

Oudenaarde

TOURIST GUIDE

BIKING • HIKING • ADVENTURE • TREASURE HUNT • WOODLANDS
SWIMMING • PICNIC • CAFÉS • CULINARY OFFER • BREWERS
REGIONAL PRODUCE • HERITAGE



Visit
Oudenaarde



Colophon

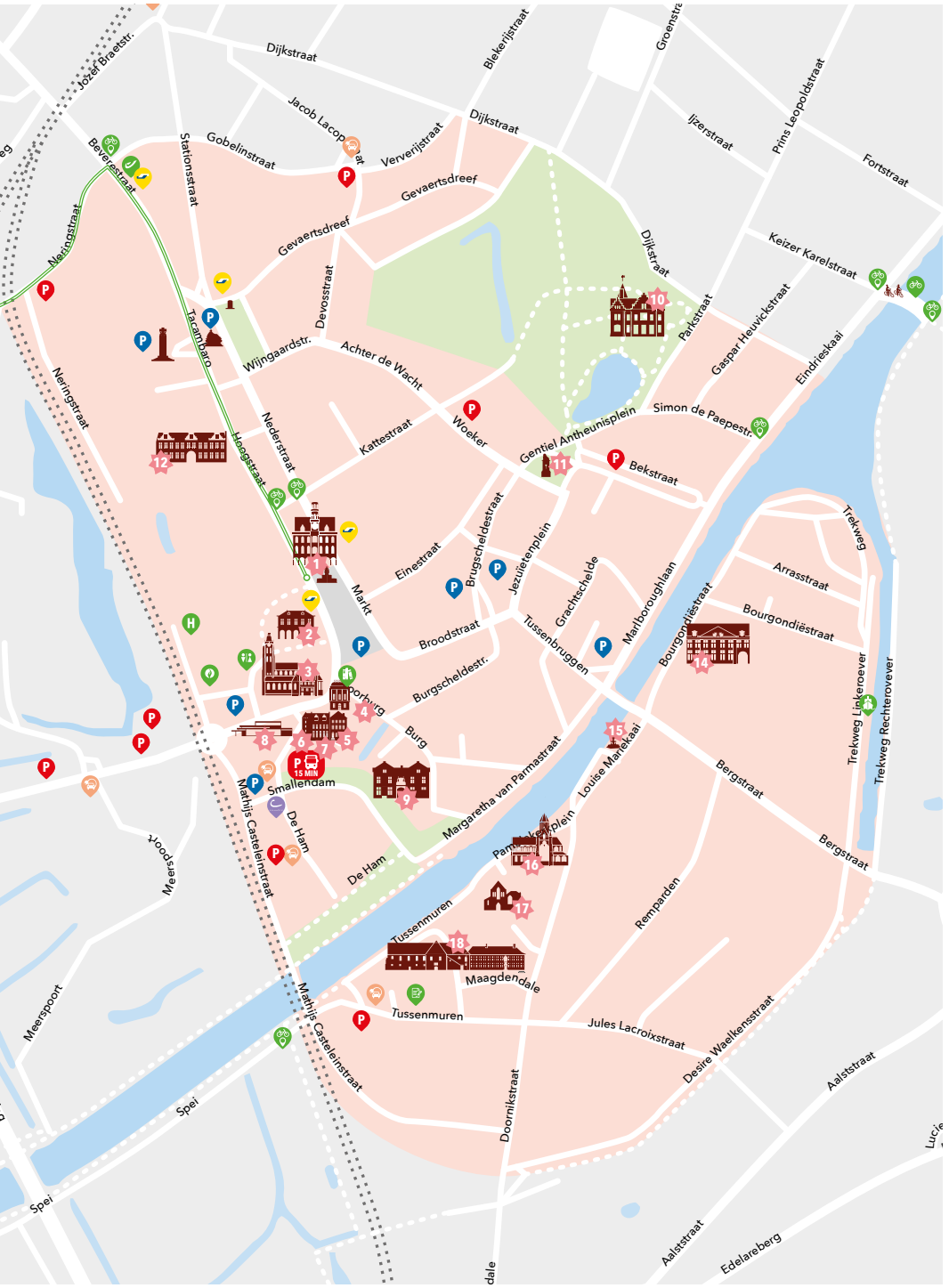
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Spei
Meerspoort
Spei
Voosdeweg
Nieuwpoort
Neringstraat
Nieuwstraat
Beversstraat
Schaepstraet
Gobelinstraat
Dijkstraat
Jacob Lacop
Vervrijstraat
Gevaertsdreef
Devosstraat
Wingardaerstr.
Achter de Wacht
Kattestraat
Woeker
Gentiel Antheunisplein
Simon de Paestr.
Eindrieskaai
Keizer Karelstraat
Pins Isooldstraat
Forstraat
Dijkstraat
Ijferstraat
Paikstraat
Gaspard Houvickstraat
Bekstraat
Trekweg
Trekweg Linkeroever
Trekweg Rechteroever

Markt
Broodstraat
Burg
Smalendam
De Ham
Tussenmuren
Maagdendale
Tussenmuren
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Gevaertsdreef
Wingardaerstr.
Niederstraat
Joegestraat
Kattestraat
Einestraat
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Edelareberg



Visits

High above Oudenaarde, Hanske de Krijger (Little John the Warrior) watches over the city's Unesco heritage. At one glance, he glimpses in the distance the castle village of Mullem and the heritage village of Ename. That is, if he can stay awake* ...

TAPESTRIES • RACE • HERITAGE





Travel back in time

★ MOU MUSEUM ★

The Gothic City Hall with its Belfry is the market square's eye-catcher. The oldest part, the 14th-century Cloth Hall, houses the MOU: a museum about the city's history, with a rich collection of tapestries and a unique assortment of gold- and silversmith work.

www.mou-oudenaarde.be

TAPESTRIES

For centuries, Oudenaarde was well-known for its tapestries. Especially the *verdures* tapestries – derived from the French 'vert', translated as 'green' – with beautiful landscapes, proved popular. One of the latest acquisitions, from a Sotheby auction in New York, is a 16th-century tapestry that was once gifted to Alexander Farnese. Elsewhere in the museum, there

are more than 15 original tapestries dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. Up in the attic, under the rafters, you will find one of the largest silver collections in Flanders. The one entitled *De Boever-Alligordès* is rich and varied and represents the different highlights and regions of European silversmithing. It also offers a beautiful, and almost complete, overview





At set times, it is possible to follow the restoration process of the tapestries by means of demonstrations.
www.mou-oudenaarde.be

of Oudenaarde's silver during the Ancien Régime.

