



CITY WALK

HIGHLIGHTS DENDERMONDE



4,3

KILOMETRES

75

MINUTES

17

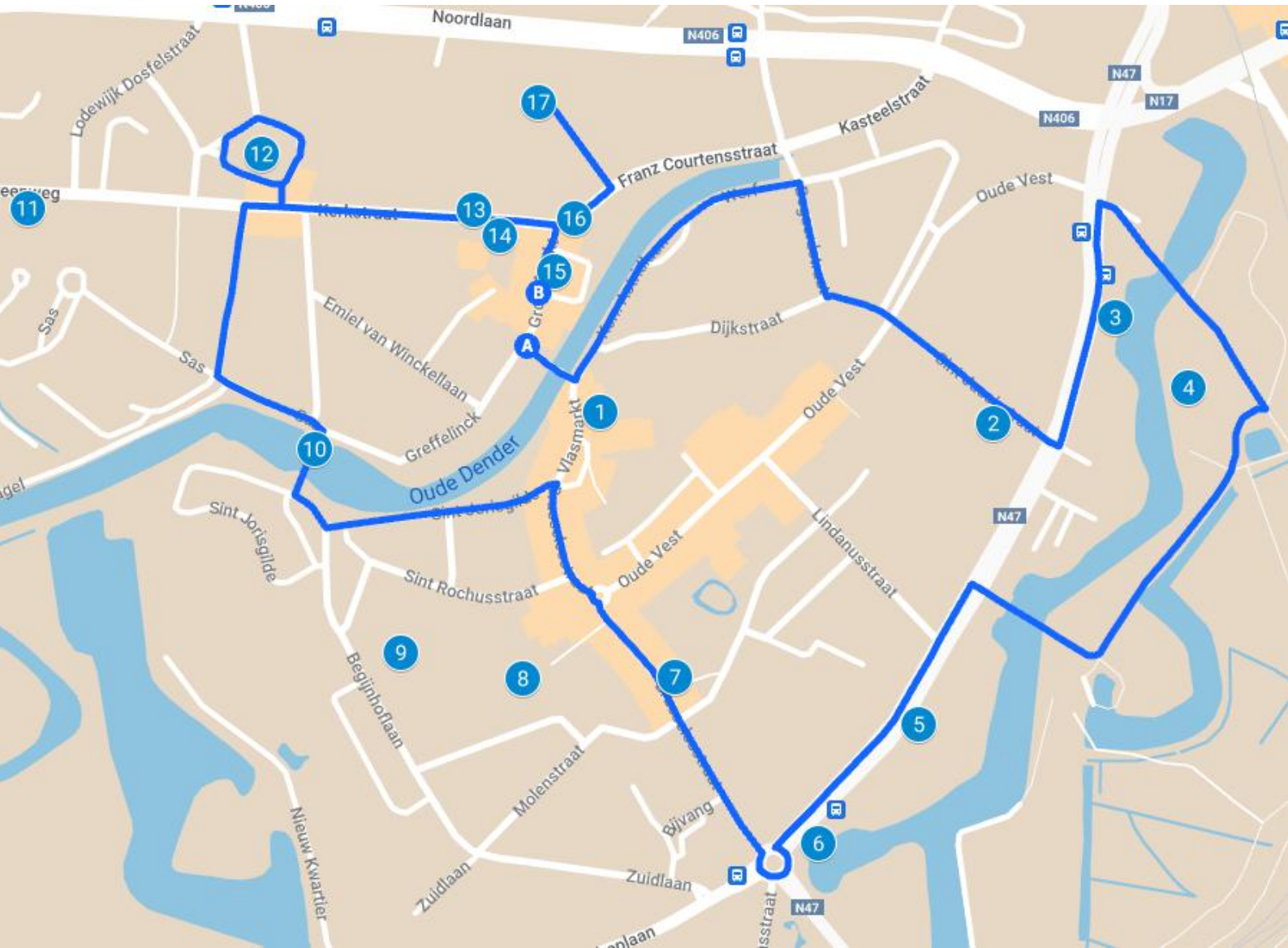
LOCATIONS

- 1 Sint Pieter en Paulusabbey | Vlasmarkt 231
- 2 Prison Dendermonde | Sint Jacobstraat 26
- 3 Mechelse Gate
- 4 Former powder magazine
- 5 Bastion V
- 6 Brusselse Gate
- 7 Parochiechurch St Gillis Binnen | Heldenplein
- 8 Sint-Alexiusbegijnhof
- 9 Begijnhofmuseum en Museum voor Volkskunde | Begijnhof 11-24-25
- 10 sas
- 11 Monument Gentse Gate
- 12 Onze Lieve Vrouwechurch | Onzelievevrouwekerkplein
- 13 CC Belgica Dendermonde | Kerkstraat 24
- 14 Vleeshuismuseum | Grote Markt 32
- 15 Town hall, Belfort en Lakenhalle | Grote Markt 21/37
- 16 Justice palace | Justitieplein 1
- 17 Bomb-proof barracks



CITY WALK

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The starting point of this city walk is at the Sint-Pieter & Paulus Abbey on the Vlasmarkt in Dendermonde.

St. Peter's and Paul's Abbey is located in the heart of the city. Unfortunately, the abbey is only open once a year, on Whit Monday. You can visit the abbey church all year round.



Walk from the Vlasmarkt to the Kon. On to Astridlaan. Continue your way across Werf. Turn right to Bogaerdstraat and left to Dijkstraat. Continue straight ahead through Sint Jacobstraat. Here you will find the prison of Dendermonde.

In 1860-1863 a new state prison was built in Sint-Jacobstraat. This prison has three wings and three floors. The total capacity is about 160 male prisoners.



Walk past the prison and turn left at the end of the street. You are now walking on Leopoldlaan. On your right you will see the Mechelse Gate.

3



Like its twin brother, the Brusselse gate, the Mechelse gate from 1822 belonged to an access complex in the defensive wall. On the city side, it was flanked by two guardrooms. You walked through the (now restored) arch over the inner bridge to the Ravelijn. On it was the outer gate from where you reached the main road towards Mechelen via the outer bridge.

CITY WALK



After the Mechelse Poort, turn right into the park. After about 200 meters you will pass a former powder magazine. Take the first right in the park. Walk down this path and follow the bend to the right. You now arrive at Leopoldlaan again.

This special, half-buried building was a powder magazine. Thanks to the meter-thick protective layer, it was the safest place to store gunpowder and ammunition. Today it is a safe haven for bats.



