

Flanders State of the Art

# Family-friend Flanders and Brussels

IATICC Inspiration for holiday planners

VISITFLANDERS

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# TRULY

# **FAMILY-FRIENDLY**

### Let's unpack ...

Welcome to Flanders, a small region that excels in craftsmanship, from delicious chocolate to the gems of our Flemish Masters. The art cities of Antwerp, Bruges, Brussels, Ghent, Leuven and Mechelen offer families an unforgettable experience with their unique multilingual family offer. And all this against a unique backdrop of UNESCO World Heritage.

Come and discover the rich culture and heritage of Flanders outside the cities with a wide range of surprising bike rides, beautiful nature, idyllic castles and impressive abbeys. In short, discover how extensively families are catered for, also in these three Flemish regions: Limburg, the Kempen and the Flemish Coast. Flanders has everything it takes to provide families with a fantastic stay.

### ... and pack families in

Where else can you find such a varied offer for every age? The trendiest dining addresses and the most welcoming accommodation? The most exciting museums and fantastic attractions? Sea, green and historic cities a stone's throw from each other? This way, you can experience and discover a great deal together in a short space of time (and within a short distance!). It is no coincidence that Flanders and Brussels are on the map as truly family-friendly destinations. We are small in size, but big in what we have to offer. And proud. Proud of our region with its heritage gems, culinary traditions and legendary cycling culture. Flemings are not only warm and hospitable people, but are also known for their knowledge of languages. We will happily speak with you in English, French and German. Good morning, bonjour, Guten Tag!

### Packed for you

This brochure combines a lovely selection of family experiences of heritage, nature and cycling with a sprinkling of culinary experiences and family-friendly overnight addresses. As an international travel organiser, let yourself be inspired by the family-friendly and fascinating discoveries in the art cities and regions. In addition to quality, these were also chosen on the basis of the multilingual offer. Discover how the many seasonings form a source of inspiration, without this being a complete summary of the family-friendly offerings in Flanders. Convinced? Now put together a unique travel product for your guests with the carefully selected sights, accommodation addresses and food and drink establishments. We wish you much inspiration!

# FLANDERS AND BRUSSELS FOR FAMILIES IN BRIEF



WELCOME TO THE CYCLING PARADISE!

WITH **15.000 KILOMETRES** OF CYCLING NODES PLANNING A ROUTE IS EXTREMELY SIMPLE.



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YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CYCLING IN FLANDERS AT WWW.VISITFLANDERS.COM/EN/DISCOVER-FLANDERS/CYCLING



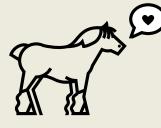
### ALL CITIES HAVE AT LEAST ONE CINEMA

FAMILY AND ANIMATED FILMS ARE OFTEN SHOWN IN THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE AND SUBTITLED IN DUTCH. .



### ALWAYS A SUCCESS: IN THE BIG CITIES YOU CAN GET RIDES IN AUTHENTIC HORSE AND COACHES

DEPARTURE: USUALLY FROM CENTRAL LOCATIONS OR ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY, IN GHENT, ADVANCED BOOKING IS RECOMMENDED



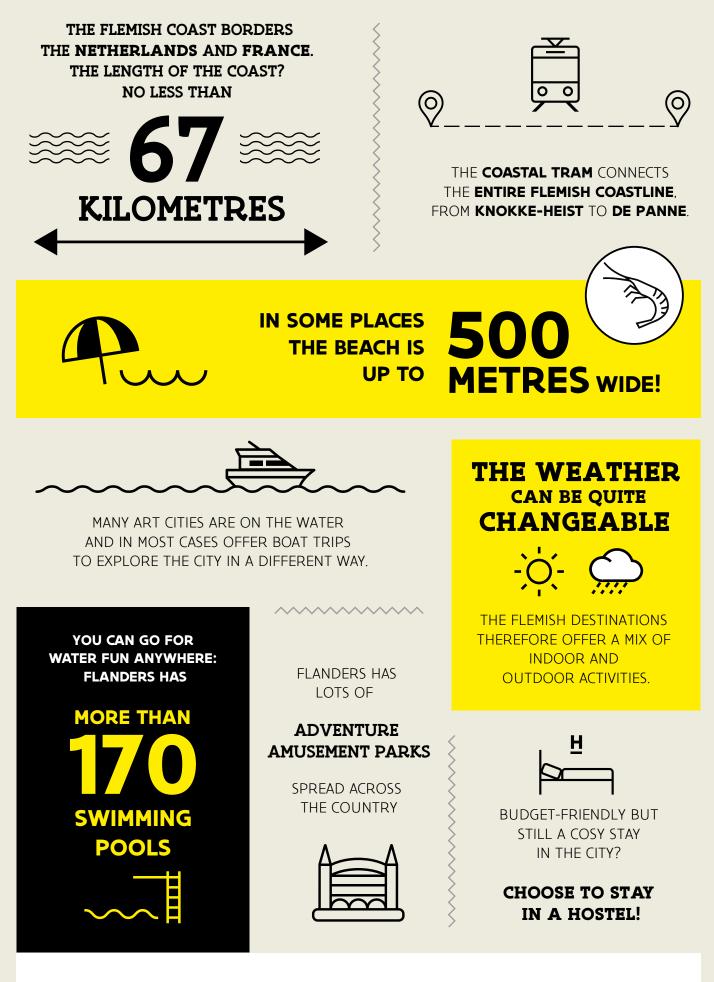
### WORLD-FAMOUS AND 100% BELGIAN: TASTE THE TRUE TRADITION OF NEARLY 400 YEARS CHOCOLATE. DELICIOUS FLAVOURS. UNIQUE STORIES.



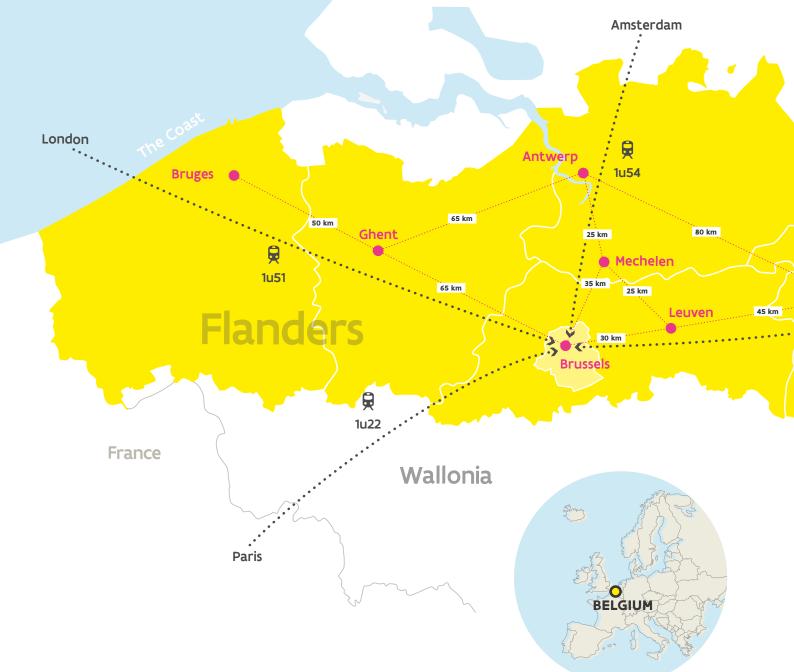
DISCOVER THEM IN THREE CHOCOLATE MUSEUMS IN ANTWERP, BRUGES AND BRUSSELS.



SO 'FRENCH FRIES' ARE ACTUALLY **'BELGIAN FRIES'**.



**WANT MORE INSPIRATION?** The four-language attraction finder Riebedebie.be offers access to 700 museums and sights, interspersed with 400 inspiring stories. **www.riebedebie.be/en** 



# CROSSING SURPRISING FLANDERS



### HOW DO YOU GET TO FLANDERS AND BRUSSELS?

All the major cities are within a short distance of each other and are easily accessible by public transport as well as by car. Visit <u>www.visitflanders</u>. <u>com/en/travel-information/travelling-and-aroundflanders</u> for more information on how to reach Flanders and Brussels from abroad by train, bus or plane.



### TRAVEL

### There are various ways of getting around in Flanders.



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- Travel all over Flanders by train. Hop from one city to another: sustainable and safe!
- Belgium has the densest railway network in Europe.
- Tickets are for sale in the stations, online or via the app.
- Children up to 12 years travel free of charge or receive a 50% discount if travelling alone.

Check www.belgianrail.be for other interesting family rates.

### BY BUS, TRAM OR METRO

- Travel easily within the city or regions by bus, tram or metro. No parking stress!
- Free travel for children aged up to 6.
- Tickets are available at all vending machines or fixed points of sale in the stations, online or via the app.

### For more information, visit www.delijn.be and www.stib-mivb.be (Brussel)

## ON FOOT OR BY BIKE

- - Bike sharing systems are available at over 100 stations in Flanders. This makes travelling by train even more attractive.
- Each major city has various bicycle rental points. Available everywhere: child seats and/or bicycles with trailers for children.

- Exploring on foot or by bike? Thanks to the compact and often car-free nature of the cities, this is an excellent idea!
- 🖳 WITH THE COASTAL TRAM
- 68 stops over a 70-kilometre stretch.
- From Knokke-Heist to De Panne, the journey takes 2.5 hours.
- The coastal tram runs every 10 minutes in summer, every 20 minutes in winter.
- With a day pass you travel unlimited at a very advantageous rate

For more information, visit www.dekusttram.be

### <u>(</u> 🚽 WITH A (RENTAL) CAR

- You can rent a car in various places. Rental points can be found, among other things, at airports and in cities - often in the vicinity of the station.
- A child seat is mandatory for children under 1.35 m (often easy to book at car rental companies).
- Parking in cities is quite expensive. The fringe car parks are a handy alternative. Then take the bus or tram to get you to the centre.

Turn the page up to 88 pages full of family-friendly tips. Get to know six charming cities and three hospitable regions, and everything they can offer to holidaymakers of all ages.



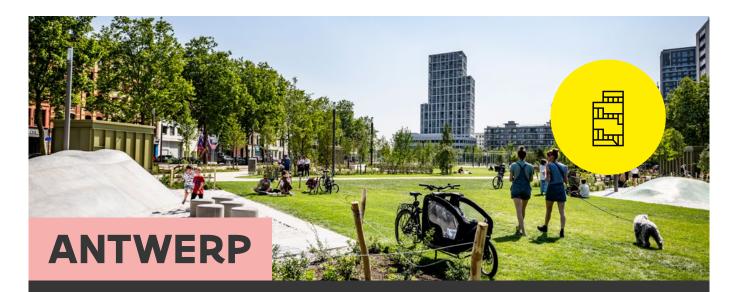


# SIX STUNNING CITIES









# THE COSMOPOLITAN CITY ON THE RIVER SCHELDT

How to describe the city of Peter Paul Rubens in one word? Multifaceted! Get ready for a vibrant experience brimming with art, fashion, diamonds, culture, architecture and historical riches. Everywhere you go, from the Groenplaats to the Grote Markt, from the Suikerrui to the Scheldepromenade, you'll be surrounded by an atmosphere of welcome. Add in the kids-proof factor and the result is a heady mix of child-friendly museums, exciting treasure hunts and exotic animals. Antwerp uses all its assets to win over people of all ages. And there are many such assets. A great many.

On the following pages, we offer you some tips for a kids-proof city trip to this metropolis. **Want even more inspiration? Take a look at:** <u>www.visit.antwerpen.be</u>

## DISCOVER

### The Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp

After many years of restoration, you are welcome to discover a world-class art collection. The KMSKA is more than ever a paradise for art lovers... and for families too. Ideal for a pleasant trip with the children, because there's so much to experience. Such as 'The 10', ten unique sculptures that together form an adventurous journey of discovery, conceived by artist and opera director Christophe Coppens. Or climbing or crawling in an installation... It's all possible and allowed. In addition, every child between the ages of 6 and 12 will receive an activity booklet with illustrations by Christophe Coppens as a gift for the family itinerary. You can also immerse yourself in artworks in the immersive space, where a 17th century art gallery was recreated virtually. Would you like some rest in between? This is possible both in the stimuli-free space and in the museum garden. Are you visiting the KMSKA during the weekend?

Then you can also get creative yourself in the Open Atelier. More inspiration? You will find everything clearly on the KMSKA website. kmska.be/en/5x-museum-your-child www.kmska.be/en/families

### Boekenbergpark in Deurne

Take a fresh dive into the ecological swimming pool of the Boekenbergpark in Deurne. With a length of 73 m you can do quite some swimming! The little ones will have a great time in the paddling pool. This swimming facility is located about 5 km outside the Antwerp city centre.

www.antwerpen.be/boekenberg-deurne

### **Chocolate Nation**

Belgium's first chocolate factory was located in Antwerp and the city has the world's largest cocoa storage port. So where better to experience the story of the famous chocolate than in Chocolate Nation? Or the largest Belgian chocolate museum in the world. Fancy tasting ten different flavours of the delicious treat? You don't need to convince your sweet tooth!

www.chocolatenation.be/en

### DIVA

Do you love everything that sparkles? Then at DIVA, the museum for diamonds, jewellery and silver in Antwerp, you won't believe your eyes. This museum treats its visitors to fascinating stories and magnificent objects. You will be introduced to the rich history and craftsmanship of goldsmithing. DIVA also welcomes detectives from the age of 7 to crack the Treasury code together!

www.divaantwerp.be/en

### **Expeditie A**

Introducing children to Antwerp in a playful way, that is Expedition A. Lange Wapper and Vos Antigoon take children and their parents and grandparents on an expedition through unexpectedly beautiful spots, impressive buildings and surprisingly green corners. Along the way, cunning questions and playful assignments guide the children through the city.

www.visit.antwerpen.be/nl/expeditie-a

### **FOMU Photo Museum**

Visit the FOMU with children and together discover the exhibitions in a playful way with the FOMU activity box. In it you will find search, drawing, activity and thinking assignments, stimulating questions and your own booklet in which you can scribble everything down. Ideal for going exploring together. Suitable for children aged 6 to 12. Ask for the free activity box at reception.

www.fomu.be/en/family-children

### **Ghostwalk and Mystery Walk**

Antwerp through another, perhaps rather creepy pair of glasses. Exciting ghost tours and mysterious walks provide an evening full of adventurous thrills. With guide. www.ghostwalk.be

### Het Steen - The Antwerp Story

Het Steen is Antwerp's official visitor centre. In this 800-year-old castle, children feel like knights or ladies. The attraction The Antwerp Story takes you through the history of the city, its neighbourhoods and well-known residents. Afterwards you can enjoy the roof terrace with a view of the Scheldt and the historic centre. www.experienceantwerp.be

### MAS (Museum aan de Stroom)

An impressive 'warehouse', where a new story about Antwerp, the port and the world awaits on each floor. Families explore the museum with the free treasure hunt by Captain MASSimiliaan. A boulevard with long escalators takes you 60 m high, to a spectacular view of the city. You can also picnic here on your own picnic blanket or on a blanket that you borrow for free at the counter. A visit to the MAS will not only satisfy your cultural hunger!

www.mas.be

### **Middelheim Museum**

Beautiful and unique park full of wonderful art, from crooked boats to bathing children. With a choice of 10 suitcases and 10 themes, the voyage of discovery Muzzzé takes you right through the art park. With a story and numerous viewing, search and activity assignments, materials and information, children aged 5 to 12 will discover the works of art. Great art also inspires small people! Close by is a large playground with a cosy and family friendly restaurant. www.middelheimmuseum.be

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**Museum Plantin-Moretus** 

Walk into the print shop and the home of the Plantin-Moretus family as if you were just a friend of the family there 400 years ago. Children and families can work there as real printers. An audio play and assignment booklet help them get started in the museum.

www.museumplantinmoretus.be

### **Plopsa Station Antwerp**

The famous Belgian comic book characters and favourite Studio 100 heroes offer a warm welcome to Plopsa Station Antwerp, the brand new indoor park in the station building of Antwerp Central Station. The raging race with Suske and Wiske, the Bumbamolen, the Smurf adventure and many more enchanting attractions guarantee an adventurous day out with the whole family. Free admission for children under 85 cm.

www.plopsastationantwerp.be

### **Provincial Domain Rivierenhof**

Work off some energy in a magically beautiful piece of nature? Some 5 km outside the city, children can enjoy themselves to the full in Antwerp's largest park. The petting zoo, the maze and a large playground look particularly seductive.

www.provincieantwerpen.be/rivierenhof

### **Red Star Line Museum**

Two million passengers made the crossing from Antwerp to North America between 1873 and 1935 with the steam ships of the Red Star Line. The museum tells its universal story about dreams, hopes and the search for happiness. Travel with your children and grandchildren to chase the emigrants with the interactive family suitcase or the family tour tailored to children. www.redstarline.be

### Sportoase Groot Schijn Deurne

Don't just say 'swimming pool' to Sportoase Groot Schijn Deurne. A wave and plunge pool, slides and rapids complete the fun. The little ones have a great time in the toddler and nursery areas. Summer weather? Take a dip in one of the outdoor pools. A sporty experience 5 km from the centre.