SLEEPING HANSKE

Surprisingly perhaps, but on this market square in Oudenaarde, you can find mermaids in the company of angels and hunters. How to make sense of this is up to each individual admirer of the City Hall, which forms one whole with the (14th-century) Cloth Hall and the (16th-century) Belfry. It is no coincidence that the Belfry is on the Unesco World Heritage List. Even Victor Hugo never tired of the mysteries and legends incorporated in the facades: "In this fantastic building, every detail is worth careful scrutiny." We

let you in on one mystery now: the bronze statue on the spire shows Hanske de Krijger. Legend has it he was a watchman at the city gate. He was told to open the gate for Emperor Charles V, but Hanske fell asleep before Charles V arrived and so the emperor was refused entry to Oudenaarde. Charles V advised the people of Oudenaarde to buy a pair of spectacles for their city watchman. That is how to this day, a set of spectacles is displayed on the city's coat of arms.

The museum is open every day except Monday.
 www.mou-oudenaarde.be



★ TOUR OF FLANDERS CENTRE ★

In the eye of the race

Real cycling fanatics don't wait until the beginning of April to limber up. At the Tour of Flanders Centre, the heroes of Flanders' Finest are celebrated all year round. A must for everyone who has a soft spot for the race.

www.crvv.be

IN THE WHEEL

Drama and euphoria; winning and losing; bad luck and invincibility. These are all the ingredients of Flanders' Finest. At the Centre's exhibition, you can relive all this in an interactive way. With a sports commentator on the motorbike in your ear, you will learn even more. All this while the little ones can enjoy a children's trail.

ON THE PEDALS

Would you rather discover first-hand how it feels to negotiate the legendary climbs and pesky cobblestones? The Centre is the perfect place to set off from. It offers racing bike rental, a wide range of (audio) routes, changing rooms and showers. In short, everything you need to have a go yourself.

A weakness for cycling shirts or racing gifts? At the Round Shop you won't leave empty-handed.



PELOTON CAFÉ

To avoid cramps, a faint spell or other discomforts, regular replenishments are indispensable. Fancy a hearty meal before you set off? A delicious thirst-quencher afterwards? Or do you just prefer to watch the race from the comfort of the café? The Peloton Café is happy to serve you, whether you're the leader or a domestique.

LIEDTS PARK

When the sun puts in an appearance, the residents of Oudenaarde head for Liedts Park in their droves. This 19th-century castle garden is now a city park with winding paths, romantic bridges and ponds with water features.

A GARDEN AS A HOBBY

Like many historical cities, Oudenaarde was surrounded by water and ramparts. Charles Liedts, a prominent statesman with a passion for gardening, decided to buy them and create an English-style landscaped park around 1860. His son Amedée converted his father's cottage into a castle and added his initials to the window panes.

A CASTLE AS A GIFT

When Amedée died childless in 1907, he donated the Liedts Castle with the garden, library and art collections to the city, on condition that the boundaries of the park would never change. The donated works of art form part of today's 'MOU Museum collection.'

GREEN LUNG

Liedts Park was opened to visitors after the Second World War. Today, it is a green lung in the heart of the city, where strolling along the winding paths is simply delightful. In 2012, part of the historical city wall on the edge of the park was restored. Liedts Park is freely accessible from sunrise to sunset.





Village full of heritage

* ENAME *

Ename once boasted a fortress that was designed to protect the borders of the German empire. Later, a mighty abbey arose along the Scheldt. The village still bears witness to that eventful past.

www.pam-ename.be
www.huisbeucarne.be

PAM ENAME

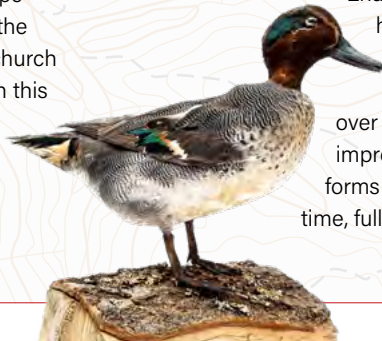
In Ename, the entire village breathes history. An archaeological museum is nestled in the shadows of the Church of St Laurence. In this Pam Ename Museum, you can learn about the history of a small community on the Scheldt, which – for a brief spell – played a crucial role in the creation of Europe and, for centuries, lived to the rhythm of the abbey. The church itself is also worth a visit. In this unique monument, with remnants of original Byzantine-inspired wall paintings.

HERITAGE SITE

In the archaeological park along the Scheldt, you walk along the foundations of the Benedictine abbey that determined life in Ename from 1063 to 1795. In the t'Ename Forest, too, there is still evidence of this past.

THE BEUCARNE HOUSE

An inconspicuous façade in the centre of Ename conceals a remarkable heritage gem. Huis Beucarne has been owned by the same prominent family for over 250 years. Together with the impressive garden, the building forms a unique document of its time, full of antiques and curiosities.





T'ENAME FOREST

Even in the Middle Ages, the t'Ename Forest on the green slopes of the Flemish Ardennes was intimately linked to the port town of Ename and the abbey. Some of it is a nature reserve, but the paths are great for hiking. An educational trail, named after botanist Mariette Thielemans, introduces you to the rich local fauna and flora. In 2002, the t'Ename Forest received the Flemish Monument Prize: the first time this prize was awarded to a landscape.

MULLEM

The castle village of Mullem is blessed with a generous dose of authentic charm. The early medieval village centre with its typical ochre-hued houses has remained unspoilt for centuries and is, in fact, recognised as protected heritage.

OCHRE-COLOURED HOUSES

Time has no hold over Mullem. The village centre under the lime trees is listed and consists of a church, a presbytery, a school building, a convent and a farmstead. The ochre colour of most of the houses is not accidental. In the days when noblemen held sway here, yellow ochre was the colour of the coat of arms of the local nobility.

CASTLE VILLAGE

At the origin of Mullem was a 12th-century walled fortress on the spot where the 'Klein Kasteeltje' (Little Castle) stands today. Just outside the village, you pass the castle of the Lords of Ast. The domain belongs to the De Gerlache family of nobility, who wrote history with a series of South Pole expeditions.

