

PRODUCTMANAGEMENT



CALENDAR
2017

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ANTWERP

REUNION. FROM QUINTEN METSYS TO PETER PAUL RUBENS.

OLV KATHEDRAAL

1 January 2010 until 31 December 2017

The prestigious exhibition "Reunion. From Quinten Metsys to Peter Paul Rubens. Masterpieces from the Royal Museum back in the Cathedral ", organized by the Cathedral of Our Lady and the KMSKA, evokes the cathedral interior from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. In that period the Cathedral of Our Lady in Antwerp has become a veritable treasure-house of religious art, painted and carved by celebrated masters. These works reflect iconographic evolutions and socio-economic developments over the centuries.

www.dekathedraal.be

THE GOLDEN CABINET. THE ROYAL MUSEUM AT THE ROCKOX HOUSE

ROCKOXHUIS

2 February 2013 until 2 July 2017

Visitors to the Rockox House in Antwerp will be able to see how an Antwerp art collection must have appeared in the Golden Century.

www.hetguldencabinet.be

SARVAVID, THE ALL-KNOWING BUDDHA

MAS

20 October 2016 – 20 January 2017

The exhibition 'Sarvavid, the all-knowing Buddha' takes the visitors in the meditation process. A unique series of Buddhist miniature paintings perfectly fits the quest for peace and tranquility in our Western society.

www.mas.be

ANTWERP PATEEKES WEEK

ANTWERP CITY CENTRE

3 – 12 February 2017

Een 'pateeke' means in Antwerp dialect 'pastry'. During the 'pateekesweek', you'll be happy to discover the city of Antwerp strolling along the tearooms from internationally praised pâ-tissiers as well as the pâtissiers only known by the locals. Get ready to eat at the most tasty Belgian pastries.

<http://www.antwerpenkoekenstad.be/pateekesweek>

ANTWERP CHOCOLATE WEEK

ANTWERP CITY CENTRE

2 – 12 March 2017

From 2 to 12 March, the city of Antwerp is all about chocolate. Visiting chocolate lovers will have the opportunity to follow the tasting route. Armed with a chocolate pass and the handy brochure on the chocolatiers taking part, they can stroll around the main sights of the city, stopping off at the best chocolate shops in the city to try their latest creations. What nicer way could there be to explore a city!

<http://www.antwerpenkoekenstad.be/chocolate-week/>

TOUR OF FLANDERS FOR CYCLING TOURISTS

Antwerp- OUDENAARDE

1 April 2017

The Tour of Flanders for Tourists and amateurs. Limited to 16,000 participants, so be sure to register early.

TOUR OF FLANDERS

ANTWERP– OUDENAARDE

2 April 2017

The Tour of Flanders is the undisputed crown jewel in the Flemish cycling Year. There is no day that true cycling fans yearn for more than the first Sunday in April. On that day, a whole nation is roused by the race.

SCHELDEPRIJS

HANZESTEDENPLAATS 1

5 April 2017

On the agenda during the sacred week between the Tour of Flanders and the Paris-Roubaix, there is the Scheldeprijs - the sprinters' classic.
www.scheldeprijs.be

REOPENING M HKA

M HKA

Spring 2017

M HKA towards a contemporary forum for art, the public and the world.

With this project M HKA wishes to redefine the look and feel of its building and provide a complete and up – to – date museum experience for both local and international visitors. M HKA wishes to offer a rich and challenging museum experience, aimed at a broad international and national audience. This reconstruction project targets their collection and its display. It makes visible their expertise in museum research, archiving and information systems. M HKA sees itself as an ambassador of visual culture in Flanders, connecting its rich visual history with evocative contemporary art. They continue to develop and promote the Antwerp avant – garde tradition of the early twentieth century and the post – war period.

www.muhka.be

TASTE OF ANTWERP

WAAGNATIE

28 April – 1 May or 25 – 28 May 2017 (exact date not yet available)

The Taste of Antwerp is the biggest culinary festival in Antwerp. The great selection of participating top restaurants, the beautiful location next to the Schelde, and the creative execution (decoration, fresh herbs, wooden plates, etc...) make this festival one of the top culinary festivals in Belgium.

www.antwerpenproeft.be

SUMMER OF ANTWERP

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

July-August 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Summer of Antwerp, is two months of contemporary circus, innovative theater, special concerts and exciting outdoor movies. You can find the festival in the city and in places where you least expect it. Often free or for little money. Especially for young people, there are parties with DJs, comedy, music, theater, slam poetry ...

www.zomervanantwerpen.be

BEER PASSION WEEKEND

GROENPLAATS

23- 25 June 2017

The 'Bierpassieweekend' (Beer Passion weekend) is the ideal occasion for beer connoisseurs and zythologists to discover the beauty of Antwerp and taste the dazzling array of Belgian beers. The Groenplaats, one of Antwerp's most stunning squares, hosts about 40 breweries presenting 200 or more beers, and the festival offers visitors the chance to discover the rich palette of flavours in high-quality Belgian beer.

www.bierpassieweekend.be

ANTWERP PRIDE

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

9 – 13 August 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Antwerp Pride colors gay friendly Antwerp with parties, sport manifestations, exhibitions and cultural activities

www.antwerppride.eu

BOLLEKESFEEST

ANTWERP, GROTE MARKT AND SURROUNDING STREETS

17 – 20 August 2017

The Bollekesfeest festival showcases the city's assets. This is an event with strong Antwerp brands, heritage and traditions, with a contemporary look and feel. The spotlight is on culinary Antwerp and its regional products and a "Bolleke Koninck", or a De Koninck beer. The overall atmosphere is fun, with local Antwerp musicians performing in the various squares. You can also explore the city during the Bollekesfeest festival by going on themed walks, bike tours or taking a boat trip.

<http://www.visitantwerpen.be/detail/bollekesfeest-en>

MODESTE BEER FESTIVAL

MECHELSESTEENWEG 291

7- 8 OCTOBER 2017

The Modeste Beer Festival pays a tribute to Modeste Van den Bogaert. He joined the Brewery De Koninck right after the war and his father untimely death. He led the brewery for more than 50 years. Modeste also means modest. That is why only small Belgian brewers are invited to this festival.

www.modestebierfestival.be

OBJECTS OF DESIRE

MAS

19 October 2017 – 21 January 2018

'My theory is that many of the things that move us are things we long for, but find hard to do.' Alain de Botton. The exhibition 'Objects of Desire' investigates how mankind translates its pursuit of status and power, its craving for love and romance and its longing for spirituality into objects. What important position do diamonds play in this question? Has this always been the case through time and cultures?

www.mas.be

NIGHT OF THE PROMS

SPORTPALEIS

November 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Night of the Proms takes the audience on a journey through a rousing and familiar classical repertoire and timeless pop classics backed by a mind-blowing visual and aural setting.

www.notp.com

CHINA LIGHT ZOO

ZOO Antwerp

3 December 2016 – 15 January 2017

From 3 December till 15 January Chinese Artists transform the Antwerp ZOO again to the fairytale China Light ZOO. Spend an unforgettable evening between hundreds of giant light objects in the shape of colorful animals and flowers spread over the ZOO.

www.zooantwerpen.be

WINTER IN ANTWERP

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

CHRISTMAS BEERFESTIVAL

ANTWERP REGION

16 & 17 December 2017

For two days visitors can taste about 170 Belgian Christmas and winter beers in 15 cl tasting glasses. Their beer list is regarded as one of the best in the world, with several scoops and interesting gems combined with world classics.

DIVA – DIAMOND MUSEUM

December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

DIVA is a new tourist attraction to open in the historic heart of Antwerp in december 2017. DIVA provides the ultimate diamond experience. The visitor will be immersed in the world of diamonds during a 45-minute highlights tour with 5 topics (Wunderkammer, diamond-cutting workshop, gigantic terrestrial globe, World Fairs with a virtual fitting room and the world of organized crime and forgery). The experience continues in DIVA's 'escape room', a 60 minute challenge, where the only way to escape is by solving riddles and finding objects.

