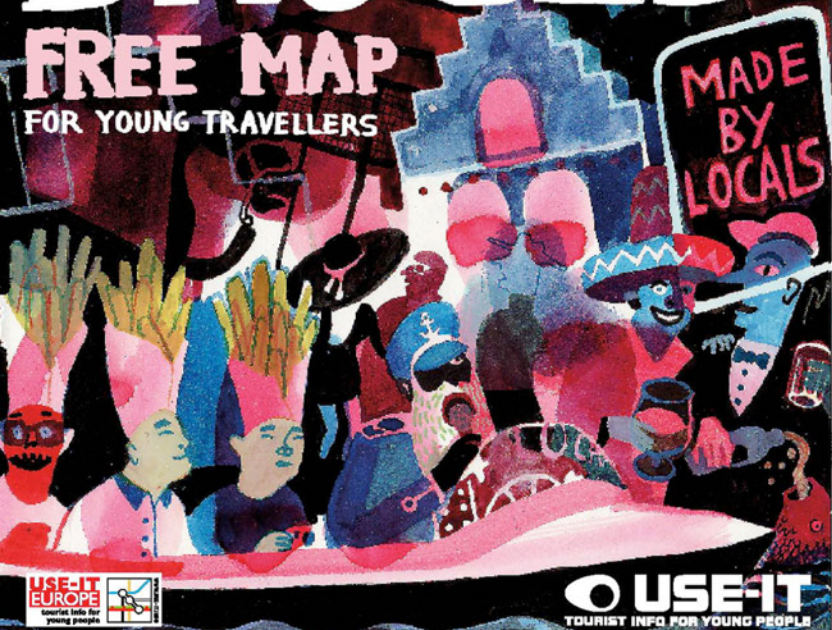


# BRUGES

2009 EDITION  
NOT FOR SALE

FREE MAP  
FOR YOUNG TRAVELLERS



# ACT LIKE A LOCAL

BRUGES HAS 3 MILLION VISITORS A YEAR. ALMOST ONE MILLION OF THEM TAKE A TOURIST BOAT, AND MANY ALSO DO THE HORSE CARRIAGE. NO WONDER IT'S THE MOST TOURISTY PLACE IN BELGIUM. BRUGES IS CALLED "THE VENICE OF THE NORTH", THERE ARE SOME SWANS ON THE WATER, AND THERE'S A MICHELANGELO STATUE IN A CHURCH. DO YOU CARE? OF COURSE NOT. VERY WELL, THEN START ACTING LIKE A LOCAL!

- \* Use your bicycle to run over tourists. It's what we do as well. Kamikaze bicycles are for rent all over town.
- \* Don't buy expensive boxes of little chocolates (pralines), but buy big packs in any supermarket. They're cheaper, and they're the real deal.
- \* On your face! Most people in Belgium say "santé" when they toast, but around here "up je mulle!" does the trick. It literally means "(I toast) on your face".
- \* West-Flemish, the dialect in Bruges, is the most powerful dialect around. To summarize it: just pronounce only half of the sounds. For example, "pannenkoek met chocolade" should be pronounced as "panne'oe'e mè cho'ola". Ask help from any real local.
- \* Do not salute people with a stressy "yo!", but go for "yuuu" or "yooo" while pointing your finger at the person you're greeting. Don't wink or whistle though.
- \* Take a chill pill. The Bruges population is really relaxed. The best place to enjoy life horizontally is in our pretty parks.
- \* Always complain that Bruges is dead. There is no graffiti, no skating, no good shopping area, and there is no decent music club in the city centre. And from May to September, night shops don't sell alcohol after 23:00.
- \* If somebody else complains about the same things, shout "kêrel, oed je mulle!" (= shut up) and say that it's not true. There are lots of great bars! Great music scene! Great young people!
- \* Never steal a Belgian beer glass. It's really annoying, and only tourists do it.
- \* Women's rights are important. Guys buy rounds of beer, and so do the girls. Make sure to always ask what your friends would like to drink, or you will end up tipsy but lonely.
- \* Choose the right football team. Club Brugge (blue and black) is always high in the first division and regularly gets to the Champions League, but Cercle Brugge (green and black) is the proud underdog. The worse they're playing, the more enthusiastic their fans get.
- \* The local symbol of Bruges is a bear. Nobody cares. But incidentally, the word "bear" is also used for everything that is good. Try the pronunciation of "bêrecool", "bêresjiek" and "eht bêre joene" with a local.
- \* Never take pictures on the Markt (the central square). It's not because there are statues everywhere that you have to take pictures of every single one.
- \* Avoid pricy restaurants. For a cheap snack, it's always good to check in bars. They usually serve a decent 'bar meal' like a spaghetti or a croque monsieur (toast with ham and cheese).
- \* If you're running out of money but are still hungry, fries are the best option. Go to any 'frietkot' and order a big one and some sauce. Mayonnaise is a classic, but you can also try the ones with funny names like Samoerai (hot and spicy) or stoofvleessaus (meat sauce).

### QUESTIONS TO PISS OFF THE LOCALS

- \* Oooh, I know this tower! It was built for the movie 'In Bruges', wasn't it?
- \* When does Bruges close?
- \* Where is McDonald's?

# TOURIST INFO

### TOURIST OFFICES

**I IN & UIT BRUGGE:** open every day from 10:00 to 18:00 (closed on Christmas and New Year). For a street map, city info, and tickets for concerts and festivals.

**I AT THE STATION:** Open Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 17:00 / Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 10:00 to 14:00. For a street map and city info.

### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Bruges is very small, so you can walk everywhere. Rent a bike if you're planning to move off the beaten track and check everything on this map. The price is between €5 and €12 for a day.

### OPENING TIMES

- \* Most shops open around 10:00 and close around 18:00, without siesta.
- \* Most shops are closed on Sunday.
- \* Most museums and many bars are closed on Monday.
- \* People eat pretty early in Belgium. After 22:00, it becomes difficult to find anything else than fastfood.

### EVENTS@BRUGGE



= monthly guide with exhibitions and concerts, in English, French, Dutch and German. Free at the tourist offices and in some hostels.

