

MAGIC
The Gathering

GP ANTWERP TRAVEL GUIDE

The Guiding Hand
for the Traveling Judge

Belgian Beer
Who Doesn't
Love It?

Stoemp! Stew!
And other Delicious
Flemish Meals

Antwerp
City of history

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Safety Tips

Antwerp is relatively safe, but sound advice would obviously be to mind your belongings. Especially in busy places like airports and train stations.

The national (and European) emergency number is used in Belgium: **112**.

Contact Information

If you need help you can contact either of these judges

Regional Coordinator

Richard Drijvers

rdrijvers@gmail.com

+31 (0)6 48 78 1278

Local Judge Antwerp

Niki Lin

linniki@gmail.com

+32 (0)491 36 01 57

THE ESSENTIALS

Antwerp and the Venue

Antwerp (Dutch: Antwerpen, French: Anvers) is the second biggest city in Belgium. It's located in the northern part of Belgium and that makes it a Flemish city. Belgium has a southern French speaking area (Walloons) and a northern Dutch speaking area (Flanders). Antwerp is built on the right bank of the river Scheldt and has a rich history starting from an early Gallo-Roman trading village to a multicultural economic city. The harbor of Antwerp is one of the biggest in Europe and its main asset is petro-chemistry.

Belgium has a system called GAS fines, they are fines for 'nuisances'. The problem with these GAS fines is that they differ from city to city. This means that in one town you can be fined for sitting on the backside of a bench while in another town not (no joke!). Antwerp has lenient and sensible definitions of what can be fined for nuisance, but advice would be not to pee outside, drop litter, cause verbal trouble on the road,... Basically; behave. GAS fines can run up to 350 Euro and must be paid to the city council. It's very hard to fight GAS fines legally as it will cost you more than the fine itself.

The Venue of the GP is located right next to the water in a renewed old harbor hangar (Hangar 29) and is called Waagnatie.

Venue Location:

Waagnatie (Hangar 29)

rijnkaai 150

2000 Antwerpen



The waagnatie building with parking space

Travel Advice

From the Airport

Antwerp: small airport which only has connections with surrounding cities like London, Amsterdam and Paris. It's very cheap if you can find a flight.

Getting to the venue from Antwerp airport:

1. Take a bus (line 32) or tram (line 9) to "Roosevelt Plein" (central bus hub)
2. Take line 1 and 13, towards "Eilandje", Stop "Londenstraat" (Or take stop "Noorderplaats" if you want to go to the staff hotel)
3. Walk towards the bridge and cross it, keep going straight, until you are at a T-section where you take a left and will see the venue. (Total walk 800m)

Brussels: main airport of Belgium, most European companies have daily flights to and from Brussels. To get to Antwerp from Brussels take the train that is located right under the airport.

Getting to the venue from Brussels airport:

1. Go to the underground level of the airport, the train station is there
2. There are direct trains to Antwerp Central (do not get off at Antwerp Berchem!)
3. At Antwerp Central follow the arrows taking you to the busses (400 m walk)
4. Take line 1 or 13, towards "Eilandje", Stop "Londenstraat" (Or take stop "Noorderplaats" if you want to go to the staff hotel)
5. Walk towards the bridge and cross it, keep going straight, until you are at a T-section where you take a left and will see the venue. (Total walk 800m)

Charleroi: Smaller airport, but Easyjet and Ryanair use it as their main airport. There is a shuttle bus that takes you to the train-station of Charleroi. Going to Antwerp is possible, although most likely with a transfer in Brussels.

The public transportation system

Antwerp City

Public transport inside Antwerp is governed by the "De Lijn" (www.delijn.be), it's the government public transportation service. Bus tickets can be bought on the busses themselves but local news shops, vending machines and supermarkets offer you the chance of buying them up to 20% cheaper (and it's easier for the driver). A ticket is valid for 1 hour and costs around 1,50 to 2 euro. You can also buy a day ticket for 5 euro.

Note that some lines don't run during weekends or at a lower frequency. A select number of busses are available at night. The best advice is to ask the bus driver to drop you off near "het MAS" as no bus is going directly to the Waagnatie.



