

# Explore TONGEREN'S surroundings



HASPENGOU:  
IT'S WORTH SEEING



TONGEREN AND  
THE EUREGIO



TOP FLEMISH  
ATTRACTIONS



**DON'T FORGET OUR  
TONGEREN TOURISM  
GUIDE 2016!**

# HASPENGOUW: IT'S WORTH SEEING

**TONGEREN IS LOCATED IN BEAUTIFUL HASPENGOUW, ONE OF THE LARGEST FRUIT REGIONS IN EUROPE. HASPENGOUW IS A LANDSCAPE FILLED WITH CASTLES, FORTRESSES, RELIGIOUS MONUMENTS AND MARL CAVES THAT IMMERSE YOU IN THE REGION'S RICH PAST. TONGEREN HAS ROMAN RUINS AND MEDIEVAL REMAINS. ITS GENEROUS INHABITANTS WILL GLADLY SPOIL YOU WITH SOME OF THE MANY LOCAL SPECIALITIES THAT THE FERTILE LANDSCAPE PRODUCES.**



## RIEMST: SMALL BUT LOVELY

11 KM

Riemst is located between Tongeren and Maastricht. It is the last Flemish municipality before the border with the Netherlands. It is a small town with 16,000 inhabitants and it's definitely worth a visit. Centuries of marl exploitation, which started before the 15th century, has resulted in an underground network

that is several kilometres long. You'll find fossils, drawings of prehistoric animals, mushroom farms and colonies of bats. Visitor's centre 'De Brug' opened in the renovated bridge across the Albert Canal in Vroenhoven in 2015. This visitor's centre houses a museum dedicated to World War II. German conquest of the bridge on 10 May 1940 signified the beginning of WWII in Belgium.

### More information:

Toerisme Riemst, Maastrichtersteenweg 2 b,  
3770 Riemst, +32 12 44 03 75,  
toerisme@riemst.be,  
www.toerismeriemst.be.

## BILZEN: HEART OF THE CASTLES LANDSCAPE

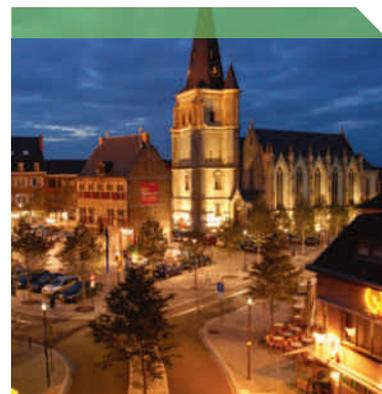
15 KM

Water fortresses, castles and domains, beautiful country estates... For centuries the nobility left its mark on this region. Did you know that more than 100 castles adorn the landscape in Haspengouw? The jewel in its crown is the imposing commandery Alden Biesen in Bilzen. Today Alden Biesen is a magnificent heritage site with an experience centre, cultural activities and a conference centre. It is one of the operating bases for exploring

Limburg's cycle route network and it's the starting point for several magnificent nature walks. Bilzen is best known as the home of the commandery but it's also a cosy Demer River town with an attractive historic centre, charming shops and it is the hometown of the legendary Jazz Bilzen festival. This festival took place from 1965 to 1981 and it comes to life when you follow the Demer Walk: an interesting walk that takes you past all the festival's remarkable places.

### More information:

Toeristisch Onthaal Alden Biesen-Bilzen,  
Kasteelstraat 6, 3740 Bilzen,  
+32 89 51 56 54, toerisme@bilzen.be,  
www.bilzen.be, www.alden-biesen.be





### GREENSPOT ZAMMELN: A GREEN TREASURE HOUSE

7 KM

The picturesque village of Zammelen, a municipality of Kortesseem, rules over the valley of the meandering Mombeek, at the edge of Haspengouw's loam plateau. A combination of water, loam, lime and sand ensure that alternating meadows, typical meadowlands, mysterious marshes and marsh forests attract rare plants and animal species in this valuable nature reserve. The *Greenspot Zammelen* walk passes through the Mombeek valley. It is one of the ten *Greenspots* that were developed by the Regional Landscape Haspengouw & Voeren in Haspengouw. These are the highest quality walking areas in Haspengouw. Ideal for discovering the most beautiful places in the region.

Signposted walks of 4, 6 and 7 km.  
Departure point: Sint-Amandusstraat, 3720 Zammelen (Kortesseem).

