



IRG 48 - COMPANIONS PROGRAM

05 June 2017 : Ghent + Sint-Martens-Latem

[Ghent](#) : a vibrant, surprising and elegant city. With a rich historical past that can be found in every corner of the city, you cannot other but admire the beautiful facades, buildings and squares. Due to the largely car-free city-centre, pedestrians can wander around endlessly in the beautiful surroundings without having to bother with traffic.



Not only historical Ghent has a lot to offer, today the city is constantly evolving and every visit you are surprised by the new projects that are born in this Flemish city.

During a 3 hour walking trip, your guide will not only take you to the points of interest, he/she will also entertain you with some interesting anecdotes which are attached to the city.

In the afternoon, at nearly 15 km from Ghent we will visit Sint-Martens-Latem. This village along the river Leie houses today some wealthy inhabitants, but it primarily remains a source of inspiration for many artists. At the beginning of the twentieth century different masters in impressionist and expressionist art were living in the village. This artistic past is still lively visible in its museums, galleries and artists' houses.



Your guide will take you on a nature/art walk and afterwards you will have some time off to discover yourself the town and its many galleries.

Schedule

Start at Stadshal (side closest to the Belfort, see map on the second to last page)

10h00 – 13h00 : Guided visit of Ghent (walking)

13h00 – 14h00 : Lunch at Carlos Quinto/Ghent

14h00 : Transfer by bus to Sint-Martens-Latem (after walk to Gent Dampoort see last pages of document)

14h30 – 15h30 : Guided visit (art walk...)

15h30 – 16h30 : Free visit of Sint-Martens-Latem

16h30 : Return transfer by bus to Ghent

06 June 2017 : Brussels

[Brussels](#) : capital of Belgium and of Europe !

Do you enjoy sights, then you may prepare yourself for a lot of impressive structures and constructions, with the [Atomium](#) as the absolute climax. But other names will undoubtedly capture your heart, such as the splendid buildings of the world-known architect Victor Horta. Also in terms of museums, the city has a lot to offer, from historically oriented museums over science museums to the famous [Musical Instruments Museum](#) (MIM). The international population of Brussels leads to a melting pot of cultures, which adds an enormous surplus in the cultural life.

Do you feel like shopping, then you have the choice of a variety of shops, from the typical chain stores as H&M and Zara situated in the rue Neuve, over the chic haute couture business as Armani in the expensive Avenue Louise to the more alternative shops in the trendy rue Dansaert.



But Brussels is also the place to be for the lovers of good food and drinks. The more classic restaurants are located in the narrow alleys near the Grand-Place. In addition to traditional dishes you can find really everything back of the world cuisine: French, Mediterranean, Asian, Latin American, African, you name it and Brussels has it.

In the morning, you will enjoy a 3 hour guided tour along the Royal Palace, the Chinese Pavilion, the Atomium and onwards to the old city centre. After lunch in a typical Brussels restaurant you may experience a true chocolate workshop. Getting to know the whole story from the cocoa to become couverture chocolate is one thing. On a next stage you can learn yourself the arts of a chocolatier as you are invited to make your own chocolates, from truffles to spicy chocolate bars.

