

CIRCUIT MECHELEN - HOTEL RUINS IN VRIJBROEKPARK

Where urban atmosphere and nature meet

From the historic city centre of Mechelen, walk in the direction of Vrijbroekpark. Hidden in that green oasis, you will discover the ghost hotel, mysterious ruins with a unique urban atmosphere, impressive street art and fascinating fauna and flora. Follow the impressive hiking trail through the trees to the first floor of the ruins.

HIGHLIGHTS

1 DYLE TOWPATH

A walk along the floating wooden Dyle towpath is a must-do. From the water's edge you will see Mechelen from a totally different perspective. On the way you will discover some heritage gems as well as numerous water birds. Would you like to be on the water yourself? Then enjoy a relaxing boat trip on the Inner Dyle.

2 MECHELEN MURALS

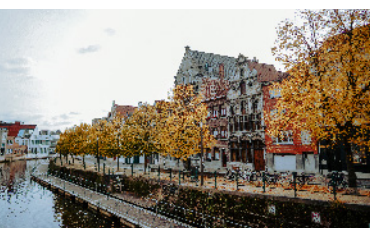
On this triangular space, the Korenmarkt, you can have a drink and a chat in good weather. Have you spotted the large mural at the café Antverpia? This artwork is called 'The Gift', and was created by artist Gijs Vanhee. In 2015 he started the Mechelen Murals ('Mechelen Muurt') project, in which artists from home and abroad brought some colour to the city. Tip: the letters on the route indicate some of those murals. If you'd like to see them all, consult the complete Mechelen Murals route at visitmechelen.be/mechelenmuurt.

3 VRIJBROEKPARK

Vrijbroekpark is a green oasis of 65 hectares, near the centre of Mechelen. The park is a paradise for flower lovers, and home to the extremely rare 'creeping marshwort'. Stroll along the decking path that connects the banks of the large pond, or fully immerse yourself in nature along the Bosbadpad.

4 ROSE GARDEN

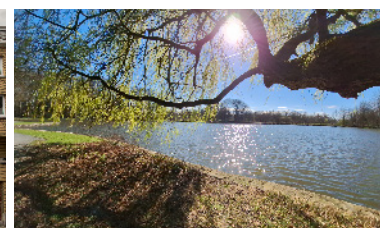
One of the most beautiful rose collections in Europe can be found in this rose garden. Let yourself be seduced by the scents and colours of up to a thousand roses in the classic French rose garden. Did you know that the World Federation of Rose Societies has awarded Vrijbroekpark's Rose Garden the 'Award of Garden Excellence'? Every year, numerous visitors from home and abroad come to admire the roses. So join the club!



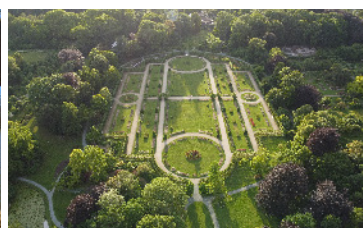
Dyle Towpath



Mechelen Murals



Vrijbroekpark



Rose garden



Hotel ruins Vrijbroekpark

5 HOTEL RUINS

In the heart of Vrijbroekpark lies the mysterious hotel ruins, also known as the 'ghost hotel'. It's all that remains of what was meant to be an imposing hotel complex. Today, the hotel ruins offer you a unique hiking experience in the midst of nature. An impressive wooden boardwalk takes you to the first floor, from where you look out over the willow-birch forest that surrounds the ruins. Here you can discover a piece of park history, architecture from the 1970s and special street art in peace and quiet. Whiskered, dwarf and brown large-eared bats are also regular guests at the ruins.

6 BRUSSELPPOORT (BRUSSELS GATE)

This massive 13th-century building is the tallest of twelve gates that made up the city wall. It owes its name to the connecting road to Brussels, which was built in 1698. Brusselpoort is also known as Hoogpoort and Overstepoort due to its location at the highest point of the city. It has had various functions over the years: telegraph pole, refuge during WWII, art studio and more.



Brusselpoort

7 BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Botanical Garden or 'Botanique' is the largest city park in the historic city centre of Mechelen. The park owes its name to one of the all-time famous citizens of Mechelen: the scientist Rembert Dodoens. In the 16th century, Dodoens wrote the 'Cruydenboek', the first work on medicinal plants and herbs. Around his statue you will find 250 different types of herbs that were planted by species, variety and colour. Here you can enjoy the rich fauna and flora and the restful pond.

