Inspiration guide 2019

Zeebrugge
Lissewege
On Sea

Locals and their favourite spots

With 30 nice addresses
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A special triangle

"The sea gives, the sea takes" is an ancient principle to which Bruges owes its trade and wealth from the Middle Ages. It is nature that is responsible for the present cultural assets and tourist attractions of this World Heritage city – most notably thanks to the Zwin, Bruges' access to the sea, which enabled successful export. Even when the sea retreated and humans transformed the hinterland into a magnificent polder area, the clay soil was turned into bricks to construct city gates, churches and monuments. The Cistercians, the great promoters of Brick Gothic, settled in Lissewege and set the tone. At the time, the white polder village by the sea already provided accommodation to devout pilgrims who were on their way to Santiago de Compostela. But the sea set out to recapture its place in the interest of Bruges. At the end of the 19th century, the plans for a seaport became concrete. Lissewege retreated into the hinterland; Bruges finally regained access to the sea via the Baudouin Canal, and a new seaside resort was born: Zeebrugge! A win-win situation! Meanwhile, the seaport of Bruges has developed into a major world port; it features the widest beach and Zeebrugge offers many culinary delights at all levels thanks to the fish market and fishing port, regardless of whether you have a meal at a renowned restaurant or order a beer with a ‘poate geirnoars’ [pot of shrimp]. What comes from Zeebrugge tastes great. But in Lissewege, too, they master the art of wining and dining. This is the place to be for gourmets. What’s more, they combine art with wining and dining. The perfect recipe for pure enjoyment!
Bruges residents like to consider it their own private beach. Only really close friends get to hear how wonderful it is out here all year round. This Bruges loyalty makes Zeebrugge an exceptionally pleasant place where everyone seems to know everyone. Zeebrugge officially boasts the largest beach of the coast. Hanging out in the sun, with your feet in the water or having a good time with friends or family, it is all possible here. Like every year, from the Easter holidays until the end of October, the youngest beach lovers can let it all out in the children’s beach play village, with swings, climbing frames and even a genuine play boat. There is also room to relax on the adjacent beach terraces or in the Icarus Surf and Kitesurf club under the watchful eye of ‘The man who saw the boat, in the air’, the work of art by Jean Bilquin.

In front of the ‘Badengebouw’ you can find the sports beach and the beach library (29 June – 1 September open from 10.30am till 17.30pm), where you can borrow a fine collection of reading materials such as comic books, novels and magazines. A must for all bookworms who also love sand, sun and sea. Those who are not so fond of feeling the sand itching between their toes can always opt for a game of petanque next to the Stella Maris Chapel or a game of minigolf on the course nearby. Or you can take a walk along the Saint George’s Day promenade. This jetty to the west almost lets you walk straight into the sea. Two large viewing platforms guarantee a marvellous view of the sea, beach and harbour. Nature lovers will also get their money’s worth here. Nature reserve ‘De Fonteintjes’ is dotted with orchids and is dominated by the heavenly peace of the dunes. The organisation Natuurpunt also allows you to explore the area with a guide.

A beach so vast that even on tourist top days you will still find a sea of sunbathing space. Easy to reach by train as you are dropped off right next to the beach. Those who come by car can park for free. We do not have to point out that the Bruges residents cherish ‘their’ beach, do we?

A WONDERFUL WALK ALONG THE COAST

Fancy a hearty hike? Go for the ‘kustwandelroute’ [coastal walking route], a network of paved and unpaved hiking trails between De Panne and Knokke-Heist. The route connects the coastal municipalities and combines the best in terms of culture, nature, maritime heritage and couleur locale. The starting point is opposite the train station in the Beach Area. From then on, you can plan your own walking route using the signposted nodes indicated on the handy brochure. This is available for purchase at Toerisme Brugge (Zeedijk) or can be ordered at www.fietsen-wandelen.be.
The Palace Hotel, which still dominates the Sea dyke in Zeebrugge, has experienced an eventful history. Construction was started in 1908 to welcome German tourists before they set sail to the United States. A luxury hotel tailor-made for anyone who was rich enough to cross the ocean. The building was inaugurated exactly 14 days before the start of World War I. At the opening ceremony, the then mayor of Zeebrugge is said to have concluded his speech with the prophetic words ‘... let’s hope that the Germans come soon.’ They did come... The hotel was immediately occupied by German troops. After the war, the hotel did not immediately recover and the prestigious project proved loss-making.

In 1949, the Palace Hotel was sold and converted into a stately residence with over one hundred flats. The corner towers, the majestic interior and the original lift cages were retained. As a result, the hotel never lost its grandeur. In 1994, the Palace Hotel, which had meanwhile been renamed Residentie Palace [Residence Palace], was declared a monument. While its pathway may have been erratic, two wars could not beat this palace. Today, one century on, the Palace Hotel still is a model of elegance.

THE PALACE HOTEL
MAJESTIC ELEGANCE ON THE SEA DYKE

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Still up for more? All summer long, numerous events are organized on the beach. A concise list of these events can be found on pages 40 and 41. Finally, more information can be found at the information office in the ‘Badengebouw’, which also houses a first-aid station, toilet and assistance station for everyone with mobility problems. There is also an adapted toilet and shower and beach wheelchairs are available so that everyone can fully enjoy that vast beach!

Did you know that on average 23% more hours of sunshine are recorded on the coast than in the hinterland? Check the webcam at www.brugge.be/zeebrugge or watch panorama television on Canvas/één for a weather update!
Strandwijk through the eyes of...

Dirk Schockaert

‘Six years ago I suffered a stroke, and the left side of my body has been paralysed ever since. Sometimes, I feel a little left out from society as a result of my situation, but the beach wheelchairs provided by Zon, Zee... Zorgeloos have really helped me to counter that impression. A job student — usually someone who’s studying nursing or occupational therapy — accompanies me to the water and helps me shower and get dressed. This enables me to take part: my kids can go to the beach with their dad once more, and as an ex-surfer, I can finally visit the surf club again. In brief: that beach wheelchair gives me a real sense of freedom. The only way to feel like a fully-fledged citizen is by participating in society.’

Beach wheelchairs are available from the ‘Badengebouw’ on Zeedijk.

Gina De Groote, yoga on the beach

‘My yoga initiations have become a tradition that appeals both to Zeebrugge residents and tourists. This year too, I plan a few early morning sessions in August. For 2 months, there are also evening lessons. In case of bad weather, we find shelter in the Maria Stella Maris Chapel. My specialty stays yoga under the rising sun. Incredibly early but absolutely wonderful. You see the sun rising, you hear the seagulls, you smell the sea, all your senses are nourished and stimulated. Wonderful moments that always taste like more’.

Period: July and August
More info: www.mychange.be

Chloe Dalle and Robin Geens, Banana Moon Beach Club

‘What we enjoy most are the small things. Recently there was a young family here that wanted to teach their little son to ride a bike on the sea dyke without training wheels. ‘Go to the hard sand’, we advised them, ‘then he will fall on a soft surface.’ A few hours later they showed up again and handed us a thank-you card. Their son could ride a bike. Now that is Zeebrugge. A beach with a view of a hectic world port that keeps very calm itself. It is a family spot where you can feel at ease about letting your kids play.’ Zeedijk 15-25
www.bananamoonbeachclub.be
My dad grew up in Zeebrugge and we’ve always had a beach hut here, so I’ve got fond memories of long summers spent on this vast stretch of sand. Friends of my parents have an apartment here too. Two years ago, my parents and their friends went on holiday together, and my dad half-jokingly mentioned he’d love to set up a restaurant in Zeebrugge. One thing led to another, and we opened our doors for the first time last year! I was doing a work placement at De Visscherie shortly before we opened, and the chef there, Thomas Vanwynsberghe, decided to join us on our new adventure. We’ve just wrapped up our first summer, and we could never have dreamed Amuzee would be such a success. Everyone was really enthusiastic about our project, which gave us a real boost. I’m already looking forward to next summer!’

Monique Maerschalck on Tennis and Minigolf

‘There’s no place in Zeebrugge more beautiful than this, but there are still people who have no idea it exists or who think it’s a private property — even though our Tennis and Minigolf club has been here for twelve years now. That’s why I always open up the parasols when the sun’s out — you’ve got to attract attention somehow! When it all gets a bit too busy on the promenade, this place offers a flowery oasis of peace. Lots of people come here every day to meet others, and it’s great to see that kind of social contact. We’re all part of a big family that always welcomes you with a hug or a kiss. I couldn’t ever do without this — it genuinely brings colour to my life.’ Period: April - September.

Monique Maerschalck

Eline Snijkers, Amuzee

‘My dad grew up in Zeebrugge and we’ve always had a beach hut here, so I’ve got fond memories of long summers spent on this vast stretch of sand. Friends of my parents have an apartment here too. Two years ago, my parents and their friends went on holiday together, and my dad half-jokingly mentioned he’d love to set up a restaurant in Zeebrugge. One thing led to another, and we opened our doors for the first time last year! I was doing a work placement at De Visscherie shortly before we opened, and the chef there, Thomas Vanwynsberghe, decided to join us on our new adventure. We’ve just wrapped up our first summer, and we could never have dreamed Amuzee would be such a success. Everyone was really enthusiastic about our project, which gave us a real boost. I’m already looking forward to next summer!’