BATTLE OF OUDENAARDE

In 1708, the Battle of Oudenaarde took place in the farmland around Mullem. Several major powers had joined forces against France, which laid claim to the Spanish throne. Both armies, together accounting for 180,000 soldiers, stood face to face, with heavy losses suffered on both sides. In the end, Louis XIV's French army bit the dust.





MONU- MENTAL

The 100+ historical buildings and monuments in Oudenaarde will keep you busy for a while. Even the city's beating shopping heart breathes the medieval atmosphere. In and around Broodstraat, Nederstraat, Einestraat and Hoogstraat, more than 300 specialist shops guarantee a monumental welcome.



3



THE TALLEST

1 WALBURGA'S CHURCH

The 88-metre-tall spire of St Walburga's Church can be seen for miles around.

Strangely enough, this fine piece of history is a story of two halves. Of the 12th-century, early Gothic church, only the chancel section in Tournai limestone was preserved. The rest of the lower church is an exquisite example of 15th-century Brabant Gothic.

THE RICHEST

2 OUR LADY'S CHURCH

Our Lady's Church of Pamele shines in all its glory on the banks of the Scheldt. Built in the 13th century by Arnulf

IV, baron of Pamele, it was much more opulent than St Walburga's Church. This church, where Margaret of Parma was christened, is a fine piece of Schelde Gothic architecture, with a striking mix of Romanesque and Gothic features thrown in.

DE VROOMSTE

3 ABBEY MAAGDENDALE

Built in 1233 by the Cistercians, the Maagdendale Abbey was for centuries one of the most prominent

women's abbeys in Flanders. Even though the 13th-century abbey church immediately catches the eye, the red sandstone façade of the abbess's house from 1663 is also a delight. Today, the abbey accommodates the art academy and the city archives.

DE ZORGZAAMSTE

4 OUR LADY'S HOSPITAL

Our Lady's Hospital was first situated outside the city gates and was a place of refuge for pilgrims. In 1382, it

moved to the city centre as a shelter for the poor and sick. The Bishop's Quarter the reception area for high-ranking guests with a beautiful Louis XVI room and Oudenaarde tapestries.

4



Emperor Charles V not only had a thing for tapestries, but also for the beautiful Johanna van der Gheynst, a simple chambermaid from Oudenaarde. They had a daughter, who, as Margaret of Parma, would rule over the Habsburg Netherlands.

FLAMES OF PASSION

It doesn't take much to get Charles V's head and heart racing. That's exactly what happened in 1521, when Charles V was staying with Governor Karel de Lalaing in Oudenaarde. A furtive glance of Johanna van der Gheynst, one of the chambermaids in the castle, was all it took for Cupid to strike. It was the start of a short affair, but one with major consequences.

De Lalaing House, where Margaret of Parma was presumably born, is still a gem along the Scheldt.

FLESH AND BLOOD

Nine months later, Johanna gave birth in the Pamele district. Her daughter was christened in Our Lady's Church of Pamele as Margaret. Although Charles V must have been aware of this, it took him seven years to acknowledge Margaret as his own flesh and blood. She was soon paired with a papal relative. Her second marriage to Ottavio Farnese, Duke of Parma, earned her the name with which she would write history.

The map with the historical city walk is for sale at the info office in the City Hall, Markt 1.

GOVERNESS

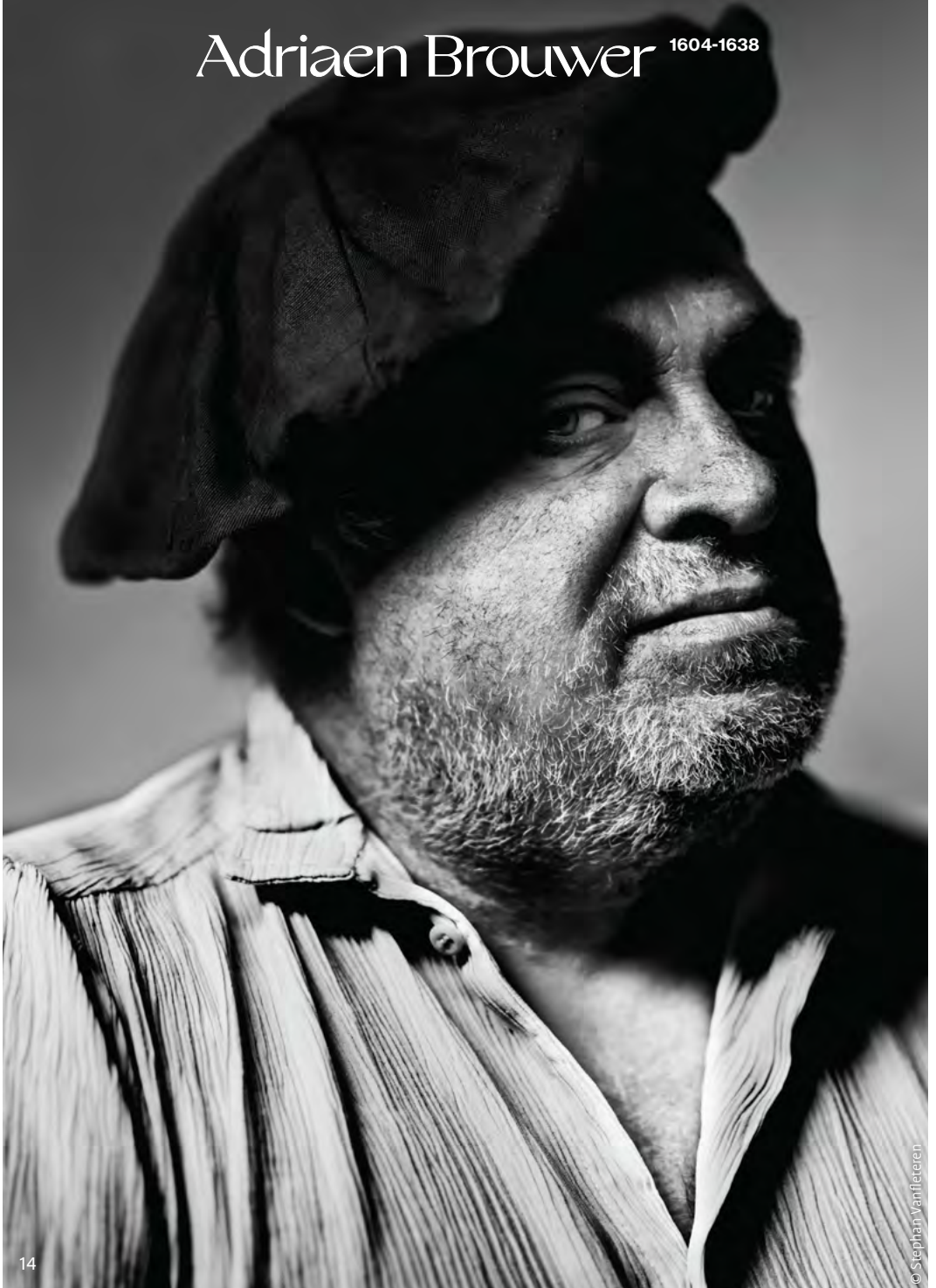
Margaret, daughter of a chambermaid, became Governess of the Netherlands in 1559. Unfortunately, she did not succeed in curbing the slumbering religious disputes. In 1567, the Duke of Alba brought the situation under control, using a heavy hand. Embittered, Margaret resigned and moved in with her son Alexander Farnese in Italy. She dies a lonely death in Ortona in 1586. Her grave can still be visited in the San Sisto Church in Piacenza.