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www.sportoase.be/nl/groot-schijn

### Street Art city walks

Several Antwerp façades are decorated with beautiful murals of comic book characters and stunning graffiti art. You can easily discover them thanks to the walks of the Antwerp Museum App! Touring comic strip walls. How cool is that! www.antwerpen.be/street-art

### Antwerp ZOO

Next to the Antwerp Central station, you will find one of the oldest and most beautiful zoos in the world. A must-visit for families, with over 5,000 animals from the jungle, savannah and underwater world. Prams for rent for 3 euros per day. Beastly fun! www.zooantwerpen.be



# **FOOD AND DRINKS**

### Barnini

Cosy breakfasts or enjoy sweet treats in a vintage interior? An absolute must-do! And for the little hands? A playful colour print. www.facebook.com/barniniantwerp/

### **Brasserie Appelmans**

A cosy brasserie, fantastically located in the shadow of the Cathedral of Our Lady. With tasty children's menus, typical Flemish cuisine and an extensive bar as a dessert for parents. www.brasserieappelmans.be

# Dageraadplaats (discrit of Zurenborg)

The Dageraadplaats is a cosy square in the exclusive district of Zurenborg. It is a pleasant meeting place with a football pitch, a few climbing frames, swings and other playground equipment. And almost completely surrounded by cafés and restaurants, from which parents can keep an eye on things. This is precisely why the terraces are very much in demand.

www.visit.antwerpen.be/wijk-zurenborg

### De Bomma

Eating at De Bomma in a cosy home-like atmosphere in the heart of Antwerp. On the menu? Appetising and authentic Flemish ingredients that you combine at will. Perfect for picky eaters, and children can make their personal combo too. And not only that. They may also bring a photo of their grandma to hang up. www.restaurantdebomma.be

### De Burgerij

Tasty burgers, including vegetarian options, in the two cosy establishments of De Burgerij. With child-sized burgers, high chairs and a separate play area where kids can romp, read and colour to their heart's content.

www.burgerij.be

### **De Zuidpool**

A lovely coffee and ice cream shop, where toasted sandwiches and waffles are also available, near the new playground on the Antwerp Scheldt quays. www.dezuidpool.be

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### Het geluk

An ideal place to enjoy sandwiches, soup or chocolate milk during the day. Children can run around and romp in the indoor playground.

www.hetpaleis.be/hetgeluk

### **No Worries**

Great lunch address on the Eilandje in Antwerp, a new emerging neighbourhood near the old port. The decor exudes a home-like atmosphere. While the parents have dinner for a little longer, their offspring enjoy the play area or go in search of Big Bear, the mascot of the business.

www.facebook.com/NoWorriesAntwerpen/

### **Poule en Poulette**

Chicken dishes, a classic in Flemish cuisine, served here in a funky interior with cosy seat boxes. www.poulepoulette.com

### Restaurant De Melkerij

Dining in an authentic setting, surrounded by the beautiful greenery of the Nightingale Park. Restaurant De Melkerij is a nice place for more than one reason. In addition, the spacious outdoor playground scores high on the wish list of small kids. www.melkerij-nachtegalenpark.be



# ACCOMMODATION

### **B&B Koto**

In this boutique B&B in the heart of Antwerp, with spacious garden and heated outdoor swimming pool, young and old look admire the artistic objects. The unique decoration of the rooms was inspired by the different continents (up to four people in one room). www.koto-antwerp.be

### **Arass Hotel**

Enjoy a stay in the heart of the city. The Arass Hotel is located in the district of Zurenborg, known for its magnificent architecture. The family rooms offer space for parents and children (up to five people). Easily accessible by public transport. www.arasshotel.com

### Astoria Hotel

Pleasant hotel in the centre of Antwerp. Children up to 11 years of age stay free of charge in the parents' room. Adjacent rooms are perfect for slightly older children.

### www.astoria-antwerp.com

### **Crowne Plaza**

Modern hotel near the Ring (R1) and the green heart of Antwerp. Especially fun: the indoor swimming pool. Close to the Nightingale Park with playing facilities and dining options. The centre is easily accessible by public transport. Allow about 10 minutes. www.crowneplaza.com/antwerp

### Hilton Antwerp Old Town

This hotel combines authentic charm with stylish sophistication and looks out on the cosy Groenplaats, right in the historic centre. Spacious family rooms and suites for two adults and two children. Baby sitter available on request and the restaurant offers a special children's menu.

www.hiltonhotels.com/antwerp

### **HotelO Kathedral**

Modern and stylish hotel with paintings by Rubens on the walls of the rooms, and views of the beautiful cathedral of Antwerp. Families with children can easily book an adjacent single room. A convenient and budget-friendly solution. www.hotelokathedral.com

### Yust

Yust surprises with a young and contemporary concept. The hotel is popular with families thanks to its family rooms with bunk beds. The playfully lit shared spaces invite you to play a board game together. Not to be missed: a cosy drink at the rooftop bar. www.yust.com

### **Premier Suites**

Premier Suites offers luxurious accommodation where everyone feels at home in no time. The family studios and deluxe rooms are perfectly adapted to the needs of families. Thanks to the car park right next door, you don't have to worry about a long trek with the children's things.

www.premiersuiteseurope.com/antwerpen

### Zalig In Antwerpen

At Zalig In Antwerp you can rent a holiday home for six people or more. Every holiday home is located in the heart of Antwerp, with museums, shops and restaurants nearby. www.zaliginantwerpen.be

### **Hostel Pulcinella**

Its central location makes this popular hostel an ideal base for discovering Antwerp. Modern, sleek look, nice little corners for chilling and plenty of room for the kids to jump around. As a bonus, you can borrow a board game. The spacious rooms (up to a maximum of six people) with separate bedrooms and private bathroom complete the family picture.

www.jeugdherbergen.be/nl/antwerpen



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

- Who doesn't like cobblestones, candy floss and spectacular attractions? Don't miss the annual event at the **biggest fair in Flanders**. Traditionally, the **Sinksenfoor** starts in the month of May, more specifically on the Saturday in the Whitsun weekend. After that, Antwerp will treat itself to unbeatable fairground fun for five weeks. Ideal for a family outing.
- For those who like to combine city and beach, indulge yourself and enjoy **the beach of Sint-Anneke** in the summer.
- Looking for nature and peace? Travel through the greenery of the **Antwerp Kempen**! From the city centre, you can reach the typical landscape of the Kempen after about 35 km.



# TO AND ACROSS ANTWERP



De Lijn buses and trams are easy to recognise and make all corners of Antwerp and beyond accessible. www.delijn.be

Tourist Tram

Let yourself be guided along the main sights with the cosy Tourist Tram. The tour takes about 40 minutes. A family ticket is more economical. Let yourself be guided along the main sights with the cosy Tourist Tram. The tour takes about 40 minutes. A family ticket is more economical.

www.touristram.be/antwerpen



## De WaterBus

The DeWaterBus offers ferry services to the south and north. This makes it easy to get from the city to the port and back, with stops such as Kruibeke, Steenplein, Sint-Anna and Zwijndrecht. You can also easily combine the DeWaterBus with tram, bus or bicycle. www.visit.antwerpen.be/de-waterbus



You can easily travel to Antwerp by train. You can walk to the Meir in seven minutes from Antwerp Central Station. Or to the historic heart of the city, 15 minutes away.



Cross the city easily on a two-wheeler. Several bicycle rental points are scattered throughout the city. Also available: child seats and bicycles with trailers for children. www.visit.antwerpen.be/rent-a-bike







# A MEDIEVAL CITY TAILORED TO CHILDREN'S NEEDS

Bruges: historic, iconic and Burgundian. A medieval city brimming with tradition and at the same time bursting with original activities. That is the perfect mix. Also for a trip with kids! Bobbing about on the Bruges canals or bumping along in a carriage, you always see the city with a different pair of glasses. The Belfry, the picturesque Beguinage, centuries-old bridges and much more. Blissful! Or would you rather follow in the footsteps of the dukes of Burgundy? That is perfectly possible! Indeed, all historical highlights are within walking distance. Just want to catch your breath for a moment? You can enjoy a pleasant few moments in the traffic-free squares and in the cosy dining venues. Don't forget to try the local delicacy: chocolate, of course! With these tips, you can put together a family-friendly stay. In the Venice of the North, a warm welcome for families awaits.

More inspiration? Take a look at: www.visitbruges.be.

## DISCOVER

### Belfry

Those who are brimming with energy can climb the steps of the Belfry tower (no less than 83 metres high!). On your way to the top you will discover a treasury, an impressive clock mechanism and a carillon with 47 bells.

www.museabrugge.be/belfort

### **Boudewijn Seapark**

This marvellous attraction park with dolphins is located just 15 minutes from the heart of Bruges. Nothing is so fascinating as the magical dolphin and seal shows. To be enjoyed all year round! In the summer, the water section of the attraction park also opens its doors. While in winter the indoor playground and indoor skating rink are sure to charm. Be sure to check the opening hours, as they vary according to the season. www.boudewijnseapark.be

### **Bruges Beer Experience**

While the children watch the extraordinary story of Bruges beer and its adventures in medieval Bruges on a tablet, their parents discover everything about the rich Flemish beer culture. The Kids Tour is available in ten languages.

www.mybeerexperience.com

### Cozmix

Cozmix, the visitor centre of Volkssterrenwacht Beisbroek - with planetarium, observatory and interactive exhibition space - is more than worth a visit. An enchanting experience located 7.5 km from the centre of Bruges.

www.cozmix.be

### Lago Brugge Olympia

Combine Cozmix with the nearby Lago Brugge Olympia, a subtropical swimming pool with three slides, a wild water course and outdoor pools. One big water festival! www.visitbruges.be/en/lago-brugge

### **Choco-story**

With a new concept, Choco-story tingles all the senses. Discover the world of chocolate in word, image and taste... Mmm, that already sounds delicious! In addition, the audio guide with interactive games for children is also popular. Want to learn how to make your own chocolate lollies? Book a workshop! Tailored to different ages (from eight people, reserved only).

www.choco-story-brugge.be

### **Concertgebouw Circuit**

In the special Concertgebouw Brugge, families follow a playful route full of fun assignments and games. They discover how the concert hall works and they work on sound art themselves. The icing on the cake: the roof terrace on the seventh floor, where you have a beautiful view of the city and can get the bells to ring. Opening hours can vary according to the season. Always check the website before planning a trip!

www.concertgebouwcircuit.be

### Groeningemuseum

Jan van Eyck's rose-ringed parakeet takes families on a journey of discovery. You can dive into six centuries of art, from the world-famous paintings of the Flemish Primitives to the modern masters, by means of a great little book of assignments. The parakeet also gives you one of its green feathers to crown your favourite work of art. Suitable for children aged 6 to 12 years. www.museabrugge.be/groeningemuseum

### Astridpark

Do you want to relax? You can do so in a quiet spot in the most child-friendly park in Bruges. In particular, the new playground is very popular.

www.visitbruges.be/en/koningin-astridpark

### **Historium Brugge**

Travel with the whole family back in time to 1435. You enter old Bruges with Anna, full of the colours, smells and sounds of the time. Here you will also meet the famous painter Jan Van Eyck. This magical, total experience tingles all the senses. With audio guide in 10 languages. Combine with the Historium Virtual Reality experience. An absolute must for families! www.historium.be/en



# **FOOD AND DRINKS**

### 't Bagientje

Restaurant in an authentic atmosphere, near the station and with a large green park as a backyard. A must for all enthusiasts, young and old. Exuding Flemish classics. www.bagientje.be

### **Books & Brunch**

A combination eatery and second-hand bookshop. It has a relaxed atmosphere and offers various types of breakfast, light lunches and delicious desserts. Children can nose through the wide range of books. www.booksandbrunch.be

### Cookie's Tapasbar

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Well-hidden near the Markt square, but once found, a delicious dinner awaits you in a real medieval property. In addition to traditional Spanish tapas, you will also find meatballs in tomato sauce, mini burgers and other tapas tailored to everyone. www.cookiescafe.be

### **De Verloren Hoek**

Home-like bistro, named after the historic location by the Bruges windmills. Here, parents can enjoy Flemish classics while the children can roll over on the vast lawn of the city walls before and after the delicious meal. www.deverlorenhoek.com/en

### Lizzie's Waffles

Homemade extra-large waffles in the heart of Bruges. This delicacy tastes good at any time of day. Eat in or take out. For those with a sweet tooth! www.lizzieswafelsbrugge.be

### Nomad

In a sleek and trendy setting, you can enjoy a fresh breakfast or an organic lunch. The beautiful presentation of trendy children's dishes will certainly be popular. Recommended: the heated terrace.

www.nomadbrugge.be

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### Odette

Original Flemish classics with a contemporary twist. This is the best way to describe the concept of 'Odette boulettes'. Children are big fans of robot Odette, which helps serve customers. Wow! www.odette-brugge.be

### **Restaurant Sint-Joris**

Restaurant Sint-Joris on the Markt square in Bruges has been operated by the same family for more than 40 years. On the menu? Flemish fare, also vegetarian, made with high-quality regional products. www.restaurant-sintjoris.be

# ACCOMMODATION

### **Hotel Crowne Plaza Bruges**

You don't even have to go outside to visit the ruins of an old cathedral. You have direct access from the Crowne Plaza Bruges hotel. You also don't have to go outside to take a splash, because you can do so in the indoor swimming pool. The hotel is located near the medieval Burg. Staying with children? You can do so in the comfortable rooms with two fully fledged double beds. www.crowneplaza.be/brugge

### **Hotel Flanders**

Pleasant hotel with family rooms for up to five people. Within walking distance of the old town. Equipped with a small indoor swimming pool. A delicious refreshment!

www.flanders.hotel-in-bruges.com

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### **Hotel Le Bois De Bruges**

Its location, in the heart of the historic city, makes this hotel the ideal base for visiting Bruges. In the recently renovated family rooms with two separate bedrooms and a private seating area, young and old alike will enjoy a carefree stay.

www.leboisdebruges.be



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **Hotel Marcel**

A boutique hotel full of character with the typical Bruges cosy atmosphere in a modern look just 150 metres from the Markt. For families there are double rooms with kitchenette. www.hotelmarcel.be

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### **Aparthotel Aragon**

Luxury holiday apartments for up to six people for a long or short stay, with the privacy and space of an apartment and the service of a hotel.

www.aragon.be

### **Hostel De Snuffel**

Centrally located recent budget accommodation for the whole family. The rooms are contemporary and functional. An extra that will be appreciated: the family rooms have their own sanitary facilities. The many youthful visitors ensure a cosy hustle and bustle in the communal area with a pleasant garden and terrace. www.snuffel.one

 'Die Scone' is not only a beacon of tradition, but also a vibrant city of events. Cultural highlights alternate. In August 2023, the Reiefestival will showcase performing arts. The following year, the procession of the Golden Tree will pass through the streets. During Triennial Bruges 2024, the city will once again form the backdrop of contemporary art. An artistic atmosphere that families are also eagerly looking forward to. The open-air character lends itself perfectly to making it a true festival at its own pace. You will also discover that there is a lot to experience at: : <u>www.visitbruges.be/en/activiteiten</u>

• Bruges is not far from the Flemish coast. Want to take a direct train? That is perfectly possible! You will be in Ostend, Blankenberge or Knokke-Heist in no more than 20 minutes. Take an hour to De Panne. Great to relax in good weather.

# **TO AND ACROSS BRUGES**

# Bus

Historic buildings, museums and shopping streets are within walking distance of each other. But if you would prefer to reduce the distances the children have to walk, city buses offer an alternative. They're also convenient for going to and from the station.

### Horse carriage

Great fun for all ages: explore Bruges by horse and coach. A ride over centuries-old bridges and through historic alleyways takes you past many picturesque places. The route starts on the Markt, with a short stopover at the Minnewater. Ideal for taking a photo from the picturesque Beguinage Bridge with the famous Bruges swans in the background. Allow 30 minutes.

# Boat

A boat trip on the Bruges canals is a real must on your bucket list. Boarding is possible from five different moorings. The cruise takes half an hour and takes you past the Dijver, the Beguinage and other highlights.

