

2010

MECHELEN
NOW

MECHELEN





HOW TO GET TO MECHELEN?

Centrally **located in Flanders**, Mechelen is closer than you think and **easy to get to**.

Halfway between Antwerp and Brussels, the **E19** takes you directly into the city. You can park your car in one of the free car parks on the edge of downtown and stroll right into the historic city centre.

Coming from the Netherlands, drive right by Antwerp and you'll be in Mechelen before you know it. It's a quick run from Germany via Liège, and from France, the motorway takes you past Brussels right to Mechelen.

By plane or train?

By train from Brussels, you are only half an hour from the heart of the city. There are fast connections from other cities, too. The Mechelen stations are walking distance from the city centre.

More information about train schedules is available at www.nmbs.be.



25 kilometres from Antwerp
about 25 minutes
25 kilometres from Brussels
about 25 minutes
25 kilometres from Louvain
about 35 minutes
75 kilometres from Ghent
about 50 minutes
110 kilometres from Liège
approximately 1 hour and 10 minutes

Halfway between Antwerp and Brussels, hidden in the heart of Flanders, lies a **classic pearl along the Dijle River**.

Between the hustle and bustle of the big cities, Mechelen allows you to sample its rich history. With its **lovely historical city centre**, Mechelen is a **unique location** which always has something to experience, for young and old.

Go exploring and be surprised by the no fewer than **four listings** on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.

MECHELEN: SURPRISING - HEARTWARMING - DYNAMIC



Mechelen offers you a **combination of rural rest and the exciting life in the city**. Enjoy a unique experience on the **Sint-Rombout Tower skywalk**. Stick your head in the clouds and tower high above the bustling Grote Markt. Or rent a bicycle and take in the rest and the charm of the Vegetable Area around Sint-Katelijne-Waver, where you can relax amidst **protected landscapes** and monuments.

Shopping, strolling in Margareta of Austria's back garden, staying overnight in a church or an old fish-smokers, taking a break at one of the countless public squares, and **sampling a delicious local recipe**. All within strolling distance in the pleasant city centre. That is the beauty of Mechelen.

Mechelen guarantees you a sunny disposition and a brilliant vacation!

Would you also like to surprise yourself?

Start your holiday at www.tourismmechelen.be.



SINT-ROMBOUT TOWER

Explore one of **the loveliest monuments in Flanders**. The tower guardsman will take you, with the help of a multimedia guide, through the tower's rooms until you reach the skywalk. Stick your head in the clouds and see everything from a bird's-eye view down into radiant Grote Markt. Unequaled in Europe!

INTERESTING SITES

CITY HALL AND GROTE MARKT

Try not to let your jaw hit the sidewalk in amazement as you gaze upon the **classical buildings** around the Grote Markt. Admire the beautiful City Hall and feel the wind of history that blows through the city. The Clothmakers' Hall with its **unfinished Belfry** is on the UNESCO World Heritage Site list.



THE PALACES OF MARGARETA OF AUSTRIA AND MARGARETA OF YORK

Mechelen, a city in women's hands! Margareta of York and Margareta of Austria made Mechelen the capital city of the Burgundian Netherlands. Allow yourself to be transported by **the beauty and majesty of the 16th century palace** of Margareta of Austria, one of the first Renaissance buildings in the Netherlands.

LARGE BEGUINAGE AND SMALL BEGUINAGE

Take a stroll along the **restful, picturesque lanes** of the beguinages and imagine yourself back in the 16th century. **The Large Beguinage** has been proclaimed a **World Heritage Site** by UNESCO. It is a virtual oasis of rest in the lively city centre. God the Father watches over the brewery only metres away from the renovated gable of the Beguinage Church.



SINT-JAN'S CHURCH

The church may not look like much to see from the outside, but inside it will amaze you! The parish of Sint-Jan was once the parish of the rich members of the Great Council, the highest court of the Burgundian territories. That is reflected in the lovely interior with **fine wood carving** and **one of the masterpieces of Peter Paul Rubens**, 'The Adoration of the Magi'.

