

CREATIVE CITY ON THE LEIE

Discover Kortrijk



KORTRIJK



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Historic buildings, a bustling city in flux, full of hidden gems. There's plenty of reasons to visit our creative city on the Leie. This guide takes you on a magical mystery tour while giving you a taste of Kortrijk. There's no doubt you'll be back for more!







Historic Kortrijk

Kortrijk is one of Belgium's oldest cities with a rich history. From the Roman settlement of Cortoriacum, along the Battle of the Golden Spurs in 1302 to the heart of the flax industry. The city's rich past is reflected in its streetscape with the following highlights:

The Grote Markt, the historic City Hall and the Belfry ¹

The welcoming Grote Markt is definitely worth a stop. The pavement cafés overlooking the Belfry (Unesco World Heritage) and the beautiful historic City Hall, open to visitors in the summer, are the ideal place to put your feet up during your visit to the city.

St Martin's Church ²

Altered several times over the years, this 12th-century church prides itself on a wealth of valuable works of art, including church textiles and silverware dating back to the 16th to 19th centuries. The church tower was rebuilt after the 1862 fire and houses a fully-fledged 19th-century carillon. The Neo-Baroque rotunda chapel leads to the devotional chapel, the 'Kelderke Gods' (God's cave), which comes highly recommended. You should definitely climb the 240 steps of the tower if you can. The panoramic view is simply to die for.

Sint-Maartenskerkhof ³

This former churchyard (until 1807), to the left of the church, is today an intimate little square with excellent catering facilities, the perfect setting for a pleasant summer's evening.

Jozef Vandaeleplein ⁴

This square is situated to the right of St Martin's Church, where new catering establishments and shops add a splash of colour. In July and August, this square, together with the St Martin's Churchyard, form the backdrop to atmospheric summer markets.

The Béguinage ⁵

Skirting the lively city centre is the peaceful Unesco world heritage site of St Elizabeth Béguinage, founded in 1238. Feel free to stroll past the pocket-sized houses, the Gothic St Matthew's Chapel and the Grand Mistress's charming house. The beautiful experience centre navigates you interactively through the many centuries of history.



Did you know?

Every now and then, you will come across signs depicting this logo. They refer to the extensive works that Kortrijk will be undertaking.

› For more information, please visit www.Kortrijk.be/historischhart

Church of Our Lady - 1302 6

Tucked away in the historical inner city, the 13th-century Church of Our Lady is certainly worth a visit. The Count's Chapel is one of a kind, just like Anthony van Dyck's 'Raising of the Cross'. The famous Count's Chapel accommodates unique portraits of all the successive Counts of Flanders.

The museum **1302** is located here. A breathtaking sound and light show and clever animations tell visitors all about the rise of the County of Flanders. You'll be transported to the heart of the action and learn how things got to that point and what the consequences were. For those who want to delve deeper into history, a 12-metre long interactive table is available with touchscreens, handsets and virtual reality.

The prize piece of the new museum exhibit is the authentic Chest of Oxford. The chest contains the first ever depiction of the Battle of the Golden Spurs and dates from shortly after 1302.

› *Deken Zegerplein*

Artillery Tower 7

Once a depot for gunpowder, the Artillery Tower, situated round the back of the church, dates from the 14th century and is one of the few remnants of the medieval city wall.

Hospital of Our Lady 8

Hospital of Our Lady is one of the country's oldest hospitals (1211).

Originally a hospice, it offered free care for vagrants who were poorly. Only the two Gothic arches on bluestone columns have been preserved of the original hospital. The chapel with its Baroque façade dates from 1680-1690; the inner courtyard is an oasis of peace.

› *Budastraat 37*





Broel Towers and the lowered banks of the Leie 9

These remnants of the old city fortifications, which epitomise Kortrijk, were built by the Burgundian dukes to protect the city. Notice the arrow and cannon embrasures, as well as the corbels all around with holes from which the enemies were attacked. On the Broel Bridge stands Nepomucenus, the patron saint of sailors and the drowned. The lowered banks of the Leie bring the city closer to the water. The striking terraces with a view of the Broel towers are a new attraction.

