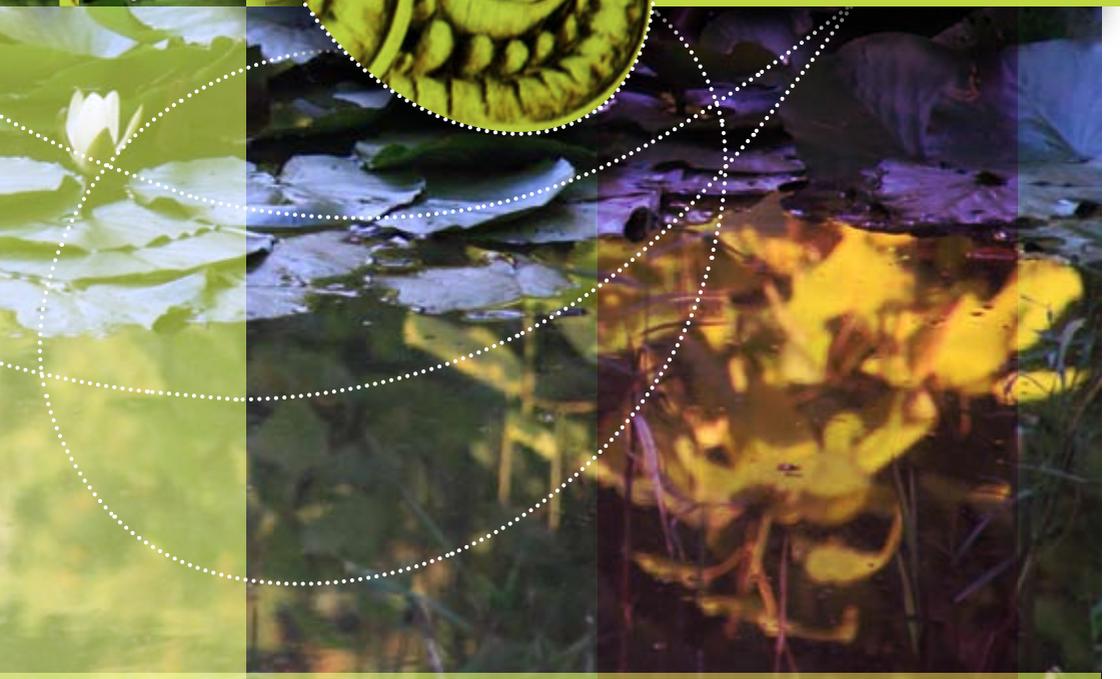




1070 BRUSSELS

DISCOVER ANDERLECHT
WITH A TOURIST GUIDE !

2011 EDITION



Discover Anderlecht with our tourist guides !*



The aim of this brochure is to present you the most popular guided tours of Anderlecht ! Many professional tourist, nautical and nature guides suggest you to discover this authentic and colourfull borough of Brussels. Anderlecht, as a major district of Brussels, hides numerous sights, either for lovers of architecture and millennial heritage or for nature lovers.

Besides the circuits mentioned in this tour guide, visits of more intimate and lesser known venues can be organised upon request. Do certainly not hesitate to consult our tourist guides and inform them about your interests !

Welcome to Anderlecht, a town that will amaze you in many ways !

* by English-speaking or multilingual tourist operators.

Gaëtan van Goidsenhoven
Mayor

Fabienne Miroir
Deputy Mayor for Tourism



• Stained glass window in the Town Hall

Anderlecht Tourism

Following in the footsteps of Jacques Brel in Anderlecht

Following the footsteps of Maurice Carême in Anderlecht

Art in the subway of Anderlecht

The Collegiate Church of Saint-Peter-and-Guy

Hidden stones in the Collegiate Church

Guided tours in ENGLISH /
FRENCH / DUTCH / GERMAN
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FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JACQUES BREL IN ANDERLECHT

Following the footsteps of Jacques Brel in Anderlecht Jacques Brel lived in Anderlecht from 1942 till 1951, nine crucial years during which he performed for the first time in public and decided to dedicate his life to music.

From the family residence to Eugene's chips stall, walking by the end of line Tramway 33, all these places which inspired Jacques Brel for writing the song "Madeleine".

At Square Henri Rey a particular tribute is paid to this exceptional artist as along its low walls, sometimes covered by the shadow of autumn leaves, the lyrics of "Madeleine" are engraved in the blue stones bordering the foot paths.

FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MAURICE CARÊME IN ANDERLECHT

Maurice Carême, the Prince of poetry, lived in Anderlecht from 1918 till his death in 1978. During these 60 years he wrote and left his mark on the town.