### PRICE REDUCTIONS

- \* Under 26, you pay €1 for **65 68 69 71**
- With the all-in three-day ticket (€5 in one of the museums or tourist offices) the Belfry **56** is also included.
- \* Bruges card = reduction for most monuments and museums, and some bike rentals. Free in the Bruges hostels.

### WIRELESS INTERNET

Free wifi at **5 8 41**

### BACK TO THE AIRPORT

- ➔ **TO BRUSSELS AIRPORT (the big one)** Easy with the train. You have to change in Brussels North train station. 85 minutes total.
- ➔ **TO BRUSSELS SOUTH AIRPORT (the small one in Charleroi)** One direct bus per day at 03:15 in the night (at the station, 2 hours ride). Also possible with trains + bus: ask at the hostel desk.

## Impress the Locals!

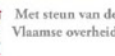
LET'S TELL IT LIKE IT IS: MANY LOCALS DON'T LIKE TOURISTS. THERE'S JUST TOO MANY OF YOU. SO IT'S TIME TO WIN THE HEARTS OF THE LOCALS BACK AND IMPRESS US WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF BRUGES HISTORY.

- 1277** Arrival of the first trade fleet from Genova (Italy), making the harbour of Bruges the most important link with the Mediterranean Sea.
- 1302** Big fight with France. A whole regiment of French soldiers gets murdered in their sleep. (When you are used to being rich and peaceful, you have to be smart.)
- 1309** Opening of the Stock Exchange in Bruges where the Fries Museum **50** is today, the most sophisticated early capitalist business in Western Europe.
- 1480** Memling paints the shrine of Saint Ursula **71**. By now, Flemish painters have set the standard for to the rest of Europe with their impressive eye for realism.
- 1482** Mary of Burgundy falls off her horse. She is buried in **70**.
- 1500** The harbour of Bruges is now useless because the connection with the sea has turned into sand. Antwerp now becomes the main harbour city.
- 1600** and 1700 and 1800: Bruges falls asleep.
- 1892** Bruges wakes up. The popular book 'Bruges la Morte' describes the city as a dark, poor and ugly place. Locals are not too happy with this, but tourists see some romance in it, and start visiting Bruges more and more.
- 1907** Bruges builds a new harbour a bit further, called Zeebrugge. During World War I, the Germans try out the first generation of submarines there.
- 1975** First independent hostel in Bruges, run by a few hippies with a documentation centre. There is no way to stop young travellers anymore.
- 2009** The movie 'In Bruges' wins an award for best scenario. Quote: "If I grew up on a farm, and was retarded, Bruges might impress me. But I didn't, so it doesn't." So just like in 1892, somebody calls Bruges a shithole, which attracts only more tourists.

## WHERE NEXT?



Editor: vzw de hondsjaren, Kleindokkai 6a, B-9000 Gent (Belgium). USE-IT Brussels is a vzw de hondsjaren project, supported by the Flemish Government and the cities of Antwerp, Bruges, Ghent, Mechelen and Leuven. March 2009. D/2009/10869/2





# BRUGES BY DAY

- SIGHTSEEING
- SHOP
- FOOD
- i TOURIST OFFICE
- H HOSTEL
-  INTERNET
-  TOURIST BOAT
-  SUPERMARKET
-  BIKE RENTAL
-  LAUNDRY
- ♥ PLACE TO KISS



**SHUTTLE BUS TO BRUSSELS SOUTH AIRPORT**

**TRAIN STATION**

**LOCKERS**  
€ 3,50 for 24 hours

**5 MINUTES WALK**

0 1 2 3 4 5

**H EUROPA HI-HOSTEL**

**H BAUHAUS**

**H CHARLIE ROCKETS**

**H LYBEER**

**H PASSAGE**

**H SNUFFEL**

**H HERDEBRUG HI-HOSTEL**

**H ARTHOSTEL**





**TAYLOR (23)** ART STUDENT FROM USA  
I saw the movie 'In Bruges' and flew over just to see how the Old Masters painted 600 years ago. Awesome!

**BENI (23)** POSITIVO SINGER  
I once saw a horse carriage fall into the water, but I think the horses are better trained now.

**AHWA KOREAN**  
I came for the concert hall, we go sing karaoke in the Kojote 15  
Next stop A

**SAMUEL (26)** ENGINEER  
Wake up! Of course I adore the old architecture, but why is the Concert Hall still the only contemporary project?

**PHAM (24)** CANADIAN STUDENT IN EUROPA COLLEGE  
Wander around! Bruges is not big, so you never get lost for a long time. For romance, check the Minnewaterpark.

**43 BIKE TO THE BEACH!**  
Rent a bike and follow the canal on the left side from the Sasplein to get to the cosy little village called Damme (30 minutes from Bruges). During the high days of medieval Bruges, this was a busy harbour town, but now it's just a pretty pancake place. Keep on cycling along the canal until you reach the seaside (50 minutes from Bruges). Have a beer, have a swim... You know - the beach. It's an easy do-it-yourself daytrip, and locals love it too.

**44 PRIEST SCHOOL**  
"Waw! Another one! And there!" Tourists are amazed to find so many churches in Belgium. It may surprise you that in this big school for priests, GROOTSEMINARIE, only one priest will graduate in 2009. Half a century ago, there were still 50 per year, which tells you something about how catholic people still are in Belgium.

**45 SHEEP IN BRUGES?**  
You knew about the swans, but sheep in the centre of Bruges? They're here on a pretty summer day. Even most people in Bruges don't know HOF DE JONGHE with its two picnic benches.

**46 I LOVE CLUB, I LOVE CERCLE LOCAL TIP**  
(closed Wednesday) Linda is a smart girl. Football fans of Club Brugge and Cercle Brugge won't talk to each other if they can avoid it, but barkeeper Linda always keeps extra scarves in both colours, depending on who's playing. DE KALVARIEBERG is your typical daytime bar in the old worker's area of Bruges.

**47 ROCKABILLY HEAVEN**  
(Tue to Sat) KING KUSTOM is the right place to stock up on rocking outfits. Some grease to streamline your Elvis hairdo, a studded belt for the guys and a foxy dress with cherry print for the girls.

**48 SECOND HAND MUSIC AND BOOKS**  
(Monday to Saturday) DEN EENHOORN. If you don't like digging in the enormous piles of books or vinyl records yourself, tell the lady called Tita what you're looking for. She's a living archive. As a Bruges souvenir, you can ask for a modern detective novel from local writer Pieter Aspe (sorry, only in Dutch). Watch out: she might move to another place in summer 2009.

