

90 PLACES TO EAT OR BUY GOOD FOOD

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The 5 most STUNNING CAFES

- 91 **CAFÉ VLISSINGHE**
Blekersstraat 2
Sint-Anna Quarter ④
+32 (0)50 34 37 37
cafevlissinghe.be
- The oldest bar in Bruges, Café Vlissinghe served its first customers more than five centuries ago. It is a beautiful, historical place with ancient oil paintings, a 16th-century wooden counter and a battered chair possibly owned by the painter Anthony van Dyck. It is full of Flemish atmosphere, especially in winter when regulars sit around the iron stove with their Trappist beers.
- 92 **ADRIAAN**
Adriaan Willaert-
straat 7
Historic Centre ①
coffeabaradriaan.be
- This beautiful coffee bar named after the Flemish composer Adriaan Willaert opened in 2017 in a former 19th-century bank facing the city theatre. The neoclassical interior is decorated with pale green walls, old wooden tables and a cabinet filled with coffee-making equipment.



95 LE PAIN QUOTIDIEN

The 5 best shops for JEWELLERY and ACCESSORIES

206 GINKGO ICHO

Mariastraat 12
Historic Centre ②
+32 (0)50 74 33 48
ginkgojewels.com

Jonas Maes creates simple handmade jewellery in an old shop in the Mariastraat. His necklaces, rings and silver armbands are displayed in original settings. Some are laid out on ancient wooden beams. Others are placed on top of old LP records.

207 KINGIN

Ezelstraat 27
North Bruges ③
+32 (0)50 34 19 09
kingin.be

Nikolaas and Nathalie make elegant jewellery in a white step-gable house. The modest space is occupied by their workbench and a long wood counter where they lay out their creations.

208 GINKGO

Walplein 21
Begijnhof Quarter ⑤
+32 (0)479 26 94 89
ginkgojewels.com

This friendly jewellery shop near the Halve Maan brewery sells handmade silver rings, necklaces and bracelets. You can watch the makers at work at a wooden bench in the back of the shop. Some pieces are simple designs, while others are inspired by natural forms.

209 HOET

Vlamingstraat 19
Historic Centre ①
+32 (0)50 33 50 02
hoet.eu

When Patrick Hoet took over his mother's optician shop, he decided it was time to do something different. He now sells bright, distinctive eyewear in a stunning interior in the historic centre. Hoet often approaches Belgian artists and designers to create original styles for his brand Theo. Former customers include Bill Gates and Elton John.

210 VALÉRIE V.

Langerei 68
Sint-Gillis Quarter ③
+32 (0)50 34 38 03
valeriev.be

Valérie Van Maele studied jewellery at the acclaimed Academy of Fine Arts in Antwerp. She now makes unique necklaces and rings in a workshop located in a 16th-century canalside house. Phone ahead to book an appointment.



The 5 most surprising FAKE BUILDINGS

266 BONIFACIUSBRUG

Arentshof

Historic Centre ②

Everyone knows the little hump-backed bridge called the Bonifaciusbbrug. It is one of the most photographed spots in Bruges, with the canal gently lapping at the crumbling brick foundations. It looks ancient, but it was actually built in 1910 in a fake mediaeval style that incorporated some old gravestones.



267 PROVINCIAAL HOF

Markt 3

Historic Centre ②

Built on the site of the ancient Waterhalle, the Provinciaal Hof looks mediaeval, but it was built between 1887 and 1921. The flamboyant white stone building was designed by local architect Louis Delacenserie, who borrowed ideas from the 15th-century Gruuthuse and from the town hall on Burg.

268 VLAMINGSTRAAT 38

Vlamingstraat 38

Historic Centre ①

The house with the black wooden front at Vlamingstraat 38 looks as if it dates from the Middle Ages. But it is a copy of a building in Pieter Pourbus' *Portrait of Jacquemyne Buuck* in the Groeningemuseum. The house was built by a local architect as recently as 1963.

269 RIJKSNORMAAL-SCHOOL

Sint-Jorisstraat 69-71

Sint-Gillis Quarter ③

One of the oddest buildings in Bruges, the Rijknormaalschool stands on the site of the crossbowmen's guildhall. Designed by Louis Delacenserie in the 1880s, it combines neo-Gothic brickwork with flamboyant wrought iron details. Originally a school, the gloomy, dilapidated building is now a university campus.

270 HISTORIUM

Markt 1

Historic Centre ②

+32 (0)50 27 03 11

historium.be

The Historium occupies a grey stone building on Markt that looks as if it has been around for centuries. But it is no more authentic than the virtual reality experience inside. It was built in the 1920s in the elaborate Burgundian Gothic style of 15th-century Bruges.

5 FORGOTTEN NEIGHBOURHOODS

to check out

306 VERLOREN HOEK

BEGIN AT:

Sint-Annakerk

Sint-Anna Quarter ④

The Verloren Hoek, or Lost Corner, lies on the edge of town, far from the crowds. It's a quiet, undiscovered quarter with modest workers' houses, whitewashed almshouses and hidden religious institutions. The main landmarks are three wooden windmills built on the ramparts to catch the wind.

