

DESIGNED FOR
Creators of Tomorrow's World

PREPARED BY
Artevelde UAS



GUIDE FOR INTERNATIONAL STAFF

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Welcome to Artevelde UAS

Welcome to Ghent, the vibrant city voted '**Erasmus Destination of the Year**' in 2023! Here at Artevelde UAS, we're excited to welcome you to our wonderful city.

To make your stay as smooth as possible, we've prepared this **comprehensive guide** to provide you with **practical information**. Whether you need tips on finding the perfect accommodation, on finding the best shopping spots, or on navigating public transportation, this guide has got you covered!

Artevelde UAS fosters an **inclusive community** and welcomes all races, religions, countries of origin, sexual orientations, genders, bodies, abilities and ages. Should you face any barriers or challenges, especially concerning disabilities, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to welcoming you to Ghent and being a part of your exciting journey. **Get ready for an unforgettable experience** in one of the most vibrant cities in the world! If you have any questions or need further assistance, feel free to reach out to us. Together, we will tackle any challenges that come our way.

Welcome to Artevelde AUS!



Learn some Flemish (Dutch)

Hello!	Hallo! / Dag!
Good morning!	Goedemorgen!
Good afternoon!	Goedemiddag!
Good evening!	Goedenavond!
Bye!	Dag! / Salut!
How are you?	Hoe gaat het (met jou)?
Have a good day!	Fijne dag!
Enjoy your meal!	Smakelijk!
Enjoy!	Geniet ervan!
Cheers!	Gezondheid! / Santé! / Schol!
Please	Alsjeblieft
One beer, please	Een pintje, alstublieft
One Cola, please	Een cola, alstublieft
Thank you (very much)!	Dank u wel! / Bedankt! / Merci!
No problem	Geen probleem
You are welcome	Graag gedaan

If you want to try to learn some more Dutch independently, you can try language apps like Duolingo, Babbel, Rosetta Stone, Busuu, ...