**49 PANCAKE HEAVEN**  
(Closed on Tuesday / 11:30 to 20:00) De BRETOEN might be the best spot in Bruges to eat pancakes. € 2,70 for a simple pancake / € 5,30 for a Belle Hélène with pear and chocolate.

**50 BELGIAN FRIES MUSEUM**  
(Every day / 10:00 to 17:00 / € 5 with Bruges card / € 6) Fries were invented in Belgium, so why do you say French fries? Maybe because the Belgian commanders during World War I spoke French when they baked fries and their Allied colleagues remembered "French fries". Voilà. The FRIES MUSEUM is what it says: you get the history of the potato, some baking tips and old pictures. You can buy a bag of fries to finish. If everything goes right, you should smell like fries in the end.

**51 CHOCOLATE MUSEUM**  
(Every day 10:00 to 17:00 / € 5 with Bruges card / € 6) Every year, about a million tourists spend too much money on Belgian chocolate in expensive shops. Of course, you're not one of them, but perhaps you're into chocolate anyway. You'll learn about chocolate, starting with the Mayas a few thousand years ago and ending with a chocolate rose for € 3 in the gift shop.

**52 VEGGIE LUNCH**  
(Mon to Sat / Lunch) For the diehard veggies, DE LOTUS is cosy and affordable. € 11 for big lunch / € 10 for bio-moussaka.

**53 HIDE AND SEEK IN CROWN PLAZA**  
(Every day on respectable hours) No, you're not going to sleep in this fancy hotel. But go in anyway. A few hundred years ago, the CROWN PLAZA was still the Sint-Donaas church. Just wave at the lobby and go down to the basement of the hotel to play hide and seek in the old foundations. In 1127, Charles the Good (Duke of Flanders) was murdered here while he was praying.

**54 THE GOVERNOR'S CARWASH**  
Some inhabitants mockingly refer to this futuristic artwork in the historical centre as "the governor's carwash", because the governor lives across and, well, it looks like a carwash. Others think the pavilion by the Japanese architect Toyo Ito is a sublime piece of transparent architecture. It looks a bit sad right now, but they're talking about renovations (again).

**55 HOLY BLOOD**  
(Every day / April to September 9:30 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 18:00 October to March: 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00 / free) The main attraction in the HOLY BLOOD CHAPEL is, as you might have guessed, the Holy Blood. The little cylinder was taken on a crusade to Jerusalem in the 12th century, and true Catholics believe that it is filled with Jesus' blood. Every day, the shiny cylinder is taken out of its safe and put on a pillow to be worshipped. For the exact hours of the ceremony, check the list at the entry (between 14:00 and 15:00 is usually a good time). The really true believers are convinced that this is the moment when the blood miraculously changes from fixed to fluid. Scientists, on the other hand, established that it's a matter of temperature changes. On Ascension Day (every year in May), the holy relic is the centre of attention in the Holy Blood Procession, a big folklore event in which most of us used to walk when we were schoolkids.

**TOURIST FAVOURITE**

**56 PANORAMA**  
(Every day / 09:30 to 17:00 / € 4 under 26 / € 6 with Bruges card / € 8) Try to spot the North Seal but it will first take you 366 steps to get to the top of the 83-metre high BELFRY. The medieval tower is not straight anymore: it now bends over 1,5 meter. That shouldn't surprise you if you know that the funding still rests on medieval cow skins. So we might be getting a second tower of Pisa here (which is probably why they raise the price every year).

**TOURIST FAVOURITE**

**57 WEDNESDAY MARKET**  
(Wednesday morning) Just a food market, but it's a nice place to buy picnic ingredients or half a chicken from the roast. Just look around and smell the locals - not too many tourists around here.

**58 URBAN CLOTHING**  
(Mon to Sat) Funky gadgets, baggies, gold chains, skate stuff, teck-tonic jackets... SKATESHOP 911, KINGZ 'N QUEENZ, MISS MISS and LEE LOO are some of the hipper shops in good old Bruges.

**59 ICE CREAM**  
(Every day) Good ice cream at DA VINCI! The dark chocolate is divine, but why not go for something weird like Wodka Lemon, Merenge or Zuppa Inglese. Hint: escape from the shopping street and lick your ice cream on the Muntplein, just behind the corner. € 1,20 for one ball / € 8 for coupe Exotica.

**60 SPAGHETTI FOR € 3 LOCAL TIP**  
(Closed Thu / 11:00 to 20:00) Twenty metres from the Markt and € 3 for a decent spaghetti. It's an offer you cannot refuse. MEDARD is really a local place, with family pictures from five generations of the family, and a television playing for the kids. The owner looks a bit like Freddie Mercury. € 3 for a spaghetti / € 5,50 for a really big one (also vegetarian). But don't come here with a group of five to order one small spaghetti! We don't do that in Belgium.

**61 TAKEAWAY PASTA PRESTO**  
(Tuesday to Saturday / 11:00 to 20:30) PASTA PRESTO serves pasta cups for € 2,95 and they do a decent pizza too.

**62 GET NAKED FOR CHOCOLATE**  
(Every day) How would YOU like to see your old aunt and fat uncle walking naked around town? Right. That's what the American artist Spencer Tunick did to us in 2005. He got 2.000 men and women to undress for pictures in the Vlamingsstraat and the opera house. No sexy models, just regular people of all sizes and ages, walking naked in medieval Bruges. To hide some of our Belgian pale skin, Spencer also covered a few people in liquid chocolate which he got from the CHOCOLATE LINE. Here, you can still buy chocolate paint for € 7,50 (brush included). These guys also produce tobacco chocolate, chocolate lipstick and a chocolate sniff box (which was first ordered by the Rolling Stones).

**63 THE TRAITOR'S SKULL**  
Today, nothing is left from the medieval fortifications in a circle around Bruges, except from the four gates (poorten) that you see on the map. At the SMEDENPOORT, you can see how the defensive walls were made in the Middle Ages: two canals and two sand walls (now the grass area). The sand walls were made to catch cannonballs. This way, the city was very hard to take, unless if there was a traitor who opened the gates at night from the inside... like that guy in 1688 whose skull is still hanging on the gate today (well, actually it's a bronze copy of his skull).

