

EN

TOURIST GUIDE



..... GREAT TIPS FOR **LEUVEN**



LEUVEN

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SO MUCH IN ONE CITY

Capital city of beer, good taste and shopping enjoyment, but also the guardian of religious and cultural heritage and centre of expertise and innovation. How to sum Leuven up in a single word? Frankly, it's impossible. Regardless of whether you are a seasoned city-tripper, a cultural values hunter or a fervent shopper, you will always find your needs more than adequately met in Leuven. Enjoy everything that the city has to offer...and then return again and again to repeat the experience. The city will surprise you anew with every return visit.

www.visitleuven.be

LEGEND

-  Also shown on the city map.
-  Member of the Top 10!
-  Building accessibility restricted, surrounding area open for viewing

SOCIAL

visitleuven on  & 

Check in with **Foursquare** 

 Share your photographs of Leuven on Instagram with **#seemyleuven**

TOP 10



Leuven is home to many attractions. Are you having trouble choosing? This is the top 10 that you really have to have seen.

01 STADHUIS TOWN HALL

Ranking in top place: the most famous Gothic-style Town Hall in the world.

SEE P. 14-15

02 SINT-PIETERSKERK SAINT-PETER'S CHURCH

Oldest church in Leuven and home to the only remaining painting of a Flemish Primitive artist that is still hanging in the place that it was made for.

SEE P. 16-17



03 M - MUSEUM LEUVEN

Historical and contemporary art under one roof. The temporary shows are also definitely worth a visit.

SEE P. 11



04 OUDE MARKT

Welcome to the longest bar in Europe. With nearly all cafés or restaurants, this is the beating heart of the entertainment district.

SEE P. 28





05

BREWERY VISIT

Discover everything about beer at the source. A brewery visit is guaranteed to please both the eye and the taste buds.

SEE P. 29-30



06

UNIVERSITEITS-BIBLIOTHEEK**UNIVERSITY LIBRARY**

Arisen out of the ashes of WW I and WW II, rebuilt as a 'cathedral of knowledge' with more than 1 million books.

SEE P. 38



07

KRUIDTUIN**BOTANICAL GARDEN**

Oldest botanical garden in Belgium, with an enormous collection of plants. Beloved stopping place for residents and visitors alike.

SEE P. 44

08

GROOT BEGIJNHOF**GREAT BEGUINAGE**

Step from a lively city into an oasis of peace and quiet. Listed as a world heritage site by UNESCO in 1998.

SEE P. 24-25



09

ABDIJ VAN PARK**PARK ABBEY**

One of the best-maintained abbeys in Belgium. A valuable heritage site on the edge of the city.

SEE P. 20-21



10

MARTELAREN-PLEIN**PLEIN**

Exciting architectural forum at the train station. Also known as the historical city gates of Leuven.



48 HRS IN LEUVEN

Are you finding it hard to see Leuven properly in just one day? Hardly surprising! Which is why you should book a room in one of the charming hotels or bed & breakfasts; use this programme as a handy guide and make it a great two-day stay.

.....

DAY 1

9.00 A.M.: EXPLORING

Don't make the city wait; take a walking route along the most beautiful sites in the historical city centre. The themed walks provided in the walking packaging will get you off to a good start.

10.30 A.M.: OFF TO THE MUSEUM

The diversity of Leuven is shown in contemporary and older art on exhibit at M - Museum Leuven. The M collection is primarily made up of art created in Leuven and Brabant from the Middle Ages until the 19th century.

2.30 P.M.: BREWERY VISIT

On Saturdays and Sundays from 1 May to 31 October, you can visit the Stella Artois brewery. Following the tour, you can enjoy a delicious sample... Cheers!

4.00 P.M.: TIME FOR SOUVENIRS

Shop, shop, shop. Enough great addresses and speciality shops for you to be sure to find an original souvenir. Take a stroll along the antique and bric-à-brac market on Saturday.

7.00 P.M.: TIME FOR DINNER

At the waterside? On a pleasant square? Under an old tree? Leuven has a wide range of unique places to dine.

9.00 P.M.: LEUVEN BY NIGHT

Going out on the Oude Markt or enjoying the evening sun in a lovely garden... Those are only a few of the options that are always open to you. But there is a good chance something is going on in the city: a carillon concert, a live performance on a square or in a café,...

DAY 2

9.00 A.M.: ON THE BIKE

Out of bed early for a cycling tour along romantic locations with the ILuvLeuven route in and around the city or a trip along the abbeys cycling route? All of the sites are rich in character and history.

12.00 A.M.: LUNCH

You can stop for a picnic en route. You will find plenty of inspiration from the variety of local produce from Leuven and surroundings. You are sure to find a lovely lawn covered with daisies.

3.00 P.M.: VISIT TO TOWN HALL

Meet up in the Town Hall for a guided tour. This fine example of Gothic architecture is an absolute must-see!

MUSEUMS



Does your successful city trip include a visit to a museum? There is a veritable plethora to choose from in Leuven. From old masters to contemporary artists, from religious artefacts to controversial photographic exhibits.

