

# PHOTO-WALK



MONUMENTS

*Oudenaarde*

De 4 Vaargetijden





- 1. Town hall
- 2. St Walburga church
- 3. Bishop's residence
- 4. Library
- 5. Boudewijn tower
- 6. House of Margaretha van Parma
- 7. House Cambier
- 8. Abbey complex Maagdendale

- 9. Our Lady of Pamele church
- 10. House de Lalaing
- 11. Beguinage gateway
- 12. Lion fountain
- 13. Parc Liedts
- 14. Carmelite convent
- 15. Timber framing house
- 16. Bailiff's house



1.

We depart from the Town Hall,  
the pride of Oudenaarde!!

The Late Gothic **Town Hall** was built between 1525 and 1536 by the Brussels architect, Hendrik van Pede, after the demolition of the Roman Town Hall to which the Cloth Hall (which still exists) in limestone from Doornik (Tournai) was joined. The belfry tower is situated in the middle.







The crown on the tower and the gold-plated eagles symbolise the worldwide empire of Emperor Charles V who was the ruler at that time. 'Hanske de Krijger', a 16th century town guard, is displayed on the crown.





In front of the Town Hall, you will see the **Royal Fountain**, constructed in 1676 during the reign of Louis XIV. The fountain was joined to the source of the Edelareberg via a system of waterworks and was the town's first public utility.





2.

Via the Town Hall, we go towards the right corner of the Market. Near the 'Carillon' public house, we turn right and walk in the shade of the Saint Walburga Church Building.

The **Walburga church** building was never completed and it consists of two easily distinguishable sections. It combines the Gothic styles of Doornik (Tournai) and Brabant. There is a clear difference in style between the nave and the chancel: in the west, there is the lower church structure with a tower, built in the 15th century in Brabant sandstone and, in the east, the 13th century Early Gothic chancel section in bluestone of Doornik (Tournai). If the church building had been completed in accordance with the original plan, it would now claim a section of the market square.



*De 4 Vaangeltijden*





3. Via a white gateway, we enter on inner courtyard. Here we find Our Lady's Hospital and the Bishop's Residence.

Our Lady's Hospital is right in front of you. The building is the result of various construction phases between the 15th and the 19th centuries. The oldest part is the early 15th century chapel (1409). The actual convent is grouped around a 16th century building passage and a beautiful convent garden. The eastern and northern fronts were built in strictly classical style in 1772. The entrance has a rococo streak. On the other side, you will see the Bishop's Residence, a reception area and lodging for important guests. The front is a marked example of Flemish Renaissance (1600).







4.

We retrace our steps and arrive back on the Market Square. We turn to the right, past the 'Carillon' public house. We cross the road to our left. We are now on the Kleine Markt (Little Market Square).

This place hosts the history of the town's development. The first building on our left side is the Public Library. This stately classical building was built between 1779 and 1783 and, because of the materials used and the composition of the front, it is a unique construction in the South Netherlands. In those days, the monument had two functions: a meat hall at ground level and an art academy on the first floor.

Opposite the public library, there is a sculpture of J. Tahon: 'Universus'.





5.

A little further, near the cul-de-sac 'het Zakske', you will see the **Boudewijn Tower** and the House of Margaretha of Parma. The Roman Boudewijn Tower is a 12th century municipal patrician tower. At the same time it is the oldest stone monument in the town.



De 4 Vaarzetijden



6.

To the right, you will see the residence with a stairway front, incorrectly called the '**House of Margaretha of Parma**'. It is a good example of Late Gothic civil architecture.



7.

The third house in the row is the so called '**House Cambier**', the former refuge of the priory Our Lady Elsegem. This residence has been the official residence of the town governors since the 16th century. After the time of the French revolution, it has always been a brewery (Droesbeke brewery).

The building adjoins the **Tour of Flanders Centre** which is devoted to the famous cycle race, 'The Tour of Flanders!'