### HOESELT: NATURE AROUND THE HERMITAGE

10 KM

The Hermitage of Vrijhern doesn't need a therapeutic well to remain a heavily visited place of pilgrimage. Nevertheless, the thick layers of clay in the area cause several wells to rise. This is typically wet Haspengouw! The inhabitants of this region have been toiling and plodding away in the heavy soil for centuries. Their sweat left deep marks in the landscape. The result is a varied landscape of marsh forests, orchards, fields, pastures, hedgerows and sunken roads. The *Greenspot* walk allows you to discover this beautiful piece of Haspengouw.

Signposted walks of 4, 6 and 8 km.  
Departure point: Hermitage of Vrijhern, Kluisstraat, 3730 Vrijhern (Hoeselt).



Hex



Bitzen



## Best-of-Tongeren Arrangements

With Best of Tongeren, we put together unique package deals that you may personalise according to your likes and budget. Choose from various options and book your package online.

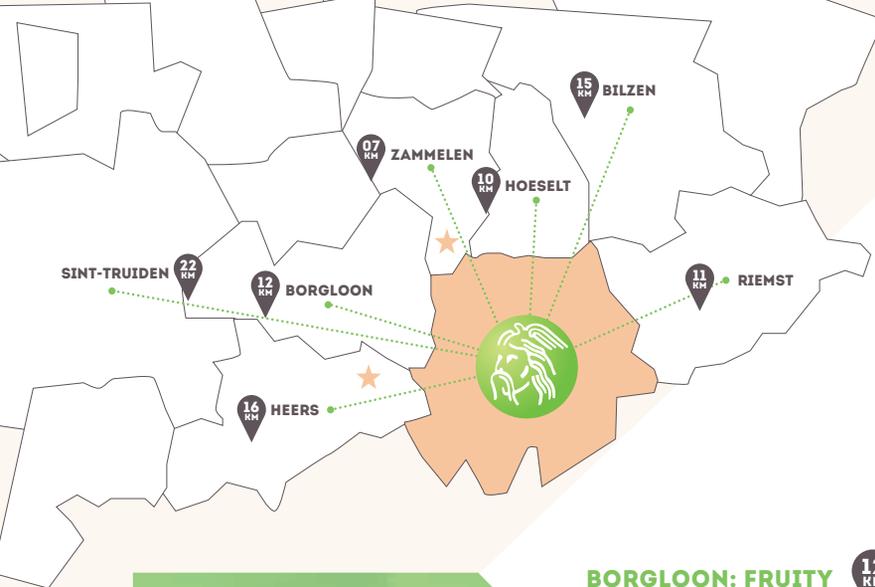
[WWW.BEST-OF-TONGEREN.BE](http://WWW.BEST-OF-TONGEREN.BE)

### THE GARDENS OF HEX CASTLE

16 KM

Heers is located in the middle of the rolling landscape of southern Haspengouw. It is a quiet town with unique assets for an unforgettable stay: hospitality, nature, history and several opportunities to experience supreme relaxation with your family. It's like a basket of fruit from which you can select the tastiest experiences! Hex Castle opens its gardens for garden lovers and specialists from Belgium and abroad during the second weekend of June (including the Friday) and second weekend of September. Hex is one of the most beautiful historic country estates in Belgium. The castle's gardens are known internationally for its collection of wild and ancient roses. The vast vegetable gardens with a traditional vegetable cellar are imposing.





The original 19th-century park designed by Louis Fuchs, with age-old trees and breathtaking views, is amazing. Specialising plant breeders and garden specialists offer their products for sale and share their knowledge with visitors during the annual *Garden Days* at the castle. The programme includes lectures, demonstrations, walks led by Belgian and international experts, and diverse exhibitions about the most diverse garden subjects. Enjoy the beautiful gardens and Hex Castle park all day long; treat yourself to a cup of coffee with a slice of Limburg pie or something equally delicious from one of the participating caterers.

**More information:**

Hex Gardens, GPS: Meerstraat,  
3870 Heers-Heks, gardens@hex.be,  
www.hex.be.

Can only be visited during the *Open Garden Days* in June and September.

