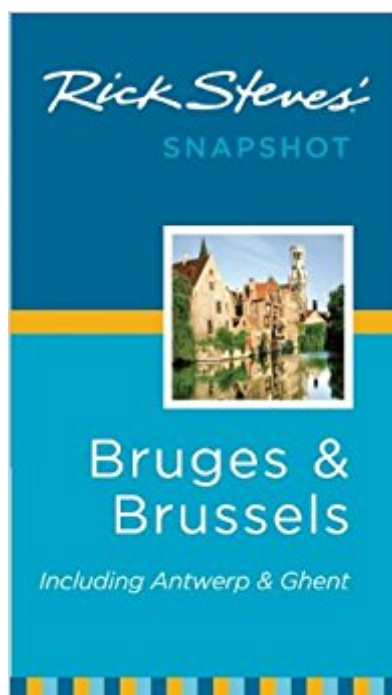


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# Rick Steves' Snapshot Bruges And Brussels: Including Antwerp & Ghent



## Synopsis

You can count on Rick Steves to tell you what you really need to know when traveling in Bruges and Brussels. In this compact guide, Rick Steves and Gene Openshaw team up to cover the best of Bruges and Brussels, including tips on arrival, orientation, and transportation. Visit the Groeninge Museum or tour the De Halve Maan Brewery in Bruges, then head to Brussels for the Grand Place and the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium. You'll get firsthand advice on the best sights, eating, sleeping, and nightlife, and the maps and self-guided tours will ensure you make the most of your experience. More than just reviews and directions, a Rick Steves Snapshot guide is a tour guide in your pocket. Rick Steves' Snapshot guides consist of excerpted chapters from Rick Steves' European country guidebooks. Snapshot guides are a great choice for travelers visiting a specific city or region, rather than multiple European destinations. These slim guides offer all of Rick's up-to-date advice on what sights are worth your time and money. They include good-value hotel and restaurant recommendations, with no introductory information (such as overall trip planning, when to go, and travel practicalities).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rick Steves has spent 100 days every year since 1973 exploring Europe. Rick produces a public television series (Rick Steves' Europe), a public radio show (Travel with Rick Steves), and a podcast (Rick Steves' Audio Europe); writes a bestselling series of guidebooks and a nationally syndicated newspaper column; organizes guided tours that take thousands of travelers to Europe

annually; and offers an information-packed website ([ricksteves.com](http://ricksteves.com)). With the help of his hardworking staff of 70 at Europe Through the Back Door<sup>TM</sup> in Edmonds, Washington, just north of Seattle<sup>TM</sup>; Rick's mission is to make European travel fun, affordable, and culturally broadening for Americans. Gene Openshaw is a writer, composer, tour guide, and lecturer on art and history. Specializing in writing walking tours of Europe's cultural sights, Gene has co-authored eight of Rick's books and contributes to Rick's public television series. As a composer, Gene has written a full-length opera (*Matter*), a violin sonata, and dozens of songs. He lives near Seattle with his daughter, and roots for the Mariners in good times and bad.

Great Guide for Brussels, Brugge, and Ghent. This is the quintessential Rick Steves volume with great tips on arriving, what to see and what to avoid. Rick's walking tour and detailed descriptions of various museums are better than the guides that are printed at the museum itself. Spent the weekend in Brugge, and it was my constant companion. Be sure to check out the updates from [ricksteves.com](http://ricksteves.com) for any last minute changes to the book.

If you've ever said to yourself, "I wish we knew someone who lived here who could take us around to all of the best spots and give us recommendations for sightseeing and food", Rick is your man. Whenever my husband and I would wonder something in Brussels, we'd say we were going to "ask Rick", lol, and sure enough, it'd be in the book. This book was awesome, SO much better than other travel books. You really feel like you have all of the insider information and aren't making the dumb tourist mistakes even if you've never been there before. For example, there is a place in Brussels nicknamed "Restaurant Row" where the streets are narrow and the servers stand outside and try to hustle you into their restaurants like annoying pushy salesmen. Rick points this out right away and tells you to walk down it to get the experience, but then go eat somewhere where the food is better and not overpriced. Our first night there we saw exactly what he meant and were so glad we knew that info ahead of time. We did exactly like he recommended and had a great time. Another example: the Notre Dame de Sablon church in Brussels was highlighted as a "don't miss" in Rick's book but BARELY EVEN MENTIONED in the Frommer's Brussels & Bruges day by day book (and not on the map provided) - this turned out to be one of our favorite sites of the whole trip which we would never have seen if we'd only had the Frommer's book. His walking tours are the perfect way to see the city. SO wish we would have had his Paris guide for our 1-day side trip to Paris, we were all over the place and wasted a lot of time figuring out what to do and how to do it using the Frommer's Paris day by day book. Frommer's even recommended just looking at and not even