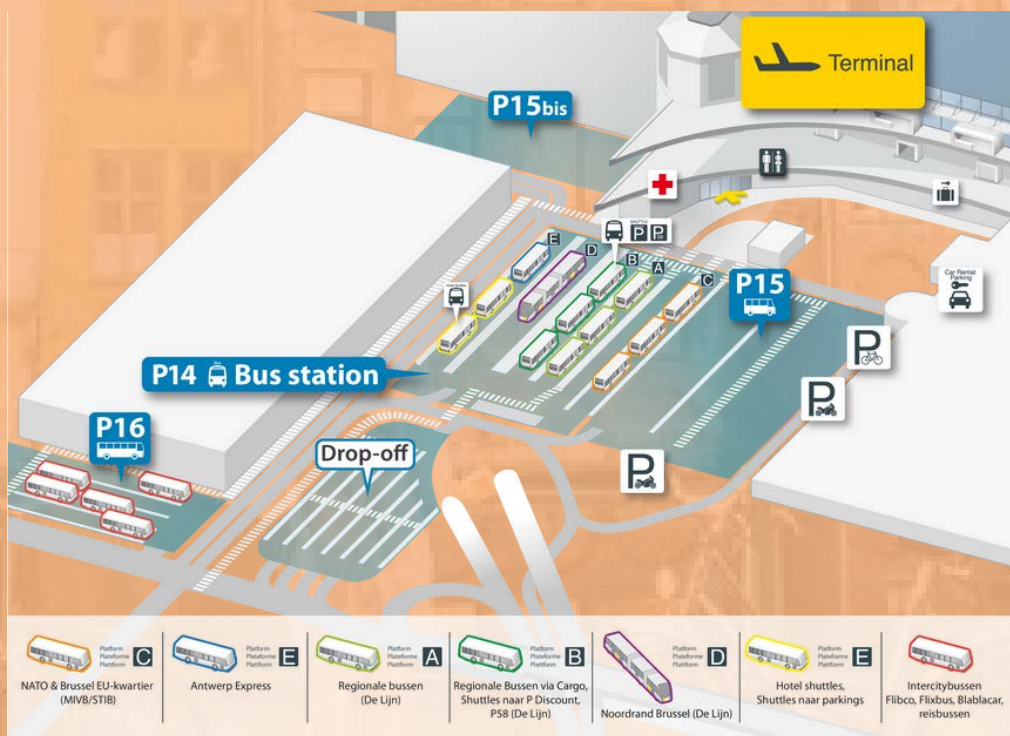
Values, norms, and culture

- 1. Multiculturalism:** Belgium is a diverse country with three official languages: **Dutch, French, and German**. It is not uncommon to hear multiple languages spoken in a single conversation, especially in the capital city of Brussels. Belgians are proud of their cultural diversity and often celebrate it through festivals and events.
- 2. Punctuality:** Belgians place a **high value** on **punctuality** and expect others to do the same. If you are running late for an appointment or meeting, it is considered polite to notify the other party ahead of time.
- 3. Tipping:** Tipping in Belgium is not as common or expected as it is in some other countries. If you receive good service in a restaurant, it is typical to round up the bill or leave a **small amount** as a **gesture of appreciation**.
- 4. Directness:** Belgians generally prefer **clear** and **factual communication**. The use of **humour** and **sarcasm** is also a characteristic feature of Belgian communication. Belgians prefer to express themselves rather directly yet politely and modestly.
- 5. Respect for privacy:** Belgians value their **privacy**, and it is considered impolite to pry into others' personal lives or ask intrusive questions. It is also common for people to keep their **professional** and **personal lives separate**.
- 6. Personal space:** Flemish people value their **personal space** and tend to stand at a **comfortable distance** from others when **talking**. Touching or hugging someone you do not know well is generally not considered appropriate.
- 7. Equality:** Belgians place a high value on **equality** and **fairness**. Discrimination based on gender, race, or sexual orientation is not tolerated. The country has made significant progress in recent years in promoting **LGBTQIA+ rights** and combatting discrimination.
- 8. Social etiquette:** Belgians place a high value on **social etiquette** and **proper manners**. It is important to greet others with a polite 'hello' or 'good morning', and to say 'please' and 'thank you' when making requests. Interrupting others or speaking too loudly is generally considered impolite.

BRUSSELS AIRPORT

Brussels Airport is the national airport of Belgium and is located in Zaventem. The airport has a train station called **Brussels National Airport**, with a **direct train** to Ghent **every hour**. The station is underneath the airport and can be accessed via **escalators** in the **arrival hall**.

Several car rental companies also operate from Brussels Airport.



How to get here: From Brussels Airport (Zaventem)



By Train:



Travelling by train from **Brussels Airport** to **Gent-Sint-Pieters railway station** takes approximately **1 hour** and costs **€ 13.40** for a one-way youth ticket (26 and under) and **€ 17.80** for a standard adult ticket (26-59 years old).

You can buy tickets at the train station or via the following link: [SNCB official website](#)

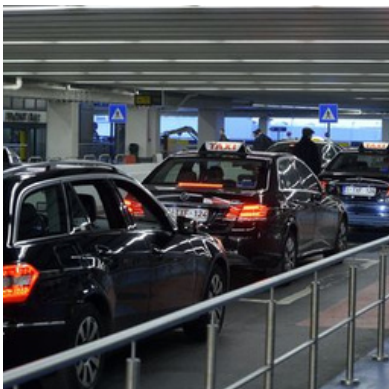
By Bus:



Another way to reach Ghent is by bus, which takes approximately **55 minutes** and will cost around **€ 9** for a one-way ticket.

Purchase tickets online through [Flibco](#), [Flixbus](#), or any other transportation company.

By Taxi:



Brussels Airport to Ghent city centre is roughly **40-50 min** by taxi. Costs vary depending on the time of the day. We recommend you budget at least **€ 100** for this. Cars are lined up outside the airport at the allocated taxi rank. Multiple firms operate from this area; if you have booked a taxi beforehand, check with the drivers for your reservation.