Turn left onto Leopoldlaan. After about 150 meters you will see Bastion five on your left. Continue to the roundabout. The Brusselse gate is located at the roundabout.

5



A bastion or bulwark is a protruding defense of earth or stone that is part of a fortress. This is bastion V of the Dendermonde. From 1917 onwards there was a second slaughter location in Dendermonde, next to the official slaughter location on the Groentenmarkt. In 1940 the official slaughterhouse moved to Grembergen and the slaughterhouse in the casemates closed in June 1942.

The Brusselse gate is the entrance to the city park and is one of the two remaining gates of the former fortress surrounding the city. The Brusselse gate was already mentioned in 1295-1296 as one of the four city gates of the city. After the destruction during the siege of Ghent in 1380, the damage during the siege of 1584 and the subsequent repairs, the city gate from the Middle Ages was finally demolished in 1822.



CITY WALK



Turn right at the roundabout so that you arrive at Brusselsestraat. Walk straight ahead for about 200 meters until you come across the Sint-Gillis-Binnen Parish Church on your right. A little further on you will find the St. Alexius Beguinage on your left with the Beguinage Museum and Museum of Folklore in the courtyard.

7



Parochiechurch St Gillis Binnen

The parish church Sint-Gillis-Binnen is located within the old town of Dendermonde. The addition "inside" came when the city expanded and parish Sint-Gillis-Buiten was also created. The church stands on the site of the oldest settlement and has a baroque facade. The church is open every morning from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm.

The Sint Alexius begijnhof is a typical square beguinage. It was founded in 1288 and has a trapezoidal courtyard. The beguinage now consists of 61 houses and a church. At the end of the seventeenth century, during the heyday, more than 200 beguines lived there!

8



Sint-Alexiusbegijnhof

9



Begijnhofmuseum en museum voor Volkskunde

In the Beguinage Museum and Museum of Folklore, you will become acquainted with everyday life, as it took place here in the nineteenth and early twentieth century: the household, housing, work, recreation. In short, life itself. In beguine homes number 11 and number 25, rooms were reconstructed and in number 25 the Museum of Folklore was opened in the remaining rooms. The museum was later expanded with number 24, the infirmary from 1709.



