

The 5 best places for LATE NIGHT FOOD

66 MARTINO

Vlaanderenstraat 125
Central Ghent ①
+32 (0)9 225 01 04
martino.business.site

Students are deeply fond of this late-night snack bar where you can pick up a steak and frites or an omelette with a glass of wine when everywhere else is closed. The interior was recently redecorated in a sober modern style, but the big photographs on the wall show how it used to look. An authentic Ghent institution open from 6 pm until 1 am.

67 MANTIS

Oudburg 15
Patershol ②

Mantis is a lively local bar where you can drop in to discover unique beers from small local breweries. The kitchen stays open until midnight offering simple comfort food. It could be beetroot soup, or a fish stew, or maybe a hamburger. Nothing too complicated.

68 AU BOEUF QUI RIT

Steendam 13
St-Jacobs Quarter ③
+32 (0)9 233 72 27

Marianne runs a simple French-style bistro crammed with old family photographs, mirrors and umbrellas. Edith Piaf plays in the background as the owner cooks steaks and lamb chops on a wood fire. She serves them with plain baked potatoes and a salad. It's not sophisticated cooking, yet still you might fall in love with the relaxed French charm. Open until 2 am.





65 PLACES FOR A DRINK

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The 5 best INDEPENDENT BOOKSHOPS

171 PAARD VAN TROJE

Kouter 113
Central Ghent ①
+32 (0)9 330 08 83
paardvantroje.be

Forget online. This fiercely independent 'offline bookstore' is one of the best addresses in Belgium for book lovers. The selection of titles in Dutch and English ranges across all genres from global bestsellers to unusual books from obscure publishers. The shop is staffed by a friendly and knowledgeable team who can steer you in the direction of a neglected Dutch classic or an eccentric graphic novel.



171 PAARD VAN TROJE

172 LIMERICK

Koningin Elisabethlaan 142
Station Quarter ⑤
+32 (0)9 222 17 57
limerick.be

Located near the main station, independent bookstore Limerick is an inspiring place to browse while waiting for a train. It stocks a serious and sometimes offbeat selection of Dutch and international literature in a warm literary atmosphere. There is also an unexpected little museum in a back room displaying Dutch novelist Willem Frederik Hermans' collection of 160 antique typewriters.



173 WALRY



174 COPYRIGHT

The 5 places most loved by **FASHIONISTAS**

221 **PAND 13**

Henegouwenstraat 13
Central Ghent ①
+32 (0)9 233 47 00
pand13.be

Ghent's fashionistas find cool garments in this beautiful old-fashioned store. It occupies two handsome buildings on one of the smartest streets in town. Here you find youthful and romantic clothes by labels like Paule Ka and See by Chloé.



223 **MIEKE**

222 **HET OORCUSSEN**

Vrijdagmarkt 7
St-Jacobs Quarter ③
+32 (0)9 233 07 65
oorcussen.be

This small and elegant store is hidden away among the restaurants and cafe terraces on Vrijdagmarkt. Yet the narrow 17th-century building is a fashionista's dream. The owner Caroline Naudts stocks Antwerp designers like Dries Van Noten, Ann Demeulemeester and A.F. Vandevorst, along with casual chic clothes by French label Isabel Marant.

223 **MIEKE**

Burgstraat 87
Central Ghent ①
+32 (0)9 330 65 10
mieke.tv

Mieke De Winter spends her time tracking down limited edition and sustainable clothes by emerging designers like Dear Creatures and Nancy Dee. She stocks fashionable fair trade clothes that fit women of all sizes.

224 **JUST HAZEL** **FEELGOODSTORE**

Burgstraat 14
Central Ghent ①
+32 (0)456 41 39 91
justhazel.be

Three Ghent friends got together in 2017 to launch a boutique that stocks cool fashion by small ethical and eco-aware brands. They sell affordable clothes and accessories by companies like Givn, Wearable Stories and Living Crafts.

225 **JULIA JUNE**

Brabanddam 8
Central Ghent ①
+32 (0)9 233 21 97
juliajune.com

Locals remember when this store was a bakery where they picked up pastries on a Sunday morning. It's now occupied by a small fashion brand run by a Belgian couple. They like to create clothes that are romantic and a little wild. But not too wild. Just right for biking around town, or wrapping up warmly for a winter ramble.



30 BUILDINGS TO ADMIRE

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The 5 most mysterious places in the CITADELPARK

326 CITADEL GATE

Gustaaf
Den Duytsdreef
Citadelpark ⑤

The Citadelpark stands on the site of a massive fortress built by the British after the Battle of Waterloo. The fortifications were torn down in 1898 to create a romantic park, leaving just one surviving gate with the British army motto *Nemo me impune lacessit*.