Important Bus Stops

Venue: Line 1 and 13, towards "Eilandje", Stop "Londenstraat"

Staff Hotel: Line 1, 13, 31, 35, 37, 600, 601, 602, 605, 610, 620, 621, 629, 640, 641 and 641, towards "Eilandje", Stop "Noorderplaats"

Roosevelt Plein: The central hub of the busses and very close to the central station.

Trains

Belgium has one agency that runs the trains called the NMBS (SNCB in French) (www.belgianrail.be). Antwerp is well connected with all other cities and even international trains stop here. The national train system is relatively cheap compared to western european standards. (Definitely cheaper than surrounding countries).

Hotels

Staff Hotel

Holiday Inn Express Antwerp City-North [1,2 km walking distance]

Italiëlei 2, 2000 Antwerp, +32 (0)3 221 49 49, www.ihg.com

The venue is located in the Northern part of the city where there are two hotels close by. There are also some Bed & Breakfasts in the area that can range from medium prices to exclusive and expensive.

Things to take into consideration when booking a hotel:

- The red light district is very close by, make sure you don't end up in a love hotel!
- The area around the venue and around the MAS (Museum) is a bit more posh and can be more expensive.

Hotels nearby

Best Western Hotel Docklands [950 m walking distance]

Kempisch Dok - Westkaai 84-90, 2000 Antwerp, +32 (0)3 231 07 26, www.hoteldocklands.be

New Dockside [450 m walking distance]

Sint-Laureiskaai 1/Z, 2000 Antwerp, +32 (0)3 227 08 15

B&B Kool Kaai [1 km walking distance]

Kleine Kraaiwijk 1, Antwerp Centre, 2000 Antwerp, +32 (0)473 91 64 83, www.kool-kaai.com

B&B A2 [900 m walking distance]

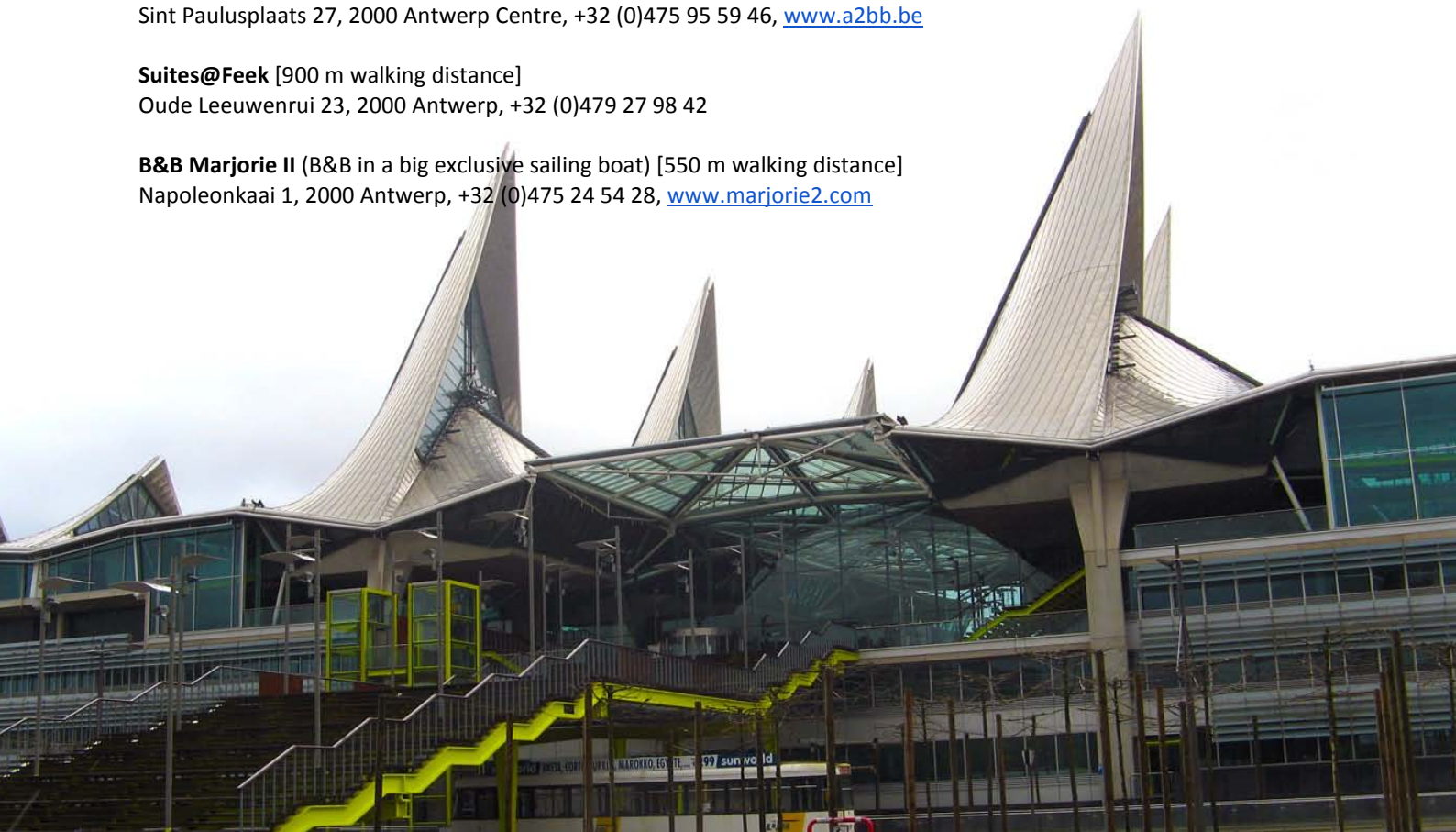
Sint Paulusplaats 27, 2000 Antwerp Centre, +32 (0)475 95 59 46, www.a2bb.be

