

# IF WALLS COULD TALK

Listening walk through Burgundian Mechelen

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# HOW DO I USE THE STEP-BY-STEP PLAN?

Great that you decided to do the listening walk 'If walls could talk'. In collaboration with Visit Mechelen, Tourism for Autism has designed a step-by-step plan to prepare you for this activity.

Below you can read how to use this step-by-step plan.



This step-by-step plan contains lots of information.  
Not all of this information is important to everyone.  
For example, you have several options for going to Mechelen.  
You can go by car, by train, by bike, on foot...



You can choose the pages that apply to you.  
Choose which pages to print out in the next phase.



You can write this on a sheet of paper so you don't forget anything while printing.



Then print the pages you selected in the previous step.  
And print out the practical arrangements if you want to use them.

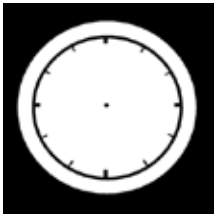


Once you have printed out the step-by-step plan, keep it in a folder.  
This way, the pages won't get mixed up.  
You can choose for yourself whether to do this.



You also have to fill in some sentences yourself in the step-by-step plan.  
For example, write on the dotted line at the beginning when you are going to the start of the listening walk and who will accompany you.  
So, you can read the entire step-by-step plan and fill in all the info on the dotted lines.

# HOW DO I USE THE STEP-BY-STEP PLAN?



You will also see two clocks at the start of the step-by-step plan. Read what it says underneath and draw that time on the clock.



Now you can really start preparing for this trip.

Choose a quiet moment so that you are not in a hurry to read the step-by-step plan.

Read the step-by-step plan at the latest the evening before you leave.

Do this at least once. If you want, you can read the step-by-step plan earlier.

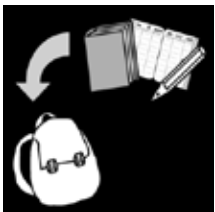
You can also read the step-by-step plan more than once.

Everything depends on your needs.



If this step-by-step plan is for young children, read it together with them the first time.

That way you can ensure the child understands everything and can ask questions.



If you want, you can take this step-by-step plan with you for the listening walk. This is not necessary for the visit to be a success.



So now you're all set to go on a journey.

Tourism for Autism and Visit Mechelen hope you have a lot of fun!

If you have any feedback about your trip or the step-by-step plan afterwards, please send us an email at [contact@toerismevoorautisme.be](mailto:contact@toerismevoorautisme.be).

# WHAT AM I GOING TO DO AND WHEN?

Soon, I'll be doing the listening walk 'If Walls Could Talk'. This is a walk through the city of Mechelen with an audio guide that tells listeners about the city during the Burgundian era. Many people enjoy this listening walk. This bundle explains to me what I will do and see during the walk. I read through this bundle well in advance. That way I will be well prepared.

## INFORMATION



On ..... (date) I will do the listening walk.

..... (companions) are going with me.

The listening walk starts at Visit Mechelen.

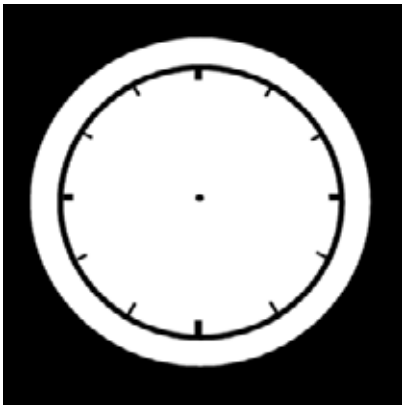
I'll do my best to leave for Visit Mechelen at ..... (time).

We may leave a little later. That's no problem.

Visit Mechelen is indicated on the map with the red marker.

# WHAT AM I GOING TO DO AND WHEN?

## INFORMATION



The journey to Visit Mechelen takes about .....  
..... (travel time).  
I may arrive sooner, but I may also arrive later.  
And that's okay.



The walk starts at the Visit Mechelen office.  
The address of Visit Mechelen is Vleeshouwersstraat 6,  
2800 Mechelen.