DE WIT ROYAL WALLCOVERINGS MANUFACTURER

De Wit Royal Manufacturer restores valuable wall tapestries from around the world. The most renowned museums and castles have their most prized pieces cleaned and revitalized here. In its own right, the Manufacturer also has **one of the most prestigious private collections in the world**.



THE JEF DENYN ROYAL CARILLON SCHOOL

The first carillon school in the world was founded in Mechelen at the beginning of the 20th century. Today it is housed in a lovely rococo house. Students from around the world learn to play the largest of musical instruments here.

THE EIGHT HISTORIC CHURCHES

The cathedral and 7 other historical churches in the city centre are **certainly worth a visit**. There is a reception counter in each church where you can get information about the church and its treasures. With the KijkKerk ('SeeChurch') project, children can enjoy themselves tremendously. Searching games, building a Gothic arch, developing a church window...it's all possible!





ALDERMEN'S HOUSE (SCHEPENHUIS)

What did the people of Mechelen think about the blossoming of their city in the 15th and 16th centuries? What are enclosed courtyards? And what were the Mechelen dolls used for? In the oldest city hall of Flanders, you will encounter **witnesses from Mechelen's golden age**.

THE COURTYARD OF BUSLEYDEN

The former residence of the important humanist Hieronymus of Busleyden has a great deal of Renaissance influences. Today it is a **city museum with a rich collection**. The real Op-Sinjoorke 'lives' here. You can learn about **Mechelen crafts** (gold leather, lace, furniture) and discover the work of Rik Wouters, Lucas Faydherbe, Hans Bol and others.



TOY MUSEUM

The Toy Museum is not only for the children. Nostalgic childhood memories are recalled to mind and the inner child awakens in adults of all ages. The Toy Museum boasts a **unique collection of toys and interactive games**. The theme exhibitions are always surprising.

TECHNOPOLIS

Do you love **adventure and science**? Are you not afraid to ride a bicycle high in the air on a cable? You will have an **unforgettable time** in Technopolis, the interactive centre for visitors of all ages.

PLANCKENDAEL ZOO

Planckendael is much more than just a zoo on 40 hectares of land. Of course, you can see **fascinating, familiar or exotic animals** who feel most at home in their own spacious continents. But in Planckendael, the most important thing is that you are going on an adventure, with hanging bridges, over the tops of trees, over water... it's all waiting to be explored!



TIP

Take the boat instead of the car. That's the best way to go to the zoo!

GUIDED WALKING TOURS (SCHEDULED TIMES)

HISTORICAL WALK: THREE BURGUNDIAN GENERATIONS

The classic historical walking tour with the most important sites: city hall, the former palaces of Margareta of Austria and Margareta of York, **the Courtyard of Busleyden**, the Royal Carillon School, Sint-Rombout Cathedral.



MEANDERING THROUGH MECHELEN

GUIDE WALKING TOURS (BY RESERVATION)

OUT AND ABOUT WITH CHARLES: A WALKING AND BEER GUIDE THROUGH MECHELEN

Explore Mechelen with a personal guide and discover its precious gold! An experienced guide takes you on a tour through the historic city centre. **Not only will you become familiar with the city, but also with its beers**. During the tour, you will make three stops in a typical Mechelen pub where you can sample a delicious Mechelen beer. The route varies depending on the pubs that participate. Highly recommended!

ON YOUR OWN

STREETWISE IN MECHELEN

The city guide, which is also available in English, is published by the Mechelen Tourism Office and contains information about the history of the city.

Walking tours have been laid out with detailed descriptions, tips for sightseeing, shopping, relaxation, dining and night life and a great deal of practical information on subjects ranging from car rentals to Sunday Mass.

