EXPERIENCE THE FLEMISH MASTERS

PROGRAMME 2018 - 2020

VISITFLANDERS
The contents of this brochure may be subject to change.
For up-to-date information: check [www.visitflanders.com/flemishmasters](http://www.visitflanders.com/flemishmasters).
AT THE PINNACLE OF ARTISTIC INVENTION FROM THE MIDDLE AGES ONWARDS, FLANDERS WAS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE FAMOUS ART MOVEMENTS OF THE TIME: PRIMITIVE, RENAISSANCE AND BAROQUE. FOR A PERIOD OF SOME 250 YEARS, IT WAS THE PLACE TO MEET AND EXPERIENCE SOME OF THE MOST ADMIRE ARTISTS IN WESTERN EUROPE. THREE PRACTITIONERS IN PARTICULAR, VAN EYCK, BRUEGEL AND RUBENS ROSE TO PROMINENCE DURING THIS TIME AND CEMENTED THEIR PLACE IN THE PANTHEON OF ALL-TIME GREATEST MASTERS.
The “Flemish Masters” project has been established for the inquisitive traveller who enjoys learning about others as much as about him or herself. It is intended for those who, like the Flemish Masters in their time, are looking to immerse themselves in new cultures and new insights.

From 2018 through to 2020, VISITFLANDERS is hosting an abundance of activities and events that will entice visitors from all over the world to come and explore the Flemish Masters and their works and will leave them inspired and enriched by the experience.

The Flemish Masters project focuses on the life and legacies of van Eyck, Bruegel and Rubens active during the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, as well as many other notable artists of the time.

Many of the works by these original Flemish Masters can be admired all over the world but there is no doubt that the experience is truer and more powerful when they are seen in Flanders, where the art works were created. On a visit to Flanders visitors can walk through the actual house where Rubens lived and worked, see the landscapes that inspired Pieter Bruegel the Elder, and discover an original painting by van Eyck in the exact location depicted in the painted scene.

Significant infrastructure investments in tourism and culture are being made throughout Flanders in order to deliver an optimal visitor experience. In addition, a programme of high-quality events and exhibitions with international appeal will be organised throughout 2018, 2019 and 2020.

THERE ARE THREE MUST-SEE HIGHLIGHTS:

1. In 2018 the city of Antwerp will celebrate its baroque cultural heritage and the baroque lifestyle that is undeniably part of the city’s DNA. ‘Antwerp Baroque 2018. Rubens inspires’ will connect Rubens with his...

“FLANDERS WAS THEN A MELTING POT OF ART AND CREATIVITY, SCIENCE AND INVENTION, AND STILL TODAY IS A REGION THAT BUSTLES WITH VITALITY AND INNOVATION.”
baroque heritage in several cultural disciplines and a series of events and exhibitions, culminating in the opening of the Rubens Experience Center and the re-opening of the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp in 2019.

The museum is not only a true Rubens’ treasure trove, but it also houses some of the finest Flemish Primitive’s art including Jan van Eyck’s Saint Barbara and Madonna at the Fountain and Rogier van der Weyden’s Seven Sacraments Altarpiece.

2. In 2019 there will be numerous events in Brussels, Antwerp and all over Flanders, marking the 450th anniversary of Bruegel’s death in 1569.

In spring 2019, Bruegel will be omnipresent in Brussels, as the city will honour its former inhabitant with several exquisite exhibitions and a city-wide programme of events. Autumn 2019 will bring Bruegel to Antwerp, where the newly refurbished museum of Fine Arts Antwerp opens with a must-see exhibition: ‘BRUEGEL’S CENTURY. Art in Antwerp and the Southern Netherlands 1525–1585’.

3. After its painstaking restoration the magnificent Ghent Altarpiece will return to the St Bavo’s Cathedral in 2020. Merely the latest in a long line of restorations, the last one was carried out in the early 1950s, this one is certainly the most remarkable and impressive of them all.
2018-19
TRAVEL WITH RUBENS TO HIS HOMETOWN ANTWERP
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2019
EXPERIENCE THE WORLD OF BRUEGEL
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2020
THE GHENT ALTARPIECE IS COMING HOME
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2018-2020
BRUGES, HOMETOWN OF THE FLEMISH PRIMITIVES
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DISCOVER THE FLEMISH MASTERS OFF THE BEATEN TRACK
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PETER PAUL RUBENS IS MOSTLY KNOWN AS A SUCCESSFUL ARTIST, BUT HE WAS ALSO AN ESTEEMED DIPLOMAT, POLYGLOT AND COLLECTOR. HE IS ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS INHABITANTS OF ANTWERP.

HIS BRILLIANCE LIVES ON AND HE IS STILL VERY MUCH PART OF THE CITY, AND NOT ONLY IN ITS BAROQUE PAINTINGS AND ARCHITECTURE. RUBENS IS A GREAT INSPIRATION FOR CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS AND THE A-TYPICAL WAY OF LIFE OF THE CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS.
A STELLAR TALENT

Rubens was born in 1577 in Siegen (in present-day Germany), but soon moved to Antwerp with his mother after his father died when he was young. It was there that he learnt to paint, taking instruction from artists such as Tobias Verhaecht, Adam van Noort and Otto van Veen.

In 1600, he travelled to Rome and Venice in Italy, and then later to Spain. It was clear even then that he was no ordinary talent as he soon began to receive Royal commissions from both courts.

RUBENS HOUSE AND WORK STUDIOS

In 1608, he returned to Antwerp as the official court painter to the Low Countries, a title bestowed on him by Archduke Albert of Austria and Isabella of Spain. It was at this time that he bought a house and land on Wapper Square - right in the centre of today’s Antwerp - and set about redesigning it completely.

Inspired by the architecture of Roman Antiquity and the Renaissance, Rubens drew up the plans for the renovation himself, and turned an ordinary Flemish house into a ‘palazzo’. He extended the home considerably adding a studio, a garden pavilion and a domed sculpture museum. There was also a magnificent portico offering a beautiful view of the courtyard garden and the garden pavilion. The result was magnificent. From then on, his studio would become a hive of activity with many employees and students, some of who went to be famous in their own right, like Anthony van Dyck and Jacob Jordaens. The studio produced hundreds of creations and paintings, many specifically to order.

A DIPLOMATIC CAREER

A favourite of Archduchess Isabella, Rubens became increasingly involved in diplomatic missions on her behalf. It was he who finally brokered a peace deal between Spain and England, a move that would eventually lead to a cessation of hostilities between the Spanish and the Dutch, close allies of the English.

Rubens was a highly esteemed court guest all over Europe with many contemporaries considering him as skilled a diplomat as he was a painter. He was by then almost universally revered as an artist without rival.

During his travels he secured many high-profile assignments, including commissions such as the creation of 24 paintings celebrating the life of Maria de Medici for the Palais du Luxembourg in Paris.

A BAROQUE LEGEND

In 1630, Rubens returned to Flanders for good and bought Elewijt Castle outside Brussels. There he painted his largest commission to date, namely 112 works to decorate the Royal Hunting Lodge in Madrid, the Torre de la Parada. These were finally finished in 1638 only and were duly dispatched to Spain.

Rubens’ health was beginning to deteriorate, and he died in 1640 aged 62, at his home on Antwerp’s Wapper Square.
Antwerp is the only city in the world to be so permeated in every respect by Peter Paul Rubens and his baroque legacy. “Antwerp Baroque 2018. Rubens inspires” is an opportunity to experience Rubens and baroque in many intense and unique ways.
ANTWERP’S CULTURAL IDENTITY

Rubens’ house - today one of the city’s major museums - is a baroque classic, and there are still many stylish churches in the city from this era. Indeed, many of Antwerp’s great contemporary artists continue to be inspired by Rubens’ extravagant baroque tradition, creating an authentic and distinctive joie de vivre in the city.

The word Baroque is derived from the Portuguese word ‘barocco’ meaning, ‘irregular pearl or stone’. This is perhaps the perfect metaphor for Antwerp as it evokes something mysterious, multifaceted and difficult to pin down, while remaining classic and amazingly contemporary at the same time.

THANKS TO RUBENS, THE CONTEMPORARY BAROQUE SPIRIT OF ANTWERP LIVES ON.  

AN ANTWERP STATE OF MIND

The tradition for new and eccentric architecture continues and baroque-like buildings are being added to Antwerp’s skyline all the time, including Richard Rogers’ Court House and Zaha Hadid’s Port House - both well worth the visit in themselves.
“I’M JUST A SIMPLE MAN STANDING ALONE WITH MY OLD BRUSHES, ASKING GOD FOR INSPIRATION. „

PETER PAUL RUBENS
ANTWERP BAROQUE 2018.
RUBENS INSPIRES

In 2018, the City of Antwerp will pay tribute to Peter Paul Rubens and his baroque, cultural legacy. Rubens is often identified with the Baroque and is an icon for Antwerp. Even today Rubens is an important source of inspiration for contemporary artists and the atypical lifestyle of the city and its inhabitants. In his wake, Antwerp artists have continued to innovate, culminating in a certain joie de vivre that is typical of our city. The Baroque festival establishes a dialogue between Rubens’s historic Baroque with the work of contemporary Baroque masters, including Jan Fabre, Luc Tuymans and Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. This will lead to promising exhibitions, performances and events, with several new artistic creations, some of which will be permanently installed in the city. The opening ceremony for the new Rubens Experience Center in 2019 marks the close of the Baroque festival.

SUMMER 2018
OPENING WEEKEND CELEBRATION BAROQUE LIFE IN THE CITY MICROFLUSS MUSEUM AAN DE STROOM (MAS)
SANGUINE | BLOEDROOD LUC TUYMANS ON BAROQUE MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART (M HKA)

PERMANENT OFFER & PERFORMING ARTS

AUTUMN 2018
EXPERIENCE TRAPS MIDDELHEIM MUSEUM
PAUL KOOIKER PHOTOGRAPHY MUSEUM OF ANWERP (FOMU)
RUBENS’ RETURN RUBENS HOUSE
MONUMENTAL CHURCHES
BAROQUE BUREZ ATHOS BUREZ IN THE MAS MUSEUM AAN DE STROOM (MAS)
COKERYEN | PHOTO, FILM, FOOD SNIJDERS&ROCKOX HOUSE
MONUMENTAL CHURCHES
BAROQUE BOOK DESIGN MUSEUM PLANTIN-MORETUS
RUBENS’ RETURN RUBENS HOUSE
BAROQUE BUREZ ATHOS BUREZ IN THE MAS MUSEUM AAN DE STROOM (MAS)
AUTUMN 2019
OPENING OF
RUBENS EXPERIENCE CENTER
OPENING EXHIBITION
DESIGNED BY RUBENS
RUBENS HOUSE

2019
PERMANENT OFFER
& PERFORMING ARTS

01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 10 11 12 01
SUMMER 2018

OPENING WEEKEND

A BAROQUE CELEBRATION OF LIFE
The Opening Weekend will transform the city into a stage for three whole days. The program, entirely in the Baroque style, marks not only the opening of three major exhibitions, but also includes flamboyant location theater, music, dance, and of course, fireworks!

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
Various locations in the city
From 1 to 3 June 2018

TICKETS
Free

MICHAELINA
The exhibition devoted to Michaelina Wautier (1617–1689) will demonstrate the exceptional talent of an artist who grew up at a time when female artists were a rarity. Wautier was not afraid to produce large-scale history paintings – a challenge that many male painters shied away from. The 26 known works by her hand are remarkable for their daring subject matter and superior pictorial technique.

The exhibition devoted to Michaelina Wautier is the first retrospective exhibition of the work of this Baroque artist.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
The exhibition Michaelina is a production of the Rubens House and will exceptionally be hosted by the MAS.