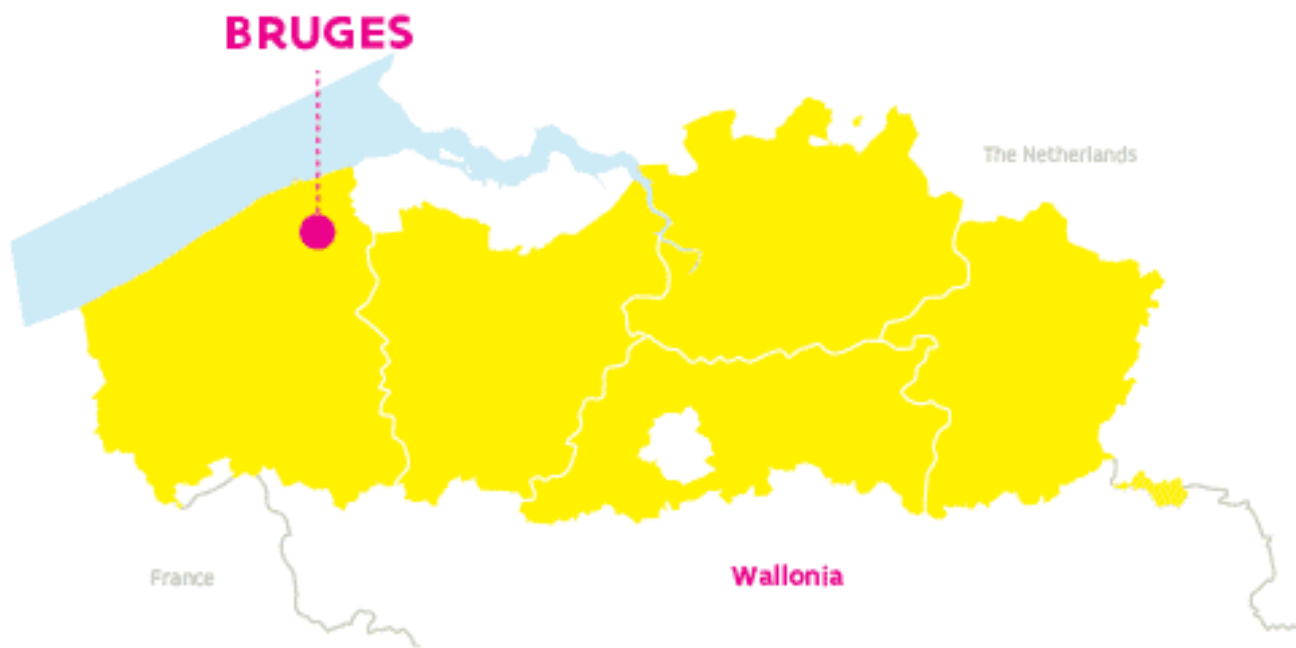
COMICS STRIPS STATION

CENTRAL STATION ANTWERP

opening Christmas 2017

Strip Museum is a comic themed experience park, located at the entrance level of Antwerp Central Station. Next to the experience park, it also offers 'the Comics Garden' and 'the Comics Factory'. The Comics Garden is an interactive exhibition on the highlights of Belgian comic strips. This part focuses on families and on an international audience. The expo stretches over 700m2. the 'Comics Factory' is a high-tech drawing studio in which visitors learn to draw (with the help of digital tools and strip authors). Each visitor will leave the attraction with his own comic strip page, focusing on his favorite strip character.

www.comicsstation.be



BRUGES

THE ART OF LAW

GROENINGEMUSEUM

28 October 2016 – 5 February 2017

In 1494, Gerard David was commissioned by the city council of Bruges to paint 'the Judgement of Cambyses'. This dramatic and gruesome work once hung in the court chamber of Bruges town hall, as an example of how justice must be served. Now it is one of the most important paintings in the collection of the Groeningemuseum. From the 15th century onwards, it was common practice for courtrooms to be decorated with scenes that in some way alluded to justice. 'The Last Judgement' – the ultimate moment of divine justice – was frequently chosen for this purpose. 'The Last Judgement' was also painted in the council chamber in Bruges, amongst others by Jan Provoost and Pieter Pourbus. In addition, other appropriate subjects from sacred and profane literature were likewise used to represent the 'justice theme' in places where justice was administered. These were usually specific examples of the 'fair' implementation of justice – the so-called 'exempla iustitiae' – such as the story of Cambyses, which became very popular in the 16th century. Subjects relating to justice were also often depicted in works of art intended for non-legal settings.

At one time or another justice, executions, judges and condemned prisoners have all inspired artists to create paintings, engravings, drawings, sculptures and stained glass.

This exhibition is built around thirty or so works from their own collections. Together with more than 60 works lent from other galleries and museums.

www.bezoekers.brugge.be/the-art-of-law

BACH ACADEMIE BRUGES/ LUTHER'S REVOLUTION, BACH'S REFORMATION

CONCERT BUILDING BRUGES

17-22 January 2017

With his 95 Theses, Martin Luther launched a radical church reform in 1517. From then on, man simply spoke for himself, through his faith. Corals played an important role in spreading this new ideology. During this Bach Academy, we indulge in the musical richness of the Reformation. Collegium Vocale Gent, Philippe Herreweghe and a host of budding and/or established talent are ready for a fiery five days.

BRUGES BEER FESTIVAL

BEURSPLEIN

4-5 February 2017

Bruges has earned a reputation with its long tradition of brewing and café culture. At the beginning of February, the 8th edition of the Bruges Beer Festival will take place. The international beer festival brings together over 70 breweries. You can taste over 300 beers at the festival and 15,000 people will join you in sampling this epic range of beers in historic Bruges.

www.brugsbierfestival.be

SYMFONIE ORKEST FLANDERS / BOLERO

1 March 2017

Global warming? This program has an interesting and utterly harmless spin on the matter... Nevermind your ecological footprint when flying from Spain, over Argentina to Mexico and back. Ravel's southern 'Bolero', the exciting audacity of Ginastera's 'Estancia Suite' and the sweltering heat in works by Copland, Lalo and Coppens will no doubt make you blush in winter times.

ANIMA ETERNA BRUGES

3 March 2017

Where jazz and classical meet, there reigns George Gershwin. As a young composer of music hall and Broadway songs, Gershwin broke through in 1924 with Rhapsody in Blue, a perfect marriage of symphonic style and the rhythmic energy of jazz. Classical music clearly attracted Gershwin: just listen to An American in Paris or his opera Porgy and Bess, both of which are brimming with brilliant melodies. In this programme the almost 30-year-old Anima Eterna Brugge take their very first steps into jazz. And they do so in excellent company. Pianist Bart Van Caenegem, who earned his spurs in both genres, will be playing an appropriate piano - an early Steinway & Sons. And the concert's 'leading lady' is one of Anima's favourite female singers: American soprano Claron McFadden, who besides technique and expressiveness, also has the mettle and panache of a born entertainer.

DOMAIN ALEXEI LUBIMOV

21-23 April 2017

Small in stature, iron-fingered, but with velvet touch and an eagle-eyed perception of the hidden depths of a score, that's Russian pianist Alexei Lubimov in a nutshell. Domain Alexei Lubimov highlights three facets of this versatile pianist: his crystal-clear articulation and unerring sense of style in the Viennese classics, his flair for the interplay of tradition and innovation in Debussy and Stravinsky, and his great commitment to the music of his homeland, both old and new.

BUDAPEST FESTIVAL

CONCERT BUILDING BRUGES

18-20 May 2017

Iván Fischer and his Budapest Festival Orchestra are world renowned for their vibrant, extremely precise and 'authentically Hungarian' performances of the music of their compatriot Béla Bartók. It is still hard to find a better performance of Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra than the BFO's. It's no wonder then that in this fourth edition of the Budapest Festival they are focussing on the music of the Hungarian master. Even today the vitality of Bartók's music - its wild tempestuousness, brutal vehemence and emotional depth - continues to inspire musicians and audiences. Thanks to its stratification, diversity, popularity, complexity and simultaneously Hungarian, European and cosmopolitan character, Bartók remains a very relevant composer. Perhaps the greatest of the 20th century? This fourth edition of the Budapest Festival focusses on Bartók's three main stage works: Duke Bluebeard's Castle, The Wooden Prince and The Miraculous Mandarin. Attending a concert by the Budapest Festival Orchestra is like experiencing the re-creation of music with your own eyes and ears. Fischer always provides that 'little something extra' that sets extraordinary orchestras apart from the simply good. Imagination, control, commitment, cutting-edge music making: a must for every music lover!

www.concertgebouw.be

HOLY BLOOD PROCESSION

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

25 May 2017

The Procession of the Holy Blood, that dates back to at least 1303, takes place in Bruges every year on Ascension Day. Although there have been many changes over the centuries, the heart of the event is the reenactment of the passion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

For as long as anyone can remember, the pageant has been divided into four parts. Legend has it that in 1150, after the second Crusade, Thierry d'Alsace, Count of Flanders, brought the relic of the Holy Blood of Jesus back from Jerusalem, to be placed in the Basilica on the Burg. What we know for sure is that the legend contains several elements of popular belief and folklore. The Procession of the Holy Blood was added to the representative list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity (2009).

www.holyblood.com

Memling in Context. a fresh look at Hans memling's paintings of the st-Janshospitaal

SINT – JANS HOSPITAAL

11 May – 8 October 2017

"The collection of St. John's Hospital (Sint-Janshospitaal) in Bruges is crucial for our understanding of the works produced by one of the greatest European masters of the 15th century: Hans Memling (c.1435-1494). It is there that Memling's only surviving signed and dated altarpieces can be found. Actually ordered for the hospital and completed in 1479, inscriptions on the still-original frames cite Memling as their creator. These two altarpieces, regarded as the touchstones for the reconstruction of an extraordinary rich oeuvre, will be presented with the important ensemble of Memling's other works at Sint-Janshospitaal. The exhibition is based on scientific research (including the interpretation of recently executed infrared reflectography, which reveal the underdrawings) and presents the paintings in their new installation at the museum premises. Special emphasis is put on the history of Memling's paintings, which after 1839 formed the core collection of one of the earliest museums and major tourist attractions in Belgium: the Memling Museum."