Eline Snijkers

Bart Roman, WECANDANCE co-organiser

‘A few years ago, we noticed that there were a lot of people at the seaside during the first half of August but that there weren’t any beach festivals during that same period. And that’s how the idea of organising such a festival was born. We ended up in Zeebrugge pretty quickly. The city was ready for it and we’re not getting ready for our seventh edition. I first discovered Zeebrugge when I visited Beach Rock in the 1990s at exactly the same location, so Zeebrugge is also a journey of rediscovery seasoned with a bit of nostalgia. Plus, Zeebrugge and WECANDANCE is a good, natural match. We attract more people with each passing year, people who were often unfamiliar with Zeebrugge before this’.

Bart Roman
You can kitesurf along the entire Belgian coast, but true kitesurf lovers swear by Zeebrugge.

Having space is extremely important when you jump and we have enough in Zeebrugge. Thanks to the large, spacious beach, kiters can enjoy the North Sea and the wind in peace. In addition, the beach is oriented as such that it is situated directly opposite the dominant southwest wind direction. There are no breakwaters – read: no killjoys – and the harbour wall ensures better waves. Even the big difference between the high and low tides is an added value.

In the summer of 2017, a new Belgian record was set in Zeebrugge: carried by winds measuring no less than 7 on the Beaufort scale, Thomas De Wispelaere jumped 19.50 metres into the air. His jump smashed the previous Belgian record by 1.2 metres, and only a little later, he broke his own record with a 19.90-metre-high jump. ‘Kite surfing gives you a real sense of freedom, and there’s no need to wait for the perfect wave.’ Thomas lives in Jabbeke, but grew up in Zeebrugge. The surf club there has been his second home ever since he was just twelve years old. ‘I was the youngest in the club, but everyone welcomed me with open arms — and to this day, they call me ‘the little lad’.’ Thomas keeps coming back to the club, but these days, he’s got a shift as a dock worker to get through first. ‘It’s the perfect place to let your hair down’.

He’s not the only one who thinks so, according to Natasja Willems and Léon Inkelbergh, who completed their second season at the helm of Icarus
Sports enthusiasts find what they are looking for at the sports beach in front of the 'Badengebouw' from 29 June to 1 September from 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For soccer lovers, there is a soccer arena and a panna soccer field. There are beach volley fields and pitches for beach handball and beachminton. On top of that, everyone can borrow sports equipment and make use of the five outdoor fitness machines free of charge. In the afternoon, tournaments are organised and sports initiations are given on a regular basis.

Surfclub this summer. ‘We’ve got two kite shops and we were regular faces at the club, but now, we’re on the other side of the bar.’ Of course, they still make time to go surfing themselves too. ‘The first thing we do every morning is check the wind forecast. The stronger the winds, the more people will visit the club, and the more work we’ll have on our hands — so we go and do our thing before or after the big rush.’ It’s a perfect arrangement. ‘The best kite and surf conditions actually occur in winter. Winds of 6 or 7 Beaufort blowing from the west-south west and a spring tide: when that happens, the beach floods entirely, the waves are perfect and fun is guaranteed. Often, you’ll even have the pace to yourself.’ If you’d like to know more, visit www.icarussurfclub.be
WECANDANCE, Belgium’s hippest beach festival, will be holding its seventh edition this year. Every year, the festival sets a theme to inspire the outfit choices of its revellers. Aside from mixing the best of techno, house and hip-hop in a slightly bonkers setting, the festival’s Food Market aims to attract an audience with refined taste buds. In 2018, a plant-based corner was added to the market, and this year, its focus will be on farm-to-table. If you’re ready to get carried away by the exuberant atmosphere at this electronic dance festival, make a mental note of this year’s theme: ‘Safari Nomads’.

If you’d like to know more, visit www.wecandance.be
Film on the beach
Every Thursday in July and August

What could be more fun than sitting on the beach in the summer? Right, sitting on the beach in the summer with a good movie! What if we told you that the beach of Zeebrugge is the perfect setting for such a free open-air cinema at the surf and kite club Icarus. During ‘Film op het Strand’ [Movie at the Beach], a children’s animated movie at 2 p.m., a teen movie is shown in the afternoon at 4 p.m. and at 8 p.m. the main film is programmed. If you want a cinema seat, you can dig one in the sand, or you just bring your own towel or beach chair. Make yourself comfortable with a beach towel or blanket, call all your friends or family and enjoy a free portion of film fun!

If you’d like to know more, visit www.bruggeplus.be

BOMBOCLAT
23 and 24 August 2019

Dance, dance! Come to the beach of Zeebrugge and enjoy a colourful and exotic programme full of contemporary sounds from the Caribbean and Africa. If you’re up for a fun day out with your family, the Bomboclat festival might be just the thing for you. This feelgood festival offers something for everyone, with a variety of stages and a special Kids Corner! When you’re all danced out, there’s hammocks to chill out in and a delicious range of world cuisine to explore.

If you’d like to know more, visit www.bomboclat.be
This story begins in 1877 when his Lordship Auguste de Maere, a hydraulic engineer, advocated a direct connection between Bruges and the sea. King Leopold II wanted to have the port directly by the sea in order to respond to the first maritime revolution which saw sailing ships being replaced by much larger, steel steamships.

In 1891 a competition was organised for the construction of a seaport in Bruges, and on 1 June 1894 an agreement was signed between the Belgian State, the city of Bruges and Louis Coiseau and Jean Cousin which laid down the conditions for the construction and operation of the new port. This new port had to consist of three parts: an outport on the coast, a sea canal and an inland port north of the inner city. 1895 was a crucial year. That is when ‘Maatschappij van de Brugse Zeevaartinrichtingen’ [Company of Bruges Maritime Shipping Installations - M.B.Z.] was founded. It was tasked with building the port. M.B.Z. carried out the works and later managed and operated the new port complex.

The works began in 1896 and lasted until 1905. Two years later, the all-new port was finally officially inaugurated.

King Leopold II even entered the seaport on his private yacht to do the honours. In the early years, it was not very successful. This was mainly due to a lack of road and railway connections and industry in the hinterland. Moreover, the transatlantic passenger services were less successful than expected. Eventually, two regular services were set up, one to Hull and one to Rotterdam. Two devastating world wars, however, prevented the seaport from really getting off the ground. It took until the late 1950s for the port to get its first
big traffic. And this was thanks to its central location and its direct access to the North Sea, the busiest sea in the world. In 2000, globalization of the world economy enabled the seaport of Bruges to make a major breakthrough on an international level. Almost 10,000 ships dock here every year and the seaport is an important junction for fast-growing global container traffic and European roll-on/roll-off traffic. Many large distribution companies have settled in the port so they can serve their European customers. The seaport of Bruges is a major port of import for paper and foodstuffs like fresh fruit and fruit juices, vegetables, potatoes, coffee, meat, fish and dairy products. It is even the official European distribution centre for Zespri kiwis from New Zealand. The seaport of Bruges is also the region’s main cruise port and a world leader in car traffic. It is the most important port in the world for the import and export of new cars, which are transported within Europe and worldwide. And we should not forget natural gas, which is imported in two ways. On the one hand, liquid gas arrives, mainly from Qatar, and is stored in the LNG terminal in the outport. That is a great example of technical ingenuity! On the other hand, a pipeline links the seaport with Norway and Great Britain. This gas continues to France and Southern Europe. On top of that, the seaport of Zeebrugge is the most important cruise port in the region with the new cruise building as flagship.

Boatswain Bjorn Calus

‘I’ve been working as a boatswain for around fifteen years now. We help seagoing ships to moor and unmoor safely. We take the mooring ropes from the ship and place them over the bollards to secure the ship against the quayside. My wife’s great-grandfather started our family business, and even though we’ve largely kept it in the family, we now have twenty-nine partners. It’s a tough job, and we don’t work fixed hours: when a ship comes in, we have to be on the quayside within ten minutes. With that in mind, living in Zeebrugge is essential. You can never be sure of the exact time a ship will arrive. It all depends on the weather and currents, so we often find ourselves stood around waiting. We work in all weather, day and night, in storms and all sorts of other inhospitable conditions to help ships moor as safely as possible. It takes six of us to handle a large 400-metre container ship, or eight to deal with a huge gas tanker. The basic premise remains the same — moor the ship securely — but all ships are different, the weather can change and you encounter people from all corners of the world. We might be going nowhere but the quayside, but we’ve got the world at our feet.’
Michel Seeger, CEO of shipping company Franlis, ‘Ten years ago I stepped on the boat incognito when it was offering port tours in Zeebrugge. I got a seat on the deck, ordered a coffee and was totally blown away. And I was all but a layman. The gas terminal, the meters-high container walls, the huge cruise ships, the colourful fishing boats, the naval base, the thousands of birds on the tern island, the windmills on the breakwater and especially the constant movement in that world port that never sleeps. The acquisition was completed two weeks later.’