SANGUINE | BLOEDROOD
LUC TUYMANS ON BAROQUE
The Antwerp-based artist Luc Tuymans will contrast works from historical baroque and contemporary masters at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Antwerp. A selection of baroque pieces has been selected from the collection at the Royal Museum of Fine Arts with contemporary work chosen by Luc Tuymans. From Rubens to Wim Delvoye. From Caravaggio to Ed Kienholz.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
The exhibition Sanguine | Bloedrood Luc Tuymans on Baroque is a production of the MAS.

www.rubenshuis.be
www.mas.be

MAS
(MUSEUM AAN DE STROOM)
Hanzestedenplaats 1,
Antwerp

OPENING HOURS
FROM 1 JUNE TO 2 SEPTEMBER 2018
Tue - Fri: 10 am - 5 pm
(last tickets sold at 4 pm)
Sat - Sun: 10 am - 6 pm
(last tickets sold at 5 pm)
Closed: Mondays

TICKETS
Individual: 10 EURO
Concessions, trade and groups of 12 or more: 8 EURO
Under 12 years, Festival Card: free

RUBENS’ RETURN
OUTSTANDING WORKS ADDED TO THE RUBENS HOUSE COLLECTION
In the run-up to Antwerp Baroque 2018, ten special masterpieces will be added to the Rubens House collection. The Rubens House has already welcomed works by Tintoretto and Van Dyck. These are now joined by more company: works by an Italian master who inspired Rubens, works by some of his most talented students, and masterpieces by Rubens himself, returning to the place where they were painted for the first time. And of course there is Rubens’ self-portrait, which has yielded up many new secrets in the course of thorough restoration. The new acquisitions will be announced in the run-up to the festival.

DISCOVER THE RESTORED PORTICO AND GARDEN PAVILION
The portico and the garden pavilion are the only two original features surviving from the Rubens House, as well as representing rare traces of the master’s work as an architect. These 400-year-old features are due for restoration work once again. During the festival year Antwerp Baroque 2018, ‘Rubens inspires’ visitors will be able to follow and discover the restoration on location. Guided tours, lectures, site visits and
various digital applications give visitors the opportunity to literally get close to Rubens’ architecture.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
www.rubenshuis.be

RUBENS HOUSE, Wapper 9 – 11, Antwerp
Groundfloor is wheelchair accessible

OPENING HOURS
FROM 1 JUNE TO 2 SEPTEMBER 2018
Tue - Fri: 10 am - 5 pm
(last tickets sold at 4 pm)
Sat - Sun: 10 am - 5 pm
(last tickets sold at 4 pm)
Closed: Mondays

TICKETS
Individual: 8 EURO
Concessions, trade and groups of 12 or more: 6 EURO
Under 12 years, Festival Card: free

EXPERIENCE TRAPS
The Middelheim Museum is highlighting the contemporary legacy of the Baroque, by emphasizing the tension between the natural and the artificial.

The grotto, the maze, the tableau vivant, the folly, the fountain, the trompe l’oeil - each of these baroque motifs inspires international contemporary artists to create new works, at the crossroads between architecture, sculpture and installation, specifically for the Middelheim Museum and public spaces in the city, that will beguile, surprise, impress the public.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
www.middelheimmuseum.be

MIDDELHEIM MUSEUM
Middelheimlaan 61, Antwerp
+ various locations in the city

OPENING HOURS
FROM 1 JUNE TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018
JUNE - JULY: Tue - Sun: 10 am - 9 pm
AUGUST: Tue - Sun: 10 am - 8 pm
SEPTEMBER: Tue - Sun: 10 am - 7 pm

TICKETS
Free

PAUL KOOIKER
At FOMU, the Rubenesque is laid bare, and contextualised with work by Dutch artist Paul Kooiker.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
www.fomu.be

FOMU
(Museum of Photography)
Waalsekaai 47, Antwerp

OPENING HOURS
FROM 29 JUNE TO 07 OCTOBER 2018
Tuesday - Sunday, 10 am - 6 pm

TICKETS
Individual: 10 EURO, Groups: 7 EURO
Trade: 7 EURO,
Under 26 years: 3 EURO
Free: under 18 years, Festival Card

BAROQUE BUREZ
ATHOS BUREZ IN THE MAS BOULEVARD

ATHOS BUREZ AT THE MAS
In 2018, MAS hosts the young photographic artist Athos Burez with a photo series about baroque. In 30 images and installations, he offers an idiosyncratic and contemporary look at different genres from this stylistic period: still lifes, portraits, landscapes and interiors. Burez’s work is characterised by an almost surrealistic take on familiar images which means that they often seem to be hovering between two worlds. In this photo exhibition at the MAS, old baroque elements go hand in hand with the present-day, creating a completely new and unique baroque visual culture. The exhibition can be visited for free on the MAS Boulevard from 1 June 2018. Diptychs, triptychs and polyptychs fill the lightbox walls to create beacons recognisable from a distance.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
MAS (MUSEUM AAN DE STROOM)
Hanzestedenplaats 1, Antwerp
www.mas.be

OPENING HOURS
FROM 1 JUNE TO 31 OCTOBER 2018
Tue – Sun: 9.30 am – 9.30 pm
FROM 1 NOVEMBER 2018 – 31 MARCH 2019
Tue – Sun: 9.30 am – 11.30 pm
Closed: Mondays

TICKETS:
Acces to MAS Boulevard and the exhibition Baroque Burez is FREE
ART SHOWS, DANCE AND MUSIC IN MONUMENTAL CHURCHES

Antwerp has five monumental churches where Baroque and the Rubens’ living environment come to life ‘in situ’. The majestic Cathedral of Our Lady, St. Paul’s Church, St. Andrew’s, Carolus Borromeus Church and the recently restored St. James’ Church. These churches belonged to the most enthusiastic commissioners of new work from Rubens and his contemporaries. In 2018 this permanent display is being brought even closer to the visitor: Rubens’ masterpieces in the cathedral, the Baroque master at work as an architect in Carolus Borromeus, his burial chapel in St. James’ Church. Nowhere else can you get so close to this rich past.

But there’s more. Antwerp Baroque 2018 is building bridges with the present by way of contemporary interventions, from visual art to dance and music which always found inspiration in Rubens’ work. St. Andrew’s concentrates on contemporary designs of chasubles, research is being carried out in Rubens’ burial chapel in the hope of making Ruben’s biography even more complete. St. Carolus Borromeus Church is the backdrop for dance creations by the renowned choreographer Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui. A walk around these churches immerses the visitor in a wonderful world of fine arts, inspiration and wonder.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

JAN FABRE

New altarpieces by Jan Fabre in the historic St. Augustine Church

ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH
Kammenstraat 81, Antwerp

OPENING HOURS
Inauguration: 15 AUGUST 2018
Open to public: opening days tbc

TICKETS
tbc; free (festival card)

ART INTERVENTIONS

CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY

Handschoenmarkt, Antwerp

OPENING HOURS
FROM 1 JUNE TO 31 DECEMBER 2018
Mon - Fri: 10 am - 5 pm
Sat: 10 am - 3 pm
Sun and holidays: 1 pm - 4 pm

TICKETS
Individual: 6 EURO
Trade & concession: 4 EURO
Free (festival card)

RUBENS’ FUNERAL CHAPEL

ST. JAMES’ CHURCH
Lange Nieuwstraat 73-75, Antwerp

OPENING HOURS
1 JUNE TO 31 OCTOBER 2018
Mon - Sun: 2 pm - 5 pm

TICKETS
Free

A BAROQUE JEWEL IN A GOTHIC SHRINE

ST. PAUL CHURCH

Sint Paulusstraat 22, Antwerp
(entrance through Veemarkt 14)

OPENING HOURS
1 JUNE TO 31 OCTOBER 2018
Mon - Sun: 2 pm - 5 pm

TICKETS
Free

BAROQUE CHASUBLE FASHION

ST. ANDRIES CHURCH

Sint Andriesstraat 7/4, Antwerp
(entrance through Waaistraat)

OPENING HOURS
FROM 1 JUNE TO 31 DECEMBER 2018
Mo - Sun: 9 am - 12 am & 2 am – 5 pm
Closed: Sat: 9 am - 10 pm; Sun: 9 am to 12 pm

TICKETS
Free
AUTUMN 2018

COKERYEN | PHOTO, FILM, FOOD

The Baroque painter Frans Sniijders (Antwerp, 1579-1657) is famous for his hunting scenes, impressive market scenes and still lifes. Rubens regularly relied on Sniijders to execute sections of his paintings on his behalf. Similar to Frans Sniijders, food photographer Tony Le Duc also has a keen eye for attractive compositions. Experimenting with colour, he elevates basic food items to artworks. For the exhibition Cokeryen | Photo, Film, Food Le Duc brings the works of Sniijders and his contemporaries together, in which food and ingredients are key. He confronts the selection with his own work. And all of that in the home and studio of Frans Sniijders himself, which opens its doors to the public in 2018.

A delicious and delectable exhibition, which is followed perfectly by a visit to one of the baroque restaurants or food trucks that Antwerp has to offer.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.rockoxhuis.be

SNIJDERS&ROCKOX HOUSE
Keizerstraat 10, Antwerp

OPENING HOURS
FROM 28 SEPTEMBER 2018 TO 13 JANUARY 2019
Tue - Sun: 10 am - 5 pm (Last tickets sold at 4 pm)
Closed on Mondays, 1 November, 25 & 26 December, 1 & 2 January.

TICKETS
Individual: 10 EURO
Concessions, trade and groups of 12 or more: 8 EURO
Under 12 years, Festival Card: free

BAROQUE BOOK DESIGN

The MUSEUM PLANTIN-MORETUS, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, pays tribute to all book designers and especially to Peter Paul Rubens. Special attention goes to Rubens friendship and collaboration with Balthasar I Moretus, the grandson of Christophe Plantin, with whom he created the Baroque Book. Contemporary book designers give their vision on book architecture.‘I don’t print for the same price as other printers’, said Balthasar ‘as Rubens doesn’t paint for the same price as other painters’. Esther Chadwick, Apollo Feb 2017.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.museumplantinmoretus.be
Vrijdagmarkt 22, Antwerp

OPENING HOURS
FROM 28 SEPTEMBER 2018 TO 6 JANUARY 2019
Tue-Sun: 10 am - 5 pm Closed on Mondays, 1 November, 25 December, 1 January.

TICKETS
Individual: 8 EURO
Concessions, trade and groups of 12 or more: 6 EURO
Under 12 years, Festival Card: free

PLEASE NOTE

Rubens’ return in Rubens house and the exhibitions in the monumental churches can still be visited until the end of December 2018, Baroque Burez even until 30 April 2019.
The Baroque Festival Card is the best way to discover Antwerp Baroque 2018. This pass is valid for 48 hours (starting from your first visit) and entitles you to free admission to all the exhibitions and monumental churches offering a programme as part of Antwerp Baroque 2018. The pass also entitles you to discounts to other events. What's more, you also receive a handy guide and map with useful information on all the must-see baroque locations. Please note that the card does not include public transportation.

More information: www.visitantwerpen.be/trade-baroque

The Baroque Festival Card costs 25 euros and can be ordered online as from this autumn 2017. Kindly contact business@visitantwerpen.be about the trade rates.

ANTWERP MUSEUM APP
THE BAROQUE EDITION

Antwerp is a real treat for baroque and Rubens lovers. There's a wealth of art, history and baroque joie de vivre to discover. Enjoy tours and walks, but also tips from locals.

This app will be the ultimate guide to exploring the baroque wealth and hidden secrets of the city.

- Baroque tours, walks and tips available in March 2018.
- Downloadable free on smartphones and tablets
- Available in Dutch / English / French / German. Other languages to follow.

More information: www.antwerpmuseumapp.com or www.visitantwerpen.be/trade-baroque

GUIDED WALKING TOUR

The Rubens Walking Tour begins in the vicinity of the Scheldt, the river that brought Antwerp wealth and enabled its artists to flourish. The tour takes participants down the neighbouring narrow streets past stonemasons' houses and bankers' residences into the city centre. It then passes hip antique and fashion shops before reaching the high point: Rubens house itself. Available in Dutch / English / French / German.