The walk takes about 90 minutes to 2 hours.  
The walk is 3.5 kilometres long.  
So it's best for me to wear some comfortable shoes.  
  
I can choose to follow a shorter route of 2 kilometres.



There is also a version of the listening walk available with  
Flemish Sign Language, as well as simple language.  
I can ask about this at the Visit Mechelen desk.



## HOW AM I GETTING TO VISIT MECHELEN?

I'M GOING BY TRAIN

I'M GOING BY BUS

I'M GOING BY CAR

I'M GOING BY BIKE

I'M WALKING

# HOW AM I GETTING TO VISIT MECHELEN?

## I'M GOING BY TRAIN



I'm going by train to Visit Mechelen.

I can find my train journey on this website:

[www.belgiantrain.be/en](http://www.belgiantrain.be/en).

I get off at the station in .....

I may have to change trains one or more times during my journey.

I change train at the station in ..... or at stations in .....

I may not have to change trains during my journey.

Then I sit in this train until I get to the stop for my destination.

I get off at Mechelen-Nekkerspoel station or Mechelen station.



I walk from the station to Visit Mechelen.

It's about a 15-minute walk from both stations.



I arrive at Visit Mechelen.



# HOW AM I GETTING TO VISIT MECHELEN?

## I'M GOING BY BUS



I'm going by bus to Visit Mechelen.

I walk to the bus stop for bus ..... (bus number).

I get on the bus.

The journey will take approximately ..... minutes.

I get off at bus stop .....



When I get off the bus, I have to walk a little further to Visit Mechelen.



I arrive at Visit Mechelen.

# HOW AM I GETTING TO VISIT MECHELEN?

## I'M GOING BY CAR



I'm going by car to Visit Mechelen.

When I'm in Mechelen, I look for a parking space for the car.

The nearest paying car park is Parking Indigo Mechelen Grote Markt.



When the car is parked, I still have to walk to the entrance of Visit Mechelen.



I arrive at Visit Mechelen.

# HOW AM I GETTING TO VISIT MECHELEN?

I'M GOING BY BIKE



I'm going by bike to Visit Mechelen.



I arrive at Visit Mechelen.

I park my bike to one side and lock it.

# HOW AM I GETTING TO VISIT MECHELEN?

I'M WALKING



I'm walking to Visit Mechelen.



I arrive at Visit Mechelen.



I ARRIVE AT VISIT MECHELEN

# I ARRIVE AT VISIT MECHELEN

## ARRIVAL



I arrive at Visit Mechelen.

I recognize Visit Mechelen from the green info flag outside.



I walk inside through the sliding glass door.

I arrive in a small entrance hall.

I go up the stairs.



I go to the Visit Mechelen desk.



Sometimes there may be other people queuing at the desk.

I do my best to wait patiently.

If no one is queuing, I can go straight to the desk.

# I ARRIVE AT VISIT MECHELEN

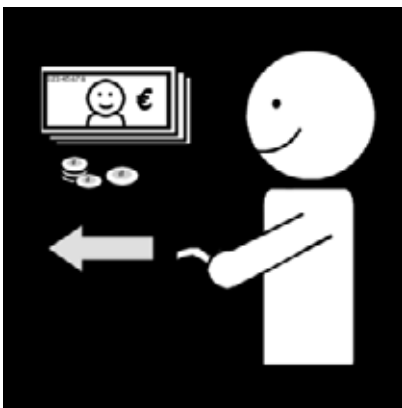
## ARRIVAL



It's my turn.

I tell the member of staff at Visit Mechelen that I would like to do the listening walk 'If walls could talk'.

I also mention how many people want to participate.



There is no fixed price for the listening walk.

I pay what I can afford.

A suggested price for the walk is between 5 and 20 euros per person.



Each person in my group is given a wooden listening horn.

On this listening horn there is a cord that I can hang around my neck.

Attached to the cord is a little electronic box. This allows me to press start/pause during the walk.