**64 THE SICK AND THE POOR**  
See those small houses in the Boveriestraat and its side streets? The "godshuizen" (almshouses) were for the poor, the sick, or the very old. They were built by the guilds as a social security for their members, but also by some aristocrats who wanted to increase their popularity. No other city in the world has kept so many almshouses, which are still often used as retirement places today.

**65 CHEAPER PANORAMA LOCAL TIP**  
(Tuesday to Sunday / € 1 under 26 / € 2) In 2002, Bruges was the cultural capital of Europe. That's a bit of a problem if all your attractions date from the Middle Ages. So, for € 20 million, Bruges got this new CONCERT HALL. Some slight construction problems, like the red bricks falling off, made it a hot topic in Bruges, but by now, everybody's gotten used to the building. You can take the elevator to the panorama on the seventh floor. This is a lot less tiring than the endless stairs of the Belfry, and you get to see modern art up there in the FORUM, usually by young artists.

**66 FOR CHOCOLATE JUNKIES!**  
(Mon to Sat) BAR CHOC is not cheap, but you know many other places where you can get stewed meat in beer-and-chocolate sauce? Besides, they have 44 kinds of hot chocolate. Try the one with banana and ginger, or the white hot chocolate. € 5 for a hot chocolate and a slice of bread with choco / € 12 for the (patented!) stewed meat in chocolate and Lefse sauce with baked potatoes.

**67 SUGAR MASTERS AT WORK**  
(Closed on Tuesday / Live candy pulling in the afternoon) The two young guys at ZUCCHERO make funky lollipops and candies, but they use techniques that even grandmothers in Belgium had forgotten all about. That's why they had to learn it in Australia. "Pulling the sugar" is a fun thing to watch, because the candy has to stay in good shape and they can't stand still for a sec. Ask about the old-fashioned "anjsbollen" made with a machine from the 1920s.

**68 THE OLD FLEMISH MASTERS**  
(Closed on Mon / Closed between 22 July and 2 October 2009 / from 9:30 to 17:00 / € 1 under 26 / € 7 with Bruges card / € 9) Artists like Memling and Van Eyck were really, something in the 15th century. In fact, they still are. Admit it: the old masters in the GROENINGE MUSEUM did an impressive job on the colours and the detail. For some reason, they are called 'Flemish Primitives', but they certainly weren't primitive: in their time they were actually using the most modern painting techniques and were imitated all over Europe.

**TOURIST FAVOURITE**

**69 THE OLD PALACE**  
(Tue to Sun / from 9:30 till 17:00 / € 1 under 26 / € 6) The old palace of GRUUTHUSE is filled with swords, jewels and tapestry from the 15th to the 19th centuries. The name comes from the rich family that used to live there. The Gruuthuses were real aristocrats: their house had a private entrance to the church next door, so that they did not have to come into close contact with those smelly normal people on Sunday morning. If you don't feel like a history lesson, you can also just go into the inner courtyard and the romantic bridge in the back, for free.

**70 MICHELANGELO'S MADONNA**  
The 'Madonna with child' is for Bruges what the Mona Lisa is for the Louvre in Paris. It's one of the few Michelangelo sculptures outside of Italy and we are proud to have it in the CHURCH OF OUR LADY (Onze-Lieve-Vrouwenkerk).

**71 HOSPITAL MUSEUM**  
(Tuesday to Sunday / 9:30 till 17:00 / € 1 under 26 / € 6 with Bruges card / € 8) Fifteen years ago, part of this old hospital was still a ruin and a favourite playground for Bruges children. Today, you can dream away in the restored medieval halls and a well-kept seventeenth-century pharmacy. The six Memling paintings in MEMLING IN SINT-JAN show people who lived over 500 years ago, but still look alive because of the realistic details.

**72 BRUGES COMIC STRIPS**  
(Every day) DE STRIEP is the authority in Bruges when it comes to Bruges comic strips. The interesting part lies at the counter: all the comic strips about Bruges. Tips are "The Lost City" from the screenplay of The Lords of the Rings, and Suske en Wiske's "Heilig Bloed" (Holy Blood).

**73 BEER TOUR**  
(Every day / Lunch / Tours between 11:00 and 16:00 / € 5,25 with Bruges card / € 5,50) Heavy Henry is back in town! The family brewery DE HALVE MAAN is the only active one left in Bruges. Straffe Hendrik (= heavy Henry) is the pride of the house: a killer beer of 9° alcohol percentage. However, since 1988 it had been taken over by other breweries who shamefully changed it to 6°. In 2008, the family was able to get our Henry back, and he's now back to his old strength of 9°. Visiting the brewery is no waste of time, if you're interested in beer. There has been an active brewery here since 1546, so they know how it goes by now. One beer is included in the price, but if you can't get enough, try the beer soup (!) for € 4.

**TOURIST FAVOURITE**

**74 NUNS AND PRETTY FLOWERS**  
Feminism in Flanders was born around the year 1200. A group of religious women got a bit mystical in their beliefs - getting married to Jesus and things like that - and the Catholic Church wanted to bury them alive. The women (called "beguines") thought otherwise: they started their own communities all over Flanders, and became tolerated as more or less independent women helping the poor. Today 26 beguinages still exist in Flanders (with those typical small houses), but there are no more beguines left. Nowadays, the beguinages are part of Unesco World Heritage, just like the Egyptian pyramids. In spring, the flowers make the little park one of the top romantic hotspots in Bruges.

**75 TAKE A DEEP BREATH**  
Check the horse fountain. Have you noticed that the animals carry bags for their droppings? People used to think this was hilarious, but now we're just happy that there's no horse shit on the street.

**76 GET YOUR PICNIC LOCAL TIP**  
Nice day for a picnic? Then this is where you get your stuff. Some locals call this spot "the golden triangle" because it's said to have the best bakery and butcher in Bruges. You can also buy vegetables and fruit in the nearby shop. Take a bottle and a blanket, and go to a park afterwards, to picnic all afternoon. You lazy bastards.

**77 LIVING IN A PRISON**  
Even many locals are surprised when they walk through this gate from the nineteenth century. The streets of the PANDETTIE that lie behind, used to be a prison complex. It is only in 2002 that the small labyrinth turned into a housing complex with over 100 houses and luxury apartments and 200 underground parking spaces. Strange place.