Alternative options:

[Brussels Airport Transfers & Transportation | BRU | Uber](#)
[How to book transfers and get the best offers | GetTransfer.com](#)

How to get here: From Brussels South Charleroi Airport



By Train:



It takes an average of **2 hours** to travel from Brussels South Airport to Ghent by train. Train fare starts from **€ 18.00** for a one-way ticket.

For more information about times and ticket prices, you can use [Trainline.com](https://www.trainline.com)

By Bus:



The only buses you can take to get from Brussels South Charleroi Airport to Ghent, are [Flibco](https://www.flibco.be) buses, which take **1 hour and 20 minutes**.

The cost starts from **€ 13.00** for a one-way ticket.

By Taxi:



There is also the option of taking a taxi.

For more information on this service or to make a reservation, click this link:

<https://airport-driver.be/home>

Alternative options:

[Airport Transfers & Transportation](#) | [CRL](#) | [Uber](#)
[How to book transfers and get the best offers](#) | [GetTransfer.com](#)

Accommodation



Historic Hotels Ghent are enthusiastic to accommodate international visitors coming to Artevelde UAS.

The hotels are privately owned small hotels of great quality in the center of Ghent and at walking distance of the staff training location.

Each hotel is housed in one or more of Ghent's historic buildings, dating back variously to as far as 1518. Artevelde UAS has good contacts with the hotels, but each participant is responsible for booking on time and following the procedure.



When making the booking via mail please mention the discount code 'ARTHS 24' to benefit the corporate rates.

If you're looking for a **hostel** for your stay, these four hostels come highly recommended and are decently priced:

- [Hostel Uppelink](#)
- [Hostel De Draecke](#)
- [Treck Hostel](#)
- [KaBa Hostel](#)

They each have their own unique character, but location will also be important, so make sure to check where they are situated in Ghent. Make sure you make the booking soon since you will get the best price, best choice and guaranteed availability when you make the booking during the summer months.



These hotels and hostels only serve as recommendations. You are free to book somewhere else, in which case you can visit www.booking.com or www.bedandbreakfast-gent.be to see other options.

Financial Information

CURRENCY

The currency that we use in Belgium is the **EURO**. It is important to note that most Europeans use a comma instead of a decimal point when separating the cents from the Euro.

For example, if something is three hundred euros and ten cents, it will look like this: **300,10**. However, if it is three thousand euros, the comma is dropped with a space instead to determine the amount: **3 000,10**.

On the following webpage, you can find an overview of the exchange rates: [Exchange Rate \(xe.com\)](https://www.xe.com).

Be aware that these rates can change hourly.





SHOPPING IN GHENT

City centre

Veldstraat is the biggest shopping street in Ghent. You will find well-known stores there, like H&M, ZARA, Stradivarius, Pull & Bear.

Langemunt is the second most prominent street with other known brands such as Primark, Lush, and Holland & Barrett.

Shopping centre Gent Zuid

In Belgium, enormous shopping malls are uncommon. However, Shopping Centre Gent Zuid is an alternative to the traditional high street. There, you can find all kinds of stores, ranging from clothing to shoe shops, supermarkets, coffee shops, and bakeries.

Prefer smaller local stores? Then check out Brabantdam, all streets from Sint-Pietersnieuwstraat to Koestraat, Mageleinstraat, Donkersteeg and Serpentstraat.

(GHENT) SPECIALTIES

In Ghent, you can enjoy some of our greatest **Belgian staples**, such as fries, beer, waffles and chocolates!

Looking for local specialties? Try your hand at Ganda Ham, Tierenteyn mustard, kroakemandels, cuberdons or snowballs!

You can find out more about our local specialties and where to buy them on [VisitGent!](#)

Supermarkets

Ghent has a lot to offer when it comes to grocery shopping. It may take you some time to find your favourite place. If you do not want to spend too much on food, you can opt for house brands whenever possible in supermarkets.