Margaret of Parma ¹⁵²²⁻¹⁵⁸⁶



Adriaen Brouwer 1604-1638



A world-class painter whose work can be admired in the most prestigious museums: that is Adriaen Brouwer. The chronicler of everyday life was born in Oudenaarde four centuries ago, something which we still cherish with much pride.

COLOURFUL SCENES

Adriaen Brouwer was the son of an Oudenaarde tapestry weaver. At a young age, his father took him to Haarlem and Amsterdam, where he came into contact with the Northern Dutch masters of his time. Later, Brouwer moved to Antwerp, where he made a name for himself with his colourful pub scenes and small-scale landscapes.



TOP PHOTOGRAPHER

Brouwer had the talent of a top photographer. He was a master at painting emotions and moods and a genius at capturing the right moment. His exceptional gift did not go unnoticed. Both Rubens and Rembrandt were fans of the way in which Brouwer captured the ordinariness of man.

UNIQUE EXPO

In 1638, Brouwer died as quickly as he lived. Although the painter lived not much beyond thirty, his legacy leaves an indelible impression. In 2018, the MOU paid tribute to the man with a unique retrospective. Never before have so many of his works been on display at the same time. Welcome home, Adriaen Brouwer!

Adriaen Brouwer lent his name to three outstanding beers: brown, tripel and oaked.

The annual Adriaen Brouwer Beer Festival is known locally as the froth on the Oudenaarde summer.

www.bierfeesten.be



A remarkable episode in Oudenaarde's history came to pass on the other side of the globe. In the Mexican town of Tacámbaro, 250 fellow citizens were killed in an attempt to protect Empress Charlotte of Belgium.

ONE THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS

There's every chance that Charlotte of Belgium never set foot in Oudenaarde. Yet the daughter of king Leopold I is responsible for a bloody chapter in the city's history. At the request of her husband, Emperor Maximilian of Mexico, Oudenaarde gathered an army to protect his wife from the republican rebels. The troops assembled in the Pamele District on the banks of the Scheldt, the officers in the Maagdendale Abbey and the volunteers in the Jesuit monastery. In 1865 they set sail, all one thousand of them, heading for Mexico.

A grieving woman leans on a globe as she lays a crown on a grave, facing Mexico.

Charlotte is the subject of Adió́s mamá Carlotta, a satirical song that is still sung in Mexico.

UNPRECEDENTED STRENGTH

In the Mexican city of Tacámbaro, the imperial troops came up against an unexpected military strength. The Belgians held out for five hours but eventually surrendered. The legion lost a quarter of its troops. Charlotte fled back to Europe, where she gently slipped into insanity. A year later, her husband Maximilian was defeated and sentenced to death.

GRIEVING WOMAN

The monument on Tacambaro Square, designed by Willem Geefs in 1867, pays tribute to the Oudenaarde volunteers who lost their lives in the battle of the same name. On the square, a column also commemorates the Battle of the Scheldt in 1918, when American soldiers crossed the river.



Empress Charlotte

1840-1927





Action

Of course, this is where the finish line of Flanders' Finest is located. But in the same setting of the Tour of Flanders, there are also hiking trails. And a hidden piece of heaven: the Donk Lake for sunbathers and water sports enthusiasts.

BIKING • HIKING • ADVENTURE



*Taken part 20 times,
won twice: 'ironman'
Briek Schotte*



Flanders' Finest

On that particular Sunday, one white chalk line in Oudenaarde is the only goal of a hundred or so athletes, surrounded by thousands of reporters and spectators, and hundreds of thousands of nail-biting TV viewers at home.

That one weekend a year, the Tour of Flanders washes over the city like a tidal wave. On the Saturday, tens of thousands of cyclists from home and abroad ride their own Tour in the 'We Ride Flanders' cycling event, and defy the legendary climbs and cobbled streets just like their idols. On the Sunday, the road is cleared for the pros and

a new winner is added to the list of honour with mythical names like De Kannibaal (The Cannibal), De Leeuw van Vlaanderen (The Lion of Flanders) and Tornado Tom.

RETRO TOUR OF FLANDERS

Once upon a time, riders rode uphill without checking their wattage meters. They fought the elements on their steel bicycles in their knitted jerseys. Staying in the saddle on the slippery cobbles was their sole aim. At that time, there was no question of an earpiece with a team leader in it. This is how archetypal countrymen like Briek Schotte and Arthur Decabooter came into being.

One hundred years of cycling history in the CRVV



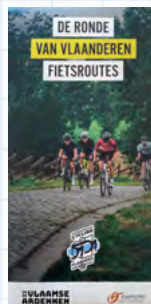
*The climax:
Van Aert
versus Van
der Poel*


During the final weekend of May, the Retro Tour of Flanders takes you back to a time when aerodynamics and weight were of no importance, with a historical ride of 40, 80 or 120 km through the sloping landscape of the Flemish Ardennes. Buff up your steel two-wheeler, don your old racing jersey and get on your bike!

BIKE ROUTES

The Tour landscape attracts many different types of cycling enthusiasts: families on an outing, groups of friends who crunch the kilometres each week, mountain bikers... Routes have been mapped out for each of

them, which you can discover on the following pages. A good starting point is the guide 'Tour of Flanders Cycling Routes', which allows you to explore the vast region around the city. Because Flanders Finest is more than a chalk line.