# **Bicycle hire**

Want to discover the Venice of the North on two wheels? Good plan! Several bicycle rental points are scattered throughout the city. Also available: child seats and bicycles with trailers for children. www.visitbruges.be/en/fietsverhuurpunten

### City tour

Want to explore Bruges without getting aching feet? Minivans will take you along both the main attractions and the less well-known spots. A tour takes about 50 minutes. www.citytour.be



You can easily travel to Bruges by train. From the Stationsplein you can walk to the historic city centre in ten minutes.





# **THE GREAT WAR**

# SILENT WITNESSES, STRONG FAMILY EXPERIENCES

The message 'no more war' remains current and even tangible in this region. The many family-friendly visitor centres and sights playfully immerse families in the haunting history of the Great War. Discover the family trail in the many museums and step through the past in the trenches of the Dodengang and Bayernwald with your assignment booklet in hand. Be silent together to the tones of the Last Post and unravel the secrets of the landscape lined with craters and bunkers using life-size photos and interactive applications tailored to families. A true journey of experience for young and old alike.

With this handy guide, you can map out a family-friendly programme in no time. **More inspiration? Take a look at:** <u>www.toerismewesthoek.be/en/flanders-fields/child-friendly</u>

www.toerismewesthoek.be/en/bayernwald www.toerismewesthoek.be/en/treanch-death www.toerismewesthoek.be/en/flanders-fields/last-post

### LANDSCAPES

More than 100 years ago, the battlefield of the First World War, now the last silent witness of the horror of the time: the landscape of Flanders Fields. In the theme year LANDSCAPES | Feel Flanders Fields, Westtoer and VISITFLANDERS are launching many new events to discover the region's turbulent history in a new way, together with the whole family. www.toerismewesthoek.be/en/landscapes

project literally brings visitors to a higher level. The Front Eye platform offers impressive views of Hill 60 and 62, Hooge Crater Cemetery and the Kemmelberg. <u>www.hoogecrater.com</u>

children's height and give exciting assignments. The LANDSCAPES

### Window on Vleteren

From 29 April 2023 until the end of August 2024 | Die Sceure, Veurnestraat 4, 8640 Oost-Vleteren

This family-friendly walking route is joined together by numerous viewing boxes with matching stories for young and old alike. A unique journey through the region's rich wartime past.

### The Front Eye

'The Front Eye' | From 9 May 2023 | Hooge Crater Museum, Meenseweg 467, 8902 Zillebeke

In the Hooge Crater Museum in Ypres there is a very special reception committee: the Hooge Boys. They guide young visitors along an interactive and playful route with information boards at

### 'Reflection Points' walk

From 30 April 2023 | Start: Passchendaele Museum, Berten Pilstraat 5A, 8980 Zonnebeke

Hiking, romping, climbing, playing... and in the meantime enjoying the beautiful historical landscape of the castle park of Zonnebeke. On the brand new 'Reflection Points' walk, which runs along the existing Adventure Path, a true journey of discovery awaits young and old.

### Echo's of War

From 1 Februari 2024 | Passchendaele Museum, Berten Pilstraat 5A, 8980 Zonnebeke

During 'Echoes of War', the exhibition that the Passchendaele Museum developed especially for LANDSCAPES, childhood friend Maurice the museum rat will be present. He guides families through a listening game full of fun tasks.

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### TRACES OF THE GREAT WAR

### In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres

In the In Flanders Fields Museum you will discover a fascinating piece of history with the whole family. The children's trail with audio stories and the writing and pasting book by young museum guide Dré bring the story of the Great War in and around Ypres to life.

www.inflandersfields.be/gezin

### Memorial Museum Passchendaele, Zonnebeke

Children go on their way together with guides Lisa and Louis and museum rat Maurice. With a listening game, map and interesting assignments, they learn more about WWI in a playful way. In the meantime, the parents and grandparents follow their own trail at the same pace with an audio guide.

www.passchendaele.be/family-friendly-tour

### **Talbot House, Poperinge**

During the interactive family trail, you will go on a journey with real historical characters from the time. Soldier Arthur takes you through Talbot House.

www.talbothouse.be



### ACCESSIBILITY

The cities of the Westhoek are accessible by train, but the best way to travel between stops is by car. Parking is available in the car parks near the city centre or at the sights themselves. Take a trip to Nieuwpoort - less than 40 km from Ypres - to visit Westfront. This unmissable visitor centre highlights the inundation of the polder - a turning point in the history of the First World War. Find out more on page 63.

### TIP!



# THE CRADLE OF EUROPE

There is no doubt that Brussels is a global city. The Grote Markt with the iconic Town Hall, the Stock Exchange Building, the Palace of Justice, the Koekelberg Basilica and the many other historical jewels are part of the architectural grandeur of Brussels. Manneken Pis is also a favourite for children, but the family-friendly offering has many more gems in its crown. Throughout the city you can spot comic book characters, find museums tailored to children's needs, and the little ones can rough and tumble in imposing forests and parks, such as the Jubelpark and the Sonian Forest. Family-friendly options abound! These tips will guide you through the wide selection.

More inspiration? Visit Brussels has a handy overview ready for you: www.visit.brussels/en/what-to-do/family-friendly

## DISCOVER

### AfricaMuseum

After a thorough renovation at the end of 2018, the AfricaMuseum was given a contemporary feel and has since become an veritable magnet for families. Especially for young visitors you will find experimentation rooms, a kids-proof restaurant and all information tailored to children's needs. Free admission for children and adolescents under 18 years. Play and romp in the green park environment, the forests of the nearby Sonian Forest and in the playground within walking distance of the museum. www.africamuseum.be

### **Atomium and Mini-Europe**

The Atomium, an icon on the Brussels horizon! A whole experience with old escalators, exhibitions and a breath-taking view from the giant spheres. Also very nice: Europe is literally at your feet! Because it's only a small step to Mini-Europe, the experience park where you travel all over Europe in a few hours. You will discover every monument down to the smallest detail. Fabulous for children! Free entry for children smaller than 115 cm.

### www.atomium.be

www.minieurope.com/en/

### **Belgian Chocolate Village**

A playful insight into the process of making chocolate, from cocoa bean to praline. This small museum is located just outside the centre, but is easy to reach via the Simonis metro station. With audio guide for children in three languages and of course a few delicious tastings. www.belgianchocolatevillage.be

### **BELvue Museum**

The museum about Belgium and its history. Interactive and interesting for all ages, with a great shop and organic lunch café. Children can choose from a variety of game activities; there is even one for toddlers aged 3 and over. Free admission every Wednesday afternoon. www.belvue.be

### Coudenberg

A special experience for the whole family: exploring the underground corridors of the medieval Coudenberg Palace together. In some cellars you can even hear trams roaring above your head! Take the entrance via the BELvue Museum to discover this hidden gem. There is a thrilling underground treasure hunt especially for children and the whole family. Little Emperor Charles is looking for brave princes and princesses to crack the code of his treasure chest. www.coudenberg.brussels

### House of European History

Experience modern European history here with talking objects and arrangements. Hop on a racing bike and take a seat in interiors and a car from the 1960s. Especially for children between 6 and 10 years old: with a backpack full of surprises and fun games you travel back in time through different periods in the history of Europe! Entry is free and it's open 7 days a week.

### www.historia-europa.eu

### **Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences**

Top museum for families with children, good for hours of wonderment about man, animals and the earth. Not to be missed: the huge dinosaur skeletons, taking part in excavations or plunging into the world of insects or the deep sea. Popular with children: the BiodiversiTour. Along this route you immerse yourself in the world of biodiversity. Can you find the six letters of the mystery? Then a nice surprise awaits you.

www.naturalsciences.be

### **Meise Botanic Garden**

Would you like a day out with the whole family? Meise Botanical Garden offers plenty of exciting activities! With King Amaryllo, discover everything about the plant kingdom, tickle your feet on the 'Amaze-your-feet-path', come and play in the playground forest and sail right alongside the castle with the raft. Discover plants from all over the world in the Plant Palace. You can have a rest (with a tasty treat) in the Orangery.

www.plantentuinmeise.be

### **Magritte Museum**

This museum in the heart of Brussels displays the world's most important collection of the works of René Magritte. The sometimes strange works of art with clear visual language appeal to young and old alike. The Magritte Museum aims to offer each family member a bespoke visitor experience and approaches the mysterious, absurd and unexpected in an original way. Audio guides are available in five languages, also ones specially created for children aged 6 to 11 and teenagers aged 12 to 18. www.musee-magritte-museum.be





### Parlamentarium

Free access for everyone in this modern and interactive visitor centre of the European Parliament. Children can go on a treasure hunt using a booklet, while parents choose an audio guide. Available in the 24 official languages of the EU. www.europarl.europa.eu/visiting

### **Train World**

A sure-fire success for the whole family: a visit to the fascinating world of trains. You will discover and experience everything about the railways in this spectacular museum. Climb aboard the enormous locomotives, drive a train yourself in a real-life simulation and visit the museum shop full of fun toys. www.trainworld.be

### Step into the world of illusions

Nothing is what it seems in museums that conjure up illusions. And there are two such museums in Brussels. Near the Grote Markt, Illusion Brussel profiles itself as a small museum of the incredible. Every element presented seems unrealistic or counterintuitive, from magic tricks to technological miracles. The Museum of Illusions on the Wolvengracht also offers an intriguing, visual, sense-tingling and educational experience for the whole family. www.illusionbrussels.be/en

www.museumofillusions.be/en

### Party time for comic book fans

Ninety years ago, Tintin was born in Brussels. Countless worldfamous comic book characters followed, including the Smurfs and Lucky Luke. The comic books come to life in the Comic Strip Museum, which you can recognise by Victor Horta's extraordinary Art Nouveau building. You can also browse the comic strip culture in the MOOF. This small museum enchants visitors with colourful spaces and interactive installations where you stand between your comic book heroes. Children's favourites: being photographed with a huge Smurf and playing retro video games of Asterix. Right by Central Station. <u>www.moofmuseum.be</u>

www.stripmuseum.be



# Want to spot more comic book heroes?

Walking through Brussels you can discover dozens of comic book characters on walls and in streets. Want to take a booklet on your hunt for the impressive comic book walls or walk in the footsteps of Tintin? Both routes are available at any tourist info point.

www.visit.brussels

### **Brussels Street Art Circuit**

Want to explore the Marolles through the eyes of street art artists? It's highly recommended! You walk past gigantic murals, from artistic interpretations to colourful tunnels. The cheerful and playful graffiti façades stimulate the childlike fantasy. www.parcoursstreetart.brussels.be

### **Tervuren Arboretum**

The 100-hectare Tervuren Geographical Arboretum lies on the edge of the majestic Sonian Forest, a green lung on the outskirts of Brussels that covers no less than 4,400 hectares. Wander through the New or the Old World together and discover the impressive collection of the Arboretum, which is home to no fewer than 700 tree species and over 30,000 trees. With the Arboretum map in hand, children can train their knowledge of the different varieties. See and admire beautiful nature in all its diversity!

www.arboretum-tervuren.be



## **FOOD AND DRINKS**

### **Chalet Robinson**

The Ter Kamerenbos is not only an extensive playing and walking area, you can also satisfy both your small and your big appetite there. To get to Chalet Robinson, climb aboard a raft that takes you to an island. There, in addition to pedal boats, you will find tasty children's menus.

www.chaletrobinson.be

### Chez Leon

Free meal for children under 12 accompanied by their parents and/ or grandparents. Traditional Flemish cuisine, with delicious children's menus such as omelette or mussels with chips, chocolate mousse or an ice cream. Various iconic decorative elements create a unique and authentic atmosphere. Special parking for pushchairs available. www.chezleon.be

### Garage-à-manger

Salty and sweet treats for adults and children alike. Casual atmosphere. Adults can relax in the sofas or seats. For the littlest ones, a caravan has been transformed into a play area. www.garage-a-manger.be

### Houtsiplou

Cosy family-friendly café with colourful walls and delicious fresh burgers. There are booklets in the window frames and children can find toys everywhere for having fun. www.houtsiplou.be

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### La Fabrique

Well-hidden dream spot in the Egmont park, surrounded by grass and trees. In the delightfully busy orangery you can enjoy the most tasty home-made lunch dishes and sweet treats. For the famous weekend brunch there is a special price for children. Take the opportunity to let the little ones romp around in the Egmont Park. www.lafabriqueresto.be

### Lloyd Coffee Eatery

A cosy breakfast, brunch and lunch address that is child-friendly and has a space for pushchairs. After enjoying a delicious bagel, burger or pancake, the little ones can make their way to the kid's corner. Leaving you free to order an extra café latte. www.lloydcoffee.com

### Roodkapjes eetzaal – Le Wolf

This cosy lunch room is located in the Le Wolf children's bookstore, where children can find books and games. On the menu: a fairytale meal with stone soup or a gingerbread house. www.lewolf.be

### **Rocket's Café**

Young rocket heroes are tastefully spoiled in this colourful breakfast and lunch address. Children immediately feel at home in the playful interior. Live music regularly provides cheerful notes. www.facebook.com/rocketscafepresse

### **Wolf Brussels**

Once upon a time, according to legend, wolves from the Sonian Forest came here. Now only the name of this food market bears witness to this. Wolf Brussels offers a total culinary experience of 2,650 m, which tingles your taste buds: 17 restaurants in one place. From surprising world cuisine and meat specialities from the Dierendonck butcher shop to delicious desserts with Belgian chocolate. The concept is also very popular with younger food-lovers. Especially on Sundays, because then there is fun entertainment with 'Ket's@Wolf'. Enjoy tasty dishes in a relaxed and lively atmosphere.

www.wolf.brussels



# ACCOMMODATION

### **B&B Hotels Brussels**

The B&B Hotels with two addresses in Brussels (Centre Gare du Midi and Centre Louise) attach great importance to a familyfriendly offer. Both family hotels offer family rooms and services for all ages. After all, travelling with a baby, a toddler aged 3 or a child aged 11 is quite a challenge. The tailor-made breakfast can win over gourmets both large and small.

www.hotel-bb.com/brussels-louise www.hotel-bb.com/gare-midi

### **FunKey Hotel**

This colourful hotel welcomes many families with young children. Also cool for teenagers, because of the free soft drinks, snacks and possibility of borrowing a laptop. You can relax in the play rooms with games computers, board games and table football. You make your own breakfast in the kitchen and then take it to the dining tables. Interconnecting rooms are possible.

http://funkeyhotel.com



### **Hotel Amigo**

Ultimate family-friendly accommodation, where children await a royal welcome. They receive a welcome pack with a childsize bathrobe and slippers, and they can put together their own breakfast in the morning. English-speaking or French-speaking babysitting service is available 24/7.

www.roccofortehotels.com/hotel-amigo

### **Hotel Bloom**

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Young artists turned their attention to the rooms of Hotel Bloom. The result? Unique rooms with an artistic look, where every family member feels at home. Large family rooms available.

### www.nhow-hotels.com/brussels-bloom

### Jam Hotel

Trendy city hotel in industrial style. Different room types for three to six people. After a day of walking around the city, you can relax at the rooftop bar or in the 'chilling pool'.

Additional facilities: games, table tennis, skateboards.

### www.jamhotel.be

### **Meininger Hotel**

Affordably priced modern hotel with a cool atmosphere. Meininger combines the atmosphere of a hostel with the advantages of a hotel. Large relaxation area with pool table and table football. Children up to five years old stay free of charge.

www.meininger-hotels.com/brussel

### **Novotel Brussels City Centre**

A warm welcome to all families. Per room, two children under 16 stay free of charge. You can relax in the play area, perhaps after enjoying a delicious children's meal in the restaurant. This hotel is located in the centre of the city, a 5-minute walk from Central Station.

www.all.accor.com/brussels

### **Radisson Blu Royal Hotel**

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From this centrally located hotel, guests have a great many sights within walking distance. The beautiful building exudes luxury and tranquillity. Various different types of rooms are offered for families with children.

www.radissonhotels.com/brussels

### **Zoom Hotel**

Comfortable hotel with spacious rooms and photography as a theme. Easily accessible by metro and bus, and various restaurants just around the corner. Guests praise the friendly and young staff. Baby cot and childcare available on request. www.zoomhotel.be

### 9Hotel

Both 9Hotel Sablon and 9Hotel Central have all the amenities for a perfect family stay. From suites for four people to cots for children, as well as bottle warmers, high chairs and a babysitter on request. Meaning that both young and old will enjoy a relaxing trip.

www.9-hotel-central-brussels.be

### **Yooma Brussels**

This new hotel will win over any comic book enthusiast. The spacious rooms (up to six people), the lobby, the restaurant... really everything makes up one big comic strip experience. Which child wouldn't like that? Located near Brussels-South station.

www.yooma-brussels.com/en/

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### **Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie**

This Thon Group hotel offers comfortable family rooms for up to one extra adult or two children (up to max. 12 years of age). Beautiful location on the Avenue Louise.

www.thonhotels.com/brussel

### Aparthotel Citadine Toison D'or

The two-bedroom apartments in Citadines Toison d'Or Brussels offer every comfort and are conveniently located. Public transport, shops, a supermarket and restaurants are within walking distance. Thanks to the aparthotel formula, it is also convenient for families to stay. www.citadines-toison-dor.com

### **Hostel Bruegel**

Cheap overnight stays in this renovated hostel, with the highlights of Brussels a stone's throw away. The décor pays homage to the famous painter Pieter Bruegel. Children under the age of 3 stay free of charge; discount for children under 16. Board games, free baby cot and high chairs available.

www.jeugdherbergen.be/en/brussel

# TO AND ACROSS BRUSSELS



One way to travel comfortably to and from the capital is by train. From the three major stations (Brussels Central, Brussels North and Brussels South) you can easily discover all corners of the city.

