

OSTEND

QUEEN OF SEA-SIDE RESORTS TOURIST GUIDE

OFFICIAL TOURIST OFFICE - WAPENPLEIN
TEL. 059/70 1199 - 70 60 17

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF OSTEND

- 1267 — Margaretha of Constantinople raises Ostend to the rank of town.
1360 — Construction of "Our Lady of the Dunes" - church at Mariakerke.
1445 — Philip the Good entitles Ostend to dig a harbour.
1601 - 1604 — Memorable siege of Ostend by the Archdukes Albert and Isabella. Ostend was defended by many members of the protestant nobility, coming from England, Holland and France, and received the byname of "The New Troy". The deathroll numbered 70.000 on both sides.
1723 - 1733 — Foundation of the Imperial and Royal Company of the Indies called the Ostend Company. Ostend becomes a universal market. Later, under the menace of powerful seafaring nations, Charles VI will suspend the privilege.
1781 — Ostend is declared freeport by Joseph II.
1784 — License granted by Joseph II to establish a hut on the beach where bathers could buy refreshments. Thus originated Ostend as a seaside resort.
1834 — Ostend becomes a royal residence. King Leopold I and the Queen pay frequent visits.
1838 — King Leopold I inaugurates the first railway line Brussels-Ostend.
1846 — The first Ostend-Dover mailboat sails from Ostend.
1850 — Louise-Marie first Queen of the Belgians and daughter of Louis-Philippe, King of France, dies at Ostend in a manor of the Langestraat.
1852 — Opening of the first Casino-Kursaal.
1860 - 1870 — The fortifications are demolished. Ostend expands.
1885 — Opening of the racecourse laid out on the ground of the old fort Wellington where it still is at present.
1933 — Opening of the Thermal Palace with Albert I spring. Ostend is a Spa.
1953 — Opening of the new Casino-Kursaal.
1956 — Completion of the motorway Brussels - Ostend as a part of the E-5.
1956 - 1960 — Construction of the Festivities and Culture Hall and the new Town Hall.

TOURIST INFORMATION

The Official Tourist Office, is always at your disposal to supply you with free information and brochures on Ostend and on the events taking place in the city.

Head Office, Festival Hall, Wapenplein - tel. 059/70 1199 & 70 60 17

Open on working days from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1.45 p.m. to 5.45 p.m. On Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 3 to 6 p.m. From Easter until June 1st, also open on Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
From 1st Monday in June until the second Sunday in September, and also at Easter and Whitsun, the office is open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. On Sundays and bank holidays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Branch Office, Strandplein (Mariakerke) - Open in July and August from 10 a.m. to 12.30 and from 2.30 to 6 p.m.

Railways Information Office of the Belgian Railways at the Railway Station, tel. 059/70 15 17 (during the Winter open from 8.25 a.m. to 6.45 p.m.; during the Summer from 8.25 a.m. to 7.45 p.m.) and in the Tourist Office, Wapenplein, tel. 059/70 52 38 (Easter holidays from 9 - 12 a.m. and from 2.30 to 5.45 p.m.; in July and Aug. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 to 6.30 p.m.).

Tramway and Busservices NMVB

Information from the booking office near the railway station: Brandariskaai, tel. 059/70 16 27 and 70 22 88

Ferries from Ostend to Great Britain: passengers, cars, coaches, caravans, etc.
Information at the railway station, the travel agencies and the "Regie voor Maritiem Transport", Natiënkaai 5, tel. 059/70 76 01.
Reservations - only for cars, ... - at the R.M.T. - Sealink tel. 059/70 76 01.

Air Services: cars and passengers.
The travel agencies and the air companies at the airport will be pleased to give you all information required.

ACCOMMODATION

- Hotels, Boarding Houses, Campings and farms: list may be obtained from the official tourist office.
- Appartments and furnished flats: list of the local estate agencies may be obtained from the official tourist office.
- Youth hostel: Raversijdestraat 20, tel. 059/70 43 35.

GASTRONOMY AND RESTAURANTS

- Fresh fish and seafood are the riches of Ostend's dishes. Many renowned fish-specialities are prepared "the Ostend way".
- Many restaurants of all ranges are open throughout the year.
- Gastronomical weekends and relax-evenings with regional specialities. From November till May, Information from the Casino-Kursaal, tel. 059/70 51 11.

