Bruges through the eyes of a child
The city centre in four walks
EXPLORE BRUGES; DISCOVER THE KNOWN AND LESS WELL-KNOWN TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN A CHILD-FRIENDLY WAY
Dear Sir/Madam,

We are proud to present this child-friendly guide that was published to mark the 20th anniversary of our local childcare advisory council in Bruges.

WITH THE FOUR PROPOSED WALKS IN THIS BROCHURE, WE PARTICULARLY WANT TO OFFER CHILDREN AND FAMILIES A PLAYFUL INTRODUCTION TO OUR CITY.

The guide is also suitable for group activities (with or without parents) organised by childcare initiatives, schools, youth movements and other organisations.

Bruges has a lot to offer for young children and families. There are plenty of hidden parks, playgrounds, child-friendly museums and catering establishments that are worth discovering.

We hope that with this guide, you will discover our beautiful city in an unforgettable and playful way.

Pablo Annys, Alderman for Social Affairs
Dirk De Fauw, Mayor
Put on your walking boots

Sharpen your senses

And have a great walk
Finding the way

We always mention the starting point. You can follow the route on a map. The photos next to the assignments show you the way. You carry out the assignments as you make your way round. The box texts contain more details.

Something for everyone

The main walk is marked with a full, uninterrupted line. If you want to make the walk a little longer, you can follow the offshoot trails. You decide for yourself how long the walk takes. The offshoot trails are the dotted lines on the map. It doesn’t matter which route you try first. There is no fixed order. Sometimes, it can be nice to let off some steam by kicking a ball around, so make sure you pack one.

More info

More information about the museums (opening hours and admission) can be found at www.museabrugge.be. The city’s museums are free for the locals and children. Children up to 12 also enjoy in other museums a huge discount.

Information Office on Market Square (in Historium): 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily
Information office at ’t Zand (Concert Hall): Mon–Sat 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., Sundays and bank holidays: 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.
Information office at the railway station (corridor to platforms, side of city centre): 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily

This guide will take you on four fun and active walks in Bruges. On each walk, there are different assignments that you can carry out together with the children (ages 4 to 12).
The Golden Triangle walk

This is a very touristic walk in the heart of the city centre which covers the most famous buildings and museums of Bruges.

They are real treasures! Hence the title.

start
Blinde Ezelstraat, near the ‘Burg’

duration
1.5 hours (visits not included)
ASSIGNMENT 1

Look for all the buildings and statues on the photos.
Do you know which buildings these are? Which building do you like best? Why?

Search for the façade of the ‘Brugse Vrije’ based on this description:
“You see angels between plants and branches. In between, gold leaf shines.”

Can you see the Bruges Bear? The bear is also found on the city’s coat of arms.
You can read up on the legend in the yellow frame, but first try to answer the following question:

Do you know the nickname of the man who killed the bear?
A. Golden-armed Baldwin
B. Iron-armed Baldwin
C. Plastic-armed Baldwin

Legend has it that in the Middle Ages, a large white bear terrorized the area around Bruges. Baudouin I (founder of the county of Flanders) killed the bear. His nickname was iron-armed Baudouin.

In Belgium, ‘Suske en Wiske’ is a well-known comic strip. One of them is entitled ‘Heilig Bloed’ (Holy Blood). The story takes place at various locations in Bruges, including the Basilica Chapel.

The Basilica chapel is 900 years old! It was the house chapel of the counts of Flanders. The relic of the Holy Blood is kept in the chapel above it. It is said to contain a few drops of Jesus’ blood and is carried around in the Procession of the Holy Blood on Ascension Day each year.
ASSIGNMENT 2

On the Burg stood the St Donation’s Cathedral around 944, but was demolished around 1800. On entering the Crowne Plaza 1, you can visit the remains of the ruins for free.

In the middle of the Burg square, you can see the statue ‘The Beloved’. At the foot of the statue is a word in 40 different languages. What is that word in English? Why is this statue located so close to the city hall?

**Behind the statue, proceed to Burgstraat to Philipstockstraat.**
**Turn left as far as café Cambrinus 2.**

ASSIGNMENT 3

Cambrinus is known as the King of beer.
Can you find his statue in the façade of café Cambrinus?

**Retrace your steps and walk into Wapenmakersstraat.**

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At the foot of the statue, you will find the word ‘love’ in 40 different languages. The statue of ‘The Beloved’ is located here, because many people get married in the city hall.

You will find beer King Cambrinus, again with a female engraving in a window on the side of the building. Many people think he invented beer. Here you’ll find a beer brasserie, which is a kind of café.
Wij N zakstraat
Assignment 4

Which is your favourite chocolate? In the Chocolate Museum, you can find out where chocolate comes from and how it is made. Of course you can also sample some of it.

Continue on this street until you see the ‘Tolhuis’ (tollbooth).

If the ‘Tolhuis’ 1 (Provincial Information Centre) is open, step inside. We dare you to ask one of the people at the desk what a tollbooth actually is.

Sometimes there is an ‘oliebollen’ kiosk (selling deep-fried dough balls) on the Jan van Eyck Square. Is it there now? There is a statue of Jan van Eyck. What profession did this man have?

Assignment 5

Look for the statue in the picture 2 Can you remember who it depicts? Try to recount the story. If you can’t remember, you can go back to the first assignment, where it is explained (p. 9).