> *Broelkaai- Verzetskaai*



Begijnhofpark 10

Once the garden of Groeninge Abbey, this spacious, open park is located in the very heart of the historic centre. These days, it is used for open-air events.

't Plein 11

This former 17th-century army training ground is now a modern park where you can fully unwind, featuring the wooden stands with the central stage, the refreshing fountains and a lovely catering establishment.

Groeningepoort and Virgin of Flanders 12

This park is located on the very spot where in 1302, the Golden Spurs Battle (Guldensporenslag) was fought. Both the gate and the statue were erected to commemorate 600 years of the Battle of the Golden Spurs.

Baggaertshof 13

This hidden gem in the middle of the shopping precinct was founded by the Baggaert sisters in 1638 to house destitute widows and spinsters. The small chapel and the centuries-old herb garden are worth checking out. Baggaertshof is now, since recently, the setting of a creative children's workshop.

> *Sint-Jansstraat 37*



Suggestion

For many historic highlights, a separate brochure is available that tells you much more. Pop into the tourist office.

> www.toerismekortrijk.be



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Did you know?

The colourful orange bench near BK6 was designed by Danish artist Jeppe Hein and is called Modified Social Bench.



Creative City on the leie

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Since 2017, Kortrijk has been part of the UNESCO creative cities network, which is quite an honour. This creativity is evident not only in the many events but also in the city itself.

BK6 ¹⁴

Buda Island is a hive of creative energy, where a diverse array of organisations active in the culture, education, care and economy sectors are in full development, as are numerous inspiring student and citizen initiatives. BK6 is the gateway to the island and a showcase for creativity in Kortrijk. The island boasts an eatery, a beautiful inner garden as well as an exhibition space.

› *Broelkaai 6*

Texture ¹⁵

TEXTURE tells the story of the linen and flax industry. A story about strong roots that bears witness to top-level professionalism and entrepreneurship, of daring innovation and agility and of constantly reinventing oneself. In three rooms, set up in an authentic flax depot (1912), you will discover the revolutionary development of the flax industry in this region.

Look, feel, sample, test and discover!

› *Noordstraat 28 | www.texturekortrijk.be*

Horse Stables ¹⁶

The former stables of the Tack Brewery are used for leading exhibitions of contemporary art.

› *Korte Kapucijnenstraat | www.bu-box.be*

Buda Tower ¹⁷

The old Tack Brewery cooling tower is currently a space that comprises several rehearsal studios. While the tower has been completely brought up-to-date, its original features remain evident.

› *Korte Kapucijnenstraat*

Budascoop ¹⁸

In the former Pentascoop, you can enjoy the better non-commercial films. The beautiful building also serves as a place of work and presentation for contemporary performing artists.

› *Kapucijnenstraat 10 | www.budakortrijk.be*

Buda Factory ¹⁹

The old De Smet-De Jaegere textile factory, has been converted into a creative hub. The Buda Factory is dubbed the factory of the future where designers, artists, students and entrepreneurs create together.

› *Dam 2A*





The river Leie, which flows through the city like a lifeline, has regained its place in the lives of Kortrijk residents. Hotspots along the water, such as the lowered Leie banks and Buda Beach, but also beautiful bridges, further emphasise the city's creative character.

Buda Beach ²⁰

The city's summer hotspot, where residents and visitors flock to enjoy the sunshine with a delicious drink in hand.

> *IJzerkaai*

Skatebowl ²¹

With a surface area of no less than 850 m², skateboarders and roller skaters can let off steam in this unique skate bowl, the country's very first skate bowl no less, which was built by the American Team Pain.