MOODS!

MARKT

28 July – 10 August 2017

Moods! sets the tone for the Bruges summer! For two weeks, Bruges city center forms the backdrop for musical and other fireworks.

www.moodsbrugge.be

CACTUS FESTIVAL

MINNEWATERPARK

7 – 9 July 2017

Cactus is a festival on a human scale, in a relaxed atmosphere, which deliberately dissociates itself from the trends towards 'more' and 'bigger'.

www.cactusfestival.be

MA FESTIVAL - FESTIVAL VAN VLAANDEREN BRUGGE

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

4 – 13 August 2017

One of the oldest specialist music festivals with an international reputation. Daily concerts, workshops and lectures.

www.mafestival.be

KOOKEET

T ZAND

23– 25 September 2017

Bruges and gastronomy have long been inextricably linked. With Hertog Jan***, De Jonkman**, A'Qi*, Sans Cravate*, Den Gouden Harynck* and De Herborist*, Bruges counts no fewer than 12 Michelin stars and the city has every right to call itself the Mecca for gourmets. At Kookeet over twenty

top Bruges chefs introduce you to some highly diverse gastronomic gems. The participating restaurants belong, without exception, to the very best culinary establishments, boasting one or more Michelin stars and a Bib Gourmand rating or high score from GaultMillau. In the stylish tent village at Het Zand you can choose among a wide selection of culinary treats.

www.kookeet.be

ANIMA ETERNA BRUGGE / MONTEVERDI WITH THE PREGARDIENS

Concert building Bruges

20 October 2017

Building on a successful previous partnership, this season, Anima Eterna Brugge presents a brand new programme with Christoph and Julian Prégardien, two of the most versatile and expressive tenors today. It is wonderful to celebrate in good company, especially when it's a very special anniversary (450!) of Claudio Monteverdi that we're celebrating! The pioneering baroque composer is commemorated with a selection of madrigals and opera fragments which - 40 years after his legendary production of Orfeo - promises to be very special for early music pioneer Jos van Immerseel...

PIETER POURBUS AND THE FORGOTTEN MASTERS

The Bruges painting world in the second half of the 16th century

Groeningemuseum

13 October 2017 – 21 January 2018

Economic recession, a stagnating textile market and the departure of international merchants from the city: this is the picture of Bruges during the second half of the sixteenth century. The glorious fifteenth century, the age of the Flemish primitives, is long gone. Despite the city's continuing international prestige, its inhabitants struggle to scrape a living. Inventiveness is order of the day. This applies equally for artists like Pieter Pourbus, the Claeissens family and Marcus Gerards. This exposition focuses on the search for new patrons by these artists and on the marketing choices they were forced to make. Little-known masterpieces will be assembled in an exhibition that offers a powerful image of creativeness in times of hardship.

<https://bezoekers.brugge.be/pieterpourbus-en>

IEDEREEN KLASSIEK

Different venues in Bruges

28 October 2017

Annually recurring city festival of classical music

Iedereen Klassiek immerses everything and everyone in a gay bath of classical music. Along with Klara, the initiator, and the many partners in Bruges, the Concert Hall is preparing a lavish programme, with offshoots throughout the inner city. As always, we warm up with Zot by Bach and tradition has it that the Brussels Philharmonic brings up the rear, this time with some well-known Russian classics. So invite family and friends to this free event and introduce them to the power and beauty of Bach, Beethoven and Bruges.

www.concertgebouw.be

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE

SINT-JANSHOSPITAAL

Autumn 2017

The well-known South African artist William Kentridge (°Johannesburg, 1955) became famous due to his special animation movies, ... and installations. He is also active as opera and theatre director. This exhibition offers a unique selection of his work for Sint-Janshospitaal in Bruges. Organized around the themes of trauma and healing, the show takes as its centerpiece Kentridge's

2015 video installation 'More Sweetly Play the Dance', a contemporary interpretation of a medieval Dance of Death. This ambitious procession – a form to which he returns, like Rembrandt to selfportraits – reveals a conscience deeply embedded in historical traumas: colonial Africa, the Holocaust, apartheid. Through the combination of setting and displayed works, including several by Flemish Primitive and modern artists, the exhibition presents art as a powerful means of “working through” layers of history and mending ruptures in collective self-identity

WINTER IN BRUGES

Simon Stevensplein & Grote Markt (Market Square) Bruges
December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Experience the cozy Christmas atmosphere at the Christmas market in Bruges.

DECEMBER DANCE

CONCERTGEBOUW
4 - 17 December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

This international dance festival for a general audience takes place every year at the Concertgebouw in Bruges. It presents a balanced programme of established artists and young, up-and-upcoming talent. Young makers are given the opportunity to display their creations at the December Dance Platform. In the margins of the festival, December Dance also presents readings, introductions and discussions.

www.concertgebouw.be

BRUSSELS



MINI-EUROPE REMEMBERS 14-18

BRUPARCK

13 June 2014 – 31 December 2018

The miniature park reminds its visitors of the Great War, providing a relaxed history lesson.

www.minieurope.com

Experience the Bruegel Box

The Royal Museum of Fine Arts of Belgium

On 15 March 2016, the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium and the Google Cultural Institute have Launched the Bruegel / Unseen Masterpieces / project, for the first time ever, bringing together eight prestigious international museums around the figure of Bruegel the Elder.

www.fine-arts-museum.be

Picasso: Sculptures

BOZAR

26 October 2016 – 5 March 2017

“Large, ambitious and unavoidably, dizzyingly peripatetic”, wrote *The New York Times* about the *Picasso Sculpture* exhibition at the MoMA. The Musée Picasso in Paris, in collaboration with BOZAR, builds on the theme. Over sixty sculptures represent the staggering creative power of an artist who really went to town experimenting with a range of materials and techniques.

www.bozar.be

ILLUSTRATOR DANY

COMICSCENTER

13 December 2016 – 28 May 2017

The Olivier Rameau illustrator is one of the most-gifted Belgian comic strip artists of his generation. He began his career working on the Tintin comics at the Greg studio (1966) and before long was commissioned to create numerous illustrations and covers for the comic.

BRAFA

TOUR & TAXIS

21 - 29 January 2017

Brafa is one of the leading European art and antiques fairs. Here, all art works on show are for sale and quality and authenticity are two of the key requirements exhibitors face. Brafa is an eclectic fair which encompasses a variety of specialties, from antiquity to the 21st century...

www.brafa.be

SALON DU CHOCOLAT

TOUR & TAXIS

10 – 12 February 2017

Don't miss the Salon du Chocolat at Tour & Taxis to celebrate Belgian chocolate!

Some 80 participants will gather on an exhibition space entirely dedicated to chocolate and cocoa: chocolatiers, pastry makers and confectioners, along with the greatest chefs, pastry chefs and cocoa experts will treat visitors with live recipes, workshops, conferences, chocolate fashion shows, and many other chocolate activities.

www.brussels.salon-du-chocolat.com

POL BURY - RETROSPECTIVE

BOZAR

24 February – 4 June 2017

Pol Bury (La Louvière, 1922 - Paris, 2005) was a Belgian painter, sculptor, jewellery designer, writer and graphic artist. He started out as a painter under the influence of René Magritte and Yves Tanguy, painting until after World War II in a Surrealistic style. Later, Bury exhibited with the Jeune Peinture Belge group and the Cobra movement, but around 1953 became fascinated by contemporary sculpture, inspired by Alexander Calder. He went on to produce his first 'moving' works, driven by a motor, and became one of the protagonists of kinetic art. Characteristic of his work is the extreme slowness of the often unpredictable movements that take place in his sculptures and objects. The retrospective exhibition at the Centre for Fine Arts will provide a deeper insight into the diversity and complexity of Pol Bury's work, while revealing the common thread that runs through it.

www.bozar.be

EURANTICA

BRUSSELS EXPO

4-12 March 2017

Antique dealers from all over Europe come together once a year in Brussels with their best finds. From all corners of the world and all periods, rare objects will be there; looking around this fair will be collectors hoping for a good deal as well as visitors who simply like beautiful and authentic things.

www.Eurantica.be

RETROSPECTIVE RIK WOUTERS

ROYAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BRUSSEL

10 March – 2 July 2017

The art of Rik Wouters is characterized by an abundance of colors and authentic, singular subjects that directly speak to the viewer. With his recognizable visual language and enchanting richness of color, he managed to develop a painting and drawing style that was particularly avant-

garde for his time. His innovative style became quickly appreciated by a wide audience of art aficionados and even today both passionate art lovers and the general public cherish his artistic legacy.

www.fine-arts-museum.be

BIENNALE BECOMES BANAD FESTIVAL

Brussels

11 March – 26 March 2017

The long-established Brussels Biennial Art Nouveau & Art Deco Event, held in October every two years, is changing. From 2017, it will become an annual event called the Brussels Art Nouveau & Art Deco Festival and it will be held in the Spring.