Follow Academiestraat until you reach Vlamingstraat.

The water of the canals used to come right up to the Market Square. Toll (money) was paid to the toll station to bring merchandise into Bruges. It was not until the 18th century that the Jan van Eyck Square was built. A minor fee was charged at the city gates, while major toll sums were paid to the nobility, as you can see in this house. The level of the toll was determined by the weight. At the Tolhuis, there was a weighing house with a large set of scales to weigh the goods. Address: Jan van Eyckplein 1-2.

Jan van Eyck was court painter of the Dukes of Burgundy and lived here in the same period as Louis of Gruthuse. The radiant colours, the way in which he was able to paint reality in perfect detail and his perfect mastery of oil painting techniques made him an innovator and one of the most important painters of the Flemish Primitives. In the Groeninge Museum (see walk Predictably Surprising), you can admire some of his beautiful paintings.

The statue of the Bruges Bear stands on the corner of the Jan van Eyck Square and Academiestraat.
ASSIGNMENT 6

If you like chips/French fries, then the Frietmuseum is right up your street.

What is your favourite radio station? Ask the adults as well. In Bruges, they have a local radio station, called VBRO, a Dutch abbreviation. Step into the building from where this radio station broadcasts its programmes. Ask someone who works there what VBRO stands for. Or do you happen to know yourself?

ASSIGNMENT 7

Search for the statue in the photo. Do you happen to know his name? It’s a character from the The Magic Flute, an opera. Who was the composer of this opera? Ask an adult or a passer-by if you don’t know.

If you like singing, you will find a massive score sheet of the character’s song just across the street. Why don’t you give it a go?

Now stand in front of the Stadsschouwburg near the statue on the photo. Copy the statue. Then go round the back of the Stadsschouwburg. Can you spot the artist entrance?

Would you like to attend a show here? Which story would you like to see? What do you think of the building?

VBRO stands for Vrije Brugse Radio Omroep (Free Bruges Radio Broadcasting House).

The character of the statue is called Papageno. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was the composer of the opera ‘The Magic Flute’.

The Stadsschouwburg (Municipal Theatre) was opened in 1869. It took two years to build. In 2001, this beautiful cultural temple was given a thorough overhaul.
**Assignment 8**

On the other side of the street, you can see one of the city’s last cinemas: ’t Zwart Huis, which is now closed down.

Now look for the entrance to the large city library. What’s it called?
Take a look inside to see if they stock your favourite film.
And your favourite book. Borrowing is free of charge in this library, provided you have a member’s card.

Can you see the Belfry tower? It’s on the Market Square.
Find the shortest route from the library to the Market Square.

**Assignment 9**

Look for this building on photo. It is the Historium.
In Historium, you can find out more about life in this city in the Middle Ages. Find the throne in the museum and take a royal picture.

Now look for the statue. Who is the statue of?

Can you spot the compass rose and the golden sphere?
(Hint: look on the rooftops). Can you find the copper spikes on the Market Square? What are they for do you think?

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‘The large city library is called ‘De Biekorf’.
The statue is of Jan Breydel and Pieter De Coninck.
The compass rose shows you the wind direction. The weather vane above it turns with the wind. From the golden sphere on the roof starts a line that indicates time (a meridian). You can find that line in large copper spikes on the ground. From the Market Square, the line runs in the direction of the North Pole. About 200 years ago, all major Belgian cities were equipped with such a forerunner of the clock. The copper spikes have only been there for a few decades.'
ASSIGNMENT 10

If you have lots of energy to spare, you can climb the Belfry tower, which stands 83 metres tall. How many steps are there?

There are two mock-ups on the Market Square:
- the Belfry
- the city map of Bruges

Can you see the beautiful concert hall on this map? Braille text about Bruges is on a display on the model of the belfry for the benefit of the blind and partially sighted. The street names are also in Braille. Feel with your hands. Can you make sense of it?

Turn into Breidelstraat to the left of the Belfry.

Don’t forget to walk into the small side street. It’s the smallest street of Bruges, where you’ll find a special café: ‘De Garre’. What does this dialect word mean? Ask a local if you don’t know. Why do you think this café is called that?

Continue on Breidelstraat if you want to return to the starting point.

Which Bruges treasure was your favourite on this tour? Tell us why.

1. _________________________________
2. _________________________________
3. _________________________________

The Belfry has 366 steps. Important documents and the city’s treasure used to be kept there. In 1280, everything was lost in a fire. Nowadays, the 47 bells of the city carillon are housed in the Belfry. Maybe you will hear the city carilloneur playing a tune during your walk. Around the tower, you can see the city halls. In the Middle Ages, they were warehouses for cloth and wool.

A ‘garre’ is Flemish dialect for a gap, a bit like this little alleyway. That also explains the name of the café.
Predictably surprising Walk

Follow the guide. If you add the offshoot trail, a ball may come in handy.

start
Dijver, in front of the Hotel De Tuilerieën

duration
1 hour (visits not included)
2.5 hours with offshoot trail (visits not included)
ASSIGNMENT 1

Look for the statue on photo 1. What does this statue depict? This statue, placed here as a token of gratitude to former mayor Frank Van Acker, was made by the artist couple Depuydt-Canestraro. Can you see the pun that refers to one of their names? It’s somewhat hidden in the statue. If you don’t get it, ask an adult what the Old Flemish word “duit” means.