> *IJzerkaai*

King Albert Park ²²

King Albert Park is the perfect stopping point for both cyclists and hikers along the Leie. Central to the park is the Leie monument, where the fallen soldiers of the 1940 Battle of the Leie are commemorated every year.

> *Burgemeester Vercrusselaan*





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Bridges in Kortrijk ²³

The banks of the river Leie have undergone a true metamorphosis over the past 20 years. No fewer than six new bridges have been added, all of which have been designed in a different and original way. The one that stands out is the Colleebrug (photo above), a cycling and walking bridge that snakes across the Leie. The seventh and final bridge, the Reepbrug, will be completed in 2022.

Kortrijk Weide ²⁴

Kortrijk Weide is the new urban district by the water that encompasses a healthy mix of enterprise, sports, learning and relaxation. This new part of Kortrijk is not a secluded site. Green corridors connect it seamlessly with the inner city and the railway station. This district houses a co-creation hub Hangar K, a youth centre Tranzit, an events hall Départ and an events plaza. It enhances the inner city by adding a multifunctional and lively new part to the city.

Nelson Mandela Park is the place to be for water fun or a barbecue with friends at the fire pit.

The swimming pool is highly recommended, with its spectacular slides and white-water rapids forming the main attraction and providing hours of fun.



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Shopping in Kortrijk



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Shopping in Kortrijk is more than just shopping, it's an experience that fills you with glee. Countless nice boutiques, shops and concept stores in the city centre may well tempt you. Stroll through the shopping precinct or enjoy the offerings of Shopping Centre K in Kortrijk. A complete list of our fine fashion addresses can be found at www.toerismekortrijk.be

K in Kortrijk ²⁵

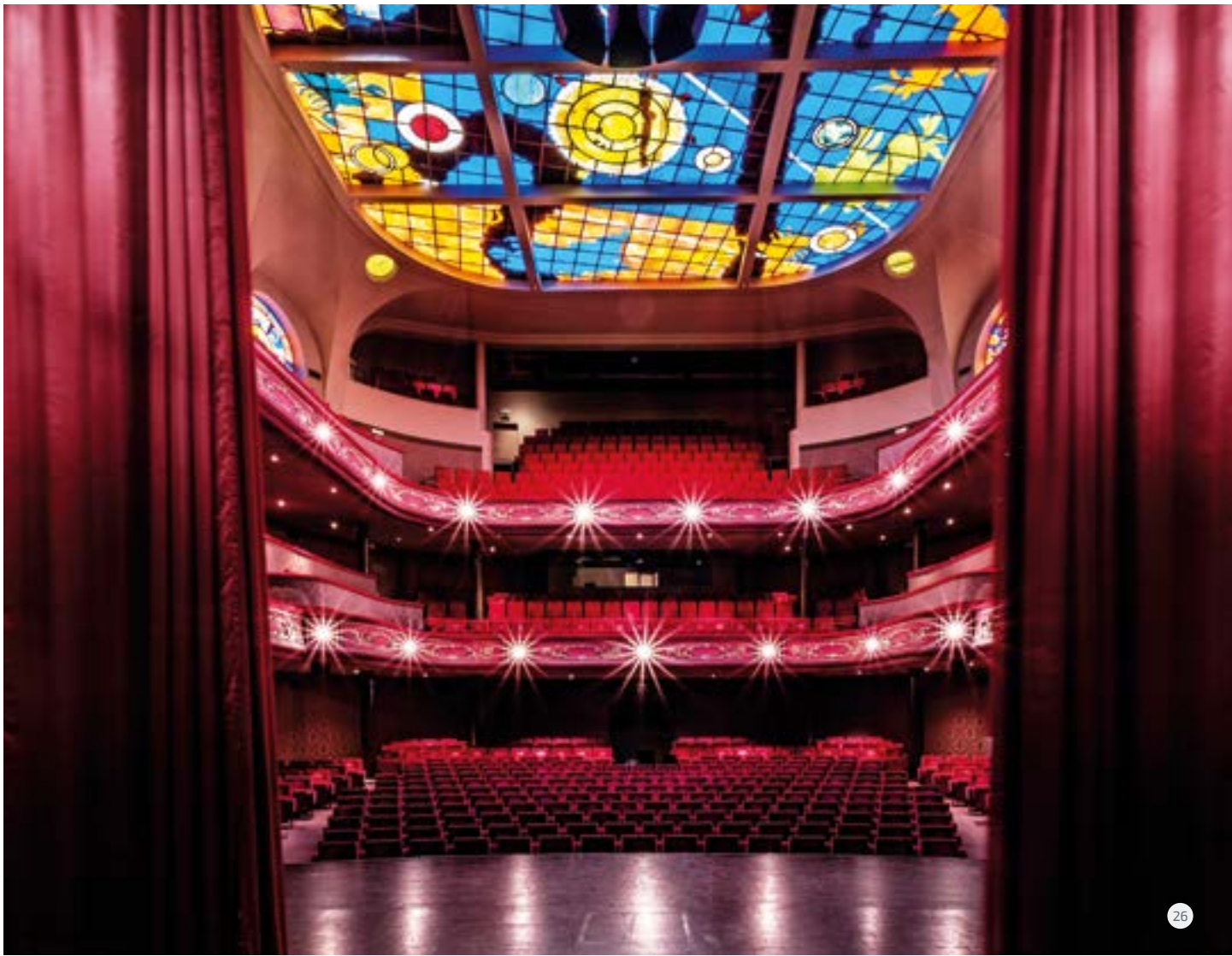
Fashionistas can indulge themselves at K in Kortrijk. This hypermodern shopping centre is right in the city centre and offers a mix of living, fashion and digital products.