PLACES OF INTEREST

- Beach and promenade
- Harbour and pier
- Yachtharbour, shrimps-market and Visserskaai
- Fishing port and fish market (most interesting between 7 and 9 a.m.)
- Church of Our Lady (Zandvoorde)
- St. Ann's Church (Stene)
- St.-Peter and Paul's Church with mausoleum of Queen Louise-Marie and modern church windows
- Tower of the old St.-Peter and Paul's Church (18th cent.) with calvary and purgatory
- Church of Our Lady of the Dunes (1360) with tomb of James Ensor
- Leopold Park with floral clock and bust of James Ensor
- Leon Spillmeert statue
- Thermal institute with mineral spring "Oostende Thermaal"
- Town Hall
- Casino-Kursaal
- National Seamen's Memorial
- Monuments of King Leopold I and Leopold II
- H.M.S. Vindictive Memorial
- Festival Hall with Art Gallery, Museum and tower-carillon (may be visited in July and August)
- Airport
- Europarorama: Van Iseghemlaan 39, tel. 059/80 28 52.

MARKET

from 8 a.m.
Thursday is the main market day. Other days are Saturday and Monday.

MUSEUMS

- Art Gallery and Ensor Museum - Festival Hall - tel. 059/70 61 31
Open every day (except Tuesdays), from 10 a.m. to 12 noon and from 2 to 5 p.m. - Closed during October.
- The Ensor House, Vlaanderenstraat 27
July and August: open every day (except on Tuesdays) 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 and 3 - 6 p.m.; other months: Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 5 p.m. - closed during October.

Folklore and Local History Museum - Festival Hall
July and August opens: every day (except Tuesdays) 10 - 12 a.m. and 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.; other months: Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Ex-sail training ship "Mercator" - Jachthaven Mercator tel. 059/70 56 54
Easter holidays, June to September: open daily;
other months: on week-ends, groups on demand.

Museum of the Second World War - Kerkstraat 42
tel. 059/70 28 19. From Easter holidays to August 31st: open daily; other months: on week-ends, groups on demand.

Museum for Modern Religious Art, St.-Sebastiaansstraat 41
Many private Art Galleries.

EXCURSIONS

Ostend is the excursion-centre "par excellence". A great number of excursions are organized by the local travel agencies and coach companies to Bruges, Brussels, the battlefields 1914-18, Holland (Flushing, Sluis, Walcheren, Amsterdam) and France (Paris, Calais, Dunkirk) etc... Information may be obtained from the local travel agencies.

Sightseeing tours by coach (organized by the travel agencies), by carriage (departure near the railway station, the casino and the Seamen's Memorial) or by minitrain (departure from Seamen's Memorial).

Sea excursions: departure from the Westside pier on board of the "Franlis" - tel. 059/70 62 94 after 8 p.m.

Joyflights from the airport

Belgian Aero Company, office nr. 54 tel. 059/80 28 44
Flanders Air Systems, office nr. 50 80 16 60
Noordzee Vliegclub, office nr. 49 70 05 76

Touristic Itinerary: the "Hoevenroute"

Sturdy polder farmsteads with white-washed walls are of course to be found along the Hoevenroute, or "Farm Circuit" (80 km). But there is also the whole wealth of the polder countryside south of Oostende, — with its little old churches, its fields and pastures "like undulating seas", its cosy rural taverns and its friendly people!

A well indicated bicycle trip, the "Krekenlietsweg" (about 20 km) takes you through the land of creeks and water near Ostend. Information about the routes may be obtained from the official tourist office.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

- "Dauphins" on the main beach tel. 059/70 20 00 and 70 18 59 (from Easter to September)
- "Koninginnehof", Maria-Hendrika Park 80 04 54 (the whole year round)

SPORTS

Sea-Bathing: free of charge and under supervision
— Make sure bathing is safe before you enter the water. This can easily be seen from the pennant-code on the beach. Green = bathing open; yellow = bathing dangerous but allowed; red = bathing forbidden.
— Change cabins: at the Lido and Mariakerke beach.

Indoor swimming pool

Thermal Institute - Koningin Astridlaan: swimming pool of 25 x 12 m. with heated seawater: Open the whole year round: weekdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 to 7 p.m.; on Sundays and bank holidays: from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Olympic swimming pool under construction.

Open air swimming pools - Maria-Hendrika Park: every day in July and August.

Swimming initiation in July and August - in the swimming pools of the Maria-Hendrika Park and of the Thermal Institute.