# Metro, bus and tram

The Brussels public transport system is recognisable by the MIVB logo and makes all streets and districts of Brussels easily accessible.



In Brussels, a maximum speed of 30 km/h applies in most places. The entire Brussels-Capital Region is also a low-emission zone. Are you not sure if you can take your vehicle into Brussels? Then check:

www.lez.brussels



Discovering the capital on a two-wheeler? Good plan! In addition to guided bike tours, there are also shared bikes and bike rental points spread throughout the city. Also available: child seats and bicycles with trailers for children.

www.visit.brussels.be/bicycle

### **Sleep Well**

As well as comfortable rooms, hostel Sleep Well has a large family duplex overlooking the city. For a small extra amount you can have your own private kitchen. Extras: games, ping pong table, bike hire.

www.sleepwell.be







# HISTORICAL CHARM WITH A CONTEMPORARY TOUCH

Ghent, the city that has been the native land of counts and dukes over the centuries and where the cradle of Emperor Charles once stood, has 1,400 years of history. Historic houses, iconic cathedrals, the imposing Castle of the Counts and the beautiful Ghent Altarpiece radiate endless charm. No wonder children feel like a knight or lady there. A city trip with children? Ghent is the perfect match! In addition to culture and history, the East Flanders capital also offers vibrant city life, from 12 surprising museums where the little ones are also welcome to cool experiences tailored to children. But first, time for that typical Ghent delicacy: cuberdons. Mmm! As you see, the possibilities are almost endless. Use the tips in this section to compile the best trips. Time to browse!

More inspiration? Visit Gent has a handy overview ready for you: www.visitgent.be/family.

### **DISCOVER**

### The Ghent Altarpiece AR Tour

The icon of this city? It is without a doubt the Ghent Altarpiece by the Eyck brothers, which you can admire in Saint Bavo's Cathedral. Immerse yourself virtually in the eventful history of the 15th century triptych and the stately cathedral. The Ghent Altarpiece AR Tour is tipped internationally as a top experience, and indeed it is. An absolute highlight for the whole family! Available in three versions: the Master of Detail tour, the Standard tour and the Kids tour. Filled with excitement, augmented reality technology leads to the only true masterpiece: the restored Ghent Altarpiece. Only to be seen in Ghent! www.sintbaafskathedraal.be/nl/lam-gods-ar-tour/

### Belfry

Climb the 254 steps of the famous Belfry tower and enjoy the beautiful view together. Even more adventures for the youngest visitors: cracking codes and solving mysteries in one of the treasure hunts. www.historischehuizen.stad.gent/en/belfry

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### **Castle of the Counts**

This medieval Castle of the Counts is located in the middle of the city. From the walls you have a beautiful view of Ghent. With the audio guide you will discover exciting and, above all, fascinating stories throughout the various spaces. The experience makes

both adults and children participants in the history of Ghent, in an appropriate and especially fun style for the youngest. Even those who are not a big fan of fortresses are enthusiastic afterwards. Free admission up to 12 years.

www.historischehuizen.stad.gent/en/castle-counts

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### **Museum of Daily Life**

A special and colourful museum that celebrates daily life. Dive into the dressing-up box, flick through photo albums from Grandma's time, watch old films, get creative, play hopscotch and knucklebones... parents and grandparents too will also relive childhood memories. You can play quietly and safely in the beautiful courtyard with terrace. www.huisvanalijn.be/nl

### Museum of Industry

In the centre of Ghent, the Museum of Industry is housed in an impressive factory building. Children between 1.5 and 12 years old can choose a great museum game to suit their needs. Along the way, they put the steam engine into operation and work creatively with all kinds of materials.

www.industriemuseum.be

### MSK – Gent

The Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent offers painting and sculpture from the Middle Ages until today. Discover a wide collection of art, from Jeroen Bosch via Rubens to Magritte. Are you looking for a formula tailored to the youngest visitors? Then the 'family route' is an absolute must. In this quest you will search for hidden chests, which hide playful hands-on tasks. This makes the museum visit a fun family activity that everyone enjoys. The nearby Citadel Park offers walking pleasure and a play area. www.mskgent.be

### Sports and recreation park Blaarmeersen

Thrilling experiences in the playground, the adventure forest and Bleau, the largest indoor climbing park in Europe. There is a separate clambering section for the little ones. In summer, the large swimming pool, eight slides and a beach will help you cool down, as will the delicious ice cream. The Skate Park - with its 4,000 m<sup>2</sup>, the largest in the country - guarantees an unforgettable skating experience.

www.visitgent.be/en/blaarmeersen

### Laarne Castle

Located 15 km from the centre of Ghent, Laarne Castle is without a doubt a heritage gem that appeals to the imagination. The movie guide 'HEKSEN!' (witches!) guides families around the salons, the kitchen, the knights' hall and even the prisons. Together with pastor Jan Schatteman and cleaning lady Josyne you unveil all the castle's secrets. What's gnawing at the priest's conscience? What secret does Josyne carry with her? And who were the witches of Laarne? The movie guide (NL, FR, EN) fascinates visitors from the age of 12, while younger children are completely enthralled by gnomes and treasure troves. Exciting treasure hunts for different ages.

www.herita.be/en/laarne-castle



Ghent museums and children are always a good combo. More inspiration? www.visitgent.be/en/ children-museum-combo





## Colourful walks and street art walks

Ghent has a number of great free city walks. Our favourites? The Draakje Fosfor app is the ideal companion for a hiking quest through the city. Together you will go in search of Fosfor the Dragon's glasses and on the way you will find out fun things about Ghent. Entertainment, movement and a dash of culture: now that's a delightful combination, isn't it? Suitable for children aged 5 to 12. Also cool to do: a colourful children's graffiti walk, right through the city centre. Thanks to the 'Sorry, not sorry street art' city plan, you can easily map out a route along the gigantic murals that can be admired everywhere in the city.

www.visit.gent.be/fosfor-dragon www.visit.gent.be/street-art www.cultuur.stad.gent/street-art-map

### **Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen Nature Reserve**

Fancy walking in a green setting? Then the Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen nature reserve, located four kilometres from the centre of Ghent, is definitely worth a detour. Educational pond dipping, a suspension bridge, birdwatching huts and a barefoot path invite children to explore, with or without shoes. A natural foot massage... it's just a little different. Stones, mud, wood chips, etc., bring it on. www.visit.gent.be/bourgoyen-ossemeersen

# **Ghent University Museum (GUM)**

Fascinated by research techniques, from biology to archaeology, from psychology to medicine? Then a visit to the brand new Ghent University Museum is highly recommended. Dive into a scientist's brain. Let yourself be challenged, but also dare to doubt and fail. And above all: discover the extraordinary objects that result from science in all its facets. Past and present. Children and teenagers are also very welcome at the GUM. You can take part in one of the family games. In addition, you will be joined by Professor DOUBT (from 4 years of age) or can go on a reSEARCHtour (from 9 years of age). Be sure to admire the accompanying and free-to-visit Botanical Garden, with an arboretum, rock garden and a Mediterranean garden in the outside area. Or discover giant water lilies and other tropical and subtropical natural beauty in the greenhouses. With 4,000 m2, there is enough space to allow the youngsters to roam around. The GUM, a green science gem in the city! The Citadel Park, MSK Gent and the S.M.A.K. are just across the road. Who says romping about and museum visits can't go together?

www.gum.gent/en/family-visits

# Boat trip in the city centre

A cruise with an open or covered boat to see the historic city centre from a surprising perspective. The captain on board guides in different languages. Ready to board? www.visitgent.be/boat-trips

### Rent a luxury sloop

Want to discover more charming places? Take the helm of a luxury sloop and sail to the idyllic Sint-Martens-Latem. It's great to relax with the whole family. No boat licence required. www.visitgent.be/boat-trips

www.visitgent.de/doat-trips

# **Playtime in Gent**

Out and about with teenagers? Then too, there's plenty to enjoy in Ghent! How about a fun game of paintball or an exciting virtual reality game? Even more exciting: have an escape room experience. Ready for an adrenaline rush?

www.visit.gent.be/en/playtime



# **FOOD AND DRINKS**

# De tuin van Eten

Close to the beautiful Citadel Park and the MSK, you will find this home-like dining address, including a cupboard full of toys. On the menu: varied no-nonsense dishes and delicacies for the little ones. <u>www.tuinvaneten.com</u>

# Balls & Glory

The concept is simple and sublime at the same time: classic Flemish meatballs with a new look or rather with a creative filling. Delicious! Children's portions are also possible. They will love them. www.ballsnglory.be

### Bavet

The three Bavet establishments in Ghent welcome spaghetti lovers of all ages in a fun, youthful setting. Making a mess is fine, because everyone gets a big bib! The portions come in three sizes: mouse, dog and horse. Great fun!

www.bavet.eu

# De Bompa

Taste Grandma's cooking in a cosy, family atmosphere. Younger gourmets are also welcome and will be tempted by fresh rice pudding with a golden spoon! www.debompa.be

# Ma & Ik

An atmospheric breakfast and lunch place where you feel at home with the children. A warm yet kids-proof interior. With varied recipes that can delight young and old alike. www.ma-en-ik.be

# Hof van Herzele

In the 13th century this was an inn of the knights of Herzele. Today, you can enjoy a delicious lunch there with fresh daily products. Pure ingredients are prepared with love, also for the children's suggestions. Meanwhile, in the playground, the stories of pages, squires and knights come back to life. www.hofvanherzele.be

# Keizershof

A cosy brasserie on the Vrijdagmarkt. No classic children's dishes, but for almost every dish a children's portion. Children's chairs, coloured pencils and so on.

www.keizershof.net

# Koffeine

Coffee and breakfast bar that uses local products. Children can colour in a colouring page. www.visit.gent.be/en/eat-drink/koffeine

# Woest

Children are also welcome: specially adapted chairs, a children's menu and a toy box with games and books. Just outside the city centre.

www.woestgent.be

# Alix - Table & Jardin d'Amis

Authentic and different dining. In summer, the city garden is decked out in a picnic atmosphere. www.alixtablejardin.be



# ACCOMMODATION

# **B&B Big Sleep**

With the heated outdoor swimming pool as an extra touch of atmosphere, it always seems summer in the colourful setting of B&B Big Sleep. Add the very spacious rooms (maximum four persons) and you get the ideal holiday spot for families. www.bigsleep.be

# **B&B Goeiemorgen**

This B&B makes every effort to offer both parents and children a pleasant stay. A swapping library, a blissful terrace and a garden to roam in contribute to this. The family rooms (maximum four persons) are spacious and have their own seating area with TV. www.goeiemorgen.eu

# Villa Emma

Would you like to spend the night in a beautifully renovated art nouveau villa? Then Villa Emma seems like a dream. In the Tilia guest room, families (up to four people) can count on a comfortable stay. For example, there is a large bedroom with seating area, as well as a second bedroom with a large bunk bed and a private bathroom. The hospitable owners will be happy to organise a picnic trip or other appropriate activity. www.villa-emma.eu

# Flandria hotel

A cosy and budget-friendly hotel right in the centre of Ghent, surrounded by canals and beautiful cathedrals. The location in a pedestrianised street brings peace and quiet after a day of discoveries. In addition, children under the age of 7 stay free of charge in the parents' room. www.flandriahotel.be

# Monasterium PoortAckere

Spend the night in a former 19th century monastery. Explore the cloisters and discover unique pieces of history. Cheaper prices for children up to 15 years old.

www.monasterium.be

# **Novotel Gent Centrum**

Family friendly hotel in the centre of Ghent. A swimming pool and cosy play area ensure that the little ones stay here with pleasure. Want to borrow a children's book or board game? You can do that too!

www.all.accor.com/hotel/Novotel-Gent



# **Hotel Orion**

Stay in style in the large art deco family room. This beautiful hotel with swimming pool is located just outside the centre in a district full of architectural gems. www.hotel-orion.be

# **NH Gent Belfort**

Saint Bavo's Cathedral, the Belfry and the Castle of the Counts are all within walking distance of this stylish hotel. For families, there are interconnecting rooms, with a door between them. The terrace, when the weather is good, is a lovely place to sit and relax. www.nh-hotels.en/hotel/nh-gent-belfort

# Harmony

Fancy a family stay with a touch of luxury? Then this exclusive hotel is a great choice. Located on the picturesque River Leie in the heart of Ghent and ideal for exploring the city! Children stay in their parents' room for an affordable price, up to 3 years of age even free of charge.

www.hotel-harmony.be

# **Hotel Cathedral**

The family package at Hotel Cathedral offers fun extras: a boat trip, a free colouring book with coloured pencils or a graffiti artwork. Great for getting started on your own.

The friendly welcome of the host is the cherry on the cake. www.hotelcathedral.be

# Yalo hotel

Twiddling your thumbs? You won't find yourself doing that in this recent urban design hotel. Plenty of space for new experiences! The 'Suite for the Tribe' may be a luxury room, but this also makes it very suitable for a family of four (including two children up to 12 years). The tastes of the youngest guests are also catered for at breakfast. A trendy, all-round experience! www.yalohotel.com

# **Marriott Ghent**

Those who like to stay in luxury are waited on hand and foot at Marriott Ghent. But did you know that the hotel also has family rooms with two queen-size beds? A great feature: television channels for children.

www.marriottghent.be

# The Hide

Spacious and fully equipped luxury studios and apartments with a contemporary touch. The penthouse Yügen offers two separate bedrooms with king-size beds, a beautiful living room with fireplace and a connected open kitchen. Also well suited for a slightly longer stay. Added bonus: the terrace and communal garden by the water. A place for children's fun or pure relaxation. www.thehide.be

# **Aparthotel Castelnou**

Your own apartment, but in a hotel. The spacious, modern rooms with kitchenette, separate bathroom and bedroom are ideal for families with children. Delicious dishes of the day and children's menus are available in the restaurant. Plus: the nearby Queen Astrid Park with playground and lawn. Great fun!

www.castelnou.be

# Camping Urban Gardens – Blaarmeersen

Glamping is trending. For example, families feel at home in the brand new lodges of the Urban Gardens campsite. If you are looking for somewhere to stay with a caravan or motorhome, you are of course also welcome. Camping in a green setting, but still close to the lively city centre. The ideal combination! In the sports and recreation area, children can romp to their heart's content. Want to hire a bicycle to explore the city? That's possible too!

www.urban-gardens.be

# De Draecke Hostel

Renovated hostel in the heart of the city. Modern rooms with private bathrooms, for families looking for affordable comfort. The ground floor is in a contemporary graffiti look, with work by the Ghent street art artist Bué The Warrior. www.jeugdherbergen.be/ghent

# KaBa Hostel

For the trendy family looking for a budget-friendly accommodation address where everything is safe and clean. The green garden is a plus for the children.

www.kabahostel.be

# **Treck Hostel**

The very first indoor campsite! In this special hostel you can stay overnight (and have breakfast) in one of the nine themed caravans or in a common room. Fun extras: an indoor playground for the little ones, board games and a table tennis table. Within walking distance of the centre.

www.treckhostel.be

# **Uppelinck Hostel**

Kayaking is popular with young and old. And that's where this affordable hostel comes in handy. Situated in one of the oldest buildings in Ghent, with a magnificent view of the three famous mediaeval towers. The communal kitchen is a real meeting place. www.hosteluppelink.com

# **DID YOU KNOW?**



- Anyone who heads to Ghent in July can count on a great deal of entertainment. Because that's when the city goes wild for ten days. Every year, thousands of partygoers descend on the city centre. This makes the Ghent Festivities one of the largest popular festivals in Europe. It is therefore no coincidence that they are recognised as Flemish intangible heritage. It has been a tradition for 125 years: hopping from one square to another to attend concerts and performances. Of course, the popular food and drink stands are not missing either.
- After five editions, we can also call the **Festival of Lights** an unmissable event. Every three years, Ghent bathes in light in January or February. The city then forms the backdrop for ingenious light installations, spectacular performances and a surprising spectacle. A kilometres-long route puts both well-known hotspots and lesser-known spots in a different perspective. The next edition will take place in 2024.

www.visit.gent.be/en/calendar/ghent-light-festival



# TO AND ACROSS GHENT

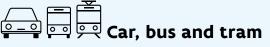
# Hop on hop off water tram

With the hop on hop off water tram you can reach the various locations in the city in a way that is quite the experience. There are six stops, including the Castle of the Counts. Children pay a reduced rate. If you buy a CityCard Ghent, a day pass for the water tram is included.