- Max. 20 participants
- 75 EURO (excl. booking fee)
- Bookings should be made at least 3 weeks in advance via: www.visitantwerpen.be

More information: www.visitantwerpen.be/trade-baroque

GUIDED EXHIBITION TOURS

- In Dutch / English / French / German. Italian and Spanish on request.
- Depending on the museum, groups of min. 15 persons to max. 20 persons
- 75 EURO (excl. booking fee)

More information: www.visitantwerpen.be/trade-baroque

LATE-NIGHT OPENINGS AND SPECIAL RECEPTIONS

- Exclusive visits and opening hours
- Visits behind the scenes, including private organ concerts in historic churches
- Creative workshops in printing, engraving, bookbinding

Please contact: baroque@stad.antwerpen.be

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ALL PRICES AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

baroque@stad.antwerpen.be
www.visitantwerpen.be/trade-baroque
T +32 (0)3 201 15 57
Meet one of the most versatile artists ever: Peter Paul Rubens. Explore his palazzo and studio, pay a visit to his friends and relatives, travel around Europe in the company of this diplomat and discover why his name still resonates well into the 21st century. In the brand-new Rubens Experience Centre, uncover the mystery of one of the greatest artists ever, right in his hometown of Antwerp.

Meet Peter Paul Rubens the man, artist, Antwerper, businessman and diplomat. And Rubens himself guides and hosts visitors in a virtual world dedicated to the Master’s life and work. Drawing together, as it does, special effects, innovative interactive features and full-scale evocations, the Rubens Experience Centre extends over three interactive galleries and includes multiple different experiences. In the first gallery is Rubens at work in his studio or busy at home talking with his friends and family. In the second gallery Rubens shows off his beloved city: Antwerp. A sensational virtual walk through the city takes visitors past the places that are important in Rubens’ life and art. The route includes the Cathedral of Our Lady, St Charles Borromeo’s Church, St Paul’s Church and St James’ Church, as well as the houses of his friends Nicolaas Rockox, Frans Snijders, Christophe Plantin and Jacob Jordaens. In the third room, Rubens guides a journey to Italy and Spain, where he himself travelled in his time and shows how he has remained famous right through to the present day.

A visit to the Rubens Experience Centre is the ideal starting point for a Rubens Experience in Antwerp. The centre provides direct access to the Rubens House, the Rubenianum and Rubens’ garden, as well as everything else related to Rubens in the city.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.visitantwerpen.be/trade-baroque

RUBENS EXPERIENCE CENTRE
Hopland, Antwerp
Neighbourhood of the Rubens House

TRADE CONTACT
baroque@stad.antwerpen.be
T +32 (0)3 201 15 57

OPENING HOURS
Autumn 2019

TICKETS
Admission included in ticket for Rubens House
Individual: 8 EURO
Concession and trade: 6 EURO
Under 12 years, Antwerp City Card: free
EXHIBITION ‘DESIGNED BY RUBENS’

‘Designed by Rubens’ focuses on a remarkable aspect of the oeuvre of this brilliant artist: Rubens as a designer of exclusive, luxury art objects in costly materials such as silver, ivory and bronze. It was during his stay in Italy that Rubens first saw such objects. In his studio in Antwerp, Rubens embraced this artistic challenge by making designs for such precious showpieces. For their execution, he turned to young, talented artist friends, such as the German sculptor Georg Petel (1601/02-1634), and the Flemish sculptors Artus I Quellinus (1609-1668) and Lucas Faydherbe (1617-1697).

For the first time ever, some thirty designs (paintings, oil sketches and drawings) and the objects themselves will be brought together in a fascinating exhibition.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.rubenshuis.be

RUBENS HOUSE
Wapper 9 - 11, Antwerp

TRADE CONTACT
baroque@stad.antwerpen.be
T +32 (0)3 201 15 57

OPENING HOURS
Autumn 2019

TICKETS
tbc
PERMANENT RUBENS & BAROQUE OFFER

ANYONE WHO SAYS ANTWERP, THINKS RUBENS

In no other city in the world will you find as many tangible reminders of Rubens as in Antwerp, for he spent most of his life living and working there. It was where he received his training, where he experienced family joys and sorrows, and where he welcomed princes and dignitaries as a diplomat for the Low Countries. It was also the place where he did his painting, becoming by popular acclaim, the greatest painter of his era. His presence is still keenly felt in the city. His statue welcomes visitors to the Groenplaats and more than fifty of his works are on display in various museums and churches, often in the setting for which they were created. His home, studio and grave are all located in Antwerp.

RUBENS HOUSE

Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640) personally welcomed many a visitor to the Rubens House. The Master lived here for many years with his family, and painted with colleagues and assistants in the studio that he designed himself. Much of his extensive oeuvre originated in this house, in the heart of Antwerp.

Here, Rubens shows who he really was: painter, art collector, father, friend, architect and teacher. His most famous and without a doubt his most talented collaborator was Anthony van Dyck (1599-1641). He was an extraordinary artist whose qualities Rubens quickly spotted. And in truth, he was Rubens’ first serious rival. Later, while working in Italy and London, Van Dyck emerged as a virtuoso portraitist. Van Dyck’s portraits in the Rubens House illustrate his unfailing sensitivity and brilliant technique.

GARDEN PAVILION

Peter Paul Rubens purchased his house in 1610. He had it extended, according to his own designs, to include a garden screen and pavilion, a sculpture museum and a studio.

RESTORATION RUBENS’ SELF-PORTRAIT

The Rubens House is utterly unique, home to a collection of masterpieces by Rubens himself, as well as his colleagues and contemporaries. One such is Rubens’s self-portrait. The artist painted himself surprisingly rarely, and when he did so, he always represented himself as a confident and distinguished gentleman, never as a painter. The portrait is traditionally dated to 1630, the year in which Rubens married Helena Fourment. He was 53 years old at the time. Rubens’s self-portrait will undergo some much-needed restoration. The masterpiece will return to public during the ‘Antwerp Baroque year 2018’ urban cultural festival. Restored to his original splendor, Rubens will be the event’s magnificent host.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.rubenshuis.be
RUBENS HOUSE
Wapper 9-11, Antwerp
TRADE CONTACT
Visit Antwerp
tickets@visitantwerpen.be
T +32 (0)3 232 01 03

TICKETS
Individual: 8 EURO
Concessions, trade and groups of 12 or more: 6 EURO
ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANTWERP

Currently closed for renovation, it will reopen Autumn 2019. It will be worth the wait as it houses one of the finest Rubens collections in Belgium.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANTWERP
Leopold de Waelplaats 2, Antwerp

TRADE CONTACT
Birgit Pluvier
birgit.pluvier@kmska.be
T +32(0)3 224 95 67

SNIJDERSRockox House

The former residence of the Antwerp mayor at the time, Nicolaas Rockox, and a friend and patron of Rubens is a treasure trove of baroque art.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
www.rockoxhuis.be

SNIJDERSRockox House
Keizerstraat 10, Antwerp

TRADE CONTACT
Patrick Wuytack
patrick.wuytack@kbc.be
T +32 (0)3 201 92 50

MUSEUM PLANTIN-MORETUS

UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE
The house of Rubens’ good friend, door Balthasar Moretus, grandson of Christophe Plantin, and the place where many of his engravings were printed.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
MUSEUM PLANTIN-MORETUS
Vrijdagsmarkt 2, Antwerp

TRADE CONTACT
tickets@visitantwerpen.be
T +32 (0)3 232 01 03
OPENING HOURS
Tue - Sun: 10 am - 5 pm
Closed Mondays, 1 January, 1 May,
Ascention Day, 1 November, 25
December
Exceptionally open on Easter
Monday and Whit Monday

TICKETS
Individual: 8 EURO
Concessions, trade and groups of 12
or more: 6 EURO
AUDIO GUIDE: Available in Dutch,
French, English, German and
Spanish, and can be obtained at
reception for 2 EURO

THE CATHEDRAL OF
OUR LADY

Four masterpieces by Rubens
are on permanent display. Eight
altarpieces from the collection of
the Royal Museum of Fine Arts
Antwerp are the highlights of the
exhibition Reunion.

From Quinten Metsijs to Peter

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
CATHEDRAL
OF OUR LADY
Groenplaats 21, Antwerp

TRADE CONTACT
Elisabeth Michiels
e.michiels@dekathedraal.be
T +32 (0)3 213 99 51

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
AND ST. PAUL’S CHURCHES

Rubens’ talents as an ecclesiastical
baroque architect are clearly visible
in these two churches.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
MONUMENTAL CHURCHES
ANTWERP

www.mkaweb.be

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO
Hendrick Conscienceplein 12
Antwerp

ST PAUL CHURCH
Sint-Paulusstraat 22
Antwerp

TRADE CONTACT
Marijeke D’Hooghe
marieke.d’hooghe@stad.antwerpen.be

ST. JAMES’S CHURCH

This is where the artist was laid
to rest. Rubens chose the painting
for the altar: his own “Our Lady
surrounded by the saints.”

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
MONUMENTAL CHURCHES ANTWERP

www.mkaweb.be

ST JAMES CHURCH
Lange Nieuwstraat 73
Antwerp

TRADE CONTACT
Marijeke D’Hooghe
marieke.d’hooghe@stad.antwerpen.be
WHILE VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE LIFE OF PIETER BRUEGEL THE ELDER, MUCH CAN BE DEDUCED BY STUDYING HIS PAINTINGS AND BY LOOKING BACK AT THE TIMES HE LIVED IN. HE WAS A HIGHLY INVENTIVE ARTIST, WHO PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED THE IMAGINATIONS AND PERCEPTIONS OF SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS.
“Brussels and its surroundings were an inspiration to Bruegel, as most of his paintings were created there. An entire floor of the Bruegel Visitors’ Centre will show a painter’s atelier of the time and the artists’ working methods.”
THE ENIGMA OF PIETER BRUEGEL THE ELDER

The reality is we know very little about his life with certainty, and this makes him a truly enigmatic figure. He was obviously fascinated by nature, humanity and humour, and therefore doesn’t quite fit the mould as this or that ‘type’ of artist.

Two early sources suggest that Bruegel was most likely born between the years of 1525 and 1530 for it is recorded that he became a free master in the Guild of St Luke, Antwerp in 1551. This leads us to conclude that he probably served his apprenticeship with the master craftsman and well-known tapestry designer, architect and sculptor, Pieter Coecke van Aelst between 1545 and 1550. It was perhaps during this apprenticeship that Coecke’s wife, Mayken Verhulst, might have trained him as a manuscript illuminator.

THE GUILD OF SAINT LUKE

Membership of the Guild of Saint Luke in Antwerp will certainly have exposed Bruegel to the influence of the local Romanists for whom travel to Italy and appreciation of classical and humanist culture were essential. And so it is no surprise to find that he travelled to Italy around 1552 where he is known to have met the miniaturist Giulio Clovio when in Rome, for three paintings by him were listed in the latter’s will of 1578. Sadly none of these works have survived.

Around 1554 Bruegel returned to Antwerp, probably by way of the Alps. This journey resulted in a number of exquisite mountain landscape drawings. These sketches, which formed the basis for many of his later paintings, were not records of actual places but “composites” made in order to study the organic life of forms in nature.

AN ARTIST BY TRADE

From the mid-16th century onwards, Bruegel began to be more professionally active. By 1552, he had established his first contacts with the print publisher Hieronymus Cock and it is from this epoch that we have his earliest surviving drawings which can still be seen today: the collection of Bruegel’s graphic production which is kept by the Royal Library of Belgium, ranks as among the richest world-wide. It is also home to a collection of about 90 rare high-quality prints as well as three master drawings by Bruegel himself.

It is understood that, on his return from Italy, Bruegel began to concentrate more on painting. To our knowledge, around 40 œuvres of his survive, and while they are now scattered worldwide, four of them can be seen in the Royal Museum of Fine Arts in Brussels, while the iconic painting ‘The Dulle Griet’ (Mad Meg) can be viewed in the Mayer van den Bergh Museum in Antwerp. This museum also owns the 12 hand-painted wooden plates by Bruegel, each depicting a well-known proverb.

