

# MAGIC<sup>™</sup> JUDGE



## Grand Prix Ghent: Travel Guide



**Pictures:**

Up: the Gravensteen (castle)

Right: the tree towers of Ghent:

- St-Nicolas Church
- The Belfort
- St-Baafs Cathedral



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# 1. How to get to Ghent

## **By plane:**

The main airport from which to get to Ghent is Brussels Airport, which is located about 66km from Ghent. There is a train station located in the airport itself, which offers a direct connection to Ghent. Buses and shuttles to the main cities in Belgium are also available. Taxis are of course always an option, but it will be cheaper by far to go by train. (<http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/>)

An alternative way would be to fly to Brussels South Charleroi. From there it's a 20 minute bus ride to Charleroi station, where one can take the train to Ghent (with a transition in Brussels Midi station). (<http://www.charleroi-airport.com/en/brussels-south-charleroi-airport/index.html>)

## **By train:**

Ghent has several train stations, but the one closest to both the city center as well as the tournament venue is "Gent Sint-Pieters". It is one of the two main train stations, so all trains stopping in Ghent will stop here. Direct connections to most big cities in Belgium are available. Time-schedules and traffic-information are viewable on <http://www.railtime.be/website/home-en>.

## **By car:**

The dense highway network in Belgium allows easy access to Ghent by car. Two main highways E40 (Liege-Brussels-Ghent-Bruges-Ostend) and E17 (Antwerp-Ghent-Kortrijk-Lille) cross at Ghent. Brussels and Antwerp are 40 min away, Bruges 30 min. Of course one has to be wary that these durations can easily double up during rush hour.

# 2. Travelling in Ghent

The city center of Ghent is quite small, so the easiest way to get around in the center itself is on foot. Gent Sint-Pieters train station is roughly a 30 minute walk from the city center, but there is an extensive public transportation system in place to take you wherever you want to go in Ghent from the train station in about 10 minutes. The most comfortable way to get to the center will be by getting on tram 1 in the direction of "Korenmarkt", which accidentally is the same tram that brings one to the tournament venue, albeit in the other direction. Single tickets that allow use of the trams and buses for 1 hour cost 2€ to buy in the tram/bus itself, but one can buy a pass at the several ticket-machines and kiosks (there is a kiosk located just outside of the train station, as well as several ticket-machines) for 9€ that is valid for 10 trips.

Normally, the public transport stops around 23h, but because of the Gentse Feesten (see further on), there will be nightly services as well, which includes tram 1.



(<http://www.delijn.be/en/index.htm>)

### 3. Accommodation

The only hotel close to the venue is the Holiday Inn Hotel. This is also the judge hotel.

*Holiday Inn Hotel: Maaltekouter 3, Sint-Denijs-Westrem, 9051 Gent*

Website: <http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/st.-denijs-westrem/gntep/hoteldetail>

Other locations are in the center of Ghent. Tram 1 will bring you from the center of the city to the venue.

#### **Budget**

- Youth Hostel De Draecke, Sint-Widostraat 11,  
Tel.: +32 9 233-7050 Fax: +32 9 233-8001 - gent@vjh.be  
Website: <http://www.vjh.be/jeugdherbergen/gent/>
- Hostel 47  
Website: <http://www.hostel47.com/en/>
- A list of B&Bs can be found at: <http://www.bedandbreakfast-gent.be/>

#### **Hotels:**

You can find many hotels here: <http://www.visitgent.be/eCache/VGG/3/114.dmdfbGFuZz1FTg.html>

#### **Some small tips before booking your hotel**

- Try to find a location close to the trajectory of Tram 1. It will make your trip to the venue much easier.
- Don't wait too long before booking. The Grand Prix will take place during the Gentse Feesten, so expect a busy weekend in Ghent.