**DISCOVER THE SEA PORT**

**from the best angle**

**Combi bus-boat**

Want to discover the port from all sides? A combination tour of the port by bus and boat is the perfect solution! During this half-day excursion, a guide will reveal all the secrets about the day-to-day operations of the seaport of Bruges.

**Open** > every Wednesday in July and August at 1:45 p.m., immediately followed by a tour of the port at 4:00 p.m., tour ends around 5:15 p.m.

**Price** > children under 12: € 12.50 | adults: € 15.00 | includes one refreshment in a fishermen’s café and a nice brochure about the port

Price on the bus: children under 12: € 15.00 | adults: € 18.00

**Info** > board at the car park on the corner of Tijdokstraat and Vismijnstraat (near Seafront)
tickets subject to availability | register in advance at: Toerisme Brugge [Zeedijk]
www.brugge.be/zeebrugge

Michel Seeger
Harbour cruise

A harbour cruise with the Zephira, the passenger boat of shipping company Franlis, is the ultimate way to see with your own eyes how things go in such a world port. An audio system and various screens give you all the information you want during the cruise in the harbour. You can also request information about the vessels along the way. The tour now takes 75 exciting minutes and you get the information in your own language, on board or using an app, with appropriate video images on LED screens as icing on the cake. Shipping company Franlis also organizes guided North Sea cruises to the Thornton Bank, the first Belgian windfarm at sea.

Open > 1 April – 13 October: weekends and public holidays at 2:00 p.m. July and August: every day at 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. | 1–18 August: extra tour every day at 11:00 a.m.

Price > children 3–12 years: € 10.00 | adults: € 12.50 | seniors: € 11.50 Those who buy a ticket online get a reduction. Special formulas and North Sea cruise to the Thornton Bank: see website

Info > boarding 20 minutes before departure | dock at the end of the Tijdokstraat

www.franlis.be
A stroll between Visartsluis and Vandammesluis

Finding beauty where you weren’t expecting it: it’s an unbeatable feeling. And on Zeebrugge’s Heritage walk, you’re guaranteed to experience that rush again and again. From a new vantage point to a platform with history, via a tranquil square that exudes a sense of the good life. It’s Zeebrugge like you’ve never seen it before.

Two pairs of eyes are better than one, so we were joined on our adventure by tour guide Lionel De Decker and local Els Mervillie: two Zeebrugge fans who love the town’s tough, steely character just as much as its quaint, hidden sides. ‘On top of all that, its milder here in winter, and a bit cooler in summer. Even though you’re living right by the seaside, it’s always tranquil. I really can’t think why you wouldn’t want to live here.’ Lionel has a soft spot for Zeebrugge’s impressive seaport, with the new cruise terminal at its heart. This brand new landmark is where we started our walk. Before we hit the streets, we wanted climb as high as we could, past the customs office and the shop and all the way up to restaurant Njord to enjoy the spectacular view. Up here, the panorama stretches from the

‘The comings and goings in the port are so impressive’

Bruges Belfry across Zweedse Kaai and all the way to Knokke, with the thousands of brand-new cars that move in and out of the port every day glistening like diamonds in the sun in the parking lots in between. Even though our two Zeebrugge fans know the town inside out, they were still rendered speechless. ‘It’s the first time I’ve been up here, and it’s given me instant goosebumps. The comings and goings in the port are so impressive.’ The old fishing harbour — right in front of the seaport, from our elevated vantage point — still retains its charm too. The fish market might have moved to the inner port years ago, but the old harbour remains the beating heart of Zeebrugge. That’s only logical, Lionel explains. ‘Zeebrugge’s fishing harbour has been around for more than a century, and with forty ships still in operation, it remains the biggest in Belgium by some margin.’ Maritime theme park Seafront offers an opportunity to experience the former glory of the fisherman’s trade. It’s the perfect place to learn exactly how the harbour used to work when fish was still called and sold by the
‘You live at the coast, but with more peace than most’

Back on level ground, we wandered past Prins Albertdok to see fishing vessels and gleaming yachts moored side by side in perfect harmony. Once we arrived at Visserskruis, we got a chance to view the real-life Tetris game that is the container port up close. The fishermen next to us had cast their lines, the old shrimp trawler Virtus was moored by the quayside, colourful sloops headed out onto the waves and the salty sea air breezed past our noses. To get a sense of just how special this place is, you really have to get down here yourself. The same applies to the observation platform at the bottom end of Zweedse Kaai, the peninsula that forms the link between the outer and inner ports. If there’s a better place to gaze in awe at the gigantic cruise ships visiting the port, we’re yet to find it. Sint-Donaaspark, the green lung of the town and a meeting point for its residents, is the perfect spot for a picnic.

The Oude Vismijn buildings have been transformed into a fascinating theme park about the sea, shipping, fish and the fishing industry. Here, you can hear the call of the old fish market auctioneer and follow the road your fish has travelled from the open seas to your plate. From 8 June, be sure to visit Operation North Sea 1944-1945. This exhibition will give you the chance to experience the final days of the World War II as if you were there. You’ll find out how the war was fought at sea and which role Belgian seamen played. There’s a real marine anti-aircraft gun to explore, as well as more than fifty World War II shipwrecks found in the North Sea.

If you’d like to know more about this prestigious exhibition, visit www.dekust.be/seafront

**PRICES**
- children under 12: € 9.50
- students/60+: € 11.50
- people with disability: € 11.50
- adults: € 13.50

**INFO**
Vismijnstraat 7, Zeebrugge, tel. +32 50 55 14 15, www.seafront.be

Before your visit, please check the Seafront website for the latest information, prices and opening times www.seafront.be
Discover the treasures of the port

It is recommended that anyone who would like to discover the history of the port and the best preserved heritage sites of Zeebrugge buy the ‘erfgoedwandelkaart’ [heritage walking map]. This walk, which starts near Seafront is 5.8 km. The map is available for purchase for € 2 at Seafront and Toerisme Brugge [Zeedijk] or can be ordered via www.fietsen-wandelen.be.

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Zeebrugge is the cruise hub of Flanders. Every year, Zeebrugge welcomes around 140 luxury liners or around 400,000 passengers. Reason enough to welcome them in style.

To that end, construction company Artes Depret and the port authority of Zeebrugge, MBZ, joined forces. In the summer of 2016, the first spade hit the ground, in June 2018, the ABC tower, Artes-Bruges-Cruise, opened. Architect Olivier Salens wanted to create a gateway to the city with this symbolic building, a contemporary equivalent of the Belfry to underline the historical link between Bruges and the sea. You would almost forget that the ABC tower serves many functions. You have to admit, it is especially its size that speaks to the imagination. An overview from the first to the seventh floor. The first two floors focus on the cruise passengers. A check-in, luggage handling, waiting areas, border control, shopping, etc. Here they go the extra mile to offer the passengers, and the British and German, in particular, a warm welcome. The next four floors are offices. However, the pearl is in the crown. At the very top there is ‘Njord’, a rooftop restaurant with panoramic views, named after the sea god of the Normans.

www.njord.restaurant
Unmissable spots in the old fishing harbour

Pierette De Graeve from the Fish merchant Westhinder

At Vishandel Westhinder, a fishmonger’s run by Jef and Pierrette De Graeve, you only find North Sea fish. ‘We specialize in fresh fish from here, in all sizes and weights, which we buy directly at the auction.’ The old fish auction may have been long gone, Vishandel Westhinder does not think about relocating. ‘We’re fine here, I wouldn’t know where to go; our lives are here. And this remains the most beautiful corner of Zeebrugge, enough cafes and restaurants, two fishmongers, yachts and fishing boats and the right atmosphere.’

Vismijnstraat 20, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 54 41 47

Saskia Landuyt of Viswinkel Saskia

‘My husband comes from a fisherman’s family, his dad was a shipowner. He worked as a fish wholesaler, but his dream was to open a fishmonger’s shop. We focus on wild-caught fish from the North Sea: fish from our shores, such as sole, plaice, turbot, brill, anglerfish and cod. We buy our fish right here at Zeebrugge’s fish market, and I pick it up myself to sell in our shop. Everything you see in our shop was still in the sea yesterday. The old fishing harbour is a great location. The fish market may have closed down years ago, but people still refer to this place by that name.’

Vismijnstraat 34, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 54 46 74

Shirley Cattoor of The Sailor

‘The official name of my pub is The Sailor, but everyone calls it Shirley’s. This is the beating heart of Zeebrugge: a real working-class pub with dock workers, marines, boatswains and builders as regulars. Big, strong men with sensitive souls. Everyone is welcome here. If I’m holding a conversation, I always make sure everyone is involved. That kind of social contact is exactly why people flock here. I’ve been doing this for 17 years now, but I don’t work weekends. I lost my mum and brother way too young, so what really matters to me at the weekends is my son Keane and my husband Chris. Some people are surprised by that, but Zeebrugge is a case apart. Here, the port rules and the port never sleeps.’

