



Ypres Ieper Ypern

08

NEDERLANDS | FRANÇAIS | ENGLISH | DEUTSCH



STAD IEPER
uredesstad

de Westhoek
Pure verwondering

Introduction

Previously ...

Ypres is a city with a very rich and varied past. During the Middle Ages Ypres was a flourishing trading centre. In those days Ypres was one of the main Flemish cloth centres next to Bruges and Ghent. The impressive cloth hall bears witness to this golden age. Saint Martin's cathedral and the splendid ramparts also date back to this period.

During the First World War the charming town was reduced to a heap of rubble. Ypres was almost entirely destroyed by four years of senseless violence. The citizens of Ypres rebuilt their city with respect for the past.

Today...

The city is surrounded by a green belt, the ramparts. You can walk along them from the Ammunition Dump past Menin Gate up to the former open swimming pool. Menin Gate is the greatest war monument under which the Last Post is sounded every evening at 8 pm to keep the memory of the many victims alive. The In Flanders Fields Museum tells the story and the memories of WWI by means of personal testimonies and modern techniques. The surroundings of Ypres have a great deal to offer also.

This brochure will help you discover Ypres. It lists the places of interest, sites, museums, events ...

The city map and the map of the surroundings will act as a guideline.

Tourist Office of Ypres

Cloth Hall, Grote Markt 34

8900 Ypres

Tel: 057 239 220

Fax: 057 239 275

E-mail: toerisme@ieper.be

Open: daily from 9 am to 6 pm

(Sundays as from 10 am)

from 15 November through March

from 10 am to 5 pm

closed on 25/12 and 01/01

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Copyright: Tijl Capoen

(1) Cloth Hall, Belfry

The **Cloth Hall** served as a covered sales and storage place for cloth on the (now vaulted) waterway called the leperlee. The construction of the hall was completed in 1304.

During the 1914-18 war the building was completely destroyed except for a section of the tower and a couple of walls. The reconstruction occurred under the guidance of architects J. Coomans (+ 1937) and P.A. Pauwels.

The sturdy **belfry** (70m) projects from the middle of the long face (125 m) of the building. The present spire with its openwork helmet and dragon (1692) was restored to its original form.

Originally, the bottom tower section was used as a treasury. The middle section used to be an arms depot. The "Cat throwing" occurred from this floor. The 49 bells of the carillon are suspended in the "Bellringer's house".

Above the central archway entrance "Donkerpoort", under the coat of arms, is a statue of Our Lady of Thuyne, the patron of Ypres.

The 1st floor of the Cloth Hall can be visited via the In Flanders Fields museum. See heading "Museum".

(2) Town Hall, Nieuwerck

The Nieuwerck was built in 1619 against the east face of the hall and town hall. Resting on a row of pointed arches with large cross windows and a classical church window, this construction still has a fairly Gothic appearance, however, the decorations in the tympanums tend towards the Renaissance.

In the council chamber there is a splendid stain glass window after a design by Arno Brys and draft of murals by Charles Degroux (ca. 1870). This chamber is open to the public during the opening hours of the town hall.

(3) Saint Martin's Cathedral

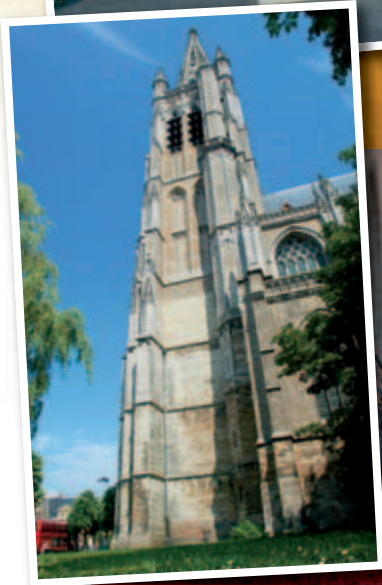
The cathedral is a former Episcopal church in Gothic style reconstructed after the First World War. Bishop Jansenius and Count Robert of Bethune, the "Lion of Flanders" are buried here.

There is also a beautiful side altar with an altarpiece and the miracle statue of Our Lady of Thuyne. The cathedral is open to the public, except during worship. (closed between 12 and 14:00)

The tower is 100 m high and is not open to the public. The Lapidarium contains the old ruins of Saint Martin's deanery. The Monastery building can be visited on the north side of the cathedral.

(4) St George's Memorial Church

This Anglican church was built in 1928-29 following the plans of London architect Sir Reginald Blomfield. This "Memorial Church" holds many reminders of the First World War. Everything down to the furniture was donated by British associations, regiments or individuals. This church is open to the public daily. (April – September from 9:30 till 20:00; October – March from 9:30 till 16:30)





(11) (12)
(8) (13)



(6) Old Seignory Building

15th century. The facade of this building displays a series of medallions representing the seven deadly sins. It was temporarily used as a town hall after the First World War.

(7) Courthouse

On the Grote Markt. Built by Arch. J. Coomans in Flemish Renaissance style. The hospital of Our Blessed Lady was located here before the First World War.

(8) Menin Gate

This well-known British war monument of WW1 was built in classic style after a design by Sir Reginald Blomfield. This gate displays the names of 54,896 soldiers missing in action. Every evening at 8 pm the Last Post is sounded. See also "Last Post" under the heading War and Peace.

(9) Saint James Church

The choir dates back to the 14th century; the lower church is in Late Gothic style. The tower was built in 1636 and was given a stone spire during the reconstruction.

(10) Irish Cross

The Irish Cross was built to commemorate the soldiers originating from the Province of Munster (Ireland), who fell in the Ypres Salient during the First World War.

(11) Saint Peter's Church

A section of the west tower and one of the crossing pillars are all that remain of this originally Romanesque church (12th century).

(12) Wooden House

The wooden house in the Rijselsestraat is a reconstruction of a 16th century house. At the beginning of the 19th century Ypres had more than 90 wooden houses. This house is not open to the public.

(13) Lille Gate

The oldest still standing town gate with Burgundian towers (14th century).