We wander along the Centre and turn left into the Matthijs Casteleinstraat and the bridge over the River Scheldt.

From the bridge, we have an attractive view of the Pamele Quarter with the Abbey of Maagdendate and the Our Lady Church of Pamele.

The mini-town of 'Pamele' came into being in the 13th century on the impulse of the gentlemen of Pamele. Together with Oudenaarde, it made up a double town until the end of the 16th century (1593) and afterwards it was completely absorbed by Oudenaarde.

The noble gentlemen of Pamele were powerful barons who spared neither expense nor trouble for their town. It is presumed that they funded the construction of the Scheldt-Gothic Church building, Our Lady of Pamele (1234).

A little further, we turn left and go down the steps. This brings us to a car park. We cross the road and go in the direction of the Scheldt Bank. We turn right along the Scheldt. On our right side, we see the Abbey Complex of Maagdendale.







8. The **abbey** was founded in 1234 and was one of the most-important women's abbeys in Flanders. Of the vast complex there still remains a 13th century basilica, a 17th century abbess quarters (1663-1664) with an L-shaped wing and a gateway (1621), now a private residence. These buildings have been put to suitable new uses as Town Archives Office and the Royal College of Art.

9. In the corner of the Pameleplein there is the **Black Sisters' Convent**.

The Convent belonged to the Augustinian order and may have originated in: the 13th century. What you now see is the result of numerous restorations. The Black Sisters left the complex in 1968.







A little further on our right side shines the **Our Lady of Pamele Church** building.

On the outside of the chancel gallery, a bronze plate mentions the name of the architect and the date of construction: Arnulf of Binche and 1234.

The church building in limestone of Doornik (Tournai) displays all the main features of Scheldt-Gothic: a spiral gallery, a tower on the crossing, small round corner towers, and three-piece windows with pillar sections. In the 14th century, both the West front and the transept were furnished with High-Gothic windows. Two chapels were added in the 16th century.

*De 4 Vaargelijken*







We go further along the Scheldt (the Louise-Marie quay)

Our attention is grabbed at once by a **cascade fountain**, built in 1852 in honour of the Belgian Queen Louise-Marie, This was constructed by Charles van der Straeten.



The fountain is a copy of the famous cascade fountain on the Place de la Concorde in Paris.



De 4 Vaargetijden







10. We have now reached the elevator bridge. Just past the bridge on the right side, we see the white front of the **House de Lalaing**, (address: Bourgondiestraat nr. 9.)

This stately residence has an 18th century frontage in rococo style and a 17th century rear front. The architectural history climbs as far as



the 16th century. It is most probably the birth place of the daughter of Emperor Charles V: Margaretha of Parma. From 1519 to the end of the 17th century, it was the residence of the town governors, the Lalaing family. In 1967, it was sold to the town council of Oudenaarde, It is now a weaving and restoration workshop.

Court house





11. We cross the Scheldt via the elevator bridge. We turn left and then take the second street on our right. We go along the Kasteelstraat. Near the Achterburg on the left side there is the large **Beguinage gateway**.

The gateway is painted red and the baroque gate fronton bears the portrait of the plague saint, Saint Rochus. Originally, the beguines resided behind the Saint Walburga Church Building. In the 15th century, they were given new accommodation on the present site. Some white chalk cottages date from the 17th century, but most of the residences were rebuilt in the 19th and 20th centuries. The chapel is definitely worth a visit. The Beguinage gardens are particularly scenic and radiate a certain tranquillity. The last beguine died in 1960.





12. We carry on straight ahead until we reach the Market Square. We turn right in the direction of Broodstraat. At the end of Broodstraat, on the corner, we turn left to go along 'the Jezuïetenplein to reach the Gentiel Antheunisplein. Now we turn left. On our right side (on the other side of the road) between some trees, there is a 19th century **lion fountain**, restored in 2001.