FAMILY LIFE IN BRUSSELS

In 1563, Bruegel moved to Brussels to be closer to the centre of money, power and potential clients. It was a hub for artists and the new urban nobility. In the same year, he married Mayken Coecke, daughter of Pieter Coecke and Mayken Verhulst, in Brussels’ Notre-Dame de la Chapelle Church, and lived nearby. This area was a particularly prosperous neighbourhood in the 16th-century and not far from Charles V’s main residence at the Coudenberg Palace at Mont des Arts.

Bruegel died in 1569 and is buried in the same church in which he married, the Notre-Dame de la Chapelle, near the Sablon in Brussels. Both of Bruegel’s sons, Pieter (the Younger) and Jan (the Elder), born in 1564 and 1568 respectively, became notable artists in their own right.
2019 will be the year Flanders celebrates the life and times of Pieter Bruegel, as it will be 450 years since his death. An impressive series of exhibitions and events will showcase to the world just what an exceptional artist he was, and how influential he was during his lifetime.

An astonishingly inventive painter and draftsman, Bruegel frequently depicted rural life, as experienced by the common man, reminding us just how colourful life was in those days. “Peasant Bruegel” as he has been called, did not live in the countryside at all and was actually an urban dweller for most of his adult life, living first in Antwerp and then Brussels. With his powerful and iconic recreation of ‘everyday life’ scenes, Pieter Bruegel the Elder is largely responsible for the creation of Flanders’ national psyche and collective consciousness as hard working yet bon vivants.

From October 2018 to January 2019, an outstanding monograph exhibition dedicated to the artist will be held at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna. This exhibition is the result of a joint research project between several leading curators including Professor Manfred Sellink (General director and head curator, Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp). Soon after this exhibition, Flanders will kick off a year-long series of events, celebrating one of its most iconic painters.

The first series of activities will start in the springtime of 2019 in Brussels and its surroundings, then in autumn the focus will be on Antwerp. Exhibitions in Gaasbeek Castle and Bokrijk will provide a unique experience in a more rural, green environment.
BRUEGEL IN BLACK AND WHITE
ROYAL LIBRARY OF BELGIUM

Did you know that Bruegel was more prolific as a printmaker than as a painter? During his lifetime he designed some sixty prints which spread his fame across the globe. These multiples in black and white were very popular but have become very rare and fragile after more than four centuries. The Royal Library has a complete and unparalleled collection of Bruegel's prints in black & white. These unique drawings will be exclusively taken out of storage during a special exhibition. This exhibition gives you an insight in the life and work of Bruegel. Be inspired by his great drawings and make your own artwork, or discover how Bruegel's images were printed on a 16th century press. Thanks to specially designed cases for this exhibition visitors can take their places at a 'Bruegellian' dinner table and give their thoughts on the work. When they leave, the visitors will no longer know Bruegel only as the painter of the 'Peasant Wedding', but as the artist with an extraordinary imagination.

A New Royal location: a stately edifice with a marble rotunda and magnificent frescoes, the Palace of Charles de Lorraine is one of Brussels' few 18th century treasures. It is an integral part of the Royal Library and is well worth a visit in its own right.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.kbr.be/en
ROYAL LIBRARY OF BELGIUM
Kunstberg 4, 1000 Brussels

TRADE CONTACT
Jolien Pardon
Jolien.pardon@kbr.be

T + 32 (0)2 519 55 96

OPENING HOURS
FROM 1 MARCH TO 30 JUNE
Mon - Sun: 10 am - 5 pm
Closed: 1st May

TICKETS
We strongly recommend you order tickets online through a special website (pre-sale will be available 2 months in advance). All visits will be organised by timeslots. No guided tours will be organised during the exhibition. Special expert conferences (50 min) for groups are offered in combination with a visit. Please contact the reservations department for more info. Groups are allowed to bring their own guide. Audio guides will be available in NL-FR-EN-GER-IT-SP

TRAIN: Brussels Central station (Gare Centrale)
METRO: lines 1 to 5 (Parc or Gare Centrale)
TRAM: lines 92-94 (stop: Royale)
BUS: lines 27 - 38 - 71 - 95 (stop: Royale; lines 29 - 63 - 65 - 66 (stop: Parc or Gare Centrale)
CAR PARKS: Albertine (Rue des Sols & Place de la Justice); Parking 2 Portes (Rue de Namur & Blvd de Waterloo); Parking Poelaert (Place Poelaert)
Back to Bruegel: Experience the 16th Century

Halle Gate (Royal Museums of Art and History)

Built in 1381, the mythical Halle Gate, part of the second set of defensive walls that enclosed Brussels, opens a virtual door into Bruegel’s universe. Visitors will discover the 16th century, a century marked not only by religious wars and religious battles, but also by the discovery of the new world, the rise of cities and the flourishing of humanism: all in a unique building that Bruegel himself will have seen daily and passed through while he lived and worked in Brussels.

Thanks to virtual reality technology, visitors will be carried on an astonishing journey into the heart of the paintings of Bruegel the Elder. Discover the 16th century thanks to an exhibition filled with the most remarkable items from the Brussel Royal Museum of Art and History. At the top of the building, with a marvellous view over Brussels, take a look through the virtual reality viewfinders and discover Brussels in the sixteenth century.

Back to Bruegel: discovering history by a combination of advanced technology and exceptional artefacts.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.kmkg-mrah.be

Halle Gate (Royal Museums of Art and History)
Zuidlaan 150, 1000 Brussels

TRADE CONTACT
Sophie T’Kint
portedehal@mrah.be
T +32 (0)2 533 34 51

OPENING HOURS
SPRING 2019
Mo - Thu: 10 am - 6 pm
Sat - Sun and feast-days: 10 am - 5 pm
Closed Fridays, 1 January, 1 May, 11 November and 25 December.
NOTE: ticket-office closes at 4 pm (5pm weekends).

Also closed at 2 pm on 24 and 31 December
TRAIN: Bruxelles-Midi/Brussel-Zuid (walking distance)
METRO: 2, 6: Station Porte de Halle/Hallepoort
TRAM: 3, 55, 90: Station Porte de Halle/Hallepoort
BUS: 48, 136, 137, 365 Station at Porte de Halle/Hallepoort

Bernard van Orley: The Road to Bruegel

BOZAR (Centre for Fine Arts)

Bernard van Orley (1488-1541) owned one of the largest ateliers of his era and played a fundamental role in the artistic life of Brussels in the first half of the 16th century. He is therefore considered an important link between the Flemish Primitives and Pieter Bruegel the Elder.

With this exhibition on Van Orley, Brussels will host a long-anticipated world premiere, as for both historical and logistical reasons Brussels is the only location where a large retrospective of this Flemish master can be achieved.

As his work is still on display in many churches and collections in and around Brussels, visitors will be able to follow an itinerary connecting the Brussels’ city centre to the European quarter and the Brussels Cinquantenaire Museum. An illustrated city map will guide the visitor through Brussels and allows them to admire the works of the Flemish masters in their original setting.

This project is organised in collaboration with the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, the Royal Museums of Art and History and the Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.bozar.be
BOZAR (Centre for Fine Arts)

Bernsteinstraat 23, 1000 Brussels

TRADE CONTACT
Eleonore Duchêne
eleonore.duchene@bozar.be
T +32 (0)2/507 83 68
groups@bozar.be
T +32 (0)2/507 83 36

OPENING HOURS
SPRING 2019
Tue - Sun: 10 am - 6 pm
Thu: 10 am - 9 pm

Visiting the Centre for Fine Arts in a group offers personalised information and a free visitors guide provided booking is made in advance (within the context of special offers), easy terms and reduced price tickets for all events and guided tours of exhibitions;

ATTENTION
The Centre for Fine Arts does not allow outside guides/speakers.

RATES
For one guide: 77 - 97 EURO (weekends and evening visits); Max 15 pers./guide

PARKING FOR COACHES: rue Cardinal Mercier / Kardinaal Mercierstraat

In 2019 various organisations will offer guided walks, musical events, cultural happenings, historical parades around the popular Marolles area and all over the city centre, highlighting many of the locations related to Bruegel and the fascinating period during which he lived. It’s an excellent opportunity to come and re-discover Bruegel’s world and his work in the historic heart of Brussels.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

VISIT BRUSSELS
www.visitbrussels.be

TRADE CONTACT
Pieter Callebaut
p.callebaut@visitbrussels.be
T +32 (0)2/549 50 52

Ravensteinstraat 23, 1000 Brussels
ROYAL MUSEUMS OF FINE ARTS OF BELGIUM

From the 15th to the 18th century: the Old Masters collection takes the visitor through 400 years of art history thanks to exceptional works that tell unique stories from the past. Visitors here can admire the second largest collection of Bruegel paintings and drawings in the world. Right next to it, famous masterpieces by Rubens or Jordaens and rare works from major artists such as Van der Weyden, Bouts, Memling, Bosch and Van Dyck are also on show. The Museum offers everyone the chance to immerse themselves in Bruegel’s masterpieces, by drawing on a wide spectrum of virtual and onsite experiences:

**BRUEGEL UNSEEN MASTERPIECES**

ROYAL MUSEUMS OF FINE ARTS OF BELGIUM

Twelve of Bruegel’s masterpieces, to be found in some of the most prestigious museums in the world, are presented in high-definition detail thanks to technology provided by the Google Cultural Institute. Drawing on a wide spectrum of virtual and on-site experiences, this unique initiative offers visitors the chance to immerse themselves in Bruegel’s works by honing in on the finer elements of each painting, and accessing expert knowledge.

By delving deeper into the artist’s world, the viewer will discover the unexpected elements in Bruegel’s works that constitute the pinnacle of the Flemish master’s craft. So while the artist and his paintings may be instantly recognisable, every painting has a whole host of characteristics - some familiar, others surprising - that are masterpieces worthy of exploration in their own right.

**BRUEGEL BOX**

This intriguing art experience lets visitors discover the secrets to be found in Bruegel’s most famous masterpieces. In one of the museum’s rooms, fascinating videos - each dedicated to a Bruegel painting - are projected on three walls, floor to ceiling with the help of a sophisticated system of projectors and ultra-high resolution images.

In the “Bruegel Box”, spectators are able to rub shoulder-to-shoulder with the villagers of Bruegel’s “Proverbs” (1559), come face-to-face with the palm reader in the Sermon of Saint John the Baptist (1566) or experience The Fall of the Rebel Angels (1562) as if they were there. Following the immersive experience in the ‘Box’, visitors will then be able to admire the original ‘Fall of the Rebel Angels’ as it can be seen on the first floor of the Old Masters collection of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium.

**Experience more:**

Nineteen virtual exhibitions exploring the painter’s masterpieces and documenting his life, influences and legacy are now available for all to see on g.co/UnseenMasterpieces. At the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium, 12 of these multimedia exhibitions are presented on interactive terminals.

Using a smartphone to plunge the viewer into a 360-degree universe, the Google Cardboard virtual reality viewer provides another cutting-edge way to experience The Fall of the Rebel Angels. This virtual reality view is available on the YouTube channel of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium. Viewers can see how the painting comes to life in front of their eyes, and how they too can feel as though they were walking amongst one of Bruegel’s illustrious creatures.

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

www.fine-arts-museum.be/en

ROYAL MUSEUMS OF FINE ARTS OF BELGIUM
Regentschapsstraat 3, 1000 Brussel

TRADE CONTACT
Laurence Ryckaert
reservation@fine-arts-museum.be
T +32 (0)2 508 33 33 / +32 (0)2 508 34 52

OPENING HOURS
Tue - Fri: 10 am - 5 pm
Sat - Sun: 11 am - 6 pm

Closed Mondays and 1st and 2nd of January, 1st May and 1st and 11th November and 25th December.

TICKETS
Adult: 10 EURO
Senior (+65 years): 8 EURO
Youth (6-25 years), teacher, disabled and companion: 4 EURO
Friend of the Museums, ICOM member, child (- 6 years): FREE
REDUCED TRADE FEE: 8 EURO

TICKET SALES
At the Museums ticketing desk or onlineticketing@fine-arts-museum.be

ACTIVITIES AND RESERVATIONS
Guided tours, slow art, workshops, etc. T: +32 (0)2 508 33 33
reservation@fine-arts-museum.be
To mark the 450th anniversary of Pieter Bruegel’s death in 2019, the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium will open a Bruegel visitors’ centre in an original 16th century house in Brussels’ city centre.