Practical info

STARTING POINT

Visit Mechelen, Vleeshouwersstraat 6, 2800 Mechelen

LENGTH AND DURATION

6,5 km
2h

ROUTE AND ACCESSIBILITY

The hiking trails in Vrijbroekpark are accessible to wheelchair users and pushchairs. In the historic city centre you may encounter some thresholds.



Visit the hotel ruins in Vrijbroekpark.
More information can be found at
www.vrijbroekpark.be

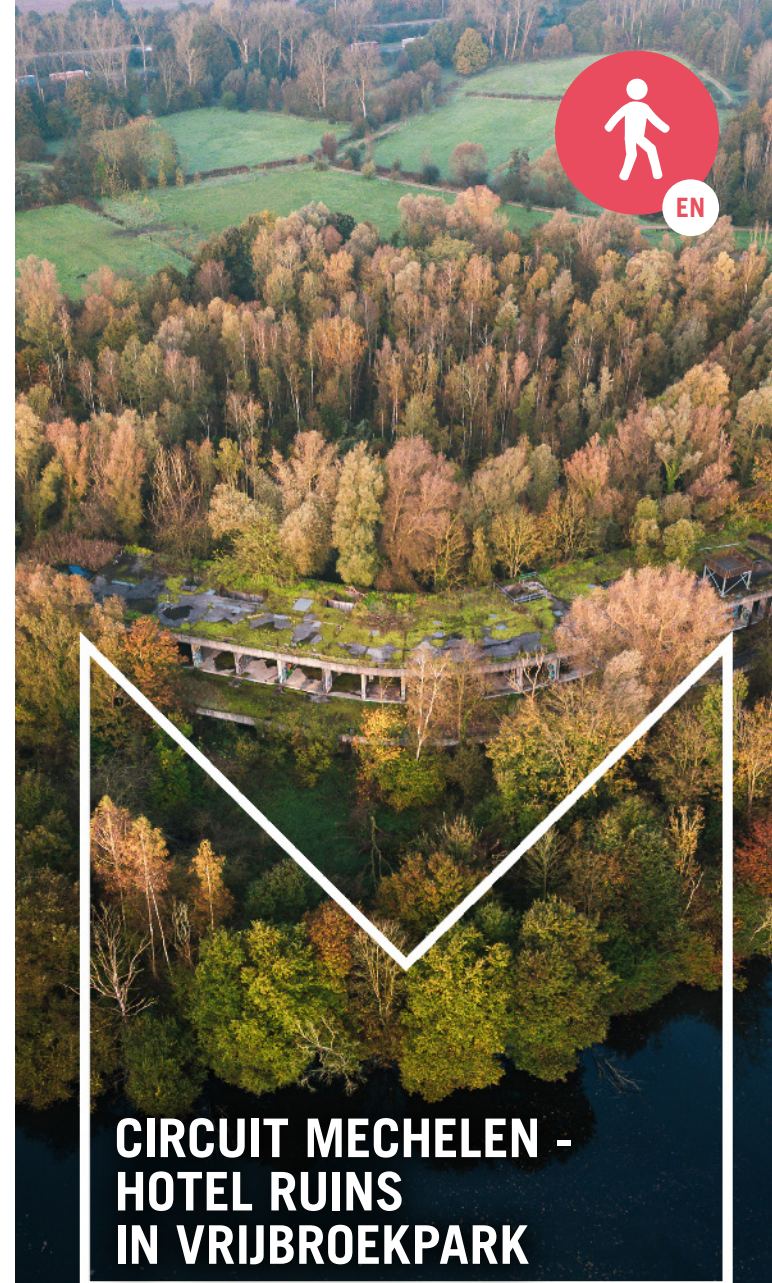
For more cycling and hiking ideas, go to visitmechelen.be

CONTACT

Visit Mechelen, Vleeshouwersstraat 6, 2800 Mechelen
visit@mechelen.be, +32 15 29 76 54,
www.visitmechelen.be

COLOPHON

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WALKING ROUTE - 6,5 KM

VISIT
MECHELEN