

# THE HEAVY METAL ROUTE

A PASSION FOR THE CARILLON

Check out the Visit Mechelen app or scan the QR code in this brochure and listen to the stories of students, alumni and teachers of the Carillon School and lovers of the instrument. Let yourself get carried away and surprised by the many faces of carillon culture in the carillon city.

In Mechelen, you can't miss the sound of the bells, because our city has no fewer than six carillons and is the capital of carillon culture. In 2022, the Royal Carillon School Jef Denyn will reach its centenary, which will of course be celebrated extensively. On this walk through the city centre of Mechelen, you will learn more about the carillon and its significance in Mechelen.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 1 TOWER CLOCKMAKER MICHIELS

On the Korenmarkt you will find the clockmaker Michiels, at the De Clippel house at number 6.

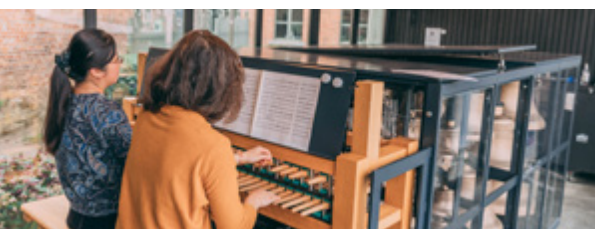
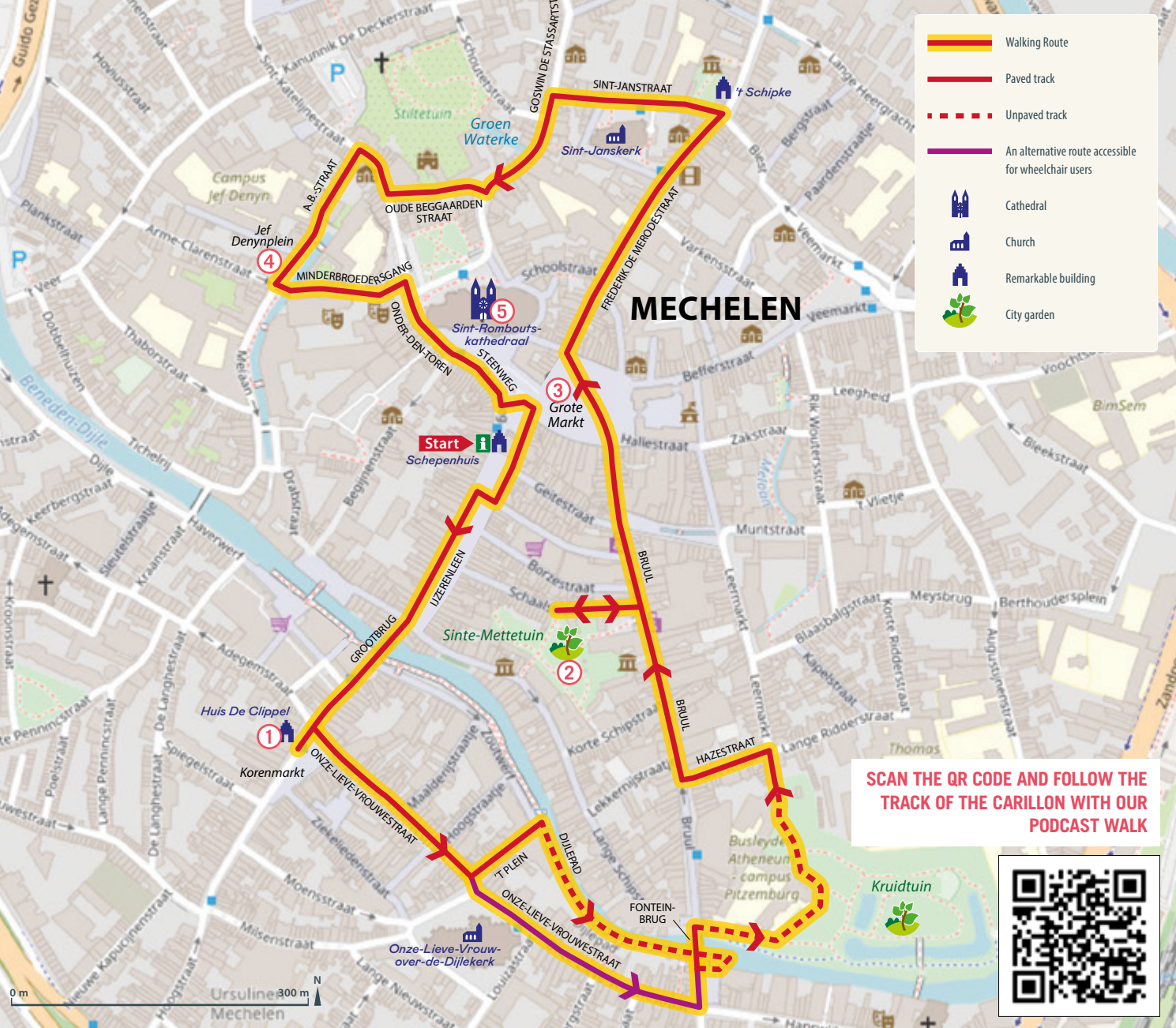
Edward Michiels bought the house in 1890, where he ran the construction company for tower clocks and carillons which he had founded in 1861. By using electricity, it became one of the most advanced tower clocks workshops in Belgium.

