

Ghent, East Flanders, Belgium

Belgium's best-kept secret is a car-free medieval city of three soaring towers, glittering canals, and a surprisingly vibrant craft-beer and veggie-food scene — all within easy reach of your river berth.

 Pier (river dock)  Typical call: 7-10 hrs  Euro (€)  Dutch / English widely spoken  Car-free historic centre

MY DAY IN PORT

Ship/Date: _____	Arrive: _____	All aboard: _____
Excursion: _____	Notes: _____	

GETTING ASHORE

Docking: Pier — river cruise ships berth at the Grootdok (Rigakaai) quay; no tendering

Best For: Medieval architecture, the Ghent Altarpiece, canal boat tours, Belgian beer & frites

Walk to centre: Berth is ~1.5-2 km north of the historic core; most lines run a free shuttle, or take Tram 4 to Korenmarkt

Don't Miss: The three-tower view from Sint-Michielsbrug and a cuberdon candy from Groentenmarkt stalls

 Getting around:  Taxi  €25–€30 ·  Rideshare  Uber, Bolt

TOP THINGS TO DO

- **The Ghent Altarpiece & St. Bavo's Cathedral** — The Van Eyck brothers' 1432 masterpiece — the most-stolen painting in history — is now displayed in a state-of-the-art chamber inside the cathedral.
- **Gravensteen Castle** — A hulking 10th-century castle complete with moat, battlements, and a famously hilarious audio guide.
- **Canal Boat Tour** — A 40-50 minute guided boat ride along the Leie gives you Graslei's guildhalls, the Gravensteen, and the medieval skyline from water level — the best...
- **Belgian Food & Beer Tasting** — Sample Gentse Waterzooi (creamy chicken stew), double-fried frites from Frituur Jozef, and a Gruut herb beer brewed in medieval tradition.
- **Ghent Belfry (Belfort)** — This 91-metre UNESCO World Heritage tower anchors Ghent's skyline.

BEST WALKS

- **Ghent Medieval Highlights Loop** ⌚ 2-3 hrs · 📏 ~4 km · 🚶 Easy — flat cobblestones · 🏰 Three-tower view included — From the shuttle drop-off (or Korenmarkt tram stop) head to Graslei, cross to Korenlei for the guildhall view, continue to Gravensteen castle, then loop back via...
- **Patershol & Street Art Stroll** ⌚ 1-1.5 hrs · 📏 ~2 km · 🏠 Atmospheric lanes · 🎨 Street art — From Gravensteen, duck into the cobblestone alleys of Patershol for lunch or a Belgian beer, then cut south to Werregarenstraat — Ghent's legal graffiti street, where...

WEATHER · DAYLIGHT · MONEY

🌤️ CLIMATE (AVG °F · RAINY DAYS)				🌅 DAYLIGHT & 💰 MONEY	
	Mon	High	Low	Rain	
Apr		58°	42°	10d	Apr 6:50AM–8:40PM · Jun 5:30AM–10:01PM · Aug 6:32AM–9:05PM · Sep 7:20AM–7:58PM · Oct 8:08AM–6:51PM
Jun		72°	55°	11d	
Aug		73°	58°	13d	
Sep		69°	54°	10d	
Oct		61°	49°	13d	Euro (€)