 Tour of Flanders Centre
Markt 43, Oudenaarde
www.crvv.be

Cycling Routes



Signposted routes

Mountain bikes: www.vlaamsemountainbikeroutes.be *

Digital route: visit.oudenaarde.be * (search term 'verhaal langs de stroom')

Forgotten Trails Cycling Route: erfgoedapp.be/tour/52 *



Create your own route on the junction network Flemish Ardennes

www.routen.be/fietsrouteplanner *



Visit www.routen.be *

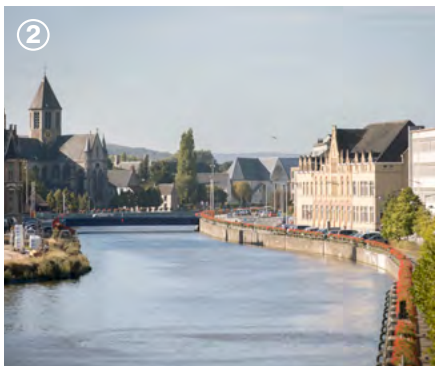
the walking and cycling website of Tourism Office East Flanders

* website in Dutch



ROUTES FOR MOUNTAIN BIKERS

10 km+ of signposted routes, for mountain bikers only.



DIGITAL ROUTE

Download the route plan on your mobile phone for a trip from the Centre along the banks of the Scheldt.



TOUR OF FLANDERS ROUTE

A blue (78 km), yellow (108 km) or red (114 km) loop along the tougher stretches of the Tour.



FLEMISH ARDENNES CYCLING NETWORK

Connect the cycle junctions of the Flemish Ardennes and create your own route.



FORGOTTEN TRAILS ROUTE

57 km of cycling trails between Oudenaarde and Waregem along some of WWI's silent witnesses.

Hiking routes

Oudenaarde is situated in the Flemish Ardennes, arguably Flanders' finest landscape. The region is investing heavily in its hiking infrastructure, currently boasting more than 850 km of interconnected hiking trails. Oudenaarde is the ideal starting point to explore the region.



HIKING TRAILS

Set off, scan the QR codes and enjoy surprising interventions by Oudenaarde's arts sector. A summer stage for active outdoor people.

www.oudenaarde.be/en/tourism/discover



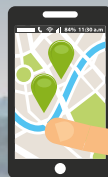
HIKING WALHALLA

Not sure which hiking route to choose? Inspiration and tall tales can be found at

www.visitvlaamseardennen.be
(in Dutch)

Create your own route
on the junction networks
Getuigenheuvelds, Zwalmvallei
and Bronbossen.

www.routen.be/wandelrouteplanner
(in Dutch)



TRAILS THROUGH FORESTS

Koppenberg Forest, Volkegem Forest, t'Ename Forest (awarded the Flemish Monument Prize in 2002),... the city is surrounded by woodlands managed by the Agency for Nature and Forests and Natuurpunt.

Hiking routes can be downloaded from visit.oudenaarde.be (search term: 'bossen' (forests))



ROOIGEMSEBEEKVALLEI

A 13-km route along the idyllic villages of Mullem, Wannegem-Lede and Huise.

Tourist office, EUR 2





Adventure

← Roompot Holiday Park

DONK LAKE OUDENAARDE

- ① Het Moerashuis youth accommodation
- ② Den Dronk / The Outsider tavern
- ③ Aperitif carousel
- ④ De Thuis Buizen youth accommodation
- ⑤ Bicycle entry point
- ⑥ The Seven Summits adventure park
- ⑦ Lake House summer bar
- ⑧ Water ski
- ⑨ Bolletra (ball game)
- ⑩ Absolut surf club
- ⑪ Laser battle woods
- ⑫ Kajak rental / pedalo
- ⑬ Public toilets
- ⑭ Escape room
- ⑮ Start of Sneukel cycle route

 Benches

 Donk trail (2.5 km)





DONK LAKE

WATER RECREATION

EVENT MEADOW

OFF-LEASH DOG MEADOW

Hiking trail
Centre of
Oudenaarde
approx. 2 km

DONK LAKE OUDENAARDE

Hiking, jogging, cycling ... can all be done in the area of outstanding natural beauty around the lake. The 40-hectare recreation park offers many possibilities. This is the perfect place for fishermen, surfers, sailors and rowers to practise their sports. If you crave adventure, then The Outsider's outdoor park is an absolute must. The less adventurous can enjoy this exclusive setting, too, as can, in fact, those with a disability, as the entire compound, tavern and some of the activities are wheelchair-accessible. Needless to say, children await some amazing adventures at this adventure park.

Scheldt



Family

Running around in the fields, building camps, treasure hunting in the city. In and around Oudenaarde, children really have a great time. I bet you that, come evening, your children – shattered as they may be – will be asking: when can we go back?

**TREASURE HUNT • WOODLANDS •
SWIMMING • PICNIC**



4x OUTSIDE WITH CHILDREN

With the Scheldt close by and surrounded by greenery, Oudenaarde is the perfect destination for outdoor life. Leaping from one adventure to the next, keep your eyes peeled along the way, because the sloping hills of the Flemish Ardennes will occasionally treat you to breathtaking vistas of the wider surroundings. Order your picnic backpack in advance at Tourism Oudenaarde and enjoy all the delightful produce the region has to offer at one of the many picnic tables.





3

ADVENTURE 1 SEVEN SUMMITS

The Seven Summits recreational park promises not one but seven highlights. Emotions abound. The cable ride for water skiers is the all-time-favourite for water fanatics. The climbing tower affords spectacular views and the swamp course plunges you in the middle of the Brazilian jungle. Or would you prefer the escape room, the laser battle or an expedition by pedalo or kayak?

www.theoutsidervlaamseardennen.be

GEOCACHE 2 FIND THE TREASURE

Geocache is a treasure hunt with clues and riddles that lead you to the final destination. Oudenaarde has two of them! The 'Adriaen's Oudenaarde' geocache takes you to places that played a role in the turbulent life of Master painter Adriaen Brouwer. The Ename geocache takes place in woods and fields. Our advice? Leave your Sunday shoes at home!

visit.oudenaarde.be (en néerlandais)



4

WOODLANDS 3 INTO THE WILD

For a walk in the woods, you have to solve one difficult question in advance: which forest? There's plenty of choice ... Oudenaarde is surrounded by woodlands and protected nature reserves. The most remarkable ones are t'Ename Forest, the Koppenberg Forest and, of course, the Reytmeersen, where Galloway cattle and Konik horses roam in the wild.