Casting

- fresh water: Maria Hendrika Park, Keignaertvijver and Ostend-Bruges canal
 - harbour and sea: docks, Spuikom, pier (rod and square net), from promenade, beach and breakwaters.
 - sea casting: day-trips are made by several fishing boats, from the "Tijdok" near the fishmarket.
- Information:
"Achilles" - tel. 059/70 62 35 - 70 72 61
"Bounty" - tel. 059/70 32 89
"Franlis" - tel. 059/70 62 94 (after 8 p.m.) departure from the Westpier.
"Java" - tel. 031/49 98 10 and 79 55 36
"Anna" - Tel. 059/50 07 12 - 50 02 70

Golf

Royal Golf Club of Ostend - tel. 059/23 32 83
18-hole course at De Haan (5 miles from Ostend)

Midget Golf

- Leopoldpark
- Oskheriu, Lijsterbeslaan 61 (Mariakerke)
- Thermal Institute, Koningin Astridlaan
- Hermes, Torhoutsesteenweg 584 (Stene)

Equestrian Sports

- horse riding - cavalry schools
- Mustang, Duinenstraat 46 tel. 059/70 96 63
- The Ranch, Klaproentlaan 56 80 31 50

Wellington racecourse: flat racing in July and August

Iboddit Wellington Trotting racecourse: evening meetings from April to September.

international jumping end of August

Promenades

Two well indicated paths, the "Natuurvriendenpad" and the "Duin-polderpad" take you in 4 hours through the sandhills and flat country surrounding Ostend.

A third path, the "Keunepad", lets you discover the beautiful Maria-Hendrika Park.

Rowing
 — Koningsinnehof, Maria-Hendrika Park tel. 059/80 04 54
 — Koninklijke Roel- en Nautische Sport Oostende
 Prins Albertlaan 70 43 65

Tennis
 — Ostend Tennisclub, Koninginnelaan 83 tel. 059/70 21 70
 — Oswherlu, Lijsterbeslaan 61 (Mariakerke) 70 19 74
 — Sports Centre, Koninginnelaan 76
 — Hermes, Torhoutsesteenweg 584 70 42 58

Yachting
 — Koninklijke Jacht Club, Dr. E. Moreauxlaan 1 tel. 059/70 36 07
 — North Sea Yacht Club, Montgomerykaai 1 70 27 54
 — Vlaamse Vereniging voor Watersport, Vicognedijk 70 95 64

AMENITIES AND ENTERTAINMENT

Beaches and Parks
 — Miles of promenade and golden sands offering unlimited joy and pleasure including safe bathing.
 — Leopold Park in the heart of the city.
 — Maria-Hendrika Park at 15 minutes walking distance from the town's square
 — Koningspark: the beautiful park adjacent to the former Royal Residence.

Casino-Kursaal tel. 059/70 51 11
 Centre-point of the mundane, artistic and cultural life.
 July and August: International Festival (ballets, operas, concerts, plays and music-hall shows) with the world's most renowned star-artists.
 The private gaming rooms are open all the year round.
 Bookings for performances: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.

Dancings
 About 15 dancings, fully equipped with the most modern systems are inviting to dance on the music of the latest hits.

Shows
 — Casino-Kursaal
 — The Flemish Inn, Vlaanderenstraat 42
 — Thier Bräu Hof, near airport, Nieuwpoortsesteenweg
 — Music and entertainment in several pubs

Cinemas
 Many films are shown in first vision for Belgium
 — Langestraat: Capitole, Corso, Plaza, Rialto
 — Vlaanderenstraat: Forum, Metro, Paris
 — Stuerstraat: Orly
 — Stokkellaan: Eden

THERMAL INSTITUTE - Koningin Astridlaan 1
 Information: tel. 059/70 25 47 - 70 25 48

Cure Indications:
 1. Affections of the bones and joints: decalcification, rheumatic diseases, rickets, sequelae of bones and joints injuries.
 2. Digestive affections: liver insufficiency, gastric deficiency, tropical liver atony of the gall-bladder.
 3. Nervous affections: sequelae of infantile paralysis, paralysis of the peripheral nerves, sequelae of hemiplegia, neuralgias, depressions.
 4. Allergic disturbances of the respiratory tract: asthma, seasonal rhinitis (hay fever), nonseasonal vasomotor rhinitis.