M - MUSEUM LEUVEN



Your visit to the M - Museum Leuven starts before you even get inside. The impressive building by top Belgian architect Stéphane Beel is a surprising interplay of historical buildings and contemporary architecture. Inside, you will find a rare historical collection alongside art from the 19th century. The temporary exhibitions are always original as well as of a very high standard.

📍 Leopold Vanderkelenstraat 28



M - SCHATKAMER VAN SINT-PIETER

M - TREASURY OF ST. PETER'S

The Treasury of St. Peter, which belongs to the M - Museum Leuven, is the biggest attraction. Here you can see the only remaining Flemish Primitive that is still hanging in the place that it was made for: 'The Last Supper' by Dirk Bouts. You must also be sure to visit the crypt of the original Roman church, the Gothic sacramental tower of Mathieu de Layens, and the baptismal font dating from 1490.

📍 *Grote Markt*

MUSEUM VOOR RELIGIEUZE KUNST EN CULTUUR

**MUSEUM OF RELIGIOUS ART
AND CULTURE**

The museum opened its doors in 2009 and has grown since then to become the leading museum for everything to do with religious art in Flanders. It is housed in the restored Locutorium in the Park Abbey. An enormous archive, a valuable collection of prints, and an extensive art collection are to be found here. In short, this museum is an absolute top piece of cultural heritage tourism.

📍 *Abdij van Park 7,
3001 Leuven*



TIP



WITH A COMBITICKET, YOU CAN COMBINE A VISIT TO THE TOWN HALL WITH VISITS TO M - MUSEUM LEUVEN, M - TREASURY OF ST. PETER, AND THE LIBRARY TOWER.

HISTARUZ MUSEUM

Medical instruments, examination tables, wheelchairs, innumerable books, photographs, visual material and documents,... At HistarUZ, objects of historical heritage from the university hospital are carefully repaired, photographed and digitally catalogued. That keeps the history of medicine and university medical care in Leuven alive. Limited opening hours.

📍 *Block J, Kapucijnenvoer 35*

ARCHIEF EN MUSEUM VAN HET VLAAMS STUDENTENLEVEN

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM OF FLEMISH STUDENT LIFE

History of university student life and the student movement in the 19th and 20th century

📍 *Mgr. Ladeuzeplein 21*

SCOUTS- EN GIDSEN MUSEUM SCOUTS AND GUIDES MUSEUM

History of the scouting movements through badges, flags and documents.

📍 *Sint-Geertruiabdij 5*

SPOELBERCHMUSEUM SPOELBERCH MUSEUM

A selection of the art collection of Charles-Victor de Spoelberch. With a unique portrait gallery, some splendid pieces of furniture, table silver and porcelain from the 18th and 19th century.

📍 *Heilige Geestcollege, Naamsestraat 40*

Check the **free city map** for the opening hours of these museums.



STADHUIS

TOWN HALL

A visit to the Leuven Town Hall is almost always accompanied with 'ooohs' and 'aaaahs'. The building is justifiably the pride of the city. The first stone was laid in 1439 but the 236 statues have only been in place since 1850. Leuven scholars, artists and patron saints, Brabant counts and dukes, biblical figures... They all gaze out at you from the recesses in the façades. How many do you recognise?



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Grote Markt



*Visit the Town Hall
every day at 3.00 p.m.*

TIP |

VISIT TO THE
TOWN HALL
AND GUIDED
WALK
(SEE P. 54)

SINT- PIETERSKERK

SAINT- PETER'S CHURCH



This 15th century church is a prime example of late Gothic architecture. From the outside, you can clearly see that the towers were never completed because of poor ground conditions. Inside, the M - Treasury of St. Peter is the big attraction. Be sure to visit the crypt of the Roman church that originally stood on this site, the Gothic sacramental tower of Mathieu de Layens, and the baptismal font dating from 1490. The Belfry has even been acknowledged as UNESCO world heritage.

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Grote Markt



SINT-MICHIELSKERK

SAINT-MICHAEL'S CHURCH

One of the most monumental Belgian Baroque churches.

📍 Naamsestraat 57A



SINT-JACOBSKERK

ST. JAMES' CHURCH

Original Roman church from early in the 13th century.

📍 Sint-Jacobsplein



PREDIKHEREN-KERK

PREACHERS' CHURCH

Today, a cultural centre.

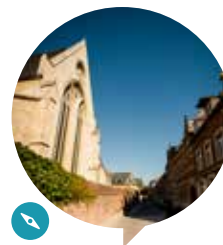
📍 O.L.Vrouwstraat

SINT-JAN-DE-DOPERKERK

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Located in the Great Beguinage with unique frescos.

📍 Groot Begijnhof

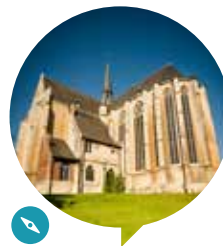


SINT-KWINTENSKERK

ST. QUENTIN'S CHURCH

Described by Justus Lipsius as the prettiest church in Leuven.

