



Antwerp & Eastern Flanders

LANGUAGE: DUTCH

Includes ➔

Antwerp (Antwerpen)	144
Turnhout	164
Lier	166
Mechelen	168
Leuven	173
Hasselt & Around	178
Tienen	178
Hoegaarden	179
Zoutleeuw	179
Sint-Truiden	180
Tongeren	180

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ The Jane (p158)
- ➔ Bistro Bis (p181)
- ➔ Het Gebaar (p157)
- ➔ Il Cardinale (p172)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ De Witte Lelie (p155)
- ➔ Rosier 10 (p153)
- ➔ Eburon Hotel (p181)
- ➔ Oude Brouwerij Keyser Carel (p174)

Why Go?

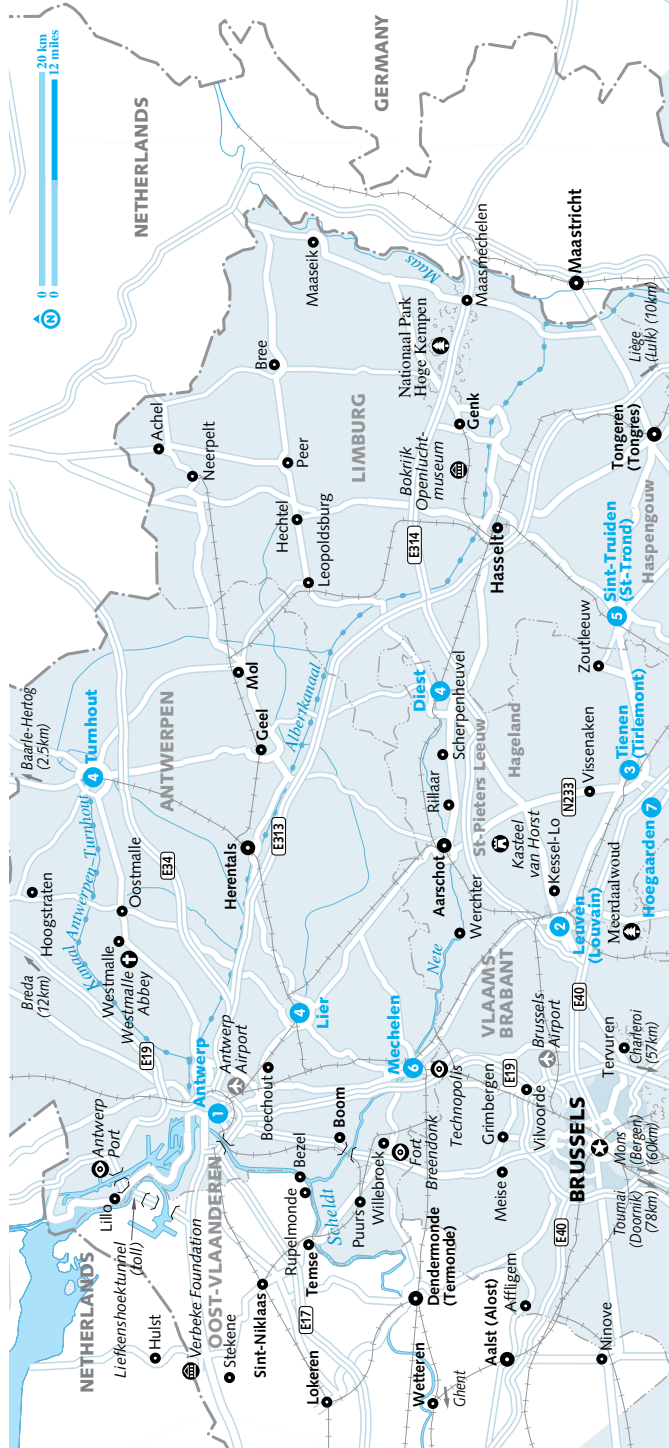
This region's undisputed centre is dynamic Antwerp, a historic port and diamond-trading city currently basking in a third golden age that has made it one of Europe's more unlikely design and music hubs. Flush with a globally significant fashion, drinking and clubbing scene it may be, but it also retains a small-city friendliness and ease.

Other historic cities on an even more intimate scale include resurgent, reinvented Mechelen, sweet little Lier and self-confident college town Leuven. Lier, Turnhout and lesser-known Diest have arguably Belgium's best *begijnhoven*, and loveable Tongeren claims to be Belgium's oldest settlement.

The towns of this region may be its main attraction, but the southeastern Haspengouw and Hageland do deliver 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 valleys and villages. Note that here 'Eastern Flanders' refers to the eastern half of today's Flanders region, not that of the historic Flanders county.

Driving Distances

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



Antwerp & Eastern Flanders Highlights

- 1 Revelling in Rubens and shopping for avant-garde design in **Antwerp** (p144)
- 2 Marvelling at Leuven's ornate gothic **stadhuis** (p173)
- 3 Sweetening up at Tienen's sugary **Suikermuseum** (p179)
- 4 Being charmed by the historic **begijnhofen** in **Diest**
- 5 Enjoying three towers for the price of one in magical **Sint-Truiden** (p180)
- 6 Tackling the 97m tower of Mechelen's **St-Rombouts** **kathedraal** (p168)
- 7 Drinking in the white-beer experience of **Hoegaarden** (p179)