Explore the world of Bruegel, go back in time to walk his streets, visit the church where he married and was buried, discover through the means of digital tools where he found inspiration and enjoy culinary specialties from the days of yore.

Participate in the daily life of the world renowned painter, learn about his family, his artistry and profession. In our workshop we invite you to create your own artwork, prepare your own paint and print your design on our press.

The house in the Hoogstraat is the ideal location to display the history and art of Brussels’ from this period, particularly as Emperor Charles (Charles V) had made Brussels his home, making it the powerful centre of his vast empire “where the sun never set”.

This house will provide visitors with an authentic 16th century experience including a painter’s atelier. An entire floor, full of natural light, will be dedicated to Bruegel’s working methods. The original environment will be recreated through virtual and augmented reality tools, along with sensorial experiences that make the experience unique.

The house is also within easy walking distance of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium and its 16th-century art collection (Bruegel the Elder, Bruegel the Younger, Pieter Coecke Van Aelst, Frans Floris, Joachim Patenier, …) and the Royal Library.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TRADE CONTACT
Laurence Ryckaert
reservation@fine-arts-museum.be
T +32 1012 508 33 33 / +32 1012 508 34 52

TICKETS (tbc)
Adult: 10 EURO
Senior (+65 years): 8 EURO
Youth (16-25 years), teacher, disabled and companion: 4 EURO
Friend of the Museums, ICOM member, child (- 6 years): FREE
REDUCED TRADE FEE: 8 EURO
EXPERIENCE BRUEGEL IN THE ‘PAJOTTENLAND’
(THE COUNTRYSIDE AROUND BRUSSELS)

FEAST OF FOOLS: BRUEGEL Rediscovered
The exhibition “Feast of Fools” celebrates a large number of 20th-century artists who rediscovered Bruegel and addresses the question why he became one of Flanders’ leading cultural icons. Internationally renowned contemporary artists will also be interpreting his artistic legacy with both existing and new works.

Visitors will be immersed in a game of changing moods, not only with paintings but also music, literature and film. It’s a unique way of discovering Bruegel’s cynical humour, his caricatures and hidden messages, and the way he glorified landscapes and the rural life. Visitors can expect a fascinating journey through the castle’s labyrinth interiors, cleverly enhanced by one of Berlin’s most creative theatre companies, Rimini Protokoll.

An added attraction is a visit to the castle’s brasserie for a glass of authentic artisan geuze, brewed just like it was in Bruegel’s time.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be/en

GAASBEEK CASTLE
Kasteelstraat 40,
1750 Gaasbeek

TRADE CONTACT
Nancy Verhulst
Nancy.Verhulst@cjsm.vlaanderen.be
T +32 (0)2 531 01 44

OPENING HOURS
FROM 6 APRIL TO 28 JULY 2019
Tue - Sun: 10 am - 6 pm
(last visit at 5 pm)
Open on public holidays.

Audio guides available in English, Dutch and French

Tours can be booked by email: bezoek.gaasbeek@vlaanderen.be

PARKING: parking is available for 350 cars, 4 busses

GAASBEEK CASTLE
Gaasbeek Castle lies about 8 miles (13 km) south west of Brussels and is Flanders’ most romantic castle, surrounded by dramatic park scenery. One of the estate’s crown jewels is its magnificent Museum Garden, boasting a dazzling amount of old fruit varieties and forgotten vegetables.

The castle is nested in the gently rolling hills of the bucolic Pajottenland, an authentic, idyllic landscape. This is where Bruegel’s most beautiful vistas have survived. It would be very difficult to find a better place for an exhibition on the Master’s rediscovery.
BRUEGEL’S EYE: RECONSTRUCTING THE LANDSCAPE

Although not very much is known about his life and method, it is generally assumed that Pieter Bruegel the Elder ‘composed’ his landscapes with elements from the rural, slightly undulating Pajottenland district. An attempt is made to follow the painter’s eye on the landscape and look at it the way he did. A visitor’s tour beckons us to experience the Brabantine landscape in the surroundings of Brussels as he did in the 16th century. It is a once-in-a-lifetime, breathtaking exhibition of contemporary artists who catapult Bruegel to the 21st century. Bruegel was a masterly landscape painter. He surprises the viewer with unique perspectives, harmonious landscape compositions and ostensibly corporeal decors. This exhibition reinterprets the landscape theme and follows in the footsteps of the master himself. A bicycle and walking tour of 12 and 33 kilometres connects 12 unique installations, interventions and settings. The tour starts and ends at two buildings that were painted by Bruegel: the Church of Saint Anna-Pede, featured in Bruegel’s “The Parable of the Blind” (1568) and the watermill of Saint Gertrudis-Pede, which is depicted in “The Magpie on the Gallows” (1568).

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

6 MONTHS (27 APRIL – 27 OCTOBER 2019)
CHAIRCH OF SAINT ANNA-PEDE
176 Herdebeekstraat, 1701 Dilbeek.

FREE ADMISSION

TRADE CONTACT
toerisme@dilbeek.be

CAR: Brussels Ring Road, Exit 11 (Groot-Bijgaarden), 12, 13 (Dilbeek centre) and 14 (Anderlecht); parking available.
PUBLIC TRANSPORT: from Brussels South station to Anderlecht, Sint-Guido metro and connection with De Lijn bus 118, or De Lijn bus 118 directly from Brussels South station to Saint Anna-Pede (ca. 30’).
TAXI: 15 minutes from the Centre of Brussels to the site of Saint Anne-Pede
BICYCLES: available for hire: www.villo.be (Erasmus Hospital)

THE WORLD OF BRUEGEL

Located just 60 minutes from Brussels, Bokrijk offers a wide variety of monumental heritage, unspoiled natural vegetation and countless recreational opportunities such as the arboretum, bicycle- and hiking trails and the outdoor playground as an oasis for children’s fun. With 120 historic buildings, daily-life objects and activities in a truly idyllic landscape, the open-air museum is Bokrijk’s beating heart.

In the scenery of Bokrijk, Bruegel’s paintings will be brought to life. In several indoor and outdoor locations throughout this ‘bruegelian’ landscape, the visitor will discover, see, hear, feel, smell and taste life as it was in Bruegel’s time, yet from a present-day perspective. What’s more, visitors will get the unique opportunity to enter the world of Pieter Bruegel the Elder. Even though Bruegel’s work might be hundreds of years old, it still exhibits humour, symbolism and hidden tales relevant to the visitor today.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.bokrijk.be

BOKRIJK
Bokrijkaan 1, 3600 Genk

TRADE CONTACT
An Tournelle
an.tournelle@limburg.be

OPENING HOURS
FROM 4 APRIL – 30 OCTOBER 2019
Tue - Sun: 10 am - 6 pm
Visits with guides (ENG, FR, GER)

TICKETS
Adult: 12,5 EURO
Child (3-12): 2 EURO
60+: 10,5 EURO

TOUROPERATORS:
B2C offer: 10 EURO
B2B offer: 8,5 EURO

CYCLING TOUR IN THE PAJOTTENLAND

A special Bruegel cycle route has been prepared taking you past Gaasbeek Castle and St-Anna-Pede church, as well as the lush green landscape that Bruegel depicted in his paintings. The start of the route is only a short metro ride away from Brussels city centre.

Bicycles are available for hire: www.villo.be, Erasmus Hospital bike station.
EXPERIENCE BRUEGEL IN ANTWERP

AUTUMN 2019

BRUEGEL'S BOOMING ANTWERP

ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANTWERP (KMSKA)

The Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp (KMSKA) will open its doors again in Autumn 2019, following the most ambitious renovation in its history. Within one building, visitors will find two completely different worlds: the royal spaces of the 19th century museum that have been returned to their original splendour, and a brand new 21st century museum that is vertical in shape. The change will give the museum 40% more exhibition space for its vast collection. It also is a rethink of what the contemporary museum is: a dynamic space for both reflection and entertainment, bringing themes to life through a contemporary lens.

Its first major exhibition will be Bruegel's Booming Antwerp. This exhibition will give an overview of the artistic production in Antwerp and the Southern Netherlands at the time of Bruegel. During this period, Antwerp lived a 'Golden Age'. It was a time when the city grew at breakneck pace to become the most dynamic and cosmopolitan commercial city in Northern Europe.

With around 120 objects on show, visitors will be able to see a kaleidoscope of artifacts of the highest level in all genres and techniques: paintings, sculptures, drawings and prints; tapestries, manuscripts and printed illustrated, crafts and architecture. The exhibition features work by a variety of world-renowned artists who made the 16th century one of the most culturally influential periods ever. An era that holds learnings and insights still relevant to today's viewers.

A must see: Bruegel's Booming Antwerp will combine famous masterpieces from museums in Europe and the USA, with new discoveries and insights resulting from years of research. This exhibition is a direct sequel to the monographic exhibition about Pieter Bruegel the Elder to be shown at the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, from October 2018 to January 2019, in which the Royal Museum of Fine Arts Antwerp is closely involved.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FROM 26 OCTOBER 2019 TILL 26 JANUARY 2020

ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ANTWERP
Leopold de Waelplaats 2, Antwerp
www.kmska.be

TRADE CONTACT
Birgit Pluvier
birgit.pluvier@kmska.be
+32 (0)3 224 95 67

TICKETS
Individual: 18 EURO
Groups (> 15 people): 12 EURO
Under 18 years, Antwerp City Card: 0 EURO

GUIDED TOURS
publiekswerking@kmska.be or +32 (0)3 224 95 61
‘MAD MEG’ (DULLE GRIET) IS AN ‘APOCALYTIC’ AND ‘VOLCANIC’ NARRATIVE PAINTING AND RATHER LIKE ITS AUTHOR, HAS KEPT ITS SECRETS WELL LOCKED UP FOR PRECISELY WHAT IT MEANS REMAINS A MYSTERY. IT IS FULL OF MISSHAPEN MONSTERS AND A WOMAN GIRDED IN ARMOUR STRIDES FORTH WITH A SWORD IN HER HANDS: THIS IS MAD MEG, A SYNONYM IN BRUEGEL’S TIME FOR A HELLCAT.

THE COMEBACK OF BRUEGEL’S MAD MEG

MUSEUM MAYER VAN DEN BERGH

In ‘The comeback of Bruegel’s Mad Meg’ one of Pieter Bruegel’s most famous paintings, ‘Dulle Griet’ (Mad Meg) will be shown in all details. Thanks to new research and a thorough restoration of Dulle Griet, this exhibition will further reveal hidden secrets about the mystery that surrounds Bruegel and his early work in Antwerp.

The exhibition is part of the year-round theme celebrating the life and work of Bruegel taking place in various locations in Antwerp, including Museum Mayer van den Bergh, Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Snijders&Rockox House and elsewhere in the city.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.museummayervandenbergh.be

MUSEUM MAYER VAN DEN BERGH
Lange Gasthuisstraat 19, Antwerp

Detailed program will be online from December 2017 at: www.visitantwerpen.be/bruegel
Pre-sale ticketing for trade organisations from November 2017 at www.visitantwerpen.be/bruegel

TRADE CONTACT
museum.mayervandenbergh@stad.antwerpen.be
T +32 (0)3 338 81 88

OPENING HOURS
5 OCTOBER 2019 – 26 JANUARY 2020
Tue-Fri: 10 am - 8 pm
Sat-Sun: 10 am - 8 pm
Closed Mondays, 11 November and 25 December

TICKETS
Individual: 10 EURO
Concessions, trade and groups of 12 or more: 8 EURO
Under 12 years: free
Beginning in 2017, the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna will host a series of seminal exhibitions focusing on Flemish art and culture.

Visitors can enjoy the pictorial worlds of Rubens and Bruegel in Vienna, or travel to Flanders to see where they lived and worked! Flemish masters on tour is a collaboration between the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna and VISITFLANDERS.