Continue walking along the water. You may see some market stalls under the trees. Then cross the street on the zebra crossing and go under the gate to the courtyard of the Arentshof.

ASSIGNMENT 2

Search for these statues 2 in the square. Do you know what material they are made of? Do they look cute? Or rather scary? They represent the end of the world. They are called: ‘Hunger’, ‘Death’, ‘War’ and ‘Uprising’. Can you recognize these themes? Who created them? Make a game of it: Climb on each other’s backs and imitate the position of the riders with their horses.

Through the fences at the back of Arentshof 3 you can have a look at the water pump with the swan in the corner. Swans are one of the well-known symbols of Bruges. In Belgium, there is a comic strip called ‘De Groene Zwaan van F.C. De Kampioenen’ (The Green Swan of FC De Kampioenen). Where was the treasure hidden? Ask a local.

Retrace your steps to Het Arentshof. Continue your walk over the Bonifacius Bridge.

The statue represents a bouquet of flowers. Across the street from the water, you can spot ceramic poppies for peace. You may have seen them somewhere else. Can you remember where? After the First World War, they became a symbol for peace, because this flower was just about the only thing that still grew on the battlefields after everything had been ploughed over and razed to the ground.

The name Depuydt contains the old Flemish word ‘duit’ which means frog. Hence the frog in the statue.

The sculptures are made of bronze. Bronze is a mixture of two metals: copper and tin. The first sculpture on the left represents ‘Revolt’, the second ‘War’, the third ‘Hunger’ and the fourth ‘Death’. They were made by artist Rik Poot.

The treasure of the comic strip was hidden in the cabinet to the right of the swan.
ASSIGNMENT 3

The Bonifacius Bridge is also called the “bridge of love”. Can you see any amorous couples here?
Look up at one of the smallest windows in Bruges. Can you see the towers?
Which church do they belong to, do you think?

Cross the bridge and take the path on your right.

Stand behind the railings 1 Pretend you’re super unhappy in captivity.
Maybe someone will take a picture of you?

Look up to see the prayer stand 2 of the medieval residents of the city palace Gruuthuse.
From that chapel, Louis Van Gruuthuse and his wife Margaret were able to follow mass in the Church of Our Lady without mixing with the common people or getting their long clothes dirty on the muddy streets.

Under the chapel, turn right into the courtyard and the entrance to the Gruuthuse Museum.

ASSIGNMENT 4

There are stone chairs in front of the museum. Choose 2 people from your group who can take a seat as a rich lady and lord of the castle. Pretend you are the jester or clown. Act the fool!

Can you see the old well 3 Make a wish!

At the door of the museum, look for the first letters of the first name of the former palace inhabitants.
Can you see any other decorations? Read the motto of Knight Louis or ask an adult.

Walk along the back of the Church of Our Lady to the statue of Guido Gezelle on the other side of the street.

You can see the tall spire of the Church of Our Lady.
The name ‘Gruuthuse’ means the house of ‘gruut’. Do you know what ‘gruut’ is? It was a mixture of herbs that were used for brewing beer. The Gruuthuse family was able to collect tolls (money) on the herbs sold by others. They became very rich and were able to have this warehouse converted into a city palace. In the museum, you can visit the prayer stand, which overlooks the interior of the Church of Our Lady.

It is the letters L and M that you see as decoration. There are also cannons and flashes.

Louis of Gruuthuse was a member of the Order of the Golden Fleece, an important knighthood order during the reign of the Dukes of Burgundy. You may have heard of Charles the Bold? He was one of those dukes. It was his father, Philip the Good, who founded this knighthood order. When Louis won the White Bear Tournament, Philip the Good named him a squire donor. Inside the museum, there is a portrait of Louis, in which he wears the chain of the knight order. The ‘Golden Lamb’ is a pendant on it. Louis’ motto ‘Plus en vous’ means ‘There is more to you than you think.’
Assignment 5

Who is depicted on the statue? Is he still alive? What was his profession? (clue: You can tell from his outfit.)

Pop into the archaeological museum and ask the receptionist what there is to see in the museum.

Continue in the Mariastraat, along the Church of Our Lady to the St John's Hospital on your right.

Can you see any ambulances, doctors or patients in and around the building? Why is that?

Then walk under the archway next to the museum in the narrow alley. Walk up to the herb garden at the end on your right.

Assignment 6

Count how many different herbs there are. Is there anything in it that you recognize from the kitchen or your garden? Take a look at it. Do you know the names of the herbs that are there? If you were a chef, what would you use in your recipes?

Do you know anything about their medicinal properties? You can take a look in the old pharmacy. However, first get an entrance ticket from St John's Hospital (open from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Then return to the Church of Our Lady in Mariastraat.

The statue is of Guido Gezelle, who was a priest-poet. He lived from 1830 to 1899.

In the Archaeological Museum, you find out through quests and activities how people lived and worked in the olden days. You can walk from prehistoric times right up to the late Middle Ages.

St John's Hospital is now a museum. In the Middle Ages, nuns and priests looked after travellers and the sick. In the chapel that belongs to the Hospital, you can see 6 beautiful paintings by Hans Memling. He was one of the famous Flemish Primitives in the 15th century.