(14) Het Steen

The only preserved Ypres Steen (a stone house in the Middle Ages) was built at the end of the 13th century.

(15) Mergelynck Hotel-Museum

This stately building was built in 1774 after Lille master builder Thomas Gombert. François Mergelynck was the treasurer of Empress Maria-Theresia. See heading "Museums".



(16) Belle Almshouse

This almshouse was one of the many foundations set up to care for the poor around 1276. The buildings were renovated in the 16th and 17th century. The most important items such as paintings and furniture have been gathered in the chapel. See also heading "Museums".

**(17) Butcher's House
(today the Youth Centre or JOC)**

The ground floor was built around 1275. The brick floor (1530) is crowned with 2 decorative stepped gables.

(18) Fish Market – Fish Gate

In the old tollhouse (1899), also called Minckhuisje, the fishmongers had to pay toll. A little further there are two covered stalls. The Fish Gate with Neptune, the god of the sea, was originally built in 1714.

(19) Ypres Reservoir Cemetery

(20) Ramparts Cemetery

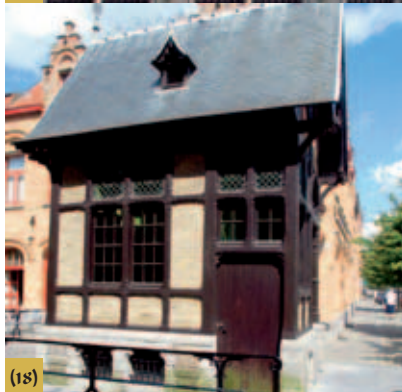
Military Commonwealth cemeteries.

**(21) Commonwealth
War Graves Commission**

The headquarters of the British Department for Military Cemeteries in Northern Europe is located in the Elverdingestraat 82. Visitors can request information on these cemeteries here. T: 057 200 118 – F: 057 218 014.



(17)



(18)

(22) Saint Nicholas Church

This church is a new construction in Romanesque-Byzantine style. There is little to remind you of the former church. The parish has been abolished since 1994 and today the church houses the Municipal Museum of Education. See heading "Museums".

(23) Ramparts War Museum

Located near Lille Gate and the Ramparts Cemetery. Can be accessed via the café "t Klein Rijsel". See heading "Museums".

(24) Guild Houses

On the Oude Veemarkt stand Ypres facades of the 17th century (reconstruction).

(25) Biebuyck House

The Gothic stepped gable dates back to 1544. This house clearly betrays influences of Bruges. The facade survived the First World War virtually unscathed.

(26) Miniature Cloth Hall

Gift of the Kiwanis service club. Executed in bronze. Explanatory text in Braille.

(27) Kazematten (Casemates)

Vaulted rooms in the ramparts. Can only be visited with a guide.

(28) Icehouse

The icehouse is a cylindrical cellar built in the rampart. This isolated space was used to store the blocks of ice that had been sawn out of the moats during frosty spells. The ice was not only used as a preservative but also as an anti-fever agent and as an anaesthetic for medical purposes. Can only be visited with a guide.



(24)



(27)



(20)

(30) Gatekeeper's House

Access to this vaulted room is at street level, to the left of Lille Gate. It is claimed that this is where staff officers of British Commander Plumer prepared the attack of 7 June 1917. That is when 19 depth mines were detonated under the German lines. Can only be visited with a guide.

(31) Sluice Room

A low door, also at street level and to the right of Lille Gate, gives access to the sluice doors thus allowing to control both the lower lying Ieperlee and the rampart moats. The Ieperlee crosses the city from south to north and was navigable until the 15th century; today it is covered. Can only be visited with a guide.

(33) Miniature Menin Gate

Gift of the Kiwanis service club. Executed in bronze. Explanatory text in Braille.

(34) Lion's Tower and Dominican's Tower

Both towers belonged to the mediaeval fortifications. The ground floor and the vaulted access to these towers have been well preserved.

(35) Ammunition Dump

The ammunition dump dates back to 1817 and was built on the foundations of a former French ammunition dump by the army of the Netherlands under William I. The building survived W.W.I, and was restored in 1998. During a guided visit you will be given an audio-visual presentation of the rampart and town history. Can only be visited with a guide.



(30)



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(36) Australian Commemorative Plaque

Set up in 1993 to commemorate the more than 43,000 Australian soldiers who fell in the Ypres Salient during the First World War.



>> A yellow line has been drawn on the city map in this brochure. Follow this yellow line along the main places of interest in the city to obtain a good idea of what Ypres has to offer.

* the number next to the museum refers to its location on the city map

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

IEPER
1914-1918

In Flanders Fields Museum (1)

Practical information:

Cloth Hall, Grote Markt 34
T: 057 239 220 F: 057 239 275
www.inlandersfields.be
flandersfields@ieper.be

Open:

April through 15 November:
daily from 10 am to 6 pm
15 November until March: from Tuesday up to and
including Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm
Ticket sales stop one hour before closing time.
Closed three weeks after the Christmas holidays,
25/12 and 01/01.

Price:

Adults: € 8.00
Children 7-15: € 4.00 - < 7 years old: free
Family rate: € 19
Groups: € 5.50 (minimum 20 pers.)
Schools: € 4.00 (minimum 15 pers.)

Although the theme of the In Flanders Fields Museum is universal it is also rooted in time and space. The permanent exhibition explains the run-up to the First World War, the devastation of the war years and the post-war period.

In the museum visitors are mainly moved by the stories of 'ordinary people'. Voices and faces of real people make the war tangible and personal. Men, women and children, civilians and soldiers, authors and artists... They confront us with their war, our past.

Sound effects and audiovisual evocations of No Man's Land and a field hospital overpower our senses and emotions. More than five hundred original objects, authentic weapons and enlightening scale models make the war painfully tangible. Interactive kiosks with touchscreens allow you to explore certain themes. The historic and object kiosks offer interesting background information about specific events and items. The personal kiosks on which every visitor can follow the ups and downs of a unique character are highly recommended.