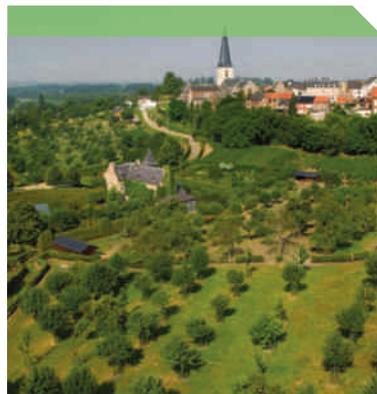
**BORGLOON: FRUITY LANDSCAPES**



Borgloon is the highest historic town in Flanders. From the fortress hill, near the church and the former castle of the Counts of Loon, you'll enjoy beautiful panoramas of the fruit landscape. Together with Sint-Truiden, Borgloon is the heart of the fruit region. During the blossom and harvest festivals, from April through October, many festivities take place and fruit farms and wine domains open their doors for a tour. During a cycling trip or walk through the fields, be sure to pass the charming see-through church 'Reading between the lines'. It's a great spot for a unique selfie photo. You can also catch your breath in the mystical abbey Mariënlof, where a few nuns still faithfully follow the rules behind its thick walls.

**More information:**

Toerisme Borgloon, Stadhuis, Markt,  
3840 Borgloon, +32 12 67 36 53,  
toerisme@borgloon.be, www.borgloon.be.



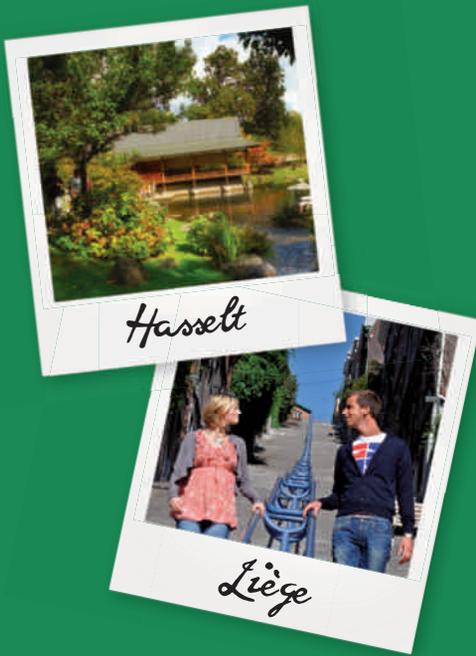
**SINT-TRUIDEN: A CITY OF MONUMENTS**



Sint-Truiden is the sixth largest monument city in Flanders with more than 100 religious monuments and 250 protected monuments. Three towers dominate the city's skyline: the belfry of the 16th-century city hall, which is on the UNESCO World Heritage list, the Gothic tower of the Church of Our Lady and the robust abbey tower. The abbey tower is part of the Saint Trudo Abbey site. Sint-Truiden's residents (also known as 'Binken') love good food! The city has cosy restaurants and pubs within walking distance. Sunken roads and orchards, castles and chapels, square farms and beautiful breweries - the versatility of Sint-Truiden is truly impressive. Take a wonderful ride on a Vespa or bicycle past the fruit trees and over the rolling landscapes.

**More information:**

Toerisme St-Truiden, Grote Markt,  
3800 St-Truiden, +32 12 11 70 18 18,  
info.toerisme@sint-truiden.be,  
www.toerisme-sint-truiden.be.



## TONGEREN & THE EUREGIO

TONGEREN IS PART OF THE EUREGIO MEUSE-RHINE, AN AREA BETWEEN HASSELT, MAASTRICHT, LIÈGE, AACHEN, HEERLEN AND EUPEN, AROUND THE MEUSE RIVER TO THE WEST OF THE RHINE RIVER. DUE TO ITS CENTRAL LOCATION, YOU CAN EASILY EXPLORE THE SURROUNDING EUREGIO CITIES WHILE STAYING IN TONGEREN. THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY, NUMEROUS SHOPPING OPPORTUNITIES AND CULINARY OFFERINGS IN THESE FASCINATING CITIES ARE ENDLESS.

30  
KM

### LIÈGE: MUST-SEE ACROSS THE LANGUAGE BORDER

Liège is the capital of the Walloon province of the same name. The city lies on the border of Haspengouw (La Hesbaye in French) and the Ardennes, where the Ourthe River flows into the Meuse River. Its particularly rich history goes back to the Roman era. The city reached a high point during the Prince-Bishopric Liège (14th to 18th century). In popular speech Liège is also called La Cité Ardente or The Fervent City. It's the largest tourist city in Wallonia and it has numerous sites worth discovering. The steep, forested hills that surround the city, the striking relief that results in many original vistas, and the city's typical neighbourhoods make Liège very charming. A prominent folklore that the jovial, party-loving inhabitants of Liège hold in esteem, lively neighbourhoods and numerous restaurants make it a must-see during your stay in Tongeren.