**78 PANCAKES PER KILO LOCAL TIP**  
(Monday to Saturday) € 4,90 for a kilo of pancakes: hubba hubba! This butcher's mama started selling "Brugse flensjes" in 1953, and they're still going strong. Just buy a pile and start stuffing them in any park. Oh, and one more thing: every Monday at exactly 14.00, CASTELEYN's window shop is filled with fresh brains, stomachs, intestines and pig leggies. This is when the older locals come and get them. Old-school butchery!

**79 SECONDHAND TREASURE HUNT**  
(Monday to Saturday) DE KOBBE is a typical old-fashioned secondhand clothes store where you find real treasures if you look long enough.

**80 OLDEST BAR IN BRUGES**  
(Wednesday to Sunday / Lunch and dinner) Yes folks, this is the oldest bar in Bruges. CAFÉ VLISSINGHE has been around since 1515, as you can tell from the bar's history that's on the walls. During summer, you can play jeu de boules next to the terrace. During winter, better go for pancakes with hot chocolate. € 3,50 for a pancake / € 2 for hot chocolate.

**81 FLEMISH CUISINE LOCAL TIP**  
(Monday to Saturday / Lunch) A few years ago, you could spend € 100 here for a meal in one of the only Belgian restaurants with three Michelin stars. Then PAS PARTOUT replaced it. Some of the interior remained, but the prices tumbled down. Tastes twice as good! The restaurant now serves real Belgian kitchen (like "witloof en hesperolletjes" and "worst met puree"), instead of the fake "local specialties" you see in all the tourist restaurants. € 7,85 for the daily special / € 10 for stovenij (beef stewed in beer) / € 2,50 for Dame Blanche (vanilla ice with hot chocolate).

**82 JERUSALEM & LACE**  
(Every day 10:00 to 17:00 / € 1,50 with Bruges card / € 2,50) This one doesn't quite look like the others, does it? Indeed, the JERUSALEM CHURCH is probably a copy of the (now destroyed) Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, including a version of Jesus' grave. By building it, a fifteenth-century merchant wanted to secure his place in heaven, so the family grave is there as well, just to be sure. The gloomy atmosphere makes the church well worth a visit today, and with the same ticket you can get a quick look in the LACE MUSEUM next door. Apart from the history of the expensive textile, you might see old ladies AND young girls making lace there today (yep, it's hip again to make it the slow way).

**83 DISCIPLINE AND RESPECT!**  
(Every day) Angela Puype, a 91-year-old monument, owns the oldest and definitely the most authentic candy-shop in Bruges. She's been dealing sweets to innocent children since 1950. We call her "Omaatje" (little granny). Watch out with your sticky fingers, because Omaatje knows all the thieves' tricks. She doesn't like to get nervous either, hence the signs in the shop that say "discipline and respect!"

**84 CHEAP SOUVENIRS**  
(Tuesday to Saturday) Looking for a record of Belgian evergreens? Want to buy an original beer glass for fifty cent? Take home a fake antique candlestick from the eighties? In DE KRINGLOOPWINKEL you'll find all the Belgian kitsch you need, even when you don't need it, and at very affordable prices.

**TOURIST FAVOURITE**

**85 PANORAMA**  
On a sunny day, climb the small hill to the SINT-JANSHUIS MILL for the panorama. In the surrounding gardens, you will sometimes see arrows flying up. Don't worry, the archers are not aiming at you, but at the long pole called 'staande wip'. It's an old folklore thing, practised here for 600 years already. Shooting the wip is not for us, though, because the membership in this club costs a smack of money and you have to be invited by two other club members first. On a Sunday morning, go to CAFÉ DE WINDMOLEN on the corner to have a beer with the card-players. It doesn't get more Belgian than that.

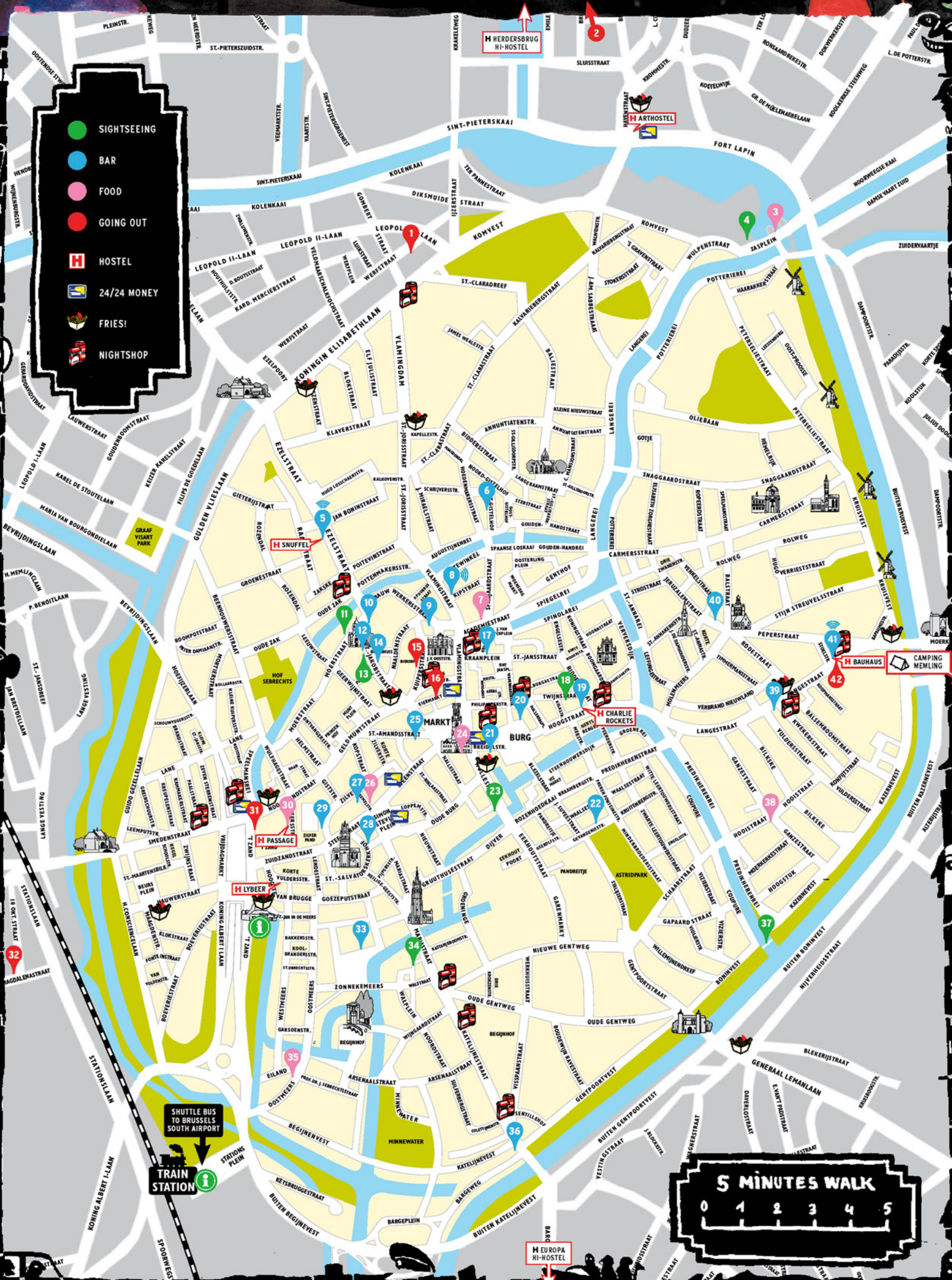
**86 LACE NOT FROM TAIWAN**  
Most of the 'typical Bruges lace' that you see today in all those tourist shops actually comes from Taiwan. This piece of art, however, was made in Holland: a LACE FENCE in steel wire, built around the mill in 2008 (and hopefully here to stay).