We have provided a list of places to start:

- **Colruyt €**
- **ALDI €**
- **Albert Heijn €**
- **Lidl €€**
- **Delhaize €€€**
- **Carrefour Market or Carrefour Express €€€**

To give an estimation of grocery expenses, an average weekly budget for groceries here is between **€ 65** and **€ 100** depending on what you like to eat, your dietary requirements, and what stores you shop at.

For an estimation of food costs, the site <https://livingcost.org/cost/belgium/ghent> is considered a reliable source.

Restaurants

If you're looking for a great restaurant, Oudburg is a good place to start your search!

This charming street features a great number of restaurants and offers a wide variety of cuisines.

Enjoy your meal, *smakelijk!*



Transportation

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Buses and trams frequently run through the city.

Ticket prices for 2023 are:

- **Single ticket** – € 2.5
- **Day ticket** – € 7.5
- **10-journey ticket** – € 17.00
- **50-journey ticket** – € 75.00
- **Travel Passes (Monthly):** from € 33 to € 59

To purchase tickets or passes, or for more information, click the link: [Travel passes - De Lijn](#).

You can also download the [De Lijn app](#) on your phone. It is available for both iPhone and Android.

BICYCLE

Cycling is a common way to get around in Ghent.

It is **environmentally friendly** and the healthiest and, believe it or not, fastest way to get around. Below, you can find the most affordable prices for bike rentals based on your needs.

De Fietsambassade Gent: long-term rentals (3-12 months). Additional costs: deposit of € 80 EUR. Theft insurance is € 10 (highly recommended!)

Swapfiets: looking to buy or rent a bike in Ghent? Swapfiets offers unisex Dutch-style bikes or electric bikes.

Blue-bike: short-term rentals (daily); cost per blue-bike: €3.50 for the first 24 hours.

Donkey Republic: bike rental prices that get cheaper every hour you use it. The first 30 mins are free of charge.



The Weather in Belgium

The chart below shows the **average temperatures** in Belgium throughout the year.

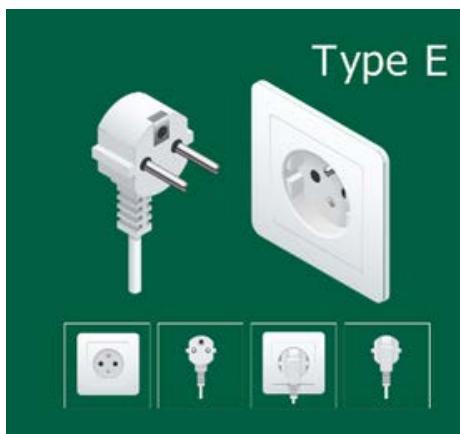
But, of course, these are approximate numbers and are **subject to change**. Some good advice: be prepared for **unpredictable weather conditions**.

[Check the current weather forecast](#)

Month	Day	Night
September	19°C	11°C
October	15°C	8°C
November	10°C	6°C
December	7°C	5°C
January	5°C	0°C
February	2°C	-2°C
March	8°C	3°C
April	13°C	5°C
May	16°C	9°C
June	19°C	11°C
July	23°C	15°C
August	24°C	16°C

Electricity

In Belgium, **plug** and **socket types C** and **E** are the official standards. The voltage may differ from your home country, so it is best to check before bringing appliances.



If you need to buy an adapter or charging device when you arrive, **Hema** in downtown Ghent supplies a range of homeware and necessities. Or you can go to **FNAC**.



Insurance

Please ensure that you are properly insured for all medical expenses and emergencies.

A regular travel insurance should suffice for a short stay visit.

Visitors travelling to Belgium by Visa will need to provide proof of medical travel insurance for their Visa application.

valid medical travel insurance that covers any expenses for repatriation for medical reasons, urgent medical care and/or emergency hospital treatment or due to death during your stay in the Schengen Area. This insurance must be purchased in the country where you reside.

Emergency Services

General number: **112 – Ambulance/Fire Department/Police**

You can also download the [APP \(112.be\)](#) used for various emergencies. Based on your ID card and phone's location, the emergency services will know where you are, any previous conditions you might have, and your current medication.

More information: [Emergency services](#) | [Visit Gent](#)