

Ghent 2024



Ghent

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<https://legacyeuropeantour.com/event/lec-lille/>
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INTRODUCING GHENT



With its preserved medieval buildings and navigable canals, Ghent (Gent in Flemish, Gand in French) is one of the most beautiful cities in Belgium. Those, together with a number of interesting museums and art galleries make up the medieval historic centre, the largest pedestrian precinct in Belgium.



<https://legacyeuropeantour.com/event/lec-ghent/>

THE VENUE:
FLANDERS EXPO

GENERAL INFORMATION

REACHING THE VENUE



JAN 26th – JAN 28th

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Flanders EXPO event complex, which opened its doors in 1987, boasts 8 multifunctional halls and a Flex Meeting Center, the perfect conference and seminar venue. Numerous events, conferences, trade fairs and other large-scale meetings are organised here each year. With a surface of over 54,000 m², Flanders Expo is the second largest exhibition space in Belgium.

Flanders EXPO is located at **Maaltekouter 1, 9051 Gent**

For Info: Grand Palais Home

<https://www.flandersexpo.be/en/>

Google maps position:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/uVJUjFxaFSj4u5MN6>



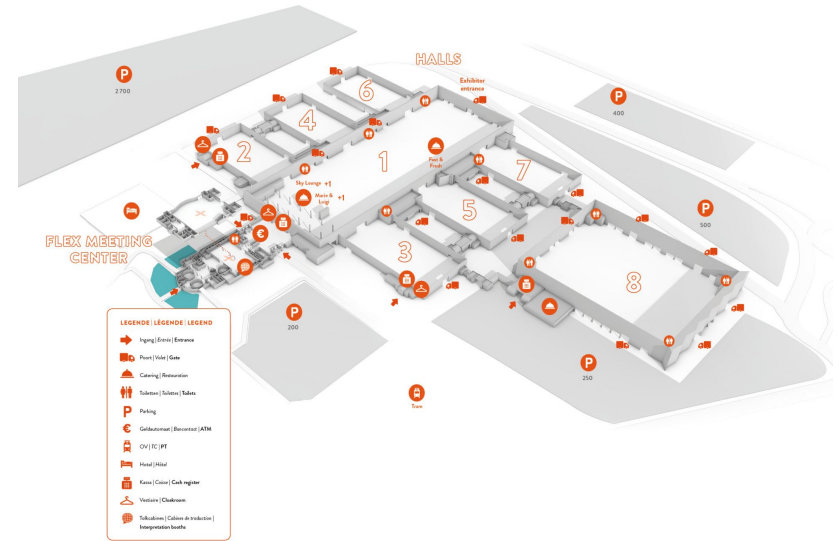
REACHING THE VENUE

Flanders Expo is easily reachable by bicycle, public transport and car.

Flemish public transport company De Lijn ensures regular connections between Flanders Expo and the city centre of Ghent thanks to **tram 1** and bus route **76/77/78**. Check the timetables here:

<https://www.delijn.be/nl/routeplanner/>

You can also reach the venue by walk or **by bike**. Take the bicycle bridge via Derbystraat, or take the walking/cycling path via the R4 and Raymond La Rochelaan to Flanders Expo. Park your bike in the bicycle shed at Hall 3.



THINGS TO KNOW

 GENERAL INFORMATION

 LANGUAGE

 MONEY

 WEATHER

 ELECTRICITY AND PLUGS

 OTHER INFORMATION





GENERAL INFORMATION

Telephone country code: +32

Emergency numbers:

- Call (+32) 112 for **life threatening emergencies** and ask for the police, fire department or ambulance service. This is a EU-wide general emergency number.

Specific numbers are:

- (+32) 100 for **ambulance service**
- (+32) 101 for **police**
- (+32) 100 for **fire department**

Time zone during summer: Central European Time (CET), UTC+1

Time and date format: 24-hour clock (0:00 – 23:59), dd/mm/yy (or yyyy)



LANGUAGE

The spoken language is Flemish 🇧🇪, a close relative of Dutch

Despite this, most people speak English 🇬🇧 fluently, so there are no major difficulties in asking and obtaining information.

Belgium's other official language is French 🇫🇷, and you most likely can use it to get by.



NUMBERS



1 \ een

2 \ twee

3 \ drie

4 \ vier

5 \ vijf

6 \ zes

7 \ zeven

8 \ acht

9 \ negen

10 \ tien

100 \ honderd

1000 \ duizend



MONEY

Belgium is part of the European Union, and its currency is the **Euro (EUR - €)**. You can pay with credit cards almost everywhere.