**ACT LIKE A FOOL**  
GO TO THE HORSE FOUNTAIN 75, STAND ON YOUR HEAD, TAKE A PICTURE, SEND IT TO BRUGES@USE-IT.BE AND WE PUT IT ON OUR FACEBOOK.



# BRUGES BY NIGHT

- SIGHTSEEING
- BAR
- FOOD
- GOING OUT
- H HOSTEL
- 24/24 MONEY
- FRIES!
- NIGHTSHOP



**5 MINUTES WALK**

0 1 2 3 4 5

SHUTTLE BUS TO BRUSSELS SOUTH AIRPORT

STATION

H EUROPA HI-HOSTEL

H LYBEER

H PASSAGE

H NOO

H SNUFFEL

H CHARLIE ROCKETS

H BAUHAUS

H HEREDERSBRUG HI-HOSTEL

H ARTHOSTEL

STATIONS PLEIN

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**CHOU-HONG (25)**  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT  
When you lose the way in the streets, you also get lost in time. Bruges is a sleeping beauty.

**TINE (22) STUDIES**  
AFRICAN LANGUAGES  
I never stay more than three days in Bruges, because shopping tourists drive me crazy. Luckily they don't come to Kleine Nachtmuziek 10 and Poatersgat 8

**ROGER (84) LIVING LEGEND**  
"Brugge is altiets schoone," like Willy Lustenhouwer sang. I photographed every birth and wedding in Bruges, and I still say our people are the friendliest in the world.



**JOSHY (16) DUBSTEP**  
Wanna dance? Get out of the city centre to party: Entrepot 2 and Ma'z 02

**LINDA (40)**  
GARBAGE COLLECTOR  
You can thank me and all the guys for keeping everything so pretty.

**SAM (19) NIGHT ANIMAL**  
Ah, the good life. I study in Ghent like many others, but I come back in weekends to deejay here.

