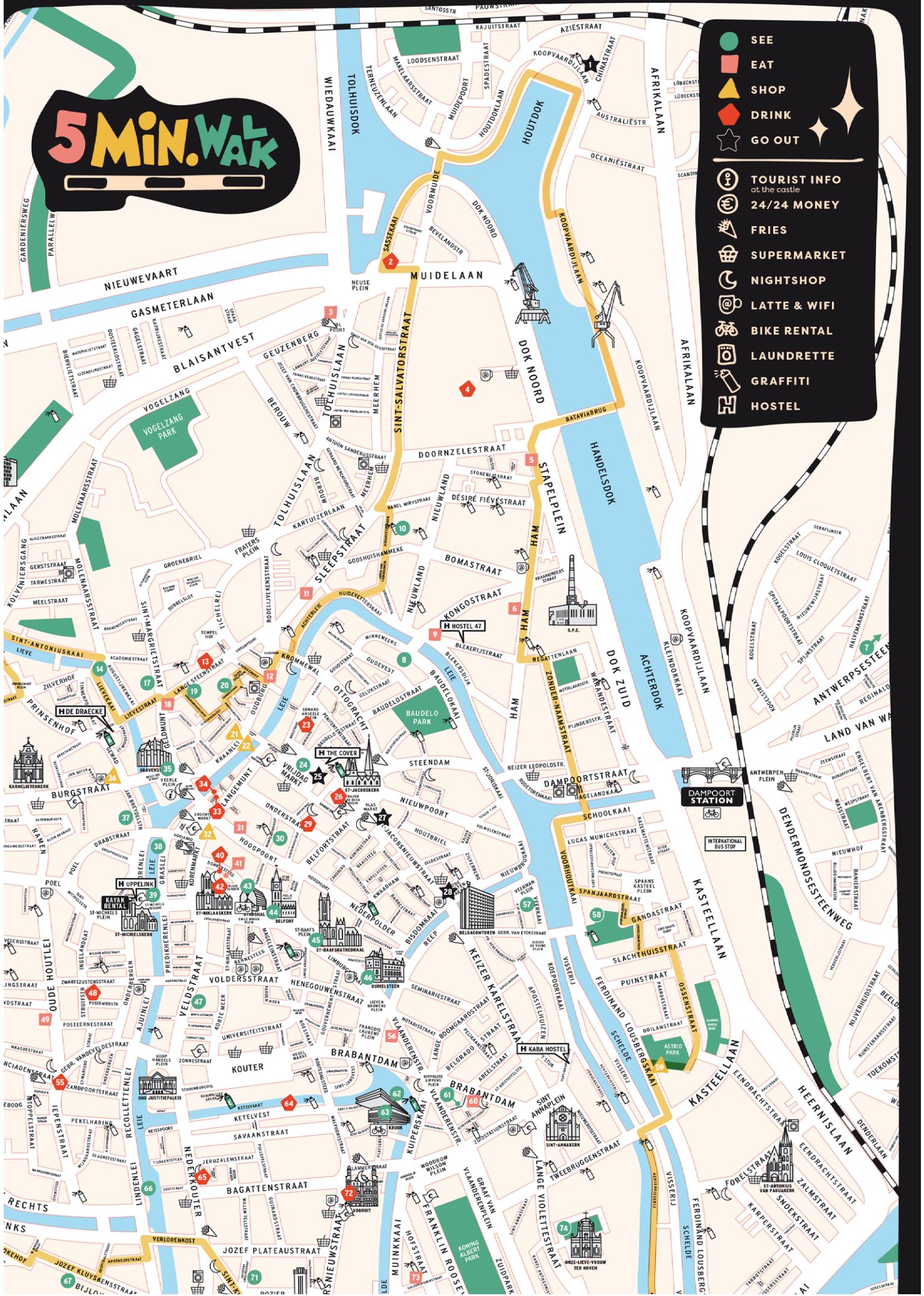


5 MIN. WAK

- SEE
- EAT
- ▲ SHOP
- ◆ DRINK
- ☆ GO OUT

- TOURIST INFO at the castle
- 24/24 MONEY
- FRIES
- SUPERMARKET
- NIGHTSHOP
- LATTE & WIFI
- BIKE RENTAL
- LAUNDRETTE
- GRAFFITI
- HOSTEL



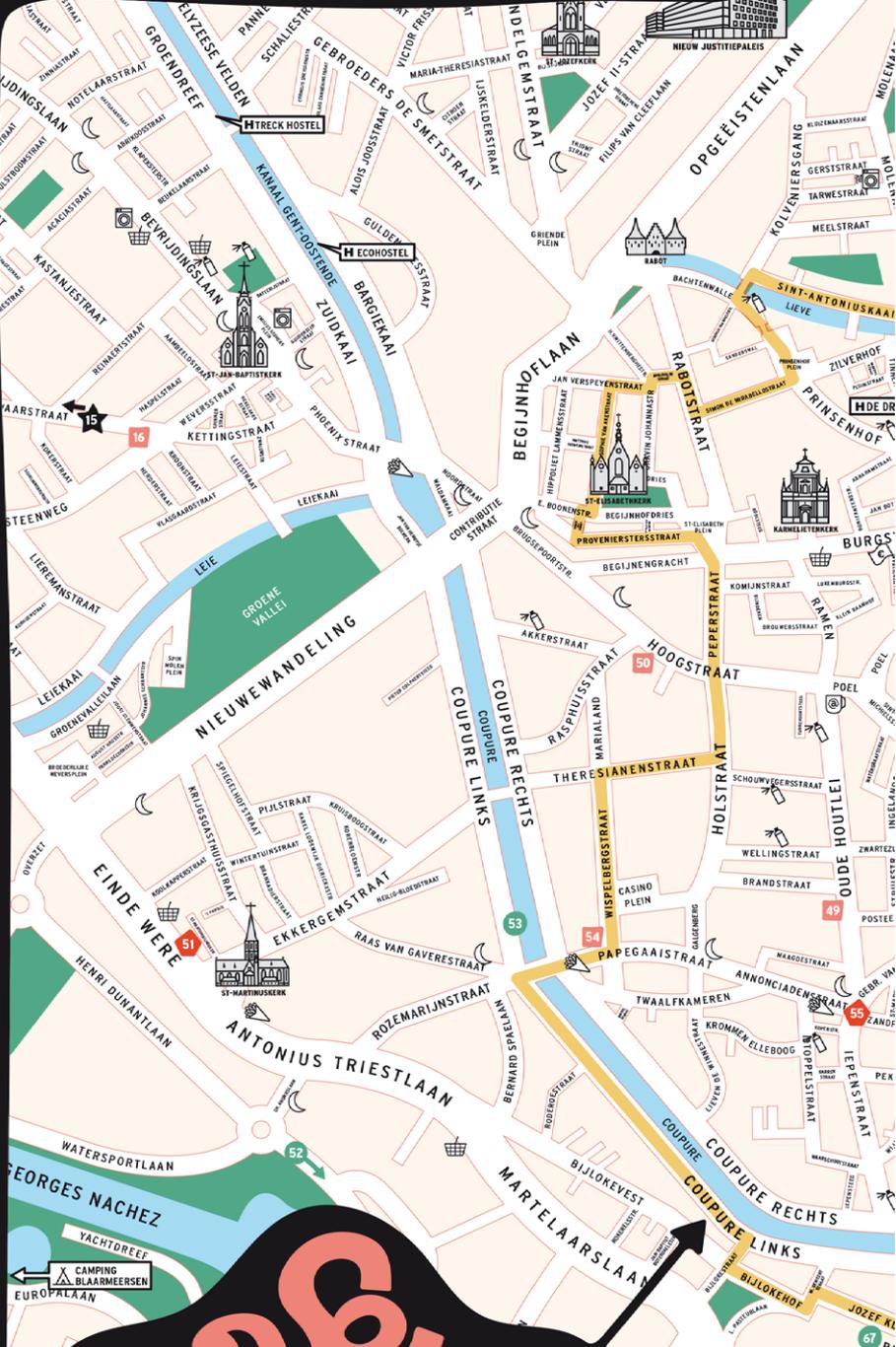
HELLO

FOR YOUNG TRAVELLERS

MADE BY LOCALS

USE IT

FREE MAP





VAN EYCK GRAFFITI

In 2020/2021, Ghent celebrated its greatest Flemish Master, Jan Van Eyck. The corona monster swallowed some of the fun, but don't worry: the Ghent Altarpiece has survived six centuries of war and disease already. It's here to stay (at 45). Street art is never eternal, though, so have a look at six new pieces inspired by Van Eyck, while the colours are still fresh.

See all those 🗑️ icons on the map: we are rightfully proud of our graffiti. The new ROA on 99, just to name one. You can get a street art map with all the names, for free, at the tourist info ①.

