

## Information Note

### **6th UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism** **Gastronomy Tourism: Promoting Rural Tourism and Regional** **Development**

Bruges, Flanders (Belgium), 31 October - 2 November 2021



In collaboration with:

**VISIT FLANDERS**  
**VISIT BRUGES**

**World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)** - A Specialized Agency of the United Nations

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**Table of contents:**

1. Date and venue
2. Registration and badges
3. Entry formalities
4. How to get to Bruges
5. Accommodation
6. Programme
7. Sanitary requirements
8. Working language and interpretation
9. Practical information
10. Brief information about Bruges
11. Contact information

## 1. DATE AND VENUE

The Forum will be held on 31 October – 2 November 2021 at the:

### **Concertgebouw Brugge**

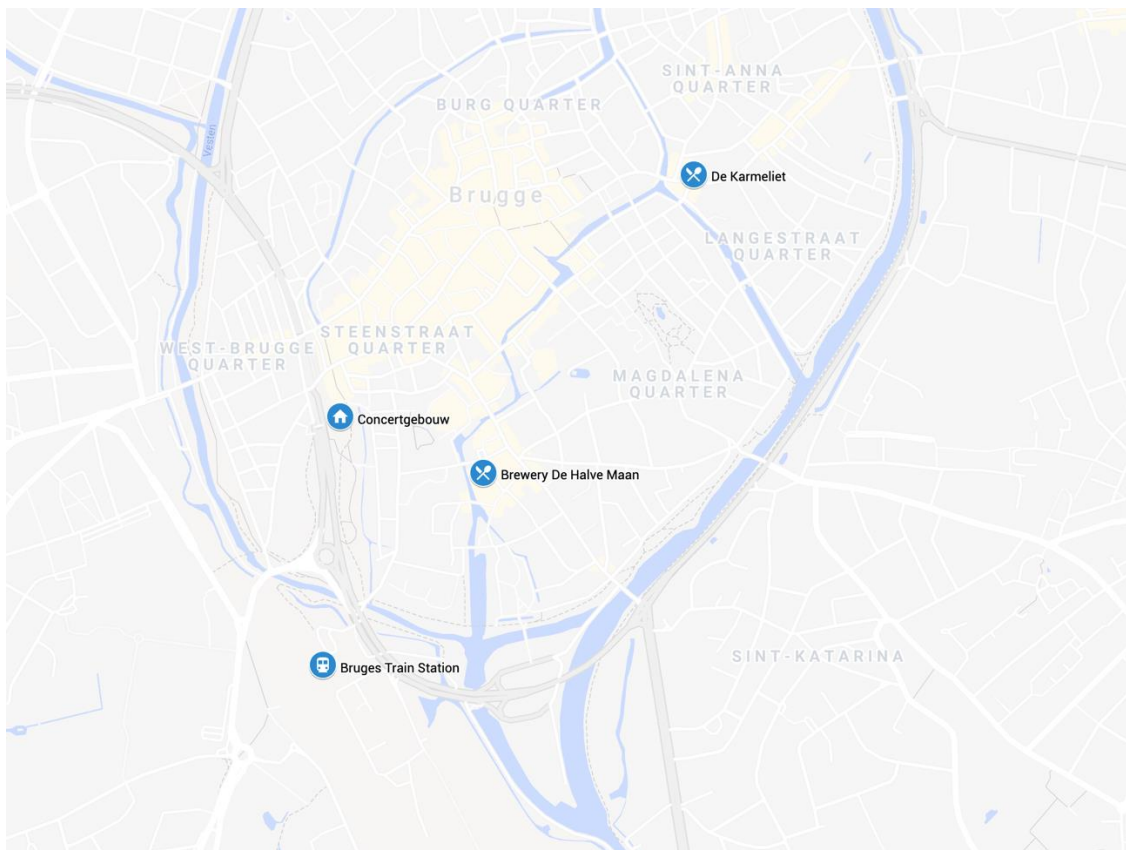
't Zand 34

8000 Brugge, Belgium

<https://www.concertgebouw.be/en>



As an international cultural temple, the Concertgebouw is located on the edge of Bruges' historic city center. This international music and art center is a place that offers the very best in contemporary dance and classical music. The programme features outstanding concerts, fascinating festivals and a range of in-depth contextual activities that provide the perfect ingredients for a fascinating cultural trip. The impressive Concert Auditorium (1,289 seats) and intimate Chamber Music Hall (322 seats) are famed for their excellent acoustics. In the Concert Hall, you can also admire various contemporary works of art.