going into the Louvre in their "Best in one day" section. I'm sorry, but if I'm in Paris - even just for one day - I'm going INTO the Louvre. If all of Rick's guides are as good as this one, save your money on the much inferior - albeit highly rated - Frommer's day by day books and choose Rick's instead. Comparing our Frommer's Brussels & Bruges day by day book to Rick Steves' Snapshot Bruges & Brussels (we had both) was no contest. The only difference was that Frommer's provides you with detailed maps that are anywhere from mediocre to sucky and Rick has you purchase your own - better in my opinion because you can buy one that best suits you and the places you go probably have way better and more easily readable maps. Bottom line: Rick knows what's up and makes sure you do, too. When we go back to Europe I will only be buying his guides from now on...

We used this guide on a recent trip to Brussels and Bruges. I like Rick Steve's use of the coding system as to which sights are worth the time. We also used and enjoyed his suggested routes for walks about town. His taste seems to match ours well so I will look for his guides for future trips. (Note, my husband and I like to wander around, explore and find good value). He includes good tips about transportation around Belgium and into/out of the towns by train. I could tell this was a fairly recent edition but could not find the issue date listed in the book. A few of the prices he listed for train, food, etc have gone up since this but overall pretty accurate. Maps are overall pretty good and accurate (exception is the one Brussels restaurants map that has duplicate keys and some inaccuracies). We tried 2 of his restaurant suggestions and appreciated them when the choices in town were overwhelming. Yes, one could find much of this info through internet searches, but I still greatly appreciate a thorough yet compact guide such as this to carry and use as needed on a trip.

I absolutely LOVE Rick Steves' guidebooks. My sisters and I have used them for years while trekking through France, Switzerland, Ireland, and England. I traveled for 2 months for a work trip to Brussels and purchased this book to explore the cities. Rick offers several different tours of Brussels, which was great, since we spent multiple weekends in the city. Not only does he highlight the major tourist destinations (even so far as to tell you to stay away from certain ones, as they're not worth your time), but he brings you to quaint, out of the way spots. One restaurant in his Bruges guidebook became our absolute favorite each time we went there. This book truly beats out every other guidebook!

My wife and I stayed in Ghent and day tripped to Bruges and Bussels. The book was very informative and helpful to hit a lot the sites quickly. I would suggest a secondary map for navigation.

If you are going to Bruges I would definitely suggest a hot air balloon ride. It was our favorite activity in Belgium.

I love Rick Steves. This book really helped me on my travels in Belgium to Brussels, Ghent and Bruges. I think his maps are helpful and he helped me locate the right trains stops and trams to take. I think he needs to focus a bit more on Ghent, because I found it had a lot to do and deserves the same credit that Bruges does. Rick focuses a lot in this book on the art museums, which I think he could have cut back on, but overall his recommendations for sights to see are great. He fails to mention the Museum Dr. Guislain in Ghent and the hot chocolate at the Old Chocolate House in Bruges, but he touches on all of the main sights and helps you find them. If you are going to Belgium, buy this book!

I read this guide before taking a business trip to Brussels. I had previously used a Rick Steves guide when I visited Italy for a week with my boyfriend, with great results. Since I was only planning to be in Belgium for one weekend, I wanted to make sure I got the most out of the trip. Rick Steves did not disappoint! He has great suggestions for activities in each of Belgium's major cities. I would highly recommend this book!

This was a really great guide! I had never heard of him as I had always used Frommers, etc in the past. Apparently he is the go to guy as everyone else I met referenced him and his books. It was really great to be able to access this on my tablet and phone while sightseeing! Great recommendations and guide!

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