📍 Naamsestraat

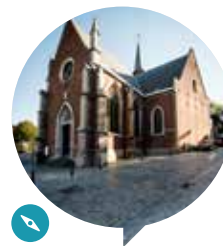


SINT-ANTONIUS-KAPEL

ST. ANTHONY'S CHAPEL

Houses the burial chapel of Father Damien.

📍 Pater Damiaanplein



Go to www.visitleuven.be for the opening hours of these churches.

ABDIJ VAN PARK PARK ABBEY



Check in with **Foursquare**



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Instagram via **#Seemyleuven**

Abdij van Park 7,
3001 Leuven

SINCE 1129

You will not often encounter an abbey like the Norbertine Park Abbey. Once, one of the leading abbeys in the Southern Netherlands, today it is the best kept abbey in Belgium. The property of 42 hectares is an oasis of peace and quiet with farmlands, country lanes, ponds and pastures. During a historical walk with an audio guide, you will learn everything about the origins of the abbey, its history and its uses. The museum is home to an enormous archive, a valuable collection of prints, and an extensive collection of religious art.



ABDIJ VAN VLIERBEEK

ABBEY OF VLIERBEEK

The Abbey of Vlierbeek has an eventful history that goes back to 1125. In 2006, the former guests' quarters were restored and converted into three residences. The abbey church - a monumental, very uniform, sandstone building in Classicist style - was restored both inside and out in 2001, and now serves as the parish church of Vlierbeek.

📍 *Abdij Vlierbeek 15,
3010 Leuven*



ABDIJ KEIZERSBERG

KEIZERSBERG ABBEY

Monks from the Maredsous Abbey built this Benedictine abbey in the 19th century. A long wall surrounds the buildings and the surrounding grounds, giving the whole property the impression of an old fortress. The garden is a public park offering a lovely lookout over the city.

📍 *Mechelsestraat 202*

SINT-GEERTRUI-ABDIJ EN -KERK

ST. GERTRUDE'S ABBEY AND CHURCH

The St. Gertrude's Abbey is the heart of the Small Beguinage. The buildings, which were built between the 14th and 17th century, have been restored and redesigned as a residential complex. Professor Armand Thiéry, canon of St. Rumbold Cathedral in Mechelen, purchased the abbey in 1912 and restored it. He also built the Thiéry wing with façade fragments from Leuven homes that had been destroyed during World War I. The church's late-Gothic tower was built completely in stone, including the steeple. Not a single nail was used on this fine example of construction craftsmanship.

📍 *Halfmaartstraat*



Go to www.visitleuven.be for the opening hours for these churches.

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TIP | 📌

YOU CAN VISIT THE FOUR
ABBEYS IN LEUVEN AND
VICINITY DURING A 13 KM
CYCLING TRIP.



GROOT BEGIJNHOF

GREAT BEGUINAGE



Here, you literally step from a lively city into an oasis of peace and quiet. At one time, hundreds of pious unmarried women lived here together in one of the individual or group homes. Today, this fully restored historical neighbourhood is home to university students and visiting professors. The Great Beguinage is beloved by hikers who want to imbibe the atmosphere of bygone days. The area is a collection of picturesque streets, squares, gardens and parks, with dozens of houses and

convents in traditional brick and sandstone style. Since 1998, The Great Beguinage, along with 12 other Flemish beguinages, has been listed as UNESCO world heritage.



DID YOU KNOW THAT...

There is a Small Beguinage, too? It is located close to the St. Gertrude's Church.



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Schapenstraat



CITY OF BEER



Leuven and beer... They have been two peas in a pod for centuries. A century ago, Leuven was home to a grand total of 788 drinking establishments. Several of the traditional **breweries** from those days are still operating in or near Leuven. Thirty micro-breweries, spread throughout Flemish Brabant, brew over nearly 250 different **regional beers**. You can taste them during a visit to a brewery, a beer walking tour, cycling tour or in one of the **authentic pubs**.

WWW.LEUVEN.BE/BEERCAPITAL

OUDE MARKT

Visiting the Oude Markt of Leuven is literally queuing up to the longest bar in Europe. You will not find more restaurants and cafés together anywhere than you will in this unique square. With the exception of a school and the administration buildings of the University of Leuven, almost every building is a café or restaurant. Hardly surprising, then, that the Oude Markt is the number one meeting spot in Leuven.



Check in with **Foursquare**



Share your pictures on
Instagram via **#Seemyleuven**

📍 *Oude Markt*

BROUWERIJ STELLA ARTOIS STELLA ARTOIS BREWERY

The Stella Artois Brewery is located in the heart of Leuven. Six centuries of brewing tradition and the most modern technology guarantee a tasty and strong high-quality beer. Learn more about all the secrets of the brewing process during a visit to the brewery. Every tour finishes with good taste: a cold Stella!