- 🗑️ **STROOK** (BE) recycled wood from our Cathedral, art school and the old army barracks
- 🗑️ **HYURO** (AR) speaks about the refugee crisis, using draperies and floral motifs
- 🗑️ **ISAAC CORDAL** (ES) installed 15 mini versions of Adam and Eve—here is just one, bonus point if you find another
- 🗑️ **BOSOLETTI** (AR) created an inverted reality of Adam and Eve, now looking away
- 🗑️ **MONKEY BIRD CREW** (FR) was inspired by 15th-century instruments for the backside of Handelsbeurs concert hall
- 🗑️ **PASTEL** (AR) used the roses, lilies and columbines from Mary's crown

1 WORLD FOOD & SUMMER BAR
(Tue to Sat, lunch and dinner) ENTR is an inside/outside restaurant and part of the intercultural music centre De Centrale. The food, the music and the personnel are from all over the planet. You can have Koshari from Egypt, Syrian Shoarma or South American Lomo Saltado starting from €12. Free concerts on Tuesday.

7 A THING OF SADNESS IS A JOY FOREVER
Timon (29) story collector
"Quite a few of my corona walks went to the CAMPO SANTO graveyard. It's where I find serene silence and sublime drama at the same time. Statues of crying angels, the grave of a fallen soldier, stones overgrown with moss, well-placed benches and the occasional flower blossoms drifting over the grass field... I know this is not Pere Lachaise, but I think this place deserves your visit." (to get there, walk 5 minutes from here along Antwerpsesteenweg)

MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY
(Closed on Wed / Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 09:00 - 17:00 on Sat, Sun and holidays: 10:00 - 18:00 / free under 19 / under 26 / €8) From the Middle Ages till well into the 20th century, Ghent was famous for its textile industry. The factory chimneys you can still spot on the edges of the city are a silent witness to our industrial past, but the third floor of the INDUSTRIEMUSEUM you see it live in action. Be prepared for loud cloth-spinning (free plugs) or talk to the experts who use the plants from the museum garden to dye cloth. On the fourth floor, it's about printing. Designers and print enthusiasts still use that impressive Linotype machine for real as well. It's hard to predict when they will be working, but on most days at least somebody will be making noise!

9 TOTAL TASTE EXPLOSION
(Wed to Sat, dinner) They call themselves an 'izakaya with cocktails'. We had you at cocktails, but for the foodies: izakaya means a cosy place with small bites. For example, ASTROBOY serves a seasonal fruit ceviche and a perfectly grilled mackerel. Not super cheap but worth it. Have a Japanese-style cocktail on the terrace and this city won't get any better.

10 PAINT, ELECTRONICS AND GLASS
Three interesting collectives share the space of NIEUWLAND. The KAPOW crew is your best entry into Ghent's street art universe. They spray, skate, throw concerts, light campfires and load surfboards into their van whenever the waves are good. At neighbouring NERDLAB you're welcome to see and try digital technology in action: laser cutting, 3D printing and electronics. GENT GLAS does live glass blowing demonstrations on Friday night. All of them are pretty open to visitors in general.

11 TURKISH PIZZA
Some say it's AKDENIZ, some say it's GÖK PALACE, some say GÜLHAN: every student has his favourite but you can never go wrong with any of the cheap pizzerias in Sleepstraat. The menus are full-colour and what you see is what you get (around €9 for a meal + salty Ayran yoghurt drink). This street is the heart of Turkish Ghent, with a soundtrack of jingling trams, yelling children and pimped out BMWs. It's always alive except in summer, because loads go to Turkey on holiday, usually to their grandparents' birthplace Emirdağ. It's from this small city that almost all of the first Turkish immigrants came in the 1960s, to work in the rough Ghent textile industry. Today, some guys of the third generation have a juicier Ghent accent than most locals.

12 INTERNATIONAL FOOD STREET
OUDBURG is the street to go for international food: African, Indian, Moroccan, Turkish, Nepali, American, Japanese, Creole, Italian... It's a touristy area, but this is still Ghent, so there aren't any real traps. One rule: avoid the empty places.

13 TIME MACHINE
(Thu to Sun) Jacky and Marina took over CAFE FOLKLORE 37 years ago and they do not intend to change anything. Picnic is allowed, but if there are 'kroekemandels' (fried and salted peas) take your chance, because this is probably the only place in Ghent where you can still taste this local specialty.

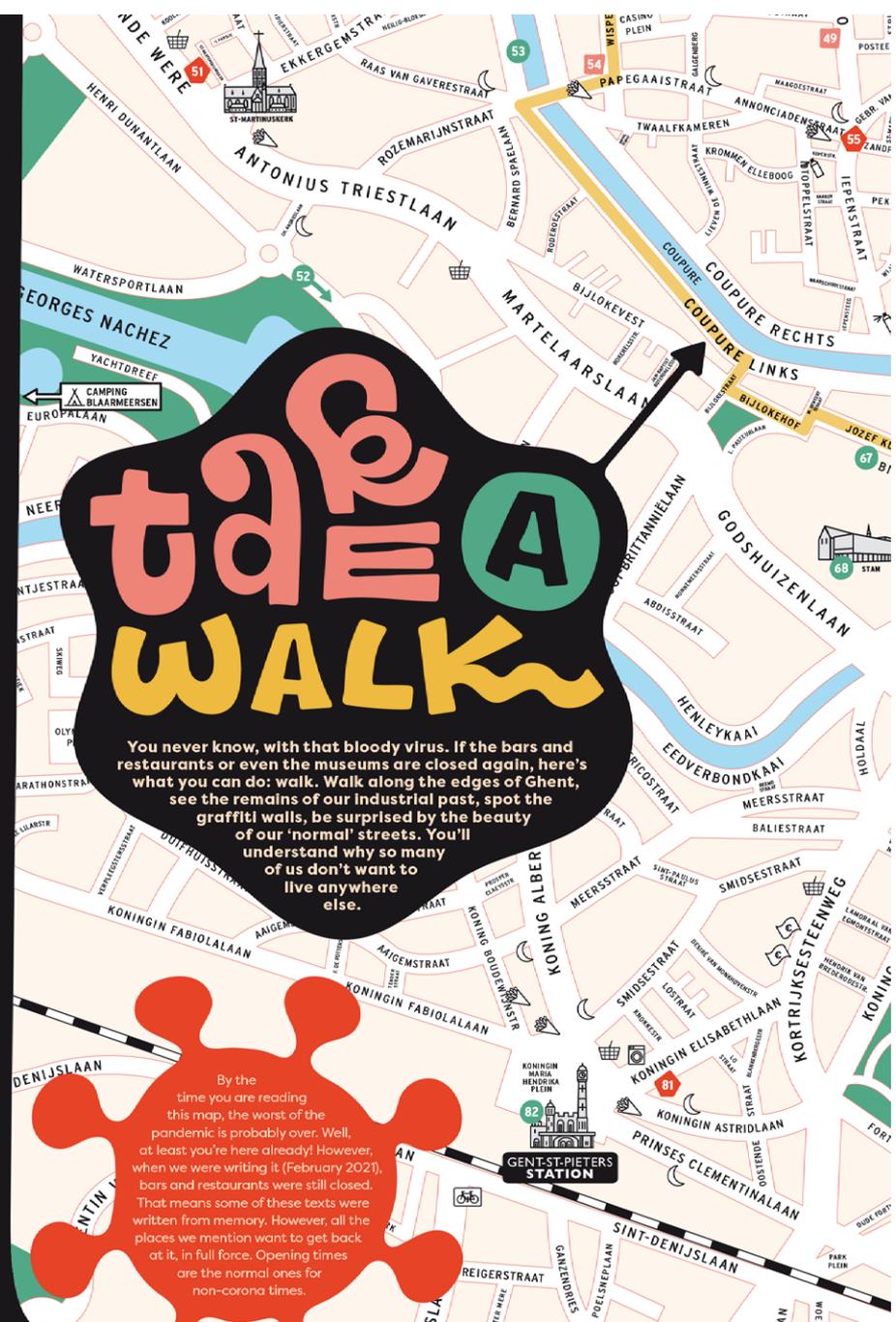
14 BEAUTIFUL WILLOWS
LIEVEKAAI is the most romantic place to chill with a bottle of wine on a warm evening. Sit under the beautiful willows with your legs dangling over the water. But don't bring your ghetto blaster please, and if you break up, do it nice and quiet. It's just that the locals don't want this to become a second Graslei 58.

16 FRAGILISTICXPALIDOCIOUS
(closed Thu, lunch and/or dinner) Just when you thought you saw it all, someone will advise you to have lunch in a former laundromat that was a former gas station. SUPERKELLY joyfully opened in the middle of the Covid crisis with tapas and soup and will keep us happy with no-nonsense veggie and the occasional halal meat burger.

17 FLOWERS FOR SAINT RITA
(every day) Saint Rita was always popular in Belgium as 'the saint of hopeless cases'. During the Covid year, the old tradition flourished again. Older people, who went to visit a relative at the nearby hospital or retirement home, regularly dropped by with fresh roses—Rita's favourite flower—or they bought a religious trinket in the shop. The candle room was always hot, even during the darkest winter months. The chapel of Saint Rita is in the corner of SAINT-STEFANUS CHURCH, across from the entrance. Keep it quiet and do not feed the fish. (Yes, Rita has an aquarium too.)

