeststraat 1
8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 34 30 01
info@castillion.be
www.castillion.be
- 4 De Medici**
Potterierei 15, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 33 98 33
reservation@hoteldemedici.com
www.hoteldemedici.com
- 5 Golden Tree Hotel**
Hoefijzerlaan 21,
8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 33 87 31
info@goldentreehotel.be
www.goldentreehotel.be
- 6 Grand Hotel Casselbergh**
Hoogstraat 6, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 65 00
info@grandhotelcasselbergh.com
www.grandhotelcasselbergh.com

- 7 Martin's Brugge**
Oude Burg 5, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 44 51 11
brugge@martinshotels.com
www.martinshotels.com

Holiday home

- 8 De Pepel**
Antoon De Lensstraat 19
8310 Brugge (Assebroek)
T 0032 478 61 44 04
info@pepel.be
www.pepel.be
Extra care (nursing and equipment) is possible. It is best to request more information beforehand.

Group accommodation

- 9 De Karmel**
Torhoutse Steenweg 406
8200 Brugge (Sint-Andries)
T 0032 50 38 04 84
dekarmel@chiro.be
www.dekarmel.be

Youth hostels

- 10 Domein Aan de Plas**
Blankenbergsewijk 73-75
8000 Brugge
T 0032 493 51 30 92
info@aandeplas.be
www.aandeplas.be

- 11 Snuffel Hostel**
Ezelstraat 42, 8000 Brugge
T 0032 50 33 31 33
info@snuffel.be
www.snuffel.be

- 12 Youth hostel Europa**
Baron Ruzettelaan 143
8310 Brugge (Assebroek)
T 0032 50 35 26 79
brugge@vjh.be
www.jeugdherbergen.be

- 13 Jeugdherberg Herdersbrug**
Lodewijk Coiseaukaai 46
8380 Brugge (Dudzele)
T 0032 50 59 93 21
brugge.dudzele@vjh.be
www.jeugdherbergen.be

Campsite

- 14 Camping Memling**
Veltemweg 109
8310 Brugge (Sint-Kruis)
T 0032 50 35 58 45
info@camping-memling.be
www.brugescamping.be

Detailed accessibility information and photos of these accommodation addresses can be found in the brochure 'Accessible holiday accommodation in Flanders and Brussels'.



Public toilets

This chapter contains a short summary of toilets that are easily accessible. They are located either along or close to the trail.

On www.visitbruges.be, you can find a wider selection of accessible public toilets.

Would you like to see detailed photos of each location? You can find them on www.toevla.be.

- 1 Bruges Station (side: Sint-Michiels)
- 2 Bruges Station (side: centre)
- 3 Centrum - 't Zand car park (above ground)
- 4 Centrum - 't Zand car park (underground)
- 5 Gruuthuse Museum
- 6 City Halls
- 7 Tourist Office Markt (Historium)
- 8 Main Library Biekorf
- 9 Lake of Love
- 10 Kanaaleiland

3 Centrum - 't Zand car park (above ground)

Separate sanitary block
't Zand 21, 8000 Brugge
Fee applicable

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👍
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	80 cm	👍
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	192 x 173 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	👍
Width of toilet door	84 cm	👎
Space in front of the toilet	114 cm	👎
Space beside the toilet	113 cm	👍
Number of supporting brackets	2	👎
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	👎

4 Centrum - 't Zand car park (underground)

Toilet in public building
't Zand 21, 8000 Brugge
Fee applicable

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👍
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	200 cm	👍
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	265 x 130 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	👍
Width of toilet door	91 cm	👍
Space in front of the toilet	66 cm	👎
Space beside the toilet	120 cm	👍
Number of supporting brackets	2	👍
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Yes	👍

1 Bruges Station (side: Sint-Michiels)

Toilet in public building
Balkonrotonde, 8000 Brugge
Fee applicable

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👍
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	👍
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	216 x 216 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	👍
Width of toilet door	100 cm	👍
Space in front of the toilet	120 cm	👍
Space beside the toilet	90 cm	👍
Number of supporting brackets	1	👎
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Yes	👍