In the second half of 2017, the Kunsthistorisches Museum will honour PETER PAUL RUBENS, the most important of all Flemish baroque painters, with a splendid exhibition. The Picture Gallery of the Kunsthistorisches Museum houses around 40 paintings by the celebrated artist and his workshop, among them masterpieces like “The Fur”, “Head of Medusa”, his late self-portrait, and the huge altarpieces commissioned for the Jesuit church in Antwerp. Focusing on the Master’s creativity and his sources of inspiration, the spectacular exhibition will bring together the Kunsthistorisches Museum collection and numerous international loans.

In 2018 art lovers everywhere can look forward to a very special treat: from 2 October 2018 until 13 January 2019, the Kunsthistorisches Museum Vienna presents the first comprehensive monograph exhibition of the work of PIETER BRUEGEL THE ELDER (1525/30-1563) to commemorate the 450th anniversary of his death. Pieter Bruegel the Elder was a much sought-after artist - whose works fetched exceptionally high prices - during his lifetime. Only about 40 paintings and 60 prints and drawings by him have survived. The 12 panel paintings in the Kunsthistorisches Museum represent the world’s largest collection of works by Bruegel, and, together with numerous international loans from museums and private collections in Europe and America, they will form the core of this spectacular exhibition celebrating an exceptional artist.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE KUNSTHISTORISCHES MUSEUM VIENNA: WWW.KHM.AT
SINCE ITS COMPLETION IN 1432, MILLIONS OF VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE TRAVELLED TO GHENT TO ADMIRE THE GHENT ALTARPIECE, PAINTED BY JAN AND HUBERT VAN EYCK. LOST, STOLEN IN THE COURSE OF SEVERAL WARS, PUT AT RISK BY FIRE, DISMANTLED, COPIED, SMUGGLED, CENSORED, ATTACKED BY ICONOCLASTS, HIDDEN, RANSOMED, RESCUED AND STOLEN TIME AND AGAIN... NO WORK OF ART HAS BEEN SO VULNERABLE AND YEARNED FOR AS MUCH AS THE MYSTIC LAMB.
Jan van Eyck was a major figure in the painting revolution taking place in the Low Countries during the early part of the 15th century. With his precise observation and natural rendering of reality, his brilliant use of colours and mastery of oils - a technique he perfected - van Eyck took painting to new heights. His employer, the Duke of Burgundy (Philip the Good), ensured that he was well paid and able to paint “whenever he pleased”. He was also asked to handle a number of diplomatic visits, including one to Lisbon in 1428 to arrange the Duke’s forthcoming marriage with Isabella of Portugal.

Jan’s most famous creation is the Ghent Altarpiece “Adoration of the Mystic Lamb”, made for Saint Bavo’s Cathedral in Ghent. It is a 12-panel polyptych that he worked on together with his older brother Hubert, also a painter. Jan finished the commission in 1432 following Hubert’s death in 1426. It was the most famous oil painting of the epoch.

Since its first viewing in 1432, the magnificent altarpiece, measuring 4.4m x 3.4m (14’5” x 11’2”) is considered one of the world’s finest art treasures. Unfortunately it has been the victim of 13 crimes and seven thefts since its installation. The latest theft occurred on the 11th April 1934 when two panels from the work were stolen, one of “John the Baptist” and another of the “Just Judges”. A ransom of a million Belgian Francs was demanded, and in a show of good faith by the perpetrator, one of the panels, that of “John the Baptist”, was returned, but no money was ever paid. So sadly the last piece of the puzzle is still missing.

At STAM, the Ghent city museum, visitors will be able to track the theft of the Ghent Altarpiece side panels, and try to work out where the missing panel: “The Just Judges” is to be found. The mystery continues, with the hunt for the missing panel still very much alive.
Commissioned by the merchant, financier and politician, Jodocus Vijd, then the equivalent of the mayor of Ghent, the Ghent Altarpiece was designed for the Vijd chapel in today’s Saint Bavo’s Cathedral. It’s a work of art that has thrilled audiences ever since its creation in 1432.

THE LATEST IN A LONG LINE OF RESTORATIONS

Since October 2012, Bart Devolder has coordinated the restoration project at the KIK (Royal Institute for Cultural Heritage), a Belgian institution whose expertise is world-renowned. “We discovered that large parts of the work were painted over during a previous, 17th century restoration. That was the accepted way of restoring a painting at the time. But the good news is that the original layer is still in good condition and so we can, in principle, remove the top layer,” says Devolder. “And get to the original underneath.”

Although in the world of restoration a conscious choice is sometimes made to keep the traces of time, the restorers are convinced that, in this case, it is the right thing to do to remove the top layer. “We have already made small windows in certain areas of the panels. The colours, details, folds and depth that have been revealed are of remarkable quality and perfectly match the style of van Eyck. This also explains why experts had previously grouped details of this piece among some of van Eyck’s lesser work. “Now we know that this is because the work of the real van Eyck has largely been hidden under newer layers of paint,” suggests Devolder. Further details, such as a spider’s web just above the heads of Joos Vijd and Elisabeth Borluut, have also recently been revealed during the restoration.”

FOR MORE THAN FOUR HUNDRED YEARS, WE HAVEN’T ACTUALLY BEEN VIEWING THE REAL GHENT ALTARPIECE.
A COMBI-TICKET FOR THE FOLLOWING THREE SITES COSTS 12 EURO:
- The Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent (MSK)
- The Caermersklooster
- St Bavo’s Cathedral

SEE THE RESTORERS AT WORK

Until the end of 2019, when the restoration of the last panels will be complete and put back in their original place on display in St Bavo’s Cathedral, visitors can visit the Museum of Fine Arts (MSK) in Ghent where the Ghent Altarpiece is being restored.

Visitors there will receive an excellent insight into the painstaking and detailed work of the restoration. The restorers are currently also present at the MSK every last Wednesday of the month for a Q&A session. Visitors may also be interested to go on the van Eyck walking tour of 15th century Ghent, which connects the three important locations: the Museum of Fine Arts, the Caermersklooster (an old convent) and the St Bavo’s Cathedral.

An exhibition on the work’s rich history, spanning almost six centuries, can be viewed at Ghent’s Caermersklooster for the duration of the restoration period. The exhibition is called ‘Het Lam Gods ont(k)leed!’ (The Ghent Altarpiece Revealed). The exhibition will be supplemented with temporary exhibits focusing on specific themes, such as the origin of the wooden panels and the iconography of the work.
Organised by the Museum of Fine Arts, Ghent. The large-scale Jan van Eyck exhibition will be dedicated to the life and work of the Flemish master, Jan van Eyck.

The late medieval Low Countries presented a uniquely creative environment for artists and artisan. The Court of the Duke of Burgundy, Philip the Good, attracted the most talented artists of the day, while the bustling urban centres offered fertile ground for myriad artistic and artisanal endeavours. Jan van Eyck was a particular ‘star’ at the time, being very much appreciated both as an artist and designer, but also as an adviser and diplomat.

**UNIQUE EXPERIENCE**

The exhibition aims to create a unique experience in which both the sumptuousness of the Burgundian court and the flourishing urban culture are brought to life through paintings, sculptures, drawings, tapestries and miniatures. Each is an example of the extraordinarily inventive imagination and the refined aesthetic appreciation of the period. Interactive technology will be employed within the exhibition to strengthen this relationship, and to underscore salient points.

Visitors will be witness to the most complete van Eyck exhibition ever staged: the outer panels of the Ghent Altarpiece will be exhibited alongside other masterpieces by van Eyck, and those of his contemporaries, in a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

[www.mskgent.be](http://www.mskgent.be)  
museum.msk@stad.gent

MSK - the Museum of Fine Arts  
Fernand Scribedreef 1, 9000 Gent

**OPENING HOURS**

FROM 1 FEBRUARY TO 10 MAY 2020  
Mon - Sun: 9 am - 6.30 pm  
There will also be two late-night openings per week until 10:30 pm.

**TICKETS**

(tbc)
A combination of original art treasures and modern presentation techniques in the new Visitors’ Centre will be used to highlight the story behind the centuries’ old polyptych made by the van Eyck brothers, “The Ghent Altarpiece”.

The inauguration is scheduled to take place in June 2020 following the grand exhibition “Jan van Eyck and the Burgundian Court” to be held in the Museum of Fine Arts in Ghent and the Visitors’ Centre will highlight the multiple messages conveyed by the polyptych, including an explanation of its religious significance and art-historical value. Links will also be made to the architectural heritage and its intimate connection to the cathedral.

**AUGMENTED REALITY**

The culturally interested tourist will be able to see and appreciate the latest restoration campaign and learn about the remarkable history of the “Mystic Lamb” itself. On entering the centre, visitors will receive a set of augmented virtual reality (AVR) glasses which will give them the chance to see medieval murals and numerous works of art as if they were actually on site hundreds of years ago and done with the help of historical simulations and interactive modules. Visitors will get to experience the different construction periods of the cathedral as well as the eventful history of the “Mystic Lamb” and its significance in the most convincing but historically correct manner.

This augmented reality tour around the cathedral will be offered in nine different languages: the seven languages currently available on the audio guide, plus Russian and Portuguese, and be customised for each language.

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

www.sintbaafskathedraal.be
sint-baafskathedraal@kerknet.be

ST BAVO’S CATHEDRAL
Sint-Baafsplein
9000 Gent

**OPENING HOURS**

THE VISITORS’ CENTRE OPENS IN JUNE 2020
Mon - Sun: 9.30 am - 5 pm

**TICKETS**

INDIVIDUAL: 12 EURO
GROUP: 10 EURO
I sometimes wonder why people from all corners of the world have always found the Flemish Primitives so absorbing. The answer perhaps lies in the fact that for the very first time in Art History we are confronted with recognisable people and familiar objects that correspond to today’s reality. The Flemish Primitives laid the foundation of an artistic concept that in its realism is perfectly recognisable and therefore understandable to a modern-day observer. The Flemish Primitives discovered the individual. Quite a feat.

Till-Holger Borchert, Director of Musea Brugge
Bruges is the city of Jan van Eyck: the legendary and enigmatic inventor of oil-painting lived and worked in the city from 1432 until his death in 1441. In the 15th century, Philip the Good, Duke of Burgundy, set up his court in Bruges and invited artists to come and work there. It was the beginning of Bruges' golden age. In 1432 Jan van Eyck settled as painter to the court. All of his known paintings were produced here. Jan van Eyck seems to have employed all his skills to evoke admiration. In his wake other prominent Flemish Masters would follow to live in Bruges or worked for Bruges' clients and the Flemish Primitives made names for themselves. One of the admirers was, without doubt, Hans Memling, who was greatly influenced by Jan van Eyck. Originally born in Germany, Memling settled in Bruges in 1465 and became one of the most successful artists in this prosperous town. The Flemish Primitives flourished and left masterpieces behind for posterity. Their artworks that form the foundation of European painting are integral to the cultural history of Bruges.

To this day many of their world-renowned artworks can be admired in the museums and churches throughout the city where they can be experienced in the unique context of an UNESCO World Heritage city. Although they were made more than half a millennium ago, these paintings are astonishingly well preserved and colourful, and testify to the great craftsmanship of their creators.
PERMANENT COLLECTIONS:
A CELEBRATION OF THE
FLEMISH MASTERS

No art lover visiting Belgium should miss Bruges’ Museums: the GroeningeMuseum and the historic Sint-Janshospitaal comprise a reference collection of Primitive paintings, that is unrivalled anywhere in the world, with masterpieces by Jan van Eyck, Hans Memling, Hugo van der Goes and Gerard David.

GROENINGEMUSEUM

Jan van Eyck’s Portrait of the artist’s wife, kept in the Groeningemuseum, is not only one of the earliest female portraits in European Art History, but one of the few tangible documents of van Eyck’s private life. Her image addresses the viewers by means of the inscription on the frame as she seems to focus her gaze on the beholder. Jan van Eyck’s astonishing illusionistic talents are even more obvious in the Madonna of Canon Joris van der Paele, the largest single painting by the artist known to us. Here, the face of an elderly canon are portrayed with painstaking ingenuity and all the painted surfaces are full of hidden reflections of the world in- and outside the panel.