## 2. REGISTRATION AND BADGES

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To participate in this event, prior registration is required. As the in-person capacity in Bruges is limited, we recommend registering as soon as possible. Registration is available at the following link: <https://www.unwto.org/6th-unwto-world-forum-on-gastronomy-tourism>.

Due to limited in person capacity, limitations as per the number of participants per organization/entity may apply.

Badges will be available for collection prior to the Forum at the registration desk in the Concertgebouw on 1 November from 9.00-11.00. Participants will be required to wear the identification badges in the area reserved for the Forum, as well as at social events.

## 3. ENTRY FORMALITIES

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Depending on your nationality when travelling to a European country, a visa may be required to enter the Schengen area. This area covers a large number of countries, including Belgium.

### **Citizens of a Schengen country / European Union country**

A citizen of the Schengen Area / European Union has the right to enter Belgium: 1) upon presentation of a national identity card (proof of registration in population registers), or 2) upon presentation of a valid national passport (a travel document).

Every citizen of the Union has the right to stay in Belgium for a maximum period of 90 days, regardless of the reason for the stay.

### **Citizens of other countries**

A citizen of one of these countries (please refer to below link) has the right to enter Belgium on presentation of a valid national passport (= a travel document). At the border (or during other controls) those citizens may have to provide additional documentation, for example information on that they have sufficient financial means to cover the stay and the return trip. It is therefore highly recommended that they **carry with them** copies of the same documents that must be presented when visa-application by citizens of third countries requiring a Schengen-visa

A permanently updated list of third countries whose nationals must be in possession of a visa when crossing the external borders can be found [here](#).

### **How and where should you apply?**

In principle you have to apply in the country where you legally reside to the Consulate of Belgium. If Belgium has no Consulate in that country, then you should go to the Consulate of the Schengen partner representing Belgium. In order to verify which embassy is competent for your country of residence and whether Belgium is represented by a Schengen partner for short stay visa, please visit this [website](#).

Addresses and contact information of Belgian Embassies and Consulates can be found [here](#).

Some nationalities are subject to a compulsory security clearance by the Schengen partners. Please note that this clearance takes on average 12 days to obtain once the file is sent by the Embassy /Consulate. Participants are encouraged to apply well in advance.

Some Belgian Consulates or Schengen partners representing Belgium have an electronic appointment system.

Some Belgian Consulates or Schengen partners representing Belgium are working with external service providers for lodging the visa applications.

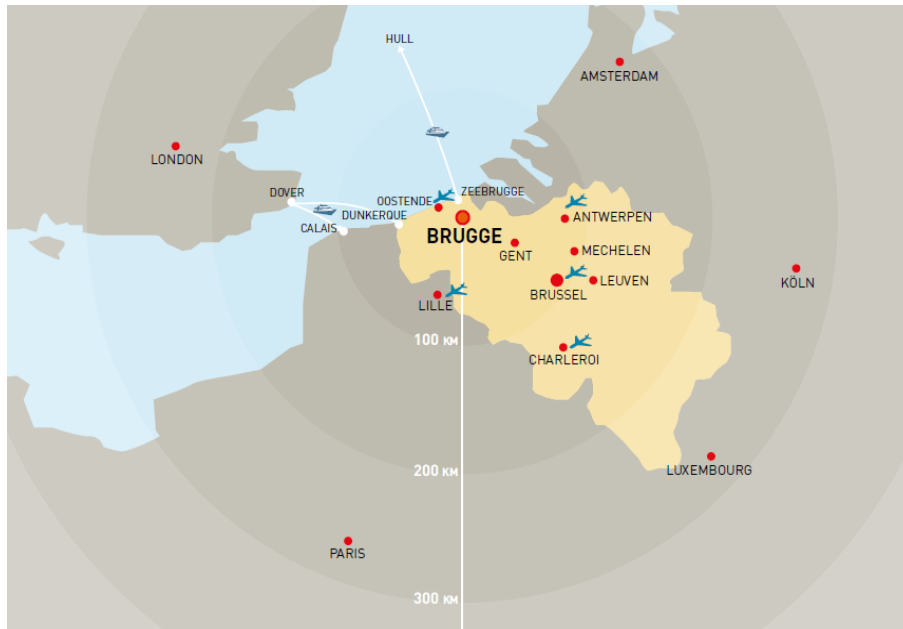
Participants are requested to refer to the webpage of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Government of Spain in order to obtain information on visa requirements and procedures: [https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/travel\\_to\\_belgium/visa\\_for\\_belgium](https://diplomatie.belgium.be/en/services/travel_to_belgium/visa_for_belgium)