307 SINT-GILLIS QUARTER

BEGIN AT:

Sint-Gilliskerk

Sint-Gillis Quarter ③

You soon escape the crowds in the quiet streets around the Sint-Gilliskerk. Most of the buildings in this quarter are workers' houses from the 16th century. The artist Hans Memling bought a house in 1480 in the Sint-Jorisstraat and was buried in 1494 next to the Sint-Gilliskerk.

308 SINT-ANNA QUARTER

BEGIN AT:

Sint-Annakerk

Sint-Anna Quarter ④

The quiet streets around the Sint-Annakerk have kept an authentic Bruges character. Here is where you discover the real Bruges where local people have lived for generations. The church is surrounded by quiet cobbled lanes lined with workers' homes and almshouses. The odd tower of the Jeruzalemkapel adds a mysterious touch to the neighbourhood.

309 BEURSPLEIN QUARTER

BEGIN AT:

Smedenpoort

't Zand Quarter ⑥

A quiet, forgotten corner of Bruges lies to the west of 't Zand. It has no tourist sites, so almost no one goes there. Yet this modest neighbourhood has a particular charm, with old almshouses, small chapels and a romantic park planted along the ramparts.

310 KANAAL GENT-BRUGGE

BEGIN AT:

Bargeweg

South Bruges ⑤

Not many people know the old industrial quarter along the Bruges to Ghent canal. But this is an interesting area to explore on foot or by bike, with quiet towpaths, iron bridges and enormous barges heading to Zeebrugge. The most impressive buildings are the massive La Brugeoise power station from 1912, now an event venue, and the Bombardier train construction site.

5 of the most inspiring SMALL GALLERIES

361 **SCHIPPERSKAPEL**
Komvest 38
Sint-Gillis Quarter ③
schipperskapel.be

An abandoned chapel has been turned into a striking gallery of contemporary art. Renamed the Chapel of Awesomeness, the neat white interior, where nuns once prayed, is now used for inspiring exhibitions and the occasional concert.

362 **BLACK SWAN GALLERY**
Langerei 24
Sint-Gillis Quarter ③
+32 (0)475 83 94 72
blackswangallery.be

This new gallery is dedicated to edgy work by emerging artists. Established in 2017, the name was inspired by a black swan that caused panic when it suddenly appeared on the canals in 2014. The gallery aims to serve as a hub for serious contemporary art lovers in Bruges, although it is only open at weekends.

363 **PINSART**
Genthof 21
Historic Centre ①
+32 (0)50 67 50 66
pinsart.be

This contemporary gallery occupies a 16th-century gabled house. It organises interesting exhibitions by emerging Belgian artists in a series of white spaces and a video screening room.

364 **44 GALLERY**
Genthof 44
Historic Centre ①
+32 (0)489 55 26 63
44gallery.be

Luc Rabaey runs an intimate photography gallery in a bare living room with an ancient tiled floor. He sells unconventional works by contemporary Belgian photographers along with art books and postcards.

365 **KOEN BROES**
Nieuwe Gentweg 49
Begijnhof Quarter ⑤
+32 (0)50 33 37 74
broes.be

Koen Broes has been around since the early 1980s promoting young, relatively unknown artists. He recently moved into a handsome 18th-century house where he presents a personal choice of prints and graphic art. You find bright, optimistic works propped against a fireplace, resting on balls of string or piled up on a table among art books.





DAMSE VAART

50 ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEKEND – IN AND OUTSIDE BRUGES

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The 5 ODDEST SIGHTS

471 DUMERY BELL

Boeveriestraat
't Zand Quarter ⑥

Located on a little square not far from 't Zand, the mysterious Dumery bell hangs in a massive wooden frame. Cast in the 18th century at Joris Dumery's bell foundry, which stood near this spot, the 700 kg bell originally hung in the Belfry. It is now rung five times a year for ten minutes.

472 THE LOST RIVER

Jan van Eyckplein
Historic Centre ①

A river once ran from the Dampoort to Markt, but the stretch along Kraanrei has been covered over. The course of the hidden river is revealed by 13 cast iron manhole covers marked with a Gothic B for Bruges near the statue of Jan van Eyck.

473 SMEDENPOORT SKULL

Smedenstraat 71
't Zand Quarter ⑥

Look closely at the Smedenpoort and you will spot a metal skull embedded in the wall. It dates back to the 17th century when Louis XIV was about to attack Bruges. A Ghent man tried to let the enemy into the city, but his plan was discovered and he was beheaded. His skull was displayed on the gate as a warning and later replaced by a metal copy.

474 WOODEN CRANE

Wulpenstraat
Sint-Gillis Quarter ③

A replica mediaeval crane stands near the Dampoort in northern Bruges. The impressive crane was built by carpentry students at a local technical college in 2002. It is an exact copy of the old city crane originally sited on the Kraanplaats, even including the little wooden bird perched on the top.

475 COUPURE ARTWORK

Coupure
Historic Centre ②
kwaadbloed.com

The Brussels choreographer Ugo Dehaes created an artwork in 2002 next to a new bridge across the Coupure canal. Named *c/o/u/p/u/r/e*, it features a suspended wooden figure divided into separate sections supported by wires. The model is activated by a movement detector attached to a nearby tree, but you may have to wait some time before anything happens.



474 WOODEN CRANE