

The Ultimate Rough Guide Directions for Exploring Enchanting Bruges and Ghent!

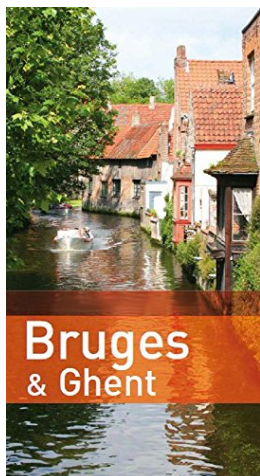
Are you ready for a magical journey through two of Belgium's most picturesque and historic cities? Brace yourself as we take you on a virtual tour of Bruges and Ghent – enchanting destinations that will transport you back in time to the medieval era. With their cobblestone streets, ornate Gothic architecture, and serene canals, Bruges and Ghent offer a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty.



Unveiling Bruges: The Venice of the North

Situated in the northwest of Belgium, Bruges is often referred to as the "Venice of the North" due to its intricate network of canals. This well-preserved medieval city

is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a true treasure trove of architectural wonders. As you wander through the charming, narrow streets of Bruges, you'll encounter magnificent landmarks at every turn.



Rough Guide Directions Bruges and Ghent

by Phil Lee (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Your first stop should undoubtedly be the Markt, the central market square of Bruges. Here, the imposing Belfry Tower dominates the skyline, offering a magnificent view of the city. Don't forget to sample some traditional Belgian treats, such as mouth-watering waffles and indulgent chocolates, from the local market stalls.

Another must-visit attraction is the Basilica of the Holy Blood. Legend has it that this ancient church houses a vial containing the blood of Jesus Christ, making it a significant religious destination. Prepare to be awed by the intricate details of the interior and the tranquil ambiance that envelops the place.



A trip to Bruges wouldn't be complete without exploring its enchanting canals. Hop on a boat tour and glide along the peaceful waterways, admiring the picturesque medieval architecture reflected on the sparkling surface. As you pass under charming stone bridges, you'll feel as if you've stepped into a fairytale.

For art enthusiasts, the Groeningemuseum is a true gem. Housing an impressive collection of Flemish and Belgian art, including masterpieces by Jan van Eyck and Hieronymus Bosch, this museum will leave you awestruck. Immerse yourself in the works of Flemish painters and get a glimpse into the rich artistic heritage of Bruges.

Ghent: A Hidden Gem Waiting to be Explored

Embark on a short journey from Bruges, and you'll find yourself in the historical city of Ghent. Compared to its famous neighbor, Ghent offers a quieter and more off-the-beaten-path experience. However, this doesn't make it any less captivating.

Start your exploration in the heart of Ghent at the Saint Bavo's Cathedral, a majestic Gothic church that stands as an architectural masterpiece. Inside, you can marvel at the impressive altarpiece known as the Adoration of the Mystic Lamb, painted by the Van Eyck brothers in the 15th century.



As you stroll along Ghent's charming Graslei and Korenlei streets, you'll bear witness to the city's rich merchant history. The row of splendid guild houses, reflecting in the tranquil canal waters, creates an awe-inspiring sight. Capture the moment as you savor a cup of freshly brewed coffee in one of the cozy cafés lining the streets.

One of Ghent's most iconic landmarks is the Castle of the Counts, also known as Gravensteen. This medieval fortress takes you back to a time of knights and noble families, with its imposing walls and towers. Climb to the top for panoramic views of the city, and let your imagination run wild amidst the castle's ancient ruins.



Ghent is also home to the Museum of Fine Arts, which showcases an extensive collection of artworks from the Middle Ages to the present day. Be sure to admire