During the walk I can hear the listening story through the listening horn.

# I ARRIVE AT VISIT MECHELEN

## ARRIVAL



If I prefer, I can simply ask a member of staff for normal earphones to listen to the listening story.



I also get a brochure.



This brochure contains a map of the city of Mechelen indicating the route for the walk.

This also lets me see which places I will visit.



The member of staff will install the audio guide for me.

I can choose the language of the story I'm listening to.

The story is available in Dutch, French, English, German and Spanish.

When the member of staff has finished, he/she will explain the walk.

Then I'm ready to go.





## THE LISTENING WALK 'IF WALLS COULD TALK'

# THE LISTENING WALK

## IF WALLS COULD TALK



During the listening walk, I will visit many beautiful places in Mechelen.

Along the way I will also learn about the city's history during the Renaissance.



The walk consists of 11 stops and the last one is the same as the first.

So I walk a loop of 3.5 kilometres.

If I want, I can take a shorter route.

Then the walk is 2 kilometres.



The walk starts in the Visit Mechelen building.

# THE LISTENING WALK

## IF WALLS COULD TALK



I don't have to type in a number on the audio guide.  
The correct story is selected immediately.  
When I hear the sound of a bell, it means I'm close to the next story.



Then I press the green play button.  
I hold the listening horn to my ear and listen to the story.  
The listening story is narrated by different actors.  
I also hear background noises.



In the meantime, I can continue walking if I want. I repeat this with every stop that I come to.

When I'm finished with the first story, I go back outside.  
I follow the path to the left along the route on the map.

In order to follow the story properly, it is important that I do the first 7 stops in the right order.  
After that, I can skip stops if I want.



On the map, I can see the different stops.  
Next to and under the map, I see photos of the various stops.  
The number on the photo is always at the place where there is a board showing the stop number.  
This is how I know I'm in the right place.

# THE LISTENING WALK

## IF WALLS COULD TALK



At some stops, I can take a look inside the building.  
If the building is closed during my visit, I can take a look on my smartphone via the website [www.virtueelmechelen.be](http://www.virtueelmechelen.be).



The first stop is in the Visit Mechelen building.



The second stop is St Rumbold's Tower and Cathedral.



The third stop is City Hall, the Cloth Hall and the former prison.

# THE LISTENING WALK

## IF WALLS COULD TALK



The fourth stop is the Palace of Margaret of York and Hof van Kamerijk.



The fifth stop is the Palace of Margaret of Austria and Hof van Savoye (Court of Savoy).



The sixth stop is Hof van Busleyden.



The eighth stop is the Beguinage Church.

# THE LISTENING WALK

## IF WALLS COULD TALK



The eighth stop is the Beguinage Church.



The ninth stop is Kraanbrug (turn rail bridge).



The tenth stop is Vismarkt (Fish Market).



The eleventh stop is the Schepenhuis (Aldermen's building), the location of Visit Mechelen.

This is the same location as the starting point.

The story I'm listening to here will be different from the first.

# THE LISTENING WALK

## IF WALLS COULD TALK



When I'm done with the walk, I head back to Visit Mechelen.



I hand the listening horn and the audio guide back to the member of staff.

If I borrowed earphones, I give these back as well.



WHERE CAN I FIND THE TOILET?