#### More information:

Toerisme Liège, Feronstrée 92, 4000 Liège, +32 4 221 92 21, [office.tourisme@liege.be](mailto:office.tourisme@liege.be), [www.liege.be](http://www.liege.be).

30  
KM

### HASSELT: CAPITAL OF GOOD TASTE

The slogan of the provincial capital is 'Capital of Good Taste' and for good reason. It refers to the well-known Hasselt speculaas (a spiced biscuit) and jenever as well as to the stylish fashion sense of Hasselt's residents. With its trendy boutiques and concept stores, Hasselt is a Mecca for shopping lovers. Add to this refined eateries and a wide variety of cultural activities and you'll immediately understand why the 'Capital of Good Taste' is a well-deserved title. In short, it's a city for bon vivants.

#### More information:

Toerisme Hasselt, Huis de Corswarem, Maastrichterstraat 59, 3500 Hasselt, +32 11 23 95 40, [toerisme@hasselt.be](mailto:toerisme@hasselt.be), [www.hasselt.eu](http://www.hasselt.eu).

&gt;&gt;&gt;



Liège



Hasselt

20  
KM

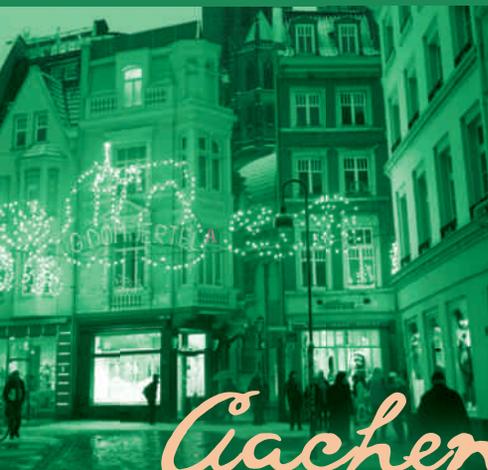
### MAASTRICHT: MEET EUROPE

The capital of the province of Limburg in the Netherlands is located on the Meuse River. It is one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands; its history goes back more than twenty centuries. Its patrimony includes the oldest city gate in the Netherlands, the oldest bridge in the Netherlands, two Romanesque churches, seven Gothic churches and chapels, several monuments and many castles and country estates. Maastricht is a tourist destination with lots of restaurants, pubs and places to sleep. The city is much-loved for its multitude of shops. Shops in the city centre open their doors almost every Sunday. Located between charming hills in Limburg, in the heart of the Euregio, Maastricht has been a melting pot bursting with creativity for 2000 years. It's a compact city with great style, the most European city in the Netherlands.

**More information:**

VVV Maastricht, Kleine Staat 1, 6211 ED Maastricht, the Netherlands  
+31 43 325 21 21, info@vvvmaastricht.nl, www.vvvmaastricht.nl.

# Maastricht



80  
KM

### AACHEN: IMPRESSIVE IMPERIAL CITY

The German city Aachen is about 80 km from Tongeren; it's centrally located near the border of three counties. Aachen is a city of water and horses, the home of Charlemagne, famous for its schools of higher education and printing. In narrow medieval alleys, which originate from the imposing Aachener Dom and the beautiful city hall, it sometimes feels like time has stood still. Discover the age-old spa tradition in Carolus Thermen, saunter past the shops of the *Altstadt* or admire the city's fascinating history in one of the museums: Aachen is a romantic destination with an impressive past. The museums, shops and pubs in the picturesque city centre make this youthful imperial city complete.

**More information:**

Aachen tourist service e.v., Tourist info Elisenbrunnen, Friedrich-Wilhelm-Platz, D- 52062 Aachen, +49 241 18029 60, info@aachen-tourist.de , www.aachen.de.