Some examples of the medicinal effect of herbs: Sage is good for your throat and is still used in many cough syrups. Laurel promotes good digestion and rosemary helps regulate blood pressure.
STOOFSTRAAT
ASSIGNMENT 7

The Church of Our Lady is the tallest building in the centre of Bruges and one of the tallest church towers in Belgium. The Church of Our Lady is also the 2nd tallest brick tower in the world; the largest is in Germany. How tall do you think the tower stands?

Inside, there is a world-famous marble sculpture by Michelangelo. Do you happen to know what it’s called? Maybe you can ask one of the many tourists with travel guides? Or you can ask the attendant at the entrance?

Return to the Bonifacius Bridge (bridge of love) at the Arentshof via the cemetery. That’s where this tour ends. If you want, you can add an extra loop. Follow assignment 8.

ASSIGNMENT 8 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

In Katelijnestraat, turn into Stoofstraat on the right.

Do you know what the Flemish word ‘stoof’ means?

There used to be a bathhouse in this street. Do you know what that is?

Have you ever been to a swimming pool party? Can you tell us something about it?

Continue to walk until you get to Wal Square.

Look for the sculpture that depicts the ancient Greek story of Pegasus. Make your own story with the characters of this sculpture.

Read the story of Pegasus: The winged horse Pegasus pulls the carriage of the Greek gods who visit Bruges. Zeus turned himself into a swan to be closer to Leda, with whom he was in love. Prometheus is the coachman. Why is he chained?

The height of the tower is sometimes the subject of debate, but most sources agree on 112 meters.

The sculpture of Michelangelo is called ‘Madonna with Child’ (Madonna is Mary). In the church are the tombs of Charles the Bold and his daughter Mary of Burgundy. Only Mary is actually buried here. The tomb of her father is empty. He is buried in a church in another city.

A ‘stoof’ is a Flemish synonym for ‘stove’.

About 700 years ago, the bathhouse was a place where everyone came to wash in one big bath, when there were no bathrooms in people’s houses. Sometimes, there were separate baths for men and women. Here, it was mixed. Parties would be held from time to time, that sometimes got out of hand.

Prometheus is chained up, because, according to the legend, he stole the fire from the gods.
The brewery is called ‘The Half Moon’. This is where ‘Straffe Hendrik’ and ‘Brugse Zot’, the city’s beers, are brewed. There are guided tours on the hour, every hour. More information can be found at www.halvemaan.be.

Typical Bruges biscuits: ‘kletskoppen’ (literally: bald heads) are called that way because they shine like shining bald heads when they come out of the oven. This name was already used in the 19th century. They are called ‘dentelles de Bruges’ in French. ‘Dentelles’ means lace.

Beguines were not nuns, but devout, single women without children who led simple lives. Nowadays, the beguines have left and made way for nuns. The convent and retreat can be found at no. 24, Het Minnehof at no. 42.
ASSIGNMENT 9 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

Look for the plaque on the photo 1. It shows the name of the brewery on this square. What could it be?
The ‘gruut’ used in the day of Louis Van Gruthuse was replaced by hop in beer. Which beer is brewed here?

Many women used to make lace at home, which they sold to the tourists. Who knows, you may see a real lace maker at work. These days, a lot of lace is imported from factories in China. Most women have full-time jobs and don’t have time to make lace. Nor would they be able to earn enough money to make a living from it. We dare you to enter a souvenir shop and ask the sales assistant if the lace they sell is still made by hand in Bruges?

Walk to the end of the street and turn left into Wijngaardstraat. Look for the bakery shop.

This is where they still sell the Bruges ‘kletskoppen’ (literally: bald heads), traditional lace biscuits. Where do you think did the name of these biscuits come from?

Retrace your steps and walk into the direction of the Wijngaard Square.

ASSIGNMENT 10 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

Do you see the swans in the water? Do you know why there are so many swans in Bruges?

Some of the coach drivers like to have a chat. Ask how many rides they’ve had so far today.
What’s the name of the horse? Maybe you can get someone to take a photo of you next to the coach driver on the carriage?

Step through the gate of the beguinage into the courtyard.

In the past, beguines used to live in the beguinage. Do you know what beguines are?

At which number is the convent and the house of contemplation?
At which house number is the sign ‘Minnehof’?

Walk out of the beguinage using the other gate and turn right.

The legend of the Swans of Bruges goes as follows: After the death of Mary of Burgundy, Bruges went through turbulent times. Mary’s husband, Maximilian, imposed very high taxes on the locals. This led to an uprising and Maximilian was imprisoned in Craenenburg House on the Market Square. From behind bars, he watched how some of his rich friends were tortured and decapitated, including his friend Pieter Lanchals. His head was spiked on a pole at the Gentpoort. When Maximilian was freed and back in power, he made the locals keep swans* on the canal.

*Swans are also called long necks. This refers to the name ‘Lanchals’ (long neck), Maximilian’s friend.
Assignment 11 (Offshoot Trail)

Walk along the ‘Minnewater’ (Lover’s Lake) in the direction of the Minnewater Park. Continue to walk along Begijnenvest up to the ‘Poertoren’ which you can see in the distance.

The ‘Poertoren’ was first a water tower, later a storage place for gunpowder and one of the defence towers of Bruges. Pretend you’re a medieval guard who has to protect the city’s entrance against the enemy.

