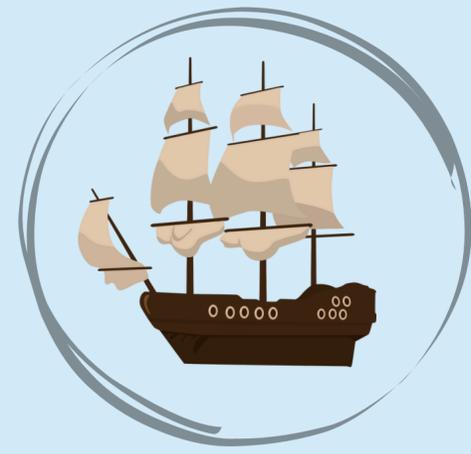


WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE SUNKEN SAILBOAT?

A DIVE INTO MARINE TECH



SURVIVAL GUIDE



10-19 Sept.

 **BEST**
courses

 **BEST**
GHENT



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BRIEF OVERVIEW

Ahoy, future marine innovators! The ocean is calling, and it's time to set sail on an adventure into the world of marine technology. Whether it's designing smarter boats, harnessing renewable energy at sea, or building cutting-edge marine systems, this course is your chance to explore the future of life at sea.

Anchored in the stunning city of Ghent, this course will immerse you in the world of modern marine technology. You'll explore how ships are designed for efficiency and sustainability, how ports are evolving, and how technology is revolutionizing the marine industry. Through hands-on activities and real-world case studies, you'll gain practical skills while tackling the challenges of marine innovation.





WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

BELGIUM A quick overview

Belgium is a small but diverse country in Western Europe, bordered by France, Germany, Luxembourg, and the Netherlands. It is known for its multilingual population, as people speak Dutch (Flemish), French, and German. Lots of people speak English as well 😊.

Belgium is famous for its medieval towns, chocolate, beer, and being home to the European Union's headquarters in Brussels. The country has a long maritime tradition, with major ports like Antwerp and Zeebrugge playing crucial roles in international trade and shipbuilding.



DISCOVERING GHENT

Ghent is a vibrant city known for its well-preserved medieval architecture, lively student atmosphere, and scenic canals. It is a blend of historic charm and modern innovation, making it the perfect place for all technology students. Here are some key highlights of Ghent:

Must-See Monuments and Attractions

- **Gravensteen Castle:** A medieval fortress dating back to the 12th century, offering a glimpse into Ghent's military history.
- **St. Bavo's Cathedral:** Home to the world-famous altarpiece, The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb.
- **Korenmarkt & Graslei:** The heart of Ghent's old town, surrounded by stunning guild houses and bustling cafés.



MARINE TECHNOLOGY & INDUSTRY IN GHENT

Ghent has a strong maritime sector, with industries involved in shipbuilding, offshore energy, and logistics. The city's port, the North Sea Port, is a key economic driver, linking Ghent to the global maritime trade network. Companies in the area specialize in sustainable ship technology, dredging, and marine engineering. Additionally, Ghent University is known for its engineering and marine research programs, making it an excellent place for students interested in the field.

CULTURE & STUDENT LIFE

Ghent is a true student city, with a large international community. You'll find plenty of affordable bars, restaurants, and cultural events. The city hosts the Ghent Festivities (Gentse Feesten), one of the biggest cultural festivals in Europe. Belgian cuisine is also a highlight—don't forget to try Belgian fries, waffles, and local beers! We hope this guide helps you settle in and make the most of your time in Ghent. Enjoy yourselves sailors and explore everything this incredible city has to offer!



OUR UNIVERSITY

Ghent University (UGent) is one of Belgium's leading universities, consistently ranked among the top institutions in Europe. Established in 1817, it has grown into a globally recognized research university with over 50,000 students, including a large international community. The university is known for its strong emphasis on innovation, interdisciplinary research, and collaboration with industries.

The **Faculty of Engineering and Architecture (FEA)** at UGent is a hub of cutting-edge research and technical education. It offers a wide range of engineering disciplines, including **marine technology, mechanical engineering, and electrical engineering**. The faculty has strong ties with industry and research institutions, ensuring that students gain practical, real-world experience.