📍 *Vuurkruisenlaan 4* ⌚ *Visit: Saturdays and Sundays
from 1 May to 31 October*

🎫 *Tickets available at Tourism Leuven*



HUIS- BROUWERIJ DOMUS

Homebrewery Domus

Domus is a micro-brewery that is directly connected to a café. That makes it possible for beer-lovers to sample the home-made beers in ideal conditions. Visits to the brewery are by appointment.

📍 *Tiensestraat 8*

BROUWERIJ DE HOORN

BREWERY DE HOORN



Brewery De Hoorn which has existed since at least 1366, grew in the 15th century to become one of the biggest breweries in the city. On 13 June 1708, Sébastien Artois became master brewer in Den Hoorn. He bought the brewery nine years later and gave it his own name. This is where the very first Stella was brewed.

📍 *Sluisstraat 79*



DID YOU KNOW...

in 1500, the average city dweller consumed between 300 and 440 litres of beer every year? At the time, it was healthier than water.

TIP | 🍷

THINGS TO SAMPLE

SURPRISING BEER
MENUS IN LEUVEN'S
RESTAURANTS

THINGS TO DO

MASTER IN TASTE
IN M - MUSEUM
LEUVEN, A CULI-
NARY STROLL

THINGS TO ORDER



BEER GUIDE:
BEER, A ROUND
OF FLEMISH -
BRABANT

WWW.LEUVEN.BE/BEERCAPITAL

BEER CAFÉS

From the folksy 'brown pubs' to trendy pubs with an impressive selection of beers, a traditional brewery is still greatly appreciated in many cafés in the city. As soon as you step inside, you can feel that you are about to experience a regional beer coming into its own.



THE CAPITAL, GROTE MARKT 14



DE BLAUWE KATER, HALLENGANG 1



M-CAFÉ, SAVOYESTRAAT 10



DE METAFOOR, PARIJSSTRAAT 34



DE FIERE MARGRIET,
MARGARETHAPLEIN 11

DINING STREETS

In Leuven, restaurants are not scattered haphazardly throughout the city; there are streets that are completely given over to eating. Very pleasant locations with a large selection of restaurants to satisfy your hunger. And even if you're not hungry at all, your mouth will start watering anyway.

MUNTSTRAAT

This is the premier dining street in all of Leuven. Your eyes and nose will be inundated with sensations. Allow yourself to be intoxicated by delicious aromas and colours, and choose a restaurant to suit your taste. Even though that will not be easy because of the enormous selection to choose from. Extra challenge: when the weather is nice, you have to slalom through the course of tables and chairs at the many patios.

PARIJSSTRAAT

Parijsstraat is a worthy second in the gallery of delicious dining streets. The dominant flavour here is the world cuisine. Not to forget the original and creative boutiques, of course.



TIP



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A TYPICAL LEUVEN DELICACY TO TAKE HOME? HOW ABOUT THE DELICIOUS BANANA LIQUEUR MUSA LOVA? PÂTE, PRALINES, ABBEY CHEESE ... THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

UNIVERSITY TOWN



Wherever you are in Leuven, you are surrounded by the rich history of this **university city** and you encounter droves of **university students**. Hardly surprising when you realise that more than 40,000 Belgian and foreign students are drawn to the number one Flemish university city in pursuit of their bachelor's or master's degree every year. Leuven and the University of Leuven have been inseparable for nearly six centuries.

That makes Leuven a students' city, of course. The young people constitute nearly half of the total population, which results in an exciting atmosphere and pleasant busyness in a city that lives at the rhythm of student life. The connection between Leuven, its university, colleges and students gives the city a unique atmosphere created by a mix of culture, entrepreneurship, research and future-oriented thinking, creativity, a sense of the future, friendships and parties.

CITY CAMPUS

As everyone knows, Leuven is the leading university city in the country. But if you ask for directions to the university, you will get strange looks. The university is literally everywhere. It is a network of faculties and institutes, established in old and new buildings spread throughout Leuven.

COLLEGES

What started with a wing in a cloth hall, grew over six centuries to become a world-class university and with very many colleges. Each of which is a striking building that is worth a visit.

PAUSCOLLEGE (POPE'S COLLEGE)


Pope Adrian VI established this college for poor theology students at his home in 1523. Part of the building collapsed in 1775, and a new classicist building arose in its place. The lions in front of the stairs are the work of Walloon artist Olivier Strebelle, who also designed the fountain on the Square of Europe in Moscow.

 *Hogeschoolplein 3*



VAN DALECOLLEGE (VAN DALE COLLEGE)


Canon Pieter van Dale of Antwerp, a graduate of the university, established this college in 1569 for poor students of theology, philosophy or canon law from Antwerp and Aalst. The street façade of this lovely 16th century college in Renaissance style still shows some Gothic elements. Since the completion of an extensive restoration in 1968, the social services for students have been housed in this building.

 *Naamsestraat 80*



ATRECHTCOLLEGE (ATRECHT COLLEGE)

Nicolas Ruterius, a later Bishop of Atrecht, lived in this house. In 1508, he established a college for poor students here. From 1921 to 1977, the building was a residence for the first generation of female university students. In the interior courtyard, you will find the 'Tree of Great Sadness', a honey tree from the 18th century where many girls had to say goodbye to their sweethearts in time to get back to their residence by 7.00 p.m.