#### 4. HOW TO GET TO BRUGES

With over 8 million visitors every year, Bruges is one of the most touristic cities in Europe and therefore easily accessible no matter what your method of transport:

<https://www.visitbruges.be/en/accessibility>



##### BY PLANE

The nearest airport is Ostend-Bruges Airport, a small-scale airport 30 km from Bruges. The national airport, Brussels Airport-Zaventem, is located on the outskirts of the capital Brussels, about 100 km from Bruges. The regional Brussels South Charleroi Airport is located in the south of Brussels, 150 km from Bruges.

Ostend-Bruges Airport (OST)	30 km
Brussels Airport-Zaventem (BRU)	100 km
Brussels South Charleroi Airport (CRL)	150 km

##### VIA BRUSSELS AIRPORT-ZAVENTEM

The national airport daily receives flights from more than 200 cities in 85 countries. It is easy to travel from Brussels Airport-Zaventem to Bruges by train. Every day there is a direct hourly service to Bruges. In addition, many other trains from Brussels Airport-Zaventem regularly stop at Brussels-North, Brussels-Central or Brussels-South railway stations. From these three stations there are three trains an hour daily stopping at Bruges on their way to Ostend, Knokke or Blankenberge. Consult [www.belgiantrain.be](http://www.belgiantrain.be) for information on arrival-departure times and fares.



### **VIA BRUSSELS SOUTH CHARLEROI AIRPORT**

This popular regional airport receives multiple low-cost flights every day from various cities and regions in and outside of Europe. The flibco.com bus company ([www.flibco.com](http://www.flibco.com)) provides several direct shuttle bus services to and from the station in Bruges on a daily basis.

### **VIA OSTEND-BRUGES AIRPORT**

The Ostend-Bruges Airport is in full development and systematically expands its offer. The railway station at Ostend is just a 15-minute bus ride away. From here, there are at least three trains to Bruges each hour between 6.00 a.m. and 10.00 p.m., with final destinations in Eupen, Welkenraedt, Brussels Airport-Zaventem, Antwerpen-Centraal or Kortrijk. The train journey to Bruges takes about 15 minutes. Consult [www.belgiantrain.be](http://www.belgiantrain.be) for information about arrival-departure times and fare prices.

### **BY TRAIN**

If you travel to Bruges by train, you will arrive at the main station 'Brugge', situated at the edge of the city center. From here you can continue your journey on foot, by bus from De Lijn or by taxi.

#### **● INTERNATIONAL**

The Brussels-South Station (Brussel-Zuid/-Midi) is the Belgian hub for international rail traffic ([www.b-europe.com](http://www.b-europe.com)). Numerous high-speed trains arrive in Brussels-South daily, coming from Paris (Thalys/Izy and TGV), Lille (Eurostar, TGV and Thalys), London (Eurostar), Amsterdam (NS InterCity, Thalys and Eurostar) and Cologne (Thalys and ICE). Every day, there are three trains an hour from Brussels-South Station, which stop at Bruges on their way to Ostend, Knokke or Blankenberge. The travelling time between Brussels-South Station and Bruges is approximately 1 hour.

#### **● NATIONAL**

Every day, there are from one to four direct services each hour between Bruges and the important train junctions at Antwerp, Ghent, Hasselt, Leuven and Brussels. Please consult [www.belgiantrain.be](http://www.belgiantrain.be).

### **BY INTERNATIONAL BUS**

Several international coach companies organize connections to Bruges from important foreign cities and international transport hubs, more specifically the HST stations at Brussels-South and Lille-Europe, as well as the airports at Frankfurt (terminal 2), Cologne, Brussels, Amsterdam Schiphol, Paris Charles de Gaulle and Paris Orly. The bus stops for these services are on the Sint-Michiels' side (Spoorwegstraat) of the main railway station. You can find the most up-to date information about the coach companies on [www.visitbruges.be](http://www.visitbruges.be).





## **BY CAR**

### **From The Netherlands:**

Bruges is close to the E40 motorway, an hour's drive from Brussels and an hour and a half from Antwerp. Amsterdam is at 253 km, Eindhoven at 178 km. From the Netherlands you can reach Bruges via Antwerp. From the Maastricht region, the easiest way to get to Bruges is via Liège and Brussels.