Ghent University is also a key player in engineering research, particularly in **ship hydrodynamics, offshore structures, and sustainable marine technology**. With access to state-of-the-art laboratories and research facilities, students can work on projects related to ship design, port infrastructure, and renewable energy in marine environments.

Located in the heart of Ghent, the faculty offers a dynamic student life, combining academic excellence with a vibrant city atmosphere. UGent provides an outstanding environment to develop technical skills and build an international network.





OUR LOVELY BELGIAN WEATHER

The weather in Belgium is very unpredictable, in every season. In summer it can hail and then be sunny within one day! On figure 1, you can see our temperature curves. Notice that the temperatures can be 10 °C higher or lower, even on the same day! So be prepared for various kinds of weather and bring appropriate clothing. And don't forget a raincoat, as an umbrella can't protect you when you're on a bike!

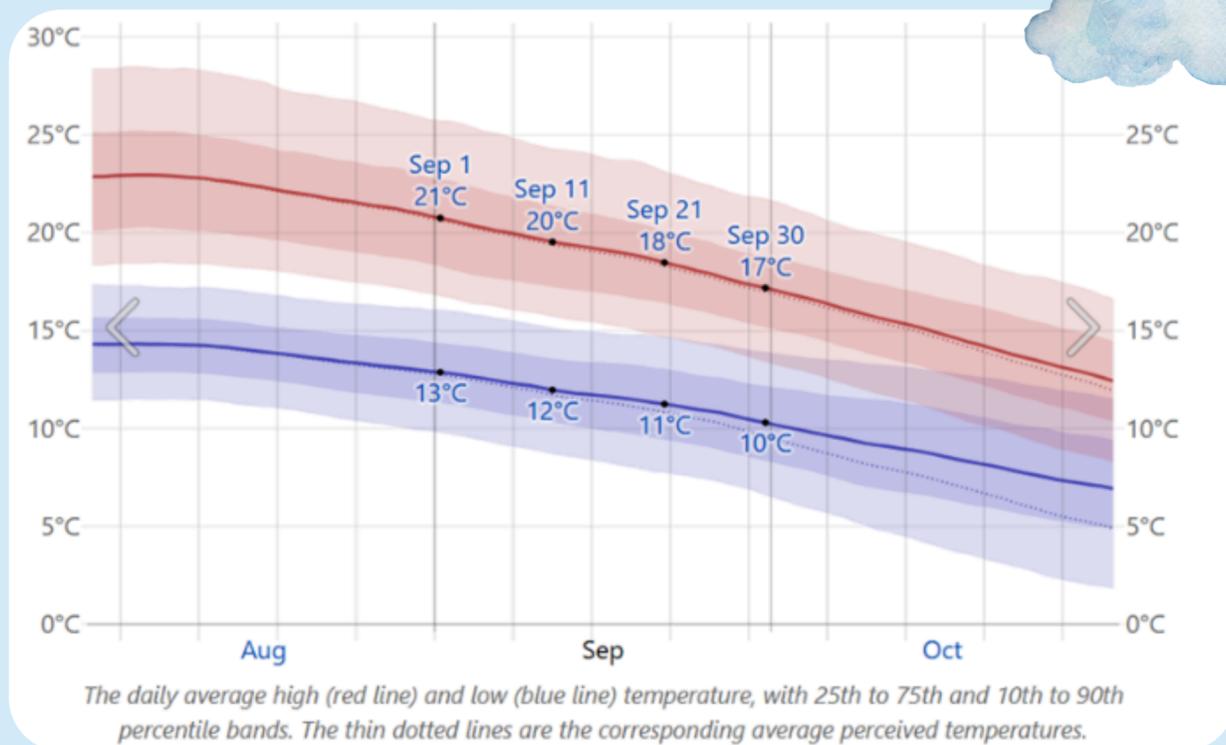


Figure 1: Average high and low temperature in September in Ghent

Just before you go to Ghent, check the weather forecast on the Internet. This can give you an indication, but you can never be sure! The middle of September is one of the heaviest cloudy periods in Belgium. There will still be a lot of mosquitoes, and some bees and wasps. Make sure to bring mosquito repellent and always be prepared to run for ya lives!





CONTACT INFORMATION

LBG GHENT

Our office

This is our office, and should be used for 'official' communication with the organisers:

Office Local BEST Group Ghent:

p/a VTK-BEST v.z.w.

