



Personal invitation

Ghent - Belgium

***International Contact Clubs
May 25 – 28, 2017***

by Rotary Vilvoorde





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May 25 – 28, 2017
Ghent - Belgium

Dear Fellow-Rotarians,

It is my greatest pleasure to invite you to the next Rotary Contact edition that will take place in one of the most beautiful cities of Belgium, Ghent.

Ghent is a city and a municipality in the Flemish Region of Belgium. It is the capital and largest city of the East Flanders province and after Antwerp the largest municipality of Belgium. Ghent is a historic city, yet at the same time a contemporary one. The modern daily life of the city's active inhabitants plays itself out against a gorgeous historical backdrop. A couple enjoys the peace of an authentic beguine. Parents and children stroll through the traffic-free streets of the city center. A tourist snaps a photo of the three towers, as so many have before, but just a little differently. A businessman with an iPhone walks along the distinctive Graslei, crosses the Lys and enters his stylish four-star hotel hiding behind a medieval facade. Dozens of pavement cafes invite you to discover Ghent's specialties. The sun is reflected in the many waterways.

We will stay in the beautiful hotel Sandton Hotel Reylof Ghent, from where we will explore the city.

As we all have different interest and as we have the intention to make your visit to Ghent an unforgettable one, we have two tailor-made programs. You are able to choose between two different lines, depending on your own taste.

The first line is the Ghent authentic line, the second one is the culinary line. On the next pages, you will find more information about both lines.

I am convinced that everyone will keep an unforgettable souvenir of this journey, which will amplify the long lasting friendship among our clubs.

I hope to meet you all soon in Ghent!

Tim Belon

President Rotary Club Vilvoorde, 2016-2017



AGENDA

Thursday May 25, 2017

Arrival and as from 15:00 check-in in hotel

SANDTON GRAND HOTEL REYLOF

Hoogstraat 36

9000 Ghent

Phone: +32 9 235 40 70

<http://www.sandton.eu/sandton-grand-hotel-reylof/nl/>

18h30 Gathering in the lobby of the hotel

18h30 Welcome drink, followed by a diner with typical Gent dishes and of course, Belgian Beer

Friday May 26, 2017

06h30-10h00 Breakfast – do foresee enough time to enjoy the amazing breakfast offer

09h30 Gathering in the lobby of the hotel

09h45 – 16h00 Discover Ghent* or free time
Lunch
Discover Ghent* or free time

20h00 Diner

Saturday May 27, 2017

06h30-10h00 Breakfast

09h30 Gathering in the lobby of the hotel

09h45 – 15h00 Discover Ghent* or free time
Lunch
Discover Ghent* or free time

19h30 Cocktail and Gala diner

Sunday May 28, 2017

06h30-10h00 Breakfast

Till 11h30 Free time

11h30 Check-out

11h30 - ... Departures

* Discover Ghent: see possible programs on the next page

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DISCOVER GHENT

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Ghent - Belgium

To allow you to get the most of your visit to Gent, we offer you the possibility to choose between different visits, depending upon your interest: you have the choice between Gent Authentic and Culinary Gent. Do take note that there is a limit on the subscriptions for both lines. We will work on a first in first served base. This means that as soon as one specific line is full, you will automatically join the other line. We will of course notify you upfront. Do you prefer to discover Gent on your own? No problem! You can choose the 'Free as a bird' line. Curious? Well here we go

LINE 1: Ghent Authentic

Friday:

Patershol, Prinsenhof and the Saint Elizabeth Beguinage : if there is one area which speaks to everyone's imagination, than it is certainly the Patershol. We walk through the turbulent history of this specific part of Ghent and tell about the residents of all kinds, wondering around the squeezed maze-like streets. From the "Patershol" we continue our journey direction the Prinsenhof. A charming residential neighborhood with a history to be proud of. Long ago a magnificent Palace was built here, the birthplace of none other than Emperor Charles. Only the dark gate of the castle is still standing. Nowadays you can ramble in the Prinsenhof through picturesque streets. Nearby is the Saint Elizabeth Beguinage, the oldest Beguinage of Ghent and an oasis in the busy city. A discovery for who has the time!

Saturday:

Saint Bravo's Abbey: the ruins of the ancient St Bavo's Abbey is one of the most picturesque sites of the city. The Abbey was founded in the early middle ages and is the cradle of Ghent. While we walk through the 'green church', the old church building corridors, the inner garden, the Chapter House and the magnificent refectory, the history of the Abbey site will be revealed as well as the life of the monks. At the end of the walk we go to a nice restaurant for a daily special and a typically Belgian drink.

In the afternoon, we offer you some free time, to enjoy Ghent, the wellness facilities of the hotel, or just some relaxing time before the Gala diner. You can use the wellness facilities of our hotel free of charges (except specific treatments).



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LINE 2: Culinary Gent

Friday:

Tastes of Ghent: Yummy yummy.

The travel guides not only praise the beautiful Ghent, but also Ghent's regional authentic specialties. During our walk through the beautiful Ghent, we will take the time to taste (and buy 😊) some of the specialties: fine meats, cheeses, chocolates and other sweet treats.

Saturday:

Beer tasting: we will try 4 different beers accompanied by the experts who will reveal all the secrets of these amazing beers. Leaving Belgium without having a taste of one of Belgian's pearls??? Don't tell your friends 😊.

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LINE 3: Free as a bird

Friday and Saturday

Do you prefer to discover Ghent on your own? No problem!

You can wonder around the streets, shop, ... There is more than enough to visit in Ghent.

If you like, you can join the group for lunch as well on Thursday as on Friday. Please do not forget to indicate this on your registration form (online).



COST

Cost (excl. IC program)

- ✓ 600 € per person in double room
- ✓ +40 € per night per person in single room
- ✓ if you choose Line 3 'Free as a bird', you may deduct 25€ per day per person (with a max of 50€ per person)

How to Participate

- ✓ Register as soon as possible, but at latest by January 31, 2017, on <http://vilvoorde.rotary2170.org/en/activities/agenda/11027/rotary-contact-clubs-ghent>
- ✓ Indicate you choice :
Line 1: Ghent authentic, Line 2: Culinary Ghent, Line 3: Free as a bird)

Payment schedule

- ✓ 300 € deposit/person before 28/02/2017
- ✓ Balance no later than 30/04/2017
- ✓ All payments directly to bank account

Rotary Club Vilvoorde 088-2413042-65

IBAN : BE18 0882 4130 4265 - BIC : GKCCBEB

Mention: Rotary Contact Clubs 2017

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Agenda IC-members

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Wednesday, May 24, 2017

- ✓ Arrival IC-members at SANDTON GRAND HOTEL REYLOF
- ✓ Welcome and dinner in hotel

Thursday, May 25, 2017

- ✓ IC-meeting at the hotel
- ✓ Light lunch
- ✓ IC-meeting (continued) at the hotel

18h30 Gathering in the lobby of the hotel to welcome all participants, followed by a diner with the whole group

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN MAY!!!!