327 OPEN-AIR THEATRE

Théodore
Canneelpad
Citadelpark ⑤

Only a few people in Ghent know about the open-air theatre built in the Citadelpark in 1945. Designed to seat 1340 spectators, it now lies abandoned and forgotten among the trees.

328 AIR-RAID SHELTER

Théodore
Canneelpad
Citadelpark ⑤

Several derelict concrete ventilation shafts can be spotted in the trees above the Swiss Valley, next to a white building. They form part of a vast underground military bunker built in 1938. Used as an air-raid shelter in the Second World War, it was converted into a military command post during the Cold War, but is now used by the city parks department simply to store their gardening tools.

329 BANDSTAND

Norbert
Rousseaudreef
Citadelpark ⑤

An elegant wrought iron bandstand was built in 1885 by the city architect Charles Van Rysselberghe. A relaxed jazz festival is held here in the summer.

330 MYSTERIOUS GROTTO

Norbert
Rousseaudreef
Citadelpark ⑤

The city embarked on a bizarre project in the 19th century to create an artificial mountain landscape on the site of the demolished fortress. The concrete rock formations incorporate a large grotto and a dramatic rocky route known as the Swiss Valley where mysterious doors are cut into the rocks.



The 5 best places to find STREET ART BY ROA

361 THE STORK

Hagelandkaai 39
Dampoort Quarter ⑥

The mysterious street artist ROA has painted beautiful works featuring wild animals in London, New York and Paris. But he started out in his home town of Ghent, where several works have survived. One of the most spectacular is a stork on the side wall of a student house near Dampoort station. The bird is painted with one leg raised so that it looks as if it is stepping over a street sign.



364 FOUR RABBITS

362 THE RAVEN

Ketelvest 73
Central Ghent ①

Stand on the bridge over the Ketelvaart canal and you will spot a black raven painted by ROA on a blank wall behind Panos bakery. Here, as always, the artist obtained permission from the building's owner before he started to paint the wall.

363 THE RABBIT

Oude Houtlei
Central Ghent ①

The anonymous Ghent street artist ROA returned to the city in 2020 to produce a new work for the Van Eyck year. Inspired by the sacrificial lamb in the Ghent Altarpiece, he created an enormous drawing of a hanging rabbit on a wall of the Sint-Lucas art academy.

364 FOUR RABBITS

Tempelhof 28
Patershol ②

ROA is fond of locations in quiet side streets where no one ever goes. In one hidden corner of Ghent, he has painted four sleeping rabbits on a blank white wall. In London, he painted a huge rabbit on the wall of a recording studio in Hackney. The local council tried to paint it over, but a Facebook campaign saved the work.

365 THE SLEEPING BUFFALO

Kapelaanstraat
Dampoort Quarter ⑥

'Ghent is a mellow city where pretty much everything is possible,' ROA once said in an interview. His sleeping animals seem to embody this mellow mood perfectly. This slumbering buffalo is painted on a blank wall belonging to a Turkish wholesale food store in a quiet street near the Sint-Baafs Abbey.

The 5 best SMALL CINEMAS

436 STUDIO SKOOP

Sint-Annaplein 63
Central Ghent ①
+32 (0)9 225 08 45
studioskoop.be

This inspiring filmhouse has been screening movies in five small rooms since 1970. It is located in a handsome building originally occupied by the union of veterans of the First World War and used during the Second World War as a brothel for German officers. The programme mainly features thoughtful alternative films.

437 SPHINX

Sint-Michielselling 3
Central Ghent ①
+32 (0)9 225 60 86
sphinx-cinema.be

They started screening films in this cinema next to the Sint-Michielsbrug in 1912. Sphinx now has five rooms where they show a varied programme of hit movies and award-winning films from international festivals. We love the small screening room on the top floor (Sphinx 4) which has just 45 seats.

438 KASK

Godshuizenlaan 4
Bijloke Quarter ④
+32 (0)9 243 36 76
kaskcinema.be

This small art cinema located within the old Bijloke hospital is run by the School of Arts. The audience is mainly made up of students from the film course, who come here to watch experimental movies that are not screened anywhere else.

439 CINE PALACE

Minnemeers 9
St-Jacobs Quarter ③
+32 (0)9 269 42 00
industriemuseum.be

You really would not expect to find an old art deco cinema on the fourth floor of a museum of industrial archaeology. But there it is. The interior has been lovingly recreated, right down to the bare wood floor, red velvet seats and antique neon sign giving the ticket price as four francs. The cinema occasionally screens classic arthouse films on old projectors.

440 OFFOFF

Begijnhof ter Hoye
Lange Violette-
straat 237
University Quarter ④
+32 (0)9 335 31 83
offoff.be

This tiny non-profit art cinema is located in one of the old Begijnhof houses. It describes itself as a 'screening and research platform for experimental film.' They show obscure old films that have vanished without trace along with new productions by directors who are pushing the boundaries of cinema.



439 CINE PALACE