J. Plateaustraet 22 B-9000 Gent Belgium

Overall contact

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THE CORE TEAM



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Food responsible

Charlotte Vandewalle

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Logistics responsible

Hannes Coulebier

hannes.coulebier@best-eu.org



OUR DEAREST KAREL



Karel is our beloved mascot. Being a participant to our course means meeting Karel, this is a really big honor. So prepare to become part of Karel's adventures and meet the BEST MASCOT EVER!

Karel's contact information:

karel.karel@best-eu.org

Instagram: [@karelsbestadventures](https://www.instagram.com/karelsbestadventures)





OUR PRETTY LANGUAGE

SOME BASICS

English	Dutch
Yes/No	Ja/Nee(n)
Hello	Hallo
Good morning/afternoon/evening	Goede morgen/middag/avond
My name is / I am...	Mijn naam is / Ik ben...
See you	Tot ziens / Salut
Please	Alstublieft (A.U.B.)
Exit / Emergency exit	Uitgang / Nooduitgang
Entry	Ingang
Toilet	Toilet / WC
Sorry / Excuse me	Excuseer
I'm sorry	Het spijt me
Sir / Madam	Meneer / Mevrouw
What time is it?	Hoe laat is het?
Where's the exit, please?	Waar is de uitgang, alstublieft?
Where's the toilet please?	Waar is het toilet, alstublieft
One beer, please	Een pint, alstublieft



A small/large packet of Belgian fries,
please

Een klein/groot pak frieten, A.U.B

How much does this cost?

Hoeveel kost dit?

I'm a strawberry. Eat me

Ik ben een aardbei. Eet me

I have to throw up

Ik moet overgeven

I don't speak Dutch

Ik spreek geen Nederlands

Cheers

Gezondheid, schol, santé, prost

I love you

Ik hou van jou

Here you go (when giving someone
something)

Alstublieft

SOME NUMBERS

1	één	11	elf	30	dertig
2	twee	12	twaalf	40	veertig
3	drie	13	dertien	50	vijftig
4	vier	14	veertien	60	zestig
5	vijf	15	vijftien	70	zeventig
6	zes	16	zestien	80	tachtig
7	zeven	17	zeventien	90	negentig
8	acht	18	achtien	100	honderd
9	negen	19	negentien	0	nul
10	tien	20	twintig		



LOCAL LANGUAGE

As in many countries, young people in Flanders don't use standard, classic Dutch. Instead we usually talk to each other in various dialects. So, here's some phrases you can use with students you meet, or that cute girl/guy at the bar.

English

Dutch

Yes/No

Ja/Nee(n)

How are you? Everything OK?

Cava (read: sava)? Alles goe?

I'm doing okay. Everything's OK.

Cava. Alles goed.

Do you want to dance?

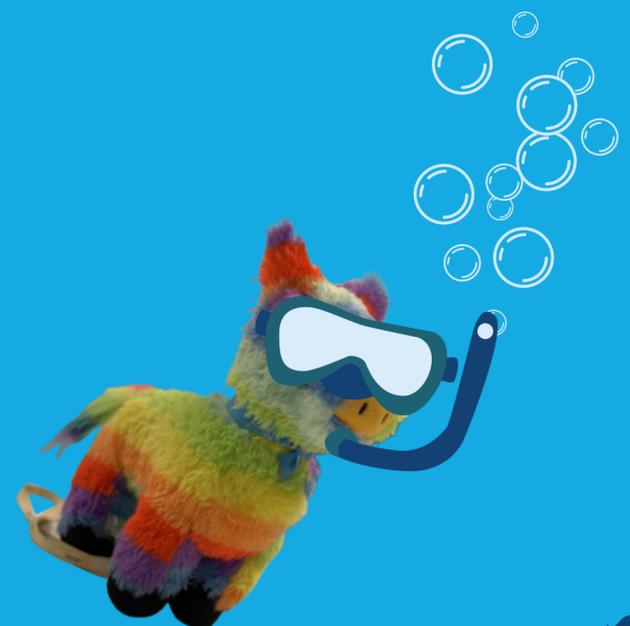
Gaan we muilen?

Hello!

Yow!

Goodbye!

Salu!