**Walk over the bridge and take a left into the Minnewater Park.**

Go into the park in search of the life-size game on the photo. Do you know what this game is called? Maybe you’ve played it before? Can you list all the pieces that are needed to play this game? Act out all the pieces of the game at their starting position. Another nice photo-shoot opportunity!

This is where this offshoot trail ends. You can have your picnic here in the park.

**Through the park, you can retrace your steps to the Wijngaard Square where you will find the horses and coach drivers.**

From there, you can find your own way back by using the map that shows alternative roads to return to the starting point.

Did you buy a souvenir like a real tourist? Or did you manage to resist the temptation?

The game of chess consists of several pieces (tower, horse, runner, king, queen and pawn).

Every year, Party in the Park and the Cactus Festival are held in the Minnewater Park.
3

The GEZELLE Walk

Have you noticed the name of this walk? Try to figure out why this walk is called this way.

Tip: take a ball with you, you will occasionally come across a playground or an open grass field where you can play.

start
Church on Sint-Annapein

duration
2 hours (visits not included)
4 hours with offshoot trail (visits not included)
ASSIGNMENT 1

Walk around this church together with the person with the longest legs. Count your steps. How many steps did you each take? Now you are limbered up to start this beautiful walk!

Enter the church and look for the giant painting 1. Find the title of the painting and the name of the painter. This painting was restored in 2013. Do you know another word for ‘restoration’? This painting was made in 1685. How long ago is that?

ASSIGNMENT 2

Continue through St. Annakerkstraat to the canal.

Find the façades of the photos 2. What is special about them?

Cross the bridge to see exactly what the building with the strange façade on the other side of the water is. You can walk up to ‘De Piepbal’, which is like a library, but for toys! Only children or adults with a disability can borrow toys there, as can children who are ill for a long time. They also have a relaxation room and a dedicated computer room.

Retrace your steps, cross the bridge and turn left. Walk along the canal.

Find the houses in the last photo and see if you can work out the profession of some of the residents.

At the bridge between Langerei and the Potterierei, you either choose the small offshoot trail, cross the bridge to Genthof (follow assignment 3, p. 39), or you can walk into Carningsstraat and take the first right (go to assignment 5, p. 41).

The painting is entitled ‘The Last Judgement’ and was painted by Hendrik Herregouts. In 2018, it will be 333 years since the painting was made.

Another word for ‘restoration’ is ‘repair’. This has to be done very carefully and in the traditional way; usually with the same materials! For this precision work, you have to be a good craftsman.

In the 16th century, there was a major uprising; the so-called ‘iconoclasm’. St. Anna’s Church was completely destroyed at that time. In 1611, a new church was erected. At the end of the 17th century, the late Gothic church was given a Baroque make-over. If these difficult words mean anything to you, perhaps you can find traces of them.

Poet Guido Gezelle was baptized in this church on May 1, 1830. He also made his first communion there and after he was ordained, he led his first mass there. Try to remember the name Guido Gezelle. We will bump into him again.
Assignment 3 (Offshoot Trail)

Find the shell of the photo on the other side of the bridge. What is the name of this shell? Do you know its meaning? What material do you think it is made of?

Can you find the statue of Father Carmelite? Search on, under or beside the bridge. Genthof is a beautiful location for lovers of art and special things. Maybe you will get to see the glassblower at work? Step inside to have a look and ask him questions.

Walk to the Woensdagmarkt via Genthof.

Assignment 4 (Offshoot Trail)

Whose statue is this on the Woensdagmarkt?

Walk across the Oosterlingen Square to Gouden-Handrei.

Find the beautiful, old lamppost. Above a door in this street, you can see two golden hands with their index fingers touching. Can you find which door?

Do you see the gardens over the water? Some of them have beautiful garden sheds! Imagine that your sweetheart lives there, but their parents forbid you to meet. Your sweetheart is at the garden shed and you are here on the other side of the water. Dedicate a love poem to them or serenade them.

Find the poppies on the other side. You may have seen them somewhere else. Can you remember where?

At the end of the street, you’ll find another scallop shell like this one.

Cross the bridge. Walk into Carmersstraat and take the first right.

The shell, a scallop shell, is the symbol of St James. It is believed that St James’ tomb is in Santiago de Compostela in Spain. Many people walk to Santiago de Compostela on pilgrimage. This bronze shell is thus on the road to Santiago de Compostela. In Roman times, the shell represented birth and rebirth.

The statue of the Father Carmelite is under the bridge.

The statue you see here is of the famous painter Hans Memling. He lived in the 15th century and was one of the Flemish Primitives.

Did you know that after the First World War, poppies became a symbol of peace, because this flower was just about the only thing that still grew on the battlefields after everything had been ploughed over and razed to the ground?
DRIEZWANENSTRAAT
ASSIGNMENT 5

You are now in Korte Blekersstraat. In this street, you will find the inn Vlissinge, the oldest café in Bruges. Find out when the café was opened. Calculate how long café Vlissinge has been going. When you go inside, ask the bartender where the name of the café comes from. You can play board games in there, and in summer, you can play boulles round the back.

Walk through Korte Blekersstraat and Driezwanenstraat and turn left into Korte Rijke Pijndersstraat.

ASSIGNMENT 6

In Korte Rijke Pijndersstraat, there are many houses decorated with lion’s heads in their façades. How many can you spot?

At the end of the street, turn right into Carmersstraat.