The Festival's programme will be extended to include concerts, films, exhibitions and cultural events, in addition to the interior guided tours of buildings not usually open to the public (private houses, schools, industrial and office buildings) and the guided tours on foot, by bicycle and by coach that have made the Biennial Event so successful in the past.

The Festival will be a veritable celebration of the variety of buildings built in the Art Nouveau and Art Deco styles in Brussels.

www.voiretdirebruxelles.be

YVES KLEIN

BOZAR

31 March 2017 – 10 September 2017

Bozar will host the first major Belgian exhibition of the French artist Yves Klein (1928-1962). One of the most influential figures of the post-war era, Klein's career was marked by extraordinary creativity and a bold attitude to art and life that was pivotal to later movements from pop to performance art and beyond. Presenting around 40 major works the exhibition throws fresh light on his artistic practice.

Embracing painting, sculpture, performance, theatre, music, film and architecture, Klein pioneered new attitudes that took the European art world by storm before his untimely death at the age of 34 from a heart attack. At the age of 19 the artist symbolically signed the depthless blue sky using

his finger, declaring it as his first artwork. This moment underpinned Klein's interest in the relationship between infinite space and art that foreshadowed his short but startling career as one of the most original artistic thinkers.www.bozar.be

ART BRUSSELS

TOURS & TAXIS
21 – 23 April 2017

Fancy discovering new talents or admiring the works of high-calibre artists? Then, come to this contemporary art fair which, every year, selects more than 150 gallery owners from over 20 countries. Stroll from stand to stand and see the finest creations of today.

www.artbrussels.com

ROYAL GREENHOUSES OF LAEKEN

DOMAINE ROYAL DE LAEKEN
14 April – 5 May 2017

The greenhouses are open for one fortnight a year just when the azaleas are in full bloom; the place is magical, the setting enchanting and the fragrances captivating.

BRUSSELS FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

ROYAL PARK OF BRUSSELS
Begin May 2017

During 3 days, the historic city center of Brussels hosts the largest food truck festival in Europe which includes original and qualitative food trucks. Discover artisans who will delight your taste buds, that are passionate by "real fresh » food, by quality, proximity and seasonal fooding.. The Brussels Food Truck Festival offers a diverse gustatory journey that is innovative, surprising or just traditional. Open to « Food lovers » and « gourmets » of all ages!

www.brusselsfoodtruckfestival.be

QUEEN ELISABETH INTERNATIONAL MUSIC COMPETITION

FLAGEY & BOZAR

8 May – 3 June 2017

This prestigious international music competition was founded in 1937 to give this great music lover a showcase for talented young performers.

www.imkeb.be

KUNSTENFESTIVALDESARTS

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

5-27 May 2017

Taking place in Brussels in May of each year, it comprises a selection of artistic work created by Belgian and international artists. The festival targets audiences prepared to have their perspectives broadened and challenged. It aims to stimulate dialogue between the different communities living in Brussels, and both Flemish and French-speaking institutions participate in the project.

www.kfda.be

GAY PRIDE

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

20 May 2017

Very colourful parade full of wit, shows, concerts and surprises of all kinds. Belgian Pride is a giant fiesta of rainbow colours as well as an opportunity to highlight, with humour, the many prejudices that the homosexual community still has to face on a daily basis.

www.pride.be

20 KM OF BRUSSELS

JUBELPARK 10, BRUSSELS

28 May 2017

Athletic? Then, get your trainers on! The Cinquantenaire esplanade is expecting 25,000 participants for the start of this race, which covers the loveliest avenues of the city and leads through Bois de la Cambre. See Brussels from a different angle by running, cycling, walking or... just applauding the brave souls!

www.20kmdoorbrussel.be

DINNER IN THE SKY

BRUSSELS ATOMIUM

Begin June 2017 (Exact date not yet available)

Dinner in the Sky, has met the challenge by providing a unique occasion to discover Brussels' high cuisine in the most extraordinary manner possible: 22 guests and 1 'starred' chef will share an unforgettable gastronomic experience in the skies over the capital, enjoying an unparalleled view of Brussels and its surroundings while delighting in rare dishes and fine wines.

www.dinnerinthesky.be/en

COULEUR CAFE FESTIVAL

TOUR & TAXIS

30 June - 02 July 2017

A colorfully mixed, altruistic, tropical and spicy festival! A cocktail of music from here and elsewhere with more than 50 concerts in 3 marquees.

www.couleurcafe.be

OMMEGANG: BRUSSELS' BIGGEST RELIGIOUS PROCESSION

GROTE MARKT & ZAVEL

End June - Begin July 2017 (exact date not yet available)

"Free beer?" smiles a chap in green breeches, handing me a frothing plastic cup. "Sure!", I beam back, feeling in a festive mood already. I stroll past him and enter Europe's finest market square – the Grand Place. Tonight it's transformed: stacked seats stand in front of the spired Hôtel de Ville and a red-draped medieval gallery has been erected before the Maison du Roi. Everywhere, people are hanging out of guildhouse windows, laughing and clinking glasses. The stage is set for the Ommegang – Flemish for 'walk around' – a spectacular religious procession featuring over 1,400 performers that's been played out on these famous cobblestones for nearly 500 years.

www.ommegang.be

BRUSSELS ON SEA

PLACE SAINCTELETTE

30 June - 6 August 2017 (Date not confirmed yet!)

Just imagine: a beach of fine sand, coconut palms, pétanque areas, cocktail bars, straw huts... and yet you're in Brussels. This urban beach looks so like the South of France that its nickname is La Croisetteke.

BROSELLA FOLK AND JAZZ

GROENTHEATER

8 – 9 July 2017

This festival is a compendium of goodies! Not only is it free but it's also held in a place full of charm: an open-air theatre right beneath the Atomium. Jazz, folk and other kinds of exhilarating music resonate on these summer evenings spent in the light of paper lanterns. And the little ones haven't been forgotten either : numerous activities are organized just for them.www.brosella.be

VISIT TO THE ROYAL PALACE OF BRUSSELS

ROYAL PALACE

July-September 2017

When they go away on holiday, it's a tradition for our monarchs to leave the doors of their palace wide open, and King Philippe and Queen Mathilde have no intention of departing from that rule. Marble floors, crystal chandeliers, period furniture, not to mention the ceremonial room with the ceiling decorated with the elytra wings of scarab beetles. Magnificent reminders of the past and of contemporary artists are found side by side in this palace, the King's "office", which is a must-see of the summer.

BRUSSELS SUMMER FESTIVAL

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

4- 13 August 2017 (Date not confirmed yet!)

Created in 2002, Euritmix has evolved into a major event in Belgium. It changes its name now and becomes the 'Brussels Summer Festival'. This music festival has many advantages: free concerts, conviviality, international promotion, exceptional locations, and a diversity of music styles (rock, world music, jazz, hip hop, folk, reggae...). It is also a meeting place for different forms of artistic expression (street theatre, travelling groups, circus...).

www.bsf.be

MAGRITTE

September 2017 – January 2018

2017 will be the year of the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Magritte. Many projects are under construction, including an exhibit demonstrating the continued strong presence of René Magritte in contemporary creation. His influence and his legacy are for instance found in Gavin Turk, George Condo, Sean Landers, Raymond Pettibon, Robert Longo, ...

Exhibition "Magritte now" Temporary title

Important exhibition on the heritage of the influence of Magritte's work; contemporary art + works of Magritte, public and private collections.

MEMORIAL VAN DAMME

KONING BOUDEWIJNSTADION

8 September 2017

The Memorial Van Damme is one of the premier track & field grand prix meetings in the world, with reigning olympic and world champions participating each year. World stars such as Carl Lewis, Sergey Bubka, Michael Johnson, Wilson Kipketer, Haile Gebreselassie, Merlene Ottey, Gail Devers, Marion Jones all showed brilliant performances in Brussels. The Memorial Van Damme is also an innovative organisational concept, with live drumming during the long distance races and live music during the opening ceremony. The meeting traditionnaly closes with a concert and fireworks display.

www.sport.be/aginsurancememorialvandamme

BELGIAN BEER WEEKEND

GROTE MARKT

1- 3 September 2017

An event to celebrate the Belgian and Brussels beer tradition in style: the blond beers, white beers, amber-coloured beers, fruit beers and strong beers. All these hops-based brews will be on hand for the entire weekend in the Grote Markt and streets around the Beurs where they can be sampled - always in moderation of course.

BRUSSELS CYCLING CLASSIC

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

Begin September 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Start and finish of the cycling race Brussels Cycling Classic (formerly Paris-Brussels).