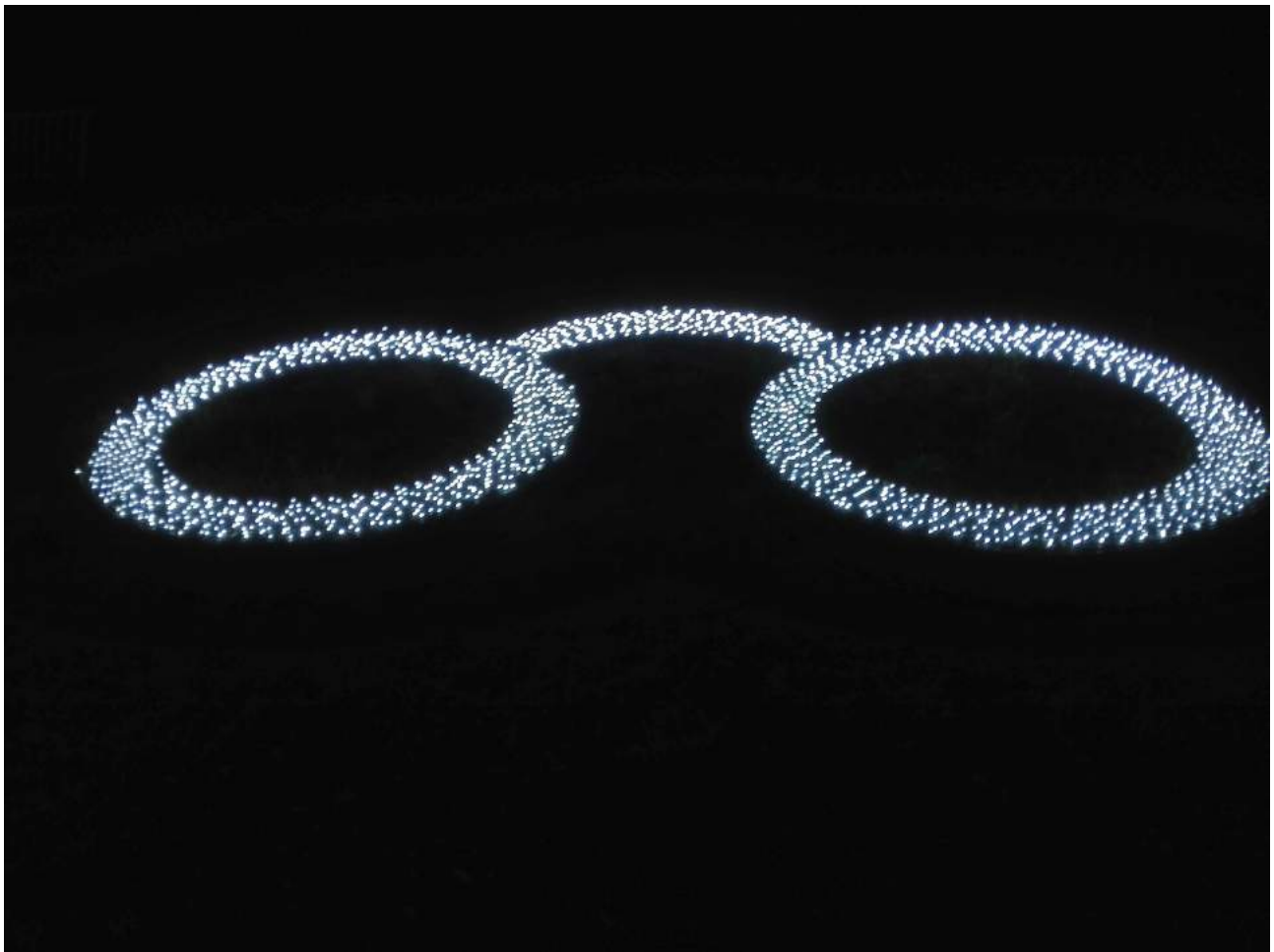
The construction consists of a bluestone block, decorated with bluestone lion heads and a wrought iron squirt. It is crowned with a bluestone Dutch lion which once had a blazon between the claws which bore the letter 'W' (King William I). After the Belgian Revolution, the blazon was replaced by the year 1831 and the initial letter of Oudenaarde. And so, the fountain became a symbol of Belgian Independence.