On the corner of Korte Speelmansstraat and Carmersstraat, there is a special statue. Do you recognise who this is? Ask an adult to explain the meaning. Would you like to have such a statue in the façade of your home? Why or why not?

Café Vlissinghe opened in the year 1515. In 2018, the café is 503 years old.

Twenty-seven lion’s heads can be found on the façades.

The statue on the corner of Korte Speelmansstraat and Carmersstraat represents Jesus (Christ) on the cross. It was installed after the miraculous rescue of the orphan girl Anna. She lived in the neighbourhood and was scorned and bullied by everyone. One day, in the middle of winter, she was thrown into a well. Her foster mother went frantic and crawled on all fours to Our Lady Ter Potterie. When she returned, Anna stood next to the well, alive and well!
Assignment 7

Find the building of the first photo. What is it? On a commemorative plaque, you can see which famous person died there. How old was that person then? Read his last words out loud.

Walk to the end of the Carmersstraat.

There are two cafés. What are they called? Why are they called that?

Find the clog in the façade of house no. 172.

If you stand at the top of the hill near the mill, you can do a roly poly down the slope in summer or make snow angels in winter. Do you know what the mill used to do?

Assignment 8

Have a good look at the wirework around the mill. What does it remind you of? It was specially made for the ‘Kantlijnen’ exhibition (2008-2009) that celebrated old and new lacework. What image can you make out? Clue: It is related to baking bread.

Leave the mill, cross the street and walk into Rolweg.

On the left, you can see a museum where you can find out a lot about the person who is on the commemorative plaque of assignment 7. Can you remember his name? It is his birthplace. In the past, babies were born at home. Do you have friends who were born at home?

The museum has a beautiful garden with an organic vegetable patch and an insect hotel.

There is a statue entitled ‘De man die vuur wilde geven’ (The man who wanted to give fire). Just like the fire that must always remain burning, poems must always be passed on. Can you find the statue?

Continue on Rolweg until you reach the first street on your left.

The building in Carmersstraat is the English convent. Guido Gezelle died here on 27 November 1899. He was 69 years old at the time. (You remember, this poet was baptized in St Anna’s Church.) His last words were: “En ‘khoorde de veugeltjes zoo geerne schufelen.” (And I so loved to hear the birds sing). ‘Schufelen’ means ‘whistle’.

Café ‘De Verloren Hoek’ (The Lost Corner) is called that way because there was never much going on in this area. It is a little off the beaten track, outside the busy centre. Café ‘De Windmolen’ (The Windmill) is called that way, because ... (Just turn around!).

The wirework around the mill refers to flour and bread baking. Each time you see flat boards with three loaves. These are used by bakers to bring bread in and out of the oven. It looks like a large piece of lace, don’t you agree?

In Rolweg (No. 64) is the Guido Gezelle Museum. The entrance is through the gate further along.
ASSIGNMENT 9

Choose the most beautiful front garden from this part of the street and Albrecht Rodenbachstraat. Why did you choose this garden? Take a nice photo of it, with you in front of it.

This street, together with Albrecht Rodenbachstraat, is the only place in the centre of Bruges where you will find front gardens. They are protected (even the hedges). What does this mean?

At the end of Albrecht Rodenbachstraat, turn left into Stijn Streuvelsstraat.

A little further on your left, you will find a small playground and a football field (Did you bring a ball?). You can also have a picnic there.

Retrace your steps and continue in Stijn Streuvelsstraat.

ASSIGNMENT 10

Walk in silence on the paths alongside these houses. Would you like to live here? Why/why not? Who would you like to have as a neighbour? What is the name of this type of house? It’s written on one of the walls. When were they originally built?

Proceed to Kantwerksters Square.

Do you happen to know what the black contraption on Kantwerksters Square used to be for?

The front gardens are protected. The residents must therefore leave them as they are. They are not allowed to concrete them over for their cars or do anything else with them. The small houses are called ‘Godshuisjes’ (alms houses). They were built in 1897 for the poor and were reopened in 1994. The black contraption on Kantwerksters Square was a water pump where everyone went to get their water. In the olden days, there was no running water in the houses!
ASSIGNMENT 11

Enter the Jerusalem Church. This is a very special and beautiful church. Find the piece of the cross of Jesus.

Go to the start of Balstraat.

It used to have a different name; it was named after a family who probably lived here. Can you find the original name of this street?

On Kantwerksters Square, you can either opt for the offshoot trail (follow assignment 12), or Balstraat (go to assignment 15 p. 51).

ASSIGNMENT 12 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

Find Rodestraat.

The stepped gables are typical of the houses in Bruges. How many are there in Rodestraat?

At the end of Rodestraat, turn right into Langestraat.

This street looks completely different from most of the streets in Bruges. There are many different types of shops. For every shop you meet, have everyone in your group tell you if they like it or not. Which shop gets the most votes?

Walk to house no. 45.

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The Jerusalem Church was built in the 15th century by the Adornes family. Anselm Adornes had been on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and wanted a reminder of the Holy Grave Church he visited there. This Jerusalem Church became a burial chapel for this rich family. It is one of the only churches in Belgium that is still privately owned.

Balstraat used to be called Balcstraat, as is shown on the street sign.

