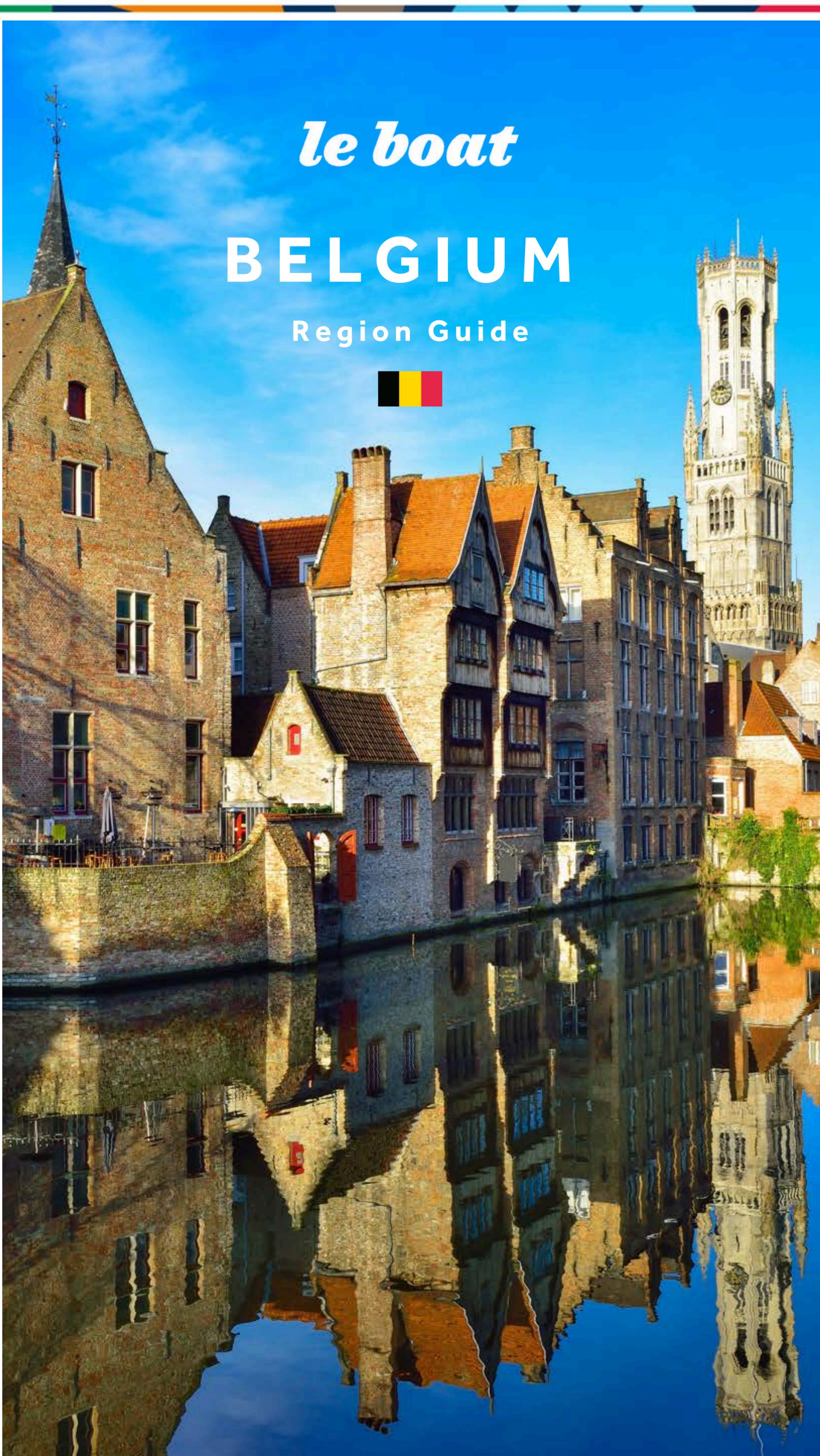


le boat

BELGIUM

Region Guide



	Approx time		No. of locks		No. of lifting bridges	
Nieuwpoort (Le Boat)	2 hr 40 min	6 hr 5 min	1	3	1	2
Diksmuide	1 hr		0		1	
Crossing between the IJzer river and the leper-IJzer canal	2 hr 25 min		2		0	
leper	2 hr 25 min	7 hr 50 min	2	5	0	9
Crossing between the IJzer river and the leper-IJzer canal	3 hr 15 min		1		6	
Veurne	2 hr 10 min		2		3	
Nieuwpoort						