› www.k-in-kortrijk.be

Did you know?

Korte Steenstraat was the first pedestrianised shopping street in the country in 1962?





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Kortrijk City of Music



The fact that Kortrijk is known as West Flanders' leading music city is no coincidence. The old music site on Conservatoriumplein, which was divided into three separate units, was transformed into one single music centre in 2017: Track. Kortrijk is the home of bands such as SX, Goose and Balthazar.

Theatre ²⁶

The Kortrijk Schouwburg puts on more than just music. It is just about the biggest performing arts centre of South-West Flanders. The building is conceived as an Italian-style theatre. Over 800 spectators watch the stage from a ground floor and three balconies through an immense frame.

› *Schouwburgplein* | www.schouwburgkortrijk.be

Concert Studio ²⁷

This atmospheric concert hall, situated in Track Music Centre, is renowned for its exceptional acoustics and can accommodate 224 music lovers.

› *Conservatoriumplein*

De Kreun ²⁸

At the end of 2016, vzw De Kreun and vzw Festival van Vlaanderen merged to form Wilde Westen. This concert and festival organiser wants to appeal to a broad audience within the wider region. Music venue De Kreun can accommodate 600 music fans.

› *Conservatoriumplein* | www.wildewesten.be



Hotspots outside the City Centre

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St Anthony's Church / Brother Isidore ²⁹

This 19th-century, beautifully painted church is known for the beatified Brother Isidore Deloor and is a much-visited place of pilgrimage. The adjacent Lourdes Cave is an oasis of peace.

› *Wandelingstraat 33*

Kortrijk Xpo ³⁰

With its 55,000 m², Kortrijk Xpo is one of the country's largest exhibition centres and home to, among others, Velofollies, Matexpo and Interieur.

› *Doorniksesteenweg 216*

Ring Kortrijk ³¹

This shopping centre on the border with Kuurne offers 35,000 m² of shopping pleasure. Major advantages are easy access and free parking.

› *Ringlaan 34 | www.ringkortrijk.be*

Rose Garden ³²

The international rose garden dates back to 1959 and is located in the gardens of the 't Hooghe Castle, along Doorniksesteenweg in Kortrijk. In 2003, the gardens were completely redesigned by the West Flemish Provincial Council.