CREATE YOUR OWN TOUR

A guide will make your voyage of discovery through the city extra exciting. The Mechelen guides are walking encyclopaedias of facts and legends. You can schedule your guided tour for the day and time that suits your programme. Reservations should be made no later than 3 weeks before your visit.



CHURCH TOUR

A walking guide that takes you to Mechelen's **8 historic churches**. Discover the rich history of the Mechelen churches and allow yourself to be amazed by their treasure trove of masterpieces. The info guide will help you on your way.

BOAT TRIP ON THE INNER DYLE

Discover Mechelen from **its lifeline, the River Dyle!** The multilingual audio-guide tells you more about the sights along the river banks, and throws in nuggets of information and anecdotes about the history of Mechelen.

**STAY OVERNIGHT IN MECHELEN AND DISCOVER FLANDERS**

Flanders is home to **5 amazing cities** where you can experience everything that makes this region so unique. Those cities are known collectively as **the Flemish Art Cities**.

Be charmed by **historic city centres**, be amazed by the pomp and circumstance of a wide range of monuments and discover the **Burgundian lifestyle**, where enjoyment is all. Each city is just a little bit more: **a true journey of discovery awaits you!**

Are you considering a visit to the Flemish Art Cities? Then you should certainly consider **using Mechelen as your hub**. Not only will you find a wide selection of accommodation to choose from - from picturesque B&Bs to your familiar hotel chain - but, perhaps more important - a city with an ideal central location in Flanders. And with the perfect connections to public transport options, you can be in the other Art Cities before you know it.

▶ **MECHELEN**
 LEUVEN
 ANTWERPEN
 GENT
 BRUGGE

If the city gets too busy for you and you need a change (which is as good as a rest, after all), you will find a **lovely green belt** surrounding Mechelen, with Sint-Katelijne-Waver as the main attraction.

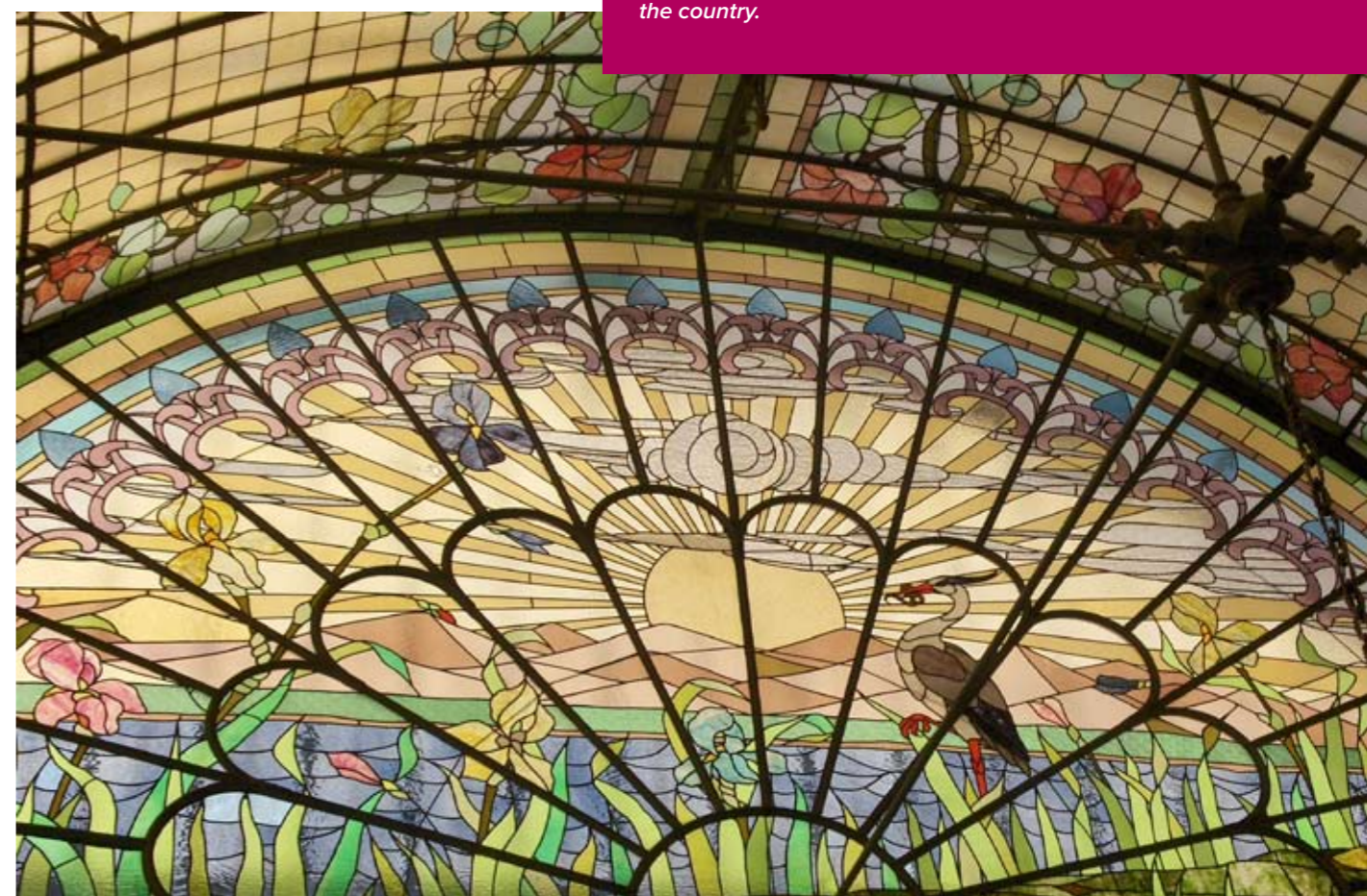
Take your bicycle and **explore the vegetable region along green fields and small paths**. Ride next to castles, parks, farms, churches, chapels and war heritage sites.

