



Antwerp & Eastern Flanders

LANGUAGE: DUTCH

Includes »

Antwerp (Antwerpen).....	145
Around Antwerp.....	164
Turnhout.....	165
Lier.....	167
Mechelen.....	169
Leuven.....	174
Leuven to Hasselt.....	178
Hasselt.....	180
Tienen.....	180
Hoegaarden.....	180
Zoutleeuw.....	181
Sint-Truiden.....	181
Tongeren.....	182

Best Places to Eat

- » Le John (p158)
- » Infirmerie (p183)
- » De Groote Witte Arend (p156)
- » Gasthof 1618 (p179)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hotel Julien (p153)
- » Martins' Patershof (p172)
- » Belle Vie (p182)
- » Oude Brouwerij Keyser Carel (p176)
- » Klein Paradijs (p181)
- » Carpe Diem (p180)

Why Go?

This region's undisputed centre of gravity is dynamic Antwerp, a historic port and diamond-trading city currently basking in a third Golden Age that has made it one of Europe's more unlikely fashion and clubbing centres.

Historic cities on a more manageable scale include increasingly resurgent Mechelen, sweet little Lier and self-confident university town Leuven. Lier, Turnhout and lesser-known Diest have arguably Belgium's best *begijnhoven*, and lovable Tongeren claims to be Belgium's oldest settlement. The historic cores of towns and cities are the main attractions, but the southeastern Haspengouw and Hageland regions do enjoy some pretty, undulating hillsides green with orchards and even a few vineyards. And, as always, there are scattered castles to be found lurking in forgotten villages. Note that here 'Eastern Flanders' refers to the eastern half of today's Flanders region, not that of the historic Flanders county.

Road Distances (km)

Tongeren	99			
Turnhout	40	82		
Mechelen	24	81	63	
Leuven	48	57	56	25
	Antwerp	Tongeren	Turnhout	Mechelen

Antwerp & Eastern Flanders Highlights

- 1 See where Rubens meets avant-garde fashionistas in **Antwerp** (p145)
- 2 Marvel at Leuven's ornate gothic **stadhuis** (p174)
- 3 Sweeten up at Tienen's sugary **Suikermuseum** (p180)
- 4 Be charmed by the lovable **begijnhofen** in **Diest** (p179), **Lier** (p167) and **Turnhout** (p165)
- 5 Enjoy three towers for the price of one in magical **Sint-Truiden** (p181)
- 6 Get nostalgic at the superb **Speelgoedmuseum** (p170) in Mechelen
- 7 Drink in the white-beer experience of **Hoegaarden** (p180)