The tower clockmaking workshop is in the yard at the rear of the building. Many mechanical tower clocks and carillons were repaired here, and even today the workshop is used to restore old mechanisms and make modern, electronically controlled tower clocks. The tower clock workshop is protected as industrial heritage.

### 2 SINTE-METTETUIN (ST MARTIN'S GARDEN)

This city garden forms a green link between the Bruul and IJzerenleen. Take a stroll around this hidden spot in the city and experience the peace and quiet of the garden to the full. And admire the 'Adèle Colson' carillon pavilion, which moved into the Sinte-Mettetuin in 2018. The pavilion houses the Carillon School's chamber carillon. More than four years were spent working on this instrument with 50 bronze bells.

Oh, and did you know that the carillon pavilion is named after Adèle Colson, the world's first female carillonneur? She graduated from the Mechelen Carillon School in 1929.



Carillon pavilion

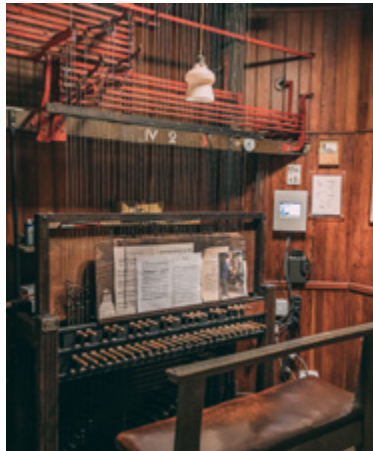


Carillon keyboard Church of Our Lady-across-the-Dyle

Carillon pavilion, Sint-Mettetuin



Old carillon chamber  
St Rumbold's Tower



## Practical info

### STARTING PLACE

Tourist information office Visit Mechelen, Schepenhuis  
Vleeshouwersstraat 6, 2800 Mechele

### ROUTE AND ACCESSIBILITY

Alternative route for wheelchair users: Instead of going down  
't Plein to the Dyle path, stay on Onze-Lieve-Vrouwestraat.  
Follow it to the end and turn left. Then cross the Fonteinbrug.  
From here you can pick up the main route again.

### LENGTH

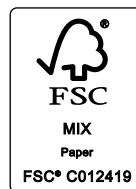
Main route: 3.5 km  
Accessible route: 3.5 km

### CONTACT

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### COLOPHON

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### 3 GROTE MARKT

Ever since the installation of a new keyboard for the old carillon  
of St Rumbold's Tower in 1946, throwing the bells on the Grote  
Markt has been a Mechelen tradition. Twenty large bells run  
down a cable from the tower to the town hall. Along the way, this  
bell releases 20 smaller bells. These contain numbers, one of  
which is the winning number. Are you the winner? Then you get  
to take a bronze Mechelen bell home!

### 4 JEF DENYNPLEIN

The whole space was originally called Melaan. Half of it was  
renamed Jef Denynplein in 1962 to celebrate the 100th birthday  
of the famous Mechelen carillonneur Jef Denyn. In the first half  
of the 20th century, the square was also a popular spot to listen  
to Denyn's Monday evening carillon concerts.

### 5 ST RUMBOLD'S TOWER

If you hear bells, there's a good chance that the sound comes  
from St Rumbold's Tower, which along with the Onze Lieve Vrou-  
wetoren in Amersfoort, is one of only two towers in the world  
with two carillons. The historic carillon has 49 bells and was cast  
over a period of five centuries by twelve different bell-founders.  
This carillon is still considered worldwide to be the prototype  
for all existing and new carillons, thanks to Jef Denyn's technical  
improvements.

This historic carillon can still be heard. Every seven and a half  
minutes - popularly known as 't Mechels Halfke - you can hear  
the melody played by the automatic cylinder movement. The  
newer concert carillon was installed in the tower in 1981. The in-  
stallation of the carillon was a great spectacle. A gigantic crane,  
taller than St Rumbold's Tower itself, lifted the 18 heaviest bells  
into the tower from above. In total, the new carillon has 49 bells.  
The instrument weighs 40 tons, making this carillon not only the  
heaviest in Belgium, but also one of the heaviest in Europe.



Royal Carillon School Jef Denyn



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