### **From France:**

Bruges is an hour's drive from Lille and 3,5 hours from Paris (via the A1 motorway).

### **From Germany:**

Bruges is located 544 km from Hannover and 310 km from Cologne. Coming from Bremen/Hannover, take the E34 motorway from Duisburg past Eindhoven (Netherlands) and Antwerp (E17) in the direction of Ghent (E40) to Bruges. Coming from Frankfurt, take the E44 motorway towards Cologne and then the E40 to Bruges.

### **From the UK:**

From the UK you can travel to Bruges by ferry or by Eurotunnel:

\* Hull (UK) – Zeebrugge (B) with P&O Ferries (crossing: 1 night). Take the N31 from Zeebrugge to Bruges. Estimated distance Zeebrugge – Bruges is 17 km or 11 miles (30 min driving).

\* Dover (UK) – Dunkerque (F) with DFDS Seaways (crossing: 2h00). Take the motorway E40 to Bruges. Estimated distance Dunkerque – Bruges is 76 km or 47 miles (1h driving).

\* Dover (UK) – Calais (F) with P&O Ferries or DFDS Seaways (crossing: 1h30). Estimated distance Calais – Bruges is 120 km or 75 miles (1h30 driving).

\* Folkestone (UK) – Calais (F) via Eurotunnel (35 min). Estimated distance Calais – Bruges is 120 km or 75 miles (1h30 driving).

### **From Spain:**

Bruges is 1565 km away from Madrid and 1330 km away from Barcelona. By motorway, this makes at least 15 hours on the road. Once in Belgium, take the E40 motorway from Brussels in the direction of Ghent (Gent) / Bruges (Brugge) until you reach Bruges. Bruges is an hour's drive from Brussels.

### **From Italy:**

Bruges is located 1000 km from Milan and 1600 km from Rome. By motorway it takes 10 hours and 16 hours respectively. Once you are in Belgium, Bruges can be reached from Brussels via the E40 motorway (1 hour).



## Information

Bruges is a compact city, made for people. The use of motorized transport in the historic city centre is discouraged. There are a number of outlying car parks within easy walking distance of the centre where you can park free of charge. A little further away are the park-and-ride car parks, also free, from which you can reach the centre by bike or public transport. A blue zone has been created around the city centre. You can park free of charge for a limited period in this blue zone (max. 4 hours) between 9.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Always remember to use your parking disc.

Between 9.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m. above ground parking in the city centre is limited in time (min. 30 min. and max. 4 hours) and metered, also on Sundays and public holidays (less than 1 hour: €2; less than 2 hours: €5; less than 3 hours: €9; max. €14 for 4 hours). Payment can be made via an SMS/text message using the 4411 app (only for Belgian mobile phone numbers) or by cash or bank card at one of the parking ticket machines. The correct number plate of your car must always be entered into the machine.

Parking in the city centre for an unlimited period is cheapest in the public car parks: the car park Centrum-Station, on Stationsplein in front of the railway station and the car park Centrum-'t Zand under the 't Zand square.

### Parking Centrum-Station

Capacity > 1500

Open > Daily, 24 hours a day

Price > Hourly rate: €1.10 | maximum €5.50/24 hrs | including free bus transfer  
(max. 4 people per car, bus tickets can be collected from the De Lijn store or on the bus, but are only valid for the day of issue)

### Parking Centrum-'t Zand

Capacity > 1400

Open > Daily, 24 hours a day

Price > 1st hour is free | payment starts from the 2nd hour | max. €14.40/24hrs  
parking

Both car parks are within easy walking distance of the market square, or else you can use one of the city buses operated by De Lijn. The bus transfers (max. 4 people per car) from the Centrum-Station car park to the city centre and back is included in the price of the parking ticket. If you are staying overnight in Bruges, ask your hotel or guesthouse about parking options in the vicinity. You can find the most up-to-date parking information on [www.visitbruges.be](http://www.visitbruges.be)