15 WHERE ONLY LOCALS GO
Lotar (30) film fanatic
"My ex told me to find a new hobby and I chose the movie club at DE KOER. Everybody can pick their favourite movie, so the selection goes anywhere. I know this sounds mellow, but that place feels like my second home. I've become a more social person in the bar and at their wild nights. When you find your shoes all red the next morning from the painted dance floor, you know it was a good party. If you want to avoid that, it's best to dance on the tables. Concerts are real good too." (Just off the map, Meibloemstraat 86)

18 SIGN LANGUAGE SOUP
(Wed to Sat / lunch) Soup bar SORDO is run by Christophe, who happens to be deaf. So this may be your first attempt at sign language—but pointing works too. The three daily soups range between €3 and €4.50. You won't find cheaper lunch in the historical centre!



take a WALK

You never know, with that bloody virus. If the bars and restaurants or even the museums are closed again, here's what you can do: walk. Walk along the edges of Ghent, see the remains of our industrial past, spot the graffiti walls, be surprised by the beauty of our 'normal' streets. You'll understand why so many of us don't want to live anywhere else.

By the time you are reading this map, the worst of the pandemic is probably over. Well, at least you're here already! However, when we were writing it, (February 2021), bars and restaurants were still closed. That means some of these texts were written from memory. However, all the places we mention want to get back at it, in full force. Opening times are the normal ones for non-corona times.

1 HIPPIE HOTSPOT

To swim or not to swim, that is the question. The old docks look so inviting for a plunge, even more so with the brand new beach. However, the sludge on the bottom of the water is still too toxic, that's a little souvenir from our old industry. So we still can't dive in! However, the pirates at BAR BRICOLAGE make up for that during the spring and summer months (maybe a winter bar too). Expect a campfire, local drinks and food, concerts, rollerdisco, jeu-de-boules, closet sales, art school expos, yoga, movie nights, hangover brunches. Indeed, anything goes.

2 BOATS & SEAGULLS

You are now on the edge of the island called Muide. Well, actually it lies a bit off the map, to the north. When you've crossed the railway track, turn left and look for a spot near the water. Dangle your feet over the edge and take a deep breath. Mmm, that wonderful harbour smell of diesel and seagull sweat. Indeed, this area is on the edge of the Ghent harbour, which is three times the size of the whole city centre. The Muide is a lively neighbourhood that has changed a lot over the years. Young alternative couples with money are slowly moving into new lofts, but the area is still quite rock 'n roll. After your walk around, stop over here at the corner of Sassekaai and the city ring for a perfectly tapped Stella. BAR OSWALD is a bar with a century of history, still in good hands with Elewout and Linne. They renovated the toilets using Lego and beer kegs and they installed a confession booth for women there too.

3 BEST FRIES IN TOWN

(Every day) Of course, Belgians never agree about the best fries in town, but last year, FRITUIER TOLPOORT won our local competition. It's one of the few real free-standing barracks we still have. Rifat's uncle was 'the Turkish mayor' of Ghent in the 1960s: a one-man interim office for the first wave of immigrant workers. The little Rifat got hooked on the smell of fresh fries, though. This 'frietkot' is his childhood dream come true.

4 NEVER THE SAME BEER

Amadeo (23) beer geek (Tue to Sun 11:00 - 23:00)
 "DOK BREWING COMPANY is not your average brewery. For one thing, I cannot tell you what they serve there because they don't like to make the same batch twice. When they go crazy, they even experiment with flavours like chilli or chai. Last time I went, they did something with a Christmas tree... If choosing from 30 taps stresses you out, just ask Joeri for advice. He'll know and he'll let you taste as well. The looong bar is next to looong tables, where you can order food from any of the other places at Hall 16."



5 EAT, DRINK, DANCE, REPEAT

(Closed on Sun / lunch and dinner) AMIGO is our kind of restaurant: eat and drink upstairs, party downstairs. The food is spicy Mexican and colourful Middle Eastern. The club is nice and dark under a low ceiling with no windows, so let's hope the corona crisis is really over.

6 WORLD FOOD

(Tue to Sat, lunch) outside restaurant and centre De Centrale. They are from all over the world: Egypt, Syrian Shoarma starting from €12. Free.

7 A THING OF BEAUTY IS A JOY FOR US

Timon (29) story collector
 "Quite a few of my cats are from the CAMPO SANI. I love the serene silence and the time. Statues of crucifixes, soldier, stones over the benches and the drifting over the grilles. Père Lachaise, but I don't visit." (to get there, visit Antwerpsesteenweg)

8 MUSEUM OF FUTURE

(Closed on Wed / Thu) / Sat, Sun and holiday / €2 under 26 / €8) From the 20th century, Ghent was a city of chimneys. The factory chimneys in the city are a silent witness on the third floor of the museum in live action. Be prepared: earplugs or talk to the museum garden to get all about printing. Design that impressive Linotype to predict when they will be least somebody will be



THE OLD HARBOUR

We know summer's here when GRASLEI is full. Not the terraces, but the cobblestones by the water too. Some nights, the riverside feels like a festival without stage—including the leftover cans and burger boxes. Hard to imagine this was a hard-working harbour 0 years ago. Back then, the labourers were destroying air bags while they pulled out one big bag of grains for another from the ships. (And what is also hard to imagine: that cars could still park here until the 1990s.) One of the houses that dates back to the Middle Ages is an old grain warehouse called Spijker (now Manhattan's rger bar). Have you noticed that the building slants ward just a bit? Looks like it might be falling over after ght centuries. Don't worry, it was built that way, so the ay sacks of grain wouldn't scratch against the stones en they were hoisted up. Smart, huh? Anyway. Local if you can't resist the waterside: buy some fries at p's old shack on Groentenmarkt—that guy is still the al deal and he refuses to charge tourist prices.

T RIFIED

TIRED OF BEING A TOURIST? HERE'S A CRASH COURSE TO BECOME A GENTENAAR IN JUST ONE DAY.

- 08:00 (alternative plan) Brought your running shoes? Run around Watersportbaan 62, the favourite track of many a local. It is exactly 5 km long.
- 09:00 Go to Café Folklore 18 and press C6 on the jukebox. That's 'Louise' by Zeeraar. Another Ghent thing in your canon.
- 10:00 Pick any bar and practise the Ghent R with a local. Try 'prépare', 'bruudruuster' en 'zwoaren vlijzer' to reach the top level.
- 11:00 Thursday? Stick to a veggie meal. It's a Ghent tradition, and most people like it that way. Veggie Thursday even became a thing in other cities.
- 12:00 Opinions are like assholes: we all have one. Try these controversial topics for long bar discussions: scalatielplan, LEZ, Gravensteen, Gentse Feesten th corona.
- 13:00 Go to a night shop. (We Belgians laugh at our neighbour countries, where night shops close so early that they should be called evening shops.) Buy whatever you need, but also a roll of blue PMD bags.
- 14:00 With your new bag, pick up the empty cans at Graslei 38 and complain about the young people today. And complain about tourists too, because you are now officially a local.

tourist classic

45 THE GHENT ALTARPIECE

(Ghent Altarpiece: Mon-Sat 10:00 to 16:30, Sun 13:00 to 16:30 / €12.50 to see only the painting / €15 with augmented reality tour through the crypt) The eye-catching in SINT-BAAFS CATHEDRAL is the Adoration of the Lamb, aka the Ghent Altarpiece, finished in 1432 by Jan van Eyck. Look at the reflection in an angel's jewellery, at the dust on the pilgrim's shoe or at the petals of a lily flower, and you'll understand why this painting ended up in all the art history books. Our Flemish Master had an impressive eye for microscopic realism. There is a realism to Adam and Eve that feels like they could step out of the painting (for many older locals, this was also the first nude they ever saw). Running up to the Van Eyck year 2020, most of the painting was restored. All of a sudden, the original colours appeared again after centuries of damage and overpainting. And it was not just in some details. Even the face of the Lamb had been heavily overpainted. The restorers were stunned themselves to see the original appear after almost six centuries. Don't believe the internet memes! Van Eyck did know how a sheep looked. The strangely human face of this Lamb fits the theological content, because it represents Jesus. If you want to compare the two versions in a billion pixels: clostovanyeck.kikirpa.be.

46 JUST GIVE US THE KEYS

(Wed to Sun) Rhetorical question. In which other city would the keys of a major medieval monument, right next to the cathedral, be given to a bunch of young people with a lot of ideas but no fixed plan? We never knew what to do with our Gothic DUIVELSTEEN: it has been a knight's mansion, a gun depot, a monastery, a prison, a madhouse and an archive. Now it is the creative youth house of the future, called BROEI. So what's going on? Can't tell. Could be a toy hacking workshop, experimental dance, a concert in the crypt (stunning place!), fungus from coffee beans, refugee architecture, aquaponics, a drawing class... Just come, have a drink in the bar and talk to people.

47 BOURGEOIS BEAUTY

Some of our oldest grandparents still cherish memories of their first kiss in Cinema Majestic and the ballroom of the Ancienne Belgique in Veldstraat. Today, it's nothing but chain stores like Zara and H&M. One after the other, the old shops (with bourgeois ladies speaking French to their poodles) have disappeared. But here are two tips. One: look up when walking through our shopping street, because the upper floors still look grand. Two: on Saturday and Sunday, walk into HOTEL D'HANE STEENHUYSE (14:00 to 18:00, free). The splendid city palace gives you an idea of how the Ghent upper class lived in the in their private ballroom and Japanese salon—and how the personnel had to prepare the meals in the basement.