Wandelaarstraat 8, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 55 17 15
Herlinde Preem from the café ‘t Werftje

In ‘t Werftje, they love the nice atmosphere. ‘There are people who quickly eat a shrimp croquette on the go or a roll with crab salad. The bon vivants rather go for lobster and stay here for hours.’ Herlinde Preem, the owner, sees to it that the atmosphere of the past is preserved. ‘That works out well. People keep coming and they come back so we are very pleased.’

Werfkaai 29, Zeebrugge T +32 497 55 30 10
www.twerftje.be

‘People come, and come again, and that makes us really happy’

Paul De Grande of DOKS

New in the old fishing port is DOKS, the second shop of top antiquarian Paul De Grande. Paul deliberately chose a shed on the old fish auction site: ‘I was looking for a place without threshold, a place people can easily walk in and out. The fact that the new cruise building with rooftop restaurant Njord is being erected right in front of our door is a nice extra.’ DOKS accounts for no less than 1,500 sqm and wants to remain low-threshold. That is why the offer not only boasts valuable antiques but also affordable pieces. Anyone looking for something beautiful can come browse here.

DOKS, Vismijnstraat 109 T +32 50 81 36 88
open every day: from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. www.pauldegrande.com

Herlinde Preem

Gilian van Loo, chef at The Blue Lobster

‘If you like to work with fish, you cannot be at a better place’

Gilian exchanged Ghent for Zeebrugge years ago. ‘If you like to work with fish, you cannot be at a better place. Because Zeebrugge still has a lot of fishing families, the chain between the fisherman and the chef is much shorter and you notice that.’ Gillian therefore only works with North Sea fish. The great classics, but also lesser known fish. ‘I have been presenting extraordinary catches as lunch for over 10 years. Fish species that you will not find at the fishmonger’s. From weever to silver whiting. Unloved because unknown and that is a shame, so we try to make a change here.’

Tijdokstraat 9, Zeebrugge
T +32 50 68 45 71
www.thebluelobster.be

Tomas Termote: explorer, underwater archaeologist,
writer and one of the curators of ‘Operation North Sea 1944-1945’, which can be viewed at Seafront from 8 June
‘The North Sea is a great place for diving, if you bear in mind that the diving season only runs from May to October and you can only go under when the circumstances are just right. On days like that, I drop everything I’m doing and head out to sea. I can spend whole summers under the water — there’s just so much to see. At the exhibition, you’ll learn that 44 ships sank off our shores during the war years. We’ve picked out the best stories and will be showcasing military equipment swallowed up by the sea and covered in barnacles. Familiar sights for me, but bound to be eye-openers for young and old.’

www.dekust.be/seafront

Paul De Grande

Tomas Termote
The Askoy II is not just a boat, it is one of the largest yachts ever built in Belgium. Built in 1959, the Askoy II was the flagship of the Belgian yacht fleet in the 60s and 70s. The ship once even belonged to two famous Belgians: Hugo Van Kuyck, architect, pupil of Horta and co-designer of the landing sites in Normandy during WW II and... Jacques Brel who spent the last years of his life on it. That is what explains the brothers’ fascination for the Askoy II. ‘My father and brother were sailmakers and because Jacques Brel needed sails for his boat, he came to us. A friendship arose so he came by several times. A very simple, charming man with whom we had a lot of fun and who grew to be a sort of teacher for me. With the Askoy II, he sailed the Atlantic and the Pacific Ocean to finally end up at the idyllic Marquis Islands.’ Later, the boat was sold and still later, the brothers wondered what happened to Jacques’ boat. The necessary research taught them that the Askoy II was buried in New Zealand. It had stranded there after a severe storm in 1993 at Baylys Beach near the West Coast of New Zealand. Reason enough to take action. ‘This is not only maritime heritage, but also a personal matter.’ In 2008, after having been buried under the sand for fourteen years, the yacht was finally salvaged.
and repatriated to Belgium. After which the real work began. Meanwhile, eleven years and many wanderings have gone by and the Askoy II is almost finished. ‘I would say it’s ready, but the ship is not completely finished inside.’ The brothers continue the works steadily in their warehouse in Zeebrugge. ‘We honour him with the rebirth of the Askoy II.’ Then their mission will be accomplished. ‘We want to preserve the soul, spirit and songs of Jacques Brel and inspire a next generation.’ The brothers plan to visit large maritime events with the ship and to dream of sailing the Askoy II back to the Marquis Islands. Only then, the circle will be really complete.’

Visiting the Askoy II is possible on Sunday afternoon, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., or by appointment. This craft will be launched sometime in 2019.

Lanceloot Blondeellaan 21c
8380 Zeebrugge
Know more? www.askoyii.be
Zeebrugge in pictures
10 must-see attractions

**Indoor fun**

Seafront, this is where you discover all the secrets of the sea and wander around in Zeebrugge’s fishing history.

**Pure nature**

Nearby and yet miles away. In De Fonteintjes you can admire orchids, enjoy the peace and quiet of the dunes, and you can even spot the towers of Bruges.

**Panoramic view of the port**

From the viewing platforms at Visserskruis (Fishermen’s Cross) and Zweedse Kaai you can gaze in wonder at those giant container ships.

**Unique view**

Sauntering along the Saint-George’s Day Walk allows you to enjoy both the activity in the harbour and the spectacle of sea and beach.

The joy of going for a walk in the fresh sea air

A beach the size of an ocean! This is the place to be to take a brisk walk in the fresh sea air and to clear your mind completely. Ultimate relaxation!
Great world port
The best of both worlds? Then hop from the bus onto the boat and explore the huge seaport of Bruges both on land and at sea.

Stepped-gable houses
Find the magnificent Admiral Keyes Square, an aesthetic gem waiting to be discovered by you.

Great atmosphere everywhere
The old fishing port breathes a great atmosphere and conviviality; the contagious no-nonsense ambience is included in the package!

Delicious fish cuisine
From large fish snacks to refined exquisite gastronomy, this is the place for your culinary indulgence!

Discovering heritage
Stroll past the hidden corners of Zeebrugge and discover the rich fishing history by following the Heritage Walking Route.
Mystery and devotion in Lissewege

Mysterious Lissewege belongs on a postcard: a giant church, a silent canal, infinite flat grassland surrounded by bent willow trees and an authentic, un tarnished view of the village. An untouched village that has charmed visitors for centuries. Immerse yourself in an exciting story in which Knights Templar and pilgrims play a leading role.

Those who climb the 264 steps of the tower of the 13th-century Our Lady of the Visitation church ask themselves how a village of no more than 300 residents could ever have paid for such a cathedral of a church. The answer is hiding in a medieval legend...

In those days fishermen from Heist used to fish in the streams around Lissewege. One day while walking near the streams they found a statue of a woman with a child in her arms. They thought she looked like the Virgin Mary. They took the statue to Heist, but the next day it was in the stream once again. This phenomenon repeated itself a few times and the fishermen saw this as a sign that the Virgin Mary wanted to be worshipped on that location. A small Romanesque church was built and the statue was given a prominent place. Large groups of pilgrims followed and greeted the miracle statue. That is how Lissewege developed into a famous Virgin Mary place of pilgrimage and the first stop on the coast for pilgrims from the north who were travelling to Santiago de Compostela. The pilgrims slept in the Sint-Jacobshuis and the Spanijenhof, very near the church. According to children’s author Johan Ballegeer and others, the Knights Templar guarded the pilgrimage route in order to ensure the pilgrims’ safety. They wanted to make sure that all those who undertook the difficult trip arrived safely. The Knights Templar were initially a poor religious order of knights, but their popularity resulted in generous gifts and they quickly evolved into a rich and powerful order. According to rumour, they provided some financing in 1225 so that the small Romanesque church could be replaced with the current impressive church.

In this regard, the ‘Lisseweegs Vaartje’, a small stream dug in the 13th century to form a connection with Bruges, came in handy. Via this waterway bluestone from Tournai was transported for the construction of the church. An interesting detail: the stones reached the construction site via the small black-and-white painted door across from the church entrance. Despite all their noble intentions, things fared badly for the Knights Templar. They were accused of all kinds of crimes and in 1312 they were burnt at the stake. You can still detect traces of the Knights Templar in the church in Lissewege. It has been suggested that the Knights Templar hired serfs to build chapels and cathedrals. Once their task was complete they were rewarded with a letter of safe-conduct. They became Freemasons. In every church, also in Lissewege, those Freemasons left their signatures behind. It requires some searching, but perceptive eyes will undoubtedly find the half-hidden stone head of Baphomet. As you can see, there is more to Lissewege than meets the eye.