GETTING TO THE LOCATION

GETTING TO BELGIUM

Planes and airport



Important tip: the earlier you order your ticket, the cheaper you can get it.

Your rights as passenger: when flight companies cancel their flight, they often simply pay back your ticket (e.g. 40 EUR if you fly with a low-cost company). Know that the European legislation gives you the right to claim another flight to your destination without paying extra charges.

Check [here](#) for more information.

Remarks:

- Low-cost companies often fly very early in the morning or late in the evening. So, pay attention when booking your ticket that you arrive enough before the latest train leaves. More information in the datasheet.
- If you want to leave Belgium by plane, we recommend getting at the airport at least two hours in advance.



Brussels Airport (Zaventem) – BRU

More info [here](#)

That's our national airport. In that airport, 4 trains an hour leave for a 15 minute trip to Brussels, from where you can get to Ghent easily. The total travel time is about 1 hour.

There are two possibilities for leaving that airport:

- **Public transport:** you take the train that's connected to the airport directly to Ghent (be aware that there is a supplement that needs to be paid alongside the ticket).

Duration: 1 hour.

- **There is a private (and more expensive) shuttle service to Ghent, directly connected to your flight. Duration: 1 hour. Info: [here](#)**

Brussels South Charleroi Airport – CRL

More info [here](#)

Contrary to what the name of this airport tells us, this airport is not really close to Brussels.

There are two possibilities for leaving that airport:

- **Public transport:** first you take the public TEC bus to the train station Luttre, from where three trains an hour leaves for Brussels from where you can get to Ghent. Duration: 2 hours.

There is a private (and more expensive) shuttle service to Brussels, directly connected to your flight. From there you can easily get to Ghent. Duration: 1,5 hours. Info: [here](#)

Other airports in and around Belgium

Some travel agencies and low-cost companies have their flights to other airports, such as Ostend, Maastricht, Eindhoven, Liege etc. If you will arrive at one of these airports, please contact us for more information on how to get to Ghent from there.



International (fast) trains



If you use non-standard trains (night trains, ICE, Thalys, TGV, Eurostar...), you can get cheaper tickets if you order them early. If your ticket includes the journey to Ghent, then it is possible that you cannot interrupt your journey to visit Brussels, Antwerp, Lille or other cities you pass. Read the conditions of travel when you buy your ticket. If your ticket does not include the train to Ghent, we refer to the datasheets at the end of the document for the fares.

Useful to know:

- Brussels' international station: Brussel-Zuid or Bruxelles-Midi
- Brussels' central station: Brussel-Centraal or Bruxelles-Central
- Antwerp's main station: Antwerpen-Centraal or Anvers-Central
- Lille-Europe is ten minutes walking from Lille-Flandres
- Ghent's main station: Gent-Sint-Pieters or Gand-Saint-Pierre

There is no public transportation at night from those stations to Ghent and we won't be able to pick you up at the stations other than Ghent! In the datasheets at the end of the document, you can find when the last train leaves.

Coming from England

Take the Eurostar, the train that goes under the Channel, to Lille-Europe or Brussels (depending on what is the cheapest). From Brussels you can get to Ghent with a normal train. Know that before entering the Eurostar, you must pass by the customs office and the luggage check. It's better to be three quarters of an hour in advance at the check-in desk.

Info and tickets on <https://www.eurostar.com/uk-en>



Coming from the Netherlands with normal trains or Eurostar

Well, it's easy: buy a ticket to Gent-Sint-Pieters in the local railway station. For the schedules, you can surf to [here](#) or [here](#). There's also a fast train (Eurostar) from Amsterdam to Antwerpen-Centraal and/or Brussels (look what's the cheapest). Info and tickets: [here](#)

Coming from the north-east of France or Luxembourg

You can take a normal train to Ghent via Brussels. Info and tickets on <https://www.sncf-connect.com/en-en/>, <https://www.cfl.lu/en-gb> or your local railway station.

Coming from the rest of France

If you are not coming from the north-east of France, you have several options:

- Normal train to Ghent via Lille (station Lille-Flanders) and Kortrijk/Courtrai.

Info and tickets [here](#) or [here](#) (you can also find some useful information on [here](#) such as the track, delays... but to buy the ticket you will be sent to the b-europe website), or your local railway station.