 *Naamsestraat 63*



UNIVERSITEITSBIBLIOTHEEK

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

300,000 precious books were lost in a fire in 1914 at the start of World War I; another 900,000 went up in smoke in 1940 (World War II). The University Library has had an eventful life. The monumental building, which was built between 1921 and 1929, makes numerous references to the destruction. The numerous engraved natural stones with the inscriptions of the hundreds of American technical and engineering schools that contributed to the reconstruction are also impressive.

DE BIBLIOTHEEKTOREN (THE LIBRARY TOWER)

For decades, the Library Tower has dominated the skyline of Leuven. The Tower is now open to the public. During the five-storey climb, you learn more about the history of the library and the influence it has had on the city. A photo exhibition takes you on an atmosphere-rich tour of five important time periods. After the fifth storey, you reach the balcony of the Tower and will be treated to a unique panorama over the city. Tickets are available at the Tourism office.

 Mgr. Ladeuzeplein 21


WWW.BIBLIOTHEEKTOREN.BE



UNIVERSITEITSHAL

UNIVERSITY HALL

This originally Gothic building dating from 1317 had one storey when it was built to serve as a cloth hall. In 1432, the recently established university was housed in the wing on the Krakenstraat. In 1679, the city sold the whole building to the university, after which additional storeys in Baroque style were added. The Rega Wing, a classicist façade in sandstone, was added in 1723. The building was badly damaged by fire in 1914; it was repaired in 1922. Today, the services of the office of the rector are housed here.

 Naamsestraat 22

TIP 

WITH A COMBITICKET, YOU CAN COMBINE A VISIT TO THE TOWN HALL WITH VISITS TO M - MUSEUM LEUVEN, M - TREASURY OF ST. PETER, AND THE LIBRARY TOWER.

ARENBERG CAMPUS



Over the course of the centuries, the Arenberg estate changed ownership several times. In 1612, it ended up in the hands of the dukes of Arenberg. This German family was very interested in science and had close ties with the university. Duke Engelbert Maria van Arenberg donated the estate to the University of Leuven in 1916. The park grew to become a campus for the positive and engineering sciences, in the style of a university campus in the United States. It is an oasis of green, where one can picnic and stroll, only a stone's throw from the heart of Leuven.

📍 *Kardinaal Mercierlaan 94, 3001 Leuven*

BIBLIOTHEEK ARENBERG

ARENBERG LIBRARY



This is one of the largest and most modern libraries of science and engineering technology on the European mainland. Housed in the former Celestine monastery, rebuilt by the renowned Spanish architect Rafaël Moneo, it holds a million books and reference sources in a high-tech environment filled with multimedia facilities. Modern art also has a noteworthy place here. No-one less than Panamarenko designed a work for this unique building.

KASTEEL VAN ARENBERG

ARENBERG CASTLE



The current castle was built in the 16th century; it is an example of traditional Flemish brick and sandstone architecture. The building also has elements from the late Gothic period, Renaissance, and 19th century Neo-Gothic. The two large corner towers with onion-shaped steeples, each with a German eagle perched atop it, are defining elements.

GASTHUIS- BERG CAMPUS



Since the 1980s, this has been the most important location of the Leuven University Hospital. With 2,000 beds and 8,000 employees, Gasthuisberg is the biggest hospital in the country. But the campus is much more than that. There are also classrooms and a large number of training facilities - with an extensive medical library - for the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmaceutical Sciences, among others. The site is so extensive that it is often called a city within a city. It has its own bank, shop, ATM, library, police station and hospital school.

TIP | 👍

AHA! SCIENCE TOURS

TAKE A STROLL THROUGH KNOWLEDGE WITH THIS SCIENTIFIC ROUTE THAT TAKES YOU TO UNIVERSITY INSTITUTIONS AND SPIN-OFFS.





GREEN OASES



'Pleasantly busy' and 'enjoyment in green surroundings' go hand in hand in Leuven. You'll find peace and quiet in the Great Beguinage, as you know. But there are many more green oases in and close to the city. How about a stroll around the ponds in the Park Abbey? Or sauntering through the grounds of Arenberg or along the Dijle Path that meanders through the city? There are also numerous **parks** and interior courtyards that are open to the public. The **Kessel-Lo Provincial Estate** offers a wide selection of relaxation options for young and old.

KRUIDTUIN BOTANICAL GARDEN

In 1738, the university established the Botanical Garden for the medical students. Today, the garden is not only for scientific research; it is also a green paradise in the middle of the city, enjoyed by both Leuven's citizens and visitors alike.

The approximately 2.2 ha site is home to an extensive collection of trees, bushes and shrubs. In addition to the collection of herbs, water and pot plants, the 450 m² greenhouse complex houses a diverse collection of tropical and sub-tropical plant species.

In 1976, the orangery was designated as a monument and the Botanical Garden was listed as a landscape. There are regular exhibitions held on the estate. The garden is managed and renovated by the city's green services department.