You will find places to exchange at transportation hubs and with your hotel. Rates vary and often are better the further away from a major hub you are.





WEATHER

The weather in Ghent in January is very rainy and quite cold during this period, with an average temperature of 5°; snowfalls are also frequent during this month, making the city truly evocative.

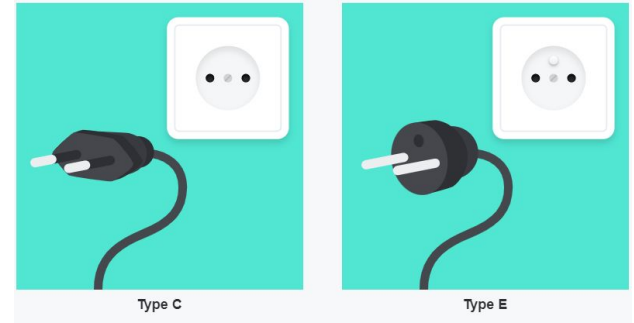
Don't forget to bring an umbrella, warm clothes, suitable shoes for the climate and plenty of changes to stay dry at all times.





ELECTRICITY VOLTAGE AND PLUGS

In Belgium the power plugs and sockets are of type C and E. The standard voltage is 230 V and the standard frequency is 50 Hz.



If your devices are made only for 100V and 127V (such as in the US, Canada and most South American countries) you **cannot use them** and you will need a **voltage converter**.





OTHER INFORMATION

Most shops are open 10am to 6pm, including Sunday

Tap water is safe to drink in Ghent unless you're staying in older buildings with lead pipes

ARRIVING TO THE CITY

BY PLANE
BY TRAIN
BY BUS



BY PLANE



Ghent does not have a dedicated airport, but those in Brussels are fairly close and a great option to reach the city.

Ghent is approximately 45 minutes away from **Brussels Airport**, Belgium's national airport in Zaventem. The airport has its own railway station, Brussels-Airport-Zaventem, which offers a direct connection to Ghent. The railway station is situated beneath the airport and can be reached via the lifts and escalators in the arrivals hall. The shuttle bus is also an easy way to reach Ghent. It runs about ten times back and forth between Brussels Airport and the Gent-Sint-Pieters Railway Station. There, you can take tram line 1 to the historic centre.

Brussels South Charleroi airport is at a 70 minutes' drive from Ghent. A shuttle bus drives from the airport of Charleroi to Bruges via Ghent nine times a day. That makes Ghent more easily accessible for tourists who arrive at the airport of Charleroi. The bus will take you to the railway station Gent-Sint-Pieters, from where you can take tram line 1 to the historic city centre. The bus service is offered by Flibco.com, a company specialised in transport to city-trip destinations from transport hubs.



BY TRAIN

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Ghent has two railway stations: Gent-Sint-Pieters and Gent-Dampoort.

There are train connections to the main station Gent-Sint-Pieters from all Belgian cities. There is also a direct line to this railway station from Zaventem airport.

If you travel to Belgium via the European high-speed train network, you can transfer to a train to Ghent at the station of Bruxelles-Midi, Antwerp or Lille (France).



BY BUS

Flixbus offer regular routes to Ghent from many major cities.

Travelling by bus is often an economical yet comfortable option.

Buses are usually equipped with wide and comfortable seats, toilets, Wi-Fi and electrical outlets.

For example if you are travelling from the south of Europe one of the best options is to land in Charleroi Airport in Brussels and take a BUS to Ghent.

The Flixbus stop is in eastern Ghent near Gent-Dampoort station.



GETTING AROUND Ghent

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

TAXI & UBER



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Ghent's public transport is well organised, with a wide network of trams and buses, operating from early morning to late evening. If you plan to visit the city's cultural attraction, perhaps the **CityCard Gent** is your best option, as it includes unlimited free public transportation.

More info at <https://visit.gent.be/en/tag/citycard-gent>

If you prefer not to get a CityCard Gent, you will find a 'Lijnwinkel', or ticket shop, at Gent-Sint-Pieters railway station and Korenmarkt where you can buy tickets. Tram lines 1, 2 and 4 take you from one end of Ghent to the other, passing right through the city centre. Remember that **Tram Line 1 will take you right to the venue of the LEC.**

Contactless payment on the De Lijn buses and trams is possible with your debit card, smartphone or smartwatch. You just have to hold your card or device in front of the white terminal. One ride costs € 2.5. Within the hour, you can take any bus or tram you like free of charge. Please note: Only 1 means of payment (debit card, smartphone or smartwatch) per person.