## 5. ACCOMMODATION

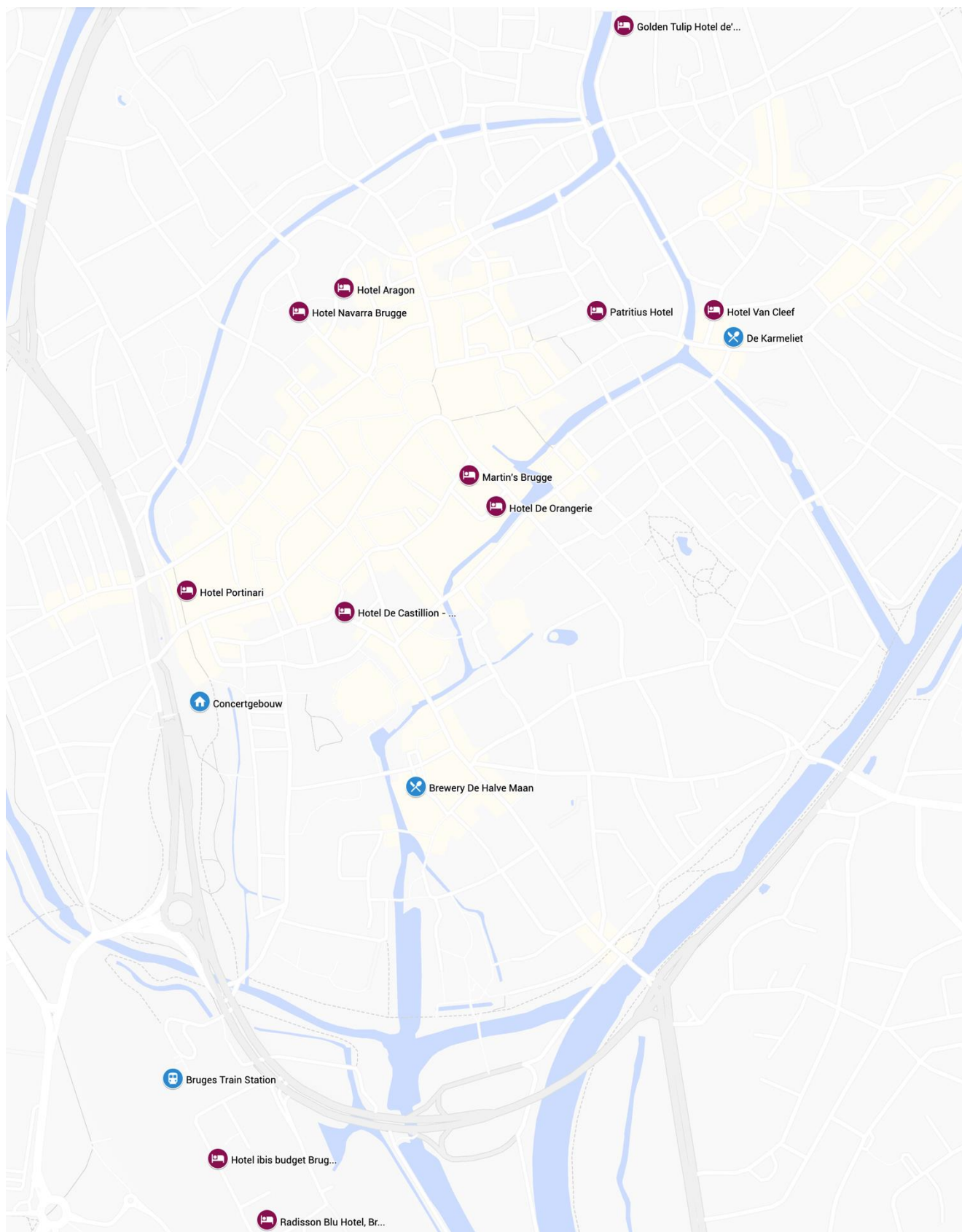
There is a wide range of hotels in different price categories situated close to the Concertgebouw. The city of Bruges provides a platform on which hotels can offer rooms for the Forum at reduced rates. Please note that due to The Christian holy day of Pentecost celebration which takes place only a few days before the Forum, some hotels might be booked out. Therefore, we advise you to reserve your room as soon as possible.

Participants are invited to make their own hotel rooms booking via this [link](#).

For group reservations (**from 10 pax**) please contact [meeting@brugge.be](mailto:meeting@brugge.be) and mention the UNWTO Forum in the subject.