In Rodestraat, there are three stepped gables on the right and one on the left.
ASSIGNMENT 13 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

Between house nos. 45 and 47, there is a special new-build project. What do you think of it? Do you know what used to be here?
The cut-out at the entrance gate could be a clue. Which copper piece of the former building can still be found here? Try to find it!
The façades of the new houses are very special. Do you know what they are covered with? Do you know in which region in Belgium this material occurs naturally?

**Turn right into Molenmeers before the bridge.**

ASSIGNMENT 14 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

In this street, you will find a restaurant ‘De Refter’ by a famous chef. Do you happen to know who?
A little further on in Molenmeers, you can see a striking work of art on the façade of a house. What does it remind you of? Give it a title.

**Continue through Molenmeers until you get back to Kantwerksters Square.**

Look for a work of art that looks almost identical.

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**There used to be a beer brewery here.** One of the old brewer’s boilers was preserved. A hundred years ago, there were 40 brewers in Bruges. You could only serve Bruges beer then. At the time, beer was more popular than water!

The façades of the houses are covered with slate. This is often the case in the Ardennes, a region in Wallonia, the French-speaking part of Belgium.

Restaurant ‘de Refter’ in Molenmeers is a restaurant of the famous chef Geert Van Hecke.
In Molenmeers, there are artworks on the façades of the houses, one at the bottom and one at the top of the street, which are very alike.
ASSIGNMENT 15

Find the Folklore Museum. Do you know what you can see here? The museum is located in small white houses. Find out who used to work here.

In the museum, they have a pet. Can you guess which animal? Clue: look at the sign at the beginning of the street. Find out the pet’s name.

The museum has a welcoming café where you can have a drink.

At the end of Balstraat, turn left.

Find the statue of the Virgin Mary on the façade.

ASSIGNMENT 16

In this part of the walk, there are several houses with a niche (a kind of open box) in the façades. In some of them, there is a statue, who is the statue of? Why did people want this on their façades? Count from here (corner Balstraat and Rolweg) to the end of the walk how many niches you can find.

A poem is written on the façade of the house on the corner of Venkelstraat and Rolweg. Read it out loud. Find the name of the poet. Do you like it? Do you know what it means or can you also like something without understanding it? Give the poem a (new) title.

In the Folklore Museum, you can see how your grandparents or great-grandparents lived when they were little. In the row of houses where the museum is now, shoemakers used to be at work.

The museum’s pet is a cat. His name is Aristide IV. He is cat number four.

The statue of the Virgin Mary is on the façade around the corner of Rolweg. In the past, every niche contained a statue of the Virgin Mary. Most people were very religious and wanted to thank Mary in this way or ask her something. Are you religious?

We found three niches to the end of the walk. All without a statue of Mary.
ASSIGNMENT 17

Find your way back to the beginning of this walk using the map.

As you walk, share what you liked most on this walk; what was your least favourite thing? Explain why. What will you tell a friend?

At the back of St Anna’s Church, you will find a sign 1. explaining what the neighbourhood used to be like and who lived there. Have you worked out why the walk is called the GEZELLE walk? Have a look at the people on the sign and the photo on this sheet 2.

Guido GEZELLE lived in this neighbourhood. We found his name several times on this GEZELLE walk.
With bells and whistles

Tip: take a ball with you, you will occasionally come across a playground or an open grass field where you can play.

start
Gentpoort

duration
1.5 hours (visits not included)
2 hours with offshoot trail (visits not included)
Assignment 1

The Gentpoort accommodates a museum with medieval armour. When the weather is nice, you have a beautiful view from the roof. Make up a knight's or a noblewoman's name for everyone in your group. Also think of a slogan that suits you. For example, something with your surname in it.

How many medieval city gates does Bruges still have today? Can you list them all?

Walk down Gentpoortstraat towards the city centre. Find the bakery 1.

Assignment 2

Find the gargoyles on the edge of the roof of the Magdalena Church 2. Do you have any idea what they were for?

Inside, the church looks very special. What is so special about it? Find a nice spot. Sit in silence for a few minutes with your eyes closed.

When you're done, proceed to Schaarstraat.

A little further, you'll find one of the nicest playgrounds in the centre of Bruges. There are also picnic tables.

Walk through the park to the kiosk.

There are four preserved medieval city gates. In addition to the Gentpoort, there is the Smedenpoort, Ezelpoort and Kruispoort. To strangers, the Gentpoort is an entrance to the city; for the locals, it represented the way to the outside world. While the city had to be defended at the gate, all kinds of merchandise were also brought into and out of the city through it.

Gargoyles were the drainpipes of the Middle Ages. They used to channel the rainwater away from the buildings.

The Magdalena Church is 150 years old and built in (English) Neo-Gothic style. Inside, it looks very modern. That was the work of YOT in 2002. This association wants to see more people attend mass and organizes various events and projects around space, people and religion.
ASSIGNMENT 3

On the kiosk, fanfares sometimes play music concerts. A Dutch film was shot here. Local can borrow it from the library for free.

Can you find the statue of one of our former queens in this park? What was the name of this queen (Clue: think of the name of the park)? Who was she married to? Where did she feature numerically in the list of Belgian queens (i.e. first, second, third etc.)? Do you know how she died? How old was she then?

Leave the park, turn left past the entrance to the car park up to the corner of the street. From here, you can walk an offshoot trail or continue to walk down the street to the large entrance gate on your left (go to assignment 4, p. 63).