CityCard Gent: <https://visit.gent.be/en/tag/citycard-gent>

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The **CityCard Gent** enables you to visit top attractions, monuments, museums and exhibitions at a minimum price. And you don't even need to pull out your purse for public transport, including boat rides and rental bikes. Just show your CityCard, and you're set. If you want to have an all-in experience of Ghent, buy a CityCard.



Visit the website at top for excellent information.

TAXIS & UBER

Convenient although possibly expensive, getting around Ghent by taxicab is not your best option if you're on a budget.

The basic fee is €10.00, the kilometer price is €2.60. Thursday to Saturday the basic fee raises to €12.00 and the kilometer price is €3

There is a taxi stand at the Flanders Expo, and you can also easily find taxi lines in front of hotels and main attractions. It's easy to hail one on the street.

Uber does operate in Ghent.



TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

Ghent's Belfry
Cathedral of Saint Bavo
Gravensteen Castle
Patershol district
STAM Ghent city museum



Ghent Belfry

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The Belfry of Ghent is one of the three bell towers that dominate the historic center: the other two are the tower of the St. Bavo cathedral and that of the St. Nicholas church.

Its Gothic style, the grandeur of its 95 meters high and the sound of the carillon made up of 54 bells are fascinating.

The tower's role as guardian of the city's treasures is symbolized by the golden dragon at the top.

On the first and second floors you will find the bell tower museum, with some statues and bells that were used in the past

Open every day from 10.00 to 18.00

Ticket: 8€



Cathedral of Saint Bavo

Behind the Belfry stands the imposing Cathedral of Saint Bavo which, with its bell tower, is visible from every corner of the historic center of Ghent.

The interior of the cathedral is in Baroque style with splendid stained glass windows. The monumental structure was created between 1426 and 1432 by Hubrecht and Jan van Eyck and is one of the main manifestations of the Flemish school in the 15th century. The key theme is the sacrifice of Christ for the salvation of man.

From November 1st to March 31st open from 8.30am to 5pm. Access to tourists on Sundays is only permitted from 1.00 pm onwards. Tickets are 4€ and include an audio guide.



Gravensteen, the Castle of the Counts of Flanders

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The architectural transformation of this fortress into a castle occurred slowly. In the eleventh century the wood was replaced by the precious limestone while in the twelfth century the moat was built. For a time, the castle was also the seat of the Council of Flanders, carrying out an administrative function that also included the detention of suspects.

You will see how they were treated by visiting the torture rooms: inhuman instruments such as a hammer to crush one finger at a time, the torture wheel, iron collars and chains.

Opening hours: Every day from 10.00 to 18.00;
Tickets: 10€ with audio guide included.



Patershol district

The medieval face of Ghent is visible in the Patershol district. Many narrow streets that intersect and which are pleasant to walk through and decidedly less crowded than the historic center just a few steps away.

Today it presents itself as a residential place with shops, artisans' houses, historic buildings and former residences of wealthy merchants, where you will find excellent restaurants.



STAM Ghent City Museum

With new technologies, augmented reality, artificial intelligence and touch panels, interactive museums, such as the STAM Museum, offer a totally different and exciting vision.

You will take a journey through time, in which the history of the city of Ghent is told through images, videos, Lego creations, touch floors with the city map.

**Opening hours: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri from 9:00 to 17:00;
Holidays, Sat and Sun from 10:00 to 18:00;
Tickets: 8€**



SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE WEEKEND OF THE LEC

Expo 90's

Second hand and antiques
market



EXPO 90's

WHERE: The House of Alijn (Kraanlei 65, 9000 Ghent)

WHEN: 24 June 2023 - 21 April 2024

OPENING HOURS: Mon-Tue-Thu-Fri: 9.00 am-5.00 pm,
Sat-Sun-holidays: 10.00 am-6.00 pm, Closed on Wednesdays, 1st
Thursday of the month open until 10pm.

The 90s expo takes you on a nostalgic trip to the 1990s. Our daily lives changed rapidly in this decade.

A whole new world unfolded with the Internet, the first mobile phones and commercial television. Everything seemed possible, but was it? Trends, fashion and music of the past are popular again. We are singing our hearts out to nineties hits. The sitcom Friends is more popular than ever. We are longing for wild parties in the biggest clubs. But why do we feel so nostalgic for that time?