39 FEED YOUR INSTAGRAM

This bridge was only built a good century ago, when Ghent was preparing for the World Fair of 1913. This is also when we renovated many of the facades on Graslei in Gothic Revival style. So a lot of what you see is not much older than a century! The city council just understood that our grey industrial city had enough quality to attract some travellers too—and right they were. The whole centre got a makeover, from the Counts' Castle 55 to the new Sint-Pieters train station 62. SINT-MICHIELS BRIDGE became the best spot for a perfect view of the three towers in a row: Sint-Niklaas church, the Belfry 44 and Sint-Baafs cathedral 45. Since 1913, not much has changed: this is still a hotspot for tourists to take selfies. Our tip: walk up from the side of Sint-Michiels church on a misty Sunday morning. Much more quiet then, and much better pictures. Even for us, the view is still jaw-droppingly beautiful.

GHENT COFFEE, OLD STYLE

(Mon to Sat) Forget about the sad American multinational selling expensive coffee in cardboard pods on the corner. The only legendary coffee house in Ghent is tiny MOKABON. Rich ladies, old Turkish guys andidents all share a table and drink the house brand of shy ground coffee. Try the cappuccino with whipped cream, from times when the word 'barista' did not even exist in Ghent. Most coffees are around €2.50.

ST INFO

TRAIN STATIONS

Ghent Sint-Pieters is our big station. Gent Dampoort has direct connections to Antwerp and Bruges, for other destinations you'll have to switch at Sint-Pieters. The Filibco shuttle bus to Brussels South Airport leaves from the backside of Sint-Pieters, international buses leave from Dampoort.

TAXI!

A taxi ride costs a minimum of €9 (with 3 km

48 ART STUDENT BAR

(Tue to Sat) Want to know what we call a 'brown bar' in Ghent? That's a place where the owner calls the shots. Without him, the bar would not be the bar. He decides on the records, calls you by your name, decides when you've had enough to drink and basically is boss. Meet Tijl, welcome to FATIMA. When the bar burnt down a few years ago, the regulars crowdfunded the new interior. It was a bit clean at first, but the wall is now nicely filled with illustrated beer coasters from the art students again. Free garage rock, blues or whatever on Saturday.

49 WORLD KITCHEN CHURCH

World Kitchen Church is a unique place where you can

58 RIVERS AND RUINS

(Apr to Nov / Sat and Sun 14:00 - 18:00 / free) Here, where the rivers Schelde and Leie meet, Ghent was born. The SINT-BAAFS ABBEY helped shape the city as we know it from the 7th century onwards. The ruins are overgrown with plants, making it look like a fantasy, but these are truly some of the oldest walls in town. The stones and ceiling of the beautiful refectory (dining hall) breathe history. The local volunteers who reopened the abbey will happily tell you some more. By the way, if you look up the site on Google Maps satellite view, you can see the trees and plants in the park are actually in the shape of the old abbey church. Now you know. On Saturday mornings, a local children's choir rehearses Ghent folksongs at HERBERG MACHARIUS (the white gate). Come in, buy a coffee, and just listen, from 11:30 till 12:30. It does not get more local than this.

59 PICNIC LIKE A LOCAL

Mahdieh (33) flower-loving goat (Mon to Sat) "What I adore about cities like Barcelona or Rotterdam is the bustling marketplaces, where you get everything you need under one roof. In Ghent, we have that at LOUSBERGMARKT: a vegetable market, a local cheese shop, a bakery and a lunch place. They also have all-in wicker baskets there in summertime, so you can go and picnic in the beautiful little park next to it."



60 PLANT-BASED FOR EVERYONE

Ghent is the self-proclaimed progressive capital of Flanders. And in this street, Brabantdam, right next to our red-light district, you can really feel it. MADAM BAKSTER (Wed to Sun) does her brunch and cakes sugarfree, glutenfree, vegan if you want. LOKAAL (Wed to Sat / lunch and dinner) is all about equality and ecology: all staff members get the same paycheck, everything is local and fairtrade and no plastic is used. OYO (closed Wed / breakfast and lunch) quotes Hippocrates: "Let food be thy medicine, and medicine be thy food."

61 RED LIGHT DISTRICT

GLAZEN STRAATJE (the little glass street) is a typical 19th-century art nouveau shopping gallery with a glass and metal ceiling. Today it's got ladies sitting behind windows, trying to attract customers. The sex workers aren't allowed to dress too naked anymore, but if you are from Poland or Spain—or most parts of the world, really—be prepared for a culture shock.

62 AN EVENING BY THE WATERSIDE

Now that Graslei 38 is a bit passé, we need a better place to spend our evenings by the waterside. There are a few options, but the first spring evenings seem to say that the stairs next to the library might be winning the competition in 2021. Join us!

5 MINUTES OF HISTORY

630 Amandus from France tries to bring Christianity to Ghent, but we throw him in the water. He insists and founds the abbey of Sint-Pieters 76 and Sint-Baafs 58. 1180 Cloth trading has made Ghent rich, but now the rich guys want too much independence, so Count Philip builds the Ghent castle 55. Not to keep out invaders, but to keep an eye on the locals. 1432 Jan Van Eyck finishes the last hair on the Ghent Altarpiece 45. 1540 The local noblemen refuse to pay the exorbitant taxes, so emperor Charles V humiliates them by having them march in their underwear with a rope around their neck, as if they were about to be hanged. Today, the rope is still a popular Ghent souvenir. Don't ask why. 1800 Thanks to a thief (or a spy, if you wish), industry is booming. Lieven Bauwens steals an English spinning machine (cutting-edge technology at the time) and starts using it in Ghent. In no time, thousands of people are working in cloth factories. 1877 The first Belgian Socialist Party is founded in Ghent to defend the rights of the starving factory workers. The workman's palace of Vooruit 72 will be the culmination. 1913 The World Exhibition makes Ghent go crazy. Our architecture goes Gothic Revival instead of modernist because city marketers realise that's better for tourism.

1964 Turkish men come to work in the textile industry, because locals don't want to do the night shifts anymore. Today, their children and grandchildren are still the largest group in town with foreign roots. 1969 After long, boring years when everybody preferred hanging at the seaside during summer, the new Gentse Feesten are kickedstart by folk singer Walter De Buck and his long-haired friends at 26. 1999 Cars are no longer allowed on Graslei 38. It is one of the signs that our old sleazy city wants to become more attractive, and indeed, tourism has boomed in the past two decades. 2008 Ghent becomes independent. The New Ghent Alliance yells slogans like "All immigrants from Bruges should wear headscarves!" It's all a joke, but thousands of people actually show up on independence day. 2015 After trying for 115 years, KAA Gent, our local soccer team, wins the Belgian Championship for the first time. Ever. The city explodes. Buffalo! Buffalo! 2017 A new circulation plan for cars is introduced in the centre. After four years it's still a good conversation opener (if you have the time), because the other neighbourhoods are now also being included. 2020 No Ghent festival. No Ghent festival. No Ghent festival. The suffering was real. And at the time of writing, we're not sure yet for 2021. Our revenge will be sweet though, you can count on that.

63 LIBRARY WITH A VIEW

(Closed on Sun) DE KROOK is our new library and we love it. We like to think that the layered shape looks like an uneven pile of books and magazines, no? For the official 'moving in' ceremony in 2017, locals formed a human chain, transferring the books one by one from the old library that was across the square. A wonderful thing! De Krook is more than its bookshelves. Children are gaming downstairs, students study upstairs, romantic souls play the public piano, pensioners with oceans of time come to read all the papers (some international ones too). And you? You might just go there for the nice view on

69 THE NEW FRIES IN TOWN

(Mon to Fri) Fries are potatoes, right? So fries are vegetarian, right? Nope. Traditionally Belgian fries are baked in animal fat. But at CHASSE PATAT they use vegetable oil. For the snacks, apart from the regular meatfest, they added vegan burgers and sauces. There's even vegan 'stoverij'. Yes, that's our meat stew but with jackfruit instead. Beware: portions are huge!

70 BOOK TOWER

This is our university's main library, built in 1935, with around 35 km of books. Architect Henry Van de Velde elegantly mixed Art Nouveau and functionalism, building it high enough to deserve the title 'fourth tower of Ghent' (after the three historical ones). At the turn of the millennium, our beloved BOEKTOREN (book tower) was in a really bad shape, but today it's prettier than ever after the renovations. In 2022, we will finally be able to take the elevator to the top floor Belvédère—which used to be a billiard room reserved for professors—for a million-dollar view.

71 SUNSTORMS AND STARS

(Wed at 20:00 / free) If you're in town on a Wednesday, why not go where even most locals haven't gone? At the sky observatory VOLKSTERRENWACHT ARMAND PIEN, enthusiastic volunteers talk about meteorites and astral storms as if they were family members. The amazing 19th-century telescope on top of the creepy stairs looks like it's straight from a Jules Verne novel, but its intricate mechanism still works perfectly.