Suites@Feek [900 m walking distance]

Oude Leeuwenrui 23, 2000 Antwerp, +32 (0)479 27 98 42

B&B Marjorie II (B&B in a big exclusive sailing boat) [550 m walking distance]

Napoleonkaai 1, 2000 Antwerp, +32 (0)475 24 54 28, www.marjorie2.com



Budget Options

The following options are budget-friendly. They are located more to the city center (train station area) or just outside the city circular. Public transport in Antwerp is the best and cheapest way to travel. Taxis are available but expensive and usually need to be ordered beforehand.

Youth Hostel Pulcinella [2,1 km walking distance, 20 minutes by public transport]

Probably the cheapest you can find in town, options for larger shared rooms and smaller rooms.

<http://www.jeugdherbergen.be/en/youth-hostels/city-hostels/antwerpen-pulcinella>

Ramada Plaza Antwerp [35 minutes by public transport]

At the very south end of the city, relatively cheap if you book in advance

Desguinlei 94, 2018 Antwerp, +32 (0)3 244 82 11

Mercure Antwerpen Centrum Opera [2,1 km walking distance, 20 minutes by public transport]

In the city center, close to the central bus station

Molenbergstraat 9, 2000 Antwerp, +32 (0)3 232 76 75

Scandic Antwerpen [40 minutes by public transport]

At the very east end of the city.

Luitenant Lippenslaan 66, 2140 Antwerp, +32 (0)3 235 91 91

Ibis Styles Antwerpen Center [2,5 km walking distance, 20-21 minutes by public transport]

Right next to the Central train station.

Koningin Astridplein 43, 2018 Antwerp, +32 (0)3 609 44 44

De Keyser Hotel [2,6 km walking distance, 20-25 minutes by public transport]

In the city center, next to the central bus station

De Keyserlei 66-70, 2018 Antwerp, +32 (0)3 206 74 60



PLACES TO VISIT

Tourist Hotspots

MAS

MAS (Museum Aan de Stroom, English: Museum at the current) is located only a couple of hundred meters away from the venue. You can climb the sixty meter high tower for free and have a magnificent view over the area. The MAS has a permanent art collection and a temporary collection, some parts of the museum are free, while other parts require tickets. Although relatively young for a museum it has some fine art pieces ranging from old Flemish Masters to more contemporary work. The main theme within the museum is “people and the communication between them”.



The Main Square

The Main Square (Grote Markt) is the old city center. In the middle of the Main Square is a huge fountain with Brabo on top. Brabo is the hero of a legend. According to folk tale a giant (Antigoon) was terrorizing Antwerp. Antigoon was in charge of collecting toll for visitors of the city, but when people refused to pay, he cut off their hands and threw them into the Scheldt. Brabo wanted this to end and defeated the giant, throwing his hand into the Scheldt also. This folklore story is for some people the origin of the name Antwerpen, which resembles “hand werpen” (English: hand throwing).