2 Bruges Station (side: centrum)

Toilet in public building
Stationsplein, 8000 Brugge
Fee applicable

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👎
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	👍
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	202 x 198 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	👍
Width of toilet door	88 cm	👍
Space in front of the toilet	128 cm	👍
Space beside the toilet	80 cm	👎
Number of supporting brackets	2	👍
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	No	👎

5 Gruuthuse Museum

Toilet in public building
Dijver 17C, 8000 Brugge
Fee applicable, but free for museum visitors

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👎
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	👍
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	165 x 210 cm	
Accessibility toilet	Narrowest point: 83 cm	👎
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	👍
Width of toilet door	90 cm	👍
Space in front of the toilet	138 cm	👍
Space beside the toilet	100 cm	👍
Number of supporting brackets	2	👍
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Yes	👍

6 City Halls

Toilet in public building
Markt 7, 8000 Brugge
Fee applicable

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		👎
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	👍
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	220 x 160 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	👍
Width of toilet door	89 cm	👍
Space in front of the toilet	144 cm	👍
Space beside the toilet	103 cm	👍
Number of supporting brackets	2	👍
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Yes	👍

7 Tourist office Markt (Historium)

Toilet in public building
Markt 1, 8000 Brugge
Free

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	176 x 237 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	
Width of toilet door	93 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	120 cm	
Space beside the toilet	100 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	2	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	

8 Biekorf Main Library

Toilet in public building
Kuipersstraat 3, 8000 Brugge
Free

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	110 cm	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	144 x 225 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	
Width of toilet door	87 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	150 cm	
Space beside the toilet	90 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	2	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	

9 Lake of Love

Toilet in public building
Begijnenvest 1, 8000 Brugge
Fee applicable

ENTRANCE		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	90 cm	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	170 x 170 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	110 cm	
Width of toilet door	77 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	90 cm	
Space beside the toilet	100 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	2	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Limited	

10 Kanaaleiland

Separate sanitary block
Bargeweg, 8000 Brugge
Fee applicable

ACCESS		
Accessibility entrance		
Doorstep at the entrance		n.a.
Door width	106 cm	
TOILET		
Dimensions of toilet area	160 x 207 cm	
Accessibility toilet		n.a.
Turning circle at the toilet door	150 cm	
Width of toilet door	80 cm	
Space in front of the toilet	150 cm	
Space beside the toilet	96 cm	
Number of supporting brackets	2	
Basin: wheelchair fits underneath	Yes	

Care and equipment

Do you require care during your holiday?

As a holidaymaker in Flanders, you can make use of a regional nursing service or independent nurses in the district of your holiday accommodation. Contact a nursing service beforehand in order to discuss the options and terms. Here are some of the larger organisations that can provide assistance:

The White and Yellow Cross is an organisation of home nursing with departments all over Flanders. The contact addresses for each province can be found on www.wgk.be.
Bruges division
Annuntiatenstraat 47
T 0032 50 63 42 00
zorgaanvraagbrugge@wgkwvl.be

The Flemish Association of Independent Nurses (VBZV) gives more information on its website www.verplegingthuis.be regarding who you can contact for nursing at home. You can contact the nurses directly, in order to discuss your specific care request. Telephone helpline (accessible 24/7): T 0032 70 22 26 78, or info@vbzv.be

The Flemish Agency for Care and Health provides information on www.zorg-en-gezondheid.be/ thuiszorg regarding the local provision of home nursing

and other forms of care. You can arrange your care through a regional service centre or partnership.
T 0032 2 553 35 00
info@zorg-en-gezondheid.be

Need equipment on holiday?

Do you need a height-adjustable bed, a hoist, a motorised scooter or other equipment at your holiday address? You can borrow these and other equipment from a local lending service. The following lending services are located on the outskirts of Bruges:

Thuiszorgwinkel CM – Goed Brugge

Legeweg 154,
8200 Sint-Andries (Brugge)
T 0032 3 205 69 29
tzv.brugge@goed.be
www.goed.be
Medishop (Bond Moyson)
Torhoutse Steenweg 221,
8200 Sint-Andries (Brugge)
T 0032 56 23 02 30
medishop.wvl@bondmoyson.be
www.bondmoyson.be
Please note:

- › non-members pay a supplement
- › not all equipment is available from all distribution points. We advise that you contact them beforehand.