This guided tour is organised in collaboration with the Maurice Carême Foundation and retraces the most important locations which impressed and inspired the man and the poet.

The circuit retraces the chronicle of a young teacher, who came to Anderlecht in 1918, walking by the Brabantine House, which became the Maurice Carême Museum and passing by different places and spots which inspired his literary art.

Put your footsteps in those of this illustrious poet, while his verses echo in your head.

ART IN THE SUBWAY OF ANDERLECHT

The first plans for the Brussels' subway were drawn in 1892. Its history goes back to nearly 120 years !

Anderlecht hosts eleven subway stations as well as one of the two biggest engine sheds of the Brussels' Region. The art and the style of the Brussels' subway stations are very dissimilar due to the time of their construction as well as to the choice of the architect in charge of the project. This underground tour emphasises the different aspects and expressions of contemporary artists.

Join us to discover the history of this underground art gallery, often crossed, seldom admired!

- Metro Aumale by Jean-Paul Leanen © STIB
- Photo of Maurice Carême by Jeannine Burny © Foundation Maurice Carême
- The famous French singer Jacques Brel © Wikipedia
- Metrostation Clemenceau by Joseph Willaert © STIB (right)

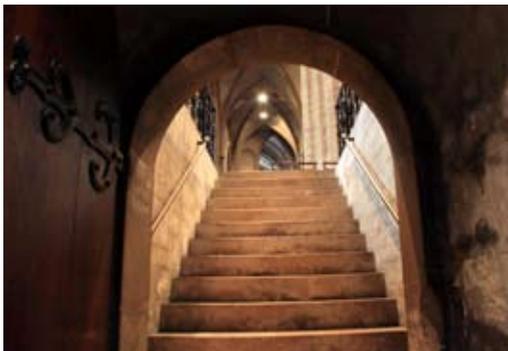


THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF SAINT-PETER-AND-GUY

The Collegiate Church of Saint-Peter-and-Guy is one of the most magnificent churches built in Brabantine Gothic style in the Brussels Region. It gained from the know-how of two well-known architects : for its choir Jean Van Ruysbroeck, creator of the tower of the Brussels City's Town Hall and Mathieu Keldermans for its unfinished tower. It was only in 1898 that the tower was mounted with a spire, a piece of art made by the architect Jules-Jacques Van Ysendyck. The inside of the collegiate church can be described as very homogeneous. A line of pillars topped with cushion-cap capitals leads to the choir, which is rather deep, as it lodged the stalls of the canons. The church also houses a collection of artefacts, such as exceptional murals, a number of tombstones as well as three very precious gothic statues in "Avesnes" stone, previously part of the entrance portal..

HIDDEN STONES IN THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH

This visit of the Collegiate Church starts from a very specific angle: the crypt, the rood screen, the chapel of our Lady of Graces, the analysis of some artworks, the study of the stones, the history of the stained-glass windows, the murals, etc...



- Crypt of the Collegiate Church
- Facade of the Collegiate Church
- Inside the Collegiate Church (background)

Brussels by Water

Several guided cruises,
ENGLISH/FRENCH/DUTCH

Quai des Péniches, 2bis
1000 Brussel

T: 02 203 64 06

F: 02 203 07 09

To book a sightseeing tour

T: 02 218 54 60

contact@brusselsbywater.be

www.brusselsbywater.be

CRUISES

During the season (from May till September), fluvial tourism and passengers' navigation are an unique way to discover another aspect of Anderlecht and the history of its canal. The remaining of industrial monuments along the banks of this waterway are evidences of the manufacturing history of the town. These fluvial sightseeing's are coupled to cycling and pedestrian tours. Each year, new attractions are added to the program. To participate, just give us a call or surf on our website.

A bus-boat embarks passengers in Anderlecht at the lock gate of Anderlecht, at the Aa dock and the embankment of the canal, Square Emile Vandervelde.

L'ANDERLECHTOISE

Brussels by Water proposes you to discover Anderlecht seen from the water during a one and a half hour during cruise on the canal Charleroi - Brussels, passing by the lock gate of Anderlecht.

This is a great opportunity to learn more about this waterway which crosses the town, to find out more about its past and its future and certainly to recognise the multiple roles it plays for the capital city.

The tour guide will tell you more about history and geography, explain the functioning of the lock gate in real time, describe the role of the canal in flooding prevention thanks to the Aa spillway, give some details about the future projects of this area, etc ...