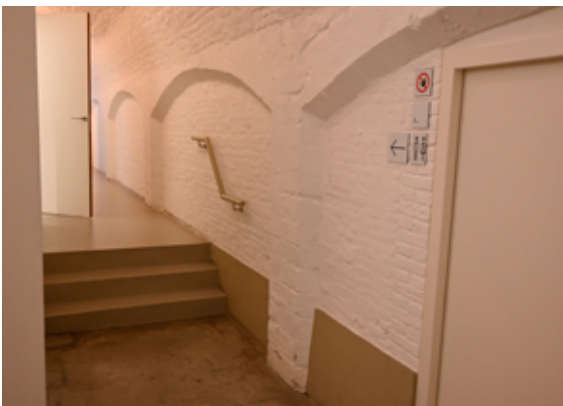


# WHERE CAN I FIND THE TOILET?

## THE TOILET



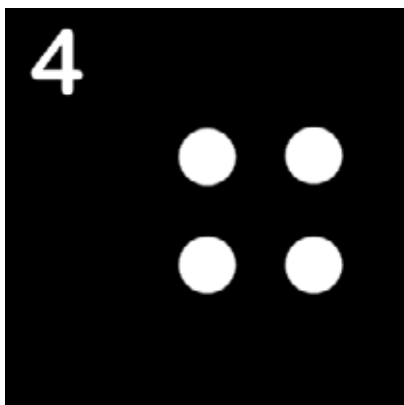
There is a toilet in the Visit Mechelen building. I follow the arrows to floor -1.



I can use this toilet at the beginning and the end of the walk.

# AUTISM FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES IN MECHELEN

## AUTISM FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES



In Mechelen there are other activities that I can do with a step-by-step plan from Tourism for Autism. These activities are listed below.

The step-by-step plans for these activities can be downloaded from [www.toerismevoorautisme.be](http://www.toerismevoorautisme.be)



I can go to St Rumbold's Tower.

St Rumbold's Tower is about a 5-minute walk from Visit Mechelen.



I can go to De Nekker.

De Nekker is about a 10-minute drive from Visit Mechelen (available only in Dutch).



I can go to Technopolis.

Technopolis is about a 15-minute drive from Visit Mechelen (available only in Dutch).

# AUTISM FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES IN MECHELEN

## AUTISM FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES



I can go to ZOO Planckendael.

ZOO Planckendael is about a 20-minute drive from Visit Mechelen (available only in Dutch).



## THE RETURN JOURNEY

I'M GOING BY TRAIN

I'M GOING BY BUS

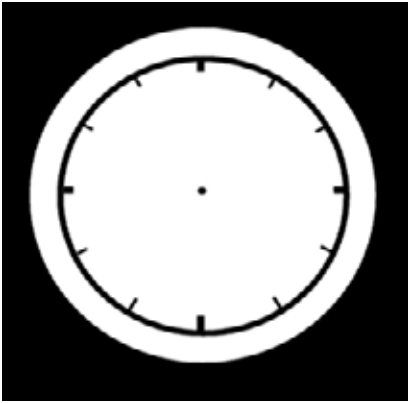
I'M GOING BY CAR

I'M GOING BY BIKE

I'M WALKING

# THE RETURN JOURNEY

## THE RETURN JOURNEY



It will take me approximately .....  
to get to the next destination.

I may get there earlier and I may get there later.

And that's okay.

# THE RETURN JOURNEY

## I'M GOING BY TRAIN



I walk to Mechelen-Nekkerspoel station or Mechelen station.

It's about a 15-minute walk to both stations.

I'm going by train to my next destination.

I may have to change trains one or more times during my journey.

I change at the station in ..... or at stations .....

I may not have to change trains during my journey.

Then I sit in this train until I get to the stop for my destination.

I get out at the station in .....

# THE RETURN JOURNEY

## I'M GOING BY BUS



I walk from Visit Mechelen to the bus stop of bus number .....

It is about ..... minutes' walk.



I get on the bus.

I ride on the bus to..... (destination).

The journey will take approximately ..... minutes.

I get off at bus stop .....

# THE RETURN JOURNEY

## I'M GOING BY CAR



I'm going by car to ..... (destination).



# THE RETURN JOURNEY

## I'M GOING BY BIKE



I go to my bike.

I unlock my bike.

I cycle to ..... (destination).

# THE RETURN JOURNEY

I'M WALKING



I walk to ..... (destination).

This is the end of my bundle.

This is what my day out will look like.

Some things may change.

And that's okay.

If things change, my companions will indicate this on this plan.

That way, we can make it a day to remember.

If you have any feedback about your day out or the step-by-step plan afterwards,  
please send an email to [contact@toerismevoorautisme.be](mailto:contact@toerismevoorautisme.be).