

## Flanders the heart of Europe



## Getting to Flanders is easy

Brussels is the centre of Europe: London, Paris, Cologne and Amsterdam are all less than two hours away.



Coming from Paris, Lille, Amsterdam, Cologne? See [www.thalys.com](http://www.thalys.com)  
Coming from London? See [www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com)  
Travelling within Flanders? [www.belgianrail.be](http://www.belgianrail.be)  
Belgian Rail offers different specials and passes

Brussels Airport: the main international airport, 20 minutes from Brussels city centre  
Brussels-South Airport Charleroi: 1 hour from Brussels city centre

## Speaking...?

You don't speak Dutch? Don't worry, as Flanders is located in the heart of Europe between the Netherlands, France, Germany and the United Kingdom, people will help you out in English, French, German or even Spanish.



# Flanders State of the Art

## Top 5 \ things to do

### \ BRUSSELS

1



**The Magritte museum.** dedicated to Belgium's famous surrealist painter, is a definite must-see when in Brussels.

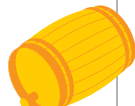
The Art Nouveau style originated in Brussels, thanks to the pioneering architect Victor Horta. Don't miss the **Horta Museum**, the Musical Instruments Museum and Flagey, now a trendy café.

2



Get your chocolate fix in one of the many **chocolate shops** on the Grand Sablon. Pierre Marcolini, Wittamer, Neuhaus... are all vying for your taste buds.

3



Leave modern society behind and step into the world of family-owned **brewery Cantillon**, where the brewing process has not changed since its foundation in 1900.

4



Visit the **Grand Place** and Brussels' most famous peeing boy, **Manneken Pis**.

5



Discover Brussels through the eyes of **Tintin** on one of the comic strip theme walks.

### \ ANTWERP

1



A must-see is the Antwerp Fashion Museum - **MoMu**. Download the 'Fashion in Antwerp' **app** or take the 'Fashion in Antwerp **map**' on your next shopping spree

2



Visit the **Rubens House**, the former house and studio of the Master Painter Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640).

3



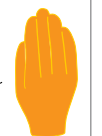
The **MAS** museum is a must-see in Antwerp. It tells the story of Antwerp and its place in the world, and is housed in a brand new building with a spectacular view.

4



Visit the **Red Star Line** Museum, about a legendary shipping company, which carried 2.6 million passengers – mostly from Central and Eastern Europe – from Antwerp to New York and Philadelphia between 1873 and 1934.

5



**Antwerp's Handje** This biscuit in the shape of a hand refers to the legend to which Antwerp is said to owe its name.

### \ BRUGES

1



**The Beguinage**, on the UNESCO World Heritage list, and founded in 1245 by the Countess of Flanders, Margeretha of Constantinople, is now home to an order of Benedictine nuns.

2



Go on a **chocolate tour**. Bruges counts no less than 55 chocolate shops and a chocolate museum.

3



Bruges offers you a **calligraphy** experience with famous masters like Brody Neuschwander and lots of workshops, exhibitions and shops.

4



Climb the 366 stairs all the way to the top of the **Belfry** and enjoy the great view over the Market Square.

5



Learn more about the rich history of Bruges in the **Historium** exhibition, which stimulates your five senses, or embrace the beautiful art of the Flemish Primitives in **Groeninge Museum**.

### \ GHENT

1



Admire the he Ghent Altarpiece, or **Adoration of the Mystic Lamb** in St-Bavo's Cathedral: the world most coveted masterpiece.

2



Take a trip around the city by boat! **Inland waterways** will let you experience Ghent from the water-front.

3



Discover the different architectural types of the contemporary **City Pavilion**. With its elements of Gothic and Renaissance in just one building.

4



Relive history at the 12th-century **Castle of the Counts**. Right outside the Castle of the Counts you'll find the Tientyn Mustard shop where they still pour the mustard right in front of you!

5



Ghent was the first city in Flanders that organized 'Thursday Veggie day' to stimulate people to go meat-free one day a week. Find all the best vegetarian restaurants in the Guide to **Veggie Ghent**.

### \ LEUVEN

1



Marvel at the 15th-century Gothic **Town Hall**.