#### www.hoponhopoff.be

Ghent is above all known as a bicycle-friendly city. To rent a twowheeler, you can contact various bicycle rental points. For example, the Fietsambassade, a local association that rents out and repairs bicycles, from a traditional city bicycle to a longtail bicycle (with a seat for two children in the back) or a parent-child bicycle (with extra pedals for the children). Ready to zoom through the city?

www.fietsambassade.gent.be/en www.visit.gent.be/bicycle-rental



There is a low-emission zone within the city ring road. Polluting cars are therefore not welcome in the Ghent city centre. Don't panic! Within the centre you can easily get about by bus and tram. Moreover, Ghent is a compact city. Many sights are within walking distance of each other.



You can easily travel to Ghent by train. From Gent-Sint-Pieters train station, buses and trams will take you to the city centre in less than 10 minutes.



# EVERYONE IS WELCOME IN FLANDERS

Flanders aims to be an enjoyable holiday destination for everyone: young and somewhat older visitors, tourists with or without a disability or care needs, etc. We are happy to help visitors with additional needs or requests on their way to a holiday or excursion in Flanders and Brussels, as there is something for everyone to experience. Let yourself be surprised by the wide range of accessible options on our website and take a look at our publications.

# www.visitflanders.com/en/travel-information/accessibility

**Clear**, **reliable information** is essential. Especially for people with a disability, taking the step towards holidays can be crucial. This is why VISIT**FLANDERS** has ALSO created an **accessibility label** for **accessible accommodation**, **information offices and visitor centres**.

You can find out more about this label here: www.visitflanders.com/en/travel-information/accessibility/labels





# UNIVERSITY CITY WITH A RICH HISTORY

Discover the oldest university city of the Low Countries, which for more than 600 years has combined wisdom from bygone and new times. Leuven is a vibrant, cosy city with many parks and beautiful historic buildings. Large and small jaws alike will drop in wonder when you see the phenomenal Town Hall in Gothic style, full of remarkable statues. Thanks to the traffic-free streets, you can walk around without a care. Several historical sights are within walking distance of each other. Think of the Beguinage, the renovated Saint Peter's Church and the long-established Botanical Garden. Don't miss the cosy terraces along the River Dyle: benches and lawns invite you to rest and relax together. Feel the authentic yet youthful energy, so typical of this city.

Tips for a family-friendly stay, which you can discover here or via www.visitleuven.be/blog/bezoek-met-kinderen www.visitleuven.be/en/with-childrenl

# DISCOVER

# Visit the university tower

Throughout its 600 years of rich history, the University of Leuven not only experienced intellectual heydays, but also eventful years. The library tower invites you to discover five floors, each of which covers a period of time. The highlight of the visit is the phenomenal panorama from the balcony. You see the city centre of Leuven and the surrounding area from a different perspective. It's very impressive! www.bib.kuleuven.be/library-tower

# **Botanical Garden**

The oldest botanical garden in Belgium is free to visit and is a great place to rest and relax in the centre of the city. Children will enjoy exploring all the paths. In the large tropical greenhouse they can also discover turtles!

www.visitleuven.be/botanical-garden

# **M** Leuven

Museum not to be missed for kids and their parents! M provides every opportunity to enjoy old and contemporary art together in an interactive way. As well as a fun treasure hunt to discover the museum, children can enjoy themselves with music, a climbing wall, fit-o-meter or in the courtyard garden. www.mleuven.be

# Walk through the best stories

Especially for the youngest visitors, five fun hiking trails have been laid out for different ages from 4 to 14. The audio walks provide a thrilling adventure, while at the same time covering the most beautiful spots in the city.

www.visitleuven.be/walking/with-children



# Saint Peter's Church with an activity book or AR experience

In 2020, the fully restored Saint Peter's Church reopened with a renewed museum layout. Those who wish to admire some of the church's masterpieces at their own pace and of their own choice can opt for the family circuit. The M Leuven activity book offers juicy stories, fun facts and assignments for the youngest visitors. Would you rather get to know the latest AR experience? Church treasures come to life in an innovative experience via the tablet or the brand new and award-winning HoloLens. The device looks a bit like a lightweight, streamlined helmet with glasses. Thanks to a built-in computer, loudspeakers and all kinds of cameras, projectors and sensors, you will see spectacular 3D images and animations for 12 masterpieces.

www.visitleuven.be/saint-peters-church www.mleuven.be/family-trail

# Sluispark

Far-reaching renovation works around the Vaartkom not only revealed the River Dyle, but also created a brand new park: the Sluispark, with green zones, long steps to sit on and numerous water experience possibilities. The water play area treats families with children to fun activities. Stroll blissfully along flourishing waterways!

www.visitleuven.be/sluispark

# Sportoase

Swimming festival and aqua fun for the whole family, also for the youngest ones. There are fun play elements, bubbles, rapids, etc. You can easily reach it by bus or train. It's about a 20-minute walk from the station.

www.sportoase.be/philipssite

# Walk with audio stories

Join the hunt for stories! In Leuven's city centre, you will discover six stops that reveal wonderful stories or terrifying histories. By scanning the QR codes, you will discover the secrets of Fiere Margriet, the marsh monsters, the cow shooters and much more. Suitable for detectives from 6 years of age. www.leuven.be/verhaaljagers

# Walking route through the forests of Leuven

This outdoor adventure by Komoot takes you along 8.6 kilometres of hiking trails between the Meerdaalwoud and the Heverleebos. A circuit full of experiences. For Leuvexample, the monumental wooden kestrel can be seen from afar, a beacon for the adventurous play forest further on. Climb the lookout tower and enjoy the stunning view. Or test your dexterity on the multimove path! Also fun for families: the picnic area and public barbecue. Adventurous? Then the Everzwijnbad play forest in Meerdaalwoud is a must. Fun for young and playful: play a giant game of mikado, climb on the bridge or clamber in the trees. Exciting experiences in the heart of nature, about 10 km from the centre of Leuven.

www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/speelbos-everzwijnbad

www.komoot.com



### **Park Abbey**

Leuven has several beautiful abbeys, each surrounded by nature. Ideal for allowing the kids to run around. At Park Abbey you can book a treasure hunt for the whole family. www.visitleuven.be/parkabbey

The provincial domain in Kessel-Lo, located 3 km from the city, is a great activity park for families with young children and is therefore well worth a visit. You will find a minigolf course, playgrounds, rowing boats, pedalos, pedal boats, a heated outdoor swimming pool and much more.

www.vlaamsbrabant.be/nl/provinciedomein-kessel-lo







# **FOOD AND DRINKS**

# **Balls & Glory**

The concept is simple and sublime at the same time: classic Flemish meatballs in a new look or preferably with a creative filling. Delicious! Child portions are also possible. The little stomachs love it.

#### www.ballsnglory.be

# Foodbar Croque 'n Roll

Wide choice of tasty toasted sandwiches with equally funsounding names. From Red Devil to Kid Mick. Food lovers, big and small, are sure to find something to enjoy. Eating with your fingers is allowed...

www.croquenroll.be

### Bavet

Bavet welcomes spaghetti lovers of all ages in a fun, youthful setting. Making a mess is okay, because everyone gets a big bib! The portions come in three sizes: mouse, dog and horse. Great fun!

#### www.bavet.eu

# Burgerfolie

Pencils and drawing paper come to the table while waiting for the tastiest burgers. Children enjoy mini-burgers with homemade fries and lettuce, while parents choose from more than 20 gourmet burgers (including vegetarian options).

www.burgerfolie.be

### **Coupe Matadi**

Go and eat a heavenly ice cream on an old 1929 cargo ship. The eight delicious flavours, such as yoghurt with honey and caramel, are prepared on site.

www.coupematadi.be

# De Hoorn

At the De Hoorn restaurant there is always life in the brewery. And you can take that literally with a view of the old former brewing kettles. Culinary delights are also available for children with a specially adapted starter, main course and dessert. The spacious, sunny terrace that connects safely to the adjacent Sluispark offers an extra advantage.

#### www.dehoorn.eu

### Noordoever

A vegetarian restaurant with a buffet arrangement for delicious dining, close to the Leuven canal. The weight of your plate determines the cost of the meal. Ideal for younger diners. www.noordoever.be

### Poule en Poulette

Chicken dishes, a classic in Flemish cuisine, served here in a funky interior with cosy seat boxes.

www.poulepoulette.com

# 't Oud Gasthuys

This historic building, located next to the chapel of the Romanesque Gate, not only bears witness to a rich history, but is also a perfect address for lunch together with children: a play area, a fun children's menu and delicious food for adults! You can also ask for a high chair or a colouring book to keep your little one busy. In the traffic-free inner courtyard, children can run around and play safely.

www.oudgasthuys.be

# Würst haute dogs

Don't say hot dogs but 'haute dogs' to Leuven's Würst. A refined, high-quality version of the classic snack that the little ones love. The concept, originally the brainchild of Leuven TV chef Jeroen Meus, still serves the same quality. Try the 'haute dogs' with such well-known names as Belluci, Caesar Dog and Sauerkraut. Enjoy. www.wurstdogs.be

# ACCOMMODATION

# **B&B Lodging at 8**

This magnificent mansion dates back to 1918 and was converted into a special B&B. The 8 refers to the house number that appears next to the front door on Weldadigheidsstraat. The deluxe triple room is bathed in fresh shades, with its own roof terrace and fully-equipped kitchenette as an added bonus. Centrally located between the Great Beguinage and Park Abbey.

www.lodgingat8.be

# Martin's Klooster hotel

Former monastery converted into stylish hotel. Martin's Klooster is at the end of a quiet, traffic-free street in the middle of the city. Free stay for children under 12.

www.martinshotels.com/klooster-hotel

# **Novotel Leuven Centrum**

A family room at Novotel is suitable for two adults and two children. Young visitors under the age of 16 stay in the parents' room free of charge. Also very popular: the children's channels on the TV channel. A friendly reception and buffet breakfast with plenty of choice in this well-equipped hotel, just outside the centre of Leuven. www.accor.com/novotel-leuven

# Park Inn Radisson Leuven

This contemporary hotel is located near the station and within walking distance of the main attractions of Leuven. A child under the age of 6 stays in the parents' room free of charge. The interconnecting rooms are very popular with large families.

www.radissonhotels.com/park-inn-leuven

# **Theatre Hotel Leuven**

The Theatre Hotel Leuven is located in the heart of the lively centre. The ideal base to explore the city together with your little ones. This charming hotel has everything it takes to host families. For example, family rooms offer contemporary comfort for parents and children alike.

www.lodge-hotels.be/theater-hotel-leuven

# Hotel La Royale

As soon as you get outside the station, your eyes feast on the stately facade of the La Royale hotel. The family rooms have a modern feel and offer generous space for families with children. The town centre with sights is a kilometre away. Dining is possible in the brasserie of the same name with a view of the Martelarenplein.

www.lodge-hotels.be/la-royale-leuven

# Pentahotel

With a contemporary Penta lounge and sleek, stylish rooms, this hotel exudes a playful class. In the Penta Player Suite, the retro gaming machine and the PS4 console immediately attracts attention. Endless gaming fun for the whole family!

www.pentahotels.com/leuven

# **Hotel The Shepherd**

Looking out onto the Pater Damiaanplein next to the Saint Anthony Chapel, this hotel bathes in a heavenly atmosphere. The rooms are not only modern, but also equipped with a broadloom canvas, as a nod to historic Leuven buildings. In the large family room, you transform the sofa bed into an extra double bed in no time.

www.lodge-hotels.be/the-shepherd

# **Leuven City Hostel**

The mix of a cosy patio, cosy lounge and a cheerful breakfast café make this hostel the place to meet travelling companions. Stay at a low price? Then this colourful address is ideal. The quadruple room provides two bunk beds. Get outside and you'll be right in the centre.

www.leuvencityhostel.com

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# De Blauwput hostel

This modern hostel with family rooms is located near the station. Ideal as a base and also budget friendly.

www.jeugdherbergen.be/en/leuven



# **TO AND ACCROSS LEUVEN**

# 🕅 On foot

Discover the city on foot? That is perfectly possible! The cosy historic centre of Leuven is safe and traffic-free. Sights, museums and shopping streets are within walking distance of each other. A buggy can be useful if you want to save some of the children's steps. You can book a four-wheeler free of charge at two locations: the Rector De Somerplein and the Tweebronnen library. A real city for children!



**Bus** central departure poir

The central departure point of the buses is located at the station. From there, De Lijn buses depart to all corners of Leuven and the surrounding municipalities.



You can easily travel to Leuven by train. From the station you can walk on Bondgenotenlaan to the Grote Markt in a quarter of an hour.



# Bike hire

Always a good idea: hire bikes to explore the city and surroundings on two wheels. Children's bikes are also available. www.velo.be/node-leuven





# UNIQUE MOMENTS AND MONUMENTS IN THE HEART OF FLANDERS

During a trip to Mechelen... you discover beautiful Renaissance city palaces and eight historical churches; you visit UNESCO heritage sites, such as the St. Rumbold's Tower and the Large Beguinage; you taste traditional regional dishes. Yet Mechelen is also a young city. While parents enjoy the historical splendour, the little ones enjoy the adventures that Rommy Rombouts, the mascot of Mechelen Kinderstad, has in store for them. Together on the way along and over the Dyle. That's simply enjoyment!

As a professional travel organiser, you can get plenty of inspiration for putting together a familyfriendly package.

Do you want to discover even more assets? Take a look at: <u>www.visit.mechelen.be/families</u>.

# DISCOVER

# St. Rumbold's Tower with skywalk

From all angles, the St Rumbold's Tower proudly rises above the city. For an unforgettable experience: climb the 97.5 m high tower and take a look at the five tower chambers. Children follow an adventurous quest. Once above, you can look as far as the eye can see, from the Atomium in Brussels to the Cathedral of Antwerp.

www.visit.mechelen.be/st-rumbolds-tower

# **Planckendael ZOO**

A zoo and play park in one! Families travel along the five continents where lots of animals, adventures and large water features await them. Children play monkey tricks on the many hanging bridges and playground equipment. Planckendael zoo converted three indoor residences into a jungle setting. In bad weather you can also have fun inside.

www.planckendael.be

# Technopolis

Put planes on the ground, rest on a nail bed or cycle on a cable in the air. More than 350 configurations shed light on the technology behind everyday things. Children, young people and their parents can easily spend a morning or afternoon in this active science centre.

www.technopolis.be



# **Kazerne Dossin**

There is no doubt that Second World War Holocaust stories are haunting. Nevertheless, Kazerne Dossin succeeds in appropriately translating the theme into an interactive family path. Discover the story of eleven-year-old Simon step by step, with playful activity tasks at strategic locations in the museum. www.kazernedossin.eu

# **Toy Museum**

Close to the station is the large Toy Museum. Expect five floors with an extensive collection of toys over the centuries. Here you will find quests, play areas (also for toddlers and pre-schoolers) and of course mountains of toys, from trains and board games to teddy bears and doll's houses. In the museum café, the whole family can enjoy pancakes, waffles and ice creams. www.speelgoedmuseum.be

# Boat trip on the Binnendijle

Exploring the city from the shimmering Inner Binnendijle? You can do that too! Board an electrically powered cruise ship. While sailing you will learn fascinating facts about Mechelen's history. www.visit.mechelen.be/boat-trips

# Interactive family walks

Mechelen offers many ways to explore the city with children: interactive walks, activity guides, a fun package and a special family city plan. This city plan includes all playgrounds and play equipment, or resting points where children can play. This includes a children's labyrinth, a climbing object and large cubes that you can slide, push and pull. Here and there you also find rocking horses. They refer to 'Op stap met Kareltje' (Walking with Charles). This interactive walk is inspired by the Burgundian-Habsburg history of the city. Go on expedition!

www.visit.mechelen.be/discover

visit.mechelen.be/rocking-horses

# Dijlepad

Anyone who walks the Dyle Path will walk over a wooden path that lies on the river. Meanwhile, you can look inside the charming houses on the waterfront and spot ducks or fish. Also recommended in the evening, when the lights of the city sparkle in the water. www.visit.mechelen.be/dijlepad