- Quaysides of the canal

Coordination Senne

The Vogelzangbeek Valley and the Zuunbeek dock in Anderlecht

The Senne and the canal in Anderlecht

The Pede Valley in Anderlecht

Guided tours in ENGLISH /

FRENCH / DUTCH

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THE VOGELZANGBEEK VALLEY AND THE ZUUNBEEK DOCK IN ANDERLECHT

The Vogelzangbeek has its source in Vlezenbeek, then reaches Anderlecht nearby the Erasme hospital and joins the Zuunbeek near the canal Charleroi – Brussels.

With the help of many associations, the Vogelzangbeek reserve has been recognised since 1998 as a classified protected area as well for its esthetical as for its scientific interest. The diversity of the views along the miles of this tour have most certainly contributed to such a classification.

Along these paths, you will walk through woods, swamps, moist prairies, orchards and pasture lands. These various landscapes gives us the opportunity to tackle a variety of themes such as biodiversity, site management, used water purification, green walks ... each theme being linked to an element which can be seen, heard or smelt

PS: These three tours, and many more to be discovered around the Senne and its tributaries, have been outlined in detailed guides obtainable for the price of 0,50 € or can be downloaded from the Coordination Senne website. Upon request and for groups, these tours can be organised with tour guides

- In the heart of the listed site of semi-natural Vogelenzang valley
- Map Lennik - Halle



THE SENNE AND THE CANAL IN ANDERLECHT

In former times, the Senne was a charming river full of fish, shaping numerous loops and isles. The yellow iris bloomed abundantly on its banks and became the symbol of the Brussels Region. The city of Brussels was built on the banks of this river, which has been vaulted by the end of the 19th century to avoid flooding risks and improve sanitary facilities. It can be said, without hesitation, that the river became almost invisible!

At a few sites, the river flows beneath the sky, namely near to the canal and in the neighbourhood of the “Wheel” (La Roue). It preserved a certain prestige with its loops and natural banks. This walk is an open invitation for discovering the Senne and the canal Charleroi – Brussels. Walking along the paths, you will learn a lot about the different functions of these waterways, their future prospects as well as the links between both.

THE PEDE VALLEY IN ANDERLECHT

The Neerpedebeek or Pede has its source in Lennik-Saint-Martin, then reaches Anderlecht at the hamlet of Vlazendaal before being vaulted to meet the Senne at the Petite-Ile.

The neighbourhood downstream is mostly urbanised whereas the valley upstream kept the typical rural aspect of the Brabantine upland with farms, pasture lands, orchards and inns which most certainly all inspired Breughel.

Along this walk, you will discover the valley, one of the most astonishing sight views of Brussels, lying between parks and countryside at the gates of Brussels.



• The Pede valley

Klare Lijn

The Art Deco neighbourhood of the Meir

The Triangle of Cureghem

The City Hall of Anderlecht

La Roue, the kaleidoscope of a city-garden

The Fifties in Anderlecht: triumph of playful modernism

The Park System in Anderlecht

Which one of the three? Moortebeek!

A humanist at Saint-Guy

The Maurice Carême Museum, the White House

In collaboration with the Maurice Carême Foundation
Tailor made tour visits in
ENGLISH / FRENCH / DUTCH
/ GERMAN / SPANISH

Rue du Village, 40

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Mobile: 0493 50 40 60

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THE ART DECO NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE MEIR

New roadways have been outlined across the country side of the actual Meir around 1905. The plan included a location for the actual Astrid Park and a residential zone for middle class citizens. Although some houses were built around World War One, most of the buildings were built between the World Wars. The Art Deco atmosphere prevails on almost every facade: evidences are of course the exquisite stained-glass windows, naturalistic and cubic ornaments and finally the geometric wrought irons.

Residences built in an impressive modernist style, where cottage style and fine arts encounter rather unpresumptuous Art Deco constructions : this is the neighbourhood of the Meir where architecture is a delight for your eyes only!

THE TRIANGLE OF CUREGHEM

By reading the title, it might have crossed your mind that Klare Lijn would take you on a journey far away from here, somewhere in the East ... Stop dreaming, not for such a low price! On the other hand, we will divulge some very interesting spots in the neighbourhood of Cureghem, located nearby the Midi Railway station. Just have a look at the City Hall, the "Prévoyance Sociale (Social Security)", a magnificent Art Deco building and the Golden Triangle, the place to be for textile trade. The Art Deco style prevails everywhere around you. If we are lucky, we might enter in the den of the "Social Security" or in one of the beautiful Art Deco spaces ...

Upon request, this tour can be coupled with a visit to the Sewage Museum or to the Gueuze Museum, which is the last brewery in Brussels where this outstanding beer can also be tasted !

THE CITY HALL OF ANDERLECHT

This Flemish Neo-Renaissance construction with its 48m high tower is the work of architect J.J. Van Ysendyck.