2



Take a tour of the largest brewery in the world, **AB Inbev Brewery**. Leuven is home to Stella Artois, Leffe and Hoegaarden, but also to the micro-brewery **Domus**.

3



Live the student life and have a beer in one of the 45 pubs on the Old Market Square, known as the **'longest bar' in Europe**.

4



Visit the impressive Gothic and 19th-century collection or one of the contemporary exhibitions of the **Museum M** and enjoy a splendid view of the city from its rooftop.

5



Wander through the Great **Beguinage**, a tranquil town-within-a-town that is on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

### \ MECHELEN

1



Climb up the 538 steps of the **St. Rumbold's Tower**, which offers breathtaking views of the city from its new sky walk.

2



Discover the art of tapestry at **De Wit Royal Tapestry Manufacturers**. You can take a tour every Saturday at 10.30 am without reservation.

3



Eat, sleep and drink at **Het Anker**, famous for its 'award-winning' Gouden Carolus beer

4



**Ursuline Institute and winter garden:** Visitors are invariably mesmerized by the magical play of light and colours of this former Art Nouveau boarding school.

5



**Kazerne Dossin** The museum on this emotionally-charged site tells the story of the **persecution of Jews and gypsies** in our country. The history of the Holocaust is placed in a broader perspective of Human Rights and mass violence.

### \ FLANDERS FIELDS

1



**LAST POST CEREMONY** Every evening at eight o'clock, a deeply moving ceremony takes place under the vast arch of the **Menin Gate** in Ypres.

2



**IN FLANDERS FIELDS MUSEUM** Discover the **personal stories** of ordinary people during **WWI** and climb the **bell tower** for an extraordinary view of what was once a completely devastated region.

3



This is the **largest** Commonwealth War Graves Commission **military cemetery** in continental Europe, with almost 12,000 tombstones.

4



The most well-known **soldiers' club** of the Great War. A brand new tablet application guides the visitor through the museum, garden and house.

5



On display at the cemetery is a moving sculpture, The Grieving Parents, by **Käthe Kollwitz**, who created it out of personal sorrow and love for her 18-year-old son Peter, who was killed in the war.

## Accessible Flanders

Which restaurants offer gluten-free meals? Which bus companies have buses with a wheelchair lift? Which museums have tours or amenities for the visually impaired? Which organized holidays are available for me? What do I need to take into account when travelling by plane? Where can I find accessible holiday accommodation?

The Accessible Travel Info Point, a service of Visit Flanders, provides you with free and independent travel information.

At [www.accessibleflanders.be](http://www.accessibleflanders.be) you will find information about accommodation, transportation, museums and attractions. You will also find holiday reports and tips from travellers with a disability.

## Visit Flanders

**Now** Easy & Free tool to discover Flanders



**OVER 20,000 HOTSPOTS  
IN FLANDERS & BRUSSELS**  
17 categories | 60 themes

Accommodation, transport, sights and attractions, business visits, nature, cycling, walking, horse-riding, sports, excursions, water recreation, eating & drinking, trips, shopping, wellness, events and info desks.

Lost your way in town? Tummy rumbling halfway through your cycle ride? Or just exhausted after a shopping spree and want to find somewhere to spend the night? Your granddad would have used his good old travel book, but you now have your smartphone.

Download the **LAYAR** app and select the **VisitFlandersNOW** layer.

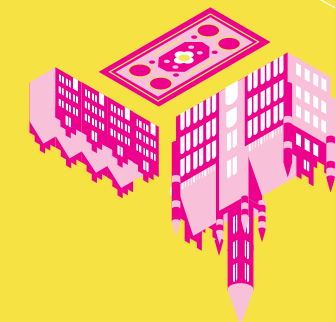
Share your favourite seconds of Flanders on **Vine or Instagram**.