# Vrijbroekpark

Green also deserves a place in Mechelen, in the 65-hectare Vrijbroekpark to be precise. The alleys, watersides, fuchsia and dahlia flowerbeds are elegant and opulent. The rose gardens are among the most beautiful in Belgium and Europe! Ideal for a relaxing walk. Afterwards, children can romp around in the playground.

https://visit.mechelen.be/vrijbroekpark

# **Eight historic churches**

Learn about the city's rich religious heritage in a playful way. Boring? Not with the fun little projects for children that you will find in the eight beautiful churches.

www.visit.mechelen.be/8-historical-churches





# FOOD AND DRINKS

# **Bokes en Co**

Cosy, casual eatery with a retro look. During the day you can enjoy delicious sandwiches, fresh soups and tarts. Some toys for the kids makes this a nice place to relax.

www.facebook.com/bokesenco

# **De Vleeshalle**

What used to be a monumental hall where butchers offered their fresh meat products is now a culinary attraction. There are several stallholders under one roof, each passionately preparing fresh dishes. From world cuisine to local specialities such as artisanal croquettes. Above all, it is also a place where children can enjoy themselves and wander around in the direction of the play area. www.devleeshalle.be

# Eetcafé t'ASS

This café is located in Domein Tivoli. This 12-hectare recreation area offers you an oasis of peace near the city centre. It is a typical 19thcentury estate with a charming castle, a romantic temple, a botanical garden, an orchard and a pond with a decorative moat. The beating heart of the Tivoli domain? This is without a doubt the children's farm. Would you like a drink on the sunny terrace next to the accompanying playground? Fancy a pancake or a delicious lunch? Then you're at the right place at this cosy café and in the good hands of young people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), who are given the opportunity to gain work experience here.

www.mechelen.be/eetcafe-t-ass

# Il Cardinale

Enjoy quality burgers with the whole family in a modern, religious setting. The wall full of figurines of the Virgin Mary is definitely worth a photo! Extra fun for children: burgers with funny sounding names like 'baby Jesus' and 'Twinzie Jesus'. www.ilcardinale.be

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### **Kato Gateaux**

Enjoy a healthy breakfast, lunch or a sweet treat in this contemporary coffee bar. There is also plenty of choice for the small sweet tooth. Be sure to taste the freshly baked pies and local drinks. www.katogateaux.be

# ACCOMMODATION

### **B&B Lunatree**

In this stately mansion in a quiet location, families and children await a warm welcome. B&B Lunatree features characterful suites equipped with an additional double sofa bed. Convenient! www.lunatree.be

# Nova Zembla

Nova Zembla is a B&B located within walking distance of the Grote Markt. The décor is inspired by the Interbellum period: a sleek dash with a touch of classic. Choice of double or large family room with luxurious bathroom (up to four people).

www.novazemblalodging.com

## Porta Superia – boutique B&B.

If you like a touch of luxury with enough space for the children, you're in the right place. The 'Lady Margareta' suite accommodates four guests and is perfectly suited as a family room. The chicken run around in the garden. Fun for the little ones! www.portasuperia.be

# **Hotel Muske Pitter**

Small-scale and bicycle-friendly hotel decorated in a welcoming, home-like atmosphere. In 2017, the simple standard rooms were refurbished to form spacious luxury rooms (maximum three persons). The hotel has a tavern and outdoor terrace. Located directly opposite the Basilica of Our Lady of Hanswijk. www.muskepitter.be

# Holiday Inn Express Mechelen City Centre

All rooms in this centrally located hotel were given a thorough facelift in 2022. Stay with the whole family in adjoining rooms or in a room with sofa bed. Everyone agrees about the family package: thanks to the free welcome drink and surprise package for the little ones, you will feel welcome right away. www.hiexpress.com/mechelen

# Hotel Elisabeth

The fact that this hotel is located in a former hospital is hardly noticeable. On the contrary, the rooms at Elisabeth Hotel exude luxury and enjoyment. The Cathedral Suite offers stunning views of St Rumbold's Cathedral and has two separate rooms. The City Suite is also super-comfortable for four people. Thanks to its favourable location, you can easily walk into the bustling centre. What is there to do after a day of exploration? There is nothing more soothing than a splash in the brand new swimming pool! www.elisabeth-hotel.be

# **VixX Hotel**

You can explore Mechelen and its surroundings with the 'Out with the kids' package. You can stay in a beautiful luxury family suite with terrace. Have you slept well? Breakfast is ready at the room's door. Also included: tickets for a day of adventure at the Planckendael zoo.

www.vixxhotel.be

# Martin's Patershof

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Choosing Martin's Patershof means travelling in time and enjoying the serenity of an old church that has been converted into a prestigious hotel. The unique rooms with stained glass windows immediately stand out. The '(B)engeltjes in de kerk' (little angels and devils in church) arrangement is valid all year round, complete with an extra bed in Mum and Dad's room, a fun joke book, a game of 'Uno junior' and a glass of children's champagne.

www.martinshotels.com/patershof

# Novotel Mechelen Centre

A family room at Novotel is suitable for two adults and two children. Young guests under the age of 16 stay in the parents' room free of charge. Not only do they also get breakfast for free, they also get a welcome gift. Also very popular: the children's channels on the TV channel.

www.novotelmechelencentrum.com



# **Het Anker**

Het Anker is one of the oldest breweries in Flanders, located on the outskirts of the Large Beguinage. During a guided tour you will learn all about the ripening process of the famous Gouden Carolus beer. What makes the experience extra unique is that you can also spend the night in spacious rooms. Awakening in a historical context: an absolute added value! Especially if the whole family can then go out together as 'Maneblussers', a fun activity with photo assignments for the children. www.het-anker.be/hotel

# Value Stay Residence Mechelen

Affordable accommodation in the heart of Mechelen. The central location is an ideal starting point for exploring the historic city centre. Retrofitting is possible not only in the spacious, renovated apartments (up to six people) but also in the corresponding city garden. While children wander around, their parents keep an eye on them from cosy seating areas.

www.value-stay-residence-mechelen.be

# TO AND ACROSS MECHELEN



Mechelen is a compact city. Many sights are within walking distance of each other. Are the little feet in need of a break? Then the bus is perfect for short trips.

# 

Explore Mechelen by bike! Various bicycle points rent out bicycles with trailers for children, children's bikes and trailer bikes, so that even the youngest ones can take to the road safely.

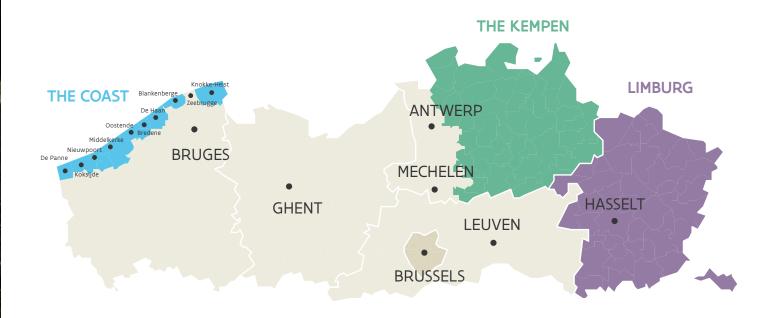
www.visitmechelen.be/bike-hire



Mechelen is an ideal train destination. From Mechelen Station you can walk to the Grote Markt in a quarter of an hour. Faster is also possible: via Nekkerspoel station. That only takes five minutes.



# THREE OUTSTANDING FLEMISH REGIONS









# BUSTLING EXPERIENCES ALL YEAR ROUND

A 67 km stretch of coastline, spread over 13 seaside resorts, each with its own character. Wherever you go, the coast is an ideal destination for relaxed enjoyment with the whole family. Strolling along the seafront, wandering through the dunes, cycling through the polders... now that really is a good way of recharging your batteries! High on the kids' wish list? Cool beach play villages, fun trampoline parks and go-kart tours. Even when the weather is not so good, the Flemish coast does not disappoint. Various museums and attractions have all-weather activities in store. From amusement parks to aquatic parks. Try something else for a change!

Looking for inspiration to put together original programmes? Here are a few tips. Would you like to know more about the advantages of the various seaside resorts? See also: www.belgiancoast.co.uk/breathtaking-trips www.visitoostende.be/see-and-do

# DISCOVER

# **KNOKKE-HEIST**

# **Zwin Nature Park**

In this interactive nature discovery park you will experience a fascinating journey together with the migratory birds. It starts with your boarding pass, which you receive at the reception of the renovated visitor centre, and which you can use to check in at this 'international airport for birds'. Enter your youthful age and become one with your Zwin migratory bird. The outdoor experience is equally enthralling: the cabin circuit leads past various highlights. The panorama towers offer a sublime view of the entire Zwin area and the sea. It's not just the little eyes that shine with wonder!

#### www.zwin.be

# ZEEBRUGGE

# **Port Cruise**

From Zeebrugge you can take a trip through the international port with the wind in your hair. Captain Bleu will ring the ship's bell and take you with his newest passenger ship. Along the way you can see wind turbines, an island with thousands of birds and one of the largest locks in the world.

#### www.captainblue.be



### **BLANKENBERGE**

### Belle Epoque Centre, Blankenberge

The Belle Epoque Centre looks back to Blankenberge in 1900. The interactive and family-friendly route starts with a welcome by mascot Belle. Architect Hendrik also knows how to captivate the young visitors. He has a fun game course in store for this. Join us on 'Going out with Hendrik' and get to know the extraordinary Belle Époque in a playful way.

www.belleepoquecentrum.be

### **Majutte's House**

Look inside this authentic little white house on Breydelstraat and immerse yourself in the fishing life of the 18th century. Get to know one of the few preserved fishing houses on the coast. Every object here breathes maritime history.

www.visit-blankenberge.be/huisje-van-majutte

# Sea Life

More than 50 aquariums show the amazing underwater world. There is no shortage of unique experiences: come face to face with seahorses, experience feeding sea turtles and get a kiss from a sea lion. New at Sea Life: Rocky's Climbing Adventure. Clamber on the highest climbing course in the country and stand face to face with impressive sea lions, crazy penguins and playful otters. Really great!

www.visitsealife.com/blankenberge

### **OSTEND**

## The Crystal Ship

Under the name 'The Crystal Ship', renowned national and international street art artists created gigantic murals. More than 50 artistic creations together form one large art circuit that leads the visitor along well-known and less well-known corners of Ostend.

A unique way to discover the City by the Sea. For families with children, there is 'The Crystal Ship Kids Guide' with fun facts, activity assignments and free coloured pencils.

www.thecrystalship.org

### Hangtime

Jump as high as you can, practise acrobatic somersaults and have fun. It is all possible in Hangtime, a trampoline park of 1,000 m<sup>2</sup>. Enough to experience between basketball baskets, dodge balls or foam pits. The little ones have fun in the giant ball pool or the challenging play area. Hungry or thirsty? You can enjoy a bite or a beverage afterwards in the cosy coffee bar.

www.hangtime.be

### The James Ensor house

Five interactive experience rooms immerse you in the life of artist James Ensor. You bring Ensor's paintings to life, rummage through his interior things and carnival masks, browse through his letters and photographs and then take a look in the authentic home where the artist lived and worked. Young visitors learn all about the eccentric figure in a playful way. Using tips in the activity book, they go in search of the false Ensor. All provided in five languages (also in Spanish).

#### www.ensorstad.be

### **Provincial Domain Raversyde**

A multifaceted experience for all ages. Here you will find the open-air museum Atlantikwall, one of the top attractions on the coast, where you can take a unique walk along bunkers and in trenches. You also enter an old fishing village where fishers tell stories. In the Nature Park, a 50-hectare green lung, a play area awaits the youngest visitors with, among other things, play tunnels, an imposing throne, canal paths, a medieval shelter and mysterious wooden figures. In 2022, Atlantikwall Raversyde received the prestigious European Heritage Award. A gem on the coast!

www.raversyde.be



### **NIEUWPOORT**

## Westfront Nieuwpoort

The lock complex of Nieuwpoort, better known as 'De Ganzepoot', played a crucial role during the First World War. In October 1914, the opening of the locks inundated the IJzervlakte. This ended the advance of the German army. In the Westfront Nieuwpoort visitor centre, you can learn more about this remarkable piece of history via unique objects, interactive modules, personal stories and a 180° projection. At the end of your visit, you are treated to a 360° view of the sea, the coastal strip and the polders, seen from the King Albert I Monument. The 'Mystery of the Smart Skipper' is a free experience that takes the youngest visitors along with you (tailored for children aged 8 to 12).

www.nieuwpoort.be/westfrontnieuwpoort

# **KOKSIJDE-OOSTDUNKERQUE**

### Abbey Museum of the Dunes

Travel back to 1490! Get blown away by a special virtual reality visit to this medieval abbey. Walk through the church and browse through decorated manuscripts. In addition, the museum also offers the family quest 'Becoming a Monk is what you do!' for children between 6 and 12 years old. Playfully, children learn what it was like for a novice or new monk to leave everything behind and start a new life within the abbey walls. Sounds fascinating! Anyone who brings the quest to a successful conclusion will get a surprise!

www.tenduinen.be

# **Beach pool Oostduinkerke**

Unique on the coast: the outdoor swimming pool on the cosy sea dyke of Oostduinkerke. With wonderful heated water and shallow pools for the little ones.

www.koksijde.be/strandbad-oostduinkerke



### **Duinpanne Visitor Centre**

Thanks to its central location in the Calmeynbos, the Duinpanne visitor centre is the ideal starting, stop-over or end point of a walk in the various nature reserves. The North Sea reveals its secrets in the interactive exhibition 'Sea Change'. You can relax in the cafeteria with a tasty local beer, farm-made ice cream or a nice healthy lemonade. Meanwhile, the children can have fun in the renovated playground.

www.depanne.be/duinpanne

# **Plopsaland en Plopsaqua**

Dizzying adventures in the Plopsaland amusement park in De Panne with over 50 enchanting attractions. From 'Flying Bicycles' and the 'DinoSplash' via dazzling shows to the latest addition, 'The Ride to Happiness by Tomorrowland'. Famous figures such as Maja de Bij and Kabouter Plop await the young visitors. Stroller wagons for rent at the entrance. After these wonderful adventures, be sure to visit Plopsaqua for even more enjoyment, above all crazy water fun.

www.plopsalanddepanne.be www.plopsaqua.be



# **FOOD AND DRINKS**

# Marie Siska, Knokke-Heist

A paradise for children thanks to the fantastic fairytale playground (even with a baby playground) and the maze. Traditional Flemish fare, also in children's sizes, in a family-friendly setting. www.siska-marie.com

# 't Boerenhof, Knokke-Heist

While parents enjoy the sun on the large terrace, children play in the playground or with the animals nearby. The comprehensive children's menu has something for everyone.

www.tboerenhof.be

# Belle de Jour, Ostend

Delicious bistro in the centre of Ostend. All the tasty fresh dishes are written on a blackboard and menus change daily. Artistic surroundings where children feel comfortable. They can also choose something in the kitchen for a very affordable price. www.belledejour.be

# Koninginnehof, Ostend

The Maria-Hendrikapark is not only a green lung on the outskirts of the city, you can also get something to eat and drink at the Koninginnehof in the park. This self-service restaurant, with a cosy terrace that can accommodate 400 people, is surrounded by a recreation area. Outdoor activities include an adventurous playground, a go-kart track and a minigolf course. There is also a lot to experience around the 7-hectare pond. Will you opt for a rowing boat, kayak or pedal boat, or would you rather board a mini whisper boat? Boredom doesn't get a chance here! www.koninginnehof.be

# Kantine, Koksijde

Trendy and relaxed brunch bar, right next to family concept store Kabine. Here you can enjoy a delicious breakfast, a healthy lunch and other treats. It's a place where the whole family can relax and which has something to offer for everyone. www.kabine.be/etenkabine

# De Spelleplekke, Oostduinkerke

Families get a warm welcome in this trendy and very cosy restaurant on the dyke of Oostduinkerke. The restaurant serves varied, fresh and original dishes and the tastiest home-made, healthy drinks. The little ones can choose from the children's menu. www.despelleplekke.be

# Moeder Lambik, De Panne

For many families, it is customary to eat a snack here after a day at Plopsaland. Inn-style brasserie, where children play while parents choose from the specialities of the grill. www.moederlambik.be

# ACCOMMODATION

# **KNOKKE-HEIST**

# Knotwilgehoeve

Cosy B&B, located in Ramskapelle, on the outskirts of Knokke-Heist. The green farmhouse offers a great many playing opportunities (trampoline, playground, etc.) and comfortable family rooms.