BRUSSELS MUSEUMS NOCTURNES

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

September 2017 (exact date not yet available) until December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

To enjoy a different kind of autumn evening, why not experience a personal remake of the film “Night at the Museum”? Minus the scary bits, plus the culture... Every Thursday from September to December, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., half a dozen museums open up their doors, workshops and behind the scenes for you: tailor-made guided tours to please inquisitive minds.

www.brusselmuseumsnocturnes.be

EAT! BRUSSELS, DRINK! BORDEAUX

ROYAL PARK OF BRUSSELS

Begin September 2017

Several dozen great Brussels chefs take turns to offer you a signature dish from their restaurant each day. To increase the enjoyment, the “Wine Pass” tasting passport gives the opportunity to try being a sommelier and learn about the world of Bordeaux wines. In between tastings, we suggest to try the recreational workshops where you can slake your thirst for good food and good wine. Do you have a weakness for all kinds of confectionery? Stroll among our gourmet stands and discover the talents of the best local craftsmen and confectioners. The gourmet route will again be in the Brussels Park, in a very “royal” setting.

https://visit.brussels/en/sites/eatbrussels/m_article/the-festival

LANDELIJK BRUSSEL – BRUXELLES CHAMPETRE

ROYAL PARK AND PLACE DES PALAIS

Second half of September 2017

A day filled with flavours is awaiting you ! Start in the Slow Food area, savour the exceptional organic products, and then discover fantastic local products ! Come early to meet the pro-ducers and artisans, who will be happy to share their passion with you !

<http://www.bruxelles-champetre.be/-Home-.html>

INTERNATIONAL ROSE GARDEN OF COLOMA

SINT-PIETERS-LEEUEW

May – September 2017

Internationally renowned rose gardens with approximately 3,000 varieties of roses and 30,000 rose bushes. On average, there are 200,000 roses in bloom at any given time. The four themed gardens together constitute a beautifully landscaped area set inside unique castle grounds (16th century).

WINTERPRET - PLAISIRS D'HIVER IN BRUSSELS

SINT-KATELIJNEPLEIN

December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

The City of Brussels came up with the idea of Winter Wonders to console those of us who suffer from winter blues! The magical illumination of the Grand-Place, the Christmas market of the European regions in the heart of the city, the merry go-rounds on Place Sainte-Catherine, the big wheel and the ice rink at Marché aux Poissons, dozens of stalls for stocking up on gifts and treats.

FLORI MUNDI

BOTANNICAL GARDEN OF MEISE
21 October – 19 November 2017

This autumn you can again enjoy a high-profile show of orchids in the Plant Palace of the Botanical Garden of Meise. The visitor will not only find a grand display of colorful orchids and other tropical plants, but a lot of other activities and exhibitions will be organized to suit every taste and age!

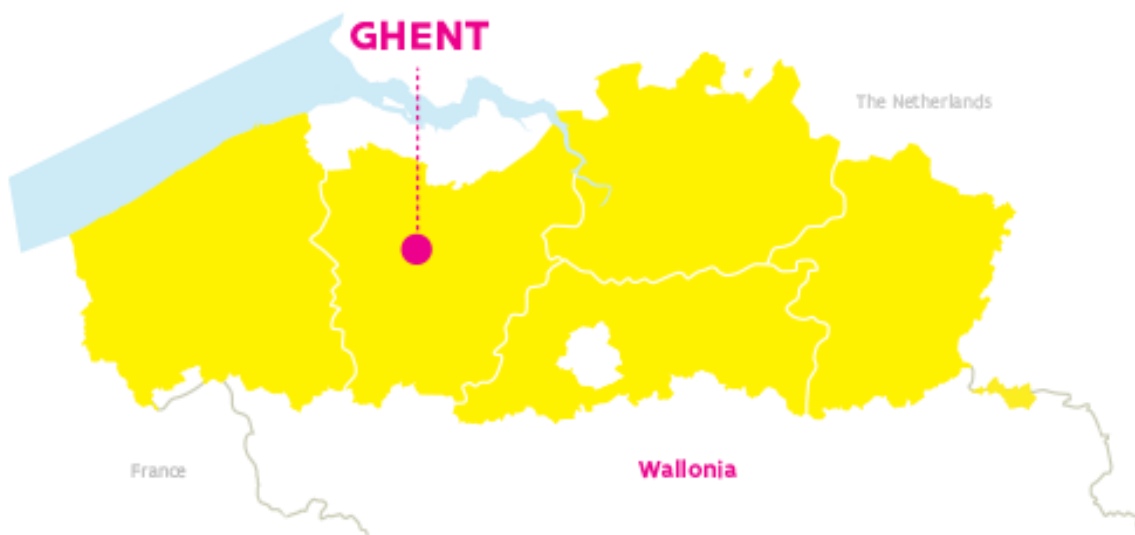
OPENING WEEKEND RAINFOREST GREENHOUSE PLANT PALACE

25 May – 28 May 2017

After years of preparation and construction the main entrance of the Plant Palace is finally restored to its full glory. In addition, two greenhouses have been renovated and redecorated: the conservatory of the African Rainforest and the conservatory with epiphytes. In both greenhouses, you can walk the tree top path along highly unusual plants that grow in the treetops of the rainforest. Four days of activities will celebrate the reopening.

The official opening is planned on 24.05.2017

GHENT



LAM GODS ONT(K)LEED

CRAEMERSKLOOSTER

1 October 2012 - 31 December 2019

Throughout the five years it will take to restore the “Lam Gods”, this permanent exhibition will examine the painting from a number of very specific angles.

www.caermersklooster.be

RESTORATION MYSTIC LAMB

MUSEUM VOOR SCHONE KUNSTEN

15 November 2013 - 31 December 2018

The Work to restore the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb by the Van Eyck brothers began in October of 2012. It will be carried out over a five-year period.

www.mksgent.be

WAR IN SHORT PANTS

SINT-PIETERSPLEIN 9

14 October 2016 – 2 April 2017

The First World War was more than just trenches and mustard gas. For the first time in history, the entire society was under arms as the war dominated every aspect of daily life. Even children were affected as, for many of them, the world changed when their fathers were suddenly gone or when they had to flee their familiar surroundings. And even through seemingly innocent channels like literature, toys and colouring books, the Great War entered their little worlds.

www.sintpietersabdij.stad.gent/en/content/war-short-pants-14-18

DRAGONS

STAM

2 December 2016 – 28 May 2017

This exhibition shows the beautiful cultural and historical objects, fascinating legends, make the link with today and animals on strong water. Don't forget the dragon's skeleton especially composed for this exhibition!

www.stam.be

OMLOOP HET NIEUWSBLAD

SINT-PIETERSPLEIN 9

1 March 2017

Omloop Het Nieuwsblad is the opening race of the Spring Classics. Racers and racing fans have been eagerly looking forward to this day for months. Contestants will be twisting and turning through the Flemish Ardennes, bumping over cobblestones and fighting the wind.

www.omloophetnieuwsblad.be

OPENING CAMH

Comic Art Museum Hotel

The historical heart of Ghent

Spring 2017

the museum. The permanent collection (± 2,200 m²) will give an integral overview of the Belgian comic starting from the 20th century, will treat major names (Hergé, Morris, Franquin ...), will broach specific themes (women in comics, censorship, the graphic novel ...), and will only exhibit qualitative, valuable and historically important material via original illustrations, sketches, iconic first prints, corresponding artefacts and so on. Three temporary large exhibitions centering around famous international authors, their creations and/or specific themes will be exhibited yearly in a separate wing (180 m²). The comics gallery will constitute Flanders' first comics gallery, and probably the most enigmatic space within CAMH, where comics blend together with other art disciplines and both national and international artists will be discussed.

Don't forget to visit the common areas, pub & polyvalent space and the four-star hotel.

GENT SMAAKT

STADSHAL

3 – 7 May 2017

Are you a foodie? Then treat yourself to a day of culinary treats in the heart of Ghent. Many prominent Ghent-born chefs will treat you to delicious dishes and local producers will allow you to taste the authentic products the city loves to nibble on.

www.gentsmaakt.be

GARDEN DAYS BEERVELDE

BEERVELDE (NEAR GHENT)

Begin May and begin October 2017

Twice a year the park of Beervelde hosts an open Garden Day with a different theme every season.

www.parkvanbeervelde.be

GHENT JAZZ FESTIVAL

J. KLUYSKENSSTRAAT 2

July 2017 (exact date not yet available)

The Gent Jazz Festival is spread over two weekends, one weekend for the pure-bred jazz fans and during the second weekend there is room for more fusion artists. Since its first edition in 2001, when it was called Blue Note Festival the festival became loved among a great deal of people as it welcomes over 35 000 people each year.

www.gentjazz.com

GHENT FESTIVITIES

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

July 2017 (exact date not yet available)

After more than 160 years of existence, the Ghent Festivities have become one of the best festivals in Europe.

www.gentsefeesten.stad.gent.be

GHENT FESTIVAL OF FLANDERS

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

September 2017 (exact date not yet available)

In 2016, Ghent Flanders Festival will present its 59th edition. Attracting over 55,000 visitors each year, the Festival has become the talk of the music scene with events like "Avanti!" (a musical cycling tour), its Venetian ball, "KidsOdeGand" and "OdeGand" (the grand opening event). The festival's success is in great part due to its unique mix of diversity and creativity.

www.gentfestival.be

ODEGAND

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

16 September 2017

"OdeGand" - the annual opener of the cultural season - is a music festival on and alongside the Ghent canals. Float from one concert to the other and discover every genre, from flamenco to jazz to classical music. One ticket gets you onto boats throughout the entire day to experience more than 60 concerts by the world's best musicians between 1pm and 7pm. There are more locations, and concerts will be repeated three times this year. In the evening, you can enjoy a unique closing spectacle on Graslei and Korenlei, with the new addition of a surprising pre-programme. We usher in the night with a bang in the form of magical fireworks that will keep on sizzling for a long while. Make sure to buy your tickets in time because this successful family event sells out earlier and earlier every year.

www.gentfestival.be

FILM FEST GENT

LEEUVSTRAAT 40

10- 21 October 2017 (Date not confirmed yet!)