Did you know...

that the carillon at Lissewege contains 18 bells and is pretty unique? They are major third bells that sound a major third in their overtones instead of the more common minor third. Because of that, they sound exceptionally clear.
Francky Segaert, organist in Lissewege

‘My music career started in the children’s choir of the Frères school in Bruges, but when it became apparent that my thumb was a little too short to become a professional pianist, I focused on my studies instead. I first started playing the organ around 30 years ago. The then parish priest of Lissewege asked me if I could stand in for their organist temporarily, and I never left. It later turned out it was a bit of a white lie: they didn’t actually have an organist! Lissewege’s church never fails to impress with its cathedral dimensions, its acoustics and its historic organ: an invaluable instrument dating back to 1652 that was restored in 1994 with funds donated by an American senator whose grandmother is buried here. I play on Sundays, to accompany mass, or when I’m practising. Regardless of the occasion, playing this organ is a real privilege. I enjoy it when people are spellbound by the organ’s tones. Whether its joy or sadness, I express feelings through my organ, like a painter does with his palette. I can’t imagine a time when I won’t be playing the organ. At weddings and funerals alike, my organ allows me to capture the mood. People appreciate that, and I couldn’t do without it.’

Brigitte Lekens, volunteer at Lissewege’s tourist office

‘We’ve lived in Lissewege for 33 years, and for the past five years, I’ve been helping out at the tourist office as a volunteer. I’m retired, I had a bit of spare time on my hands, and I’m interested in Lissewege and its history. I enjoy sharing my passion for the village and its surroundings. People from across the world make their way here. You get to meet and chat with all kinds of nationalities. Wherever our visitors hail from, their jaws drop to the floor when they discover this stunning, authentic spot. Add in our delightful rectory garden, which has been hosting a great collection of sculptures since earlier this year, and you get a unique place to spend a little time. Sometimes, kids at the local school have their lessons in the garden or pop in to the museum on their way to the library. Small pleasures in a small village. I always look forward to my volunteer shifts, precisely because they’re not a permanent job.’

Admire the saints

Lissewege is also known for its statues of saints. In the church you will find the miracle statue. But the Visitor Centre – it is no coincidence that it is housed in the beautiful presbytery in the shadow of the Our Lady of the Visitation church – is also home to the Saints Museum, which features a unique collection of statues of patron saints, more than 150 in total! Time to pay a visit to your patron saint!

Open > 1/5 until 5/5, weekends of May and June, Ascension and Whitsun weekend, July and August, first half of September up to and including 15/9, 2 last weekends of September: always from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Price > children under 12: € 1 | adults: € 2

www.lissewege.be

Enjoy the polder panorama

To really get to grips with the enigma that is the enormous Our Lady of the Visitation church, you have to climb all the way to the top of its tower, which was never topped with a spire due to a lack of money. Once you’ve conquered the steps, you’ll be able to admire an uninterrupted view of the whitewashed village and enjoy an indescribable panorama of the polder.

Open > Church: 1 May - 30 September daily from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
1 October - 30 April daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tower: the weekends between 22/6-30/6, and 1/9-15/9 from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m,
July and August daily from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. (last admission until 5:00 p.m.)

Price > Church: free Tower: children under 12: € 0.50 | adults: € 2

www.lissewege.be
To say that Luc Schram is an experienced local guide would be an understatement. He shows visitors the sights all the way from Knokke to Nieuwpoort, is an official city guide in Bruges and lives in Lissewege. This man knows the area like the back of his hand — and he’s seen the popularity of the white village grow and grow. ‘People are fascinated by this gem of a village because there’s a real sense of spirit to the place.’ The Ter Doest abbey and the former Cistercian monastery of Sancta Maria de Thosan are two stops that feature on every one of Luc’s itineraries. ‘Just before we turn down the long driveway, I tell my guests the legend of the miraculous statue of Our Lady that kept reappearing in a hole in between the irises’. And then, after a little to and fro with the minibus, the magnificent abbey barn of Ter Doest comes into view. ‘This immense barn has never failed to impress its guests. Its story starts in 1106 following an initiative by Lambrecht of Lissewege, who donated money and land to the Benedictine priory of Saint Riquier (Bredene) to secure his place in heaven.’ The community of monks failed to do anything with the land, so the Bishop of Tournai handed it to the Cistercian abbey of Ter Duinen in 1174. Shortly afterwards, the abbey at Ter Doest and the village of Lissewege would grow into one of their main outposts. ‘It wouldn’t just become one of many domains in their possession — instead, it was the largest.’ A succession of 39 abbots followed between 1175 and 1561. In the beginning, the abbey was inhabited by one abbot, 12 choir monks and three lay brothers, but soon after, a refectory, chapter house, a few dormitories, a scriptorium, a library and a church would follow... plus a barn, of course. In fact, the barn is the only part of the abbey to have stood the test of time — and gloriously so! ‘The barn was gigantic in scale and was constructed with ‘moefen’, a type of large, locally hand-made brick. Its Gothic appearance helped to evenly distribute and support the sheer weight of its huge trusses. Today, 38,000 roof tiles from Boom protect the barn from the elements, but initially, the roof was thatched in straw.’ The barn housed both livestock and produce, and also served as a tithe barn. After all, taxes would have been paid in kind at the time. ‘Precisely because the barn was used to house livestock, the roof supports rest on natural stone from Tournai. That way, the manure from the animals would not cause the wooden supports to rot.’ Business was good, the abbey expanded its domain to no less than 100 hectares and both its livestock and crops were flourishing. ‘There would be sheep on the mud flats and salt marshes, cows at the fresh water limit — which also ensured cereals and other crops could grow with ease — and a waterway connection to Bruges and the North Sea was created. In the 13th century, the abbey grew into a mid-sized complex with around a hundred lay brothers. At that time, the abbey was at the peak of its prosperity.’ However, just a few centuries later, it would fall into decline. ‘The papal bull ‘Ex injuncto’ issued by Pope Paul IV in 1561 decreed that the new bishop of the diocese of Bruges could access the goods and income of the abbey at Ter Doest. As a consequence, money flowed away from the abbey, and by the 16th century, only 20 monks remained.’ The barn survived the crisis and was left standing. A study in 2001-2003 confirmed that the beams and stones date back to the 13th and 14th centuries. Even though it has stood in this exact spot for almost eight centuries, the barn (which is 56 metres long, 21 metres wide and 16.5 metres high) continues to impress its visitors — including Luc. ‘Anyone entering the barn is bound to be overwhelmed by its sheer size. First, your eyes need to get used to the darkness, and then you notice those spectacular trusses. People often tell me it’s like an upside down ship. As your eyes gently adapt, you’ll start to notice the geometric shapes and markings and the way they are arranged in a structured and logical order. All in all, enough to make sure the barn at Ter Doest will continue to intrigue its visitors.’ Finally, those who’d like take some time to allow the experience to settle in their minds or reflect on the abbey life won’t find a better place to do so than the outdoor seating at Hof Ter Doest.
A GOTHIC VISION IN THE POLDERS

At the Visitor Centre you will find everything you might want to know about Ter Doest and the history of Lissewege. This is the place to be if you are looking for regional information, cycling and walking routes. The permanent exhibition: ‘A Gothic vision in the polders’, with a scale-model of the barn, will get you started. The oldest items, including a real ‘moef’ (a large, hand-formed brick), date back to 1275! Oude Pastoriestraat 5 T +32 495 38 70 95

Know more? www.lissewege.be

Walking to and around Ter Doest

The 6.3 km long Ter Doest walk highlights the flat polder landscape around Lissewege. Traffic-free roads lead you to the Boudewijn canal and Ter Doest Abbey. Rural roads and beautiful views are the main ingredients of this walk. In Monnikenmoere itself there is still room for wandering around.

It is a unique opportunity to get to know the various plant and bird species in the presence of a nature guide. You can purchase the map at VVV Lissewege (presbytery) and Toerisme Brugge (Zeedijk).


Must do!

Reinhardt Strubbe, conservationist at Monnikenmoere

‘I’m one of the many Natuurpunt volunteers, and since 2017, I’ve worked as a conservationist at the Monnikenmoere nature reserve in the Ter Doest polders. I keep an eye out for any illegal fishing, make sure the plants are doing well, check whether the grass needs to be mowed and so on. In other words, I look after this reserve. It’s an invaluable piece of nature with Europe-wide significance: thanks to the saline effect of the Boudewijn canal, this area has rare salt-tolerant vegetation that is protected by the EU. In autumn, we get to enjoy a stunning orange carpet of glasswort. And that’s before I mention the little egrets, the grassland birds… and the horse flies. Not the most popular of creatures, but the striped horsefly and big-spotted cleg are genuinely rare so if you get stung by one of those, I’m afraid you’re just going to have to suffer the consequences! In summer, you can join one of our guided walks, but the flowering plants can also be enjoyed from a distance.’

Tomas Bisschop, director MAfestival

‘We have been celebrating the first Sunday of the MAfestival in Lissewege for eleven years now. A special event within the festival, one for which we want to leave the city. In Lissewege, we find unique heritage. There is that special barn of Ter Doest, an atypical concert venue that gives every concert an extra dimension, and the church with its wonderful acoustics. Every musician who walks in immediately understands. Even if I add a seat at the very back, I still can fully let that music come over me in. An unforgettable experience, year after year.’