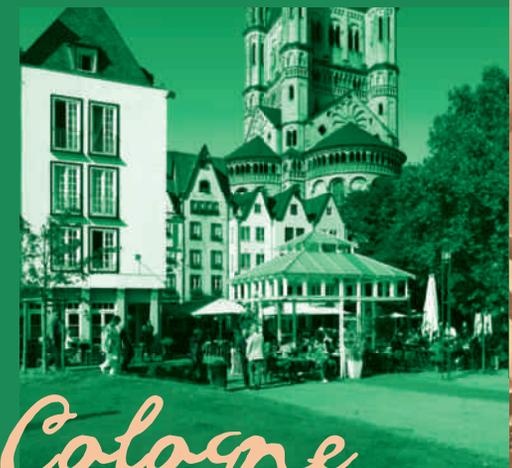
145  
KM

### COLOGNE: HISTORICAL & HIP!

The lovely German city Cologne is just across the Belgian border. The Rhine River, one of the longest rivers in Europe, flows through the city. Just like many other cities in Europe, Cologne has a rich history that goes back to the Roman Empire. This rich history can still be seen in Cologne's street scene. The gigantic Kölner Dom has been the city's icon for years. In addition to a rich history, Cologne also radiates a trendy atmosphere thanks to its numerous shops, entertainment opportunities and the hip Rheinauhafen neighbourhood with its modern architecture. Moreover, Cologne is a magical place in December thanks to its attractive Christmas markets. A city trip doesn't always have to be far away; this gem across the border will charm you!

**More information:**

Köln Tourismus GmbH, Kardinal-Höffner-Platz 1, D- 50667 Cologne, + 49 221 346430, info@koelntourismus.de, www.cologne-tourism.com.



# Cologne

110  
KM

# Antwerp

## ANTWERP: OUTSTANDING ELEGANCE

Are fashion, cosy markets and culture your thing? Then Antwerp is the place for you! You'll find an exciting mix of shopping streets and medieval alleys filled with trendy bars. And let's not forget all the exuberant restaurants. Interested in a city trip?

- Shop, shop, shop in the Stadsfeestzaal! This 19th-century reception hall was converted into a unique shopping centre. You'll be overawed while shopping!
- Gather diamonds! To be honest they're not literally lying around, but you'll find enough of them in the numerous shops located in the multicultural Diamond District.
- Order a cold *Bolleke*! Enter one of the many pubs and ask for a *Bolleke De Koninck*, it's the favourite beer of Antwerp's residents. Cheers!

**More information: Visit Antwerpen, Grote Markt 13, 2000 Antwerp, +32 3 232 01 03, [toerisme@stad.antwerpen.be](mailto:toerisme@stad.antwerpen.be), [www.visitantwerpen.be](http://www.visitantwerpen.be).**



# TOP FLEMISH ATTRACTIONS

**FIVE BROTHERS AND SISTERS, EACH WITH THEIR OWN CHARACTER. COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, BUT THEY HAVE A COMMON HISTORY. TOGETHER THESE FIVE ATYPICAL FLEMISH ART CITIES HAVE WORLD STATURE HERITAGE. LOOK THROUGH THE EYES OF A VISITOR: SEE THE RICH HISTORY, VALUABLE PLACES OF INTEREST AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCES IN ANTWERP, BRUGES, GHENT, LEUVEN AND MECHELEN. IN ADDITION TO THE FIVE ART CITIES, WE ALSO RECOMMEND A VISIT TO OUR CAPITAL, BRUSSELS. IT S A WONDERFUL DESTINATION FOR A FASCINATING CITY TRIP!**

190  
KM

# Bruges



## BRUGES: HISTORIC AND ROMANTIC

Medieval mysterious, unabashedly Burgundian and a metropolis for centuries; the city centre of Bruges impresses with its historic patrimony. It was recognised as World Heritage in 2000. This city has everything you need for an unforgettable city trip: medieval alleys and canals, world-class chocolate shops, Flemish Primitives in churches and castles, and lots of top-quality lace. And it's close to the sea too!

- In the historical visitor attraction Historium Brugge you'll be taken back in time to the year 1435...
- Allow yourself to be a bit primitive; after all, Bruges houses several Flemish Primitives. Do you want to see a real Jan van Eyck? Be sure to visit the Groeninge Museum.
- Buy some bigger trousers... because you'll eat your fill in Bruges! You're on a diet? Beware of the numerous Michelin-starred restaurants and the fantastic chocolate.

**More information: Toerisme Brugge, Infokantoor Markt (Historium), Markt 1, 8000 Bruges, + 32 50 44 46 46, [toerisme@brugge.be](mailto:toerisme@brugge.be), [www.brugge.be](http://www.brugge.be).**

90  
KM

# Brussels

## BRUSSELS: THE HEART OF EUROPE

Feel at home in Brussels! Brussels, the capital of Europe, is a metropolis full of secrets. Discover the many Art Nouveau buildings, comic strip shops and over 100 museums. Be sure to try a typical Brussels waffle. You want to stay longer? Book a city trip!