Turkish Baths: only in July and August.
Solarium during the opening hours of the swimming pool (see sports).

BICYCLE HIRE
 — Bonny A. - Aertshertogstraat 96 (Mariakerke)
 — Callemijn R. - Middenlaan 73 (Raversijde)
 — Dupon M. - Dorpsstraat 79 (Mariakerke)
 — Gino - Kemmelbergstraat 49 (Centre)
 — Micky - Namenstraat 1 - Zeedijk 135 (Mariakerke).

BLUE ZONES
 A personal parking disc must be used by all motorists whenever they park in the centre of the town. May be obtained at the Official Tourist Office.

PARKING SPACE

— Wapenplein } exc. on Monday, Thursday and Saturday
 — Groentemarkt } from midnight
 — Mijplein } to 4 p.m.
 — St.-Petrus & Paulusplein
 — Town Hall
 — E. Feysplein
 — Leopoldpark
 — Vissersplein
 — Visserskaai
 — School for young fishermen

CAR HIRE (also self drive)
 — "Avis rent a car", H. Serruyslaan 2 tel. 059/70 07 89
 — "Hertz rent a car", Garage Ocean, Koningstraat 27
 tel. 50 10 14 - 70 28 30 - 80 20 30

TAXIS
 — Casino tel. 059/70 54 91
 — E. Feysplein 70 22 00
 — Marie-Josefplein 70 27 27
 — Railway Station —

GARAGES
 List available at the Official Tourist Office.

AUTOMOBILE CLUBS
 — Automobile Association, Sint-Petrus-en-Paulusplein 18 tel. 059/70 28 55
 — Royal Automobile Club of GB, car ferry station 70 05 33
 — Kon. Automobiël Club van België, Vindictivelaan 29 70 24 99
 — Kon. Touring Club van België, Torhoutsesteenweg 6 80 08 70
 — Vlaamse Automobilistenbond, Kerckestraat 14 70 63 61

CONSULATES
 — Austria: Dr. P. Crauwels, Koningstraat 32 tel. 059/70 23 42
 — Denmark: M.-J. Porta, Van Iseghemlaan 145 70 18 13
 — Finland: C. Van Cutsem, K. Janssenslaan 17 70 17 34
 — France: R. Gosselin, H. Serruyslaan 4 70 14 97
 — Great Britain: R. Clinton-Thomas, IJzerstraat 21 70 16 15
 — Guatemala: R. Decléodt, Bredensteeweg 20 70 17 89
 — Lebanon: C. Heilman, A. Buytstraat 33 70 17 33
 — Monaco: M.-J. Porta, Van Iseghemlaan 145 70 18 13
 — Morocco: R. Poeters, K. Janssenslaan 4 80 12 42
 — Norway: W. Deswaer, Parijsstraat 11 70 12 71
 — Spain: Jacq. Elleboudt, Rogierlaan 9 80 39 47
 — Sweden: Mrs. F. Van Caillie, Groendreef 2 70 54 99
 — Tunisia: J. Piers, H. Serruyslaan 42 76 16 56
 — West. Germany: C. Decrop, H. Baelskaai 12 80 28 65

BANKS AND EXCHANGE OFFICES
 — Algemene Spaar- en Lijfrentekas, Kapellestraat 3 tel. 059/70 77 81
 — Antwerpse Hypotheekkas, Wapenplein 8 80 17 03
 — Bank van Brussel, Wapenplein 3 70 30 73
 — Bank van Parijs en de Nederlanden, Leopold II laan 8 A 70 09 21
 — Bank van Roeselare en West-Vlaanderen, Rogierlaan 23 80 03 95
 — Brugse Bank, Leopold II laan 1 70 40 70
 — Generale Bankmaatschappij, Kapellestraat 77 70 09 46
 — Hypothecaire Kredietbank van Oostende, Kaaistraat 8 70 12 39
 — Kredietbank, Kapellestraat 16 70 09 25
 — Nationale Bank van België, Kaaistraat 33 70 10 29
 — Bank Lambert, K. Janssenslaan 1 70 08 45
 — Werken en Discontobank, Van Iseghemlaan 38 80 19 91
 — A.C.A., Vindictivelaan 29 70 24 99
 — E. De Langhe, Kapellestraat 91 70 11 77
 — R. Kulincx, Vlaanderenstraat 21 70 19 43
 — Railway Station

POST OFFICES
 — General Post Office: H. Serruyslaan tel. 059/70 10 45
 — Casino (15.6 - 14.9) 70 27 37
 — Town Hall 70 71 87
 — Passchijnstraat 2 a (Mariakerke) 70 87 38

TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE
 — Head Office General Post Office - H. Serruyslaan
 — on weekdays: from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.