visit.oudenaarde.be (search term 'ontdekken' (discover))

TREASURE HUNT 4 WITH THE KIDS

This hiking treasure hunt introduces you to Oudenaarde in a slightly different way. It doesn't matter whether you are a proud resident of Oudenaarde or you are only getting to know our city, this quest is a challenge for young and old.

visit.oudenaarde.be (en néerlandais)

A FABULOUS FAMILY WEEKEND



SAT



Alpaca walk
at the farm
in Mullem
(see below)



SAT

Walk in the woods
near the
Konik horses
and wild cattle.
(see page 31)



SUN

Kids & play
Indoor
playground
and city farm
(see page 35)



SUN

Fun
Treasure hunt
in MOU
(see opposite)



ALPACA WALK SELFIE HEAVEN

Looking for a trip children will never forget? How about an alpaca walk? This farm in Mullem offers guided walks with cute alpacas. During the walk you follow the pace of these gentle animals as they graze their way, and you get enough time to take your selfies.

 www.lowiz.org/alpaca-vlaanderen



the MOU detectives

The MOU museum is filled with fun stories. Are you a brave detective? Then brace yourself for an exciting journey of discovery through the museum.

www.mou-oudenaarde.be



Staying indoors

A day of rain doesn't have to spoil the fun. Oudenaarde has enough activities to brighten up the darkest days, ranging from instructive to sportive and for the whole family.

In indoor playground **'t Stadsboerderijtje** (City Farm) children from 0 to 12 years old can frolic to their heart's content in two specially adapted play zones, with their parents enjoying a drink in peace and quiet. Every last Friday evening of the month, there is also a children's disco with child-appropriate music.

 www.stadsboerderijtje.be


The **pam Ename** is one of the country's most child-friendly museums. Once inside, your child turns into a veritable time detective. With your special suitcase tucked under your arm, you see the old abbey resurrected. Through playful assignments, your children get to know the village's rich history.

 www.pam-ov.be

TIP

Virtual walk with virtual guide...

through Ename Abbey as it looked in the 13th century. At the push of a button, an old fortress rises from the ashes. Find out how at the Ename heritage site.

 www.pam-ov.be/ename/erfgoed/erfgoedcentrum



18 bowling alleys set in a beautiful sample of industrial heritage: that is **Bowling Stones** Oudenaarde, the ideal spot for a fun afternoon out. Moreover, on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, Bowling Stones moves all chairs aside for a spectacular children's disco. After bowling, you can discuss the game around the stone grill.

 www.bowlingstones.be

No better place to pass on the cycling bug than the **Tour of Flanders Centre**. Cycle the Tour of Piggy and together, brave all the elements that make Flanders so heroic: the cobbles, the crashes, the climbs and, of course, the finish and the closing ceremony on the podium. There are three different tours for would-be cyclists aged 6 to 12.

 www.crvv.be/gezinnen



HAVING A SPLASH IN SPORTOASE

Would you like to get wet, but preferably not through the rain? **Sportoase Zwem.com** takes swimming to new heights. For the little ones, there is a safe zone with fountains and fun play features. A birthday to celebrate? That is also possible in Sportoase. The somewhat older ones can meanwhile enjoy some quiet time in the relaxation zone with saunas and steam baths. Or just swim, of course. The large pool is 25 metres long with no fewer than ten lanes. But if you thought that serious lane swimming was the main activity here, you should try the waterslide with water rapids, disco and mermaid swimming.

 www.sportoase.be/nl/oudenaarde



Bliss

Having a coffee or tea at a pavement café, it can do you a world of good after a long walk.

But Oudenaarde is especially known for its brown beer, a tradition that goes back to the dim and distant Middle Ages. Oudenaarde's brown beer is still traditionally brewed.

**CAFÉS • CULINARY OFFER • BREWERS •
LOCAL PRODUCE**



A photograph of two men in suits standing in a brewery. They are holding glasses of beer. The man on the right is wearing glasses and holding a glass with the 'ENAME' logo. The background features large copper brewing equipment.

Cheers!

Once upon a time, Oudenaarde boasted no fewer than 17 breweries, thanks to the exceptional quality of the water. Today, there are still five active, with Brewery Roman as their flagship. A bucket list with a head of foam ...



ADRIAEN BROUWER

Brewery Roman is the oldest and largest of Oudenaarde's breweries. The brewing family has been at home in Mater for over four centuries. With their Adriaen Brouwer beers - officially recognised as regional produce - they are keeping the 'Oudenaarde Brown' tradition alive.

 www.roman.be



ROLLING HILLS

Rolling Hills is the creative microbrewery of the Vandermeersch brothers. This new generation brews contemporary creations such as Rolling Pils. A fruity citrus pils with a bitter aftertaste.

 www.rollinghills.be



A visit to brewery Roman?

The oldest in the country: a family brewery since 1545. Discover the story, the brewing process and the passion for beer! The two-hour visit includes a guided tour, a tasting session and a gift pack. At the weekend, the brewery is also open to individual visitors.

 www.roman.be

CNUDE BRUIN

In Eine, Lieven, Steven and Piet Cnude fire up the kettles for their Oudenaarde Brown a few times a year. They themselves call it 'Kerkhofbier' (Kerkhof means cemetery), because the water layer they use for brewing their beer is close to the cemetery. The taste is a bit sour, like a traditional Old Brown.

 www.brouwerijcnude.be



LIEFMANS GOUDENBAND

Liefmans Goudenband, an award-winning, red-brown beer is brewed in open vats and matured in the Liefmans Brewery cellars. Like wine, it gets better with age. The bottle has a champagne cork: perfect for a smashing entrance.