Note also the little box hedges bearing the town symbol:  
the **spectacles of Oudenaarde**.







13. Just past the electricity cabin shaped like a little medieval tower, we cross the road to the right. We carry on straight ahead as far as the entrance to the **town park** .

This was formerly the property of Baron Liedts and it retains a castle in neo-Flemish renaissance style (1883). The castle park draws its inspiration from England and has winding paths, deciduous trees, and slanting lawns around a kidney-shaped pond. Here, we take a short break.







The allotment is beautiful too!





14. We retrace our steps and go straight ahead. Once again, we cross the road and enter Einestraat. This is one of oldest and best maintained little streets in the town.

The **Carmelite convent** (nr 40) dominates the street. The brotherhood of Saint Jacob of Compostela established itself here at the start of the 16th century. At that time, there was mention of a hospital and a chapel.

In 1846, it was designed as an enclosed convent for the Carmelite Order. The present chapel was adapted large largely in neo-Gothic style on the impulse of architect J. Bethune.







The presence of large and stately civilian homes from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries is noticeable here.

The gentlemen residences (numbers 15 and 20) have a typical **rococo frontage** from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Both are crowned with a triangular fronton and equipped with an oculus. The panel doors also

have rococo carving.



House nr. 1b is a conclusive example of a 17th century residence built with traditional brick and sandstone (1672). The front consists of **Tudor style arches** on rhythmical supports.





15. We return to the Market Square. We turn right. Nederstraat, a busy shopping street, leads us to the Tacambaroplein.

At the end of Nederstraat, house number 58, you will find the only preserved 17th century house in the traditional timber framing.

We have now reached the Tacambaroplein. In the middle of the Tacambaroplein, there is a war memorial in honour of the Belgian casualties in the Mexican war of 1867. The Belgian Princess Charlotte, daughter of Leopold I, was actually married to the Austrian Emperor Maximilian, who also had possession of Mexico.

On the right you will see a garden, laid in remembrance of the town's liberation by the Americans in 1918.



De 4 Vaargelijden



16. We turn left into Hoogstraat, which runs parallel with Nederstraat.

Hoogstraat has always provided services. Public utility buildings such as the Bailiff's House and the Orphanage. In addition, this street also houses the large inns.



On our right side, we see the Kasselrijhuis (Bailiff's House), Hoogstraat nr 30 (now Sint-Bernardus College). A 'kasselrij' was a province under the auspices of the count's representatives. They resided in a bailiff's house.

It has 3 parts and bears witness to a very complex architectural history. The left side is an offshoot of the Late Gothic tradition with elements of renaissance style (1612-1617). The right side has an 18th century front with two building phases (1702 and 1729) and a 20th century one, inspired by that from the 18th century.







On the same side, we notice the majestic **Gentlemen's Empire**, Hoogstraat nr 36, from the start of the 19th century.

The empire style was an eclectic style which originated in France around 1800. Each floor has its own decorative elements.

The first floor with gold-plated human **heads in medallions** is very striking.



At the end of Hoogstraat, we reach the **Roman Cloth Hall**. It forms an overwhelming contrast with the Gothic Town Hall. (The photo is made in the Nederstraat )

*De 4 Vaargetijden*



We have arrived back at the Market Square. Now you can sit on one off the many terraces and enjoy a cool ale from Oudenaarde! Cheers!



Adriaan Brouwer 1605 – 1632





This photo-walk is situated between the train station  
and the mooring of our ship "De 4 Vaargetijden".

Made with joy specially for you. Enjoy it!

De 4 Vaargetijden

Olga

Noty



Hauits



May this walk be the start of a comfortable & relaxing barge cruise?  
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A hearty welcome aboard to experience it by yourself!