72 WHAT'S IT CALLED AGAIN?

(Every day) OK, we're not sure how to call this place anymore. It still says VOORUIT in huge letters on all sides of the building, but that name is going to change soon. How to explain... OK, we'll try. Vooruit (meaning 'Forward') was built in 1913 as a palace for ordinary people, with money from the socialist party. There was a theatre, a ballroom and a concert hall, all meant to empower the working classes through art. Beautiful! In the 1960s and later, the socialist movement lost some of its momentum, and when the organisations left one by one, the building was left to slowly rot away. There were even plans to demolish it. Luckily, some young artists said enough is enough and they took control in 1982. The most beautiful building in Ghent deserved better. They cleaned up the dirt, restored the café and blew life into all corners again. Today, Vooruit is a big centre for the arts. If you haven't been to a party or a concert there, you're just not from Ghent. It's not a political thing anymore. But! In 2020, the Flemish socialist party decided to change the name of the political party to... Vooruit. Our own Vooruit was not amused, but they decided not to go to court. They're temporarily called Voo'uit now, but are looking for something else. Come and discuss the alternatives in the bar or on the terrace.

73 BEST BREAD, BEST PIZZA

(Wed to Sun for dinner / bread some days) Gentenaars are sometimes labelled as Flemish Hipsters "bites sourdough pizza crust" but we're not sure why. This one came from a star chef who wanted to open a pizzeria slash bakery but didn't know how to... bake bread. He hired two girls who did and DE SUPERETTE was born. Dinner is not cheap, but it's worth every penny, from the scrumptious appetisers to the dessert.

74 BEGUINAGE

The SMALL BEGUINAGE is a beautiful chill-out spot, but don't even think of a barbecue. This place has been protected by UNESCO as World Heritage since 1998. (But psstts: there's a lawn in the back where you can picnic.) Since the 13th century, beguines lived their religious lives here. These women were quite independent, some even call them the first feminists. The last Ghent beguine died in 2008, and now the little houses—almost 100 of them—are occupied by regular people. It's an oasis of calm in a busy part of the city.

75 NO MORE ZOO

The lovely MUIK PARK is what remains of what used to be the Ghent Zoo. Notice the street names around the park: Tijlgerstraat, Zebrastraat, Leeuwstraat... Olifantstraat was a particularly sad story behind it. When the zoo went bankrupt in the early 20th century, all animals were sold by auction. The popular elephant Jack was sold to a guy who wanted to take it to the London Zoo. But London snapped out of the deal and Jack was strangled with steel cables. The popular story says that he then ate his meat in a big barbecue. That's not true, Jack was turned into sausages in the Netherlands. We actually ate the bear instead. The newspaper report spoke of 60 dinner guests, 120 bottles of wine and 75 bottles of champagne.

76 BEST PICNIC GARDEN

(Tue to Sun, 10:00 to 18:00, entrance sometimes via Kantienberg) The garden of SINT-PIETERS ABBEY is the loveliest in Ghent. With the vineyard, the raspberry plants, the herb patch and the old ruins, it feels like you're in the South of France. Well, not really. But still. There is no better picnic spot.

77 STUDENT WALHALLA

Généviève (20) studies Journalism "This corona year really made my heart bleed. I normally go to OVERPOORT like two times per week, on Tuesday and on Thursday when it's real busy. And then in 2020: nothing! But



19 ENDLESS EXHIBITION

Camille (24) cultural junkie (Sat and Sun, 11:00 - 18:00, free) "KUNSTHAL is an exhibition space without exhibitions. Well, at least not in the usual sense. When a new artist comes in, their work is added to what was already there. Some of it stays, some of it goes out. So it's like an endless show. I would say it's the best intro to the local art scene, all in a part of a medieval monastery. On weekdays people work on the spot, during the weekend you can just walk in."



20 MEDIEVAL STREETS

Until the 1980s, this medieval labyrinth was still notorious for its poor housing, its anarchists and drunken artists. The PATERSHOL neighbourhood is all cleaned up now, full of protected monuments and touristy restaurants. However, the charm of the little streets is still very real. Just put away this map and get lost for a while!

tourist classic

21 CANDY WITH A STORY

(Wed to Sat / Cash and Payconiq only—no cards) It has been in the newspapers and travel guides for years and years. The 'cuberdoms', our purple cone-shaped candies, have led to a war between street vendors. First it was funny, then it became sad, and now it's just fake news. The candy wars in Ghent are over! Cuberdoms are on sale everywhere and they're usually the same price and quality. Just make sure you buy them fresh, because they dry out after a week or so. Ask TEMMERMAN. They managed to preserve a fairytale-like candy shop with other local specialties too, like 'vuile talleren' (dirty plates), 'lutsepoeper' (trembling asses) and 'nonnebillen' (nun's buttocks).

22 PRESIDENTIAL WALLPAPER

(Mon to Sat) "Schools, hospitals, mental institutions... They all have painted walls. Paint, paint, it's always paint. In a house, though, you need to show some personality. For that you need wallpaper!" That's what Ivan (83) and Marie-Thérèse (80) have been saying at PRIEM since forever. With hundreds of old designs, no catalogues and no webshop, this is the kind of store that you feel nostalgic about, even when it is still there. Rumour goes that a White House delegation once came to select paper here. The rumour is true.

23 QUEER FEMINIST SAFE SPACE

(Every day) BLOND is the queer feminist safe space, where you are absolutely 100% welcome 'unless if you're a sexist homo-trans-xenophobic Kackscheisse'. The bar is quite alive with open mics, concerts, karaoke nights, bingo evenings and a community kitchen. No wifi means: get sociable!

24 JACOB WHO?

This is JACOB VAN ARTEVELDE. He's our big hero and you see him on all the postcards. But here's a challenge: try to find a local who knows anything about him. Good luck!

25 WANNA DANCE WITH SOMEBODY

(Tue to Sun) The strange thing about VENTURA is that they are just as popular with 20-, 30- and 40-year olds. Usually, they are all pretty people with good dental hygiene. Even though it's too small to dance inside, that's what always happens. The neighbours of BAR LUME host five concerts per week (Sun to Wed at 21:00, mostly acoustic). Ghent's gypsy jazz dinosaur Koen De Cauter has his fixed gig there on Sundays at 16:00.

26 THE HEART OF THE GHENT FESTIVAL

(Every day / Mon free concert) In 1968, folk singer Walter De Buck put up a few concerts on a wooden stage at TREFFPUNT. He and his long-haired friends only had some barrels of beer, acoustic guitars and smelly sandals, but the vibe was good. Over the decades, that small-scale hippie gathering has grown into the Gentse Feesten: one of Europe's biggest city festivals in the second half of July, with a million visitors spread over ten days. In 2020, corona happened. It felt so god-damned quiet in Ghent when the festivities were entirely cancelled. The terrace of Café Treffpunt was one of the only places where some folkies gathered for spontaneous jams—just sitting at the table, because all concerts on stages were forbidden. It felt right, in a way, to still have them here. (At the time of writing, we still don't know for 2021..)

27 PARTY SQUARE

The little square Vlasmarkt is the epicentre of alternative party life in Ghent. Ask anybody between 18 and 50 about their best CHARLATAN story, and they will proudly confess their worst. It's still the ultimate place where we get sucked into at the end of the night, like moths attracted to the flame. How strange it was, in 2020, to see our house of sin closed or—perhaps even stranger—to see it become a summer terrace when only that was allowed. Anyway, we have all saved up our worst intentions and are ready to get back to it. Nobody goes to Charlatan all night, by the way, you always mix it with some talking and appetizers (BAR DES AMIS, JOS, GLORIA), a free concert with earplugs (KINKY STAR), a party with vodka shots (ZEPPOS) or a mix of all of those (AAP and GIRAF). The bars on the other side of Sint-Jacobs

32 SPICY SOUVENIR

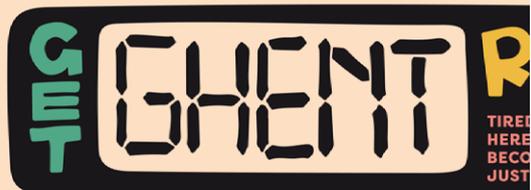
(Mon to Sat) Eat your heart out, Dijon! French mustard may be stronger, but TIERENTEYN just has more flavour. They have been making mustard and pickles since 1867 and they're quite firm about the company secrets. Nobody is ever allowed into the basement where the liquid gold is made and pumped up straight to the wooden barrel in the shop. The pot of 90ml (€2) is the only one you can take in hand luggage on the plane, otherwise we recommend a litre for the brave (€12.10). Expert note: Tierenteyn from the supermarket is made by a different company (long story about a family fight), this is the only real one from Ghent.

33 WELL-HIDDEN JAZZ

(Every day, free concerts at 21:00) Find the little alley and walk to the back. HOT CLUB GENT takes jazz music seriously. Monday impro night, Tuesday international musicians, Wednesday avantgarde, Thursday local heroes jam, Sunday swing & bop. The terrace is year-round—with heated seats!—and the beer selection is very decent too. You're welcome.

38 THE OLD HAR

We know summer on the terraces, but there's more to Ghent. On some nights, the river stage—including the terrace—takes you back 700 years ago. Back to the time when they were hoisting their backs while they were after another from the imagination: that cars could be made in Ghent. One of the houses that the old grain warehouse (burger bar). Have you ever had a burger bar forward just a bit? Look at the heavy sacks of grain when they were hoisted. If you can't resist, go to Filip's old shack on Groenendijk. A real deal and he refuses to be replaced.