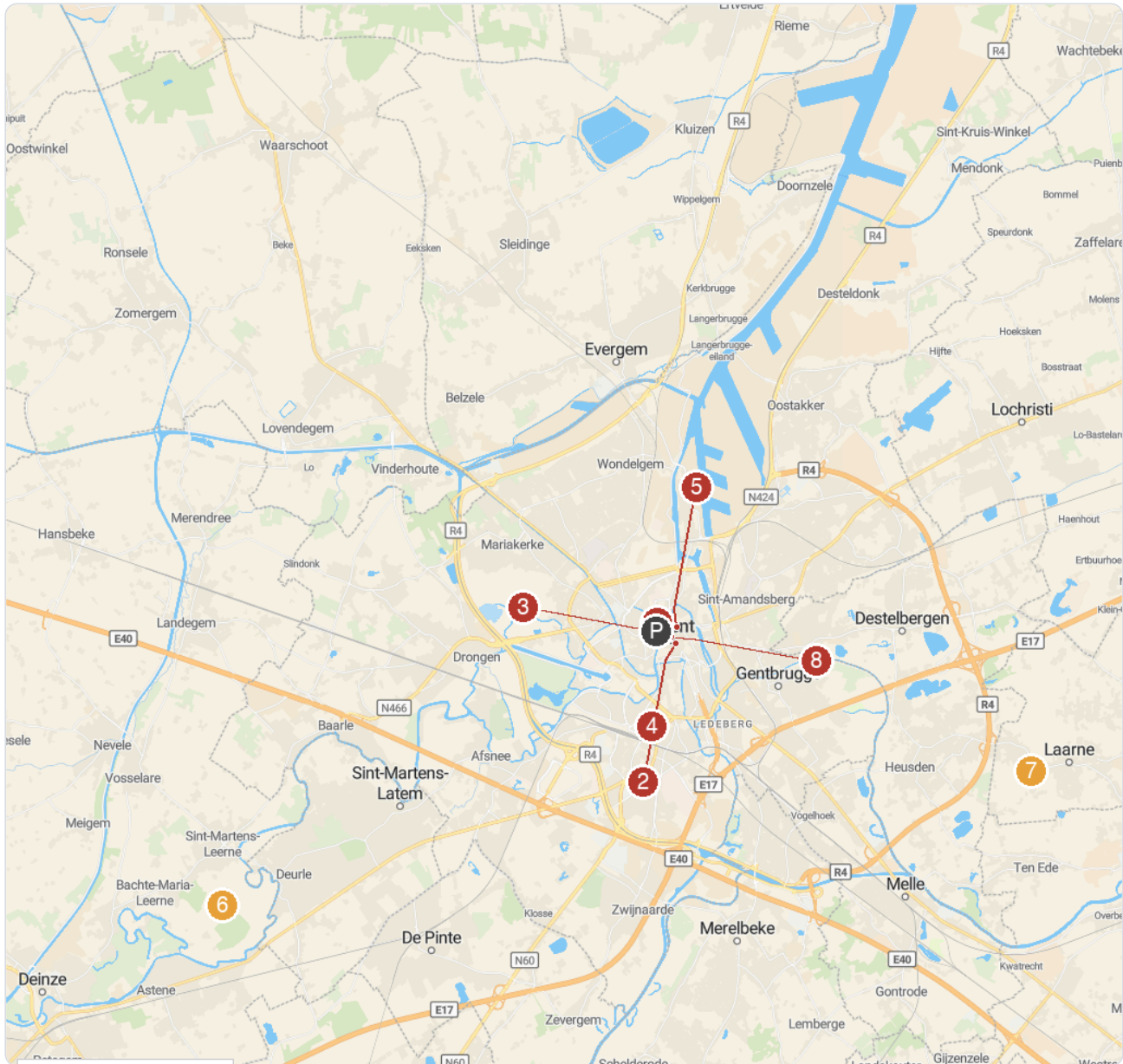
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Watch the bike lanes. Ghent's centre is car-free but bikes move fast. Never stand or walk in the red-marked cycle lanes — they are not pedestrian space.
- Buy Cuberdons at Groentenmarkt. These purple cone-shaped 'Ghent Noses' — raspberry-flavoured hard outside, gooey inside — are a hyper-local treat you won't find at home. Get them from the traditional wooden carts.
- Cards accepted everywhere. Ghent is very cashless — you can tap your card for a €3 waffle or a café beer. Carrying a few euros is handy for public toilets and market stalls.
- Pre-book the Ghent Altarpiece. Entry is capped and tickets sell out weeks ahead in peak season (May–Sept). Book at sintbaafskathedraal.be before your cruise.
- Stay for the evening light. If your ship departs late, Ghent's award-winning illumination plan lights up every canal, bridge and tower after dusk. It is genuinely magical.
- Sunday shopping is limited. Most retail shops close on Sundays, but all museums, cafés, restaurants, and boat tours remain open — the city doesn't feel dead, just quieter on the shopping front.

Ghent, East Flanders, Belgium — Port Map

cruiseports.org

Red = walkable sights · Amber = excursions farther out · P = cruise terminal. Numbers match the order you'd typically visit.



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|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1 Castle of the Counts | Historic medieval castle with a moat, once a prison. | 2 St Bavo's Cathedral | Gothic cathedral housing the famous Ghent Altarpiece. |
| 3 Gent Design Museum | Museum showcasing modern and historical design objects. | 4 Citadelpark | Large urban park with museums and botanical gardens. |
| 5 St Jacob's Church | Historic Romanesque-Gothic church with twin towers. | 6 Kasteel van Ooidonk | Stunning Renaissance castle surrounded by beautiful gardens. |
| 7 Kasteel van Laarne | Well-preserved medieval moated castle with rich interiors. | 8 Gent City Hall | Historic city hall showcasing Gothic and Renaissance architecture. |
| P Cruise port / terminal | | | |