Hugo van der Goes’ Death of the Virgin is the only significant painting by the painter to remain in Belgium and fascinates because of its ingenious display of an unnatural - a divine - light.

SINT-JANSHOSPITAAL

The Sint-Janshospitaal was established in the early 12th century and has been preserved remarkably well. It is a former pilgrim’s hospital with a chapel, which premises have been transformed into a museum. Besides a presentation on the history, practice and culture of the clinic, including medical objects and an intact 17th century pharmacy, its main attraction lies in a world famous ensemble of works by one of Bruges’ preeminent residents, the Flemish Primitive painter Hans Memling.

OPENING HOURS

Tue - Sun: 9.30 am - 5 pm
(Last tickets: 16.30 pm)
Closed Mondays

Open on Easter and Whit Mondays
Additional closing dates: 25 December and 1 January. Special rates for groups of at least 15 persons.
NEW IN SPRING 2019: RE-OPENING OF THE GRUUTHUSEMUSEUM

The Gruuthusemuseum is housed in what was once the city palace of the Burgundian knight Lodewijk of Gruuthuse, Lord of Bruges. His family fortune was based on the sale of ‘gruut’, a mixture of herbs that was widely used for beer brewing. Lodewijk is the most famous member of this distinguished family and was an important figure and confidant at the court of the dukes of Burgundy.

After a 5 year renovation the museum and its rich collection of high quality artefacts will take you on a journey through the history of Bruges. The exhibits will include many masterpieces of craftsmanship, such as tapestries, lace, fine silverwork and woodcarving, but also high quality artefacts will take visitors on a journey. In this way, history is made truly tangible.

But in the crown and perhaps the most intriguing piece of Burgundian heritage is the oratory. The private chapel, one of its kind, connected his stately palace with the Choir of the Church of Our Lady and allowed him to attend mass with a privileged view onto the altar.

Furthermore, a brand new contemporary pavilion will be created between the Gruuthusemuseum and the Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk. A gem of modern architecture in dialogue with two ancient monuments will transform the courtyard into a new experience.

The pavilion will not only function as a reception place for this museum site, but will also function as a connecting point for all the museums offering a multimedia look on the different collections.

HIDDEN GEMS: FLEMISH PRIMITIVES IN THE CHURCHES AND CHAPELS OF BRUGES

While one can marvel at some of the world’s greatest masterpieces of the Flemish Primitives in Bruges’ museums, it is also worthwhile to discover the many hidden gems that Bruges has to offer. A great variety of paintings are still preserved in the Churches and chapels of Bruges that they had originally been commissioned for, offering a extraordinary experience for every art lover.

St Saviour’s Cathedral has amongst its treasures a rood loft with an organ, medieval tombs, Brussels tapestries and a rich collection of Flemish paintings (14th-18th century). The treasure-chamber displays, amongst others, a triptych begun by Dieric Bouts and posthumously finished by his workshop as well as Hugo van der Goes. Here it remains one of the highlights of the treasury alongside the altarpiece of the Tanners’ guild of around 1410, arguably one of the earliest surviving panel painting in Bruges.

AN IDEAL WAY TO DISCOVER THE MUNICIPAL MUSEUMS THROUGH THE MUSEUM PASS.

The card gives you access to all 14 sites of “Musea Brugge” for 3 consecutive days.

12-25 years: 20 EURO
26+ years: 28 EURO
(prices 1/1/2018)
Special group rate is available upon request.
The Church of our Lady, perhaps best known for its Madonna by Michelangelo as well as the funerary monuments of Charles the Bold and Mary of Burgundy also hosts remarkably painted masterpieces of the Burgundian times, including a monumental triptych of the Crucifixion of 1534 from the Brussels court-painter Barend van Orley. Home to some of the most prestigious confraternities in Late Medieval Bruges, the Church of Our Lady still contains the Transfiguration by Gerard David, the Seven Sorrows of the Virgin made in 1521 by David’s collaborator Adriaen Isenbrandt as well as several altarpieces by Pieter Pourbus (1523-1585).

A few steps away from the busy heart of the city lies Saint James’. This Gothic parish church also still houses an impressive ensemble of 15th and early 16th century paintings. The most important painting in Saint James’ depicts scenes from the Legend of Saint Lucy. The panel was painted by an anonymous 15th century master who - after this work - was named the Master of the Lucy-Legend.

THE HIDDEN TREASURES OF SAINT JAMES’: DIGITAL TOUR

Since the centre of Bruges is home to many religious institutions with interesting heritage collections, including seven historic churches, the Xplore Bruges app has been extended to include the ‘The hidden treasures of St James’ Church’. Taking the visitors along 15 art treasures of this church, this is the first free tour offered in a historic church in Flanders. The tour is available in three languages: Dutch, French and English.

Xplore Bruges (Google Play or Apple Store) is the ultimate city app to experience heritage trails in Bruges. This one app allows you to download themed routes, museum routes and city walks, most of them in five languages (Dutch, French, English, German and Spanish).

Next to the St James tour the app also offers the outdoor walks: ‘Bruges, anno 1562’ and ‘Hans Memling in Burgundian Bruges’ and an indoor tour that focuses on the unique collection of seven works of Memling at Saint John’s Hospital and Groeningemuseum.

www.xplorebruges.be
GUIDED WALKING TOUR: BRUGES, HISTORIC CENTRE OF TRADE AND CULTURE

From the 13th to the 15th century, Bruges was a centre of trade where traders from the Hanseatic cities of the Far North, England and Germany (who were then called Easterlings) and important places of trade in France, Spain and Italy came together. The walk carves a path along the stone reminders of Bruges’ Golden Age.

This two-hour walking tour is conducted by a qualified guide. One guide does not take more than 25 persons. The price per guide amounts to 75 EURO per two-hour visit and 37.50 EURO per extra hour. (payment cash on the spot directly to the guide).

OTHER POPULAR TOURS: World Heritage walk (classic tour); a Jan van Eyck tour is in preparation.

A guided visit to the city’s museums during or after the walking tour is also possible. A visit to any of the museums takes at least one hour. If not pre-booked, entrance fees should be paid in cash on arrival. For reservations, contact the tourist office at least one week ahead of the visit, with details on the exact date and time, number of people and the meeting point.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION: www.visitbruges.be
TRADE CONTACT: www.trade@brugge.be, trade@brugge.be, T +32 (0)50/44 46 46

COMBITICKET HISTORIUM & GROENINGEMUSEUM

INDIVIDUAL: 22.00 EURO
TRADE PRICE: available on request

HISTORIUM BRUGGE

You can experience what it was like to live in Bruges during the Golden Age in the Historium. Historium shows visitors what it was like to live in medieval Bruges during the Golden Age, from the atmosphere of the harbour and the cobbled streets to the workshop of van Eyck in a multi-sensory, interactive experience. Or simply smile at the delicious scents and bawdy laughter coming from the bathhouse.

Markt 1 te 8000 Brugge

OPENING HOURS
daily: 10.00 am – 6 pm
Tickets till 5 pm
Open on Sunday and festivity days

GROENINGEMUSEUM

After having a look around in Jan van Eyck’s studio and seen where he painted the famous “Virgin and Child with Canon Van der Paele”, you can admire this wonderful work of art in the Groeningemuseum.

OPENING HOURS
Tue - Sun: 9.30 am - 5 pm (Last tickets: 4.30 pm)
Closed Mondays / Open on Easter and Whit Mondays
Additional closing dates: 25 December and 1 January.
2018 - 2020
DISCOVER THE FLEMISH MASTERS OFF THE BEATEN TRACK
Between the 16th and the 18th Century, Oudenaarde was one of the most important tapestry weaving centres in Flanders. It is generally accepted that Adriaen Brouwer was born in Oudenaarde, most probably as the son of a tapestry designer. Brouwer was one of the most creative and innovative artists of his time. He was highly regarded by contemporaries such as Rubens and Rembrandt. The exhibition Adriaen Brouwer: Master of Emotions will be the first monographic show devoted to this exceptional artist. Moreover, the fact that a large amount of the artist’s oeuvre will be gathered for the first time in Oudenaarde, the city in which the artist was born, makes this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The Brouwer exhibition and encompassing project in Oudenaarde will offer a varied selection of exquisite cultural and gastronomic events.

The city of Oudenaarde is organising an ambitious event and exhibition devoted to the painter Adriaen Brouwer (1605/06, Oudenaarde – 1638, Antwerp).

ADRIAEN BROUWER, (1606-1638)

15 SEPTEMBER 2018 – 16 DECEMBER 2018
OUSDENAARDE

The Brouwer exhibition specifically focuses on the Flemish mastery and Brouwer’s important role as the successor of Pieter Bruegel the Elder on one hand, and as a friend and contemporary of Peter Paul Rubens on the other. Visitors will get the unique opportunity to explore and get acquainted with the work of this forgotten Flemish master. Brouwer is an integral part of the cultural identity of Oudenaarde and Flanders; his name echoes in various products and events: Adriaen Brouwer beer, Adriaen Brouwer pastry, Adriaen Brouwer paths and tracks set in Flanders’ most beautiful landscape The Flemish Ardennes.

Tickets

INDIVIDUAL: 10 EURO
GROUP: 8 EURO
GUIDED TOURS (2 h): 60 EURO
TRADE: 7 EURO

Opening Hours

From 15 September 2018 to 16 December 2018
Tue - Sun: 9.30 - 6 pm
Thu: open until 10 pm
Closed Mondays.

Accessibility

Parking space for coaches near the location
Guided tours and audio guides available in five languages (Dutch, French, English, German, Spanish)
Restaurants and facilities are located around the market square (300 m)

Practical Information

www.mou-oudenaarde.be

MOU MUSEUM OF OUDENAARDE Market 1, 9700 Oudenaarde

Trade Contact

Eva Roels
Eva.roels@oudenaarde.be
T +32 (0)55 317 251
LEUVEN

M-TREASURY OF SAINT-PETER’S

GROTE MARKT 1, 3000 LEUVEN

Saint Peter’s Church is located in the heart of the city, with an entrance on the Grote Markt, directly opposite the city hall. It’s considered to be one of the finest examples of 15th century Brabantine High Gothic architecture. The restoration of Saint Peter’s Church will be completed in 2019. The perfect occasion to visit it and discover its art treasures. Two masterpieces by Dirk Bouts, one of the Flemish Primitives, are still located here, in the place for which they were originally intended, almost 600 years after their creation. Bouts was sometimes known as the painter of silence due to his characteristic style. He is the odd one among the Flemish Primitives because his paintings are not overly dramatic. Besides Bouts, Saint Peters’ possesses numerous statues, paintings and a collection of gold and silver pieces such as reliquaries, monstrances and chalices. The visit includes full digital access to the stories of the Flemish Master and the artworks.

OPENING HOURS
THE NEW VISITOR’S CENTRE OPENS IN SEPTEMBER 2019
Mon-Sat: 10 am - 4.30 pm
Sun and public holidays: 11 am - 4.30 pm

Until september 2019:
Mon-Sat:10 am - 4.30 pm
Sun and public holidays: 11am - 4.30pm
Closed on Wednesdays 01/10-31/03
Open on Wednesdays 01/04-30/09
www.mleuven.be

Visit to the Treasury of St-Peter’s are included with the entry tickets to M-Museum Leuven. Please note that the opening times of the treasury may differ from those of the museum.
M - MUSEUM LEUVEN

M - Museum Leuven houses an exciting and unique mix of historical and contemporary art in an impressive architectural setting, designed by the renowned Belgian architect Stéphane Beel. M offers a permanent collection and a mix of temporary exhibitions by old masters and contemporary artists.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Program and information
www.mleuven.be

M-MUSEUM LEUVEN
Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28
3000 Leuven

GUIDED TOURS FOR GROUPS
65 EURO for the guide
+ 6 EURO per visitor (> 15 people)
65 EURO for the guide
+ 8 EURO per visitor (< 15 people)
Group costs based on a minimum of 10 people.