### Walking distance to Concertgebouw (Venue of the event):

Hotel Portinari ****	<a href="#">Website</a>	170m	2 minutes
Aragon Hotel ****	<a href="#">Website</a>	290m	3 minutes
Patritius Hotel **	<a href="#">Website</a>	350m	4 minutes
Hotel Orangerie ****	<a href="#">Website</a>	600m	7 minutes
Hotel Van Cleef	<a href="#">Website</a>	650m	8 minutes
Martin's Brugge Superior ***	<a href="#">Website</a>	700m	9 minutes
Radisson Blu Brugge ****	<a href="#">Website</a>	800m	10 minutes
Hotel Navarra ****	<a href="#">Website</a>	900m	11 minutes
Hotel de Castillon ****	<a href="#">Website</a>	900m	11 minutes
Ibis Budget Brugge Centrum Station	<a href="#">Website</a>	1100m	13 minutes
Hotel De 'Medici ****	<a href="#">Website</a>	1700m	21 minutes



## 6. PROGRAMME

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The Preliminary Programme of the Forum extends over 2 days including Masterclasses and learning experiences, several thematic panels, and social activities on 31 October - 2 November 2021. Please find detailed information on the [Forum's website](#).

### **Opening dinner (*by invitation only*)**

On Sunday, 31 October the welcome dinner hosted by Visit Flanders and City of Bruges is organized at former Three-Michelin-Star restaurant De Karmeliet in the historical center of Bruges. It is now home of the Flanders Culinary Arts Centre, where international students take their culinary skills to a higher level. Invitations will follow soon. Location is in walking distance.

### **Lunch (*by invitation only*)**

On Monday, 1 November, the Nara Prefectural Government will host a lunch reception as the host of the 7<sup>th</sup> UNWTO World Forum on Gastronomy Tourism in 2022 for participants to discover Nara's rich array of local gastronomy.

### **Discover Bruges by Night**

A guided walk on the evening of 1 November to discover the illuminated highlights of the city of Bruges including a drink at the local's favorite cafés. Location is in walking distance.

### **Culinary Experiences**

The culinary experiences on 2 November at various locations in and around Bruges (for live participants) and in Flanders (for online participants) demonstrate the best of Flanders as culinary destination. Visit the passionate craftsmen from farmers to brewers and explore the rich Flemish culinary heritage. For live delegates to participate in this activity, please indicate your theme of preference when you register online. Four themes for the live culinary experiences include: *Sea of Flavours*, *Craft brewers around Bruges*, *the Flemish garden of Eden* and *Handmade in Bruges*.

### **Bruges Unplugged**

The closing event on 2 November takes place at Brewery De Halve Maan, an authentic family brewery in the heart of Bruges. For both online and live audiences the evening consists of a tour of the brewery and a talk show with inspirational guests discussing topics such as local products and talent development in the gastronomy sector. Location is in walking distance.

### **Closing drink**

After the Bruges Unplugged show, live participants enjoy their last evening in Bruges with classic Flemish dishes and Belgian beers. Location is in walking distance.



## 7. SANITARY REQUIREMENTS

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More information will follow in the coming months as rules and regulations are subject to change. However, you can find the latest information on current measures and travel requirements [here](#). We will of course update you if there are changes in travel requirements along the way.

## 8. WORKING LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETATION

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The official language of the forum is English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Spanish and Dutch.

## 9. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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### Weather

Bruges enjoys a mild, maritime climate. The summers are warm without being hot and the winters are cold without being freezing. During spring and autumn, the temperatures are also pleasant and there is moderate rainfall throughout the year, with the heaviest concentrations in autumn and winter. So, remember to bring your umbrella!

### Banking hours

Most of the banks in Bruges are open from 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Some branch offices are also open on Saturday morning, but on Sundays they are all closed. There are cash points in several shopping streets, on 't Zand, Simon Stevinplein and in the railway station. You can easily withdraw money from cash machines with Visa, Eurocard, or MasterCard.

You can exchange money in one of the currency exchange offices. In the event of the loss or theft of your bank or credit card, it is best to immediately block the card by calling Card Stop on tel. 070 344 344 (24 hours a day).

- Exchange office Western Union, Steenstraat 2, tel. +32 (0)50 34 04 71
- Exchange office Pillen bvba, Vlamingstraat 18, tel. +32 (0)50 44 20 55
- Exchange office Moneytrans Brugge, Rozenhoedkaai 2, tel. +32 (0)50 34 59 55

Please note that the 1st of November is a public holiday in Belgium.

### Local currency

The local currency is the Euro, its symbol is €. The existing bills are for the values 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 and 500 euros. There are eight types of coins: 5, 10, 20 and 50 cents, 1 and 2 euros.