www.knotwilgenhoeve.be

# **BLANKENBERGE**

# **Hotel Du Commerce**

This quiet hotel with cosy atmosphere is located in the centre of Blankenberge, four minutes from the seafront. It offers luxurious and comfortable three- and four-person rooms for families. www.hotel-du-commerce.be

# Alfa Inn Aparthotel

An apartment with hotel service? It can be done at Alfa Inn. Spacious rooms around a courtyard make the holiday complete for all ages. Babysitting service, playground and play area present.

www.alfa-inn.com



# **Domein Polderwind, Zuienkerke**

The Polderwind Domain in Zuienkerke looks like a regular hotel at first sight. But in fact the care aspect is prominent here. The building is fully accessible so that people with a mobility impairment can stay there comfortably and independently (label A+). Family care is also a priority here. The family care room is extremely suitable for those travelling with a child older than 11 or with several children or persons with a disability. Everyone enjoys a holiday together in a green setting, 7 km from the sea. www.domeinpolderwind.be

# **DE HAAN-WENDUINE**

# **Hof ter Lepelem**

A family friendly hotel with the personal atmosphere of a B&B. While parents and grandparents can relax on the terrace, children can play extensively in the pool or playground. www.facebook.com/hofterlepelem.be/

# **Hof ter Meulen**

Holiday farm with old baking house and calf shed transformed into characterful holiday homes for 7 to 20 people. Large family rooms available. Lots of play space for children, and they may also squeal at the special pigs with woollen fur. www.hoftermeulen.be

# OSTEND

# Les Cabanes d'Ostende

Want to wake up in a forest 500 m from the beach? You can do so at Les Cabanes d'Ostende, a brand new urban landscape

hotel where you can stay in luxurious cabins. With two adults and a maximum of four children, you can stay in a family cabin. Enjoy the hot tub, pick herbs or test out the swings. A top-notch experience in the forest and by the sea. www.lescabanes.be

# **Hotel Kruishof**

A charming family hotel in a green setting, 800 m from the sea. The bus and coastal tram stop nearby. The former farmhouse offers a large relaxation area and the fun of the game beckons outside: football pitch, trampoline, playground and go-karts. www.kruishof.be

# **Hotel Ostend**

Fun guaranteed in the covered play area with bouncy castle. Children under the age of 12 stay free of charge when booking the family package. www.hotelostend.be

# **Hotel Princess**

From this pleasant hotel in just a few steps you are on the beach. It has a cosy bar where you can always go for a quiet chat. While parents enjoy themselves, the children can have a great time in the play area. Three- or four-person family rooms available.

www.hotelprincess.be

# Vayamundo Ostend

Studios and apartments with sublime location on the seafront. Other major advantages of this holiday complex: the indoor swimming pool with sauna and separate children's pool, the handicrafts club and the large play village for the little ones. www.vayamundo.eu/oostende

# **Upstairs Hotel**

If you want to sample a piece of New York by the sea, you'll be thrilled by this new hotel concept. The playful urban style, the ping-pong table and the bright yellow slide work like a magnet for children or teenagers. Large comfortable rooms are a little robust and industrially furnished. The XL room has two separate rooms (maximum four persons). www.upstairshotel.com

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# **MIDDELKERKE-WESTENDE**

# **Hotel Kristoffel**

Centrally located family hotel, 50 m from the beach, tram stop Middelkerke Casino. The hotel has three- or four-person family rooms and baby cots.

www.hotelkristoffel.be

# West Bay Hotel

The freedom of an apartment with the comfort of a hotel? You have that at West Bay Hotel, a 10-minute walk from the beach. The apartments have their own kitchen and seating area. Breakfast buffet is available on request. Multi-bedroom family apartments and suites available.

www.westbayhotel.be

# NIEUWPOORT

# **Het Klein Noordhof**

Far away from all the hustle and bustle, in peace and security, you will find this child-friendly family hotel. It has a heart for families with children, and lots of play opportunities and animals to offer an unforgettable stay. Half-board is possible. www.kleinnoordhof.be

# Kompas camping Nieuwpoort

Going camping comfortably with the family, or would you rather stay in a lodge, mobile home or real safari tent? This extensive campsite has it all. There is plenty to do for young and old, both in the surrounding area and in the resort. Here you will find several playgrounds and an indoor playground, two heated outdoor pools with slide, many sports possibilities and an enthusiastic entertainment team.

www.kompascamping.be/nieuwpoort

# KOKSIJDE-OOSTDUINKERKE

# **Soll Cress**

Relax with the whole family in this hotel near the sea and the welcoming town of Koksijde. A stone's throw from public transport. With swimming pool and play area. www.sollcress.be

# **De Torreele**

The holiday farm offers a paradise for children and wonderful rest for their parents! While the parents enjoy a drink on the sunny terrace or in the spacious living room, the children can enjoy themselves on the go-karts, bicycles, football field and the bouncy castle. A farm tour or a tractor ride is also possible. www.detorreele.be

# Hof ter Duinen

This family-run hotel is 15 minutes from Plopsaland and a few steps from the sea, beach and dunes. In each of the superior rooms up to three extra children can stay. The special family rooms with connecting doors are equipped with a balcony with garden view, a double jacuzzi, DVD player and free access to the DVD library.

www.hofterduinen.be

# **DE PANNE**

# **Hotel Ambassador**

The motto of this hotel? Offer the best for both parents and children. The children can play happily in the special children's corner, or choose DVD board games and comics in the bar library. Central location, 30 m from the beach, with nearby bike hire, beach games, forests and a town full of small play areas. www.hotel-ambassador.be

Plopsa Hotel

The brand new and magical Plopsa Hotel is all about children. The hotel has 117 rooms and the entrance hall is bathed in the atmosphere of an old opera hall, hence the choice of the theatre theme. Located next to Plopsaland De Panne.

www.plopsa.be

# **TO AND ALONG THE COAST**



The coastal area is perfectly accessible by car. although parking is not always easy in the high season. The train offers a convenient alternative.



With the coastal tram from Knokke to De Panne and back you can make your way along the whole coast. Children under the age of 6 travel free of charge and for children under the age of 12 there is a special multi-day pass. You can buy tickets in the coastal tram shop or at a vending machine. An attraction in itself! www.dekusttram.be



# DID YOU KNOW?

 The unique setting of the Flemish coast forms the backdrop for the Beaufort arts festival every three years. Each edition of the triennial brings a mix of 20 monumental works of art. Belgian and foreign artists will take you on a tour in all 10 coastal municipalities. Go out with the family and discover this attractive art trail free of charge. Luckily, you don't have to wait until the new edition of the arts festival in 2024, because the permanent sculpture park is also more than worthwhile. Forty memorable works of art were given a permanent place along the sea walls, beaches and dunes of the entire Belgian coastline. You can easily reach the various locations: on foot, by bike or on the coastal tram And that seven days a week! www.beaufortbeeldenpark.be

 In the summer months, beach bars add colour to the entire coastline. Relax with your feet in the sand and a drink in your hand. The surfing clubs offer all kinds of water sports. Each surfing club or beach bar has its own atmosphere and style. But everywhere you go, you get the ultimate beach experience for free. Instant holiday feeling for the whole family! www.belgiancoast.co.uk/en/do/water-sports-seaside





# THE ADVENTUROUS OUTDOORS

Enjoy the pleasant rural atmosphere that is so typical of the Kempen region. From Antwerp it is about 35 km to this green paradise. While parents are recovering, children can enjoy themselves in the most beautiful forests, fens and heather. The Kempen landscape with centuries-old castles, abbeys and windmills is already fascinating. Sports enthusiasts will also find something to their liking thanks to the many walking, cycling and even kayaking options. Also on a recreational level, the region has a lot to offer: playgrounds and adventure parks galore. You are in good hands everywhere, because the people of Kempen are only too happy to spoil their guests with local specialities.

We would like to give you some building blocks for an attractive stay in this green and adventurous region.

# DISCOVER

# Mega Speelstad, Lille

A unique indoor play area, which has become a veritable children's amusement park. Outside you can discover the 'Magic City': a beautiful outdoor playground with spacious sun terrace. www.speelstad.be

# Bobbejaanland, Kasterlee

Visit the most pleasant country! With more than 40 attractions, everyone will find one that makes their heart beat faster, from driving trucks to splashing around in the wild water rapids. Everything is aimed at providing the whole family with a pleasant day, and even dogs are allowed. Limited opening days from September to April. www.bobbejaanland.be

# Hidrodoe, Herentals

Welcome to this experience-packed place for discovery and activities. Discover the wonderful world of water, launch your own hydrogen rocket, make a giant whirlpool or play a game of water football.

www.hidrodoe.be

### **RECREATION AREAS**

Playgrounds and outdoor swimming pools, that promises great fun when the weather is good. The following green areas are available free of charge or at an affordable price.

#### - De Mosten, Hoogstraten

The ideal location for a whole day of fun, with swimming pond, sunbathing area, minigolf, playground and climbing park. For a snack and a drink, visit the Treehouse Bar. The adjoining Goodlife Cablepark offers extra water adventure for water skiers and wakeboarders.

www.visithoogstraten.be/recreatiedomein-de-mosten

#### - De Hoge Rielen, Kasterlee

Clambering into tree huts, building camps or skating a few rounds in the indoor shed. The playing possibilities at De Hoge Rielen are almost endless. In addition to a play forest, there is also a large recreational meadow. For a splash in the water, head towards the swimming pond (subject to reservation). www.dehogerielen.be

### - De Lilse Bergen, Lille

Adventure all round at De Lilse Bergen leisure park, which combines fun in the playground and amusement park with water attractions and a minigolf course. From a wide range of games aimed at toddlers and pre-schoolers to activities you're never too old for. Definitely try: paddle surfing! <u>www.delilsebergen.be</u>

# Tour in an eel barge, Lier

In Lier you can navigate the Binnennete from 1 April to 31 October with a cruise in an old eel barge. This way you will discover hidden corners, beautiful bridges and surprising cityscapes. www.bootjevareninlier.be

# **STEP OUT INTO NATURE**

### - De Averegten, Heist-op-den-Berg

The Averegten is a nature park with picnic and animal meadow, hiking trails through the nature reserve and an unforgettable nature playground with lots of sand, water, willow huts and lying tree trunks. From the terrace at the Boshuis dining café, parents can keep an eye on the extensive playground.

www.provincieantwerpen.be/averegten

## - Step into the adventure forest

On this walking route between Lichtaart and Kasterlee, you clock up a good 6 km. Along the way, the little ones are full of wonder for the many fairytale figures. They are very quiet so as not to wake up the sleeping giant... A walk tailored for children! Available via Komoot. Just want to romp around? Even then, this adventure forest is particularly tempting. www.komoot.de/tour/slapende-reus







TIP!

All holiday parks and recreation areas welcome the whole family with open arms in their respective restaurants and cafés, where children's menus and snacks are available.

# **FOOD AND DRINKS**

#### Port Aventura Port Café, Mol

Combine breakfast, lunch or dinner with a boat trip or a nature walk. Choice of several delicious menus (including children's menus). The desserts in particular will have the little ones licking their lips.

www.zilvermeerhaven.be

#### Koningsbos, Kasterlee

Stylish business in a rural setting at the foot of the Kempense Heuvelrug. Anyone who loves seasonal dishes will certainly find something to their taste here, from walker to gastronome. Extensive children's menu with Toktok burger, Cowboysteak and Kabouterbrij as fun-sounding names, including children's cocktails. It's a matter of copying the grown-ups a little bit. Spacious terrace.

www.koningsbos.be

#### Pancake boat, Dessel

Real traditional pancakes in all sizes and flavours. Enjoy yourself in a unique place. A favourite for young and old. Also available: homemade soup, toasted sandwiches, vol-au-vent and so on. www.pannenkoekenbootdessel.be



#### 't Schipke aan de Nete, Herenthout

Once a farmhouse and inn combined... and today you enter a modern restaurant in a breath-taking location on the river Grote Nete. Ideal for regaining some vigour and a well-earned break after a pleasant walk or bike ride. Also a good choice for the little ones.

www.schipkeaandenete.be

# ACCOMMODATION

#### **B&B De Worfthoeve, Geel**

Luxurious B&B in the middle of meadows and fields. Two of the four rooms have a separate nursery. The little ones can have a good time in the sandpit, playground, petting zoo or even in the indoor heated swimming pool.

www.deworfthoevekempen.be

#### Hotel Jerom, Kalmthout

The surroundings of the Kalmthoutse Heide seem like one big playground. At Hotel Jerom you only have to cross the street to reach the nature reserve. Nice extra: you can rent a bamboo package to build your own construction together in the heath. An exciting family activity! With two adults and two children (from 5 to 14 years of age), you stay in a family room on the forest side. www.hoteljerom.com

#### De schaapskooi, Lichtaart

Cosy studios with views of green and close to the woolly sheep. Strolling, caring and feeding are unforgettable activities for the whole family. Close to the Bobbejaanland theme park www.schaapskooi.be

#### Holiday home Boskot, Oud-Turnhout

An idyllic place, plenty of light and endless play area for the children: holiday home Boskot is a dream for every nature lover and his or her family. Located in the heart of De Liereman nature reserve. Forests, heather and fens as far as the eye can see. Up to five people. www.boskot.be

## Holiday home De Zandloper

Stay with eight people a stone's throw from the Kalmthoutse heath. Large, enclosed garden where the children can romp. www.vakantiewoning-de zandloper.bekempen.be

#### **Camping Baalse Hei, Turnhout**

Small-scale oasis of tranquillity and greenery in the Antwerp Kempen with plenty of cosiness and culture in the immediate vicinity. Children can

look forward to a swimming pool, playground and sports opportunities. On the pedal boat or in a rowing boat you can roam around on the rowing pond. You can sleep under the stars in mobile homes, chalets or lodges.

www.baalsehei.be

## Camping De Lilse Bergen, Lille

Camping among the trees, with all the advantages for a pleasant holiday, such as a swimming pond with water attractions and a giant playground. Hire a mobile home, tepee, old-fashioned wagon, water tent or tree house!

www.delilsebergen.be

#### Camping Floreal Het Veen, Sint Job in't Goor

This well-maintained campsite is located on the banks of the Kempisch Kanaal. There's no shortage of entertainment thanks to the playgrounds, the children's play forest and the summer activities. With a special baby bathroom. You can stay in rental caravans, camping huts or a safari tent with a wood stove.

www.florealgroup.be/camping-het-veen

## **Camping Houtum, Kasterlee**

Sleep in the greenery and enjoy the freedom of Kempen nature. The child-friendly brasserie De Putten, with indoor and outdoor play area, enhances the holiday feeling.

www.campinghoutum.be

#### Provinciaal Recreatiedomein Zilvermeer, Mol

Choose from a simple camping pitch up to a comfortable log cabin. Everything here exudes holiday pleasure for the whole family. A swimming pond with a snow-white beach, water sports and playgrounds make for an unforgettable stay. Here you will also find five catering establishments with terrace, an adventure park with a cable car and even a special playground for toddlers. Visitors who do not wish to stay overnight are also welcome.

www.zilvermeer.be

#### Treelodge, Retie

Great camping not only between, but also in the trees. That's the concept of the tree house village of Treelodge. Every child's dream. Enjoy the freedom and adventure! Complete with crackling campfire, tweeting birds and soft wobbling hammocks. Back to basics, but that does not apply to the tree houses themselves, because they are very comfortably furnished (up to a maximum of six people).

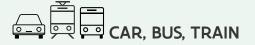
www.treelodge.be

#### Hostel Wadi, De Hoge Rielen, Kasterlee

Architectural pearl where indoor and outdoor life seem to merge. Here you become one with nature, deep in the forest of the Hoge Rielen. Ecology is the guiding principle and this is what gives hostel Wadi the Green Key label. Simple but comfortable rooms for up to four people.

www.dehogerielen.be/hostel-wadi

# TO AND ACROSS THE KEMPEN



Several towns and villages in the Kempen are accessible by train. De Lijn buses connect these stations to the countryside. Still, a car can be useful for experiencing the outdoors. The tourist hotspots have parking areas.

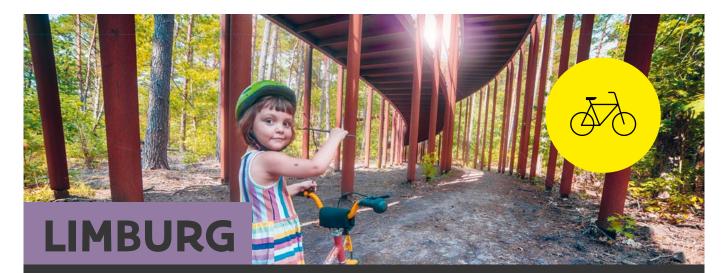
# **DISCOVER MORE**

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For a day in the city, **Antwerp** is easily reached by car, train or bus from Kempen (page 10).