	Approx time		No. of locks		No. of lifting bridges	
Nieuwpoort (Le Boat)	3 hr 20 min	6 hr 20 min	2	2	6	14
Plassendale (for Oostende)	3 hr		0		8	
Bruges	6 hr	5 hr 55 min	0	0	4	4
Ghent						

	Approx time		No. of locks		No. of lifting bridges	
Ghent	3 hr 35 min	7 hr 15 min	1	3	1	1
Deinze	3 hr 40 min		2		0	
Kortrijk	3 hr 15 min	10 hr 30 min	6	9	0	0
Bossuit (for Tournai)	2 hr 40 min		1		0	
Oudenaarde	4 hr 35 min		2		0	
Ghent						

Times are an approximation only and are calculated on the basis of an average speed of 7.5km/h and an average time of 12 minutes to pass through a lock. Your speed, the flow of the water and the time it takes to go through locks will all affect your progress.



Maximum speed allowed on waterways in km/h



Maximum speed allowed in ports/marinas in km/h



Pass oncoming boats on the right-hand side

NIEUWPOORT



King Albert I Monument, Nieuwpoort

Nieuwpoort is a lively and cosmopolitan city on the seaside, popular with families, with a 2km long promenade. It is a perfect place to spend a sunny day on the sandy beach or wander into town to soak up the vibrant nightlife, dine on fresh seafood and shop 'til you drop. For enthusiasts of WWI history, visit the King Albert Memorial with excellent panoramic views from the top. Nearby, the Ganzepoot Locks also hold great significance, having kept enemy troops at bay for four years by controlling inland water levels.



Recommended restaurant: Brasserie Nieuwpoort, in the centre of town (close to the Tourist Office).



Amenities: Everything you might need: grocery stores, supermarkets and loads of restaurants.

Market: Fri (8am-12pm) in the Grote Markt (opposite the Tourism Office).

VEURNE

Veurne



Veurne is a welcoming city full of history and characteristic local architecture. Head to the 'Grote Markt', one of the best-preserved town squares in Belgium, and admire the town's Gothic/Renaissance architecture. Visit the vast vaulted ceilings inside the Church of Sainte-Walburge, the Town Hall (take a tour if you can) and the Spanish Pavilion. A stop at the Bakery Museum is well worth it, especially if you have children. Discover the history and art of bread-making, waffles, chocolate and ice-cream and more.



Recommended restaurant: Grille De Vette Os, just off the Grote Markt.



Amenities: There is a Spar supermarket and plenty of restaurants to choose from.

DIKSMUIDE



Diksmuide

The central market square is a good place to head to, dominated by the City Hall and Belfry that tower above you. The Belfry contains a carillon of 30 bells and is one of several belfries in Belgium and France to be recognised as UNESCO World Heritage sites. Behind the City Hall, you can also visit the gothic church of Saint-Nicolas. Just north of Diksmuide and adjacent to the river, don't miss

'Dodengang' (Trench of Death). It has a small but excellent museum and a panoramic view of the trenches, both giving a fascinating and moving insight into the life of a soldier during WW1. The Yser Tower memorial is also worth a visit.



Recommended restaurant: Nikolaas, next to the City Hall.



Amenities: A thriving town with grocery stores, supermarkets and a wealth of restaurants.



Grote Market, Ieper

Ieper (commonly known by its French name, Ypres) is a beautiful and welcoming city full of history. Like most Belgium towns, the central market square is the hub of activity with beautiful architecture, restaurants and attractions, including the stunning 'Cloth Hall' (home to the excellent Flanders Fields Museum) and 70m belfry. If you wish to pay tribute to the fallen, head down Menenstraat (off the square) to the Menin Gate Memorial, a fitting place to reflect and remember. For some light relief, the rollercoasters and thrills of Bellewaerde Park are 4.5km east of the town.



Recommended restaurant: In't Klein Stadhuis, in the Market Square.



Amenities: A choice of supermarkets, shops and restaurants can be found here.

Market: Sat (am) in the Market Square.

OSTEND

Ostend



You cannot cruise to Ostend. Moor in Plassendelburg (6 km away), and take your bikes or a taxi to get there.