- TGV to Lille-Europe or Brussels (depending on what's the cheapest). From there you can easily get to Ghent.

Info and tickets [here](#) or [here](#)

- Eurostar (mainly from Paris) to Lille-Europe, Brussels or directly to Ghent (depending on what's the cheapest). Thalys also offers the possibility to take a normal train from Brussels to any Belgian station for a few euros extra.

Info and tickets [here](#)



Coming from Germany

In Germany there is the ICE-network, with a lot of fast-speed connections. There are also some (slower) night trains in Germany. The trains are part of Die Bahn, so you can combine your ticket with the route that you travel with normal trains. The German trains to Belgium have Brussels as the final destination, from where you can easily get to Ghent with a normal train.

More info and tickets: [here](#) or in your railway station.

From Cologne (Köln) and Aachen you can also get to Brussels with the Eurostar trains.

More info and tickets [here](#)

Coaches (busses)



With Flixbus you can easily get from anywhere in Europe to Brussels (and sometimes directly to Ghent). That way of travelling is very cheap and flexible (there are many 'open return' tickets). One disadvantage: this is one of the slowest ways of transport.

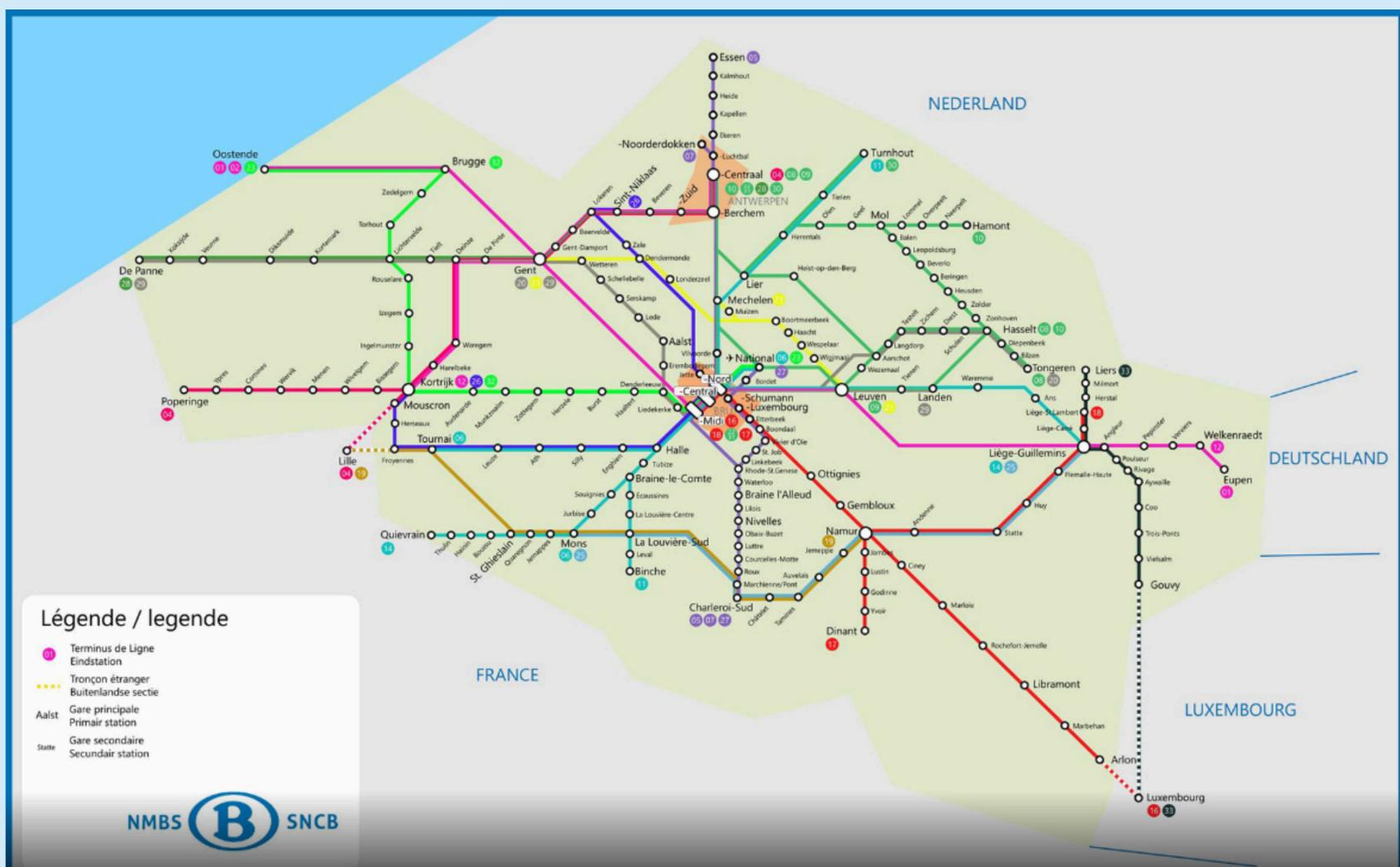
Info and tickets: [here](#)