### 4. Magic in Ghent and Tournament Info

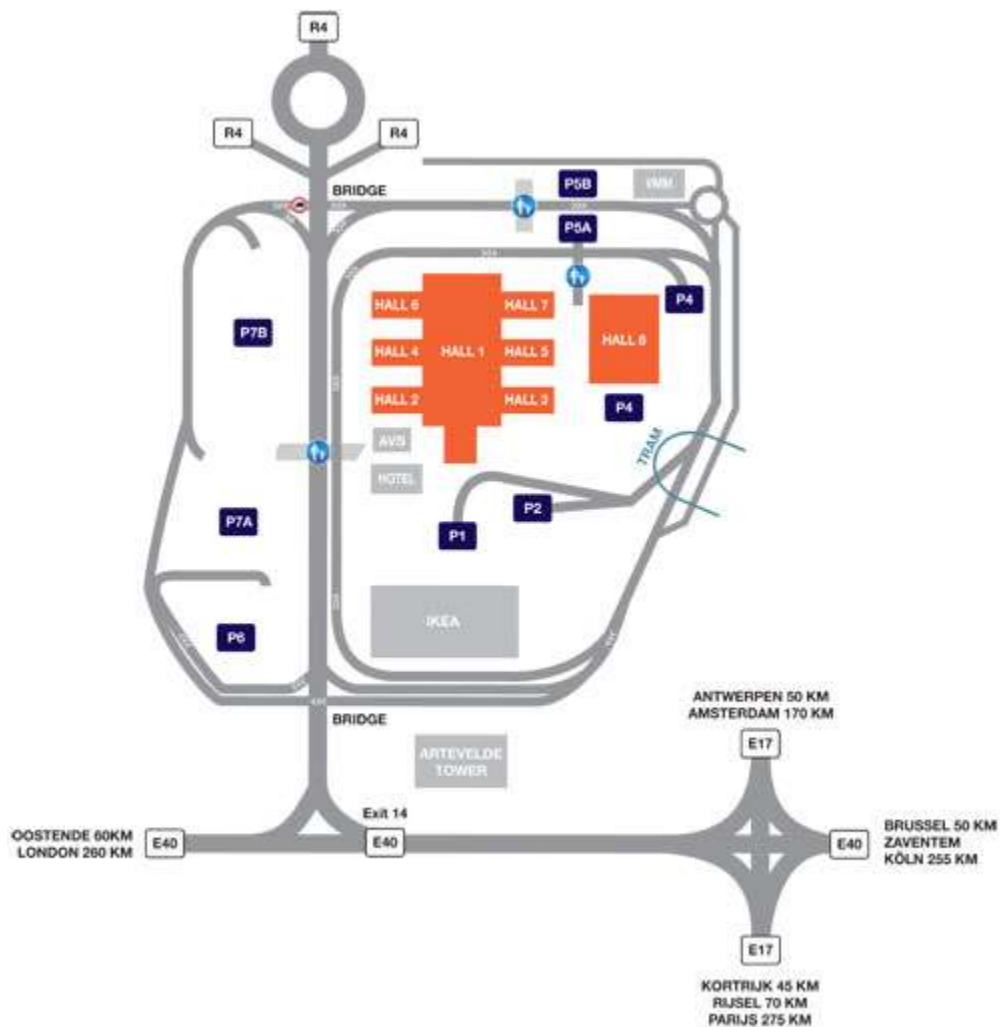
#### **Getting to the venue**

The event will take place at the following venue:

Flanders Expo  
Hall 3  
Maaltekouter 1  
9051 Sint-Denijs-Westrem (Ghent)  
Belgium

The venue is easily accessible by both car and public transportation. It has its own exit from the E40 highway (Liege-Brussels-Ghent-Bruges-Ostend) not far from where that highway crosses the E17 (Antwerp-Ghent-Kortrijk-Lille). There is an extensive amount of parking lots available at the venue itself.

By public transportation the venue can be reached by taking tram 1 from the city center (which passes by the Gent Sint-Pieters train station), to its terminus (fittingly called "Flanders Expo"). It is a ride of about 15 minutes.



<http://www.flandersexpo.be/en>

## **Judge Conference**

On Friday, before the GP, there will be a Judge conference. This conference will take place at the venue. L2 judge Emilien Wild will be responsible for this conference. Everyone is welcome, regardless of level or whether you will judge at the Grand Prix or not.

There will be workshops and seminars on judge related topics on this conference.

If you want to go to the conference and/or if you want to help Emilien, please contact him.

## **Magic in Ghent**

Ghent has an active magic scene, both regarding casual Magic as well as the more competitive versions. The Outpost has a shop in Ghent where many tournaments take place (you can frequently find the Outpost shop on European GP's). Mark Dictus (long-time Pro-Tour player and one of the store owners) has the following to say about it:

“The perfect place to relax after all the excitement of the Grand Prix has to be Outpost Ghent. Outpost is well known in Belgium (and beyond) by Magic players both casual and competitive alike, but is also renowned for its wide array of free-to-play board games, its super fast internet and computers, its cozy atmosphere, tasty food and low-cost drinks.