- 1 JAZZ TEMPLE**  
Does the name Roberta Gambarini mean anything to you? Sonny Fortune? Billy Harper? Then the small jazz club **DE WERF** will be your thing. They stage international names in jazz, but also run one of the only record labels for young Belgian musicians like Steven Delannoye. Concerts every week, check [www.dewerf.be](http://www.dewerf.be)
- 2 WEEKEND PARTY** **LOCAL TIP**  
The coolest place to go out lies a bit out of this map, at the Bruges harbour. **ENTREPOT** serves everything from lo-fi concerts to drum'n'bass parties, usually on weekends. Check flyers and posters all around Bruges. Two minutes' walk from here (Binnenweg 4).
- 3 ROMANTIC RESTAURANT**  
(Closed on Tue / Lunch and dinner) The bluesy atmosphere of **DU PHARE**, the good kitchen and its location next to the water make it a local favourite to eat - if you've got some money to spend. €14 for a steak with fries.
- 4 HUMAN HAMSTERS**  
This is a replica of a medieval crane to lift heavy weights. In the wheels on the side, people had to run like hamsters to make the machinery work.
- 5 CONCERT ON SATURDAY** **FREE WIFI**  
(Every day) You don't find many places in Europe where locals and tourists go to the same bar. **SNUFFEL** bar is one of them, with a good collection of English board games. Every first and third Saturday of the month, local rock bands, hipsters or singer-songwriters throw a free concert here.
- 6 CHEAP DRINKS**  
(Monday to Saturday) No way that a band can play in such a small bar. Twice a month on Saturday, you can see for yourself that it's possible indeed. At 't **OPKIKKERTJE**, local post-men meet up with singer-songwriters to have cheap drinks. Probably the best-hidden bar in Bruges.
- 7 THE REAL TRATTORIA**  
(Tuesday to Sunday / Lunch and dinner) Italians have loved coming to Bruges, the 'Venice of the North', since the 15th century. The best Italian food you'll find today in Bruges, is this trattoria called **TRIUM**. Roman statues, antipasti served as antipasti, no tourist nonsense, a menu in Italian and not too much Dutch spoken. Make sure to politely say 'grazie' when the pizza arrives. When you walk out, have a look at the Bruges bear on the other side of the street. He is dressed up for special occasions, like Manneke Pis in Brussels (but without the pee). €10 for antipasto misto / €6,95 for a piece of pizza fantasia / take-away is a bit cheaper.
- 8 BEER AND WIRELESS** **FREE WIFI**  
(Every day) You can surf wireless here, but if you try it on a busy Friday night you'll get Duvel on your laptop. The new bar **POATERSGAT** combines an old look (a carpet, dried flowers and a high-quality beer list) with a young happy crowd.
- 9 LATENIGHT DRINK** **LOCAL TIP**  
(Tuesday to Sunday) **ON THE ROCKS** is one of those few places in Bruges where barkeepers themselves end up after a long night's work. A few years ago, it was still called Danny's club, being a striptease bar with rooms upstairs. The strip pole is gone today, but the red carpet and some old regulars have remained, as well as the Dean Martin and Shirley Bassey records. Tony calls the shots, and serves snacks until the last sleeping customer goes home, usually around 05:00 in the morning. Good place to drink a solitary whisky, but don't come if you want to party. €6 for warm whiskeys (sea thingsies).
- 10 A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC**  
(Closed Tue and Wed) Being a barkeeper is serious business. Anthony from **DE KLEINE NACHTMUZIEK** (= little night music) does not play his music from a computer but selects every blues, jazz and Rolling Stones album with love. He also knows the details by heart about the special kinds of beer, whiskey, and vodka in the house. Just like a barkeeper should.
- 11 EXPENSIVE PEEING!**  
Alright boys, this public toilet is REALLY smelly. But think twice before you choose a tree in the park. Wild peeing will cost you €149,58. This makes Bruges the most expensive peeing city in Flanders (about €760 per liter). Ghent charges €60 for a wild pee, Antwerp around €50 if it's your first time, and in Brussels you'll have to pay around €75.
- 12 BELMONDO**  
(Every day) Where are all the students? Well, usually not in Bruges. Most of them study in Ghent or Leuven, and they only come back for the weekends. Here for example, in the cool new bar **BELMONDO**. Old vinyl on the walls + alternative soundtrack = chill.
- 13 NO MORE PARTIES**  
Rest in peace: the **CACTUS** music club. Although the same people still organize concerts at **32** (safely outside of the city centre), their permanent space was closed in 2003. And soon, the club that we all loved so much will become a parking lot... That's how it goes in Bruges, where the noise and the fun always have to move out of the medieval city centre.
- 14 A BRUGES CLASSIC**  
(Every day / Lunch and dinner) Want to meet every pretty person in Bruges? Try **DE REPUBLIEK** on a hot spring night. That's when we all come over to this terrace.
- 15 PARTY STREET**  
(Mainly Thursday to Saturday) Are you one of those people that can't sit still and has to change bars every five minutes? Try the Kuipersstraat. You start at **DE KUPPE** for a few of the 100 kinds of Belgian beer. To get the party going, try **GRAND CAFE DU THEATRE** or **LA BODEGA**. Next stop is **DE COULISSEN**. In a city without any real dance club, this one comes closest. The dj stands high above the dancefloor, the sound is good, and the bouncer will always look at your shoes and haircut before he lets you in. The only difference with a club is that you don't pay to enter. And if you're still not happy (tsss...), go dance and sing karaoke at **KOJOTE'S**. **L'AMARAL** is 'the weird duck' in the neighbourhood: local heroes like dj Tweet and dj Cook-E play less commercial stuff. Then comes the late-night food kick! Only one solution: **BAGGINS** for a sandwich, until around 4 in the morning.
- 16 GOING OUT HOTSPOT**  
The little square Eiermarkt used to be a going-out area with hooligans, drunk women and fights every night. Today, the square isn't looking that dangerous anymore, but it's the perfect spot to go shake your buttocks and have plain fun. The bars on the left are mostly for dancing (**PICK**, **AMBIORIX**, **COOLCAT**), the ones on the right for romantic chatting (**CATHEDRAAK**, and the new **BAR DES AMIS**).
- 17 SEVENTIES KITSCH**  
(Tue to Sat) Do you still wear jeans with a boot cut, do you go to secondhand shops for oversized sunglasses, and do you just love orange wallpaper? Then you'll like **MARQUEE** too: a small retro seventies bar with a funky soundtrack.
- 18 MEET WILLY** **LOCAL TIP**  
(Only on Saturday) You ring at the door of this magnificent house that once belonged to the mayor of Bruges. Willy Retsin opens. If he is in a good mood and the place is not full yet, he takes you into his candle-lit bar where Latin beats play music and serve drinks. After a few rum cocktails, you can kindly ask Willy to tell a few things about the carnival paintings and portraits from the Retsin family in the bar and in the rest of the family mansion. If it all works out: what a fairytale night! Timing is very important though: **LUCIFERNUM** is only open on Saturday between 21:00 and 2:00, and if it's full, it's full. Show some respect to one of the last hidden pearls in Bruges.
- 19 POOL AND ROCK'N'ROLL**  
(Every day) If you like the greatness of the States, this is where you'll find it. **CHARLIE ROCKETS** has five pooltables, coloured light and if you're lucky: rock'n'roll. And pizza too. It looks a bit like a Hard Rock Café, with the typical old commercials and a framed Fender guitar on the wall. Open late, until 4 o'clock.
- 20 IRISH PUB**  
(Every day) Guinness, singing guys, tables in dark corners and green decoration. You're right, this must be an Irish pub!
- 21 THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE**  
(Every day) You visit **DE GARRE** for only one reason: to drink a Garre. It's a heavy tasty beer and they only sell it here. To find De Garre, you must enter Bruges' grooviest-looking alley. We shall say this only once: have a Garre at De Garre in the Garre! €3 for a Garre.
- 22 HONEST & MODEST BRUGES**  
(Closed Mon and Thu afternoon / Lunch and dinner) In **DE ESTAMINET**, you'll meet the kindness and modesty of Bruges locals. It's a popular place just across the park, for a beer or a quick snack. €7 for a toast maison, €6 for spaghetti.
- 23 WATCH OUT! CANNON!**  
See the cannon? No, probably not. Then look again: it's upside down in the ground. This cannon was left behind by Dutch troops in 1631, but nobody knows when and how it got stuck in the ground, in the middle of the pavement. Just a weird thing that even the locals never notice.
- 24 BATTLE OF THE FRIES** **LOCAL TIP**  
(Every day / Lunch and dinner) Ever since 1896, two fries shops have been competing here to attract as many dients as they can with their wonderful smells of greasy fries and hot meat sauce. Needless to say, they serve a few tons of fast food on this touristy square at the foot of the Belfry. Funny detail: some tourists actually ask the fries sellers where the Belfry is! Locals always argue endlessly about which one of the two is best. Is it the one with the longest waiting line? Or does the other one just serve faster? Is it the one with the lowest prices? Or is the other just better quality? Whatever, just remember that they're both open until 7 in the morning on weekends.
- 25 CELTIC PUB**  
Make no mistakes. 'Een pint' (pronounced like 'hint') is a regular Belgian beer of 25cl, but 'a pint' (pronounced in English) is 57cl. Barkeeper Drew from the **DRUID'S CELLAR** fell in love with Bruges ten years ago, and finally left his girlfriend to start running this Celtic pub with just as much love. Free live music on Thursday.