The Main Square has some nice buildings, belonging to the city merchant guilds. The city hall (built in Renaissance style) is world heritage and there are some nice cafés and restaurants that you can visit.



The Zoo

The zoo of Antwerp is one of the oldest zoos in the world, built in 1843. It has some very nice belle époque style buildings and decorations. Most buildings in the zoo belong to the protected Belgian patrimony. The zoo houses 586 species of animals and has is very renowned for its studies on apes.

Het Steen

A medieval fortress in the city center next to the river. It's the oldest building of the city, used to protect the city from possible attacks coming from the water. The fortress is now used for exploration, creativity and art for projects aimed towards children.



Lesser Known Sightseeing

Shopping Streets

Antwerp is home to some very big shopping streets, especially the Meir is nice with many brand stores. Side streets of the Meir offer cheaper urban shops and outlets (Kammenstraat).

Museums

Some of Antwerp's museums:

Fotomuseum, Photo museum, Waalsekaai 47, 2000 Antwerp

Nice small museum, both about photography as art as the history of the camera itself.

Rubenshuis, Ruben's House, Wapperplein 9/-11, 2000 Antwerp

The House of Flemish master painter Rubens, with some of his baroque work

Modemuseum, Fashion Museum, Nationalestraat 28, 2000 Antwerp

Has anybody heard of the famous Antwerp six?

MHKA, Museum of Modern Art Antwerp, Leuvenstraat 32, 2000 Antwerp

Big museum for the more contemporary art aficionados.

Other cities in Belgium worth visiting

Belgium is very small with a big number of cities close together, so if you are bored of Antwerp or have seen Antwerp already there are some nice alternatives:

Bruges: An old medieval city, sometimes called the Venice of the North.

Ghent: Also an older city with lots of cultural activities.

Brussels: The capital of Belgium (and Europe), has something to offer to everybody.

Charleroi: The biggest city in Wallonia and third biggest of Belgium.

These cities are best visited by train when you are traveling. Going from Antwerp to Bruges is about 2 hours ride with the train and costs 29 Euro (Standard fare).

Food and drink

Belgian Specialities

Belgian Fries (Chips)

Belgium is your perfect excuse for eating Fries on a holiday, because it's a local product! There are many shops selling Fries in packages (small to large) and fry selection of meat along with it. The biggest classic is: Fries with Flemish Stew (Frietjes met stoofvlees), mayonnaise is optional, but part of the classic!

Belgian Chocolate

Chocolate comes in all types and sizes in Belgium. The classic Belgian Chocolates are small chocolates filled with different types of fillings. You buy them per weight, some shops still offer traditional handmade ones.

Beer

Belgium has a beer culture and offers a big selection of type of beer. There are more beers than days in a year in Belgium. Some of the nicer beers are the Trappist beers, made by Belgian monks. If you visit a cafe, be sure to ask for their selection of beers. I'm sure they have something blonde, dark, fruity or bitter for everyone.

Belgian Waffles

There are three types of waffles in Belgium and all three of them can be found in shops in the city center. The Brussel Waffle is crisp and mostly you buy them with selections of fruit, ice cream, whipped cream or simply plain with powder sugar. The Waffle Liegeois is more sugary and is served with either caramel or chocolate. The third type of waffle is more a hard waffle, eaten cold.



Cool Addresses

De Burgerij - Cool fancy hamburger restaurant. Do not take this for any hamburger restaurant, all burgers are fresh and handmade, with fresh buns. Located at the MAS, Sint-Laureiskaai 8, www.burgerij.be (9-13 euro)

Lombardia - Bio Vegetarian restaurant. Served for the great like Sting and Moby! In a wonderful decor you can truly enjoy bio food at a decent price (menu at about 12,50 euro) www.lombardia.be

De 7 Schaken - True to origin restaurant, serving some of the best Flemish dishes, Flemish Stew, "Stoemp", Flemish Ragout, Steak Tartar. Also home to decent steaks, spare ribs and fish plates. Braderijstraat 24, www.de7schaken.be (10-20 euro)



Local game stores

Outpost Antwerp: Beggaardenstraat, 2000 Antwerp

Close to the city Center, you find all levels of play here plus it's a cheap place to have a drink. It offers computer games, board games, RPGs, etc.