Every year Ghent film festival presents some 200 feature films and short films from around the globe. The festival enjoys an excellent international reputation and is quite unique in focusing on the impact of music on film. The International Film Festival of Flanders Ghent is also the organizer and driving force behind the World Soundtrack Academy. The awards ceremony is inevitably the high point of the festival. Every year the festival also organizes concerts of film music and exhibitions which have a link with film.

www.filmfestival.be

HELLO ROBOT

DESIGN MUSEUM

October 2017 – April 2018

"The exhibition will consist of a collection of objects such as social robots , artistic installations , video clips, and industrial robots. Different sectors such as health, entertainment , architecture, food and the personal world of the visitor will be examined. This discourse is no longer just reserved for futurists and researchers. More often than not, robots are being a part of our life: our phone measures the status of our body , the new car can self park (or drive) , our elders playing with a care robot .

The exhibition 'Hello Robot' wants to focus on the personal contact between robot and human and examine the ethical questions related to this topic. This in a interactive and pleasant way."

www.desingmuseumgent.be

LOTTO SIX DAYS OF FLANDERS-GHENT

KUIPKE GHENT

November 2017 (exact date not yet available)

In November 2017, the Kuipke in Ghent will be firing on all cylinders again. For the 75th time, many cycling enthusiasts will be able to enjoy the six-day sporting excitement and sensation during the Lotto Six Days of Flanders-Ghent. A varied programme, filled with the perfect mix of top cycling sport & entertainment, will once again provide a unique experience and the usual atmosphere. www.z6daagse.be

GHENT WINTER FESTIVITIES

KORENMARKT, SINT-BAAFSPLEIN

December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Ghent's city centre will be turned into a winter wonderland. The ice-skating ring will be installed under the City Pavilion. From the giant Ferris wheel in front of St. Bavo's Cathedral you can enjoy a view of the city from the air. There is also a Christmas market with international stands at Korenmarkt as well as a real forest and naturally you can also have a drink and a bite to eat.

LEKKER GENIETEN

CITY CENTER

FIRST HALF OF DECEMBER 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Ghent is a weekend long territory of the best products and the best cooking demonstrations. Discover and taste on three different unique locations.

<http://www.lekker genieten.com/#lekker genieten>



LEUVEN

IN SEARCH OF UTOPIA

MUSEUM M

20 October 2016 - 17 January 2017

2016 marks the 500th anniversary of the book Utopia by the English humanist and statesman Thomas More, that was published in Leuven. The anniversary of this milestone in European intellectual and cultural history is the reason for a prestigious exhibition. In 2016 it will be 500 years since the English humanist and statesman Thomas More published his world famous book 'Utopia' in Leuven. The quincentenary of this milestone in Europe's intellectual and cultural history will be marked by a major exhibition in M – Museum Leuven.

The search for this world is also the focal point of a citywide cultural, scientific and tourist programme. Contemporary art, architecture, dance, film, music, art in public space, city trails, lectures and discussion forums will whisk you away beyond the horizon.

www.mleuven.be

BRABANTSE PIJL

GROTE MARKT

12 April 2017

The closing race of the Flemish Spring and the last of the Flanders Classics. This challenging circuit with a few really steep hills is the perfect race to lead up to the Ardennes Classics.

www.debrabantsepijl.be

LEUVEN BEER WEEKEND ZYTHOS BEER FESTIVAL

CENTRE, SURROUNDING STREETS // BRABANTLAAN 1
22- 23 April 2017

During the last weekend of April, Leuven is truly the beer capital of Belgium where visitors can taste about 500 different beers by 100 different brewers during the Zythos Beer Festival. And there are also beer walks, beer workshops, Leuven beer routes, and tastings at Leuven's own city brewery, Domus. The world's biggest brewer, AB InBev, also opens its doors to curious visitors. The programme starts on the evening of Friday, 26 April, with a festival in the center of the city. Several hotels offer surprising beer packages, while many restaurants serve delicious beer-based dishes.

www.leuven.be

www.zbf.be

HAPJE TAPJE

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS
6 August 2017

This is the culinary event par excellence in Leuven's city centre, with several stalls where the city's restaurants serve the tastiest treats. The Oude Markt is transformed into one big beer market selling exclusive beers. During the bartenders' race, the cream of the crop of Leuven's bartenders compete against each other, while gourmet chefs give a stunning show-cooking demo in the Grote Markt.

www.leuven.be

LEUVEN INNOVATION BEER FESTIVAL

SLUISSTRAAT 79
4 – 5 June 2017

LIBF is a festival for lovers of innovative and artisan beers. Hof ten Dormaal's brewer André Janssens has invited a unique selection of top brewers from Belgium and the rest of the world to introduce you to their delicious brews. The event takes place in the unique setting of former brewery De Hoorn, where once upon time the first Stella was brewed. Besides the festival, a range of other activities will be organized with innovation as a central theme. www.leuveninnovationbeerfestival.be

OPENING PARK ABBEY

LEUVEN

29 September 2017

Park Abbey, a unique historic site

Park Abbey is a haven of peace and quiet just outside the city of Leuven. It is one of the best preserved abbeys in the Low Countries. The abbey complex with its church, gates, water mill and fishing ponds forms a unique ensemble in Europe. An extraordinary set of baroque stucco ceilings and the cloister's stunning stained-glass windows decorate the abbey interior.

In Museum Park Abbey, you will discover religious heritage in a special way. On the basis of never-before-seen art from Flemish cloisters and abbeys, the opening exhibition will tell you about the private world of devoted Christian life.

© Museum Park Abbey

www.museumparkabdij.be

FESTIVAL OF FLANDERS FLEMISH-BRABANT

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

October 2017 (exact date not yet available)

The Festival of Flanders Flemish Brabant is organizing two series of concerts in various locations throughout Leuven.

www.festival2021.be

INTERNATIONAL SHORTFILM FESTIVAL

STUK

December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

The 23th International Short Film Festival presents a wide selection of excellent short films, including fiction and animation, documentaries, experimental films and video clips. The emphasis is on the Flemish and European short film competitions. In addition, the International Short Film Festival Leuven spares no expense on children's films, retrospective programmes and specials every year. films are either in English or subtitled. The entire programme is available starting in early November at www.kortfilmfestival.be

CHRISTMAS MARKET LEUVEN

MR LADEUZEPLEIN

December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

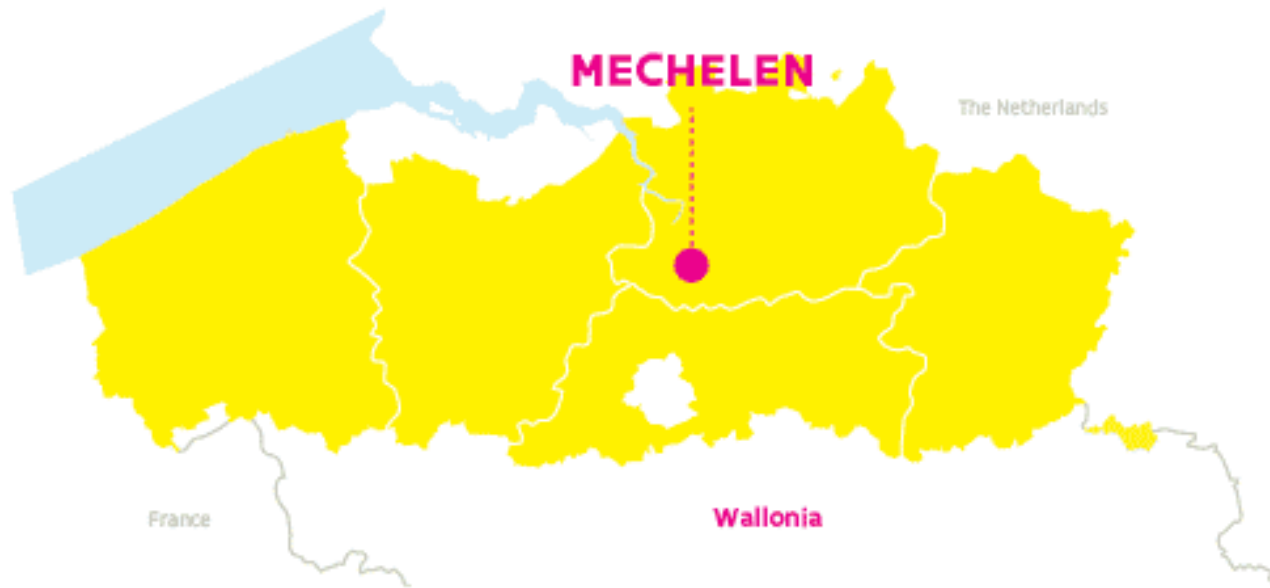
Cosy Christmas market with more than 140 rustic chalets at the Ladeuze- and Hooverplein in the centre of Leuven.