More info at: <https://huisvanalijn.be/en/events/90s>



Second hand and antiques market

WHERE: Beverhoutplein and Bij Sint-Jacobs squares

WHEN: 26-27-28 January 2024 (8:00 to 14:00)

Lovers of knick-knacks can browse the second-hand and antiques market at Beverhoutplein square and Bij Sint-Jacobs during the weekend.



WHAT NOT TO MISS IN THE CITY

Shopping in Ghent

Food and Restaurants

Ghent by Night



Shopping in Ghent

Linkeroever - A trendy shopping area surrounded by fashion and art:

This charming area on the left bank of the river Lys breathes art. People who are into collectibles, art and antiques are sure to find what they are looking for here. Just as in Paris, this area around Ajuinlei, Jan Breydelstraat, Brugstraat and Onderbergen is the home base of art schools, galleries and the Sunday book market.

Dok Noord - Factory turned trendy shopping complex:

Just north of Dampoort you will find office space and a shopping centre built on a former industrial site. This site used to be occupied by the factories of ACEC (electromechanics), which have now given way to modern offices, shops, sports, leisure businesses and food hall.



Shopping in Ghent

Gent Central - Ghent's best-known shopping area:

The historical heart of Ghent is a wonderful place to shop thanks to its pedestrian shopping streets and impressive monuments. The area around Korenmarkt, Veldstraat and Langemunt is traditionally the main shopping area where you can find shops from large and small store chains.

Shopping secrets around the Castle of the Counts

On Sint-Veerleplein Square you can enjoy not only a lovely view of the castle, but also local dishes with matching beers. This is the ideal starting point for your shopping adventure through Côté Culture. In this historic area around Oudburg, Kraanlei and Sleepstraat you really feel the working-class character and the typical Ghent hospitality.



Shopping in Ghent

East District - Shopping area with classic and trendy shops next to each other:

The eastern part of the city is where you can find East District, the commercial area around Henegouwenstraat, Bennesteeg, Mageleinstraat and Voldersstraat. Belgian fashions for all ages but also a nice selection of delicatessens and sweet shops

Quartier Sint-Pieters - Shopping paradise in the railway station area:

The area around the railway station is not only the hub of Ghent, but also a surprising shopping paradise and a majestic part of the city. Broad lanes with famous names fan out from Koningin Maria Hendrikaplein in front of the railway station: Koningin Elisabethlaan, Koning Albertlaan, Koningin Astridlaan and much more. Feel like a real royal and engage in window shopping while strolling along beautiful art nouveau buildings.



Best Restaurants - Roots



Roots is a small gastro-bistro pub in the Ghent neighbourhood of Patershol. Here the focus is on fresh and local products. You can enjoy good food in a pleasant, casual setting. They offer a set menu for lunch and dinner with seasonal dishes.

Chef Kim Devisschere combines the culinary passion inherited from his grandmother with his West Flemish roots. He takes nature into account and changes his menu with the seasons. This results in fresh and tasty products.

Address: Vrouwebroersstraat 5, 9000 Ghent
<https://www.rootsgent.be/>

Best Restaurants - Karel de Stoute

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Chef Thomas De Muynck cooks with love and passion in this charming building in historic Patershol. He and his wife Lien Van de Velde guarantee their guests a warm welcome and a menu that will keep diners on their toes.

This young chef learned the tricks of the trade at the Spermalie catering school in Bruges after which he worked in several high-end restaurants in Belgium and abroad. The young chef's talent was soon spotted.

Gault & Millau recently awarded his restaurant Karel de Stoute a score of 15 out of 20. Fresh products, pure flavours and De Muynck's creativity make all the difference. One of the best restaurants in Ghent.



Address: Vrouwebroersstraat 2, 9000 Ghent
<https://restkareldestoute.be/en/>

Best Restaurants - Oak



Address: Hoogstraat 167/001, 9000 Ghent
<https://oakgent.be>

OAK is a top restaurant run by Marcelo Ballardin. The chef and his team serve a contemporary cuisine with surprising flavour combinations. OAK was awarded one Michelin star.

Marcelo Ballardin studied at the London Cordon Bleu School, and completed a placement at Heston Blumenthal's restaurant and at Tim Raue in Berlin. He also worked at Sergio Herman's Pure C. In a nutshell, Marcelo definitely had what it takes to open his very own restaurant, where he serves up exceptional dishes made with local seasonal produce.