Ostend is a big city on the seaside. For family fun, spend the day making sandcastles or hire 4-wheeler bicycles for a ride along Albert I Promenade. The Atlantic Wall Museum is one of the best museums here. There's lots of walking to do, but kids in particular will enjoy running around the tunnels and bunkers while there's much to learn for the adults.



Recommended restaurant: Valentino, on Albert I Promenade.



Amenities: Many shops, supermarkets and restaurants and a great ice cream parlour, Gelato Maxzim in Hertstraat.

BRUGES



Bruges

The architecture in the medieval centre of Bruges, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, makes this city one of the most popular tourist destinations in Europe. Small enough to explore on foot, but if the fancy takes there's horse drawn carriage, Segway and hot-air balloon.

There's a wealth of museums to explore – the folklore Museum, the Beer Museum, the Chocolate Museum and even the Frietmuseum (Fries Museum). Art lovers should not miss the Groeninge Museum, housing the world famous collection of Flemish Primitive painting, with masterpieces by Jan van Eyck, Hans Memling, Hugo Van der Goes and Gerard David. There's also the Salvador Dali Exhibition (in the Cloth Halls) or the Picasso Expo (at the historic Oud Sint-Jan site) which are also hugely popular.

The De Halve Maan Brewery is a must-see, and why not top off an action-packed day (or two) by climbing the Belfort for stunning views across this awe-inspiring city?



Saint Salvator Cathedral, Bruges



Bruges



Follow the Ring Canal around the outskirts of the Bruges and moor safely in La Coupure, a canal inlet protected by a barrier that is lifted by the harbour master. There are mooring fees (approximately €10 per night).



Recommended restaurant: Reliva, just south of the Holy Savior Cathedral on Goezeputstraat.



Amenities: Shops, restaurants aplenty and of course a plethora of chocolate shops and cafes. We recommend the Old Chocolate House on Mariastraat.

GHENT



Castle Gravensteen, Ghent

Ghent, the pearl of Flanders, was once the largest city in Europe after Paris. No other city in Belgium has as many monuments and important buildings; St Michael's Bridge, St. Bavo's Cathedral, Gravensteen Castle, the Belfry and Cloth Hall to name but a few. The historic centre is ideal to explore on foot - bring your camera - with fascinating museums, quirky bars and stunning architecture, Ghent is a city you won't want to miss!

De Dulle Griet (or 'Brown Café') has a beautiful, medieval interior decorated with cartwheels, signs and historical regalia. This café offers the largest beer selection in Ghent: more than 350 local and international beers. You can exchange your shoe for a 'Max' beer poured in a boot-shaped glass.



