

WELCOME TO GHENT!

First of all, we would like to welcome you all to the city of Ghent! We hope you will enjoy your stay here and while the workshop is of course the main reason of your visit, we hope you will find some time to discover the city and enjoy its history, culture and culinary specialties.

The document below contains some information on what to see, do, drink and eat during your stay in Ghent. If you would like more information, this website will certainly be of help when planning a trip (it comes in Dutch, French, English, German and Spanish): <https://visit.gent.be/en>.



1. GHENT'S ARCHITECTURE, MONUMENTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

The **Castle of the Counts** or the 'Gravensteen': <https://gravensteen.stad.gent/en>

Ghent's famous '**Three Towers**' : we will be able to get a view of all three towers during our tour in city library De Krook on Friday!

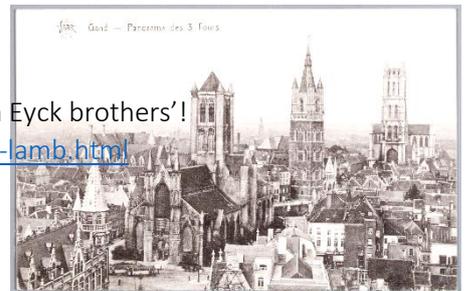
- Saint Bavo's Cathedral or the 'Sint-Baafs Kathedraal'

 - > Don't forget to visit the '**The Mystic Lamb** by the Van Eyck brothers'!

 - <http://www.sintbaafskathedraal.be/en/art/the-mystic-lamb.html>

- Ghent Belfry or 'Het Belfort'

- Saint Nicholas Church or the 'Sint-Niklaas Kerk'



Saint Peter's Abbey or the 'Sint-Pieters Abdij' and its beautiful **garden**:

<https://sintpietersabdij.stad.gent/en>

The **Big Cannon**: this impressive cast-iron cannon weighs 12,500 kg and is known in popular parlance as the 'Dulle Griet' (evil woman).

The **City Pavillion**: a new and modern building in the city centre which can host concerts, dance performances and markets.

The **University Auditorium / Palace**: Eight Corinthian pillars crowned with a triangular pediment.

Campo Santo: A little outside the city centre, you can find the Campo Santo, an artistic cemetery also known as 'The Père Lachaise of Ghent'.

Graffiti Street or ‘Graffitistraatje’: a public canvas for street artists in Ghent.



2. MUSEUMS

SMAK: Ghent’s Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art. The collection is considered to be the most important collection of contemporary art in Flanders, with world-famous works of art from Belgium and abroad. Every four months, the museum exhibits a selection of these works in alternation with original, often daring exhibitions. <http://smak.be/en>

STAM: the Ghent City Museum. The STAM tells the story of Ghent from the Middle Ages to the present day. <http://stamgent.be/en/>

MSK: Museum of Fine Arts Ghent. Old masters and modernists hanging side-by-side in this iconic museum building. <https://www.mskgent.be/en/home>

Design Museum Ghent: Temporary exhibitions complement the magnificent permanent collection, from art nouveau to trends in contemporary design. <https://www.designmuseumgent.be/en/>

MIAT: Ghent is proud of its industrial past, and that makes the MIAT a hotspot for many Ghent locals and tourists. <http://www.miat.gent.be/en>

Museum Dr. Guislain: A great lack of access to knowledge and information on mental health care in general and psychiatry in particular was the most important reason to create a museum on the history of psychiatry in 1986. <http://www.museumdrguislain.be/en/over>

3. DRINKS & FOOD

Belgian Beers

We heard that some of our faculty’s travel companions might be interested in tasting some Belgian beers? Below, you can find some of Ghent’s local ‘brown’ pubs that have an extensive range of beers to offer!

‘**Trollenkelder**’: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/trollekelder>

‘**Dulle Griet**’: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/de-dulle-griet>

‘**Waterhuis aan de Bierkant**’: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/waterhuis-aan-de-bierkant>

‘**Trappistenhuis**’: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/het-trappistenhuis>



If you have the time, visit **Ghent’s Gruut Brewery**. Ghent was a beer-brewing centre for many centuries. The Ghentian Gruut is one of the rare beers brewed with a mixture of herbs (called ‘gruut’) rather than the more usual hops. <http://www.gruut.be/en>

For those among us who like their drinks small & strong, check out the **‘Dreupelkot’** (which is located next to Waterhuis aan de Bierkant). It is one of the nicest spots in Ghent and serves more than two-hundred flavours of jenever, including the world-famous ‘vanilla jenever’.

<http://www.dreupelkot.be/dreupelkot-historiek/?L=3>

Cocktails

Ghent is home to countless amazing cocktail artists: shakers in hand, they create craftsmanship in a cocktail glass.

Jigger’s: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/jiggers>

Zoo: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/zoo>

Polé Polé: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/pole-pole>

The Drifter: <https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/drifter>

Hollywood Cocktailbar: <http://hollywoodgent.be/>

Graslei

If you prefer being outside and enjoying Ghent’s beautiful scenery while having a drink, go for an aperitif by the waterside on the **‘Graslei’**. Once the sun comes out, it is the locals’ favourite spot to hang out!