ILUVLEUVEN TICKET
Discover the highlights of Leuven with the ILUVLeuven ticket at an interesting rate. The ticket grants you a visit to:
- M-Museum Leuven
- M-Treasury of Saint Peter
- Town hall (daily at 3 pm only)
- University library & tower
Trade price: 12 EURO | Price: 16 EURO

TRADE CONTACT
Saskia Verhaert / Annik Altruy
Visit Leuven
trade.visitleuven@leuven.be
T +32 (0)16 27 22 77

VISIT LEUVEN
City tours, day trips and weekend arrangements can be booked via the Tourism Office: www.visitleuven.be
Have a look through the extensive range of guided tours for groups: www.visitleuven.be/en/groups

LEUVEN: ACCESSIBILITY
MECHELEN

MUSEUM HOF VAN BUSLEYDEN

From 2018 onwards, in the Museum Hof van Busleyden in Mechelen, visitors will have the opportunity to experience one of the most creative periods in Flemish and European history: the Burgundian Renaissance. During the 15th and 16th centuries, Flanders enjoyed an unprecedented political, economic and cultural boom with figures such as Charles V, Margaret of Austria, Petrus Alamire and Thomas More.

One of the finest extant city palaces of the European Renaissance will provide the setting for this experience, as it will be transformed into a contemporary city palace and thus regain its former glory. The beautiful house of the humanist and art collector, Hiëronymus van Busleyden, will offer visitors a user-driven experience based on strong, and visually powerful masterpieces of the epoch and serve as a base for the discovery of Burgundian Netherlands, in all its glory.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

www.hofvanbusleyden.be
MUSEUM HOF VAN BUSLEYDEN
Frederik de Merodestraat 65
2800 Mechelen

TRADE CONTACT
Florie Wilberts
florie.wilberts@mechelen.be
T +32 (0)15 29 76 56

Veerle Lenaerts
veerle.lenaerts@mechelen.be
+32 (0)15 29 76 59

OPENING HOURS
MUSEUM HOF VAN BUSLEYDEN OPENS IN MARCH 2018.

Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm
Thu: 10am-10pm
Sat-Sun: 10am-5pm
Closed on Wednesday

TICKETS (tbc)
GROUP: 7 EURO
TRADE: 6 EURO

BURGUNDIAN MECHELEN

This tour combines the highlights from the Burgundian era in the city with a visit of the highlights of Museum Hof van Busleyden.

PRICE: 75 EURO (maximum of 25 persons per guide)
DURATION: 1,5h
Daily, except Wednesdays
- upon reservation
BOOKING: Visit Mechelen, visit@mechelen.be
AVAILABLE AS FROM 1 JULY 2018.

ALDERMEN’S HOUSE (SCHEPENHUIS)

As from September 2018 Visit Mechelen will open a new visitor centre presenting, amongst others, burgundian experiences in Mechelen, Flanders and Europe.

Steenweg 1
2800 Mechelen
www.visitmechelen.be

MONUMENTAL CHURCHES

In Mechelen’s city centre, you find no less than eight monumental churches, each presenting exceptional art and architecture. Discover paintings by Rubens in St John’s Church and Our Lady-across-the-Dyle and Van Dyck at St-Rumbold’s Cathedral. Free entrance

Daily, except Wednesdays
SUMMER: 13h - 17h
WINTER: 13h - 16h

BURGUNDIAN MECHELEN

A historic walking tour with guide along Mechelen’s highlights dating from the Burgundian era.

PRICE: 75 EURO guide (maximum of 25 persons per guide)
DURATION: 2h
Daily - upon reservation
BOOKING: Visit Mechelen, visit@mechelen.be

DISCOVERY OF BURGUNDIAN MECHELEN GUIDED TOURS FOR GROUPS

VISIT OF MUSEUM HOF VAN BUSLEYDEN

Experience the museum’s highlights with a guide.

PRICE: 80 EURO guide (tbc)+ 7 EURO group/6 EURO trade museum entrance (maximum of 15 persons per guide)
DURATION: 1,5h
Daily, except Wednesdays
- upon reservation
BOOKING: Visit Mechelen, visit@mechelen.be
AVAILABLE AS FROM 1 JULY 2018.

BURGUNDIAN MECHELEN + MUSEUM HOF VAN BUSLEYDEN

This tour combines the highlights from the Burgundian era in the city with a visit of the highlights of Museum Hof van Busleyden.

PRICE: 75 EURO (maximum of 25 persons per guide)
DURATION: 1,5h
Daily, except Wednesdays
- upon reservation
BOOKING: Visit Mechelen, visit@mechelen.be
AVAILABLE AS FROM 1 JULY 2018.

ALDERMEN’S HOUSE

(SCRIPHUIS)

As from September 2018 Visit Mechelen will open a new visitor centre presenting, amongst others, burgundian experiences in Mechelen, Flanders and Europe.

Steenweg 1
2800 Mechelen
www.visitmechelen.be

MONUMENTAL CHURCHES

In Mechelen’s city centre, you find no less than eight monumental churches, each presenting exceptional art and architecture. Discover paintings by Rubens in St John’s Church and Our Lady-across-the-Dyle and Van Dyck at St-Rumbold’s Cathedral. Free entrance

Daily, except Wednesdays
SUMMER: 13h - 17h
WINTER: 13h - 16h

MECHELEN
The Flemish Masters in situ project is made up of 40 carefully selected oeuvres away from the well-trodden and busy tourist trails. Often to be found in smaller towns and villages across Flanders, they take visitors to a variety of places (chapels, churches, castles and town halls) where they can admire original paintings by the Flemish masters from the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries, in their original location.

The stories of each item will be told using words and the latest digital technology. Touchscreens with state-of-the-art images will show the details of masterpieces, while audio guides will further enhance the visitor experience.

Flemish Masters in situ will open in 2018 with some ten sites in and around Antwerp, in the context of Antwerp Baroque City, with other sites opening their doors in 2019. In line with this project, Bozar (in collaboration with the Royal Museums for Fine Arts of Belgium) will host from 10/10/2018 – 13/1/2019 the first monographic exhibition ever on the works of Theodoor Van Loon, one of the most innovative Flemish Masters of his generation. The exhibition complements the in situ works of Van Loon that are on display at the Basilica of Scherpenheuvel and in the Beguineage Church in Brussels.

**PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

Pilgrims Passport: 10 EURO

[www.flemishmastersinsitu.com](http://www.flemishmastersinsitu.com)

**TRADE CONTACT**

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**SACRED BOOKS / SECRET LIBRARIES**

The project Sacred Books / Secret Libraries gives a unique insight into the religious life in Bruges. Two religious sites will be unlocked, preserved and strengthened. The English Convent and the Monastery of the Discalced Carmelites are still religious orders. Both have a unique library or book collection and even a panoramic garden.
1 \ VAN LOON, SCHERPENHEUVEL
2 \ OUR LADY CHURCH, DENDERMONDE
3 \ PARK ABBEY, LEUVEN
4 \ LOPPEM CASTLE, LOPPEM
5 \ OUR LADY BASILICA, SCHERPENHEUVEL
6 \ CAROLUS BORROMEUS CHURCH, ANTWERP
For more than three decades Antwerp has been a leading city when it comes to fashion, and it has now been confirmed as one of the Top 10 most stylish destinations in the world. With its conceptual and avant-garde taste, world-renowned Fashion Museum (MoMu) and constant supply of new talent from the Fashion Department of the Royal Academy in Antwerp, the city is the centre of modern day Flemish Masters of Fashion. Antwerp is characterised by independent fashion houses with a focus on quality, originality, craftsmanship and innovation.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: MODE2020

‘MODE2020’ – in the second half of 2020 – will be a unique fashion festival in Antwerp with events, exhibitions, shopping experiences and urban interventions in the city. The whole project will specifically highlight the parallels between contemporary Flemish fashion and the history of the Flemish Masters.

Organised in cooperation with the most important museums in Antwerp (such as MoMu, Royal Museum of Fine Arts and FOMU), this ‘Fashion Year of 2020’ will be one-of-a-kind on the world stage and is aimed explicitly at international visitors.

MODE2020 will not just be enjoyed within museum walls as, in addition, there is a plethora of cultural and artistic initiatives, events and tours in preparation to ensure that individuals and groups can enjoy and experience Antwerp to the fullest. It is the perfect opportunity for visitors to immerse themselves in the world of fashion, and at the same time grasp its vast heritage, rich gastronomy and vibrant shopping landscape.

More information on MODE2020 (booking information, programme, prices for trade) will follow in 2018.

ANTWERP: A FASHION DESTINATION

Antwerp lives and breathes fashion and is, therefore, a sought-after destination for fashionistas from all over the world. It’s a place where fashion not only lives in museums and boutiques, but also on the streets. This is not surprising, as it’s merely another contemporary illustration of Flemish ‘mastery’ in the arts.
Visitors should be prepared for a showcase of many big name designers as well as up-and-coming talent. This event will highlight many of Antwerp’s creators of the future (via the fashion department of the Antwerp Academy).

The infrastructure of the museum is being significantly extended: three new exhibition spaces, a customised reception, museum catering and MICE facilities in the MoMu Fashion Museum will be opened. This way, visitors will enjoy a complete and unique experience.

A new permanent exhibition, telling the story of Antwerp and Belgian fashion, will be visually powerful and adapted to a wide audience, complete with the latest digital technologies to create a dynamic and interactive experience for the visitor.

Antwerp is an easy city to get around. Public transport is excellent and most shopping areas are within walking distance of each other, so wherever visitors go in the city, they’ll find original fashion outlets ranging from ‘high street’ to ‘avant-garde’.

Fashion is a profoundly visual medium, so in collaboration with FOMU, an exhibition will be organised on fashion photography, showing off the interactive relationship between 2-D and 3-D design.

Unlike in other fashion capitals, this large selection of shops can be found within a small area, making shopping in Antwerp a genuine pleasure.
The following DMCs and incoming operators are able to create tailor-made Flemish Masters experiences. To give a sense of what’s possible, a selection of inspirational proposals are available at: www.visitflanders.com/flemishmasterstrade

**DMC’S, INCOMING OPERATORS, EVENT ORGANISERS**

- **All About Belgium**  
  Stationssstraat 30B, 9340 Lede, Belgium  
  T +32 (0)53 80 98 18  
  E info@aab-allaboutbelgium.be  
  W www.aab-allaboutbelgium.be

- **Brussels and Beyond**  
  Geerdegemvaart 96 - 98, 2800 Mechelen, Belgium  
  T +32 (0)15 407 537  
  E info@brusselsandbeyond.com  
  W www.brusselsandbeyond.be

- **Perfect + Event Productions**  
  Geerwijnstraat 9, 8000 Bruges, Belgium  
  T +32 (0)50 34 76 08  
  E events@perfectplus.be  
  W www.perfectplus.be

- **Focus Flanders**  
  Nederkouter 35, 9000 Ghent, Belgium  
  T +32 (0)9 269 90 62  
  E info@focusflanders.com  
  W www.focusflanders.com

- **@dmire**  
  Gemeenveldstraat 93  
  1652 Beersel (Assebig) Belgium  
  T +32 (0)2 361 65 59  
  E events@admire.be  
  W www.admire.be

- **Brilliant Belgium**  
  Lambermontplaats 12, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium  
  T +32 (0)3 331 3 330  
  E travel@brilliantbelgium.com  
  W www.brilliantbelgium.com

**TRAVELLING IN FLANDERS**

Flanders is an easy place to travel around. All of our cities are close to each other and accessible by public transport or car. English is widely spoken and Flemish people are always ready to help out.

For detailed trade information regarding transportation, please go to:  
www.visitflanders.com/flemishmasterstrade

**USE OF FLEMISH MASTERS IMAGES**

If you would like to use images of our Art cities and the Flemish masters offer you can find them on Flickr: www.flickr.com/visitflanders

Images of the paintings are also available and can be requested with your local trade contact. Please follow the copyright instructions as mentioned in Flickr.
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