AROUND MECHELEN: SINT-KATELIJNE-WAVER

The **horticultural activities** provide a surprising touristic turn to a town. You can take a look at the Mechelen Auctions, the Vegetable Growers Tasting Station, and the vegetable museum 't Grom.

**TIP**

An absolute must is a visit to the dazzling Winter Garden in the Ursuline convent. It's the perfect end to a relaxing day in the country.



The people of Flanders love eating and drinking, and the people of Mechelen are no exception. They do it with abandon and often, and can tell you about it in mouth-watering detail.



GASTRONOMIC MECHELEN

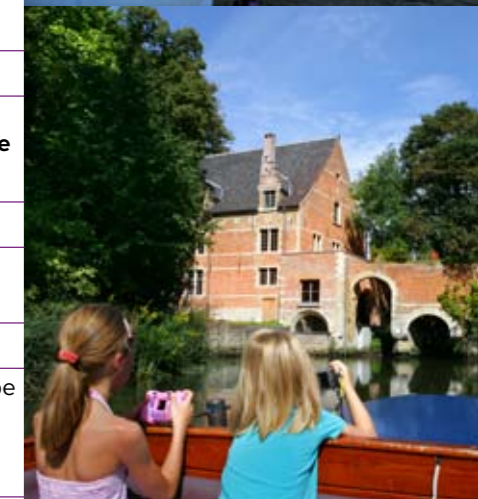
In the city centre, within a stone's throw from each other, you will find an embarrassment of riches in **pleasant restaurants and lively pubs**. Head downtown and follow your eyes and the aromas that waft towards you. The menus include several **regional dishes** that no visitor should leave **without having sampled**. Make sure to seek out the **Mechelen Koekoek** and don't forget to wash it down with the favourite beer of Emperor Charles, a Golden Carolus with a **luscious foamy crown**.

The Mechelen restaurants bid you heart-warming welcome.