› *Kasteel 't Hooghe, Doorniksesteenweg 218*



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But there's more, much more.

These places in the boroughs are more than worth a visit :
Omer Vander Ghinste Brewery in Bellegem, Argendaal Hiking Route in Bellegem,
Tonte Chapel in Kooigem en Preetjes Mill in Heule.





Food and Drink

Gourmets and epicureans have come to the right place in Kortrijk, as evidenced by the many restaurants with an excellent Gault & Millau rating.

From delicious gourmet burgers to Michelin-starred restaurants, you will find it all in the creative city on the Leie.

› Visit www.toerismekortrijk.be to find these and other great places.





Walking Cycling Boating



Panoramaroute Kortrijk-Zwevegem



Hiking and Biking

Toerisme Kortrijk offers numerous hiking and cycling routes that allow you to discover the inner city and the boroughs in a fun way. All these stunning routes are available from the tourist information centre located in the Béguinage Park.

› www.toerismekortrijk.be

Boating

Kortrijk is known as the creative city on the Leie, rightfully so. Don't leave Kortrijk without taking a boat trip on the Leie. Boats can be hired from different boat-hire places.

› More info: www.toerismekortrijk.be



Hemelse route Kortrijk-Noord



Op stap door de Landes van Kortrijk



Hemelse route Kortrijk-Zuid



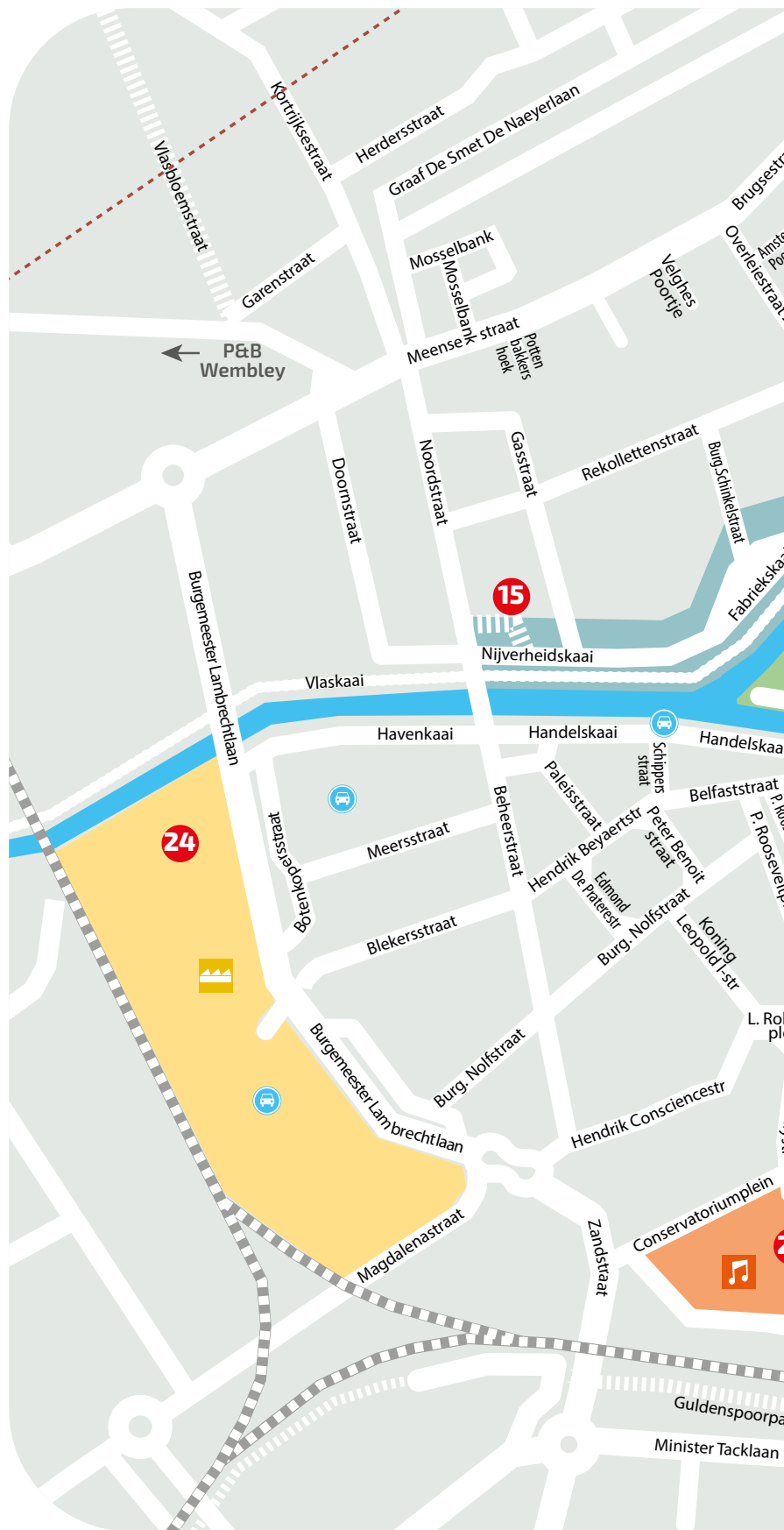
Brosenroute Marke



Creative City Tour

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 Tourism Kortrijk



KORTRIJK PRACTICAL

Parking in The City



Underground parking is inexpensive and the first hour is free. Moreover, the parking steward system shows you the shortest route to an available parking spot. If you get the bus driver to exchange your **Park & Ride Xpo Ticket** (parking), you get free parking + a ticket to and from the city centre.

Park & Bike Wembley - Here you can also take public transport. De Lijn bus stops nearby. The ride to and from the station is free. There's no need to buy a ticket. Bicycle lockers are available.