- 26 MEAT LOVERS**  
(Every day / Dinner) Candle light! Grill oven! Small tables! In restaurant **DE HOBBIT** love is in the air... and so is the smell of fresh meat. €16,50 for all-you-can-eat spare ribs / €14,50 for merguez with harissa.
- 27 THAT'S WHY WE LOVE BELGIUM**  
(Closed Wednesday) You know about Belgium's beer reputation, but this is really it. All the beers are here! Nothing but laughing people getting tipsy on Belgian grains. 't **BRUGS BEERTJE** is the real reason why people visit Bruges twice.
- 28 THE TOP** **LOCAL TIP**  
(Tuesday to Sunday, open very late) This small bar is built on the old cemetery of the Sint-Salvator church. Quite a popular place: only snake people can get in during the most busy hours (between 23:00 and 2:00). **DE TOP** tries to keep the centre of Bruges alive, with its own mini festival for local surf, gothic or punk bands (concert every week in August).
- 29 JAZZ & BLUES**  
(Monday to Saturday) **JOEY'S** smoky haunt is a little hard to find but the bartender's bluesy voice and the chilled soundtrack are worth the search. €6 for the Stevie cocktail with whipped cream or the famous Joey's cocktail.
- 30 MUSSELS AND OTHER SPECIALTIES**  
(Every day / Dinner) **PASSAGE**: good hostel, great restaurant. Everybody wants to try mussels with fries once, and this is a good place to do it. €12 for 'américain' (minced raw meat) / €19,50 for mussels - both with fries of course.
- 31 HIGH SCHOOL PARTY CORNER**  
Schoolkids try out their first hormones and cigarettes in bars like **MA RICCA ROKK**, **BRIS**, and **RAVAGE**. If you're into tourism and lots of beer, this is the place to make friends you'll never meet again (not as many tourists as on **16**).
- 32 THE BIG CONCERTS**  
Check the 'events@brugge' guide for concerts at the **MAGDALENAZAL** or 'Ma'z'. International artists like Madrugada or Keziiah Jones sell out the house, but some parties are also legendary (like the one on 24 December, where literally everybody meets after a boring Christmas dinner).
- 33 STARFUUCKING**  
(Tuesday to Saturday / Lunch and dinner) If you're looking for some famous football players of Club Brugge, this might be a place to spot them. The **B-IN** is a trendy lounge bar-restaurant with neon lights and occasional house parties on weekends. You'll love it or you'll hate it.
- 34 RED LIGHT DISTRICT?**  
This street (Stoofstraat) used to be the red light district of Bruges, filled with ugly crime and even uglier diseases. Hard to imagine today. The only thing that still makes it sexy now, is that it's the narrowest street in town - so you'll have to walk close.
- 35 ASIAN FOOD UNDER THE TREE**  
(Tuesday to Sunday / Lunch and dinner) **DE STOEPA** = fusion kitchen + summer terrace + birds in a lovely tree. It's not the cheapest one, but locals love it for its cosiness. €9 for ciabatta mozzarella di bufala & serrano ham / €14,90 for chicken-and-scampi.
- 36 MEET TINE**  
(Every day) Barkeeper Tine of **T VISOION** pleases everyone with a free concert every last Saturday of the month. You could bump into a jolly folk band or a lonely troubadour with a guitar: variation is the key word. Tine is crazy and we love her.
- 37 THE LAST BRIDGE**  
Bruges has about 45 bridges, and the **CONZETT BRIDGE** is the most recent one, from 2002. Lucky for us, because since then we could finally bike all around the inner circle of Bruges, next to the water. For the engineering freaks, the modern design with the cylindrical lifting system is quite something too.
- 38 LOCAL CUISINE**  
(Closed Wednesday / Lunch and dinner) It's not easy to find 'normal' places in Bruges for Belgian classic dishes. Most of the restaurants are just tourist traps. **HET NIEUW MUSEUM** is an exception, with typical old beer commercials on the wall and dried hop leaves on the ceiling. Come here if you feel like something else than kebab or pizza for once. €14 for spare ribs / €20 for 'paling in't groen' (eels in green sauce).
- 39 THE CRASH** **LOCAL TIP**  
(Tuesday to Saturday, open very late) Bruges' long-lasting rock bar. Don't expect a Hard Rock Café. This is the harder stuff, where you can actually order beer by the metre. Check the beercans on the ceiling. **THE CRASH!**
- 40 EASY-GOING BAR**  
(Tuesday to Sunday / Lunch and dinner) **T RISICO** means 'the risk', but there is no risk involved. Unless you get hurt by a ball of jeu de boules in the courtyard. This is just a laidback bar where you can eat safely as well. Music = oldies. Lasagna = good. Cigar = available.
- 41 TRAVELLERS & BEAUTIES** **FREE WIFI**  
(Every day) The Wagner clock above the bar turns backwards because... eh... because it turns backwards. This bar run by the famous **BAUHAUS** hostel is crammed full with impressive mirrors, old lamps from the Paris subway, neogothic arches, easy couches, backpackers and cute asses from Bruges. Anyway, you'll enjoy hanging around in the bar until the early hours.
- 42 HURRAY! NEW PARTY PLACE**  
A new party place, that doesn't happen every year in Bruges. At the time of writing (March 2009), the annex of the **BAUHAUS** isn't open yet, but tourists and locals will 'tun tongues' for sure. The noise isolation seems fine, so they won't have to turn down the volume.

**LET US KNOW!**  
Did we miss something? Are we totally wrong? Let us know! [brugge@use-it.be](mailto:brugge@use-it.be)

# USE-IT

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