EVENTS CALENDAR

APRIL - MAY	FLANDERS FESTIVAL	
	Classical concert series	www.festivalvanvlaanderen.be
25 APRIL	HERITAGE DAY	
	2010 Theme: 'Fake'	www.erfgoeddag.be
9 MAY	HANSWIJK PROCESSION	
	Annual procession, overflowing with history	www.hanswijkprocessie.org
30 MAY	PLAYDAY	
	Mechelen is transformed into a city of games	www.speelgoedmuseum.be
JUNE - JULY	TRAIN TRAIN TRAIN	
	Train exhibition	www.speelgoedmuseum.be
7 JUNE - 13 SEPTEMBER	SUMMER CARILLON CONCERTS	
	Concerts on the carillon of the Sint-Rombout Tower, from classical to modern	www.beiaardschool.be
24 - 27 JUNE	DIJLE FESTIVALS - DEFLUX	
	Summer festival with music, theatre and a host of other activities	www.dijlefeestendeflux.be
27 JUNE	OTTERTROTTOR FESTIVAL	
	Multicultural festival with music, workshops, drinks and snacks	www.ottertrorfestival.be
JULY - AUGUST	PARKPOP	
	Open air pop and rock concerts	www.parkpop.be
3 JULY - 29 AUGUST	TRAIN	
	The train and the people. The people and the train. Exhibition to mark the 175th anniversary of the first train ride in Belgium, between Brussels and Mechelen	
21 - 22 AUGUST	MAANROCK (MOON ROCK)	
	City festival with music and a whole lot of atmosphere	www.maanrock.be
12 SEPTEMBER	OPEN MONUMENT DAY	
	Guided tours and a large number of activities in monument sites, gardens, parks and homes	www.openmonumentendag.be
	BELL-THROWING / GILDENJUWEEL	
	There are real bronze bells to be won + the parade of the guilds	www.kolveniersgilde.be
11 - 21 NOVEMBER	THE WEEK OF TASTE	
	Cultural event with taste and culinary culture as the dominant theme	www.weekvandesmaak.be
17 - 19 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS MARKET	
26 - 30 DECEMBER	ERIC WAUTERS FLANDERS MEMORIAL	
	Christmas Equestrian Jumping	www.jumping-mechelen.com





HOTELS

ADDRESS	TEL	E-MAIL • SITE
Martin's Patershof**** Karmelietenstraat 4 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 46 46 46	mph@martinshotels.com www.martins-hotels.com
Best Western Hôtel Gulden Anker**** Brusselsesteenweg 2 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 42 25 35	info@guldenanker.be www.guldenanker.be
Hotel Vé**** Vismarkt 12-14 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 20 07 55	info@hotelve.com www.hotelve.com
Hotel Carolus*** Guido Gezellelaan 49 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 28 71 41	hotel@hetanker.be www.hetanker.be
Hotel Den Wolsack*** Wollemarkt 16 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 56 95 20	info@denwolsack.com www.denwolsack.com
Hotel Domein Montreal*** Duivenstraat 56 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 20 40 77	info@hotelmontrealbelgium.be www.hotelmontrealbelgium.be
Hotel Egmont*** Oude Brusselsestraat 50 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 42 13 99	info@hotel-egmont.be www.hotel-egmont.be
Express by Holiday Inn*** Veemarkt 37C 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 44 84 20	hotel@express-himechelen.com www.hiexpress.com

Hotel Hobbit*** Battelsesteenweg 455F 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 27 20 27	mechelen@hobbit-hotels.be www.hobbit-hotels.be
NH Mechelen*** Korenmarkt 22-24 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 42 03 03	nhmechelen@nh-hotels.com www.nh-hotels.com
Novotel - Mechelen Centrum*** Van Beethovenstraat 1 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 40 49 50	H3154@accor.com www.novotel.com www.accor-hotels.com
Hotel Malcot*** Leuvensesteenweg 236 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 45 10 00	info@hotelmalcot.be www.hotelmalcot.be
Hotel Muske Pitter* Hanswijkstraat 70 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 43 63 03	muskepitter@skynet.be www.muskepitter.be
Youth Hostel Zandpoort Zandpoortvest 70	+32 15 27 85 39	mechelen@vhj.be
Hotel De Drie Paardekens (2010/2011) Begijnenstraat 9 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 56 95 20	