— on Sundays and public holidays:
 from 16.9 till 15.6: 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.
 from 16.6 till 15.9: 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.
 — **Supervision:** tel. 990 (teleg.) 993 (teleg.)
 — **Railway station:** during Summer and Winter: from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

In the public telephone-boxes not only telephone-calls can be made to any place in Belgium, but also international connections to the automatic networks of several European countries. The instructions for use of the coin telephone-apparatus are indicated in every public call-box.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES
 — Anglican worship, Langestraat 101:
 — Summer (2nd Sunday in June until 3rd Sunday in Sep.): 8.30 a.m.; Holy Comm.; 10.30 a.m.; Matins and sermon; 11.30 a.m.; Holy Comm.; 6.30 p.m.; Evening Prayer
 — Winter (4th Sunday in Sept. until 1st Sunday in June): 8.30 and 10 a.m.; Holy Comm.
 — Special services at Easter and Christmas.
 — **Belgian Reformed Church:**
 — Velodroomstraat 26.
 — **Synagogue,** Filip van Maerichtplein:
 — 1-7 until 31-8: daily services and also on the principal Jewish holidays.

Roman Catholic churches:
 — St Peter & Paul's, St.-Petrus en Paulusplein
 — Kapucijnen, Kapucijnenstraat
 — Dominikanen, Christinastraat
 — St.-Jozef, Rogierlaan
 — Onze Lieve Vrouw Onbevlekt, Graaf de Smet de Naeyerlaan (Hazegeas)
 — H. Hart, Heilig Hartlaan
 — Onze Lieve Vrouw Koningin, Lijsterbeslaan (Mariakerke)
 — Onze Lieve Vrouw ter Duinen, Dorpsstraat (Mariakerke)

Religious information and contact centre "kerk-info-toerisme"
 St.-Petrus & Paulusplein 6a; tel. 059/80 22 21 - open in July and August 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 1 to 5 p.m.

MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS
 — February or March: **carnival weekend:** "Cimatrestoet" (evening pageant with Chinese lanterns), street carnival, "Shrimpsball", masks competition, "Ball of the Dead Rat", "Clog-throwing".
 — Easter, Whitsun, from June to September: **bell concerts and bandstand concerts.**
 — April-September: **trotting** at the Wellington Trotting racecourse
 — Whitsun: **International drumband festival**
 — last Sunday of May: **blessing of the sea and procession**
 — July and August: **North Sea Festival** at the Casino-Kursaal. **flat racing** at the Wellington race-course. **Intern. sailing competitions.**
 — National Festival Day: **big fireworks.**
 — August: **Young Eurosong Contest** and **Pop and Folk Festival.**
 — End of August: **International jumping.**
 — Second Sunday of September (on even years): **Ostend Fishermen Pageant**

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Rescue Services	Telephone
ambulance	059/70 10 10 & 900
police department "traffic", town hall	70 11 11
gendarmierie, A. Pieterslaan 39	70 13 60 & 70 73 10
fire and rescue service, Velodroomstraat 13	70 10 10
doctors on duty (at night & during the week-ends)	70 97 58
anti-poison service	02/345 45 45
— Red Cross of Belgium, Torhoutsesteenweg 56	70 14 08
— Yellow-white cross, Nijverheidstraat 73	70 03 88
— Central police-station, town hall, Vindictivelaan	70 11 11
— Lost property office, police-station, town hall	70 11 11
— Tele-distribution (Teveo) and Water - Gas and Electricity Cy (Ebes) - information	80 33 01
— breakdowns	70 13 89
— Labour Exchange, Brigantijnenstraat 2	70 76 11
— Hire of beach cabins, N.V. Oostende Bad and Strand, Albert I Promenade 89	70 18 59
— Town Hall, general offices, Vindictivelaan	70 77 71
— Airport: direction - meteo - traffic	70 08 01
— Chamber of Commerce, Festival Hall, Wapenplein	70 17 07
— Refuge for animals (blue cross), Cedersdreef	70 44 37
— Maria-Hendrika Park	