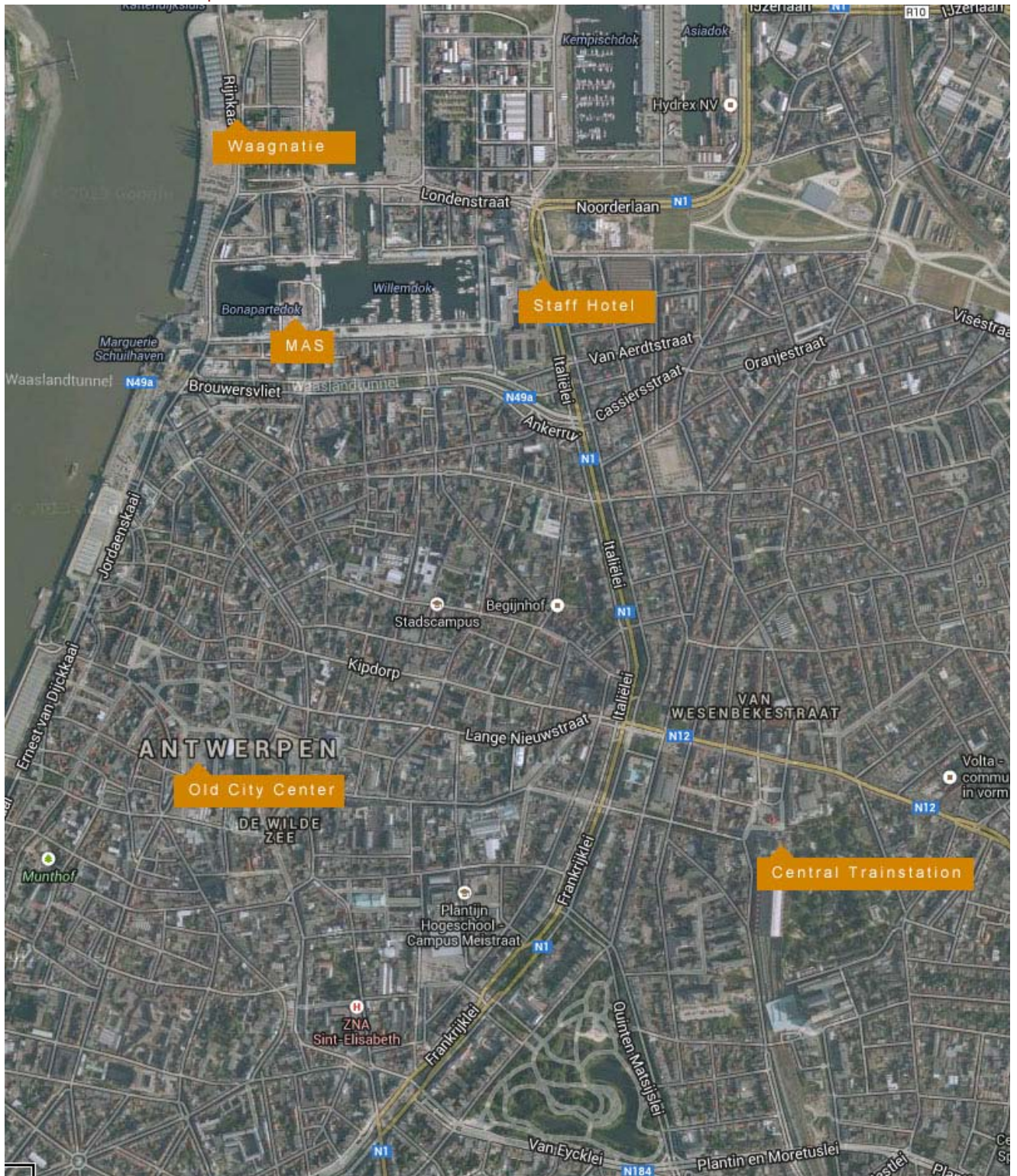
www.outpost.be

Adriaensen: Cuperusstraat 7-8, 2018 Antwerp

An exclusive focus on board games, but a huge amount of stock. It has very knowledgeable shopkeepers.

spellenspeciaalzaak.be

Overview Antwerp



northeast Antwerp