What & where to eat

If you’re looking for restaurants that serve Belgian **‘classic dishes’** (a.k.a. grandma’s comfort food) you might want to check out any of the established venues below. From stews like ‘stoverij’ and ‘waterzooi’ to ‘cheese croquettes’ – here you’ll find the Belgian classics at affordable prices:

Du Progrès: <https://www.duprogres.be/en>

Café Théâtre: <https://www.cafetheatre.com/restaurant>

Het Gouden Hoofd: <https://www.hetgoudenhoofd.be/>

Meme Gusta: <https://www.meme-gusta.be/>

’t Oud Clooster: <http://www.toudclooster.be/>

We suppose you are all eager to try some **Belgian Frites** or **French Fries** during your stay in Belgium. Almost all restaurants will serve dishes that come with fries. However, if you want to eat French Fries properly, you should buy them on the street at a frites stand (what we call a 'frituur' or 'frietkot'). Ghent's favourite order is large fries with beef stew sauce and mayonnaise!

You will find frites stands any 10 steps you take, but here you have some of our favourite 'frietkoten':

De Frietketel

De Papegaei

Frituur Sympa (the best!)

De Gouden Saté (students' favourite last stop after a night out in the 'Overpoort' party zone)

Bij Filip (near the Great Butcher's hall, see below on 'Ghent's culinary specialties')



Ghent offers a lot of **vegetarian and vegan** food options as well. This link will help you find restaurants that serve (exclusively) vegetarian and vegan food: [https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/restaurants-pubs?f\[0\]=category%3A21&f\[1\]=category%3A21&f\[2\]=category%3A21&f\[3\]=category%3A21&f\[4\]=tags%3A363&map=hide&page=0](https://visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/restaurants-pubs?f[0]=category%3A21&f[1]=category%3A21&f[2]=category%3A21&f[3]=category%3A21&f[4]=tags%3A363&map=hide&page=0)

Recommended: De Appelier (vegetarian, close to the dorms): <http://www.deappelier.be/>

Ghent's culinary specialties

Cuberdons or the 'Gentse Neuzekes' : a typical Ghent confectionary.

Tierentyn mustard : Ghent's mustard.

Roomer : An elderflower-flavoured drink, containing 15 percent alcohol and bottled in round bottles bedecked in elegant flowers.

Gentse Waterzooi : a Middle Ages traditional soup with chicken or fish.

Gruut: the Ghentian beer!

You can get most of Ghent's culinary specialties at the '**Great Butcher's Hall**' (Groot Vleeshuis- <https://www.grootvleeshuis.be/en/2136-2/>) where you can get all sorts of East-Flemish authentic regional products.



4. PARKS

If you're looking for some peace and quiet during the IRW, go for a walk/run or read a book in one of Ghent's parks.

You can choose from small, cosy parks, like the **Appelbrugparkje**, the **Muinkpark** and the **Baudelopark**, or large landscaped parks like the **Citadelpark** (which is home to the two main visual arts museums), the

Zuidpark (behind the central Library and the Administrative Centre) and the **Bourgoyen** (nature reserve somewhat out of the city centre).

5. MUSIC & THEATRE

From June 29th until July 8th Ghent hosts the **Ghent Jazz Festival**. If you're interested in catching a concert, you can check out the schedule and ticket availability here: <https://gentjazz.com/en>.

The **Bijloke Music Centre**: lovers of classical or contemporary music and jazz will definitely find what they're looking for here. <https://www.bijloke.be/informatie/english/>

The **Ghent Opera**: in the first half of the 19th century, rich Ghent industrialists initiated the building of a new and luxurious opera house. <https://operaballet.be/en>

The **Royal Dutch Theatre** or '**NTGent**': classic theatre in the city centre. Its permanent ensemble of leading Flemish and Dutch actors create their own theatre productions every season and play far beyond the borders of the Dutch-speaking world. <https://www.ntgent.be/en/>

The **Vooruit Arts Centre**: This bustling art centre is housed in an impressive 100-year-old monument and offers a variety of cultural events. The focus is on the performing arts, music, books and city and transition. <https://vooruit.be/en/>

Blues & Roost club Missy-Sippy: Many free concerts during the week; situated in the city centre. <http://www.missy-sippy.be/>

Hot Club de Gand: Free jazz concerts in a nice and cosy café; hidden in the city centre. <https://www.hotclub.gent/programma.php>

6. PARTY & NIGHTLIFE

Insider tip: If anyone suggest to go the '**Overpoort**' (the students' party zone) when asking about nightlife, we strongly recommend you to ignore this advice.

Instead, stick to the **Vlasmarkt** or the **Beestenmarkt**! Ghent is known for its thriving alternative music scene and many of the bars on the Vlasmarkt and Beestenmarkt host small gigs inviting local bands. During the Ghent Festivities you can party the night away at these squares. But even during the rest of the year it's the epicentre of the Ghent nightlife scene. Check out the **Charlatan** (legendary club, the recent movie 'Belgica' tells the story of the its history), **Kinky Star** (which is also a record label) and **Club 69**!

If you're more of the silent type, we recommend you go and visit **Abacho 2K18**, Ghent's first **silent disco**! The colour of your headphones reveals your music choice and shows which DJ is most popular on the dance floor. Tons of fun guaranteed! Check out their Facebook page to see if any events are organised during your stay: https://www.facebook.com/pg/abacho2k18/about/?ref=page_internal.

We hope you will enjoy your stay in Ghent. If you're looking for any more 'insider tips & information', please don't hesitate to ask!



The IRW Organizing Committee