Mafestival Brugge

4 August

Lissewege breathes Ancient Music. On 4 August, the Bruges MAfestival makes another excursion to the white village.

The concerts are held in the barn of Ter Doest and in the church of Lissewege. Theme : ‘Ex Machina’

Know more? www.mafestival.be

Write this down in your diary!

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Know more? www.mafestival.be
Art lovers can really come into their own in Lissewege. The village may be tiny, but it boasts a whole host of galleries and a fine selection of arty spots to sit down and relax — and that’s before we mention its renowned open air exhibition ‘Sculpture in the White Village’, which is in its 25th edition this year. The Sculpture Route that artfully graces the village every summer also needs no introduction. The ‘Sculpture in the White Village’ exhibition is known and loved amongst art lovers far and wide. Its inspirational founder, Gratien Dendooven, is still at the helm of the event — with no less enthusiasm than the first edition a quarter of a century ago. ‘The contrast between contemporary pieces and a medieval setting is what makes this open-air exhibition so special.’ ‘For the first edition, we managed to convince 19 artists to get involved, but this summer, no less than 120 artists will be showcasing their work. The pieces on show hail from France, the Netherlands and from right here in Lissewege’. Home-grown talent is well represented at the exhibition. What’s more, Gratien actively encourages local artists to take part. ‘You don’t need to be famous, you just need to create beautiful objects.’ It certainly is a no-nonsense vision. As a result of his efforts, visitors will get to marvel at the works of Theo Claerhoudt, a Zeebrugge local and a technical assistant of 12 years at the municipal authority that keeps Lissewege fresh and vibrant. Gratien puts together the pieces of the puzzle and decides which sculpture goes where, and Theo and his team implement his plans and take care of the installation. Being surrounded by all that art seems to have had an effect on Theo: ‘I’ve always been a handy guy, I worked as a welder once and I like to knock things together. A little while ago, I made a little stainless steel orchestra for our garden. Gratien was instantly mesmerised. ‘You have to take part next year’, he said. ‘That orchestra is just stunning, it really deserves a place on the Sculpture Route’. Theo was a little taken aback, but encouraged by Gratien’s praise, he continued to do his thing with stainless steel and stone. Gratien came, saw and was delighted, but the budding artist himself still had his doubts. ‘I've
never done anything like this, I’ve never moved in these circles and I didn’t want to make a fool of myself.’ Still, Gratien was resolute in his decision: ‘There’s always space for new, good work’. Eventually, Theo got to install his own artwork in the village.

It was a glorious and humbling moment: ‘I installed my own work, and to be honest, you feel really small when you’re surrounded by all that art. To create something is one thing, but to show it to the world is something else altogether.’ The reaction to the piece has proven that Gratien’s hunch was absolutely right something that even Theo has to admit. ‘Sometimes, I secretly walk around the village to hear what people are saying, and that gives me a real buzz.’ It’s no surprise then that Theo has been busy creating more artworks. ‘I keep creating new pieces and I’m really grateful for what the Sculpture Route has done for me. I’ve expanded my horizons a little, but above all, Gratien has become a real friend.’

Know more? www.beeldenroute.be

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**Festival of light Lissewege**

**Friday 16 and Saturday 17 August 2019**

Over the weekend of 16 and 17 August as from 9 p.m., Lissewege - the ‘white’ polder village - becomes even slightly more cozy. For the 21st time already, the village is immersed in light. Together with the inhabitants of Lissewege and numerous artists and organizations, Brugge Plus turns this festival into a wonderful event. Apart from that, they stick to the recipe: a combination of music, fire installations, light and video art and street theatre create an intimate and cozy atmosphere. Allow yourself to be surprised!

Know more? www.lichtfeestlissewege.be

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**Cycle à la Carte**

Great idea, as Lissewege is the ideal departure point for a cycling trip. The church is a great bicycle starting point. It is easily accessible by car or by public transport, there is free parking and a helpful info panel will get you going in the right direction. The area around Lissewege, Zeebrugge and Bruges is shown on the ‘Brugse Ommeland’ [The Hinterland of Bruges] and ‘Kust’ [The Belgian Coast] cycling network maps. You can map out your own cycling route using the cycle nodes. You can purchase these maps at VV Lissewege (presbytery), Toerisme Brugge (Zeedijk) or you can order them via www.fietsen-wandelen.be

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Theo Claerhout

Write this down in your diary!

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Theo Claerhout

Write this down in your diary!
When Geert De Fauw took over the beautifully renovated station building with his ‘ô d’chatô’, it soon became clear that this would be more than a regular wine shop. This is a place where you discover wine and contemporary art and taste both. So, it is a winery and bistro and art gallery, all rolled into one. ‘Moreover, in the summer, our sunny terrace is the ultimate place to sit back and enjoy. Except for a train every once in a while, you really hear how quiet this small village is. Let us be clear, relocating is off the table. We have found our place, and it is awesome. The fact that everyone who walks in our shop has a good reason to get a nice bottle of wine makes our happiness only greater. We only see happy faces, so we enjoy every day. Geert finds those wines on small domains that he visited himself and that all have their own story. While you are tasting you also discover the many works that are displayed here. Arriving with an empty suitcase is highly recommended…’

Stationsstraat 18 T +32 499 22 89 84
www.odchato.be

It is not all that surprising that in Lissewege you do not just have a glass of wine or a coffee. The white, photogenic village deals in art initiatives and combines them with a solid culinary reputation. That means you can double your enjoyment! Wine bar bistrô ô d’chatô and Arte Latte show you how.

A little further you can drink a coffee or homemade ice tea with Ilse Boudens, ceramist, potter and driving force behind Arte Latte, a peculiar coffee house that serves not only perfectly brewed cappuccino but also art. ‘We ended up here by accident. The sun was shining, ’t Vaartje was sparkling in its skin and in the trail of the statue route we discovered beautiful works of art and this magnificent village.’ Coincidence or not, at the corner of ’t Vaartje, a building was for sale. ‘My husband, son and me were sold right away. The perfect place to bring our passions for art, coffee and tea together.’ Meanwhile, quite a few summers have gone by and Ilse’s family is completely devoted to Lissewege. ‘On weekends I am so happy to open our coffee house, on weekdays the real work is performed and I follow a ceramist and potter training. Who knows, maybe I can bake some pots this summer, between coffee and tea, and turn this dream into reality too.’ That is how you unintentionally pick up the art vibe that floats around in Lissewege. You do not even have to go to a museum, the works of art will find you instead!

Stationsstraat 3
www.artelatte.be

Geert De Fauw

A little streets in this white village are picturesque and inspiring.'

Toon Walleyn, photographer, graphic designer and gallery owner of Fotoon

‘That I set up my gallery here 7 years ago was only logical. Lissewege has always been a spot that charms artists. The small streets of the white village capture the artistic imagination and many artists have been inspired by the unspoiled landscapes here. So it’s the perfect place for an artist to put their work on display, and this can be done at Fotoon, the gallery where I, and many other artists, show our work. The small polder village is not only very pleasant, but it also has a rich history. The low small houses, the Vaartje, the maze of small streets and the imposing 13th century church almost make Lissewege look like a place from a fairy tale. And even though I live and work here, every time I enter Lissewege, I have a holiday feeling and all the stress simply evaporates. So, it is a peculiar, picturesque place that absolutely must be kept like that. That is why, in the gallery, I have consciously preserved the old floor and have also displayed my collection of old cameras. This way, old and new go perfectly together.’

Walram Romboudtstraat 5 T +32 472 58 09 49 www.galerijfotoon.be

Ilse Boudens

Toon Walleyn

Stationsstraat 18 T +32 499 22 89 84
www.odchato.be
Refine your artistic senses

Over the years, several galleries have set up shop in Lissewege. In the magnificently renovated station building, at art gallery ‘ô d’chatô’, throughout the year you will discover, varying works by contemporary visual artists. At Gallery ‘Fotoon’, from June to October, every two weeks you can admire new artistic gems from various artists. Those who wish to follow all the latest developments can check out the gallery’s online art shop. ‘Kunsthuis Den Engel’, which is housed in a late 18thcentury building right on the market place, is also worth a visit. Finally, ‘arts and social centre tVaartje’ is a project devoted to art and ‘Special Artists’. Hidden behind a large entrance gate near the Lisseweegs Vaartje is a haven of peace amidst the daily hustle and bustle. Blind and partially-sighted artists show you what it feels like to live in total darkness, and yet enjoy art. Additionally, in the castle garden, numerous amateur artists are on hand to show their passion for art in all its aspects. There are free studio sessions, craft demonstrations, workshops, etc. taking place constantly. Every weekend in July and August there is also an outdoor art market where, after browsing, you can participate in all sorts of do activities.