At OAK you can enjoy a set menu, either a 5, 6 or 7-course lunch or a 7-course dinner. Ready for a surprising culinary treat?

Best Restaurants - Publiek

Publiek is the restaurant of Flemish Foodie Olly Ceulenaere. This trendy bistro serving high-quality dishes was awarded one Michelin star.

Publiek is a hotspot in Ghent for anyone who loves surprising combinations, original flavours and a good dose of rock 'n' roll. The restaurant serves healthy lunches and 5, 6 or 7-course dinners. Quench your thirst with delicious draught beers and exquisite wines that perfectly complement the dishes.

Another tip for real foodies: the kitchen is right in the centre of the restaurant, so book a table with a view of the kitchen to experience the magic up close!



Address: Ham 39, 9000 Ghent
<https://www.publiekgent.be/>

Best Restaurants - Vrijmoed



Award-winning young chef Michaël Vrijmoed concocts creative dishes with his signature touch. His restaurant has been awarded two Michelin stars.

Treat yourself to a series of culinary surprises in a beautiful townhouse in the heart of Ghent. Michaël Vrijmoed and his young team present you with a delectable mix of exquisite products and intense flavours served in beautiful plates.

This young top chef learned the tricks of the trade from Peter Goossens, chef of three-star Michelin restaurant Hof van Cleve in Kruishoutem. At his own restaurant, Michaël Vrijmoed showcases his personality and tastes through a range of innovative dishes. Not to be missed!

Address: Vlaanderenstraat 22, Ghent
<https://www.vrijmoed.be/en>

Typical Food - Ghent-Style Stovetij

Isn't stoverij known all over Flanders? Yes, but the Ghent version has more bite, thanks to the spicy touch of artisanal Tierenteyn mustard. You should try it, preferably with golden chips, fresh mayonnaise and a great local Ghent beer.

Stoverij is a stew of beef, onions, local beer and spices such as thyme, laurel, pepper and salt. In the Ghent version, a slice of bread with Tierenteyn mustard is also used, which adds spice and ensures the binding of the sauce. The real Ghent stoverij also includes kidneys and liver, which give it an extra rich flavour. With lots of time and love, all this becomes a tasty stew, preferably served with chips and beer. The smell alone can make your mouth water.

Where to find: De Bompa - Oudburg 21, 9000 Ghent

<https://debompa.be/>



Typical Food - Ganda Ham



Ganda Ham is one of the top products which helped build Ghent's culinary reputation. This dry-cured ham follows a specific production process, which also respects the age-old tradition behind this treat. You can eat it on its own, with a dash of Tierenteyn mustard, on a sandwich, or use it as an ingredient in various dishes.

The name 'Ganda' refers to the old Celtic name for the city of Ghent. The word refers to the shape in which the rivers Lys and Scheldt and the Lieve canal merge: like a hand. Ganda Ham is salted and cured according to an age-old recipe and is made from the finest pork. The production process of this delicious ham takes at least ten months.

Where to find: Oost - Goudenleeuwplein 3, 9000 Ghent
<https://oost.be/>

Typical Food - Waterzooi

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In the Middle Ages this regional soup was prepared with fish from the rivers Lys and Scheldt. Later on, the fish was occasionally replaced by chicken and now, both versions are equally popular. A small tribute to a fantastic regional dish.

Waterzooi is said to have its origin near the former Braempoot in Ghent. In the thirteenth and fourteenth century the river teemed with fish at that spot, because it was the place where a number of grain mills stood. The grain and flour that were spilled into the river attracted all sorts of fish. Perch, pike, barbel or eel were used to prepare the first versions of the dish we now know as waterzooi.

Where to find: Keizershof - Vrijdagmarkt 47, 9000 Ghent

<https://keizershof.net/>



Typical Food - Mastel

A mastel is a round, sweet pastry flavoured with cinnamon and with a dent in the middle. The 'ironed' mastel is made according to the traditional recipe, but in a 'special edition'. A must for foodies who want to immerse themselves in the local folk culture!

The 'ironed' version of this regional bread is traditionally sold during the Patershol festivities in August. The 'mastel' is cut in half, spread with butter and sprinkled with brown sugar, placed between two pieces of aluminium foil and is then quite literally ironed. This gives the bread its flat shape and caramelises the sugar.