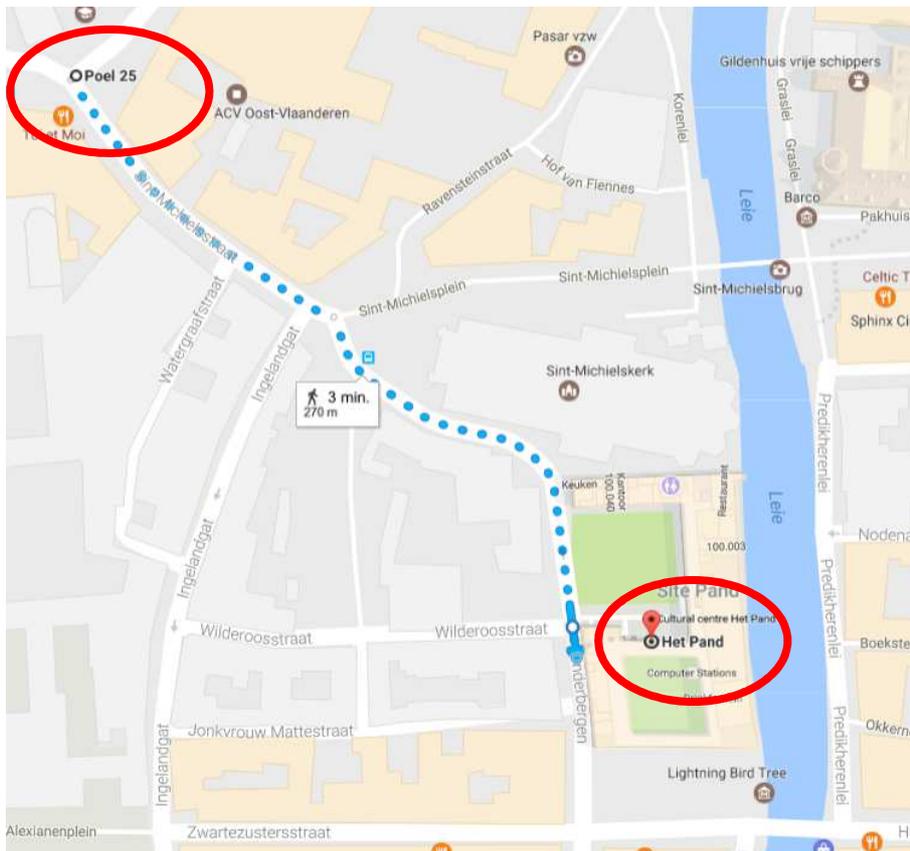
Schedule

- 08h40 : Start at Stadshal (side closest to the Belfort, see map on the second to last page)
- 09h00 : Departure to Brussels by bus from railway station Dampoort (18 minutes walk from Stadshal)
- 10h00 – 13h00 : Guided visit walking and by bus
- 13h00 – 14h00 : Lunch at Chez Leon Brussels
- 14h00 – 16h00 : Chocolate workshop
- 16h00 : Transfer by bus to Ghent (arrival at approx 17h00)

07 June 2017 : Afternoon excursion with delegates

The excursion will take us to the Westhoek. It is recommended to wear casual clothing with comfortable footwear.

Lunch packages will be available at the entrance of 't Pand conference building (Onderbergen 1) from 12:20 onwards. After a short walk (3 min.) together with all conference delegates you will get on a bus. The bus leaves promptly at 13:00. The excursion will end with the same bus close to midnight in the city centre. Below you can see how to reach the bus from the conference building. More detailed info will be included in the lunch package.



08 June 2017 : Damme + Bruges

[Damme](#) is one of the smallest and most picturesque towns of Belgium. Few small towns have such a rich historical heritage : the Town Hall, the Church of our Lady, St. John's Hospital and a number of old mansions are the proud remnants of a rich past. Damme has everything you need for a pleasant outing, it is a book village with as much antique shops as book shops. The paddle boat between Damme and Bruges is a very relaxing way to get from one place to the other, while enjoying the fertile green polders in the background.



A visit of [Bruges](#), is a journey to the late Middle Ages. Bruges thanks its cultural wealth to its harbour, which was during that time internationally flourishing, and made the city quiet prosperous. The city is enchanting, seductive and engaging. The canals of Bruges (called the Brugse Reien), the many bridges over the water, the swans that live on the water for centuries, the old, impressive facades, narrow cobbled streets, they all recall to a life that used to be.



And yet in Bruges time does not stand still. From the outside there are, apart from the modern Concert Building few new constructions. When it comes to cultural development, the city has a vibrant and active social life, that even attract people from far outside the city. The numerous cafés with delicious terraces invite you to sit down and enjoy the people, the buildings, the atmosphere. At lunch, for dinner, you have a choice of more than 150 restaurants, brasseries and gastropubs, serving classical, modern and trendy menus.

Schedule

- 08h40 : Start at Stadshal (side closest to the Belfort, see map on the second to last page)
- 09h00 : Departure to Damme by bus from railway station Dampoort (18 minutes walk from Stadshal)
- 09h45 : Free visit of Damme
- 11h00 : Departure with Benelux boat to Bruges (arrival 11h35)
- 12h00 : Lunch at Maximiliaan Van Oostenrijk/Bruges
- 13h30 : Guided walking tour in Bruges
- 16h30 : Transfer by bus to Ghent