> More info: www.parko.be

Bus & Train

For all bus lines and timetables:

> www.delijn.be - 070 22 02 00

Various train connections bring you right to the centre.

> www.nmbs.be

Cycling Kortrijk

Kortrijk is investing heavily in cycling with, among other things, bicycle repair points, bicycle sheds, bike sharing ...

> *Bike rental:* www.mobiel.be | *bike sharing:* www.mobit.eu

The entire city centre, together with the existing pedestrian zone and the residential areas, has become one large cycling zone of no less than 74 interconnected streets where cyclists become the main users. Cars are welcome in the bicycle zone, but are not allowed to overtake cyclists and must observe a maximum speed of 30 km/h. Cyclists are allowed to use the entire width of the road (in a one-way street) or lane (in a two-way street).



Clean City

We are proud of our city and do everything we can to keep it clean. That's why we come down hard on those who simply litter the streets. The same applies to anyone who throws their cigarette butts on the ground. Those caught risk a fine of up to €55. Extra ashtray tiles and ashtrays are peppered across the city.



Signage for pedestrians

The pedestrian signposting takes you to all the sights. Each district has its own colour-coding and symbol.



Historic centre



Shopping and walking district



Leie banks



Buda Island



Music and theatre district



Kortrijk Weide



Overnight stays

Kortrijk offers a wide range of accommodation options. Hotel • Bed & Breakfast • Holiday homes • Youth Hostel • Camper area • Marina.

> For the complete list, please visit www.toerismekortrijk.be

All info

About opening hours, accommodation, hiking routes, guides... :

> **TOERISME KORTRIJK** | Begijnhofstraat 2, 8500 Kortrijk
toerisme@kortrijk.be | +32 (0)56 27 78 40
www.toerismekortrijk.be

> *Opening times:* 1 January - 31 December: every day from 10 to 17 hrs | Closed on 24, 25 and 31 December and 1 January.



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