From 1st of May till the 7th of September: Temporary Exhibition MAN CULTURE WAR

Multicultural aspects of the First World War
The temporary exhibition MAN CULTURE WAR offers a panorama of the various ethnic groups, nationalities and cultures present in the Westhoek during the First World War. All in all there are more than fifty! MAN CULTURE WAR also looks into how these people viewed issues such as war and peace, life and death... In addition to numerous photos, films, military-historic items, graves and witness statements, MAN CULTURE WAR also exhibits unique ethnographic artefacts from various Belgian and foreign collections.

Ticket Price exhibition only:

Adults: € 5,00
Children: € 2,50
Family rate: € 12,50





Merghelynck Museum (15)

Practical information:

A. Merghelynckstraat 2
T : 057 239 220 F: 057 239 220
tourisme@ieper.be

Open:

Throughout the year this museum can only be visited by groups accompanied by a guide. Every visit must be requested through Tourism Ypres well in advance.

Price:

€ 1.25 pp; guide: € 50 (max. 25 pers./guide)

The Arthur Merghelynck Hotel Museum is at just a stone's throw from the Grote Markt. It is established in a 'mansion' of 1774, designed by Lille architect Thomas Gombert in a transition style from Rococo to Neo-Classicism. After the First World War this mansion was faithfully rebuilt. A great deal of the contents of the house could be saved in time. This museum is probably Ypres least known but most special museum. This is where Arthur Merghelynck opened his private museum dedicated to the lifestyle of the nobility in the 18th century in 1894. Excessively decorated stylish rooms succeed one another: a boudoir, a 'golden drawing room', but also intimate rooms like the bedrooms, the private drawing room or the Flemish kitchen. Everything is presented in such a way that you believe the rightful owners have just left the house for a couple of minutes. The archaeological collection of the city of Ypres is housed in the coach houses: 800 objects of the middle ages illustrate the ups and downs of the cloth industry.

Belle Almshouse Museum (16)

Practical information:

Rijselestraat 38.
T: 057 239 450
Stedelijke.musea@ieper.be

Open:

daily from 10 am to 12.30 noon and from 2 pm to 6 pm

Closed from 1 November to 31 March and on Mondays

Price:

€ 2.50, free with an entrance ticket to the In Flanders Fields Museum

The Bell Almshouse Museum exhibits the most beautiful items from the rich collection of the Ypres Public Social Welfare Centre (O.C.M.W.). Make sure you do not miss the painting of the Blessed Virgin. It was painted in 1420 and is one of the oldest paintings in Belgium. The museum also houses some remarkable items of furniture such as a unique linen press of the 17th century and the only tapestry owned by Ypres.

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(16)



Municipal Museum of Education (22)

Practical information:

Saint Nicholas Church, G. de Stuersstraat 6A.
T: 057 239 450
Stedelijke.musea@ieper.be

Open:

daily from 10 am to 12.30 noon and from 2 pm to 5pm (from April through October until 6 pm)

Closed on Monday, 25/12, 01/01

Price:

€ 2.50 pp, free with an entrance ticket to the In Flanders Fields Museum

This museum is housed in the former Saint Nicholas church, a rarity in Flanders. The Museum of Education outlines the history of education in Flanders from the middle ages to the present day. This is achieved by using miscellaneous and even extremely rare objects: copy books and books, manuals, wall charts, didactic material, original photos... The two reconstructions of classrooms of 1700 and 1930 are of particular interest.



Municipal Museum (32)

Practical information:

leperleestraat 31.

T: 057 239 450

Stedelijke.musea@ieper.be

Open:

daily from 10 am to 12.30 noon and from 2 pm to 5pm (from April through October until 6 pm)

Closed on Monday, 25/12, 01/01

Price:

€ 2.50 pp, free with an entrance ticket to the In Flanders Fields Museum

In the former Saint John's Almshouse the history of the age-old city of Ypres is displayed by means of old maps, prints, paintings, photos and pictures. Overview of Fine Arts in Ypres from the 16th century to the present day: paintings, sculptures, silverware, tin, showpiece furniture and porcelain. Splendid collection of pastels by Louise Dehem (1866-1922).

!!! For school group visits the Municipal Museum Department has published a brochure with the educational offer of the five Ypres museums for secondary and primary education. Available from the Tourist Office.



(32)



(22)

From December 2007 till 1st of June 2008: Twilight over Ypres.

Ypres as seen by the photographers Léontine, Maurice and Robert Antony (1893-1930)

From 28 of May till 30th of September: Combined exhibition Arthur Merghelynck 1908 – 2008

Municipal Museum Ypres
+ Castle of Beauvoorde



Ramparts War Museum (23)

Practical information:

Rijselsestraat 208.

T + F: 057 200 236

Open:

10.30 am through 8 pm. Closed on Wednesday.

The museum exhibits lifelike decors with original material and archaeological finds. You can walk over wooden duckboards in the reconstruction of trenches and tunnels. See, hear and experience the horror and madness of the First World War!

Poorters als gastheer (Burghers as host)

Practical information:

Kauwekijnstraat 5.

T : 057 334 965

www.poortersalsgastheer.be

poorters@poortersalsgastheer.be

Open:

This site can only be visited in the company of a guide for groups between 10 and 25 persons. Please reserve group visits 2 weeks in advance. Individual visits only on request.

Six terracotta scale models show the evolution of Ypres: from agrarian settlement to a lively city. Household goods and beautifully decorated tiles tell you about daily life in the 15th and 16th century. There are also ruins from the First World War. This exploratory expedition ends in the "Steegoed idee", a ceramics store.

Hill 62 - Sanctuary Wood Museum

Practical information:

Canadalaan 26, 8902 Zillebeke.

T: 057 466 373

Open:

Daily from 10 am to 6 pm.

Price:

€7.50 pp

These grounds have been preserved as they were in 1918 with trenches, vaulted passageways, weapons, ammunition, slides and photos.

Hooge Crater Museum

Practical information:

Meenseweg 467, 8902 Zillebeke.

T: 057 468 446 – F: 057 468 712

hoogecrater@skynet.be

Open:

weekend from 10 am to 6 pm, during the week only on request

Price:

€ 3,00 pp

In addition to traditional photos, weapons and equipment this museum has been exhibiting life-size reconstructions of war scenes since 1994. A stain glass window represents the blazing belfry tower on 22 November 1914.