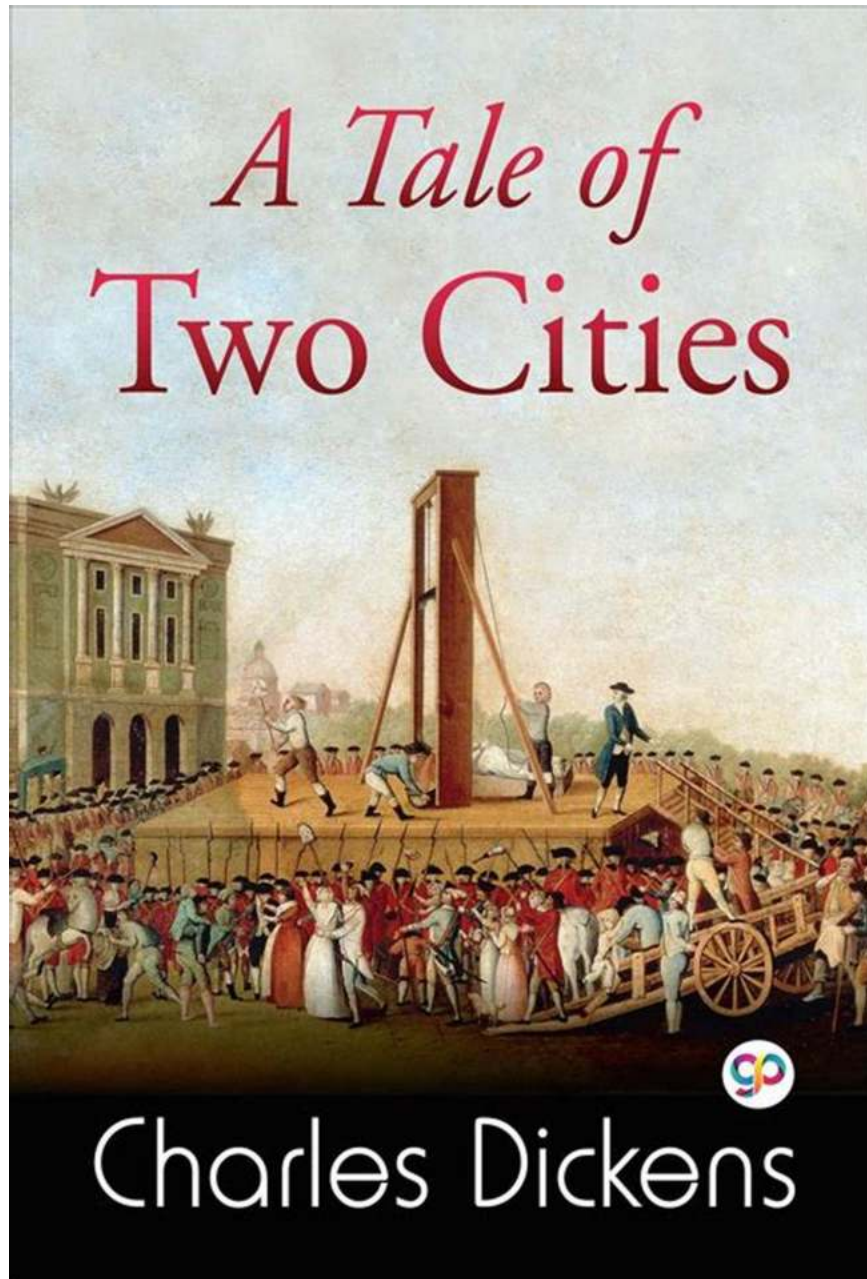
the world-famous piece, "The Adoration of the Mystic Lamb" by the Van Eyck brothers, considered one of the most important art treasures in existence.

Exploring Both Cities: Choose Your Adventure

If you have enough time, why choose between Bruges and Ghent when you can explore both? These neighboring cities are conveniently connected by train, making it easy to create your own adventure and experience the best of both worlds.

Begin your journey in Bruges and spend a day or two immersing yourself in its medieval charm. Indulge in a canal boat tour, visit the many art museums, and savor the delectable flavors of Belgian cuisine.

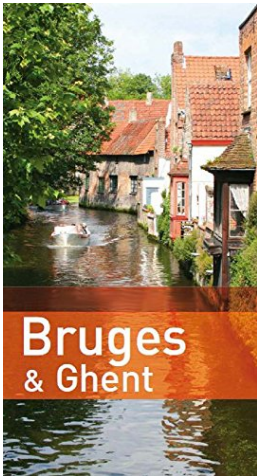
Once you've had your fill of Bruges, hop on a short train ride to Ghent. Immerse yourself in the vibrant student culture of Ghent, explore its historic landmarks, and enjoy the lively atmosphere of the city's countless bars and restaurants.



Whichever city you choose to explore, both Bruges and Ghent offer a unique blend of history, culture, and natural beauty that will leave you spellbound. Prepare to be transported back in time as you wander through medieval streets, cruise along serene canals, and marvel at magnificent architectural wonders.

So, pack your bags, don't forget your camera, and embark on an unforgettable adventure through the magical cities of Bruges and Ghent. Your medieval

fairytale awaits!



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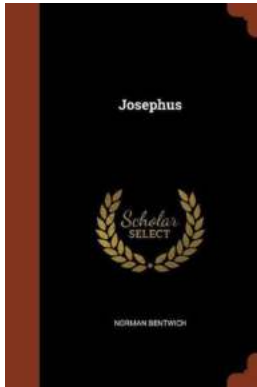
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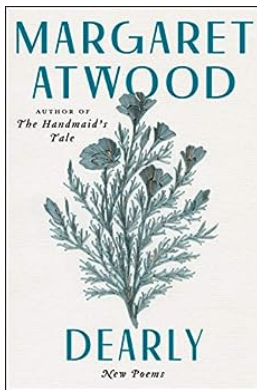


In 1896 the novelist and playwright Arnold Bennett complained, “The difference between Bruges and other cities is that in the latter you look about for the picturesque, while in Bruges, assailed on every side by the picturesque, you look curiously for the unpicturesque, and don’t find it easily.”



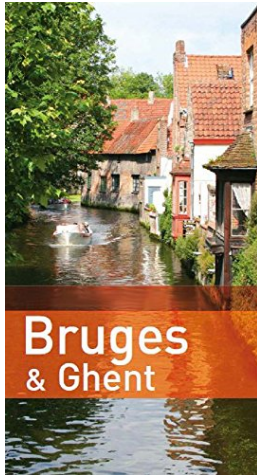
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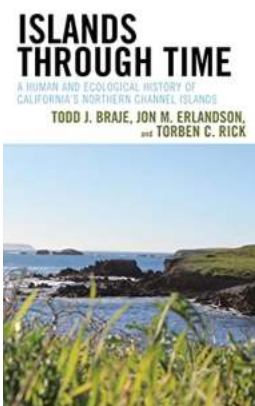
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