



WELCOME TO BELGIUM, FLANDERS, WAREGEM

Belgium:

10,396,421 people (2003)
30,528 km²,
339 inhabitants/ km²

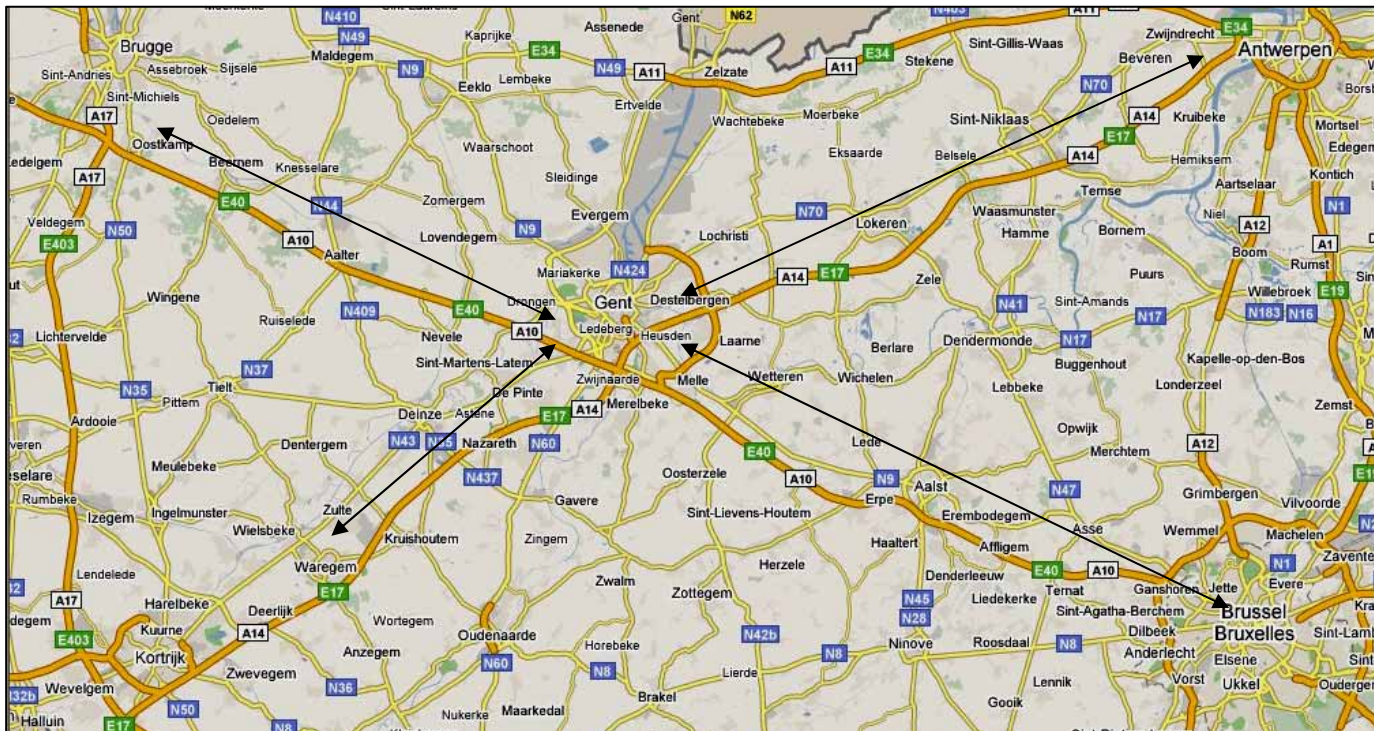
Belgium: 3 communities

- Flanders, (Dutch-speaking)
- Brussels-Capital
- Walloon (French-speaking)
- * small German speaking part



Distances:

Gent – Antwerp: 60 km
Gent – Brussels: 56 km
Gent – Waregem: 34 km
Gent – Bruges: 56 km



VTI-WAREGEM: VTI = “Vrij Technisch Instituut”
= Catholic Technical School (1400 students and 200 teachers) Toekomststraat
75, 8790 Waregem