Continue your route through Brusselsestraat and go straight at the roundabout. At the end of Brusselsestraat, turn left to Sint Jorisgilde. Walk until you reach the lock complex (SAS). Cross the water here.

CITY WALK

In 1668-1669, Dendermonde built this lock complex with a central channel equipped with pointed icebreakers. On the lock walls and on both banks there were brick buildings for four water mills: a rye mill on the left bank, a wheat and bras mill for animal feed on the lock walls and on the right bank a bark and an oil mill that turned on the same water wheel. There was a movable wooden footbridge over the entire lock. Around 1900 all mills were demolished.



When you cross the water, turn left. Then take the second street on the right, this is the Prudens van Duysestraat. At the end of this street you will come across the Church of Our Lady. If you want to see the monument of the Ghent Gate, take a trip to the left. The monument will then be on your left after about 200 meters. The route turns right into Kerkstraat.

11



The Gentse gate from 1824 was completely demolished, in contrast to the Brusselse Poort and the Mechelse Poort (1822). The keystone in the shape of a monumental ram's head was saved. In 1994, the stone was incorporated into a sober memorial near the Aymonshof, where the city gate once stood.

The Church of Our Lady is a true treasure trove of religious art! You will find paintings by Flemish masters such as Antoon van Dyck, Gaspar de Crayer and David Teniers the Elder. The church is a beautiful example of Scheldt Gothic.



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Walk through Kerkstraat and on the left you pass CC Belgica Dendermonde. Diagonally opposite is the Vleeshuis Museum.

13



CC Belgica was once Hall and Cinema Belgica and is part of a protected cityscape. NV Burgerskring had a complex built in neobaroque style on the rubble of the house of the late mayor, minister and oil butcher Leo De Bruyn, which was destroyed in 1914. This complex included a theatre, a brasserie and four meeting rooms. The adjacent Van Winckel mansion is protected as a cityscape and monument. The building is designed as part of the CC Belgica while retaining original interior elements. Impressive is the staircase with beautiful landing stairs in neoclassical style. Cultural events also take place in the garden.

The current Butchers' Hall was built here between 1460 and 1462, on the same place as its predecessor from 1293. In the hall, local butchers were only allowed to sell their meat products to private individuals. Over the centuries, the Vleeshuis has served as a meat and cloth hall, aldermen's house, courthouse, prison, guild room, theater and guard room. In 1862 the last 'meat banks' disappeared. Since 1899 the Vleeshuis has functioned as an archaeological museum. In 1914 it narrowly escaped a fire and in 1943 it was protected as a monument.

14



Turn right to the Grote Markt to admire the town hall, Belfry and Cloth Hall of Dendermonde. Then go back and continue your way via Justice Square. At Kazernestraat you turn left and here you will find the end point of this route: the Bomb-free barracks.

CITY WALK

15



The Town Hall, the former Cloth Hall, is a showpiece of Flemish medieval architecture. Especially during the summer months, the Town Hall looks beautiful, decorated with colorful flowers and with the eleven heraldic flags. In the City Hall, visitors can become acquainted with the beautiful interior and the numerous paintings by the Dendermonde painting school. The Belfry, which was protected by Unesco as a World Heritage Site in 1999, has housed a carillon since the 16th century.

The Justice Palace was built on the historic site where the old castle of the lords of Dendermonde stood until the second half of the sixteenth century. Justice has been administered here since the Middle Ages. The original building was destroyed by fire in October 1914. The ruins were demolished during the war and replaced between 1923 and 1927 by the current Justice Palace. The monument is a determining factor in the cityscape. The building is always prominently visible from the various access roads of Dendermonde.



16

17



This imposing barracks building from 1828-1830 was part of the Dutch Fortifications in Dendermonde. The building is surrounded by a moat and a wall and is accessible through the wrought iron gate in the dead-end Kazernestraat. Just outside the gate, a soldier stood guard in the sentry box. In the course of the 19th century, the Belgian army built various service buildings, guardrooms and homes for non-commissioned officers along the perimeter wall. In the 1950s, the roof of the barracks was replaced and it lost its "bomb freedom".



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