- › You may be required to pick up – lighter – equipment yourself, while other items will be delivered and/or installed in your holiday accommodation.

You can borrow a wheelchair in the centre of Bruges at:

Bike Rental Koffieboontje

Hallestraat 4
T 0032 50 33 80 27
info@bikerentalkoffieboontje.be
www.bikerentalkoffieboontje.be

Apotheek Fevery-Dewitte

Zuidzandstraat 1
T 0032 50 33 34 44
apothek.fevery@dynaphar.be
<https://apothekfevery-dewitte.dynaphar.be/nl/>

If you want to rent a wheelchair bike, this is possible at:

Taxi Fiets Brugge

Daverlostraat 80,
8310 Assebroek
T 0032 472 67 35 25
info@taxifietsbrugge.be
www.taxifietsbrugge.be/
rolstoelfiets-huren

Curando vzw

Speelpleinlaan 44,
8310 Sint-Kruis
T 0032 50 36 86 36
autodelen8310@curando.be
www.autodelen.net/project/avira-project/

» 'Care and equipment' continued

Are you looking for a changing place?

Starting in the spring 2024, those wishing to use a toilet easily and comfortably will be welcome in the **9** Provincial Court at the Market Square. This care zone features an adapted toilet, basin,

changing table for adults, privacy screen and hoist. There is sufficient space for someone with a disability, plus two assistants or carers. Markt 3
provinciaalhof@west-vlaanderen.be
www.provinciaalhof.be

Transport and parking

Train: NMBS

www.belgiantrain.be/en/travel-info (Menu > Prepare for your journey > Assistance for passengers with reduced mobility)

In many stations, NMBS provides assistance in getting on and off the train. You can check on the website in which stations assistance is available and how far ahead you are required to reserve. You can also see the discounts available to passengers with a disability. Requests for assistance can be made online or via T 0032 2 528 28 28.

City buses: De Lijn

www.delijn.be (More > People with disability or accompanying person)

Every five minutes, a bus runs between the train station and the centre of Bruges. The buses stop within walking distance of the main shopping streets, historic buildings and museums. The bus stops at the railway station, the **4** Church of Our Lady and **22** Bruges Royal Municipal Theatre are independently accessible for wheelchair users, as well as blind or visually impaired users. The bus stop at 't Zand Square is only accessible to wheelchairs, but is often also used by blind or visually impaired visitors.

If you park your car in the Centrum-Station car park, the bus ride to the centre is included in the price of the parking ticket (maximum four people per vehicle). Claim your free bus ticket by presenting your parking ticket

in De Lijnwinkel (ticket shop) at Stationsplein.

Most of the buses are accessible. New De Lijn buses are equipped with a low floor, ride on ramp and kneeling system. Also, there are reserved seats for those with reduced mobility. These are at the front, near the driver, and at the wheelchair door. They are marked with a pictogram.

BlueAssist

www.blueassist.eu

Thanks to BlueAssist, those who have difficulties in communicating or asking questions can use cards or a smartphone to ask fellow passengers or the bus driver a question. That is handy if, for example, you wish to ask someone to tell you when the bus is approaching your stop.

Taxi

As a wheelchair user in Bruges, you can make use of the following taxi organisations, which have adapted vehicles:

Taxi Hendriks

Specialising in taxi transport for wheelchair users and people with physical disability. Reserve your transport at least 24 hours ahead. The closest office for Bruges is located in Ghent. T 0032 9 216 80 20
info.gent@hendriks.be
www.hendriks.be

De Weerd Jan (AZALAÏ - mobility & Airport services)

Krom Genthof 6
 T 0032 483 45 23 30
deweerd.jan@gmail.com

Parking

On www.navigeerenparkeer.be you will find a handy overview of the reserved parking spaces for people with a disability. This includes information about the size, the surface of the floor and a photo of each parking space. It is easy to search using a map with search filters. This includes an extensive guide, allowing you to mark the reserved parking spaces on your GPS device.