WINTERSEASON IN LEUVEN

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

Last 3 weeks December 2017

Listen to exciting winter tales, soak up the atmosphere of Leuven's Christmas market, or daydream during an intimate chamber music concert in the gorgeous town hall. Winter in Leuven chases the first breath of winter from the city with a heart-warming program.



MECHELEN

CHRISTMAS MARKET LEUVEN

MR LADEUZEPLEIN

December 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Cosy Christmas market with more than 140 rustic chalets at the Ladeuze- and Hooverplein in the centre of Leuven.

RIK WOUTERS & CO

SCHEPENHUIS

24 September 2011 – 31 December 2017

Despite his short artistic career, Rik Wouters left behind a fantastic body of works. The most extensive collection of his works is part of the collection of the KMSKA. They are unique Pleiades of an exceptionally high quality. The collection comprises 19 sculptures, 26 paintings, and 55 works on paper. It is perhaps the most representative collection of Rik Wouters' works in the world.

<http://www.tento.be/tentoonstellingen/rik-wouters-co>

MUSICA DIVINA

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

September 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Classical music festival with each spring the vocal feast Mechelen hoort Stemmen and an autumn concert series Festival van Vlaanderen-Mechelen/Kempen throughout the province of Antwerp.

www.musica-divina.be

GOAL! THE FOOTBALL EXPERIENCE

THE NEKKERHAL

16 February – 30 April 2017

Goal! The football experience” is a journey through the legendary moments of world football, which the visitors will be able to experience firsthand, by following an exhibition path full of materials, items and interactive contents. From the trophies and the historic medals of the champions down to the symbolic objects that made the history of football, from the first soccer balls to the historic kits and football uniforms including those worn by Pelé and Maradona, down to Ronaldinho’s and Thuram’s shoes.

www.expo-goal.be

CONTOUR BIENNALE 8

SCHEPENHUIS

11 March – May 21 2017

Contour Biennale 8, curated by Natasha Ginwala considers an uncertain scenography in which we are urged to set up encounters as actors, agents and dissidents. Against the backdrop of Mechelen’s historic role as a legal stronghold for medieval Europe, the curatorial approach engages an over 400-year old juridical past of the Great Council that first sought to address the Dutch, French and German territories through rational jurisprudence as a region.

The upcoming edition brings together over 20 international and local artists as well as art collectives working in lens-based media, sound, performance, drawing, installation, and publishing with newly commissioned and recent works spread across historic venues such as the city’s first town hall and historic seat of the Great Council, the Schepenhuis, and contemporary sites in Mechelen, Belgium.

www.contour8.be

HANSWIJK PROCESSION

GROTE MARKT

7 May 2017 (Date not confirmed yet!)

Giving a positive answer to many questions of life, giving a “Yes” answer to God.

All these answers were given to questions asked through the ages : Where do people go? What are we on earth for? Dynamics, sounds and colors, dances and words, beauty and artist city.... An attractive procession with about 2.000 actors and a lot of fellow workers. Come and see!

www.hanswijkprocessie.be

BEER FESTIVAL

GROTE MARKT

EARLY OCTOBER 2017

<https://www.facebook.com/BierfestivalMechelen/pje/index.jsp>



REGIONS

AALST CARNIVAL

CITY CENTRE

25- 27 February 2017 (Date not confirmed yet!)

The authentic carnival parade moves through the streets of the city center on the Sunday and Monday before Ash Wednesday. Bezemdans (broom dance) and ajuinworp (onion throwing) by the Gilles: carnival Monday. "Voil Jeanetten" parade: Tuesday, when gratuitously made-up young men dressed as women with giant bras, old corsets, broken umbrellas, chamber pots, bird cages with smoked herring and prams prance through the streets of the city center, teasing everyone. Carnival effigy burning: Tuesday night, near the end of Carnival. Carnival-goers and many spectators gather on the Grote Markt. The Shrove Tuesday carnival effigy is set ablaze by the Prince of the Carnival, which is an emotional moment as it signifies the end of Carnival.

www.aalst.be

E3 HARELBEKE

MARKTPLEIN

March 2017 (exact date not yet available)

The E3 Harelbeke is an annual cycling race with start and finish in Harelbeke. The 130 miles long race is a preparation race for the Tour of Flanders.

www.e3harelbeke.be

TOER DE GEUZE

Flemish Brabant

7 May 2017

During this biennial event, the lambic breweries and geuze blending houses open their doors to the public.

www.horal.be/toer-de-geuze

BARRIO CANTINA – FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

Different locations in Flanders (Ostend, Ghent, Antwerp, Bruges, Kortrijk)
Early May – End of June 2017 (Exact date not yet available)

www.barriocantina.be

SFINKS MUNDIAL FREE FESTIVAL

MOLENVELD, BOECHOUT
May 2017 (exact date not yet available)

During the one day festival Sfinks Mundial, you can enjoy the variety of street food, a kids area, a secular market and unforgettable performances.
www.sfinks.be

THE RETRORONDE OF FLANDERS

MARKT 43
10 - 11 June 2017 (Date not confirmed yet!)

'The RetroRonde van Vlaanderen', is a colourful and gastronomic cycling event with riders from all over Europe on nice retro bicycles and clothed to match. The RetroRonde is not a competition, it's an enjoyable Sunday ride of 40, 70 or 100km (approx. 25, 43 and 62 miles) through the rolling landscape of the Flemish Ardennes containing some of those typical well known cobblestoned slopes. The bicycles should date from before 1987 and clothing should be from the same period. Food stops are nicely located and offer local specialties to eat and drink.
www.retroronde.be

GRASPOP

KASTELEDIJK
16- 18 June 2017

The Graspop Metal Meeting ('Graspop' or 'GMM' for short) is an annual three-day heavy metal festival. The festival has been held at the 'De Stenehei' site in the Belgian town of Dessel since 2009.

www.graspop.be

TW CLASSIC

HAACHTSESTEENWEG
8 July 2017 (exact date not yet available)

TW Classic is a music festival that comes up with a big stage, a wonderful, exuberant crowd and a selected group of artists with a big catalogue of hits.

www.twclassic.be

ROCK WERCHTER

HAACHTSESTEENWEG
29 June – 2 July 2017 (exact date not yet available)

For four whole days, on three stages, the festival features the music industry's latest and greatest.

www.rockwerchter.be

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS (KRONINGSFEESTEN)

TONGEREN

July 2017

Tongeren, the oldest town in Belgium, is proud to be the cradle of Christianity in the Low Countries. As the oldest Maria resort on this side of the Alps pilgrimages were already organized in the Middle Ages and until the French Revolution, after which they were banned. When in 1890 the Pope gave permission to crown the miraculous image of Our Lady "Cause of Our Joy", the Tongeren population decided to transform the pilgrimage into seven annual Coronation Celebrations. This tradition is kept alive to this day and is also included in the Flemish inventory for Intangible Cultural Heritage. In 2017, the Celebrations is organized for the nineteenth time. The Procession takes place in July. Over 3000 local inhabitants participate. This makes the coronation procession, the largest in the country.

www.kroningsfeesten.be

THEATER AAN ZEE (TAZ)

OSTEND

27 July – 5 August 2017

This ten-day music and theatre festival Theatre by the Sea (Theater Aan Zee or TAZ for short), will take place at a whole range of extraordinary locations in and around Ostend. The festival formula this year is inspired by one guest, the programme is inspired by past, present and future. Still the most important platform for young professional theatre makers and musicians, TAZ offers a diverse programme of literature, family theatre and the like.

www.theateraanzee.be

WIN FOR LIFE SUIKERROCK

INDUSTRIEPARK, Tienen

28- 30 July 2017

Suikerrock is Belgium's largest city festival for all ages! Every year, Suikerrock succeeds in attracting some big names. In addition there are plenty of secondary activities going on. www.suikerrock.be

SFINKS MIXED FREE FESTIVAL

MOLENVELD, BOECHOUT
27 – 30 July 2017

Sfinks is a leading, four-day summer festival whose programme of exciting and often unpredictable music and festive fringe activities extends a hand to other cultures. Sfinks takes young and old, families with children and adventurous music lovers on a journey of discovery into rich and diverse cultures. Sfinks is a friendly and hospitable festival where great music, good food and amazing marquees are the order of the day.
www.sfinks.be

TOMORROWLAND

DE SCHORRE
21 – 23 July 2017

Yesterday is History, Today is a Gift, Tomorrow is Mystery. What started out in 2005 as a one-day festival has, in 2014, grown into a three-day festival.
www.tomorrowland.com

LOKEREN FESTIVITIES

GROTE KAAI, LOKEREN
04- 13 August 2017

The 43th edition of the Lokerse Feesten occupies the trusty festival area on the Grote Kaai. The festival site, surrounded by an increasing number of new apartments, has evolved in recent years to act as the backdrop for a mega pop fest where many genres of Belgian and international greats jostle for a place on the line-up.
www.lokersefeesten.be

DRANOUTER FESTIVAL

DIKKEBUSSTRAAT 234
04 - 06 August 2017

Festival Dranouter, known as Folkfestival Dranouter until 2010, traditionally takes place the first weekend of August. Approximately 80 000 visitors find their way to the little village Dranouter in West-Flanders. Dranouter is the biggest festival in his genre in Europe. Everybody finds something he likes and every year some big artists are programmed.

www.dranouter.be

NORTH SEA FESTIVAL

OUDE VISMIJNSITE, ZEEBRUGGE
MID AUGUST

The dominating theme of these days full of atmosphere is North Sea fish! Have a look on board a fishing boat, stop by the show table and master the right fish filleting techniques. Or be tempted by the delicious fish samples to be tasted, enjoy tasty fish dishes at the local restaurants, attend plenty of cooking demonstrations and take part in a shrimp peeling race.