- If you want to discover art and culture in Brussels, be sure to admire the grandeur of the Grote Markt, with its glorious town hall. It's a must-see!
- In Brussels you can eat and drink à volonté, but the best outdoor cafés are located in the hip Sint-Goriks/Saint-Géry neighbourhood.
- If you love a cosy and authentic atmosphere then poke around the flea market! For antiques and collectibles, Brussels is the right address. Walk from the Zavel/Sablon to Vossenplein/Place du Jeu de Balle.

Don't forget to benefit from the Brussels Card! The Brussels Card gives you free entry to more than 30 museums, free use of public transportation and you'll enjoy exclusive offers.

**More information: Visit Brussels, Brussels Info Square, Koningsstraat 2, 1000 Brussels, +32 2 513 89 40, [info@visitbrussels.be](mailto:info@visitbrussels.be), [www.visitbrussels.be](http://www.visitbrussels.be).**



150  
KM

# Ghent

## GHENT: EUROPE'S BEST KEPT SECRET

Hip and historic Ghent! According to National Geographic, Ghent is one of the top three most authentic destinations in the world. The authors of the Lonely Planet guide placed Ghent in their list of 'ten must-see cities'. Be sure to visit the many vintage shops and markets, the Museum of Contemporary Art (SMAK) and watch restorers work on the painting 'Adoration of the Mystic Lamb'! If you love cosiness, ambiance and atmosphere then you mustn't miss the Gentse Feesten in July.

**More information: Visit Gent - Tourist Information Office Oude Vismijn, Sint-Veerleplein 5, 9000 Ghent, +32 92665660, [visit@gent.be](mailto:visit@gent.be), [www.visit-gent.be](http://www.visit-gent.be).**

75  
KM

# Leuven

## LEUVEN: A MECCA FOR BOOKS AND BEER

Leuven, a city trip amongst students! No other city in Flanders fires one's imagination like the age-old university town of Leuven. Walk through Leuven and enjoy the many outdoor cafés, the Grand Beguinage, Museum M, beautiful town hall... Highly recommended: at Toerisme Leuven you can book a guided tour through the town hall. Leuven makes a great cultural city trip!

- Admire the 15th-century Gothic Town Hall.
- Tour the AB InBev Brewery, where Stella Artois, Leffe, Hoegaarden and many other brands are brewed.
- Imitate the students and have a beer in one of the 45 pubs on the Oude Markt, which is known as the 'longest bar in the world'.
- View impressive Gothic and 19th-century art at Museum M and enjoy glorious views from the roof of the museum.

**More information: Toerisme Leuven, Naamsestraat 3, 3000 Leuven, +32 16 20 30 20, [toerisme@leuven.be](mailto:toerisme@leuven.be), [www.leuven.be](http://www.leuven.be).**

100  
KM

# Mechelen

## MECHELEN: BEER, CARILLON AND TAPESTRIES

Mechelen, much enjoyed! Mechelen is a fascinating, cosy and child-friendly city with a rich past. It has many pieces of world heritage protected by UNESCO. It's a wonderful place to go shopping or enjoy a beverage at an outdoor café. Be confronted with the past in Kazerne Dossin and enjoy an excellent *Gouden Carolus* beer at an outdoor café or take a boat trip to Planckendael animal park!

- Climb 538 stairs to the top of the St Rumbold's Tower for a breathtaking view of the city on the new Skywalk.
- Discover the art of tapestries at Royal Manufacturers De Wit.
- Eat, sleep and drink in 'Het Anker', famous for its *Gouden Carolus Classic* beer.
- Go to the Vismarkt, a picturesque square with lots of cosy restaurants and pubs.
- Try the local speciality, a poultry called Mechelen Coucou, served with fresh vegetables, a local beer sauce and fried potatoes.

**More information: Visit Mechelen, Hallestraat 2-4-6, 2800 Mechelen, +32 70 22 00 08, [visit@mechelen.be](mailto:visit@mechelen.be), [www.visitmechelen.be](http://www.visitmechelen.be).**



### TOERISME TONGEREN

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3700 Tongeren

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Tongeren  
de eerste stad