More info at [flandersinseconds.com](http://flandersinseconds.com)



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**twitter** Tweet us at @VISITFLANDERS  
**Instagram** Share your pictures on Instagram with #VISITFLANDERS  
**Spotify** Listen to our **VISITFLANDERS** playlist on Spotify  
**YouTube** Watch us on [YouTube.com/visitflanders](http://YouTube.com/visitflanders)

Flanders  
State of the Art



**Inspiration  
map  
Flanders**

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by



VISITORS' & INNOVATION CENTRE In the brand new visitors' centre, you can wander, quite literally, through the rich history of the world-famous biscuits from West Flanders... [www.destrooper.be](http://www.destrooper.be)



PALM Breweries is a tourist hot spot, where the tour through the brewery is combined with a visit to the famous Brabant draught horses at Diepensteyn Stud Farm. [www.palm.com](http://www.palm.com)

**BOON**

Visit the brewery BOON, one of the few to use the 'turbid-wort' method, the oldest traditional method. [www.boon.be](http://www.boon.be)



RODENBACH Brewery welcomes you in a setting where authentic industrial elements & contemporary design meet. [www.rodenbach.be](http://www.rodenbach.be)



Don't leave Brussels Airport without visiting the Skyshop to indulge yourself with Belgian chocolate. [www.skyshops.be](http://www.skyshops.be)



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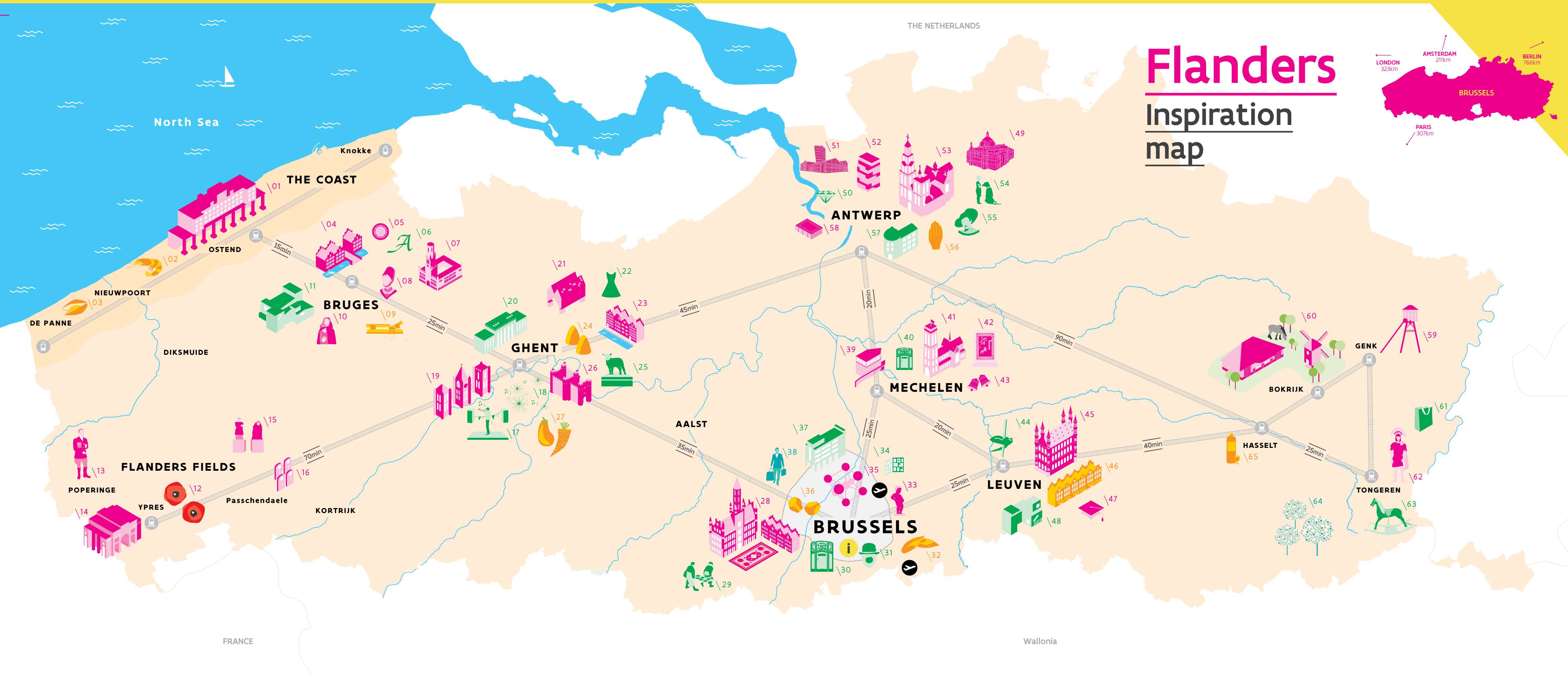
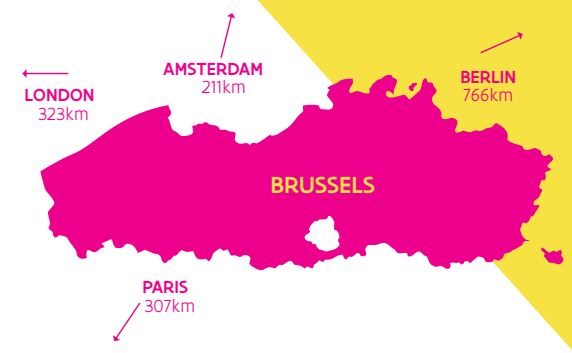
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# Flanders