By car... In Flanders Fields Route

The In Flanders Fields route is approximately 80 km long and is the ideal trip for exploring a number of major First World War sites and some other highlights in the region in one day. The object-oriented route starts from Ypres and takes you along secondary roads: important stops are Essex Farm in Boezinge with the John McCrae site, the Langemark Soldatenfriedhof and the Canadien in Langemark, the Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917 of Zonnebeke, the French cemetery Saint-Charles de Poutze, Messines with its museum and peace carillon, Kemmel and Poperinge with Talbot House and the Hop Museum.

This map is available from the Tourist Office.

A number of private organisations offer daily mini-bus trips with an English guide. For more information: www.ieper.be

By cycle...

Cycling network of the Westhoek

A cycling network is a series of cycling paths signposted in both directions. There is a panel at each intersection stating the intersection number and the direction indicator to the next intersections. The Westhoek cycling network offers almost 1,000 kilometres of cycling enjoyment in one of the most beautiful touristic regions of Flanders. There is a map for the North and one for the South of the Westhoek, which also includes Ypres. By means of the **Ypres Salient map** based on the intersections you will discover the landscape of the Ypres Salient on your cycle. These maps are available from the Tourist Office

Peace route

This 45 km long and entirely signposted cycling route starts and ends in Ypres.

The route follows the Ypres Salient, the arched front line around Ypres, and first takes you to the provincial domain De Palingbeek and the sites of Hill 60 and Hill 62. You then proceed to Zonnebeke and the British Tyne Cot Cemetery. You then go on to Langemark and to the German Soldatenfriedhof. The return ride takes you along Essex Farm Cemetery. This is where John McCrae wrote his war poem "In Flanders Fields".

This map is available from the Tourist Office.

Cycle rentals

Cycles can be rented in the city camping, the 'Jeugdstadion' camping, open from March through mid-November.

Jeugdstadion, Bolwerkstraat 1

T: 057 217 282 – F: 057 216 121

www.jeugdstadion.be

info@jeugdstadion.be

+ at the station for train passengers

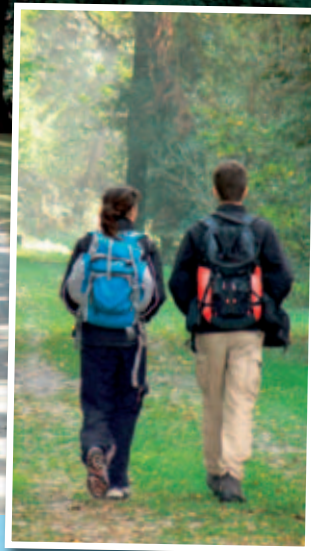
On foot...

Ramparts

The ramparts of Ypres are the best preserved in our country. Their story started ten centuries ago when the town originated on the banks of the Ieperlee. Initially, the ramparts were little more than an earth wall with moats. Later stone walls and towers were added. Later still they developed into a complex structure with bastions, advanced redoubts, moats and walls. The signposted route is 2.6 km long and will lead you along a quiet 90 minute walk. Along the route 23 information panels provide information on the various facets of Vauban's ramparts. Free folder available from the Tourist Office.

Map of the surroundings of Ypres

This walking map offers four different walks in and around Ypres. The ramparts route, the green outskirts, the northern city border with the lost fortification and the historic inner city. The four routes are closely linked and are easy to combine. The main sites and monuments of each route are indicated: 101 enthralling spots with an explanatory word. This map is available from the Tourist Office





WWI

From October 1914 until October 1918 the battlefield was barely a few kilometres away from the centre. The trenches had been dug from North to South to form an arc around Ypres. In that famous Ypres Salient no fewer than five bloody battles were fought.

In the nineteen twenties more than 150 military cemeteries were built in and around the city and monuments were erected, Menin Gate being the most important. These monuments and cemeteries as well as the rebuilt houses, some of which were faithfully restored, still remind us today of the senselessness of war and of this most tragic period in the history of Ypres.

War and Peace Initiative

The Provincial Government of West Flanders has long been convinced that it is paramount to preserve the numerous important visible and invisible traces of this world war in the Westhoek. This is why the Province in cooperation with a number of partners set up War and Peace in the Westhoek. This initiative coordinates, stimulates and monitors the preservation and perception of the remembrance of the First World War.

They also publish the brochure **'The Great War in the Westhoek'** in consultation with Westtoer. This handy pocketbook gives an extensive overview of what can still be visited in the Westhoek in relation to the First World War. Can be obtained from the Tourist Office.

Documentation Centre In Flanders Fields

The documentation centre owns more than 6000 books on the First World War, 1000 topographic maps, an extensive photographic library, hundreds of newspapers and magazines from the period 1914-1918 and many original documents, such as letters and diaries.

The documentation centre is open on Wednesdays from 8 am to 12 noon and from 1 pm to 5 pm and by appointment.

Janseniustraat 9, Ypres. T: 057 239 450 – F: 057 239 459 – E: stedelijke.musea@ieper.be

Yorkshire Trench & Dug – Out

In 1997 the construction of a new industrial estate along the Ypres –Yser canal was started. During the works many remnants of the Great War surfaced. This is where the In Flanders Fields Museum (together with The Diggers) restored Yorkshire Trench to the original route of the British trench. The entrance and exit of the 'deep dug-out' of 1917 can also be seen.

In the In Flanders Fields Museum you can view a film of the exposure, a scale model as well as some original items from Yorkshire Trench.

Always open, to be reached via the Oostkaai – Bargiestraat

Canal Dyke - John Mc Crae Site

Along the Ypres-Yser canal lies the well known site 'Essex Farm Cemetery' where John McCrae wrote his world famous poem 'In Flanders Fields' near this advanced dressing station on 2 and 3 May 1915. Today next to the military cemetery you can visit the fortified shelters in the canal banks as well as the actual canal dyke. Information panels and a foot-path guide you through this valuable site. Fifteen year old Joe Strudwick was also buried in this place, he was one of the youngest British casualties.