GUEST ROOMS

ADDRESS	TEL	E-MAIL • SITE
Dusk till dawn Diederik & Ann Beele-Vyvey Onze-Lieve-Vrouwestraat 81 2800 Mechelen	+32 497 22 46 27	info@dusktilldawn.be www.dusktilldawn.be (online te boeken)
B&B Frans Hals Frans Halsvest 99 2800 Mechelen	+32 476 26 19 92	info@franshalsbb.be www.franshalsbb.be
Fran Van Buggenhout Straatje Zonder Einde 3 2800 Mechelen	+32 476 26 45 92	fran.ronny@skynet.be
B&B LunaLuna Patricia Gobien en Peter Meuris Jef Denynplein 6 2800 Mechelen	+32 486 29 67 98	bblunaluna@gmail.com www.lunaluna.be
Mevrouw Gyselen Zakstraat 31 Contactadres: Rik Woutersstraat 22 bis 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 20 65 89 +32 478 40 38 20	

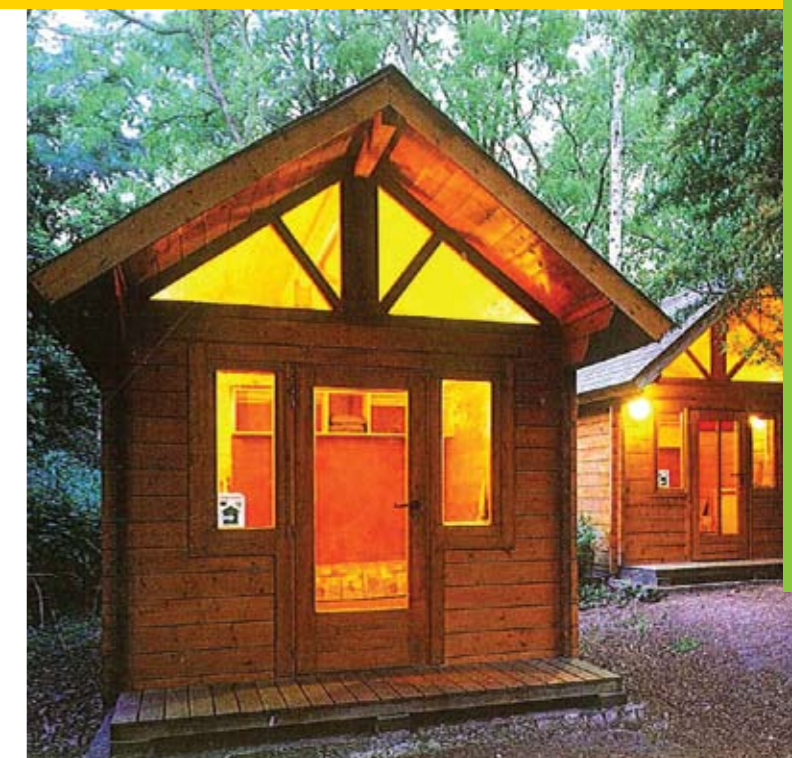
The Patio Houses Ariane Van Craen en Patrick Daelman Hendrik Speecqvest 54 2800 Mechelen	+32 (0)475 42 95 78	info@thepatiohouses.be www.thepatiohouses.be
B&Be Schuttersvest 29 2800 Mechelen	+32 (0)495 53 13 68	info@bnbe.be www.bnbe.be
De Groene Maan Rik Woutersstraat 19 2800 Mechelen	+32 (0)497 67 22 17	degroenemaan@hotmail.com www.degroenemaan.be
Esterixhof Rogier & Mirjam Chorus-Meijer Hazestraat 10 2800 Mechelen	+32 (0)15 41 52 62	info@estrixhof.be www.estrixhof.be
The Red Spot - suite & design (2010) Vijfhoek 14 2800 Mechelen	+32 (0)497 22 46 27	info@theredspot.be www.theredspot.be (online te boeken)
Da Vinci Landbouwstraat 102 2800 Mechelen	+32 (0)476 84 42 75	bb.da-vinci@scarlet.be www.bedandbreakfastdavinci.tk
Refuge Lindenhof Marterstraat 1 2800 Mechelen	+32 (0)15 27 14 77	refuge_lindenhof@hotmail.com www.refugelindenhof.be
SINT-KATELIJNE-WAVER		
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Amaryllis Hoogstraat 75 2861 Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-Waver	+32 (0)499 73 40 20	info@bb-amaryllis.be www.bb-amaryllis.be