A big advantage is the bus station is only a 15 min walk to the accommodation.



TAKING A TRAIN WITHIN BELGIUM

In Belgium we have one of the most performant railway infrastructures in the world. Our trains are fast, comfortable, and rather punctual (though a source for much amusement). Unfortunately, our trains are quite expensive and they are the only convenient way of public transport for distances over 20 km. In the figure below, you can see the main railway lines.

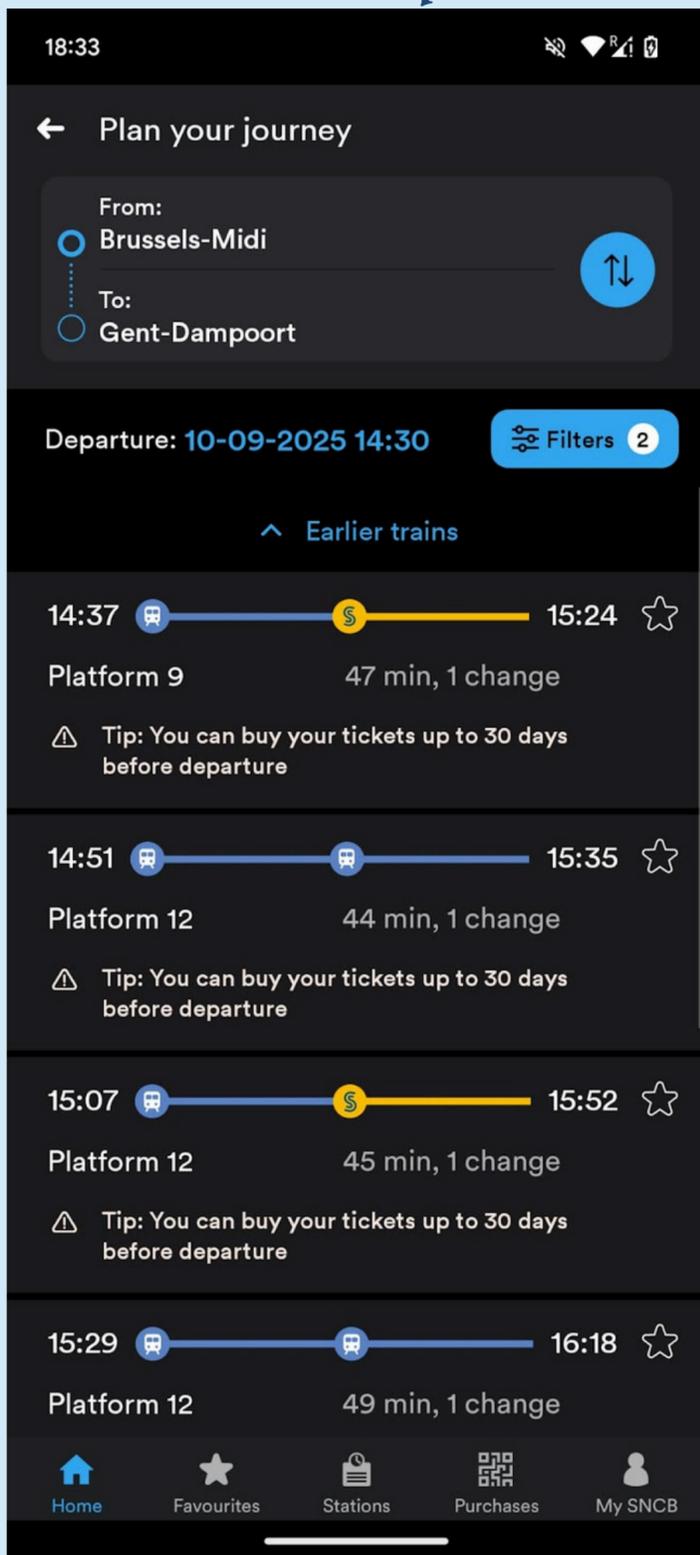


First of all, install the NMBS app. You can purchase tickets on this app, and it will give you lots of useful information about the trains (departure/arrival times, tracks, delays...).