📍 *Kapucijnenvoer 30*



SINT-DONATUSPARK ST. DONATUS PARK

The long city park of Leuven, designed in English landscape style, was created in 1866 when private property, such as the St. Donatus College that had been lost to fire, and the gardens of three other colleges were joined together. You can still see the ruins of several towers from the first ring-wall around Leuven, which was built in the 12th century. The park was fully renovated in the 1990s.

📍 *Vlamingenstraat - Deberiotstraat - Tiensestraat*



PROVINCIEDOMEIN KESSEL-LO KESSEL-LO PROVINCIAL ESTATE

Whether you are a trained athlete or a recreational sports enthusiast, there is something for everyone here. You can run around the big pond. For the walkers, the lovely path to the Abbey of Vlierbeek is a must-see. And because you can't be at full readiness all the time, there are a number of pleasant picnic locations and a large playground.

📍 *Gemeenteplein 5, 3010 Leuven*



SHOPPING AND LIFESTYLE



Trendy boutiques, colourful trinket shops and authentic speciality shops are all within walking distance in Leuven. Whichever way you walk from the Grote Markt, you will discover a treasure trove of a shop within a minute. To take a break from all that **shopping enjoyment**, pedestrian squares and interesting alleys take you to coffee bars, cafés, patios and enticing restaurants.

SHOPPING STREETS

TIP



WITH A HANDY, FREE SHOPPING PLAN, YOU WON'T MISS A SINGLE SHOP.



VISMARKT AND MECHELSESTRAAT

The 'place to shop' for those who favour different and fashionable. With lovely boutiques, restaurants and culinary shops. When the weather is nice, you can even believe yourself to be in the south.

PARISSTRAAT

The Parijsstraat is also well-known as a street of trinket shops. You'll find shops selling hand-made and blown-glass gifts, comic book stores, music and clothing boutiques, and other speciality stores.

BONDGENOTENLAAN

This 'Champs Elysées' of Leuven is exactly 1 km long, straight as a die and stately, but also very stylish and lively. In addition to the better known chain stores, you will also find colourful cafés and exclusive clothing and decoration shops.

DIESTSESTRAAT

From the city centre to Louis Melsenstraat - This part of Diestsestraat is the absolute pinnacle of shopping in Leuven. This is the place to be for the large chains that have an extensive selection for the recreational-shopper.

From Louis Melsenstraat to the train station - Renovated shopping district with a selection that is more attuned to clientèle that lives and works in Leuven and environs.

BRUSSESESTRAAT

Pleasant wide shopping street with a mix of chains and exclusive shops.

NAAMSESTRAAT

Cafés, restaurants and shops with a cultural flavour nestle comfortably side by side with old university buildings.

TIENSESTRAAT

This is a typical student street; during the academic year, it buzzes with young students. The street offers student housing, restaurants, cafés and shops.



DID YOU KNOW...

Leuven has a large number of chocolatiers? Ideal for those who love Belgian chocolate.

MARKETS

THURSDAY

Brusselsestraat (*pedestrian shopping street*) **1.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.:** flowers and plants

FRIDAY

Mgr. Ladeuzeplein, Herbert Hooverplein, Leopold Vanderkelenstraat (*between Mgr. Ladeuzeplein and Savoyestraat*) and Vital Decosterstraat (*between Mgr. Ladeuzeplein and Bondgenotenlaan*)

7.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.: food products, flowers and plants

8.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.: textiles

SATURDAY

Mathieu de Layensplein, Mechelsestraat (*to Schrijn-makersstraat*): bric-à-bric & antiques

Brusselsestraat (*pedestrian shopping street*), Pensstraat and Parijsstraat: from **9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.:** crafts market



A large crowd of people at a concert, with many hands raised in the air, suggesting a lively atmosphere. The image is used as a background for the page.

MUSIC AND CULTURE



Milow, Selah Sue, Discobar Galaxie,... Leuven is home to a large number of internationally renowned artists.

Music and culture are never far away. If a successful city trip includes a cultural activity, you will find yourself well at home in Leuven. From music to theatre, from film to dance... Leuven has a top selection; something to suit everyone.

LEUVEN IS ALIVE!

STUK

The STUK Arts Centre wants to be a meeting place for artists and visitors. The patio in the building lends itself to that purpose perfectly. A number of different rooms open out onto the patio: a film hall, the STUKcafé, an auditorium, classrooms, offices and a theatre. In short, each door opens onto a different world.

📍 Naamsestraat 96, www.stuk.be



30CC

30CC is the cultural centre of Leuven. It consists of the Schouwburg, the Minnepoort, the Wagehuys, the Romaanse Poort and the Preachers' Church. The organisation also operates at locations throughout Leuven. For example, 30CC provides a lot of entertainment throughout the city: from theatre to music, well-known and not-yet-known talent, for young and old.