 www.liefmans.be

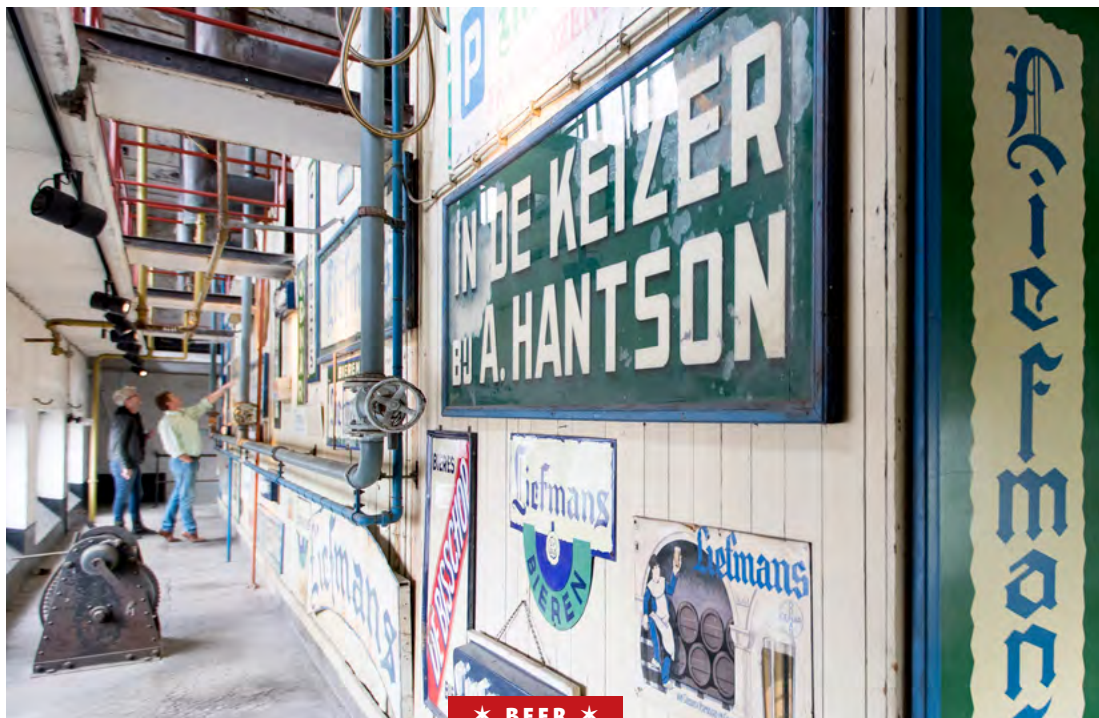


NONNIVERSAIRE

Sam Vanderstraeten of brewery HopSaSam is not afraid of an experiment. In his Ename courtyard garden, he brings his recipes to life. His Nonniversaire, a digestif beer with champagne yeast and matured in calvados barrels, has won four prizes so far.

 www.hopsasam.beer





* BEER *

With a head of foam

Oudenaarde is pre-eminently the city of brown beer. The tradition of brewing beer goes back to the distant Middle Ages. Oudenaarde old brown owes its reputation to the quality of the groundwater, which is rich in iron and calcium.

FAMILY AFFAIR

The story of Brewery Roman starts in 1545. Joos Roman owned a tavern in Mater called De Clocke, with an inn, a farm, a mill, a malt house and, of course, a brewery. Beer brewing gradually became the family's main activity.

With brothers Carlo and Lode Roman, the family business is now in its 14th generation.

OLD BROWN 2.0

Unlike the current variety, Oudenaarde old brown used to be rather sour. After the Second World



Oudenaarde beer works well in recipes. Rabbit with old brown is a local classic.

War, most Oudenaarde brewers abandoned the traditional brewing method.

Mixed fermentation made way for either top or bottom fermentation. The brown colour of the beers remained, but the sour notes disappeared.

MADAME ROSE

Although beer is considered a man's drink, women have played an important role in the history of brewing. The living proof is Rosa Merckx, Belgium's first female brewmaster.

FROM BALLET TO BEER

Rosa Blancquaert-Merckx began her career as a ballet dancer. In 1946 she became secretary at the Liefmans Brewery. There she worked her way up to brewmaster. For more than 40 years, she was in charge of the brewing process. Today, Madame Rose still lives in a villa on the brewery's compound.

OPEN FERMENTATION

Brewery Liefmans' history goes back to 1679. The beer owes its characteristic taste to mixed fermentation in open vats. This is enriched with yeasts from the ambient air. When the brewery Duvel Moortgat took over in 2008, the plan to relocate the brewery was quickly dropped. It proved impossible to equal the taste elsewhere.

SHOWPIECES

Liefmans introduced several beer brands onto the market, many of which have disappeared in the meantime. The showpieces Liefmans Gouden-band and Liefmans Cuvée Brut are still hand-wrapped with paper. For a few years now, the paper bears the proud signature of Rosa Blancquaert-Merckx, who is close to 100 years old today.



Deliciously local

Looking for inspiration for a well-filled picnic hamper? Then Oudenaarde is the place to be. No wonder the Burgundians were at home here.

Pickles of Camp's

The very first Belgian pickles, based on a 1905 recipe.

Ename abbey ham

Lightly salted and cured for a long time

Pâté with Cnudde beer

Artisanal pâté with a hint of beer

Bison pastry

Pastry with the bison beer of the brewery Cnudde



Adriaen Brouwer cake

Almond cake with a layer of pineapple and icing sugar



St Eloy ham

Smoked in the traditional way in the hearth



Braeckman grain genever

With local grains such as rye and malted barley



SPRING AGENDA



TOUR OF FLANDERS FOR CYCLING ENTHUSIASTS

14th Saturday of the year

Thousands of cycling enthusiasts ride their own Tour of Flanders, rivalling their heroes.

• www.derondeinoudenaarde.be

TOUR OF FLANDERS

14th Sunday of the year

The highlight of the Flemish cycling calendar, with arrival at Oudenaarde market square.

• www.derondeinoudenaarde.be

PAASFOOR (EASTER FAIR)

Easter Saturday through the following weekend

Annual fair with about 50 attractions on the market square, the Kleine Markt and Minderbroedersplein.

• visit.oudenaarde.be

HERITAGE DAY

Last Sunday of April

Movable and immovable heritage in the spotlight: join in the activities and learn about Oudenaarde's heritage.

• visit.oudenaarde.be

FLANDRIENLOOP (FLANDRIENS' RUN)

One Sunday in May

Brave the slopes of the Flemish Ardennes in the footsteps of the Flemish classics.

• www.flandrienloop.be



SUMMER AGENDA



FLOWER MARKET

First Sunday of May

An ideal opportunity to choose from a wide range of flowers and plants for your home and garden.

• visit.oudenaarde.be

PILGRIMAGE AND CAR CONSECRATION IN KERSELARE

Ascension weekend

Annual pilgrimage to the 15th-century pilgrimage site O.L.V. van Kerselare on the Edelareberg.

• visit.oudenaarde.be

OPEN CHURCH DAYS

1st weekend of June

Churches and places of worship across the country open their doors for a weekend of events.