Dirk, active at arts and social centre tVaartje

‘I have a genetic condition that affects my sight and hearing and that could lead to complete blindness and deafness. When I heard that arts and social centre tVaartje was accessible to blind and visually impaired people, I was curious to find out what was on offer. In the summer, the big gate leads to an oasis of artful activity. There are workshops, a pleasant outdoor seating area and a garden with a view of the church tower. People at the centre are painting and sculpting, and visually impaired visitors are working with clay, plaiting or carving soapstone.

It’s a place where people with or without disabilities can come together to share their creative spirit and that’s just great. In the meantime, arts and social centre tVaartje has added a large exhibition tent, cosy seating corners and beach huts, as well as live music at the weekends. In addition, blind or visually impaired guides take visitors on a tour of darkened experience rooms and organise walks with sight loss simulation glasses. All in all, a unique experience!’

Lisseweegs Vaartje 28 +32 473 74 03 85
www.tvaartje.be
**Sit back and enjoy in nostalgia**

**Rudy Meyns, owner of De Soete Paepe**

Eight years ago, Rudy opened the doors of his new, old-fashioned sweet shop. In full period dress, he showed his customers around pots and bowls chock full of delicious retro sweets. De Soete Paepe takes you straight back to 1920 and offers more than 60 types of old-fashioned candy to please even the most discerning of sweet tooths. Who knew nostalgia could taste so good! From Napoleon bonbons to Hopjes coffee sweets and candy wafers, and from fresh snowballs to artisan jam and local honey from Lissewege: once you’ve set foot in this pleasure palace, you’ll never want to leave.

Walram Romboudtstraat 7/3
T +32 487 49 92 14 www.desoetepaepe.be

**Marc De Bruijne, chef and owner of Restaurant De Valckenaere**

‘Cooking and working in a 16th-century building is a unique experience that has its advantages and disadvantages, but the sheer charm of the place far outweighs the niggling issues that come with a medieval property like this. And if that property happens to be in Lissewege, you can’t help but feel a little out of place when you visit other towns and villages: it makes you realise just how special this corner of the world is. It’s only logical then that more and more people are discovering Lissewege. We still have that unspoilt, authentic village feel, where everyone helps everyone else. I mainly work with local seasonal produce. Doing so keeps things interesting and exciting for both me and my customers. And before you even ask: you’re not going to tease the recipe for our famous fish soup out of me!’

Lisseweegs Vaartje 1
T +32 50 54 57 59
www.restaurantdevalckenaere.be

**Eric Maelstaf, local baker**

for whose ‘pistolets’ [rolls] people patiently wait in line on Saturdays. ‘In 1930 my father started the bakery at this place. I joined him in 1962. Eight years later he retired and so at the young age of 23 I became a self-employed baker. I trained my customers to pick up their oven-fresh, still warm ‘pistolets’, pastries and currant bread in the afternoon, between 2.30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., so they could enjoy them in the evening. For the past 15 years, I have been closed on weekdays and I only open Saturday afternoons. And I keep it up. Surely I can’t deny the people of Lissewege their fresh Lissewege fresh ‘pistolets!’

Walram Romboudtstraat 8
T +32 50 54 46 44
Marina Vandewalle, landlady at Café Sint-Amand

‘For the past four years, I’ve been travelling around local markets with my traditional butcher’s stall. It took me a long time to decide between a market stall and a butcher’s shop at a permanent address, but I just love being outdoors. It’s not an easy job: you have to be up at the crack of dawn, and the work doesn’t end when the market closes. On the other hand, it’s a job that offers real variety, and I’m genuinely passionate about it. Lissewege is a place where we feel genuinely welcome. The locals really appreciate the fact we’re keeping their village market going. It never gets too crowded either, so I’ve always got time to have a chat with my customers, which helps me make a real connection. I can’t imagine what I would do without Lissewege’s market.’

Onder de Toren 14 T +32 475 48 83 59

Stijn Carbonetz, market vendor for butcher/caterer Carbonetz

‘For the past four years, I’ve been travelling around local markets with my traditional butcher’s stall. It took me a long time to decide between a market stall and a butcher’s shop at a permanent address, but I just love being outdoors. It’s not an easy job: you have to be up at the crack of dawn, and the work doesn’t end when the market closes. On the other hand, it’s a job that offers real variety, and I’m genuinely passionate about it. Lissewege is a place where we feel genuinely welcome. The locals really appreciate the fact we’re keeping their village market going. It never gets too crowded either, so I’ve always got time to have a chat with my customers, which helps me make a real connection. I can’t imagine what I would do without Lissewege’s market.’

Onder de Toren T +32 475 48 83 59

Kurt Stael with his brother Freddy, manager of the pub Den Ouden Toren

‘Everyone knows everyone and tourists and local heroes fraternize on our terrace.’

‘Actually, to run my own pub has always been a childhood dream of mine. Lissewege really is my kind of place. It is very quiet here and yet it is not; because there’s always something happening. From carnival, the ‘Festival of Lights’, the night market and the Statue Route to Halloween and the Christmas market. Believe me: once you land here, you never want to leave again. Everyone knows everyone and tourists and local heroes fraternize on our terrace. In our pub, everyone immediately feels at ease, and that’s the way it should be in an authentic village pub.’

Onder de Toren 14 T +32 50 54 40 86
The starting point

Every voyage of discovery through Lissewege starts here: at the nicest visitor centre in the country.

Devotion galore

Say a quick prayer at the Saints Museum. It does not hurt to try!

Monk’s work

The true meaning of the term ‘monk’s work’ becomes clear when you admire the impressive Cistercian barn of Ter Doest.

Beautiful landscapes

Explore the polders of Lissewege by taking the Ter Doest walk and enjoy the beautiful panoramic views presented to you.
Mystery
Enter the church, look for Baphomet, and try to unlock the mystery of the Templars.

Panoramic view
The stairs have no mercy, but the magnificent panoramic view from the tower makes it worthwhile.

Pure nature
Monnikenmoere once the supplier of the abbey bricks, today a virgin beauty spot.

Daydreaming
While Lissewege may have picturesque spots by the dozen, ‘t Lisseweegs Vaartje tops them all.

Goodies from the region
The best of the North Sea and the polders; fans of the good culinary life can truly indulge themselves here.

With the C of Culture
It is hard to overlook: Lissewege has a soft spot for culture and is happy to let its visitors enjoy it. So there are plenty works of art!
# Lodgings

## Hotel Monaco ***
- Address: Baron de Maerelaan 26, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 50 54 44 37 | F + 32 50 54 44 85
- Email: hotelmonacozeebrugge@skynet.be
- Website: www.hotelmonaco.be

## Hotel Atlas ***
- Address: Brusselstraat 13-15, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 50 54 54 19
- Email: hotelatlas@skynet.be
- Website: www.hotelatlas.be

## IBIS Styles Zeebrugge ***
- Address: Kustlaan 99, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 50 20 12 02 | F + 32 50 27 07 02
- Email: H8091@accor.com
- Website: www.ibis.com

## B&B Pronkenburg ****
- Address: Ter Doeststraat 30, Lissewege
- Phone: T & F + 32 50 54 45 40 | M + 32 478 26 14 93
- Email: info@pronkenburg.be
- Website: www.pronkenburg.be

## B&B Lisdodde ***
- Address: Oude Pastoriestraat 1, Lissewege
- Phone: M + 32 476 97 51 40
- Email: info@lisdodde.be | www.lisdodde.be

## Hostellerie Hof Ter Doest ***
- Address: Ter Doeststraat 4, Lissewege
- Phone: T & F + 32 50 54 40 82
- Email: info@terdoest.be | www.terdoest.be

## Hostellerie De Goedendag *
- Address: Lisseweegs Vaartje 2, Lissewege
- Phone: T + 32 50 54 53 35
- Email: info@degoedendag.be
- Website: www.degoedendag.be

## B&B Lisdodde ***
- Address: Oude Pastoriestraat 1, Lissewege
- Phone: M + 32 476 97 51 40
- Email: info@lisdodde.be | www.lisdodde.be

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# Food

## Beach area

### Taverne MariTimes
- Address: Zeedijk 6A, Zeebrugge
- Phone: M + 32 472 60 05 69
- Email: maritimes@telenet.be

### Restaurant Sea and Sand
- Address: Zeedijk 8, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 50 54 42 79
- Website: https://seaandsand-restaurant.business.site/

### Eethuys Ambrosius
- Address: Zeedijk 11, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 50 54 59 48
- Email: info@eethuys-ambrosius.be
- Website: www.eethuys-ambrosius.be

### Bar - Restaurant ’t Zandlopertje
- Address: Zeedijk 13, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 50 54 41 05

### Restaurant Amuzee
- Address: Zeedijk 12-13, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 73 32 96
- Email: info@amuzee.be
- Website: www.amuzee.be

### Restaurant Lagaar
- Address: Baron de Maerelaan 4, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 50 55 26 89
- Email: info@lagaar.be | www.lagaar.be

### Restaurant Jin Yan Lou (Chinees)
- Address: Baron de Maerelaan 58, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 50 54 47 07
- Mobile: +32 477 29 15 61
- Website: www.jinyanlou.be