St. Nicholas Church, Ghent



Ghent



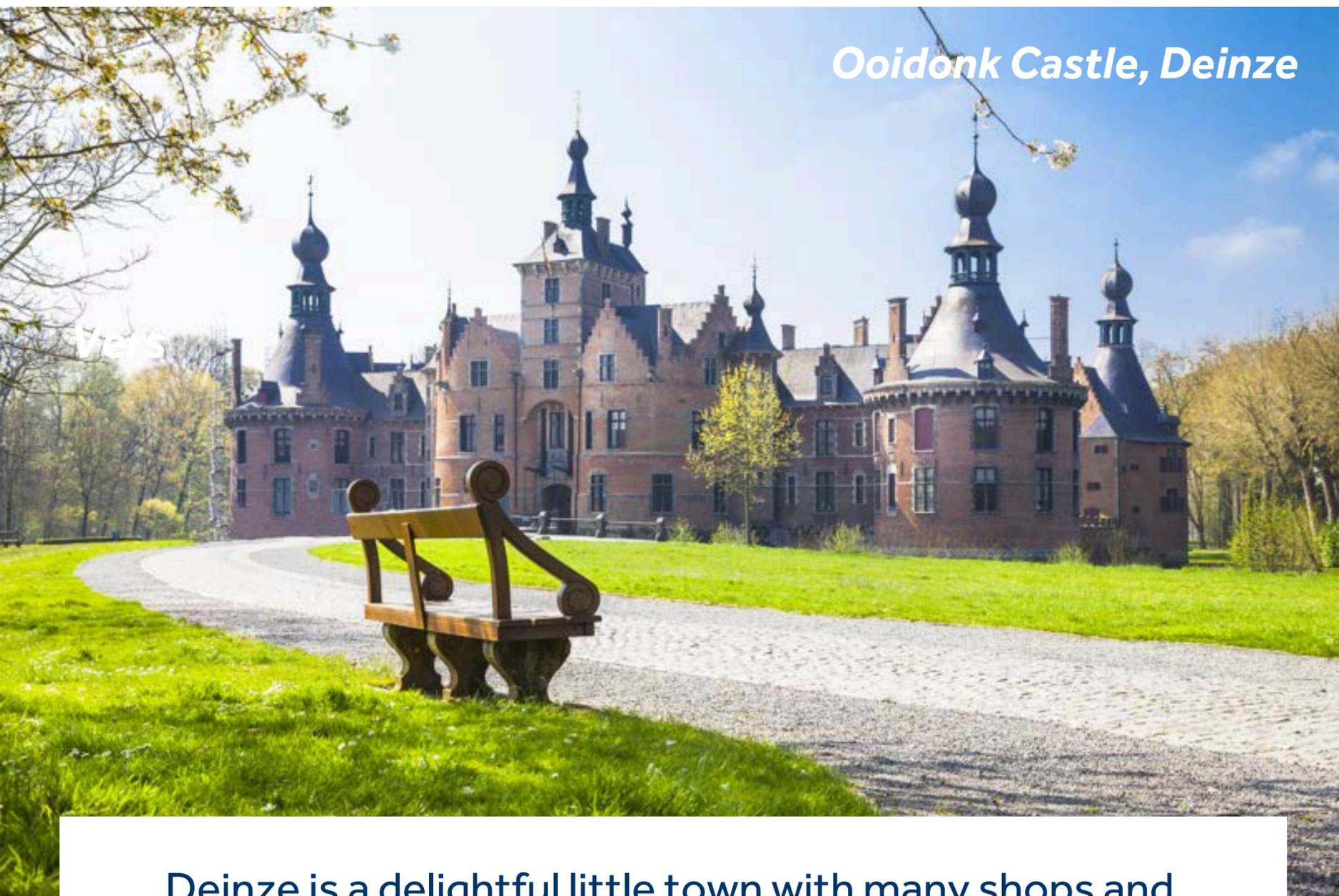
Recommended restaurant: Du Progress, in the historic centre on Korenmarkt.



Amenities: All the shops, restaurants and supermarkets you'd expect in a major city.

DEINZE

Ooidonk Castle, Deinze



Deinze is a delightful little town with many shops and restaurants, although the big draw is simply relaxing or exploring Brielmeersen Park. Wander along beautiful footpaths, flower and herbs gardens, let the kids play in the huge playground, play mini-golf and get lost in the giant bamboo maze. 6km to the north east, sits elegant and majestic Ooidonk Castle, one of the most beautiful in Europe. The castle is only open on Sundays and public holidays, but the gardens are open from Tuesday afternoons to Sunday for a tranquil stroll in among the green and watery surroundings.



Recommended restaurant: Brasserie Bruno, in Kalkhofstraat.



Amenities: There are a number of supermarkets and restaurants in Deinze.

OUDENAARDE

Town Hall and Belfry, Oudenaarde



Oudenaarde is famous for its carpet weaving and tapestry.

You can discover this history in detail, as well as a fine collection of tapestries at the MAU Museum. The impressive town hall and belfry stands magnificently in the centre market square which is flanked by shops, cafes and restaurants and St.

Walburga Church. Cycling enthusiasts should visit the 'Centrum Ronde van Vlaanderen', dedicated to the Tour of Flanders, an annual bike race of the region for over 100 years.



Recommended restaurant: Odnar, in the Aalststraat 200 building.



Amenities: There are a couple of supermarkets and good choice of restaurants here.

BOSSUIT

A small, plain looking village, but an opportunity to stretch your legs. Walk through the village to Bossuit Castle built in 17th century, although more like a very grand stately home.



Amenities: There isn't much in the way of shops and restaurants in Bossuit.

Belgian Chocolates



TOURNAI



Notre Dame Cathedral, Tournai

At first sight, historic Tournai appears to be a quiet provincial town, but there is a lively buzz and lots to see and do. The Cathedral of Our Lady of Tournai (Notre-Dame Cathedral) is one of the most spectacular churches in Belgium and is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Sadly, it is undergoing extensive restoration so much of the outside is masked by scaffolding and parts of the interior are inaccessible. However, there's still enough to see to make a visit worthwhile and the treasury room is not to be missed.