📍 Rijschoolstraat 4, www.30CC.be



CINEMA ZED

Cinema ZED, the cinema for the better quality films in the heart of Leuven, programmes both classics and more recent releases. The cinema hall is part of the STUK Arts Centre. Every year, the international short film festival is held in December and the documentary film festival in May.

📍 Naamsestraat 96, www.cinemazed.be



OPEK

Seven professional cultural organisations use the former customs building on the Vaartkom as headquarters. It is known as the 'Openbaar Entrepot voor de Kunsten' (abbreviated as OPEK, Public Depot for the Arts). It is a place to meet for young and old with shows, workshops, master classes and festivals. You will also find a café that looks out onto the Vaartkom.

📍 Vaartkom 4, www.opek.be



HET DEPOT

The music centre Het Depot is a place for musicians and music-lovers to enjoy themselves to the utmost. Concert hall, rehearsal space, recording studios, even classrooms... Het Depot has it all. Everyone, both artists and visitors, are enthusiastic about the atmosphere and the acoustics.

📍 Martelarenplein 12, www.hetdepot.be

ACTIVE LEUVEN

Would you like to do something besides exploring the city by foot? You can. Rowing on a lake, relaxing in a sauna, climbing or cruising down the Dijle like a Norman in a Viking snekke longship... If you can conceive it, you can probably achieve it in Leuven. The absolute top, of course, is cycling. Leuven and the surrounding area is a true cycling paradise that can be explored on your own or as part of a guided tour. You can book a guide at the Leuven Tourism office or ask about nice activities with local partners.

WALKS WITH CERTIFIED GUIDES.

VISIT TO THE TOWN HALL AND GUIDED WALK

Follow the guide through the salons and Gothic halls of the Town Hall. Rest on a medieval window-seat and learn about Leuven history from the 19th century paintings. You will learn even more and hear fascinating stories during the interesting city tour that follows. The time for all of this is at 3.00 pm on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 April to 31 October at Tourism Leuven. The tour is given in Dutch and a second language depending on the guide. Note: places are limited.

'LEUVEN BEER STORIES' TOUR

There is no better way to learn about the beer history of Leuven than a guided walking tour. Find out everything about the local cafés, the brewers and their delicious products. We would like to welcome you at 4.00 p.m. on Saturdays, from 1 April to 31 October, at Tourism Leuven. The tour is conducted in Dutch and English. Note: places are limited here, as well.

📍 *Leuven Tourism*
Naamsestraat 3

WALKS WITH BROCHURE

WALKING PACKAGE

Explore Leuven's main attractions with the help of this handy walking package of individual walks: 'Explore Leuven' (basic walking tour), 'The place to be(er)' (beer and breweries in Leuven), 'Church & Co' (religious heritage), 'Intelligent city' (the university and its buildings).



ILUVLEUVEN

This pearl of a walking and cycling route will lead you to the hidden enticements of Leuven. You will encounter the most romantic parts of the city centre, such as the two beguinages. The route also takes you to a major attraction just outside the city centre. ILuvLeuven guides you to the Park Abbey, a fairy tale place on the edge of the city, with ponds, country lanes and farmlands. A place you'll fall in love with.



CYCLING TOUR WITH MAP

ABBEYS CYCLING ROUTE

The abbeys are major tourist attractions in Leuven. These lovely cultural sites offer an ideal opportunity to explore unique heritage properties in conditions that are almost original. Especially for this purpose, Tourism Leuven designed the first cycling route along the four abbeys for individual cyclists in Leuven.



CYCLING FROM LEUVEN

This booklet contains four cycling routes, each of which shows you a different part of the region. Did you bring the children along? Take a trip to the forests, where you will find the coolest climbing equipment! Imbibe the history of the Hageland with a trip to the lovely Castle of Horst. Or pedal along beautiful castles and parks to the 'royal' Africa Museum in Tervuren. And with the Leuven-Dijle Canal as your anchor point, experience four decades of Rock Werchter again, taste the White Gold (chicory) and visit the birth house of Father Damien.



TIP |

DON'T HAVE A BIKE WITH YOU? NO PROBLEM. YOU CAN RENT A BIKE AT FIETSPUNT LEUVEN AT THE STATION.



TAXI'S

WITH THE FAMILY

Leuven has not forgotten the small city-trippers. Exciting family walks, downsized presentations in museums, and breathtaking play paradises... The city really has everything a young heart could long for.

THE 'PASSIONAL SEVEN' FAMILY WALK

Are you ready to shine in a Leuven love play? During this walk, you are the star. Follow in the footsteps of 'Proud Margriet', 'Smart Fons' and other local heroes. Quiet on the set and... action! (Only available in Dutch)



'VICTOR P.' FAMILY WALK.

This unusual family walk through Leuven was written by the well-known children's author Stefan Boonen. The tour takes you along narrow paths, gardens and alleyways. You will pass through parks, playgrounds and car parks. And you will learn that every period has left its traces, stories and city legends behind. (Only available in Dutch)

FUN OASIS

Discover the lovely design of this indoor playground with 450 m² of playing enjoyment for young and old.