- 07:30 Go for an early swim at Van Eyck 67 (Mon, Wed or Fri). Make sure you're out of the pool by 08:30, because that's when the school kids jump in.
- 08:45 Buy local newspaper De Gentenaar and leave it lying on any table for the rest of the day as if you understand it.
- 08:55 Line up with the locals for coffee at Mokabon 40. The magic moment is when the rolling shutters go up and the regulars all move to their own table.
- 10:00 Bike challenge. Zigzag across the tram rails at Korenmarkt. Rain makes them twice as tricky. Knock over a tourist for bonus points.
- 10:30 Now ride on for the uphill challenge, starting at Coupure 53, all the way up Sint-Kwintensberg to the Book Tower 70.
- 11:30 On Saturday, see the children's choir at 58. Their songs in Ghent dialect are impossible for you, but 'Rosalie' contains so little words that you should manage.
- 12:30 In for a culinary challenge? Have some Pas de Bleu cheese by Hinkelspel 48, drenched in Lousberg beer. Today, nobody will kiss you anymore.
- 15:00 Rent a kayak at 39, and take a trip down the notorious waterslide at 38. Or just stand there and watch. That's local too.
- 15:00 (alternative) shoes? Run around Watmarkt. Track of many a local.
- 18:00 Go to Café Folie. The jukebox. That's 'Louise' song in your canon.
- 19:00 Pick any bar at a local. Try 'prepara', 'ultwizzer' to reach the top.
- 20:00 Thursday? See Ghent tradition, and r Veggie Thursday even if.
- 22:00 Opinions are. Try these controversial. Circulateplan, LEZ, G with corona.
- 03:00 Go to a night in our neighbour country early that they should. whatever you need, but.
- 03:30 With your new at Graslei 38 and comp of today. And complain you are now officially a

34 JENEVER IS BETTER THAN GIN

(Every day) 'T DREUPELKOT is a traditional jenever bar. Since forever, this place has taught innocent souls to drink the stuff in more than 100 varieties. Forget about the vanilla, plum or pepper versions, though. Real Flemish jenever is made from grain and nothing else, at around 40% alcohol. It's the father of the British gin, a worthy drink that's more than just a shot to get drunk. Try the Bolegense and you'll taste why.

35 THE CASTLE

(Every day 10:00 to 18:00 (last ticket 16:40) / €2 under 19 / €7 students under 26 / €12) Our GRAVENSTEEN (Castle of the Counts) partly dates from the 12th century. After the counts moved out, it became a court, a prison and a coin press. By the 19th century, it hardly looked like a castle anymore when it was taken over by a cotton factory with plenty of poor houses built in and around it. Not a place the people from Ghent loved very much. There was even talk of destroying the whole thing. Luckily, city architects decided to revamp our past and restore this rare monument. They used their imagination to the fullest (some more water, some extra towers) so today the castle looks a bit more medieval than it did in the Middle Ages. But damn, it's still impressive. It will soon be renovated again with a new pavilion that everybody is arguing about. We only hope one thing: that they will one day bring back the torture room that we all loved so much when we were kids. Pretty please?

39 FEED YOUR

This bridge was built in 1913. This is one of the facades on the Fair of 1913. So a lot of what you see is over a century old! The city council industrial city had er travellers too—and a centre got a makeover to the new Sir SINT-MICHIELS BRID a perfect view of the Nikolaas church, the cathedral 45. Since this is still a hotspot Our tip: walk up for church on a misty S quiet then, and much the view is still jaw-d

40 GHENT COFF

(Mon to Sat) F multinational selling cups on the corner. The Ghent is tiny MOKABON students all share a tal freshly ground coffee. cream, from times when exist in Ghent. Most cof



- TOURIST OFFICE
 - Oude Vismijn, opposite the castle 35
 - Open every day from 10:00 - 18:00
 - Closed on 1/1 and 25/12
 - If you're older than 26 and planning to visit a lot, the CityCard may be a good idea. Gives entrance to most museums, a guided boat tour, a rented bike for one day and unrestricted use of public transport. €38 for 48 hours, €44 for 72 hours.
 - visit.gent.be for more museums and opening hours
- TRAIN STATIONS
 - Ghent Sint-Pieters is our has direct connection other destinations yo Pieters. The Filibco sh Airport leaves from th international buses le
- TAXI!
 - A taxi ride costs a mir

ditional selling expensive coffee in cardboard as on the corner. The only legendary coffee house in ent is tiny MOKABON. Rich ladies, old Turkish guys and idents all share a table and drink the house brand of shly ground coffee. Try the cappuccino with whipped am, from times when the word 'barista' did not even ist in Ghent. Most coffees are around €2,50.

(cutting-edge technology at the time) and starts using it in Ghent. In no time, thousands of people are working in cloth factories. **1877** The first Belgian Socialist Party is founded in Ghent to defend the rights of the starving factory workers. The workman's palace of Vooruit **72** will be the culmination. **1913** The World Exhibition makes Ghent go crazy. Our architecture goes Gothic Revival instead of modernist because city marketeers realise that's better for tourism.

bankrupt in the early 20th century, all animals were sold by auction. The popular elephant Jack was sold to a guy who wanted to take it to the London Zoo. But London snapped out of the deal and Jack was strangled with steel cables. The popular story says that we then ate his meat in a big barbecue. That's not true, Jack was turned into sausages in the Netherlands. We actually ate the beer instead. The newspaper report spoke of 60 dinner guests, 120 bottles of wine and 75 bottles of champagne.

ST INFO

TRAIN STATIONS

Ghent Sint-Pieters is our big station. Gent Dampoort has direct connections to Antwerp and Bruges, for other destinations you'll have to switch at Sint-Pieters. The Flibco shuttle bus to Brussels South Airport leaves from the backside of Sint-Pieters, international buses leave from Dampoort.

TAXI!

A taxi ride costs a minimum of €9 (with 3 km included), minimum €10 between 19:00 and 06:00. There is Uber in Ghent too, but it's not much cheaper.

AGENDA

facebook.com/gratisingent = non-nonsense calendar for free events—it's in Dutch but they respond to messages in English too. www.usingent.be for events and tickets

FREE CONCERTS

Here's a list of bars that host free live music. Sometimes they don't—during summer holidays for example. If you want to be sure: check FB gratisingent

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

33	33	33	33	33	33	33
25	25	25	25	25	25	25
18	18	18	18	18	18	18

THE ROYAL VEGAN

Jasmin (23) organic wine pixie (Tue to Sun, lunch and dinner) "I say you recognise a real vegan-for-the-animals when they don't stick to healthy salads, but know the best greasy Indian. In Ghent, I would go for ROYAL INDIA, right here in the centre. It's kitsch all the way, but they're super nice. Ask for the vegan menu and they give you this 'wink wink' look, getting you another menu with zero graphic design and more than 80 vegan options."



GHENT'S JUKEJOINT

(Every day) MISSY SIPPY single-handedly puts pies and roots on the map of Ghent. With four to five free shows per week, Tiny Legs Tim, Reena Riot, JuisLou and the likes gathered their own scene of young musicians with old rusty souls. Jam on Wednesday, Local roots on Thursday, boogie on Friday, but any day is od for stomping.

SHEEP BARN

The STADSHAL was built in 2012 and boy, did it park some controversy! The haters are still not over it. Fans call it an architectural masterpiece. Most locals have accepted it by now, although we're still not entirely sure what it's there for. It is a pretty roof for when it rains, that's for sure. And when the first sunbeam hits town, we flock together in the wonderful tiny park beneath.

CITY BELLS & PANORAMA

(Every day 10:00 - 18:00 / €1,60 under 19 / €2,70 students under 27 / €8) Imagine hearing Kraftwerk, Daft Punk or MGMT from a medieval city tower. That's what we got in 2020, when our local heroes 2manydj's composed some new tunes for the bells of the BELFORT (Belfry). None of those made it to the fixed playlist, but we can soon vote for our top songs again! The new music will then be inserted into the 17.600 holes of the copper drum that you can see up in the tower. The mechanism (like a giant music box) is 360 years old and it still does the trick. Make sure you stay until it turns, which happens every 15 minutes. After that, walk up the final steps for the panorama. The view from here is as breathtaking as the 256 steps you just climbed. By the way, the Belfry is not a church like many tourists think, but a typical Flemish watchtower, built as a symbol of power of the city during the Middle Ages. The city charters were kept there and the dragon on top became our city mascot.

tourist classic

48 ART STUDENT BAR

(Tue to Sat) Want to know what we call a 'brown bar' in Ghent? That's a place where the owner calls the shots. Without him, the bar would not be the bar. He decides on the records, calls you by your name, decides when you've had enough to drink and basically is boss. Meet Tijl, welcome to FATIMA. When the bar burnt down a few years ago, the regulars crowd-funded the new interior. It was a bit clean at first, but the wall is now nicely filled with illustrated beer coasters from the art students again. Free garage rock, blues or whatever on Saturday.

49 WORLD KITCHEN CHURCH

(Mon to Fri / lunch) Have a cheap, healthy meal (with local products) in a beautiful 19th-century Franciscan church. Every day, poor locals, poor students, poor university professors and poor backpackers enjoy the view over a daily special with soup (€9 / €6 for students) in this social restaurant called PARNASSUS.