Where to find: Boulangerie Bloch - Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat 84, Ghent
<https://www.bloch1899.be/nl/>



Typical Food - Sneeuwballen



'Sneeuwballen', a regional product, are a fresh and delicious treat: a cloud of vanilla coated with a thin layer of dark chocolate and sprinkled with icing sugar. The perfect snowball cracks when you bite into it and melts on your tongue like snow in the sun.

These days snowballs are still made using traditional methods, in accordance with the authentic recipe, by Joeri Pergoot.

Where to find: Zoetse - Groentenmarkt 19, 9000 Ghent
<https://zoetse.be/>

Ghent by Night - Visit Cafe Folklore

A very typical Ghent snack to try is Kroakemandels, heavily salted peas which are deep-fried in oil. Locals savor this not so healthy snack during the Ghent Festivities.

However, out of festival season, you can try this at the quirky Cafe Folklore which is located in the Patersoll neighborhood. Folklore is one of Ghent's last real brown cafés. Owner Jacques is a real character with lots of stories to tell. The cafe serves a nice range of beers and obviously the house specialty, the Kroakemandels especially for you.

More info: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/cafe-folklore>



Ghent by Night - Gentse Groot Brewery

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If you are really a beer lover, then a specific visit to The GentseGruut brewery is a must.

The beer here is brewed in an unusual way using herbs instead of the traditional hops. The clue lies in the name: Gruut means a mixture of herbs. These herbs form the base of Gruut's 5 artisan ales. There is not much of a tour on offer, the place is a bit rustic but the beer is pretty decent. Definitely, it will be a unique experience not to be missed when visiting Ghent.

More info: <https://www.gruut.be/en/>



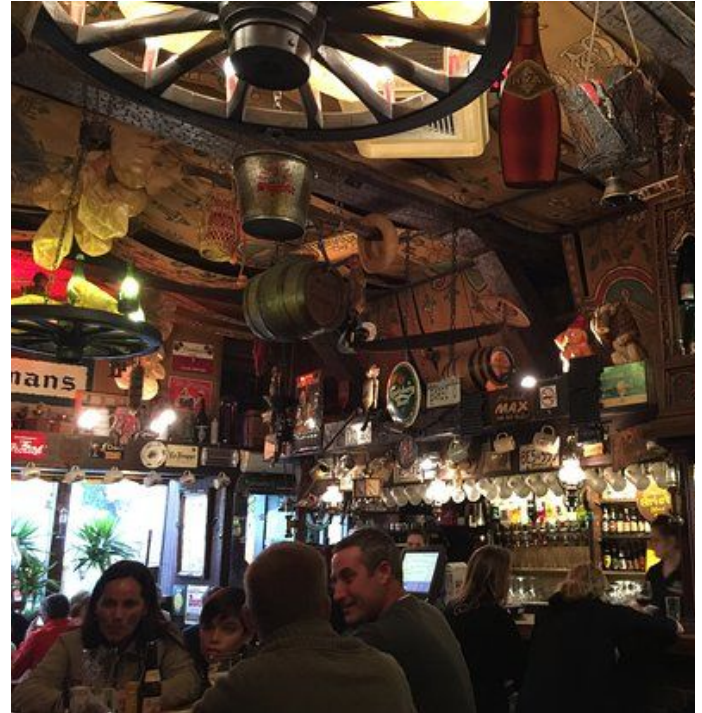
Ghent by Night - The famous shoes bar: Dulle Griet

Situated in the picture perfect market square of Vrijdagmarkt and with more than 500 beers to choose from, there is no excuse for not bouncing over for a wee pint at Ghent's most appreciated watering hole, the DulleGriet.

Well, not just a pint. You come here to drink the mother of all beers: the appropriately named 'Max' which is served in a 1.2-liter boot-shaped glass. The glass itself is a thing of beauty, like something you would have found in your chemistry lab.

It is such a valuable thing of attractiveness that patrons have to offer one of their shoes as a deposit for the glass. The shoe is then comically hoisted in a basket and raised to the ceiling of the pub. So when you walk in, you will be greeted by the absurd sight of people's shoes hanging from the ceiling.

More Info: <https://www.dullegriet.be/en/>



Ghent by Night - Overpoort district

Overpoort is a street lined with dance and drinking pubs, night shops, chip shops and pita restaurants. Thursday night is student night, which can get pretty crowded and wild.

Every year, Ghent welcomes over 66,000 students at its university and university colleges. They study of course, but they love to party too. The best-known student district is Overpoort, which is home almost exclusively to student cafés. Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat hosts cafés, restaurants and a university restaurant, the rector's office and several university buildings.