ASSIGNMENT 4 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

The café on the corner is called ‘De Belleman’ (town crier). Find the bell man on the façade. Ask one of the adults in your company or a passerby where the word ‘belleman’ comes from. Look on the street sign of this street where the name Suvéestraat comes from.

Walk out of the street towards the centre.

Queen Astrid was married to King Leopold III and was the fourth queen of Belgium. She died in a car accident on the way home from a trip to Switzerland. She was 29 years old. Her youngest child, Albert, was only 14 months old. Albert later became King Albert II. She was the grandmother of our King Philippe, but he never knew her.

A ‘belleman’ was a town crier who brought the news to people long before televisions, computers, internet and mobile phones. He summoned the people with a bell.

The Suvéestraat is named after the painter Joseph Benoît Suvée, who was born in Bruges in 1743. You can admire his work in the Groeninge Museum.
ASSIGNMENT 5 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

At the end of the street, you will find a covered market. Have a browse.
This market has been around for about 200 years. Do you know what this
market is called? What can you buy here?

Walk to the other side of the market.

Have you seen the statue of one of the former mayors of Bruges? What was
his name? What other political function did he have? In what year did he die?

Stand on the bridge over the water. Take a picture like a real tourist or wave
at the boats passing by.

ASSIGNMENT 6 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

Walk to Huidenvetters Square.

This is one of the most touristic squares in Bruges. How many restaurants and
cafés can you count here? Which one has the most beautiful name in your opinion?

Can you see the patio of the mayor’s office, with its private berth and jetty?

In this water, a winter swim is organised every December. What do you think it
involves? Do you know anyone who has taken part?

Now walk into Pandreitje, until the end.

The name of this market is the Fish Market. This covered
fish market (Wed to Sat) was built in 1821. Before that time,
the fishmongers sold their goods in the open air. Until 1745,
this was done on the Market Square of Bruges. After that
they moved here.

The statue is that of Frank Van Acker. He was mayor
of Bruges. He died on 22 April 1992. On the Dijver is
a bouquet of flowers created in honour of him.

On Huidenvetters Square, there are 10 cafés
and restaurants.

People in Belgium are sometimes referred to as ‘polar bears’
(ice swimmers). This used to be done at Rozenhoedkaai,
but the dives have now moved to the Carmersbrug.
ASSIGNMENT 7 (OFFSHOOT TRAIL)

Where you are now, there used to be a special building. Do you know which building it could be? You can still see a part of the former façade and the entrance gate. There’s a big clue in the street name! In what year was the original building erected?

Now go and look for the golden spider on an (old) façade nearby.

ASSIGNMENT 8

Find the petanque field nearby. Some people gather here in the summer with a group of friends every week. Have you ever played petanque? Where was that?

Can you remember with whom?

At first sight, the new houses all seem to be the same. But is that also the case?

Can you see roof terraces? And gardens? How many houses and flats do you think there are here?

We took a picture from one of the roof terraces. Which building can you see in the background? (You’ve already walked past it.) Can you find the roof terrace from which we took the photo? Walk through the streets and take a good look.

Would you like to live here? Why/why not?

Do you have any idea what’s under the streets?

The booths that you see here and there lead you there.

Walk along Stalijzerstraat, along the park past the Magdalena Church and turn back into Gentpoortstraat.

The Bruges prison was founded here in 1861 and demolished in 1992. Construction of these new houses began in 2000.

The golden spider can be found around the corner of the street sign of Gevangenistraat on the façade of Pandreitje no. 8.

The petanque pitch can be seen along the park near the houses in Stalijzerstraat.

In total, there are 75 houses and flats.

We took the picture with the Magdalena Church in the background from the top of the roof terrace of Koude Markt no. 10.

Underneath the houses of ‘t Pandreitje, there is a parking lot. The residents can go there through the booths.
Assignment 9

Walk past the stove shop, turn left into the small alley until the end.

Play a ball game or play on these squares. If you are not inspired, here’s a list of games to choose from: Chinese whispers, football, basketball, tag, statues, duck duck goose, wheelbarrows ...

If you go all the way through Gentpoortstraat, you’ll end up at the Gentpoort.
LOKO Brugge brings together everyone who works with young children. It is a place for consultation, cooperation, advice to the city council or other authorities, such as Kind en Gezin.

LOKO Brugge encompasses care initiatives, schools, the city’s youth service, representatives of other advisory councils, political representatives, related services such as the parenting shop, the childcare desk, the babysitting and foster care services, the Gezinsbond, etc.

This wide variety of services provides different angles of approach in the discussions. Each member may introduce topics to be worked out in working groups, as appropriate.

LOKO Brugge is an active advisory council that is proud of various achievements in recent years relating to the parents and professionals in childcare alike. Within LOKO, for example, the initiative was taken to draw up the brochure ‘Opvangmogelijkheden in Groot Brugge’ (Care options in Bruges and surrounding areas), the website www.kinderopvangbrugge.be, a flyer that provides guidance on starting care initiatives in Bruges.

These walks are a reworked version. A total of 6000 copies of the first edition were distributed. The current version has also been translated into English, German, French and Spanish. This allows the many tourists in our city to explore Bruges through the eye of a child.

Bernard van Steenkiste,
Chairman
An initiative of Lokaal Overleg Kinderopvang Brugge
(Local Consultation on Childcare Bruges)

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More tourist information: www.visitbruges.be

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