# **A GUEST IN NATURE**

If there is one region known for its hospitality, it is Limburg. Small guests also get a warm welcome here. There is plenty of space to roam in the most beautiful forests and splendid nature parks. Must-do: explore the region on pedals.

Ready for a 'cycling through the water', 'cycling through the trees' or 'cycling through the heather' tour? These bike networks are car-free, so that even the little ones can set out safely. And of course you don't go home without soaking up the atmosphere in the cosy cities or visiting the world's unique (mine) heritage.

We would like to give you some building blocks for an attractive stay in this green and experiencepacked region. Do you want to zoom in on the family-friendly activities in Limburg?

An overview can be found at: www.visitlimburg.be/en/whole-familymet-

# DISCOVER

#### Bilzen Mysteries, Bilzen

In an exciting programme, you take the whole family on a multimedia journey through the beautiful historical site of Alden Biesen. During the day, you can join an interactive quest full of riddles armed with a tablet. In the evening, the tension rises with a light and sound spectacle. Provided in four languages. Free parking for visitors.

www.bilzenmysteries.be

# Cycling through the water, Genk

Cycle together through the water-rich area. On the left and right of the cycle track you can see over the water level. A dazzling experience where you can see, feel and smell the water. www.visitlimburg.be/en/cycling-through-water

## Cycling through the heather

This cycling route takes you straight through the Hoge Kempen National Park. In this park, vast pine forests and endless heathland alternate. The best experience on this route is the nearly 300 m long wooden bicycle bridge, a beacon in the landscape. On top of the bicycle bridge you get a wide view of the natural environment. The fact that small two-wheelers are also welcome is evident from the well-navigable paths, largely traffic-free.

www.visitlimburg.be/en/cycling-through-the-heathland

## Cycling through the trees

On this cycle track in Bosland you can reach higher realms safely. Literally, because you cycle through a double circle up to a height of 10 m between the trees. You see, feel and smell the natural beauty. A unique cycling experience!

www.visitlimburg.be/en/cycling-through-the-trees

#### Gallo Roman Museum, Tongeren

The permanent exhibition 'From Neanderthal to Gallo-Roman' tells the story of man through the different eras, from prehistory to the end of Roman times. The museum is ideal for visiting with young and older children. Archaeologist Bob de Graver takes them on a special audio tour. With humour, he talks about those long gone times. Follow the traces of our ancestors! www.galloromeinsmuseum.be

#### **STEP OUT INTO NATURE**

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#### **Hoge Kempen National Park**

Ninety-nine walking routes and an extensive cycle route network guarantee hours of active enjoyment in this 12,000-hectare nature paradise. Plan a bike ride through the many nodes or follow one of the planned routes in this vast national park. You can explore nature in all its glory just with your family or under the guidance of a guide or ranger. Enjoy the vast pine forests, purple moors and large water features. Do you not know which route to choose? Don't worry. You can start at one of the nine entrance gates with information boards or a tourist reception point. There are a number of welcome points where there is even more to enjoy. This is how you can discover everything about the cosmos at the Genk gateway in the Kattevennen Cosmodrome. Look through a supertelescope and see the sun in a whole new light. Can't you get enough of all that natural beauty? Just stay a few nights in one of the B&B's, hotels, holiday parks or campsites around the National Park. Never before have you been so relaxed when going to sleep.

www.nationaalparkhogekempen.be www.kattevennen.be

# Reigerpad (Heron path) walking route, Hechtel-Eksel and Peer area

Ready for 6 km of outdoor adventure with Komoot? The Reigerpad walking route runs through Resterheide, an alternating area with ponds, pine and deciduous forests and fields. Ideal to explore with the whole family. You can certainly spot a few waterfowl from the viewing tower! Or take the adventurous bridge over the creek. Practical tip: near 't Begijntje, you will find a toilet during the opening hours.

www.komoot.com/reigerpad

#### GrensPark Kempen~broek

GrensPark Kempen~Broek, with its 25,000 ha, is an incredibly varied and vast nature reserve that extends over seven Limburg municipalities (Cranendonck, Weert, Nederweert, Bocholt, Bree, Kinrooi and Maaseik). Hiking and cycling options at the ready! Become a real tracker, go on safari or catch a breath with the whole family in the vast countryside. Do you like wild wilderness? Or would you rather have a buggy-friendly route? It is quite a handy idea to visit one of the reception points. Local hosts and hostesses share their top tips. Or go out with an Explorer and book one of the six original theme activities!

www.kempenbroek.eu/

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#### **De Wijers**

De Wijers is a region in Limburg where the true nature lover feels at home. The ponds are a paradise for many rare plants and animals. You won't soon get bored of the endless walking and cycling fun in this breath-taking setting. Immersed yourself in the land of 1001 ponds. Good for more than 26,000 ha of pond landscape and numerous original picnic locations! Taste and enjoy an idyllic spot in the open countryside, while the little ones can roam freely. Hopefully with some sunshine to enjoy... how wonderful is that?

www.dewijers.be

#### Play forests, Voerstreek

The four play forests in the Voerstreek area promise a lot of green fun: treasure hunts, tastings of fresh fruit and lots of playground equipment, a twigs nest and even a tree house. Be sure to visit the forest in the Gravenvoeren, with all kinds of experience elements. At the visitor centre, parents can borrow a baby carrier for their little ones.

www.voerstreek.be



#### Open Air Museum Bokrijk, Genk

EAn absolute topper in Limburg! In this vast park you will discover the past through routes along historic houses, animal species and crafts. Join a workshop with the whole family on pottery or baking sandwiches. Next to the museum is a cosy restaurant and a huge play area (free access all year round).

www.visitlimburg.be/en/open-air-museum-bokrijk

## Plopsa Indoor Hasselt

This indoor attraction has already won several prizes as a childfriendly family park. And rightly so: a visit gives hours of fun and a total experience for children aged 2 to 10. Climbing, playing, dancing, sliding, flying, etc. it's all possible. And have we already mentioned the boats and bumper cars?

www.plopsaindoorhasselt.be

#### **Teseum**, Tongeren

In the Teseum you can enjoy a state-of-the-art museum experience at any age, via interactive multimedia tours with animations, videos and even a video floor. The youngest undertake a tough rescue operation in the treasury or follow a storytelling tour in the archaeological background. Multimedia tours for young people respond to their living environment through stories and reflections. Identity, faith, time and urban development are some of the themes addressed. An inspiring and surprising experience! <u>www.teseum.be</u>

#### THE LIMBURG MINING PAST

Learn about the region's unique history, which has largely taken place underground.

#### **C-Mine, Genk**

Lively place in the mining buildings of Winterslag. With the C-mine expedition, an indoor children's playground and a cinema, this site has everything you need to make it a fun day with the whole family. The C-mine expedition leads you through an adventurous experience trail that goes down deep and ends on top of the 60 m high shaft block.

www.c-mine.be



#### be-MINE, Beringen

The best preserved mining site in Flanders has a swimming paradise and museum. During the museum game, children learn everything about the miners' profession. Also very special on the site: the brand new and impressive climbing centre Alpamayo. A visit to the Mount Avonturenberg is also a must. Walk to the top together and enjoy the playful climbing and clambering constructions and slides along the way.

www.bemine.be

#### Het Klankenbos – Sound Art in the Open Air, Pelt

A unique collection of outdoor sound art. Sounds good, and it is good too! Listen carefully, sharpen up your ears and follow the sound trail of Tandroor. You set off with a sound map and on the way you come across hidden sound installations. Each of the seven stops is accompanied by a short game with which you can obtain a word. Are you able to collect all the words and turn them into a sentence? Don't forget to sing it out loud! This is the only way to completely unravel the secret of Het Klankenbos. A free children's activity for the whole family (age 5+). www.klankenbos.be

#### **Discover Bruegel**

Spotting colourful paintings. Sounds good! This makes this 4 km long loop-shaped Bruegel walk around Erperheide (Peer) an extra fun experience. Definitely test it out: the six pieces of playground equipment that Bruegel depicted on his famous painting 'The Children's Games'. Suitable for pushchairs. www.visitlimburg.be/what-to-do-bruegel

#### Water parks

Always a success for families: a splash in the water. And certainly in one of the swimming pools Limburg has. Is it sweating in summer temperatures or is there just a chance of a splash of rain? That doesn't stop the water fun! You'll find suitable activities for all ages, from paddling pools to wild water courses. Indoor or outdoor, the choice is yours!

www.visitlimburg.be/kikmolen

www.visitlimburg.be/openluchtzwembad-de-lage-kempen www.visitlimburg.be/zwemparadijs-hengelhoef

#### The Syrup Factory, Borgloon

Let this industrial archaeological site in Borgloon immerse you in the unique process of syrup preparation, from juicy fruit to Loonse syrup. A visit with kids? The fruit experience centre has a brochure ready with playful assignments. On a syrup exploration! www.stroopfabriek.be

#### Abbey site Herkenrode

The Abbey site Herkenrode has a rich history. Would you like to know more about the women who lived in the abbey for 600 years? Discover the many fascinating stories in the experience centre. Don't forget the herb and inspiration garden; you will discover 500 different herbs and herbaceous plants. Curious? Both in the garden and in the experience centre there are discoveries tailored to children's needs.

www.abdijsiteherkenrode.be



# **FOOD AND DRINKS**

#### **Bistro Velinx, Tongeren**

Near the tourist attractions of Tongeren and right on the cycle route network you will find Bistro Velinx. The cosy brasserie has a spacious summer terrace with views of the beautiful ponds, playground and minigolf that are part of the De Motten city park. Children are more than welcome here. The menu offers a wide choice of home-cooked children's dishes.

www.visitlimburg/retrovelinx.be

#### **Brasserie Theater Café**

Atmospheric brasserie located on the Hasseltse Stadspark. The menu offers fish, meat and pastas, as well as dishes tailored to children. In the afternoon you can enjoy a coffee with pancakes, waffles or an ice cream. A sun terrace with a canopy and an outdoor playground complete the experience.

www.theatercafe.be

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#### **De Luysmolen**

The Luysmolen mill has been making grain since 1515, and still does so every second and fourth Sunday of the month. You can also enjoy a delicious breakfast or lunch under the authentic roof trusses. Ideal to relax after a hike or bike ride in GrensPark Kempen~Broek.

www.facebook.com/DeLuysmolen

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#### De Zwaan, Hasselt

What used to be a village café in the cosy Godsheide is now a characterful brasserie. The typical, home-like atmosphere was preserved, making children feel at home straight away. The old part exudes the charm of a brown pub, while the orangery invites you to delicious dining. On the menu? Culinary delights for adults and children alike.

www.visithasselt.be/de-zwaan

#### Gasterij de Commanderie, Sint-Pieters-Voeren

Cosy brasserie on the beautiful Commanderie 7 estate, where fish are traditionally grown. Children can also enjoy the tastiest fish dishes, such as pancakes with trout mousse and fried trout with potatoes. You can throw out a fishing rod yourself in the adjoining fish ponds.

www.voerstreek.be/commanderie7

#### Grill restaurant Burgomaster's House, Lommel

This stylish restaurant is housed in a magnificent villa from 1898. In the more informal section, you and the whole family sit down to delicious meat and fish dishes. From salmon fillet to a crisp piece of guinea fowl fillet, children can also taste everything from the grill.

www.hetburgemeestershuis.be

#### **Hoeve Pietersheim**

Traiteur Jaco, who has been operating it for over 20 years, guarantees delicious food in a beautiful environment. Pietersheim farm is the ideal stopover to enjoy a delicious meal. The farm is located in a quiet area in the middle of Pietersheim nature park in Lanaken. You can enjoy an extensive table there but also enjoy a quick snack. The zoo and playground are free to visit.

www.traiteurjaco.be

#### Paal 26, Beringen

This Grand Café with covered terrace exudes a family-friendly atmosphere. The fun, safe play facilities inside catch the eye straight away and outside the playground beckons. Not only children, but also teenagers are given their own menu. A wide selection of snacks, traditional Flemish dishes and tapas.

www.paal26.be



# ACCOMMODATION

#### Akkermanshof, Bocholt

Ultimate hospitality in this unique guest house with a view of the animals in the stable. Actively help on the farm by milking cows is the highlight for children!

www.akkermanshof.be

#### Botel Ophoven, Kinrooi

Anyone who always wanted to stay overnight on the water is welcome aboard Botel Ophoven. You don't get seasick, because the B&B has a fixed berth on the Maasplas. In addition to boating with an electric boat, you can walk and cycle to your heart's content in the surrounding area. The 'Maxi Cabin' has its own laundry room and can accommodate two additional sailors. Skippers ahoy!

www.botelophoven.be

#### Caelus VII, Tongeren

Quiet and classy hotel in the heart of Tongeren. You can't be more central to visit all the sights. Children under 12 have the option of staying in a separate adjoining room, with their own TV.

www.caelus.be

### Holiday Inn, Hasselt

Renovated four star hotel in the centre of Hasselt. The spacious family rooms offer all the comfort you need for a perfect family holiday. Free overnight stay and meals for children up to 12 years. The hotel has an indoor pool. Plopsa Indoor Hasselt and Bokrijk are just a few kilometres away.

www.hihasselt.com

## Camping Goolderheide, Bocholt

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The recreational lake with sandy beach, climbing wall, slide, play equipment and three swimming pools make Camping Goolderheide a magnificent family park. Spend the night in a Coco tent or hobbit house? It all sounds very tempting for the youngest (accommodation for up to six people).

www.visitlimburg.be/goolderheide.

## Camping Jocomo, Lanaken

Camping Jocomo is an ideal base for exploring the National Park Hoge Kempen. The family campsite also surprises with the best kids-proof activities: outdoor fitness, playground, (rowing) pond and outdoor swimming pool. In the hiker's cabins basic comfort is available for a maximum of four people. www.jocomo.be

#### Landal Mooi Zutendaal Bungalowpark

Beautiful holiday village. Toys, a special sleeping cabin, even children's crockery and a small toilet: the children's bungalows are fully equipped and extremely family friendly. With swimming pool, playgrounds and outdoor adventure forest.

www.landal.be/mooi-zutendaal

#### Warredal, Maaseik

In the Warredal area, children and young people will be as happy as a sandboy. Outdoor adventures have never been such fun. Strolling in the climbing forest, buzzing with the zip line, laser gaming, archery, etc. In the evening, you will crawl under the blankets in a comfortable tree hut in the middle of the Limburg forests. Back-to-nature: that's the principle of the cabins in the Forest Camp. A total experience just a stone's throw from the Hoge Kempen National Park.

www.warredal.be

#### Terhills Resort, Dilsen Stokkem

A luxury resort right next to the Hoge Kempen National Park. Here you can experience nature from stylish cottages on a vast lake where you can also do paddle boarding or sail a boat. The small subtropical swimming pool invites more water fun. Enjoy with all your senses in this family park! You can stay in cottages for 4 to 12 persons.

www.terhills.be

#### Holiday Centre De Lage Kempen, Hechtel-Eksel

A versatile holiday centre in the beautiful Bosland. Various forms of accommodation and recreation in a green, quiet area. Kid's favourite: the heated outdoor pool with spectacular slides. www.delagekempen.be

#### **Center Parcs, Erperheide**

Very family friendly holiday park with comfortable cottages to recharge the batteries at night, after a day of top-notch activities such as swimming, diving, playing, going on safari or fishing. www.centerparcs.be/erperheide

#### **Center Parcs, Vossemeren**

Rest, space and two impressive lakes where water sports enthusiasts wet their chest. The subtropical swimming paradise and the huge Discovery Bay play world promise hours of fun. Choice of cottages or stay in the hotel with all the convenience that goes with it.

www.centerparcs.be/vossemeren

#### Molenheide

Family-friendly bungalow park, ideal for carefree holidays. Very suitable as a base for the amusement parks and the cycling networks in the immediate vicinity. www.molenheide.be



# TO AND ACROSS LIMBURG

# CAR, BUS, TRAIN

The vast nature reserves in Limburg are easily accessible by car and you can often park there for free. In addition, several towns and villages in Limburg are easily accessible by train and/or De Lijn buses.



#### DMC'S AND INCOMINGS

These organisations offer packages tailored to families. You will find their contact details on the websites below:

www.admire.be www.aab-allaboutbelgium.be www.brilliantbelgium.be www.focusflanders.com www.eccolaluna.be www.get-to-belgium.be

₫ <u>www.vostravel.be</u>

For more inspiration about family-friendly excursions, visit

www.riebedebie.be www.herita.be www.komoot.com

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