### Opening hours

Cafés and restaurants have no (fixed) closing hour. Sometimes they will remain open until the early hours of the morning and other days they will close earlier: it all depends on the number of customers.

Most shops operate from Monday to Saturday, opening at 10.00 a.m. and closing at either 6.00 or 6.30 p.m. But even on Sundays you don't need to leave Bruges empty-handed; many specialist stores are open on Sundays as well. And on 'Shopping Sundays' – the first Sunday of the month, from 1.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m., except on public holidays – they are joined by many of the other shops.

### Buses

Public transport in Bruges is well-organized. Buses run every three minutes between the station and the city centre. There are also frequent services to the train station and the city centre running from the bus stop for tourist buses at the Kanaaleiland ('canal Island'; City map: E13). The buses going to the city centre stop within easy walking distance of the main shopping streets, historical buildings and museums. The most important bus stops are marked on the city map (<https://www.visitbruges.be/city-plan>).

A € 3 ticket (price adjustments are possible in the course of the year) gives you unlimited transfers on all lines for 60 minutes. These and other tickets of the De Lijn bus service can be purchased in the De Lijnstore (Stationsplein), from vending machines (Stationsplein and bus stop 't Zand), via SMS (Belgian mobile numbers only) or via the De Lijn app. You can also visit one of the presale offices: the information office in 't Zand (Concert Hall), as well as various bookstores, newspaper shops and supermarkets in the city centre.

### Taxi

Official taxi ranks can be found at the Bruges railway station (city centre side, and near the Spoorwegstraat on Sint-Michiels side), along Bargeweg (Kanaaleiland), in Boeveriestraat (near 't Zand square), on the Market Square (adjacent to the Provincial Court), in Vlamingstraat (opposite the City Theatre) and in Kuipersstraat (next to the library). On <https://www.visitbruges.be/summary-taxi-companies> you can find a list of all authorised taxi companies in Bruges and their details.

### Emergency number

European emergency number: tel. 112. This general number is used in all countries of the European Union to contact the emergency services: police, fire brigade or medical assistance. The number operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



### Electric current

230/50 (volts/hz). (Europlug, Schuko)

### Official time

Bruges Time is in the Central European Time Zone. Central European Standard Time ( CET ) is 1 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time ( GMT+1 ) in winter and 2 hours ahead (GMT+2) in summer.

### Official language

The three official national languages are Dutch, French and German. The locally spoken language in Bruges is Dutch.

## 10. BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT BRUGES

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### Bruges is...

**UNESCO world heritage:** the inner city impresses with its cultural history and has been recognized as UNESCO World Heritage City since 2000.

### Everything concentrated on walking

**distance:** leave that map or smartphone in your pocket and follow your intuition. Getting lost in Bruges is almost impossible (and in case you do get lost, take advantage of it by discovering hidden gems or ask a local to help you out).



**Heritage meets innovation:** city of Flemish Primitives and impressive historical buildings but also city of inspiring makers, passionate creative souls and contemporary architecture. A contemporary cultural destination with respect for history and tradition.

**Romance:** the medieval canals, swans on the Reitjes, winding little streets and paved squares make up for an instant romantic feeling, especially in winter.

**Green city:** the parks in the city centre, the ramparts around the town, the green belt around Bruges with a mix of forests, castle parks, open landscapes, canals, they make Bruges an attractive destination for people looking for some green, to discover by foot or, why not, by bike as Bruges is a bike friendly city.





#### Distance from other major cities

Ostend	25 km
Ghent	50 km
Brussels	100 km
Antwerp	91,5 km
Lille (France)	81,5 km
Paris (France)	300 km

#### 11. CONTACT INFORMATION

UNWTO Secretariat	Visit Flanders
<p><b>[General enquiries]</b></p> <p>Ms. Maria Soledad Gaido Senior Project Specialist Tourism Market Intelligence and Competitiveness World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) E-mail: <a href="mailto:mgaido@unwto.org">mgaido@unwto.org</a></p> <p>Regional Department for Europe World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) E-mail: <a href="mailto:rdeu@unwto.org">rdeu@unwto.org</a></p>	<p><b>[Logistical support]</b></p> <p>Mr. Freek Wambeke Project Manager The Oval Office Event Agency</p> <p>Tel: +32 3 320 84 30 E-mail: <a href="mailto:unwto@theovaloffice.be">unwto@theovaloffice.be</a></p>