• visit.oudenaarde.be

RETRO TOUR

2nd weekend of June

Brave the Patersberg and the Koppenberg like the legendary cycling heroes of yesteryear.

• www.retroronde.be

ADRIAEN BROUWER BEER FESTIVAL

Last weekend of June

Oudenaarde rings in the summer with a 'braderie' (street fair) and a host of artists: three days of atmosphere and music set in a beautiful location.

• www.bierfeesten.be



AUTUMN WINTER AGENDA



● MUSEUM NIGHT NOX.X ENAME

1st or 2nd Saturday of July

A night full of prose, music and images in the unique setting of Ename's heritage.

• noxx-ename.be

● VLAANDEREN FEEST!

Weekend before 11 July

Streets and neighbourhoods roll out the red carpet for the annual Flemish Community Festival.

• visit.oudenaarde.be

● AAROVA SHORT RALLY

August or September

The only rally event in East Flanders with a challenging section between Oudenaarde and Kruisem.

• www.aarovashortrally.com

● SEPTEMBER FUNFAIR

1st and 2nd weekend of September

With evening market and fireworks on Friday night and 35 attractions in and around the market square.

• visit.oudenaarde.be



● OPEN MONUMENT DAY

2nd Sunday of September

Pay a free visit to the MOU or one of the city's many other monuments.

• www.openmonumentendag.be

● KOPPENBERG CROSS

1 November

Every year, cyclists defy the dreaded Koppenberg.

• www.24urenvanoudenaarde.be

● WINTER WARMTH

Last weekend of November

Local traders pamper their customers for three days with workshops, tasting sessions and exhibitions.

• visit.oudenaarde.be

● CHRISTMAS MARKET WITH ICE RINK

2nd and 3rd weekend of December

Enjoy a nice stroll along the stalls or skate around the Christmas tree, and finish off with a mulled wine.

• www.oudenaarde.be

**MORE ACTIVITIES?
SEE THE EVENTS CALENDAR
ON VISIT.UDENAARDE.BE**



Follow the guide!

Visiting Oudenaarde in group with a guide?
There is something for everyone with these varied guided tours.

WHAT'S ON OFFER BY VISIT OUDENAARDE?

More info: 055 31 72 51,
visit@oudenaarde.be,
visit.oudenaarde.be

Surprising City Hall

MOU Museum (see page 5),
EUR 60 + EUR 4 per person,
2 hours, max 20 persons per
guide.

Historical Monuments Walk

EUR 60, 2 hours, max 20
persons per guide or incl. visit
to Walburga's Church or Our
Lady's Church of Pamele (see
also page 11), EUR 90, 3 hours,
max 20 persons per guide.

Folk tales

EUR 60, 2 hours, max 20
persons per guide or incl. visit
to pub, EUR 90 (refreshments
not included), 3 hours, max
20 persons per guide.

Of workers and barons

EUR 60, 2 hours,
max 20 persons per guide.

Pamele, a story on its own

EUR 60, 2 hours,
max 20 persons per guide.

Women stories

EUR 60, 2 hours,
max 20 persons per guide.

Oudenaarde by night

EUR 60, 2 hours,
max 20 persons per guide.

Flemish Ardennes by bus

EUR 60, 2 hours or incl. stop,
EUR 90 (coach and refresh-
ments not included), 3 hours.

Tour of Flanders route by bus

EUR 60, 2 hours or incl. stop,
EUR 90 (coach and refresh-
ments not incl.), 3 hours. (see
page 20).

WHAT'S ON OFFER BY OUR PARTNERS?

Tour of Flanders Centre
www.crvv.be
(see also page 20).

Walk through 1000 years of history in Ename

• www.pam-ename.be
(see also page 8)

Huis Beaucarne

• www.huisbeaucarne.be
(see also page 8)

Stones and Stories

Walk with archaeologist,
max 25 persons

• [https://info275505.wixsite.com/
stonesandstories](https://info275505.wixsite.com/stonesandstories)

The Outsider

• www.theoutsidervlaamseardennen.be
(see also page 26)



Vespa trips in the Flemish Ardennes

- www.refugetrips.be

With a 2CV on the road

- www.2cv-co.be

City Golf Oudenaarde

- www.city-golf.be/CityGolfOudenaarde.html

City game

- www.ichallenge.be

COMPANY VISITS TO PRODUCERS OF REGIONAL PRODUCE

Brewery Roman

- www.roman.be
(see also pages 39 and 40)

Brewery Cnudde

- www.brouwerijcnudde.be
(see also page 39)

Brewery Liefmans

- www.liefmans.be/nl/brouwerij
(see also pages 39 and 41)

Grain distillery Braeckman

- www.braeckman.eu
(see also page 43)


Camp's Pickles Factory

- 055 21 27 21,
www.vancamp.be

Blockeel Stables, farm visit

- www.slagerijblockeel.be/stal-blockeel

WHAT'S ON OFFER FOR SCHOOLS?

-  **More info: 055 31 72 51, visit@oudenaarde.be, visit.oudenaarde.be**

ACCESSIBLE TOURS

Are you not as mobile? The brochure *Toeren met Taxi's - toegankelijk reizen in de Vlaamse Ardennen* (Touring with Taxis - accessible travel in the Flemish Ardennes) contains many tips to explore the region with less mobility.

 visit.oudenaarde.be

IN GROUP

An outing to Oudenaarde with family, friends or colleagues?

 **More info: 055 31 72 51, visit@oudenaarde.be, visit.oudenaarde.be**

CAR AND MOTOR ROUTE FLEMISH ARDENNES

This 88-km car and motorbike route takes you through the entire Flemish Ardennes, via 10 slopes of the new cycling classic route.



Oudenaarde in the Flemish Ardennes

A rolling landscape with babbling
brooks and fairytale forests, green
valleys and eye-catching landscapes.
Oudenaarde, the starting point
for further exploration through
the Flemish Ardennes.

Visit Oudenaarde

Stadhuis (City Hall), Markt 1
9700 Oudenaarde
+32(0)55 31 72 51
visit@oudenaarde.be
visit.oudenaarde.be

Opening hours

Summer (March – September)

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Saturday, Sunday and bank holidays:

10:00 am – 5:30 pm

Winter (October – February)

Monday to Friday: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday: 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Closed on bank holidays



Visit
Oudenaarde

OUDENAARDE
IN
DE
VLAAMSE
ARDENNEN