Those in possession of a European parking card for people with a disability, can park in Bruges for free and for an unlimited period in:

- » a reserved parking space for people with a disability

- » parking spaces in the blue zone
 - » fee-paying parking spaces
 - » the peripheral car parks
- You are only required to pay in the public car parks operated by Interparking, Alfapark and on the kiss-and-ride zone at Stationsplein. The Parking Guide for People with a Disability is a handy brochure containing information about the parking plan in Bruges and containing a card for reserved parking spaces. You can pick up the free brochure in the Parkeerwinkel in the city's administration centre: Huis van de Bruggeling, Frank Van Ackerpromenade 2 (Stationsplein), or request a digital version via brugge@parkeren.be.



Guided tours

With qualified guides

Can't get enough of Bruges? Go deeper into the city's secrets together with a qualified guide. The guides are happy to adapt their guided tour to suit your needs. As true ambassadors, they are passionate and proud in telling the story of 'their' city. There are three guide associations, each with their own theme or story.

Bruges Guides (Royal Guide Association Bruges)

T 0032 50 33 22 33
 info@bruges-guides.com
 www.bruges-guides.com

Hello Bruges

T 0032 50 34 65 45
 info@hellobruges.com
 www.hellobruges.com

S-wan Guides with a twist

info@s-wan.be / www.s-wan.be

In museums

Would you rather visit a museum with a guide? Again, you can make use of the qualified guides, however, it is also worth contacting a museum or attraction. Some have adapted guided tours or customised visitor experiences.

Virtual

At www.virtualbruges.com you can enjoy 360° guided tours past many iconic open-air venues. You can also make a prior study of the paving at a particular location in this brochure or get a virtual glimpse in a museum. The website is highly visual and does not include a spoken guided text.



Legend

- tourist office
- visit and experience
- food and drink
- public toilets
- accommodation
- walking route distance: approximately 3.8 km
- alternative or optional routes
- railway
- squares
- green spaces
- waterways
- reserved parking spaces
- uneven surface/cobblestones
- threshold/kerb
- slope
- narrow section
- START** Tourist office 't Zand (Concertgebouw)
- FINISH** Oostmeers



Contents

Explanation of pictograms	2
● Visit and experience: Walk along highlights	4
◆ Food and drink	48
🏠 Accommodation	53
🚻 Public toilets	54
Care and equipment	57
Transport and parking	58
Guided tours	60
Practical information	61

Oooh! Welcome to Bruges

In Bruges, the rich offering of cultural-historical monuments and museums goes hand in hand with delightful cosiness and authentic charm. It is therefore an ideal destination for everyone. You included.

This brochure gives you the chance to explore the heart of the city that is protected by UNESCO. A **mapped out walking tour** guides you through the heart of Bruges, past tourist attractions, and includes excellent tips and

Practical information

Surf to www.visitbruges.be or the official websites of the specific operators for opening times, prices and other practical information about museums, attractions, place of interest and sightseeing. You are also welcome in one of the three tourist offices in the heart of Bruges.

i Tourist office 't Zand (Concert Hall)
> 't Zand 34



You will find a spacious tourist office on the ground floor of the **1** Concertgebouw Brugge (Concert Hall). Tourist and cultural information are gathered under one roof. In a central location between the station and the Market Square and with a large underground car park, this is a good base from which to begin your visit to Bruges.

Accessibility

Access via 't Zand Square is completely flat. The glass entrance doors are heavy to open without assistance, but otherwise the tourist office is easily accessible. There is a lowered counter accessible to wheelchairs. Most folders and brochures are easy to reach. The computers and information kiosks are also easily accessible for wheelchair users. Brochures are available in Braille and large print.

i Tourist office Stationsplein (Railway Station) > Stationsplein



If you are coming by public transport, the tourist office in the station building is a perfect spot from which to start your exploration. You will find the office in the platform corridor, on the side of the centre. From here, you can reach the historic heart of the city in the blink of an eye.