## Inspiration map



### Flanders State of the Art

Heritage attractions

Arts, Culture & Creative Industry

Food & drink culture

Flanders Visitor Information Centre  
Grasmarkt 61  
1000 Brussels

Frietkot

Chocolate

Beer

Top Gastronomy

Christmas Markets

Festivals

Beguinages

Flanders Visitor Information Centre  
Grasmarkt 61  
1000 Brussels

- THE COAST

01 Venetian & Royal Galleries

An architectural mark on the city of Ostend, established by one of the former kings. Today you can still dine in a setting that exudes the style and splendour of yesteryear.

02 Shrimps

Freshly caught off the coast.

03 Mussels and fries

One of the popular local dishes.

BRUGES

04 Romantic Bruges

The picture-postcard perfect heart of Bruges, surrounded by canals, is the best-preserved example of medieval Flanders. UNESCO designated the Beguinage and the entire city centre as a world heritage site.

05 Lace

Are you interested in lace, embroidery or history in lace? Visit the Lace Centre.

06 Calligraphy

07 Belfry

All bellfries in Flanders are UNESCO World Heritage. Climb the 365 stairs of the Bruges Belfry and enjoy the great view over the Market Square.

08 Flemish Primitives

Groeninge Museum holds a fabulous collection of Flemish masters (including the Flemish Primitives), such as Van der Weyden, Van Eyck, Memling, and Brueghel.

09 Chocolate shooter

Go on a chocolate-tasting tour and find out who taught the Rolling Stones to sniff chocolate. Don't miss the chocolate museum 'Choco-story'.

BRUGES

10 Historium

A state-of-the-art concert hall.

11 Concertgebouw

A state-of-the-art concert hall.

12 In Flanders Fields

Remember the First World War in Flanders Fields

FLANDERS FIELDS

13 Talbot House

14 Menin Gate

15 Vladislo German Military Cemetery

16 Tyne Cot Cemetery

GHENT

17 The Ghent Festivities

10 days of numerous performances of various national and international artists in the Ghent streets and squares.

18 Ghent Festival of Flanders

The streets alongside the waterways overflow with music, animation, art and spectacle.

19 Three Towers

St. Bavo's cathedral, the Belfry and St. Nicholas' church.

20 SMAK

Municipal Museum of Contemporary Art.

21 City Pavilion

A spectacular contemporary building with elements of Gothic and Renaissance.

22 Vintage

Ghent is THE place to score old (designer) clothes, furniture, accessories, ...

23 Gras- & Korenlei

Admire the beautiful buildings on Graslei (Herb Quay) and Korenlei (Corn Quay), both of which are lined with houses dating from the Flemish Renaissance and earlier.

24 Cuberdon

The famous nose-shaped sweets.

25 The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb

Famous polyptych, painted by Jan and Hubert van Eyck in 1432. The 'Just Judges' panel, was mysteriously stolen in 1934.

26 Castle of the Counts

12th-century Castle of the Counts.

27 Veggie

Ghent was the first city in Flanders that organized 'Thursday VeggieDay'!