📍 *Sportoasegebouw - Philipssite 6 - 3001 Leuven*





PROVINCIEDOMEIN KESSEL-LO (KESSEL-LO PROVINCIAL ESTATE)



Romping in the playgrounds, sailing in electro-boats, cycling in the traffic park and having fun in the renovated and heated open-air wading pool...

It is, indeed, the ideal children's paradise. With an educational side to it. In the bee house, you can watch the bees' activities behind glass, while a small exhibition tells you everything you need to know about honey and bees wax. In the eco-centre, you will find out everything about water.

📍 Gemeenteplein 5,
3010 Leuven



EXPLORING IN THE M - MUSEUM LEUVEN



A group of strange birds takes you on a search through M with a treasure hunt for the whole family. Or would you prefer to spend some time in Marcel's birdhouse? There is always something going on in this special children's corner.

📍 Leopold Vanderkelen-
straat 28

MEERDAAL WOOD (MEERDAAL FOREST)

Nature is the star in the Meerdaal Forest. For that reason, access is limited to some parts so that nature can thrive in all its diversity. But in the Everzwijnbad Playground, it's all about the fun. A 30 m long wooden snake is waiting for you to climb it. There is also a giant mikado game, a climbing bridge, and much, much more. For more information, go to www.meerdaalwoud.be.



HEVERLEEBOS (HEVERLEE FOREST)

Young nature-lovers will really enjoy the Heverlee Forest. You can walk and cycle there to your heart's content. Take a picnic lunch; there are benches in various locations. The arboretum of the property, with more than 300 species of trees and bushes, also merits a visit.



A QUICK TRIP OUT OF TOWN



Would you like to literally expand the city limits? The **region surrounding Leuven** is also worth visiting. To the east, you will find the Hageland. Six beautiful provincial towns present a rich cultural history legacy. In addition to a large selection of regional beers, the Hageland is also known for its wine.

The Green Belt, to the west of Leuven, includes the capital city of Brussels. Dozens of lovely parks and gardens bloom in the shadow of the metropolis. This is where you have to be for the renowned geuze and lambic beers.

If you would prefer to stay in the area, ask about the **most delicious addresses in and near Leuven**. You will enjoy delicious regional products and dishes. Ask about a suitable beer, which Brabant has in plenty.

.....
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBRABANT.BE



CYCLING AND WALKING HUB NETWORK

Those who want to actively explore the different regions in Flemish Brabant will find a wide selection of walking and cycling opportunities. Near Leuven, you walk on hubs along the Hagelandse Hills and South Dijleland walking networking. A large number of cycling and walking routes and even horse routes are available for free download.

CYCLING NETWORK

Available at Tourism Leuven:

- Flemish Brabant Cycling Network (*map + cycling guide*)
www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/fietsen

WALKING

The following walking folders are available from Tourism Leuven (*map + info guide as well as map in four languages*):

- South Dijleland Walking Network
- Hagelandse Hills Walking Network
- Pajottenland East Walking Network
- Pajottenland West Walking Network



TIP |

GET YOUR BROCHURE WITH FOUR CYCLING ROUTES FROM LEUVEN. ALSO AVAILABLE IN FIVE LANGUAGES AT
WWW.VISITLEUVEN.BE.

BREWERIES OUTSIDE LEUVEN

HOF TEN DORMAAL

farm with brewery

📍 *Caubergstraat 2,
3150 Tildonk*



DE VLIER

brewer of traditional beers.

📍 *Leuvensebaan 219,
3220 Holsbeek*



DE KROON

brewery combining science, the art of brewing, gastronomy and tourism.

📍 *Beekstraat 20,
3040 Neerijse*



WWW.LEUVEN.BE/BEERCAPITAL

4 SEASONS IN LEUVEN

SPRING

In the last weekend of April, Leuven does its name as capital city of beer proud. During the *Leuven Beer Weekend* at the Zythos Beer Festival, you can taste more than 500 different beers to your heart's content.

SUMMER

With a wide selection of *musical, culinary and other events*, a visit to Leuven in the summer is warmly recommended. And don't forget the 3-for-2 promotion; several hotels are offering the third night for free.

AUTUMN

In the autumn, it's all about *culture* in Leuven. With the free opening four-day event to start the STUK cultural season, the most fascinating *exhibitions and expositions* of renowned international artists and an extensive selection of *short films* from the most diverse possible genres.

WINTER

Listen to fascinating winter stories, imbibe the atmosphere of the Leuven Christmas market, dream away during an intimate chamber concert in the lovely Town Hall. *Winterseason in Leuven* drives the first cold of winter out of town with a heart-warming programme. The Leuven hotels spoil their visitors with winter deals.

For more information about the different events in Leuven, drop by our **tourism office**.



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Open from Mon. to Sun. from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. **Closed** on public holidays and Sundays from November to the end of February.

IN THIS RANGE YOU WILL ALSO FIND:

- city map
- brochure for groups

SOCIAL:

visitleuven on  & 

Check in with **Foursquare** 



Share your photographs of Leuven
on Instagram with **#seemyleuven**