This is the logo of the app:



Then you fill in your departure place, your arrival place and the time you want to leave and it will tell you the best way to get there. For example:



Then you can purchase a ticket. We recommend not buying this ticket too much in advance because the prices are fixed anyway. Also, most of the time when you buy a ticket, there is no fixed time, only a fixed day, which means you can take any train to your destination on the day of your ticket.

Another option is to use the [website](#)

Ghent's main station is Gent Sint Pieters (Gand Saint Pierre), but the location is closer to the second train station Gent Dampoort (Gand Dampoort).



We will stay at “De Zebra”, Baudelohof 6, 9000 Gent. You can find the link to Google Maps [here](#)

If your train to Ghent stops in Gent Dampoort, take this stop. If it goes to Gent Sint Pieters, you have different options.

- Take another train to Gent Dampoort. There are 5 trains every hour, and it takes 10 minutes to get to Gent Dampoort.
- Your train ticket will probably say “Gent zone” on it and not “Gent Dampoort” or “Gent Sint Pieters”. This means you can take a train to the other station in Ghent at no extra cost on the day of your ticket.
- Take the bus (if you want to discover all the public transportation options in Ghent :))
- If you want to do this, we recommend installing the “De Lijn” app. It is very similar to the NMBS app: you can purchase tickets (3 EUR per ticket), check for departure times etc.
- We recommend taking the bus line 70 or 71 to “Gent Dampoort”
- Walk. This takes about 45 minutes

Once you arrive at Gent Dampoort, we can pick you up or you can walk to the accommodation, which is only 15 minutes away on foot.