### Zeebrugge Village

#### Martins Visrestaurant
- Address: Sint-Donaaskerkstraat 19, Zeebrugge
- Phone: T + 32 50 54 43 27
- Email: info@martinsvisrestaurant.be
- Website: www.martinsvisrestaurant.be
Old fish auction site

Restaurant De Kombuis
Tijdokstraat 4, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 67 83 25
info@dekombuis.be
www.dekombuis.be

Visrestaurant The Blue Lobster
Tijdokstraat 9, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 68 45 71
www.thebluelobster.be

Bistro De Steiger
Werfkaai 11, Zeebrugge
M + 32 475 85 01 13
M + 32 475 77 79 58
www.bistrodesteiger.be

Café ’t Werftje
Werfkaai 29, Zeebrugge
M +32 497 55 30 10
info@twerftje.be
www.twerftje.be

Restaurant Ona
Tijdokstraat 19, Zeebrugge
T + 32 497 55 30 10
info@twerftje.be

Restaurant Tijdok
Tijdokstraat 16, Zeebrugge
M + 32 476 59 65 20
info@tijdok.be
www.tijdok.be

Restaurant Slabbinck
Tijdokstraat 36, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 54 52 46
www.restaurantslabbinck.be

Brasserie The Boat House
Vismijnstraat 26, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 55 23 15

Restaurant Port Basil (Italiaans)
Vismijnstraat 5, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 27 07 66
info@portbasil.com
www.portbasil.com

Bistro Wittekerke
Rederskaai 38, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 78 89 84

Cocktailbar - Bistro Old Steamer
Rederskaai 19, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 54 58 25
info@oldsteamer.be
www.oldsteamer.be

Visrestaurant ’t Pakhuis
Rederskaai 7, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 67 49 91
pattendr@mac.com
www.tpakhuis.be

Restaurant - Clubhuis Alberta
Omoookaai 1, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 54 41 97
www.rbsc.be

Chevvy’s café
Rederskaai 39, Zeebrugge
T + 32 475 41 84 14
www.chevvyseebrugge.be

Rooftop restaurant Njord
Rederskaai 60, Zeebrugge
T + 32 50 17 08 80
info@njord.restaurant

Bistro de Kip
Jacob Reyvaertstraat 1, Lissewege
M +32 474 61 07 44

Eethuisje Huyze Saeftinghe
Onder de Toren 5, Lissewege
T + 32 50 73 60 25
info@huyzesaeftinghe.be
www.huyzesaeftinghe.be

Restaurant De Valckenaere
Lisseweegs Vaartje 1, Lissewege
T + 32 50 54 57 59
devalckenaere@telenet.be
www.restaurantdevalckenaere.be

Restaurant De Goedendag
Lisseweegs Vaartje 2, Lissewege
T + 32 50 54 53 35
info@degoodendag.be
www.degoodendag.be

Restaurant De Pepermolen
Walram Romboudtstraat 2, Lissewege
T + 32 50 55 05 03
info@restaurantdepepermolen.be
www.de-pepermolen.be

Restaurant Hof Ter Doest
Ter Doeststraat 4, Lissewege
T + 32 50 54 40 82
info@terdoest.be
www.terdoest.be

Wijnbar - bistró ô d’châtô
Stationsstraat 18, Lissewege
M +32 499 22 89 84
geert@odchato.be
www.odchato.be
Summer agenda
Lissewege
Zeebrugge

For procession enthusiasts

5 May > The ‘Ommegang’ [Procession]
An annual Procession has departed from Lissewege on the first Sunday in May since the Middle Ages. The miracle statue of Our Lady of Lissewege is carried in a baroque sedan chair from the church to the Ter Doest chapel and back.
Where > Our Lady of the Visitation church
When > from 2:30 p.m.
www.lissewege.be

For music lovers

4 August > MAfestival Lissewege
On 4 August, the Bruges MAfestival will make another musical excursion to the white village.
Theme : ‘Ex Machina’
Where > Church and barn of Ter Doest
When > from 11:30 a.m.
Price > concert at 11:30 a.m.: € 17 concert at 2:30 p.m.: € 20 and concert at 5:00 p.m.: € 24
www.MAfestival.be

11 August > MAfestival — VeloBaroque
The MAfestival in Bruges is organising a cycling tour around the Brugse Ommeland region. The theme of the day is 'Wondrous Machine' and visitors will get to witness all kinds of projects and special instrument: glass harmonicas, organs, ship horns, accordions and much more.
Where > Ter Doest barn, Uitkerke, Zeebos, Zeebrugge port, Ramskapelle and Lissewege church
When > From 10.00h
Price > € 28
www.MAfestival.be

For those who like to commemorate the war

From 8 June to 3 January 2021 > Expo Operation North Sea 1944-1945
This exhibition will give you the chance to experience the final days of the World War II as if you were there. You’ll find out how the war was fought at sea and which role Belgian seamen played. There’s a real marine anti-aircraft gun to explore, as well as more than fifty World War II shipwrecks found in the North Sea.
Where > Seafront — Hall III
Where > see website www.dekust.be/seafront

For art lovers

12 July – 22 September > Statues in the White Village
Art prevails in Lissewege all summer long! During the free open-air exhibition ‘Statues in the White Village’, more than 100 national and international visual artists artistically descend on the most picturesque spots.
Where > The centre of Lissewege and the site of the former Ter Doest abbey.
When > 24/7
www.beeldenroute.be

For party animals

9, 10 and 11 August > WECANDANCE
Let yourself get carried away by the exuberant atmosphere of this electronic dance festival full of music, food & fashion.
Where > Zeebrugge Beach
When > 12:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
Price > see website
www.wecandance.be
For taste seekers

15 August  >  Festival of the North Sea

Be seduced by the most delicious and tastiest of fish dishes and learn the right fish-filleting techniques. Or attend several cooking workshops and enter a shrimp-peeling contest. As you can see, this day full of atmosphere is devoted entirely to North Sea fish and folklore!

Where  >  from Werfkaai to Rederskaai, old fish auction site
When  >  11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.

www.brugge.be/zeebrugge

For romantics

16 and 17 August  >  Festival of light

On 16 and 17 August Lissewege is bathed in light. Once night falls, you can enjoy an evening full of atmosphere in the old village centre. A wide variety of artists bring the medieval character of Lissewege to life. Be surprised in the white village by intimate fire installations and music full of atmosphere.

Where  >  Centre of Lissewege
When  >  from 9:00 p.m.

www.lichtfeestlissewege.be

For fans of world music

23 and 24 August  >  BOMBOCLAT

Dance, dance! Come to the beach of Zeebrugge and enjoy a colourful and exotic programme full of contemporary sounds from the Caribbean and Africa.

Where  >  Zeebrugge Beach
When  >  12:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Prijs  >  see website

www.bomboclat.be

For film fans

Every Thursday in July and August  >  Film on the beach

Swap comfy seating for towels on the sand, advert breaks for the sound of the sea and popcorn for sun, and you’ll get Filmophetstrand. Free open air cinema on the Belgian coast’s largest beach.

4 July  2 p.m. Het ongelooflijke verhaal van de mega grote peer
4 p.m. De GVR (grote vriendelijke reus)
8 p.m. Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri

11 July  2 p.m. De grote boze vos en andere verhalen
4 p.m. Toen mijn vader een struik werd
8 p.m. Beautiful Boy

18 July  2 p.m. Louis en de Aliens
4 p.m. Paddington 2
8 p.m. The Florida project

25 July  2 p.m. Gordon & Paddy
4 p.m. Los Bando
8 p.m. Black Panther

1 Aug.  2 p.m. Ernest & Celestine : winterpret
4 p.m. Rosie en Moussa
8 p.m. Call me by your name

8 Aug.  2 p.m. Pieter konijn
4 p.m. Superjuffie
8 p.m. Under the tree

15 Aug.  2 p.m. Rikkie de ooiervaar
4 p.m. Pippi Langkous
8 p.m. BlackKkKlansman

22 Aug.  2 p.m. Hotel Transylvania 3
4 p.m. Vechtmeisje
8 p.m. Girl

29 Aug.  2 p.m. De Verenkoning
4 p.m. Binti
8 p.m. La La Land

Where  >  Beach of Zeebrugge
When  >  animation film for kids at 2 p.m., teen film at 4 p.m. and main film at 8 p.m.

www.bruggeplus.be
Tourist Offices

Toerisme Brugge (Zeedijk)
Zeedijk, Badengebouw
Easter holidays, Whitsun weekend, July and August:
10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 2:00 to 6:00 p.m

VVV Lissewege (presbytery)
Oude Pastoriestraat 5
during the long weekend of 1 May (1/5 to 5/5),
on weekends in May and June,
during Ascension and Whitsun weekend,
1/7 to 15/9 and in the last two weekends of September:
from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.

More info

Visit Bruges
Postbus 744, B-8000 Brugge
T + 32 50 44 46 46
visitbruges@brugge.be
www.brugge.be/zebrugge