Whether you want to hone your Magic-skills even further, or to play a game with friends, or you just want to chill out while having a nice Belgian beer, Outpost is the perfect hangout for all you gamers out there.

Outpost Ghent is easily accessible from the tournament venue, and is situated right next to the famous student area in Ghent, where numerous bars, restaurants and cafes light up the weekends. Not that you need to move away from the Outpost anytime soon, because we are open till 4 o'clock in the morning! Come and check out this gamers' paradise !

**SUNDAY GP AFTER PARTY:** Belgian Beer tasting!

On Sunday, after the GP, there will be an after GP Party with Belgian Beer Tasting in the Outpost. From 18h00 right until 5 o'clock in the morning all beers will be sold with a 10% discount! (making every single one of them 2.25€ or less!!!).”

There is a draft every Tuesday and Friday (FNM), and casual players can be found in the store most of the time. Because of the Gentse Feesten and the Grand Prix, there will be a Commander tournament in the Outpost on Wednesday the 18th of July.

Outpost Ghent  
Ottergemse Steenweg 13  
9000 Ghent  
Belgium

## **5. Life in Belgium**

Belgium is a very small country. However, we have 3 official languages, 6 parliaments, and what are widely accepted as the best french fries and beer in the world.

While Ghent is situated in the Dutch speaking part of Belgium, most people will also speak French and English, and almost everyone will understand German (although they might not be able to speak it). But expect to hear a lot of other languages too, certainly during the festival, as Belgium is quite a multicultural country.

The currency in Belgium is the Euro. If you ever find yourself in need of cash, plenty of ATM's are spread throughout the entire city.





## 6. Tourism in Ghent

### Specialties from Ghent

One of the sweets you have to taste when you visit Ghent are Cuberdones or ‘Neuzekes’ (meaning: little noses).



Most of you will probably know we have the best fries of the world. As most of you know French fries are not named after France but after the way of cutting them, because of course our fries are by far superior!

If you visit Ghent, you certainly need to eat french fries with ‘stoverij’. And during the Gentse Feesten, you will certainly find a place in the center where you can eat it. I’ll admit it doesn’t look tasty, but it really is. If you want to act like a local, go out all night and afterwards go to ‘Julien’ and order french fries (you can find Julien in snack bar “De Gouden Saté, on the St-Pieters Square).



Of course the usual Belgian specialties are also commonly available in Ghent, so be prepared to see a lot of beer and Belgian chocolate!

### Touristic map of Ghent

If you want to see more of Ghent, print this map:

<http://www.use-it.be/ghent/map/>

If you want to see all the interesting things of Ghent in one walk, try this:

[http://www.visitgent.be/Documenten/visit\\_gent/Wandelplan/2011\\_StadGent\\_GentWandelingEN.pdf](http://www.visitgent.be/Documenten/visit_gent/Wandelplan/2011_StadGent_GentWandelingEN.pdf)

There is a catch however, as we stipulated before, and will do so again after this, during the Grand Prix an city-wide festival is held in Ghent, meaning that it will be hard to reach many of the usual touristic attractions without getting lost in seething masses of people!

## **The Gentse Feesten**

Every year at the end of July (this year from the 14th to the 23rd) the city center of Ghent transforms in a gigantic music and theatre festival. This brings both advantages and disadvantages for people travelling to Ghent in that period. The advantages are obvious; the entire festival (which contains enormous amounts of shows, parades, exhibits, concerts etc.) is open for exploration, all neatly located in the center of Ghent, and thus easily reachable.

On the other hand the festival means that there will be thousands of people in the city center both day and night, which makes reaching the regular touristic attractions a lot harder. Lots of infrastructure brought in for the festival will also be blocking the more panoramic views in Ghent.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentse\\_Feesten](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gentse_Feesten)  
[www.gentsefeesten.be](http://www.gentsefeesten.be)

That's about it, we hope you'll have a nice time in Ghent, and we'll see you then! If you need any more information, feel free to contact us!

Cheers,

Jona and Brecht

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