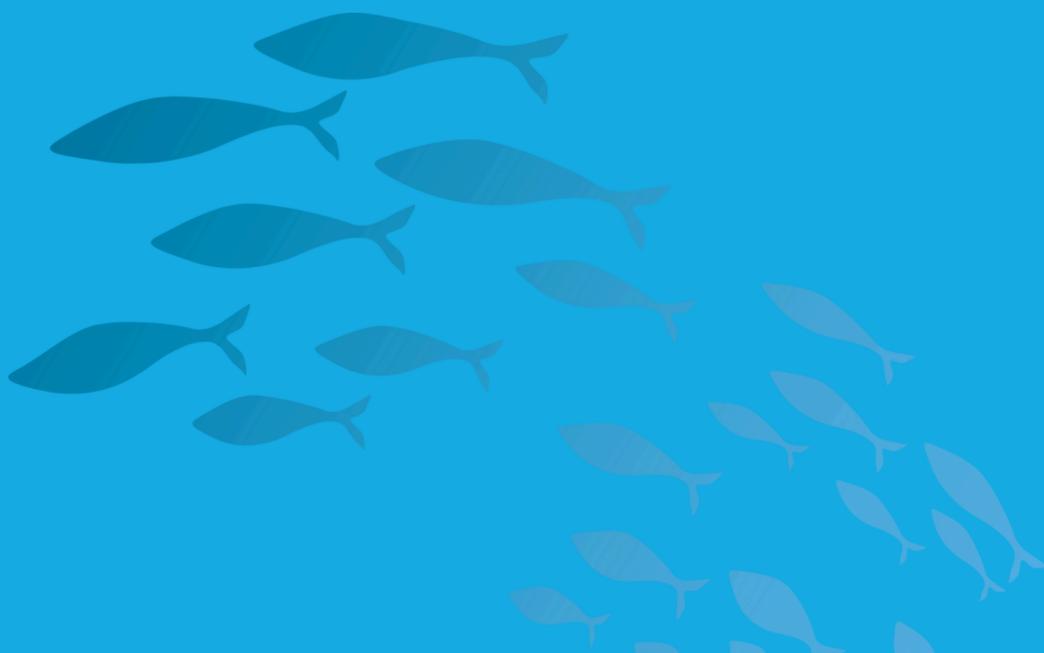




PRELIMINARY SHEDULE

	Wednesday, 10 September	Thursday, 11 September	Friday, 12 September	Saturday, 13 September	Sunday, 14 September	Monday, 15 September	Tuesday, 16 September	Wednesday, 17 September	Thursday, 18 September	Friday, 19 September
06:30		zzzzz	zzzzz			zzzzz	zzzzz	zzzzz	zzzzz	zzzzz
07:00										
07:30		Me-time	Me-time	zzzzz		Me-time	Me-time	Me-time	zzzzz	Me-time
08:00		Breakfast	Breakfast			Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	
08:30		Transportation	Transportation	Me-time	Weekend Trip	Transportation	Transportation	Transportation		
09:00				Breakfast	Breakfast				Transportation	
09:30										Breakfast
10:00		Academic activity	Academic activity	Transportation		Academic activity	Academic activity	Academic activity		
10:30		Coffee Break	Coffee Break			Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
11:00										
11:30		Academic activity	Academic activity			Academic activity	Academic activity	Academic activity		
12:00									Examination	
12:30		Lunch	Lunch			Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
13:00									Lunch	
13:30									Transportation	
14:00		Academic activity	Academic activity			Academic activity	Academic activity	Academic activity		
14:30		Coffee Break	Coffee Break			Coffee Break	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
15:00										
15:30		Academic activity	Academic activity		Weekend Trip			Academic activity		
16:00					Transportation					
16:30			Academic activity			Academic activity	Academic activity			
17:00										
17:30	Arrival :)								Cultural Activity	
18:00	Transportation								Transportation	
18:30		Cultural Activity	Cultural Activity	Weekend Trip	Cultural Activity	Cultural Activity	Cultural Activity	Cultural Activity		
19:00										
19:30	Official Opening	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	Official Closing	
19:30	Transportation								Transportation	
20:00										
20:30	Dinner								Dinner	
21:00		Me-time	Me-time							
21:30									Me-time	
22:00	Me-time									
22:30									Unofficial Closing	
23:00										
23:30	Social Activities	Social activity	Social activity	Weekend trip	Social activity	Social activity	Social activity	Social activity	Social activity	Departure :(

For updated versions go to our [website](#)





EXTRA INFORMATION

PRICES

1 beer, soft drink, water (25cl)	1.50 - 3.50 EUR
1 water from the supermarket (50cl)	0.50 - 1.00 EUR
1 special beer (café)	4.00 - 6.50 EUR
1 can of beer in a shop (50cl)	0.85- 1.40 EUR
1 small packet of french fries	2.50 - 3.00 EUR
1 bicky burger	4.00 - 6.00 EUR
1 meal in a cheap restaurant	15.00 - 16.00 EUR
1 public transport ticket (bus or tram)	3.00 EUR

ELECTRICITY

Belgium uses a voltage of 230 V at 50Hz, so if your devices run on a different voltage, don't forget to bring an adapter! Students from outside the EU should definitely check if they need one.



WHAT TO BRING

The following are some items you will need for this event:

- Medical and general travel insurance
- ID, passport and/or visa, if required (check the expiration date before you leave!)
- Pocket money
- Towels
- Mattress cover and pillow cover (!!) + sleeping bag
- Leisurewear (clothes that can get dirty always prove to be useful)
- Rain-resistant coat for the rapidly changing Belgian weather
- Personal medication (also against allergies)
- A national recipe or national food for the International Evening. Please bring any (special) ingredients and some (or many) national drinks
- Any musical instrument you can play. Eternal respect for those who bring a piano
- Ear plugs if needed. (They can prove useful at a party, for instance)
- Fancy clothes for the official opening
- Any party equipment or clothing our lovely organisers asked you to bring through mail
- Shoes for inside (slides, crocs, etc.)
- Swimwear
- Huge, tremendous, incredible sense of humor and lots of energy. Being well-rested might also help if you want to survive
- The fee! The amount of money you are paying for these 10 days of awesomeness varies according to the country you come from

Further information will be sent through mail/facebook/[website](#).