BRUSSELS

28 Grand Place

The most beautiful square in Europe! is recognized by UNESCO as World Heritage Patrimony. Every other year for two days the Grand Place/Grote Markt is decked out in an amazing flower carpet.

29 Bruegel

Pieter Bruegel, famous Renaissance painter, known for his landscapes and peasant scenes. Don't miss the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels and the Museum Mayer van den Bergh in Antwerp.

30 Art Nouveau

Horta and Henry Van de Velde are our greatest exponents of Art Nouveau architecture. Don't miss the Musical Instruments Museum, the Horta Museum and Flagey, now a trendy café.

31 Magritte Museum

Dedicated to the famous Surrealist painter.

32 Chicory

33 Manneken Pis

The famous statue of the peeing boy.

34 Comics

Discover Brussels through the eyes of Tintin on a comic strip theme walk. Or visit the Belgian Comic Strip Centre.

35 Atomium

A 102-metre-high representation of an iron crystal, built for the World Expo in 1958.

36 Brussels sprouts

37 Wiels Contemporary Art Centre

38 Expat culture

Brussels, home to the European Union and NATO, is the capital of Europe. Hosting lots of expats, Brussels is a melting pot of different cultures. Learn more about it at the Parlamentarium, the visitors' centre of the European Parliament.

31 Magritte Museum

Dedicated to the famous Surrealist painter.

32 Chicory

MECHELEN

39 Kazerne Dossin

Memorial Museum and Documentation Centre on the Holocaust and Human Rights.

40 Ursuline Institute and Winter Garden

One of the best-known Gothic town halls worldwide and Leuven's pride.

41 St. Rumbold's Tower

Climb up the 539 steps of the St. Rumbold's Tower and enjoy breathtaking views of the city from its new sky walk.

42 De Wit Royal Manufacturers

Has been restoring wall tapestries for more than a century and is the leading restorer of tapestries in the world for museums and one of the leading restorers for private customers.

43 Carillons

Students from all over the world come to learn to play church bells in Mechelen. Have a local beer on a terrace while listening to the delightful bell music coming from the sky.

LEUVEN

44 Totem, by Jan Fabre

This giant bug on a steel needle is an example of cutting edge contemporary art from Flanders.

45 Town Hall

One of the best-known Gothic town halls worldwide and Leuven's pride.

46 Longest bar

Live the student life and have a beer in one of the 45 pubs on the Old Market Square, known as the 'longest bar in Europe'.

47 University city

The university is one of the oldest and most important in Europe. Its historic college buildings dominate many of the squares and streets. Students and professors have a special tie with the city.

48 Museum M

The impressive, streamlined museum building hosts a Gothic and 19th-century collection and is also a platform for contemporary art exhibitions.

ANTWERP

49 Central Station

The American magazine Newsweek included the station in its top four of the most beautiful stations worldwide.

50 Diamonds

Antwerp, diamond capital of the world.

51 Red Star Line Museum

The city's newest landmark, with various collections about Antwerp, the port and the world.

52 MAS

The city museum and an extraordinary building in its own right.

53 Cathedral of Our Lady

Admire some of Rubens' most famous paintings in the largest Gothic church in the Low Countries.

54 Nello & Patrasche

Statue of the famous story called 'A Dog of Flanders'.

55 Peter Paul Rubens

Visit the magnificent house & garden of the famous Baroque painter.

56 Antwerps Handje

57 Fashion mecca

MoMu | Fashion Museum, the beating heart of the Antwerp fashion district.

58 Plantin-Moretus

A printing plant and publishing house, associated with the history of the invention and spread of typography.

LIMBURG

59 Mines

Discover the industrial mine history of Limburg at the Mining Museum in Beringen or have a unique experience through the underground mines of the G-mine expedition in Genk.

60 Bokrijk

Open-air museum that brings the past to life.

61 Maasmechelen Village

Designer labels at exceptional prices.

62 Gallo-Roman Museum

Discover the history of humanity from prehistoric times to the fall of the Roman Empire.

63 Antique and flea market

64 Blossom festivities

Each year in April the region of Hesbaye changes into one giant sea of blossoms.

65 National Jenever Museum