WAREGEM

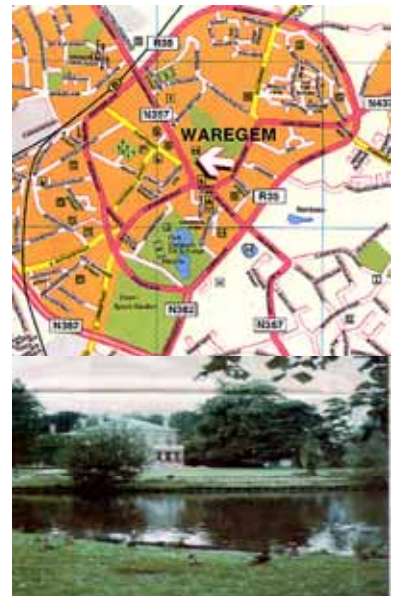


PLACES OF INTEREST

- The public property Baron Casier is a pleasant promenade-park in the centre of Waregem. There is a castle in neo-classicist style, dating to the 19th century. A walk in the town-park will give you a chance of taking a breath; it is open to the public.
- The classified St.-Amanduschurch: a church of the nineteenth century in Neo-Gothic style. It's also the main church of Waregem.
- The Cultural Centre 'De Schakel' has become the meeting place of the cultural life in Waregem and is situated near the sport stadium.
- The public library is in the neighbourhood and also Ciné Star.
- Shopping in Waregem: there are a lot of shopping streets with more than 50 shops. Waregem also has a lot of hotels and restaurants
- The American Military Cemetery: it is the smallest on the Continent but also the only similar reminder of World War I in our country. Every year, the Sunday before the last Monday of May, a Memorial Day is held in honour of the American victims of World War I.

WAREGEM, TOWN OF SPORTS

- Waregem has a lot of sports facilities thanks to a large number of sport clubs.
- The Sport stadium is situated in the heart of Waregem and offers a wide choice of sport facilities: 12 tennis-courts, 8 football fields, possibilities to fish or to arch, indoor swimming-pool, children's playground, mini-golf, athletics track, jogging courses, the Rainbow stadium (football club **SV Zulte-Waregem** plays in the first division), a gym with possibilities to different kinds of indoor sports (basketball, volleyball, tennis, handball, hockey, badminton, table-tennis, mini-football, gymnastics,...).
- Waregem owns a golf course (18 holes) at 3 km of the centre with fitness, squash, aerobic, tennis. There's also a sauna and a congress centre.
- A range of guided cycling- and walking tours allow you to discover interesting and picturesque places in Waregem and in the villages of the neighbourhood. (Het Goed te Nieuwnhove, Munkenhof)
- Waregem is known as the centre of equestrianism in our country due to the existence of one of the most famous hippodromes and a horse-riding centre (Bloso), both situated in the heart of Waregem. Every weekend, from about the middle of May till the middle of September, trot and gallop races take place there.
- The worldwide renowned '**Waregem Koerse**' attracts a lot of people to Waregem. It always takes place the first Tuesday following the last Sunday of August. On that day, Waregem is at its best and there's also a unique atmosphere on the racecourse. In the town hippodrome the annual '*Great*



'Steeple-Chase' is run, including the spectacular jump over the Gaverbeek. Then we have festivities everywhere...

more info: <http://www.waregem.be/>

FLANDERS TODAY

The weekly Flanders Today was founded in October 17, 2007 and was commissioned by the Flemish government, with the intention to better inform foreigners about Flanders. Therefore an independent editorial board was established led by the Scottish journalist Derek Blyth. Among foreigners in Flanders we count more than 1400 journalists, thousands of students, 2500 diplomats, eight million tourists and tens of thousands of European officials. They stay here temporarily or permanently. The Flemish minister of Media wants to inform them as much as possible about all aspects of Flanders. The free weekly newspaper Flanders Today wants to inform expatriates in Flanders about all aspects of Flanders: culture, tourism, economy, political structure and news. An extensive distribution network ensures the dissemination of the start circulation of 20,000 copies within the international community across Flanders. A subscription form for the magazine can be found on: <http://www.flanderstoday.eu/>

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Landscapes of war

Ninety years ago, the guns fell silent on the Western Front. But what happened after that. Not many people are aware of the extraordinary story of reconstruction and renewal in the land known as Flanders Fields.

by Deniz Walton

For most of the First World War, Allied and German forces were involved in trench warfare along the Western Front. In Flanders the front line extended from Nieuwpoort on the coast, along the banks of the previously picturesque River IJzer, past Diksmuide, around the medieval town of Ieper, and past Mesen to the French border. Its width varied from two to ten kilometres, so that on a clear day a Belgian soldier would have been able to stand in relative safety behind the front line and see the German army moving in relative peace on the other side.

PH-MRO

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