Bruges, accessible for everyone

Ewoud Lagring

VISITFLANDERS
Belgium

Accessible Tourism
Creating a holiday destination that is accessible to all
Information on

- Places to visit and experience
- Accommodation
- Food and drinks
- Transport
- Parking
- Toilets
- Rental of wheelchairs and medical devices
- Medical care and assistance
How we got there

Cooperate, cooperate, cooperate

- Flemish accessibility agency Inter: screenings
- Visit Bruges
- Bruges’ social services
- Technical department of the city
- People with disabilities

1. Start from an existing heritage route
2. Bottleneck walk with everyone involved
3. Adapt the route where necessary
Inform your visitor

- Map with detailed route description
- Brochure with tourist information AND detailed accessibility information
Have a closer look

6 Historium

Relive the golden age of Bruges! Seven historic themed rooms take you back in time to a day in 1435, including through film and special effects. Hear the romantic story of Jacob, an apprentice of Jan van Eyck, and discover the interactive exhibition space with touchscreens, the panoramic view of the Market and the DuvelOrium Grand Beer Cafe, the only themed Duvel Pub in the world. You get in through an alternative entrance with lift. The story follows a specific route. A wheelchair user has to leave this route at various times in order to take the lift. Historium provides guidance to find your way on the alternative route. The floor is paved here and there, but the cobblestones are quite flat. The bar, DuvelOrium, is accessible, but there are only high tables (96 cm). There is an accessible toilet with the necessary free space and grab rails. Just next to the door handle inside there is little space. The texts in the experience attraction are rather small and not legible for everyone. The audio guide allows you to experience everything in your own language. A loop is provided for the hearing impaired.

Historium
Markt 1, 8000 Bruges
+32 50 27 03 11
www.historium.be
info@historium.be
Have an even closer look

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### Public toilet Historium

#### PATHWAY

- **ENTRANCE**

#### TO THE TOILET

- **TOILET DOOR**
  - Clearance in front of the toilet door: 150 cm
  - Width of the toilet door: 93 cm

#### INSIDE THE TOILET

- **Dimensions toilet space**: 176 x 237 cm
- **Clearance space in the toilet area**: 150 cm
- **Free space in front of the toilet**: 120 cm
- **Free space next to the toilet**: 100 cm
- **Number of grab rails**: 2
- **Sink**

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### De Usbeer

#### Noordzandstraat 73, +32 50 33 35 34
www.deusbeer.be info@deusbeer.be

#### ENTRANCE

- **Height of the step**: 5 cm
- **Width of the narrowest entrance door**: 90 cm

#### HALL

- **Table wheelchair accessible**: Limited

#### TOILET

- **Width of the narrowest passage to the toilet (door or hallway)**: 100 cm
- **Toilet door**: 90 cm
- **Free space in front of the toilet**: 50 cm
- **Free space next to the toilet**: 90 cm
- **Number of grab rails**: 2
Some conclusions + what’s next

- Impossible to make a whole medieval city accessible: focus on what you can do (1 strong route).
- Including different services and people with disabilities makes them all ambassadors.
- Accessibility is now higher on the agenda of Bruges, also beyond tourism.
- Visit Bruges will do the update of the next brochure in their look and feel, with our support.
- Other art cities have created their own route or will do so soon, again with our support.
“The map and brochure help so much. The itinerary leads seamlessly to the highlights of the city. The descriptions are a must-read. Toilets and restaurants are described in a clear way, with photographs. So, when I visit Bruges now, I don’t have to stay in the main shopping street anymore!”

Quote by Geert Dumoulin, wheelchair user
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