PUKKELPOP

KEMPISCHE STEENWEG, HASSELT
16 – 19 August 2017

Pukkelpop is an alternative three-day music festival at Hasselt-Kiewit which is internationally recognized as the trendsetter among music festivals. Over the past years Pukkelpop has developed into one of the biggest alternative open-air festivals in Belgium. Pukkelpop has an eye for the best in underground music. On eight stages, Pukkelpop offers the most progressive, contemporary and alternative of today's and tomorrow's music.

www.pukkelpop.be

PROCESSION OF THE GIANTS (KATUIT)

GROTE MARKT, DENDERMONDE
31 August 2017

The Traditional Procession of the Giants takes place every year on the last Thursday of August. The three dancing Giants of the Guilds, Indiaan, Mars and Goliath, play the leading part and are accompanied by over a 1000 costumed participants. It is a magnificent parade with unique floats, a lot of music and dance, choreography and folklore. The event ends with a spectacular musical fireworks show. Since 2005, the three Giants and the Procession feature on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

www.rosbeiaard.be

JENEVEFFEESTEN HASSELT

CITY CENTRE
14 – 15 October 2017

During the third weekend in October, jenever (gin) flows freely in the centre of Hasselt! On the Saturday, drinks are on the 'Borrel Man' who changes water into jenever! On the Sunday the traditional waiter competition is held. Visitors can take part in the jenever walk or take a ride on the jenever tram. Music fills the streets, adding to the atmosphere.

www.jeneverfeesten.be

CHINA IN POPERINGE

POPERINGE
1 July – 3 September 2017

China in Poperinge tells the story of the Chinese presence in Poperinge from 1917 onwards, recounting how the presence of the Chinese led to prejudice, and revealing how people interacted with a foreign culture. In 2017, the world has become globalized – but has our perception changed? Contemporary artists try to find an answer to this question. A special app takes you to several places that feature a Chinese tale, you can go and watch an authentic Chinese shadow play and a festival brings dragons back to town!

www.westhoekverbeeldt.be

RACING DURING THE GREAT WAR EXHIBITION

VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN FLANDERS FIELD

1 June – 30 September 2017

This innovative exhibition will lead you through the history of cycling before, during and after the First World War. Vivid anecdotes and moving stories are used to paint an overall picture of the impact the violence of war had on this new sport. Some of the questions raised include: 'How did the international cycling heroes survive the horrendous war?', 'What role did the bicycle play in the workings of the military system and warfare?' and 'How did the world of bicycle racing recover after the complete destruction of the track and road infrastructure?'. Personal stories, interactive activities and multimedia apps are combined to vividly revive this neglected yet promising period in the history of cycling.

1917, FROM MINE EXPLOSIONS TO FLOATING MUD SEA

VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN FLANDERS FIELD

June 2017- December 2017

Exhibitions and info stands on mayor WWI sites in the southern Westhoek introduce visitors to the story and relics of the infamous Battles of Messines and Passchendaele (1917).

In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres: Temporary exhibition providing a general introduction to war year 1917 (The Battle of Messines and Third Battle of Ypres). Three information posts on the Ypres Salient take us through the specific history of these locations.

Memorial Museum Passchendaele 1917, Zonnebeke: Temporary exhibition on Passchendaele, tactics in the mud. (working titles)

Tourist Information Point Mesen: Temporary exhibition on the impact of WWI on New Zealand.

Visitor Centre Lijsenthoek Military Cemetery in Poperinge: Temporary exhibition on the preparations that went into the Third Battle of Ypres and its implications for the nearby hospital sites.

Visitor Centre Langemark: Temporary exhibition on the history of Langemark-Poelkapelle during the Third Battle of Ypres.

Information Point Houthulst: Temporary exhibition on the history of Houthulst during the Third Battle of Ypres.

CRATER FRONT

WIJTSCHATE

9 June 2017

A century after the Mine Battle during the Crater Front, GoneWest (event organizer) would like to commemorate the historic craters that were blown into the soil with a live soundscape and light installation. It is a completely unique experience in Heuvelland, where the craters star as scars in the landscape. The Crater Front is linked to a musical event, organized by the Municipality of Heuvelland, Mesen and Komen- Waasten, in line with the international commemoration of the Mine Battle. On the evening of June 9 and 10 , concerts will be organized for the general public near the Wijtschate sports centre.

TAG FOR REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

ZONNEBEKE

1 July – 10 November 2017

You can engrave a personal message of peace on an identity tag at the Visitors Centre of Tyne Cot Cemetery or on. All these tags will be collected and displayed as The Tree of Remembrance, a permanent artwork that will be given a home in the Passchendaele Memorial Park in Zonnebeke. The tree will be unveiled during a special ceremony on November 10th 2017, one hundred years after the end of the Battle of Passchendaele.

www.passchendaele2017.org

SILENT CITY MEETS LIVING CITY

ZONNEBEKE

14 October 2017

With 12,000 gravestones, Passendale's Tyne Cot Cemetery is the largest Commonwealth cemetery in the world. The village of Passendale is part of Zonnebeke, a municipality which, incidentally, counts 12,000 inhabitants. In 2017, one hundred years after the Battle of Passchendaele, the people of Zonnebeke invite you to this symbolic location to commemorate WWI's countless casualties. On October 14th 2017, 12 000 volunteers will all contribute to a unique and powerful moment of silence and reflection.

ALEX DECOTEAU RUN

ZONNEBEKE

12 November 2017

Take part in a race that runs along the pathways through the historic battlefield, as a tribute to all those that fell in the Battle of Passchendaele. Graveside service will be provided by Canadian Indian Alex Wuttunee Decoteau, who participated in the 5.000 metre race during the 1912 Olympics.

OPEN CHURCHES DAY

DIFERENT LOCATIONS

3 – 4 June 2017

The Open Churches Day Foundation wants to put the houses of prayer in Belgium in the spotlight.

www.openkerken.be

HERITAGE DAY

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

One day in April 2017 (exact date not yet available)

Borders: where do you include these in heritage organisations? What do you show or tell, consciously or subconsciously, to the public, and what not? How do you deal with thresholds and access, inside and outside? And to what degree does the public have a say in what goes on with you in front of and behind the scenes? At this Heritage Day, you can show how ground-breaking ideas and influences from abroad (UNESCO, ICOM...) gain shape with you. Or you can confront the public with questions, opportunities and problems that arise when you cross the border - literally - with your collection(s), your work, your thoughts and your influence.

In short: a Heritage Day that knows no bounds!

www.openmonumenten.be

HERITAGE DAYS FLANDERS

DIFFERENT LOCATIONS

September 2017 (exact date not yet available)

On a Sunday in September 2017, Flanders will be celebrating Open Monuments Day, The major monuments festival, for the 29th time already. On Sunday in around 200 towns and municipalities throughout Flanders.

www.openmonumenten.be

TOER DE GEUZE

FLEMISH-BRABANT / PAJOTTENLAND / SENNE VALLEY

7 May 2017

During this biennial event, the lambic breweries and gueuze blending houses open their doors to the public. There are free guided tours and, of course, a chance to sample lambic, gueuze, kriek and other lambic beers on the premises. The breweries and blending houses can be visited at leisure by car or bike, or a seat can be reserved on a tour bus that takes in various different breweries and blending houses. 2015 is the 10th edition of this event.

CHRISTMAS BEER FESTIVAL

HEUVELHAL (KAPELSTRAAT 7) ANTWERP REGION

16– 17 December 2017

O.B.E.R. (Objective Beer tasters Essen Region) organizes its Christmas Beer Festival every year. For two days visitors can taste about 170 Belgian Christmas and winter beers in 15 cl tasting glasses. Their beer list is regarded as one of the best in the world, with several scoops and interesting gems combined with world classics. At last year's festival about 3000 thirsty Christmas-beer-lovers came to the festival in Essen. And not only from Belgium! A shuttle bus is provided between the Railway Station Essen and the festival.



VISITFLANDERS.COM