The Last Post

Every evening at 8 pm precisely the "Last Post" has been sounded since 1928 under the imposing arches of Menin Gate. This memorial shaped like a Roman triumphal arch displays the names of 54,896 soldiers of the then British empire who went missing in action. This memorial lists the names from the beginning of the war until 15 August 1917. The soldiers who went missing after 16 August 1917 until the end of the war, are mentioned on panels at Tyne Cot Cemetery in Passchendaele. There are 34,984 of them.

Menin Gate was built in the location of the old mediaeval gate. During the First World War the British troops marched through this "gate" to defend the "Ypres Salient". This salient was a pocket in the straight front line approximately 25 by 15 km. After the First World War grateful citizens set up the Last Post Association. The former enemies fell in almost as great numbers and are also involved in this solemn ceremony.

From 1 January through 31 December and in all weather conditions the buglers of the Last Post Association sound the "Last Post". On 11 November at 11 am a special Last Post ceremony takes place to commemorate the Armistice. More information: www.lastpost.be

Military Cemeteries

There are no **Belgian** or **German** cemeteries on the territory of Ypres. The largest Belgian cemetery in the area is located in Houthulst. The German cemeteries can be found in Langemark (including students), Vladslo (sculpture group Käthe Kollwitz), Hooglede and Menin-Wevelgem.

St. Charles de Potyze is a **French** military cemetery along the Zonnebeekseweg where more than 4000 French soldiers were laid to rest.

There are some 75 **Commonwealth** war cemeteries on Ypres territory.

Two can be reached on foot from the Grote Markt namely Ypres Reservoir Cemetery (19) and Remparts Cemetery (20). In the immediate vicinity of the centre there is Bedford House Cemetery (Rijsselseweg) or Menin Road South Military Cemetery (Meenseweg).

For more information about these cemeteries contact the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Elverdingestraat 82, Ypres. www.cwgc.org

Guidebooks and maps of the military cemeteries, monuments and the like are on sale in the shop of the Regional Visitors' Centre.



Bellewaerde Park

Meenseweg 497 – 8902 Ieper (Zillebeke)
Tel: 057 468 686 Fax: 057 467 595
www.bellewaerdepark.be

Bellewaerde Park, is a unique combination of a lively theme park and surprising animal park in a green setting. On land, water and in the air: float above the fountains in El Volador, brave the splash of the Niagara while the kids romp around in the KidsPark. Fiesta at the Mexico Plaza, discover exotic animals in the jungle and afterwards experience the loopings of the Boomerang! An unforgettable day for young and old!

Provincial Domain De Palingbeek Regional Landscape

This domain thanks its existence to a Ypres dream, i.e. to build a canal that would connect the Ieperlee canal to the Leie at Comines. However, the hill ridge near Hollebeke would ruin this plan. Neither tunnels nor deep excavations (trench cut through the ridge) withstood the whims of the layered soil, sand layers and clay layers. The project was finally aborted in 1913.

However, all this hard labour did produce something: the 3 km long trench through the ridge became a splendid natural landscape. As from 1970 it was arranged as a provincial walking domain. The Provincial domain De Palingbeek currently comprises over 200 ha of varied woods and 40 ha of small-scale, open landscape.

The abundance of biotopes guarantees a rich fauna and flora. Furthermore, the domain provides well-tended, signposted and extensive walking paths, information panels, shelters and sanitary facilities, a cafeteria, playing fields and angling lakes. Ideal for a splendid family day out! There are two large car parks.

Along the north-westerly edge of the domain (Vaartstraat 7, Zillebeke) a new visitors' centre for the Palingbeek and the Ypres Salient was opened in 2005. This centre is definitely worth a visit together with the environmental farm. The domain is managed by the department Regional Landscape West Flemish Hills.

Opening hours: every Sunday from 2 pm to 5 pm, in the summer until 6 pm, and always by appointment.

T: 057 230 840 or 057 230 857



Golf

Ypres Open Golf

A. Dehemlaan 24, 8900 Ieper.
T: 057 216 688 | F : 057 218 210
info@ieperopengolf.be | www.ieperopengolf.be
Everyone is welcome in hospitable surroundings and at affordable prices.

Golf club De Palingbeek

Eekhofstraat 14, Hollebeke.
T: 057 200 436 | F: 057 218 958
golfpalingbeek@skynet.be
www.golfpalingbeek.com
Provided you are a member of the Belgian or a foreign golf federation you may play here subject to a green fee (ticket for 1 day or 18 holes).

Miniature golf

Information and reservation:
Jeugdstadion, Leopold III-laan 16, Ieper.
T: 057 217 282 | F: 057 216 121
info@jeugdstadion.be | www.jeugdstadion.be

Swimming

Sportcentrum Ieper
Leopold III-laan 18 – 8900 Ieper
Tel. 057 239 400 | Fax: 057 239 409
sportdienst@ieper.be
The municipal swimming pool has one large and two small pools. There are two slides, a warm air wall and a sunbathing area for extra swimming enjoyment.

Ypres beach

Lange Torhoutstraat 54, 8900 Ieper
Tel: 0477 641 819 and 0472 497 794
During the summer months you can also sunbathe in Ypres! The former outdoor swimming pool has been converted into a beach with ponds.

Rowing

Row a boat on one of the lakes or on the moats as an enjoyable alternative for discovering Ypres. Boat rentals as from 1 April through to the end of October. Rowing boats may be rented from:

- 't Eilandje, for a rowing trip on the moats, as from 10.30 am.
T: 057 200 528. Closed on Tuesday.
- Dikkebus lake (36 ha.) as from 9.30 am
T: 057 200 085
- Zillebeke lake (28 ha.) as from 8 am
T: 057 200 086



There is always something to do in Ypres.
Below is a list of events scheduled for 2008.