50 EVELINE BAKES AT HOME

(Mon to Fri / 11:00 - 18:00) Eveline bakes her pies in the magnificent house where she grew up. The interior is more home than hipster: high ceilings, flowery pink wallpaper and old furniture. It feels like having tea and pie at your granny's. Even Saint-Bernard dog Joske fits the picture perfectly. That's HUSET for you—summer terrace included.

51 HAVE BEER WHILE YOU WAIT

(Mon to Thu, dinner) Rumour has it that Chris hates capitalism and has therefore never raised his prices. That's a lie, but €8 for spaghetti and €2,5 for a Chouffe beer is still ridiculously cheap. The SPINNEKOP bar deserves its legendary status among all those who refuse to comb their hair. If you have to wait long for the lasagna, just realise that we all mean nothing in the eternal light of the cosmos.

52 OUR NEW SKATEPARK

Mayil (28) human lightning bolt (every day 10:00 - 22:00, free) "What's nice about our skate community is that you can totally mess up. Everybody loves to share and help out with improving your tricks. The new SKATEPARK BLAARMEERSEN is apparently one of the biggest in Europe. Not sure, but it's definitely big. There's more space to ride and the bowl is for real too. We didn't have that in Ghent yet, so yeah, we're happy. And you're welcome to join!" (to get there, take bus 38 or 39 from Korenmarkt **42**, direction Blaarmeersen)



53 CITY SHEEP

(May to Sep) See the sheep? They're official city employees. The slopes next to the Coupure canal are so steep it's easier and more ecological to let the sheep do the hard work. Shepherd Hamdi always accompanies them, to prevent drunk students from pushing them into the water. They graze on other spots too, of course. Want to know where? One of the sheep is wired! Search for 'schapen' on data.stad.gent and you can track the woolies in real time.

54 HAPPY TUMMY, HAPPY SOUL

(Wed to Sun, dinner / weekend brunch) Make comfort food colourful and you'll get HOMBLÉ. Ann gets her meat and vegetables from farmers around the city (all options, even gluten-free). The open kitchen and her laughter give you that cosy feeling of eating at home without having to cook yourself (as if you ever do). If you can afford it, order a soup or lasagna for someone who can't. Ann is our ambassador of the Enchanté project that offers 'postponed meals'.

55 FOUR BARS

Here's four good bars. JAN VAN GENT is the place for a spontaneous dance on Friday and Saturday. They just pumped their backyard terrace too, for added pleasure. The jukebox at music bar HET ZWARTE GAT only has the song 'Born to be Alive'. So better count on the barkeeper to select the vinyl (and rare Belgian beers). At DE LOGE, Jos and Mieke serve food until midnight (spaghetti €9,90) and on Monday evening the drinks come with a free 'boterham mee préparé'. Free concert on Wednesday. BAR BEENHOUEW is the new kid on the block with 15 taps of rotating special beers. And by special David means special. Try an old geuze, you won't find this where you live.

56 SURINAME SUNSHINE

(every day / breakfast, lunch and dinner) FAJA LOBI is a small bistro-restaurant with Surinamese cuisine. When the sun's out, the terrace is perfect for people spotting after kayaking on Ghent's canals.

57 ART DECO POOL

(Every day / €3,60 under 26 / €6,50) VAN EYCK SWIMMING POOL dates back to 1886, which makes it the oldest covered swimming pool in Belgium. Best to swim on your back to enjoy that art deco ceiling! Come outside of school hours, because then the pool is reserved for noisy kids. Open until 22:00 on weekdays.

63 LIBRARY WITH A VIEW

(Closed on Sun) DE KROOK is our new library and we love it. We like to think that the layered shape looks like an uneven pile of books and magazines, no? For the official 'moving in' ceremony in 2017, locals formed a human chain, transferring the books one by one from the old library that was across the square. A wonderful thing! De Krook is more than its bookshelves. Children are gaming downstairs, students study upstairs, romantic souls play the public piano, pensioners with oceans of time come to read all the papers (some international ones too). And you? You might just go there for the nice view on the top floor or for lunch in the café. If you want to use the public computers, ask for a 'passantenkaart' at the entrance.

64 BOARD GAMES

(Tue to Sun) WORLDS' END for all you geeks! This board game bar and comic store is located in what looks like a medieval cellar, staying right in theme. You can go for drinks, or to play one of the board games with the regulars.

65 NOT JUST ANY BEER

(Mon to Sat) No, they don't have more than 20 taps. No, they don't have a beer list that looks like a telephone book. But HUZAAAR does have Wim and Dimi, who will serve you a geuze from 3 Fonteiners or an Oudbruin from 't Verzet and will take the time to tell you something about Belgian beer. Have a dry sausage with that!

66 VAJAJJAY TREE ART

We still don't know who's behind the vaginas painted into our trees, but they keep on popping up in a wonderful variety of shapes and sizes. Like this one. #vajjiny

67 ARTSY HOTSPOT

DE BIJLOKE used to be an abbey and a hospital. After many years of restoration, the site gradually became the centre of creative education. The buildings host a conservatory, a concert hall, the famous dance company 'Ballets C de la B' and an art school. KIOSK organises exhibitions by the students and KASKINEMA does screenings of student films and other movies (Tue, Wed, Thu / students €3 / €5). The good thing about art students is that they are always pretty and always have time. So KASKCAFE may be a good place to make local friends (Mon to Fri, affordable lunch).

68 CITY MUSEUM

(Closed on Wed / Mon to Fri, 09:00 - 17:00 / Sat, Sun and holidays: 10:00 - 18:00 / free under 19 / €2 under 26 / €10) We're proud of where we live. So much so, that we happily bought the air pictures of Ghent at STAM per square metre when they were renovating in 2020 (serves nicely as a coffee table). The new giant air picture is still a public favourite. See the big chunk that did not even fit on the floor? That's the Ghent harbour. We always forget we have it, but it's a motor of our industry and economy. STAM shows the history of our town, always with a link to contemporary city life. If you're in a hurry, skip the parchment and ancient stones and go see the abbey refectory. The wooden ceiling and the 14th-century murals don't need any computer visuals, they're spectacular just the way they are. After that, some stick to the beautiful pictures by Michiel Hendryckx or the towers in Lego, others delve deep into the medieval guilds, the worker's movement, the painted city maps...

76 BEST PICNIC GARDEN

(Tue to Sun, 10:00 to 18:00, entrance sometimes via Kantienberg) The garden of SINT-PIETERS ABBEY is the loveliest in Ghent. With the vineyard, the raspberry plants, the herb patch and the old ruins, it feels like you're in the South of France. Well, not really. But still. There is no better picnic spot.

77 STUDENT WALHALLA

Geneviève (20) studies journalism "This corona year really made my heart bleed. I normally go to OVERPOORT like two times per week, on Tuesday and on Thursday when it's real busy. And then in 2020: nothing! But when it's all open again, we'll start with cheap wine at our student flat—lose each other along the way—dance—move from bar to bar—dance some more—hang from a street pole—then find pictures of random new best friends on our phone the morning after. Feels like a different world right now... Can't wait!"



78 THE TWO ART MUSEUMS

(Mon closed / Tue to Fri 09:30 to 17:30 / Sat, Sun and holidays 10:00 to 18:00 / free under 19 / €2 under 26 / €10 MSK / €12 S.M.A.K.) Two museums, two neighbours in the wonderful Citadelpark. MSK, the Museum of Fine Arts, is for the art buffs. The big Belgian names include Magritte, Ensor, Spilliaert and Delvaux. Across the street, S.M.A.K. is the one for contemporary art. Expect installations and video art by living artists (mostly Belgians, but we've had Richter too). Don't forget the cabinet dedicated to Belgian icon Broodthaers. He is the guy who made art out of a pot of mussels and perfectly knew how to combine poetry, conceptualism and a good joke.

79 THE MUSEUM OF DOUBT

(Closed on Wed / Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 09:30 - 17:30 / Sat, Sun 10:00 - 18:00 / free under 19 / €2 under 27 / €8) At the new GUM (Ghent University Museum), it's quite normal to see a swarm of micro-robots next to an ancient wooden pole from New Guinea. The museum is not organised by time or space, but in categories like 'chaos' and 'doubt'. It's all about science, yes, but the message is that you don't get anywhere without imagination. For example, it takes a creative mind to see that the kind of fly that flies around a corpse can also tell you how long it's been dead and decomposing. Wonderful stuff.

80 BOTANICAL GARDEN

(Mon to Fri 09:30 - 17:30 / Sat, Sun 10:00 to 18:00 / free) The name Amorphophallus Titanum means something like 'giant misshapen penis', but that's not its only problem. When the gigantic flower blooms (2 metres high), it smells like rotten eggs. This only happens very rarely, and you cannot predict when. In 2015, it attracted thousands of visitors to the hothouse of our beautiful BOTANICAL GARDEN, everybody pinching their noses. And then it bloomed again, in May 2020. Due to the pandemic, nobody could come and smell the show. Sorry, Amorphophallus!

81 CHRIS' PLACE

(Mon to Sat) MONOPOLE looks like any other Belgian old people's bar. But this one is slightly different. The audience is a mix of retired university professors, Ghent's nightawks, philosophical neighbours and connoisseurs who have a half hour to kill before the next train comes. And it's Chris who calls the shots. The most special feature might be her living room in the back. There's a television there for your viewing pleasure, if you want to see the game. Welcome to Ghent, Belgium!