HIKERS' CABINS AND CAMPGROUNDS

Hikers and cyclists are welcome in the hikers' cabins as they **pass through**. Stays are **limited to 3 nights**. The hikers' cabins are equipped with cooking and eating facilities, beds for 4 people and electrical heating. When you stay at a hikers' cabin, you have free access to the on-site showers and toilets.

The campgrounds offer **tent locations in a meadow** and usually also have locations for **a few camping trailers or RVs**.

For more information, please see the information at www.vlaanderen-vakantieland.be.



ADDRESS	TEL	SITE	TYPE
De Nekker Provincial Sports and Recreation Centre Nekkerspoel-Borcht 19 2800 Mechelen	+32 15 55 70 05	www.denekker.be	2 hikers' cabins sports accommodation
Roosendael Domain Lange Zandstraat 2860 Sint-Katelijne-Waver	+32 15 29 41 30	www.roosendael.be	campground 2 hikers' cabins youth hostels
Diepvennen Campground Autostrade 100 1840 Londerzeel	+32 15 30 94 92	www.camping-diepvennen.be	campground 2 hikers' cabins

BINNENDIJLE YACHT HARBOUR

If you would like to book a mooring at the Mechelen yacht harbour, please contact the appropriate yacht harbourmaster. Contact one of the two watersports clubs for more information:

MOORINGS AT DIJLE Short-stay moorings (Dijle-Kraanbrug)

Watersportvereniging Dijlestreek vzw
Contact:
Rony Meykens
T +32 15 55 63 18
mero.vvd@skynet.be

Egide Swinnen
T +32 475 89 23 42
egide@dommel.be

www.vvd-mechelen.be

MOORINGS AT KEERDOK AND TICHELRIJ

Mechelse Jachtclub vzw
Contact:
Victor Boonen (president)
Rode Kruisplein 18
2800 Mechelen
T +32 495 45 82 27





TOURISM OFFICE MECHELEN

Please contact the Mechelen Tourism Office by telephone or e-mail, or simply drop in, if you need any additional information.

MECHELEN TOURISM OFFICE

Hallestraat 2-4-6
2800 Mechelen
T +32 70 22 00 08
E toerisme@mechelen.be
W www.tourismmechelen.be

Check the office opening hours at www.tourismmechelen.be

CITY GUIDE: STREETWISE IN MECHELEN

Not sure where to start?

The city guide is an absolute star. It will not only help you explore the city, but also help you to discover the history, legends and traditions. The guide is also chock full of practical tips. In short, a must-have!

CITY MAP

Do you have trouble orienting yourself? Are you unsure of exactly where to go?

Get the city map.

You can order it from the website or pick one up at the information office.

GROUPS

Are you planning a group outing?

Mechelen has a great many attractions to help you make a unique day of it. Check out the many options on our website or contact the Mechelen Tourism Office to create a day-programme of your own.

COLOFON

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