The main staircase leads towards a magnificent stained-glass window which relates the history and era of this building. On the first floor, you can admire the large Council Room and the Township Room.

Luxuriant ornaments and furniture bring back alive old hamlets and virtues.



• Mural "Anderlecht's concerto" on the side wall of the Town Hall



- Stained glass window in the Town Hall
- Detail of an art deco facade





LA ROUE, THE KALEIDOSCOPE OF A CITY-GARDEN

At the start of the 20th century, Anderlecht encountered an extraordinary demographic explosion. Many workers needed decent homes. The breakthrough, in those days, of the labour movement creates a favourable climate for involved architects to build the first “cheap” houses in this neighbourhood.

La Roue is the first Brussels experience with garden-cities where new concepts, new materials and new technologies are explored. Street names still testify of the ideological and pedagogical character of the project.

THE FIFTIES IN ANDERLECHT: TRIUMPH OF PLAYFUL MODERNISM!

From 1955 till 1965, building in Anderlecht encounters mind-blowing proportions. In the central places, more traditional styles are used whereas in the new neighbourhoods, new constructions show playful modernist characteristics : asymmetric, contrasting materials, aerodynamic cornices and luxurious colours.

Ideally, this tour is complete with a visit to the Park System in Anderlecht.

THE PARK SYSTEM IN ANDERLECHT

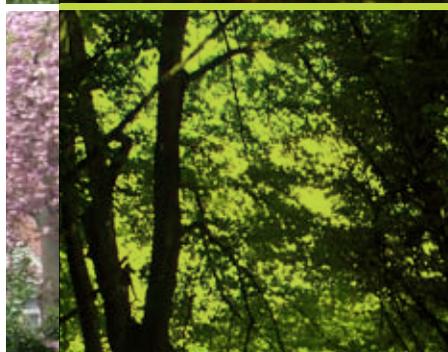
The urban development mode is typical during the years 1950-1960 : particular attention is paid to sunlight and green outer spaces. New neighbourhoods with uninterrupted parks are created. In these areas, pedestrians and traffic are clearly delimited.

Anderlecht adopts this vision for the creation of new neighbourhoods : the Scherdemael Park, the area of the ponds, the Lemaire Park, the mini-golf course. Existing buildings were renovated and surrounded with green areas, with bungalows for seniors and playgrounds for the children.

Meeting point at the entrance of the Astrid Park next to the Square Egide Rombaux.



• Moortebek city garden



WHICH ONE OF THE THREE? MOORTEBEEK!

This city-garden is undoubtedly the most significant one out of the four city-gardens in Anderlecht. This concept of Ebenezer Howard satisfied the needs of cheap houses. It also made the city-garden the springboard of modernism in Belgium. Architects such as Diongre and Hoeben built 354 charming houses in their own pure style. The off-white plaster of the facades, the woodwork and the small green corners create a most charming sight.

A HUMANIST AT SAINT-GUY

The worship of Saint-Guy attracted thousands of pilgrims with amongst the guests of the chapter, Erasmus, who was most certainly the most prestigious visitor of the prosperous village of Anderlecht during the 16th century.

It seems as time stood still in the Erasmus House since then. The atmosphere of Erasmus' sojourn in those ancient times still echoes in the rooms. ... The museum contains a rare edition of “The Praise of the Folly” and paintings of Bouts, Bosch and Van der Weyden which illustrate the era spirit in a magnificent scenery.

In the “philosophic garden” one can discover some medicinal plants from the Renaissance period ... And this visit would be incomplete without a visit to the Gothic Collegiate Church and its Roman crypt, as well as walking by the beguine convent built in the 13th century!

THE MAURICE CARÈME MUSEUM, THE WHITE HOUSE

You enter straight into the life space of the poet: time seems to stand still in his white house built in Brabantine style. The living room and the office of the poet are kept intact: the paintings, the statues, the furniture, the china are silent witnesses of the biotope of the “prince of poetry”. The cellar contains all the archives, many translations and partitions, most of the writer's correspondence and a library with unique poetry books.

• Park Astrid



Questions? Suggestions?
Contact the Tourist information
of Anderlecht

**You can consult the program of our
monthly guided tours on:**
www.anderlecht.be
under the heading Agenda and on
Facebook: Tourism Anderlecht

Anderlecht Tourist information
Rue du Chapelain 1-7, 1070 Brussels
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This leaflet is also available
in French and Flemish

An initiative of Fabienne
Miroir, Deputy Major
for Tourism, with the
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and the Council of
Anderlecht.

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Assigned Responsible