82 UNDER CONSTRUCTION

You'll notice we are a student city from the thousands of bikes around GENT SINT-PIETERS. And there's thousands more underground! The station is being renovated but it's not easy to fit a Gothic Revival building into the future. We've been trying since 2010. Like many things in Belgium, this takes time. By 2027 it should be finished, but we're not 100% sure yet.

77 KOMPASS, PLEASE DON'T LEAVE!

Jules (29) Ghent nightlife councillor "We really hope KOMPASS KLUB can stay in Ghent. We just don't know where yet, because they had to leave the old temporary warehouse. Their style? It's not just one thing. It goes from dry hard techno on the Rimbu nights to people like Amelie Lens, Bonobo or Bicep. But fourteen-hour parties are not an exception, so they really mean it with that slogan 'sleep is overrated'. The open-air events, in full sunlight, also opened the club to a new crowd. So it's not just for the ravers and the troopers, you know. Love it!"



DID YOU LIKE THIS MAP?

FOUND A MISTAKE?

WE LOVE LETTERS!

→ ghent@use-it.travel

a million visitors spread over ten days. In 2020, corona happened. It felt so god-damned quiet in Ghent when the festivities were entirely cancelled. The terrace of Café Trefpunt was one of the only places where some folkies gathered for spontaneous jams—just sitting at the table, because all concerts on stages were forbidden. It felt right, in a way, to still have them here. (At the time of writing, we still don't know for 2021...)

27 PARTY SQUARE

The little square Vlasmarkt is the epicentre of alternative party life in Ghent. Ask anybody between 18 and 50 about their best CHARLATAN story, and they will proudly confess their worst. It's still the ultimate place where we get sucked into at the end of the night, like moths attracted to the flame. How strange it was, in 2020, to see our house of sin closed or—perhaps even stranger—to see it become a summer terrace when only that was allowed. Anyway, we have all saved up our worst intentions and are ready to get back to it. Nobody goes to Charlatan all night, by the way, you always mix it with some talking and appetizers (BAR DES AMIS, JOS, GLORIA), a free concert with earplugs (KINKY STAR), a party with vodka shots (ZEPPOS) or a mix of all of those (AAP and GIRAF). The bars on the other side of Sint-Jacobs church have their own fixed posse as well. The king of the row, over there, is AFSNIS. Some of the regular customers have originated from its walls, like fungus. They will never die but just reincarnate into new persons.

28 MORE GOING OUT

If your Fear Of Missing Out is acting up on a Friday or Saturday, do like the rest of us and go back and forth between the bars at Vlasmarkt and this square. You can pick from Latin vibes, club life or funky parties, depending on the door you choose. BAR BROOS does free concerts on Tuesday. But the true local classic on the Beestenmarkt is DYNASTY, run by a former billiards champion and his hot-blooded wife.

29 ABSURDITY & ROMANCE

(Closed on Tue) Bar STEEN is a combination of absurdity and romance. They host activities like Nintendo music nights and old school slideshows that will extend your definition of art. But when there are no events going on, you can just snuggle under a blanket with your sweetheart in the candle-lit grandma furniture upstairs.

30 GRAFFITI STREET

Nobody knows the name 'Werregarenstraat'. We all say 'graffitistraatje'. When the new university museum opened in 2020, they painted the whole street white as an ode to the scientist's fundamental doubts. That caused a bit of a scandal, but it was much ado about nothing. After all, this street is just a legal testing ground for everybody and it's not a gallery. The paint is always fresh, as it should be. If you want a piece of the real action, head out to Kapow and the streets around. Stunning big walls there.

31 DUNKIN' DUMPLINGS

(Wed to Sat, lunch and dinner) The setting is a beautiful renovated building (the stairs to the toilet!) with furniture in funky colours. No wonder the owners are a graphic designer and a visual artist. They travelled around the world and caught a dumpling obsession. In STEAMY WINDOWS you'll find exactly that. Order five different kinds and share them as an excuse to try the whole menu.

some extra towers so today the castle looks a bit more medieval than it did in the Middle Ages. But damn, it's still impressive. It will soon be renovated again with a new pavilion that everybody is arguing about. We only hope one thing: that they will one day bring back the torture room that we all loved so much when we were kids. Pretty please?

multinational selling cups on the corner. The Ghent is tiny MOKABO students all share a tall freshly ground coffee. cream, from times when exist in Ghent. Most col

TOURIST

TOURIST OFFICE

Oude Vlaeminck, opposite the castle
Open every day from 10:00 - 18:00
• Closed on 1/1 and 25/12
• If you're older than 26 and planning to visit a lot, the CityCard may be a good idea. Gives entrance to most museums, a guided boat tour, a rented bike for one day and unrestricted use of public transport. €38 for 48 hours, €44 for 72 hours.
• visit.gent.be for more museums and opening hours

OPENING HOURS

• Most museums close on Wednesday.
• Many bars and restaurants close on Monday.
• Student bars (around 27) close on Sunday.
• Most shops are open Monday to Saturday from around 10:00 - 18:00. First Sunday of the month: Shopping Sunday.
• Most restaurants stop serving food at 22:00 (in Belgium people eat early). After that: frietjes! See the icons.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Ghent is small enough to do on foot or by bike, but tram 1 is handy between the station and the historical centre. No tickets for sale from the driver! €2.50 for a ticket from a machine, or pay contactless on the tram (if your credit card or bank card has a wifi sign).

TRAIN STATIONS

Ghent Sint-Pieters is one of the best stations in Belgium. It has direct connections to other destinations via the Pieters. The Filibco shuttle Airport leaves from the international buses level.

TAXI!

A taxi ride costs a minimum (including), minimum €10. There is Uber in Ghent.

AGENDA

• facebook.com/gratificatiedat
calendar for free events
respond to messages
• www.uitingent.be for

FREE CONCERTS

Here's a list of bars that sometimes they don't. Sometimes they don't. example. If you want

MON TUE WED

15	15	15
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30	30	30

36 SHOP TO HEAL THE WORLD

Janne (24) eco-enthusiast (Tue to Sat) "When I walk into H&M, I know the world is going down the drain. But then a shop like JUST HAZEL gives me hope again. When I bought a ring there, I also got a card of the person who literally made it. The clothes they sell are made in Europe and they have zero-waste gadgets like a bamboo toothbrush or reusable coffee filters. Fair fashion is really a thing in Ghent. LA FILLE D'O has a shop further down the street, with beautiful lingerie. Every year I get myself a birthday gift there. The stuff she makes is fabulous and lasts forever, well worth the price. And boobs are politics too!"



41 THE ROYAL

Jasmin (23) or (Tue to Sun, lunch and real vegan-for-the-day healthy salads, but in Ghent, I would go for centre. It's kitsch all. Ask for the vegan 'wink' look, getting graphic design and r

42 GHENT'S JUI

(Every day) M blues and roots on th five free shows per w LouisLou and the likes g musicians with old rusty Heroes on Thursday, b good for stomping.

43 SHEEP BARN

The STADSHAL v spark some controver Fans call it an archi have accepted it entirely sure what when it rains, the sunbeam hits to wonderful tiny pa

44 CITY BE

(Every day) 19 / €2,70 stud hearing Kraftwe a medieval city in 2020, when composed som the BELFORT (it to the fixed p for our top son then be inserte copper drum th The mechanism 360 years old a sure you stay every 15 minute steps for the p is as breathtaki climbed. By the like many touris watchtower, bui city during the were kept the became our city

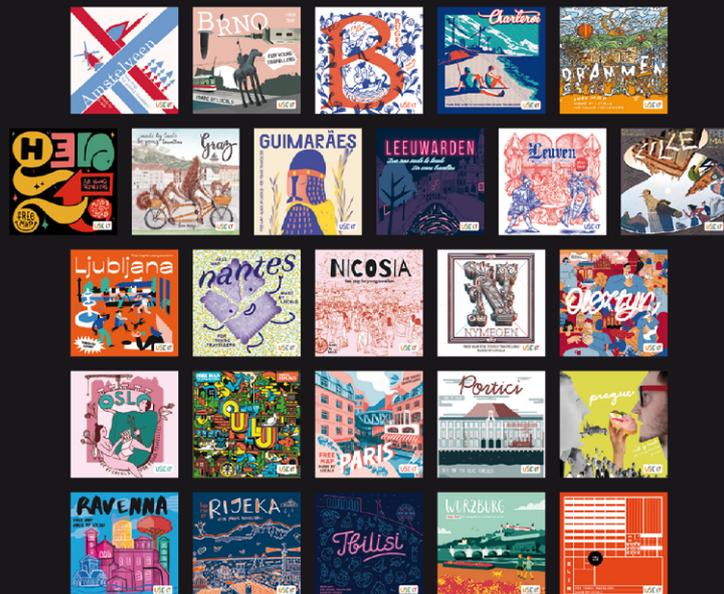
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-> ghent@us

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USE-IT is tourist info for young people: Want to be the first to know about our new maps? made by locals, no-nonsense and up-to-date. Then like www.facebook.com/USE-IT



This USE-IT map could not have been made without the trust and financial support of the city of Ghent. Thank you, we love you too!



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