The 12th century Belfry of Tournai is the oldest in Belgium and also on UNESCO's list. During the ascent of its 257 steps, you will encounter multimedia shows and exhibitions, as well as the carillon of bells that chime every Sunday during the summer period (around 3:30 pm). The summit offers the most beautiful panorama of Tournai and its surroundings. There is also a wealth of museums and art galleries in Tournai.



Recommended restaurant: Un the sous le figuier, right on the canal.



Amenities: Plenty of shop and restaurants and a supermarket a short walk south east of the Cathedral.

KORTRIJK



Broel Towers, Kortrijk

Kortrijk is a beautiful and historic city, where you will discover the Broel towers, St Martin's Church and Eglise Notre-Dame – among many other buildings that make up this town's magnificent local architecture. Why not discover these sites on the 'Metamorphosis of the city' walk, by following the 4.3km route that is marked by metal rivets in the ground. Start at the Tourism office and you can also download an audio guide to guide you along the way.

Visit 'Texture' to learn about the textile, flax – its production has brought much wealth to Kortrijk. Right in the city centre you will discover the tranquil haven of a beguinage, a complex which once housed religious women. This is one of many in Belgium that has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There is a very informative museum on site.

The Beguinage and St. Martin's Church, Kortrijk



Recommended restaurant: Paul's Boutique, on Kleine Sint-Jansstraat – part of Kortrijk's huge outdoor shopping precinct.



Amenities: There are supermarkets and a vast array of shops in the town's large 'K' shopping precinct.

LOCKS AND LIFTING BRIDGES

Lock keepers tend to all locks and lifting bridges in Belgium .

OPENING TIMES

BETWEEN NIEUWPOORT AND BRUGES (KANAAL PLASSEDALE)	IN BRUGES
<p>Locks are open at fixed hours:</p> <p>From Nieuwpoort: 9am, 11am, 1pm, 3pm & 5pm</p> <p>To Nieuwpoort: 10am, 12pm, 2pm, 4pm & 6pm</p>	<p>8am – 6pm (Sundays/public holidays: 10am – 6pm, except in April and October when they are closed)</p> <p>All bridges are closed between 7:30am – 8:30am & 4:30pm – 5:30pm and on Wednesday they close between 11:50am – 12:30pm as well.</p>

EVERYWHERE ELSE
<p>8am – 6pm (10am – 6pm on Sundays and public holidays)</p>

All locks and bridges are closed on Easter Sunday. Deinze, the Bossuit Canal, Kortrijk, Ieper and Veurne are closed on Sundays in April and October.

MOORING

Moorings are widely available in Belgium, with a good mix of paid and free options. Boats must always be moored at designated mooring points, which are clearly marked and equipped with bollards or rings for securing your lines. When mooring overnight in a city marina, such as Diksmuide, Veurne, Ieper, Ghent or Bruges, a mooring fee applies. Prices are typically around €1.50 per metre of boat length, per night. For example, a 14-metre boat will cost approximately €14 per night. Free mooring spots are available in some locations and can be used where they are clearly signposted as official moorings, usually for a maximum stay of 24 hours. Please note that free moorings do not offer facilities, there are no showers, no shore power and no possibility to refill your boat's water tank. If you're planning to visit Bruges, we recommend following the Ring Canal around the outskirts of the city and mooring at La Coupure. This is a secure canal inlet, protected by a barrier operated by the harbour master, with mooring fees of approximately €10 per night.

WATER

You need to fill your water tank once or twice a week. It is possible to fill up with water in all ports/marinas for a fee of about 1 € per 100 liters.



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Disclaimer: We have endeavoured to ensure that all the information in this Guide is correct at time of printing. However, opening times and prices are subject to change. Attractions, restaurants, locks and even stretches of the canal can close without notice. Le Boat is happy to recommend all of the attractions and eating establishments featured within this Guide. However, they are not owned or managed by Le Boat and, as such, we cannot guarantee the quality of your experience at any particular time. If anything in this guide is not correct, we'd love to hear from you at guides@leboat.com so that we can revise future editions.

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