



MONTAGE

TRAVEL

crafting memories

DOOR-TO-DOOR ITINERARY



TRAVELER SNAPSHOT

WHO:

This itinerary was created for an active couple who traveled exclusively by train.

LENGTH OF TRIP:

12 days (each city for 1-3 days.)

WHERE:

8 cities throughout Belgium and The Netherlands.

TRAVEL PREFERENCES:

The client's priority was to see the major sights while also spending time learning about the history and culture in each city. They requested an itinerary that allowed them flexible options so that they could adjust their plans as desired. *Note: A more rigid and "set" itinerary is also possible.*

MAY 6 - MAY 7, 2013

Day in Ghent, Belgium

Activities

May 6, 2013

Ghent

Coming from tourist-ready Bruges, Ghent is an opportunity to see a more authentic working city. It is bustling with great shops and boutiques, has an enjoyable historic quarter, famous Flemish art, and Belgium's largest university. More gritty than manicured, Ghent is part of my "essential Belgium" itinerary.

08:36

30 min

Leave Bruges for GHENT

Ghent, Belgium

Take the IC train (not "R") from Bruges to Ghent's main train station, Gent-Sint-Pieters. €6.80

(Trains leave on every :18, :36, and :59 past the hour, if you would like some flexibility).

Journey time: 23-27 minutes

09:00

15 min

Arrival in Ghent

Upon arrival to Gent-Sint-Pieters, buy TRAM tickets from the Relay shop (inside the station, before the exit). €1.20

Go outside and find the stop for Tram #1 to Korenmarkt.

Take tram in the direction of Wonderlgem/Evergem. Trams depart about every 10 minutes.

Journey time: 10-15 minutes

09:15

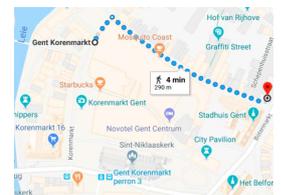
4 min

Walk to Hotel NH Gent Belfort

Short 4 minute walk from Korenmarkt down scenic Hoogpoort. Your hotel will be the modern building on the left toward the end of the street.

See Map for walking route

Alternate route (7 minutes): Walk south through the Korenmarkt square, turn left - toward the church (Sint-Niklaaskerk). Pass the church and park and make a left onto Botermarkt. NH Hotel will be immediately on the left and on the corner of Botermarkt and Hoogpoort.



09:20

Drop luggage off at the hotel

Leave luggage with the bellhop, or, if your room is ready early - in your room.

09:30

30 min

Optional: Coffee and/or Breakfast Break

Now is a good time to relax a bit before starting your day of site-seeing. If you haven't had a chance to get breakfast yet, or just want a coffee, you will find plenty of options in the area around your

hotel. A few options include:

Local Coffee: Mokabon, Donkersteeg 35

Coffee, pastries, and chocolate shop: Huize Colette, Belfortstraat 6 (next to your hotel)

Chain Coffee: Starbucks, Korenmarkt 4

10:00

120 min

Self-Guided: Ghent Walking Tour

Welcome to Ghent! It's time to explore the city.

Using the Self-Guided Walking Tour and Map I have provided for you, you will explore today's modern Ghent. As you walk you will also learn about the city's history as one of the most wealthy cities in Europe during the middle ages.

Sights include:

- The panoramic views from St. Michael's Bridge (Sint-Michielsbrug)
- The bustling Korenmarkt
- Ghent's large gothic church, St. Nicolas' Church (Sint-Niklaaskerk)
- I highly recommend ascending the Belfry, €5, open 10-6 (last entry 30 mins before closing)
- The art of Flemish masters inside the Cathedral of St. Bavo (Sint-Baafskathedraal)
- Traverse "Graffitistraat," the designated lane for graffiti artists to showcase their work
- Walk the trendy Patershol neighborhood
- The impressive wooden Vegetable Market (Groentenmarkt) / Meat Hall.