Every evening at 8 pm sounding of the Last Post
under Menin Gate

Every Saturday morning market
on the Grote Markt or Esplanadeplein

Every Tuesday in July and August:
Musical Tuesdays

live performances on the Market Square

15/02 – 24/02: Cat Fair

24/03: Flower Market on the Market Square

05/04: International Street Animation Festival

13/04: Cultural Heritage Day

02/05 – 05/05: 100 km of Ypres:

International Three-day Walking Tour

08/05-11/05: Celebration weekend

around the Ypres Peace Price

18/05: Holy Blood Procession in Voormezele

21/06 – 22/06: Mad Days

fair, Beach Volleyball

26/06 – 28/06: Ypres Westhoek Rally

02/08 – 12/08: Thuyn day fair

16/08: City Festival

23/08: Closing day of the Four Days of the Yser

international walking tour

13/09 – 14/09: Tooghe days

Sales days in Ypres

14/09: Open Monument Day

14/09: Straight across Ypres (city run)

finish of the In Flanders Fields Marathon

26/10: Happening in the Cloth Hall

50 years Ypres Tourist Office

+ 10 years In Flanders Fields Museum

11/11: Commemoration of the Armistice

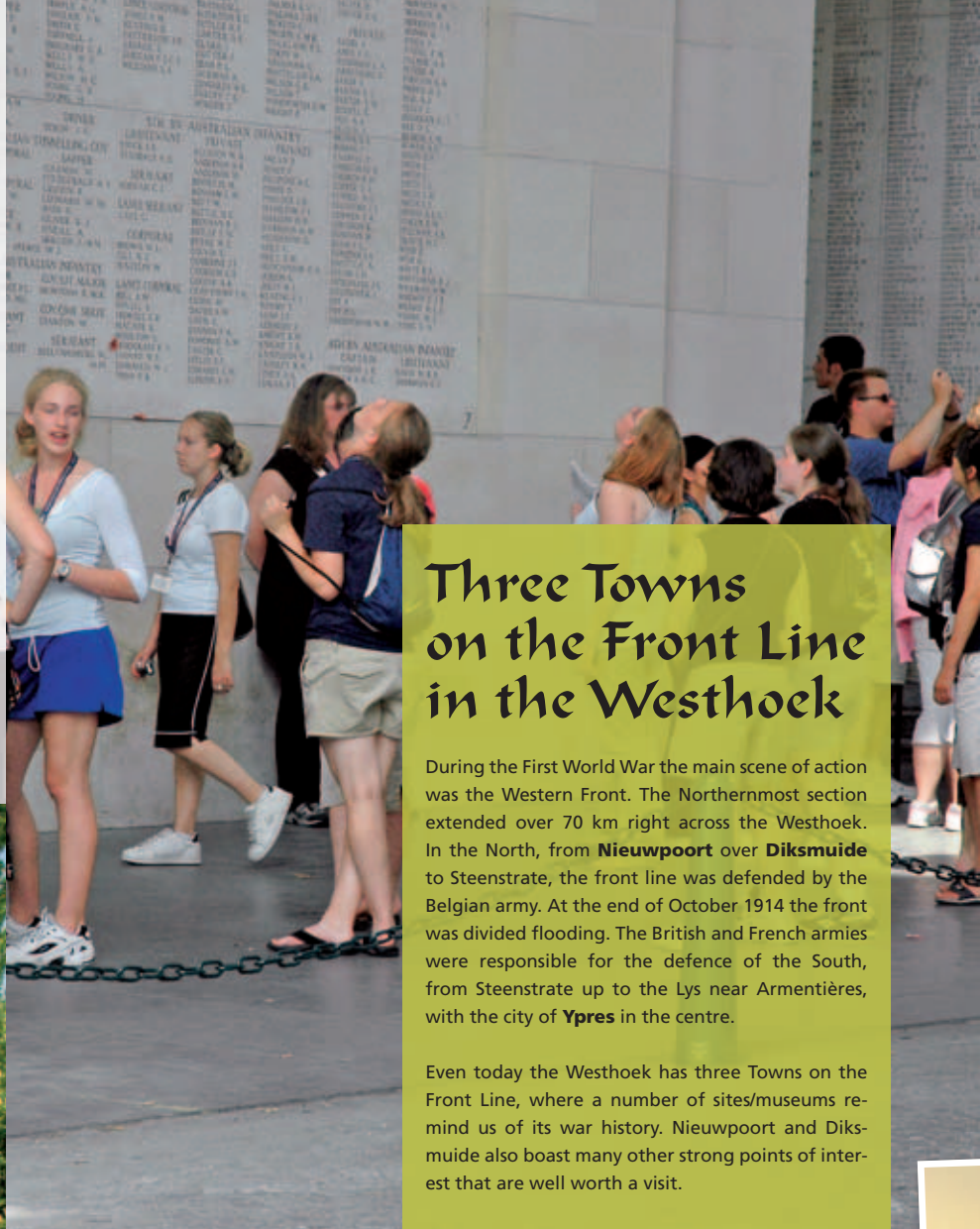
+ concert in Saint Martin's Cathedral

05/12 – 25/12: Christmas Market on the Grote Markt

07/12 – 06/01/09: Ice rink on the Grote Markt



As a group you can reserve the services of a guide for a city walk, a tour or a museum visit. Please submit your reservation to the Tourist Office at least 2 weeks in advance. A guide costs 50 Euro for 2 hours and 25 Euro per additional hour.



Three Towns on the Front Line in the Westhoek

During the First World War the main scene of action was the Western Front. The Northernmost section extended over 70 km right across the Westhoek. In the North, from **Nieuwpoort** over **Diksmuide** to Steenstrate, the front line was defended by the Belgian army. At the end of October 1914 the front was divided flooding. The British and French armies were responsible for the defence of the South, from Steenstrate up to the Lys near Armentières, with the city of **Ypres** in the centre.

Even today the Westhoek has three Towns on the Front Line, where a number of sites/museums remind us of its war history. Nieuwpoort and Diksmuide also boast many other strong points of interest that are well worth a visit.



Enjoy Diksmuide in an instructive, lively and interesting way ...