Accessibility

The Stationsplein is covered in level mosaic cobblestones. There are no steps to enter the station building. The entrance to the information office is sufficiently wide and equipped with an automatic door. At the counter, there is a section which has been lowered and is therefore accessible to wheelchairs. The folders are easily accessible to everyone. For those coming by car, there are car parks beside the station building and special parking bays.

i Tourist office Markt (Historium) > Markt 1



8 Historium Brugge is located on the corner of the Market Square and Philipstockstraat. This attraction takes you back to Bruges' Golden Age. There is also a tourist counter in the building. In addition to tourist information, you can also get a glimpse of the city's history here.

Accessibility

The Market Square is covered with mosaic cobblestones. The building itself is accessible using an alternative entrance with a lift. There is plenty of room to circulate and the counter has a section that has been lowered for wheelchair access.

You can find the opening times of the tourist offices by clicking on www.visitbruges.be. Visit Bruges can be contacted by telephone or by mail: T 0032 50 44 46 46 or visitbruges@brugge.be.

All tourist offices are closed on 1 January and 25 December.

European Disability Card

Are you familiar with the European Disability Card (EDC)? This European disability card allows people with a disability to take advantage of services and discounts in cultural, sports or leisure activities. The card is strictly personal and provides proof that you have a visible or invisible disability.

City of Bruges is a partner of the European Disability Card. Check <https://eudisabilitycard.be/en/benefits-with-the-card> which of the city's venues accept the card. The measures and advantages depend on the venue. However, a personal companion is always allowed into venues in Bruges for free, if this is necessary for you to make the most of your visit. Guide dogs are also welcome.

Colophon

Project coordination — Karmen D'heedene (Visit Flanders), Annemieke Demuyne (Visit Bruges), Sabrina Ide (Visit Bruges), Els Pieraerts (Accessibility Officer for the City of Bruges) and Sophie Van Landuyt (Karakters).

Texts — Karmen D'heedene (Visit Flanders), Sabrina Ide (Visit Bruges), Els Pieraerts (Accessibility Officer for the City of Bruges), Inter

Copywriting — Sofie Cloostermans (Sofieschrijft.be)

Editorial staff — Sabrina Ide (Visit Bruges)

Translation — Oneliner

Concept and graphic design — Karakters.be

Photography — Jan Darthet, Jan D'Hondt, Bruno Gouwy

Cover photo — The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse in Hof Arents

Printer — Daddy Kate

With thanks to — Lore Casselman, Nico De Rechter, Lieve Dossche, Kurt Lambert, Leen Luybaert and Matthieu Ottevaere.

Publisher — Colin Beheydt, Bruges City and Social Welfare Office General Executive, Burg 12, B-8000 Brugge

Contact — visitbruges@brugge.be
toegankelijk@toerismevlaanderen.be

More information — www.visitflanders.com/en/travel-information/accessibility

This brochure was created by the city tourist board (Visit Bruges), in collaboration with Visit Flanders, Inter and the province of West Flanders. Although we have taken the utmost care to provide accurate information in this publication, the publisher is unable to accept any responsibility for any inaccuracies or later modifications.

© 2022, 3rd edition

Nothing in this publication may be duplicated, stored in an automated database and/or made public in any shape or form, whether electronic, mechanical by way of print, photocopy, microfilm, recording or in any other way without the express prior permission of the publisher. All texts and photos remain the property of the publisher.





Bruges, accessible for everyone

In Bruges, the rich offering of cultural-historical monuments and museums goes hand in hand with delightful cosiness and authentic charm. All against the backdrop of the UNESCO World Heritage-listed city centre. And it goes without saying that the City of Bruges is keen for as many people as possible to enjoy its enchantment. Elderly visitors, people with a (temporary) disability and those requiring additional comfort or care can be confident when visiting the city. This brochure aims to offer guidance and support including:

- › a mapped-out accessible walking tour of the tourist hotspots, with excellent tips and some surprising facts
- › information about museums, tourist attractions, cafes, restaurants and accommodation options
- › a handy overview of accessible toilets, tourist offices, available care and equipment
- › tips on transport and parking

What do you think of this brochure? Please tell us via