Follow the walk, stopping as desired. Allow at least 2 hours for the walk plus about an hour for touring the Belfry

FOODIE TIP: If you see the street vendor in Korenmarkt selling Cuberdons (raspberry nose-shaped candy), try one. Love it or hate it, it's a local treat. Also sold in sweet shops and some grocery stores.

13:00

90 min

LUNCH

A couple of great lunch options nearby Gravensteen (your next stop):

Chez Leontine

While I would consider this a "touristy" restaurant (service can be slow), you might like Chez Leontine for the ambiance of a canal-side lunch. They specialize in hearty portions of Flemish specialties, such as a creamy stew called "waterzooi" (chicken waterzooi, pictured) and the Flemish beer stew with pork cheeks. Their extensive Belgian beer menu comes from the neighboring Het Waterhuis aan de Bierkant (same ownership). Groentenmarkt 10-11 - directly across the canal from Boat in Gent's yellow umbrella



Avalon Restaurant

One of Ghent's best rated restaurants also happens to be a vegetarian restaurant. The menu changes frequently, but rest assured their menu remains creative, unique, and delicious. Interior seating only. Geldmuntstraat 32

14:30

120 min

Alternate Option - Guided Walking Tour

If you would prefer to have a guided walking tour, the Ghent TI offers 2-hour tours in English at 14:30. The tour departs from the Tourist Information Center across the street from Gravensteen (Sint-Veerleplein 5).

€7 per person

**If you do this, you can reverse the itinerary so that you visit Gravensteen and/or take the Canal

Cruise in the morning, before lunch**

15:00
90 min

Visit Gravensteen aka "Castle of the Counts"

Sint-Veerleplein 11, Ghent, Belgium

Built in 1180, this fortress has been restored and turned into a multi-faceted museum. Mostly just a great walk exploring the grounds, it also has an armory collection on display and a torture museum.



CASSIE'S TIP: Don't miss the views looking out at the city from the top level.

€8, open 9:00-18:00 (last entry 1hr before closing)

17:00
50 min

Canal Cruise

There are a few boat companies offering the service of cruising the canal. I recommend the one called "Boat in Gent." They can be found on the canal (off Kleine Vismarkt) - look for the bright yellow umbrella (pictured).



On this tour through the Medieval Center, a multi-lingual tour guide will give you an oral history of the city as you pass notable buildings. This tour is relaxing and scenic and definitely one of my *musts* for your day in Ghent.

€7, departs every 20 minutes from 10:00-18:00
- Cash Only

19:00

Pakhuis

Schuurkenstraat 4, Ghent, Belgium

You have 7pm dinner reservations at Pakhuis. The restaurant is in a beautifully restored 2-story warehouse. Ample windows allow in natural light and give it a classy and elegant ambiance.



Pakhuis brasserie sources local and organic ingredients that are transformed into delicious traditional Belgian dishes. Menu offerings include a variety of meat, fish, and vegetarian choices. Their fixed-price menu may offer a better value than ordering à la carte. The quality here is consistent and I am confident that no matter what dish you choose, you will be very satisfied.

This restaurant is very popular with the locals. I requested a table for you with what I believe to be the best views; second level, by the railing overlooking the rest of the restaurant. Bon Appétit!

Evening

Evening Stroll

The sunset time is 21:04

The locals love to hang out by the canal in the evening. While the majority will be students from the local university, this is a great time of day to be walking around and enjoying the surrounds.

One of my favorite places to stand and watch the changing colors in the sky is from St. Michael's Bridge (Sint-Michielsbrug). Observe the lively canal scene and the beautifully lit St. Nicholas Church from this vantage point. Perhaps walk the canal, enjoy some dessert or a canal-side Belgian beer.

🏠 Accommodations	GHENT	May 6, 2013 - May 7, 2013
Hotel NH Gent Belfort Hoogpoort 63 Gent	PHONE: +32 9 233 33 31 ROOM TYPE: Standard Double BOOKING#: 12084	

Check-in at 3pm, check out by 12pm.



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