For many years cloth weaving and butter products enriched the town of Diksmuide on the Yser. This is why you will discover many picturesque corners and an astonishing heritage during the Stadslinkwandeling (Town Link Walk) through the old historic centre, like the market with its Manneke uit de Mane (Man from the Moon) and the Town Hall, the Beguinage, the Fish Market, Saint Nicholas Church, the Small and Large Dyke, the old Flour Mills and the marina Portus Dixmuda.

Many monuments, cemeteries and trenches remind us of the First World War 1914-1918. In the Dodengang (the Trench of Death or Mousetrap) and the Yser Tower the front is again brought to life and the sculpture of "The Mourning Parents" conveys a message of peace. In the immediate vicinity endless panoramic views invite you to walk, cycle or take a trip on the Yser. You will discover charming village centres, open spaces and protected nature reserves. The healthy air obviously has a calming effect, however, bons vivants will soon discover a regional specialty or will enjoy the great atmosphere, particularly if they attend one of the many events.

In and around Diksmuide you will find 'rural' accommodation as well as accommodation in the pleasant town centre, at a camping or in a star hotel, on the farm or in regional bed and breakfast facilities.

In short: Diksmuide, at only 15 km from the dunes and the North Sea beaches, guarantees "instructive enjoyment" during a day trip or short holiday.

Info:

Toerisme Diksmuide

Grote Markt 28

8600 Diksmuide

Tel. 051 51 91 46

www.diksmuide.be – toerisme@stad.diksmuide.be



Nieuwpoort: A perfect set of triplets

3 parts, 3 different characters, 3 totally different views and yet together they form one town: Nieuwpoort.

First, there is the town centre with its mediaeval character and its tormented history. After 1918 the town was rebuilt according to the old street layout. The lock complex De Ganzenpoot, the King Albert I monument, the Town Hall are just a few silent witnesses of this glorious past.

The fish market and its surroundings form the gastronomic centre of the town. Taste the sea bass in one of the fish stores or restaurants; this is a local speciality. Or taste the fresh shrimps or our first Belgian mussels that are cultivated off the coast of Nieuwpoort, and you will readily understand why we write Fresh Fish in capitals.

Nieuwpoort-stad remains connected to the sea and to the lively Nieuwpoort-bad through the Yser estuary, which is its umbilical cord. Arguably the most beautiful cycling and walking route on the whole coast was recently built along this 3 km connection, offering a view of the enormous marina and of the nature reserve 'De IJzermonding'.

Now we come to the third triplet. At just a few kilometres from the busy coastal resort discover the charm of two small polder villages: Ramskapelle and Sint-Joris. Two villages that only seem to exist for walking, cycling and enjoying the tranquillity of its green landscape.

By the way, did you know that due to its location on the Yser estuary Nieuwpoort enjoys a microclimate with more hours of sunshine than the rest of the coast?

Info:

Toerisme Nieuwpoort

Marktpllein 7

8620 Nieuwpoort

Tel. 058 22 44 44

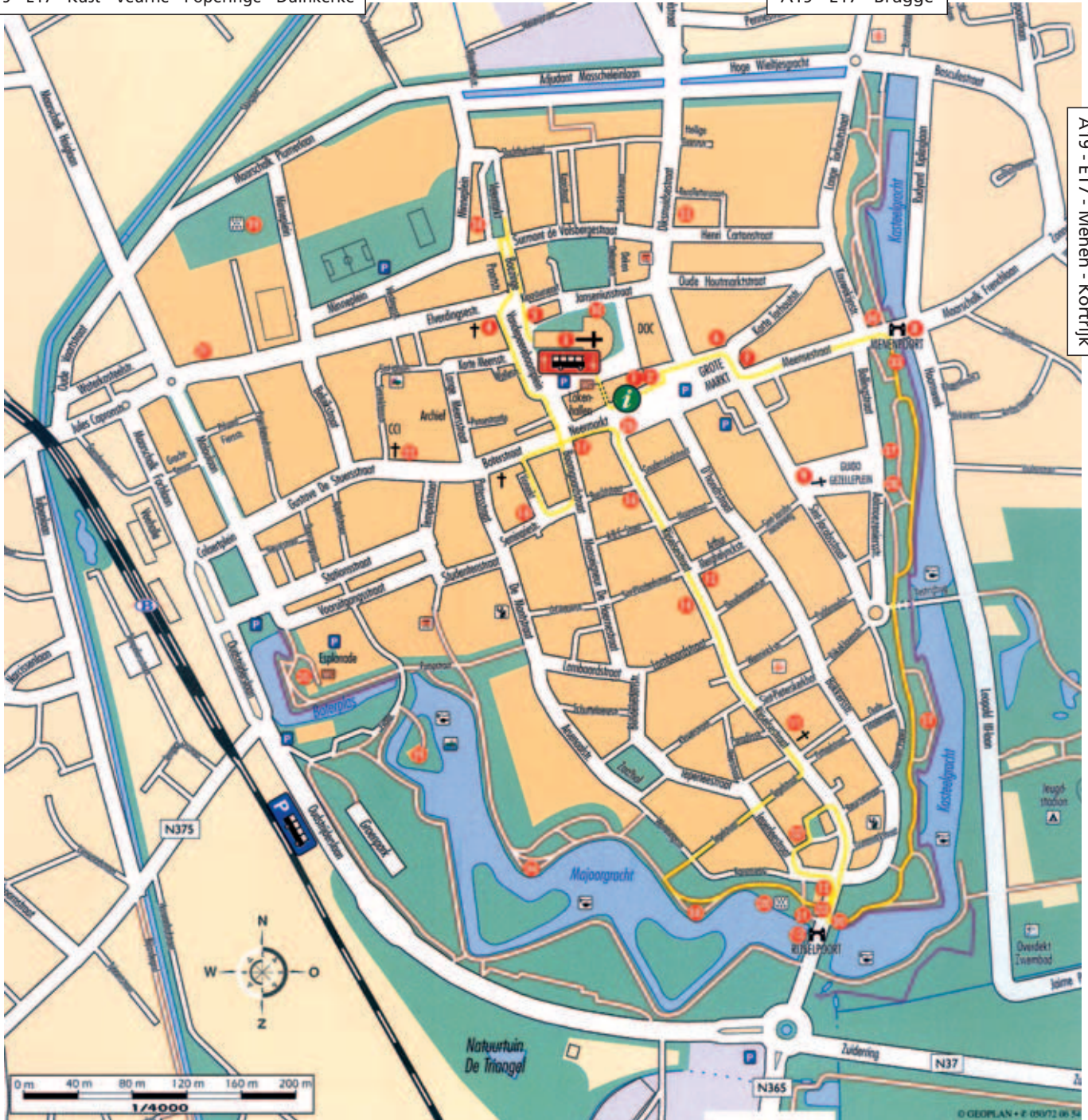
www.nieuwpoort.be – info@nieuwpoort.be



A19 - E17 - Kust - Veurne - Poperinge - Duinkerke

A19 - E17 - Brugge

A19 - E17 - Menen - Kortrijk



- 1 Cloth Hall – Belfry – Tourist Office – In Flanders Fields Museum

- 2 Town Hall

- 3 St. Martin's Cathedral

- 4 St. George's Memorial Church

- 5 Cloister Gate – Theatre

- 6 Viscounty Building

- 7 Court

- 8 Menin Gate

- 9 St. James' Church

- 10 Munster War Memorial

- 11 St. Peter's Church

- 12 Wooden gable

- 13 Lille Gate

- 14 Stone House

- 15 Merghelynck Museum

- 16 Alms House Belle Museum

- 17 Old Meat House

- 18 Old Fish Market

- 19 Ypres Reservoir Cemetery

- 20 Ramparts Cemetery

- 21 Commonwealth War Graves Commission

- 22 St. Nicolas' Church – School Museum

- 23 Ramparts War Museum

- 24 Guild Houses

- 25 Biebuyck House

- 26 Cloth Hall model (1/100)

- 27 Casemates

- 28 Old ice-cellar

- 29 The Island

- 30 Gatekeeper's House

- 31 Lock – Chamber

- 32 Municipal Museum

- 33 Menin Gate model

- 34 Medieval Towers

- 35 Ammunition Dump

- 36 Australian Memorial

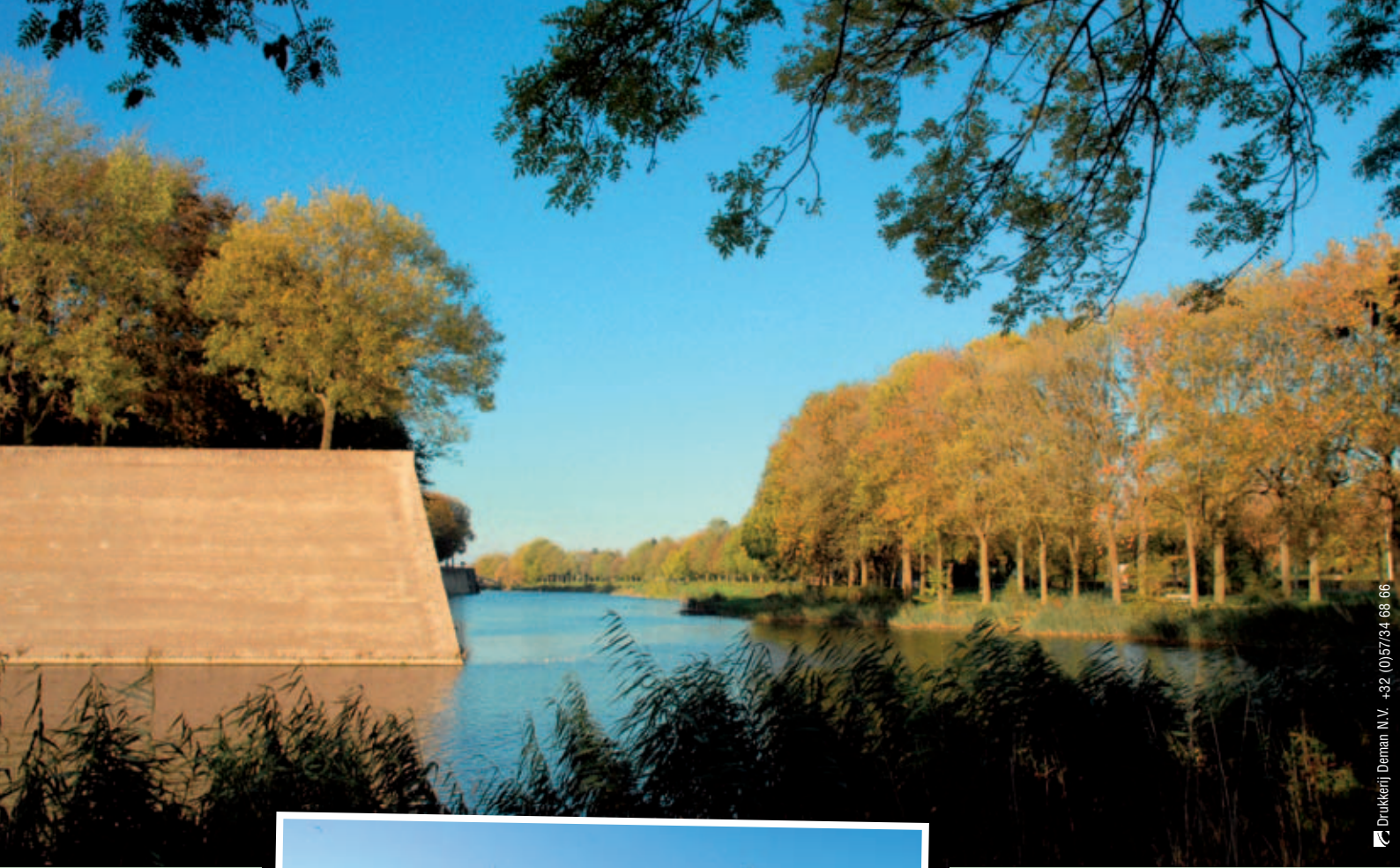
NOORDZEE

↑ BRUGGE OOSTENDE



LILLE PARIS

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