

How to reach Ghent?

From the north: canal Gent–Terneuzen

Coming from the canal Gent–Terneuzen, Meulestedebrug is the first identification point. Then comes Muidespoorbrug, which turns on fixed hours and has no headroom. You ignore the Tolhuissluis and sail under the Muidebrug, direction starboard to the Handelsdok. Finally you sail through the inner harbour Dampoort, under Oktrooibrug, through de Pauwvaart to the confluence of Lys and Scheldt, where lies the transient yacht basin Portus Ganda.

BRIDGE / LOCK	VHF	TELEPHONE / MOBILE	HEADROOM
Meulestedebrug	20	+ 32 9 235 81 20 Waterway: canal Gent-Terneuzen	5.20 m
Operation	Monday to Saturday from 6.00 a.m. till 10.00 p.m. Not operated on workdays from Mon. to Fri. from 7.30 till 8.30 a.m. and from 1.45 till 2.15 p.m. On Sunday only operated on request at the bridge itself and at least 24hours in advance On legal holidays mentioned (not on Sundays), it is operated during normal hours: Easter Monday, 1 May, Ascension Day, Whit Monday, 21 July, 15 August, 1 and 11 November.		
Muidespoorbrug	/	+ 32 9 241 31 38 Waterway: canal Gent-Terneuzen	/
Operation	Workdays	Saturdays	Sundays / Holidays
	09.05-09.15	08.45-08.55	10.45-10.55 h
	09.55-10.15	09.45-09.55	11.45-11.55 h
	10.45-11.00	10.45-10.55	13.45-13.55 h
	12.00-12.15	11.45-11.55	14.45-14.55 h
	14.55-15.15	13.45-13.55	15.45-15.55 h
	18.10-18.15	14.45-14.55	16.45-16.55 h
	20.45-21.15(*)	18.10-18.15	17.45-17.55 h
	20.45-20.55(**)	20.45-21.15 h	
	21.45-21.55	21.45-21.55 h	
	(*) open for shipping on Tuesday and Thursday. (**) open for shipping on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.		
Muidebrug	20	+ 32 9 223 96 20 Waterway: canal Gent-Terneuzen	4.20 m
Operation	The bridge is only operated for ships which height exceeds 4.20m. From Monday to Friday from 8.00 a.m. till 6.00 p.m. On Saturday from 8.00 a.m. till 5.00 p.m. Operation is possible from 6.00 a.m. till 10.00 p.m., after submitting an application the previous workday at Muidebrug or Tolhuissluis and following the manager's practical stipulations On Sun- and legal holidays, on request 24 hours in advance.		
Oktrooibrug (fixed)			4.50m
Kasteelsluis lock (disassembled)		Dimensions: 70m x 8.5m, always open Waterway: canal de Pauw	

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From the northwest: canal Ghent-Ostend

Coming from the canal Gent-Oostende, you have in Vinderhoute three possibilities to go to the centre of Ghent:

1. Sluice K1 (crossing Brugsevaart and Ringvaart)
2. Ringvaart, direction Merelbeke, crossing a) Ringvaart / Lys (sluice K2) or crossing b) Ringvaart / Bovenschelde (sluice E3)
3. Evergemsluis, direction canal Gent-Terneuzen / Voorhaven (outport)

1. If you choose for **sluice K1**, sail down the Brugsevaart (extension of canal Gent-Oostende) till beyond the Guislainbrug, then swerve to port on the Verbindingskanaal. Inform timely of your arrival at Wondelgemstraatbrug and Tolhuissluis.

Hold to starboard when through the Tolhuissluis and sail under Muidebrug, direction Handelsdok and Dampoort. Once you have passed the Oktrooibrug, you sail through the Kasteelsluis which is always open. Historical Ghent is in sight!

BRIDGE / LOCK	VHF	TELEPHONE / MOBILE / INFO	HEADROOM
Ghislainbrug (fixed)	/		5,40 m
Wondelgemstraatbrug	/	+ 32 9 235 81 20 (via Meulestedebrug) Waterway: Verbindingskanaal	1,70 m
Operation		Period 16.03-30.09: Mon.-Fri.: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat: 7 a.m. till 5 p.m. Period 01.10-15.03: Mon.-Fri.: 8 a.m. till 6 p.m., Sat: 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. Restrictions: From 16 March to 30 September: not operated from 7.30 till 8.30 and from 12.00 till 12.30 a.m. From 1 October to 15 March: not operated from 8.00 till 8.30 and from 12.00 till 12.30 a.m. On 26 December operation starts at 9.00 a.m. On the day before Easter, on 24 and 31 December operation ends at 6 p.m. No operation on Sundays and legal holidays (1 January, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, 21 July, 15 August, 1 and 11 November and 25 December)	
Tolhuissluis	20	+ 32 9 225 33 37 Waterway: canal Gent-Terneuzen	/
Operation		Monday to Saturday: 8.00 a.m. till 7 p.m. Not on Sun- and holidays, unless requested 24 hours in advance. Operation possible from 6.00 a.m. till 10.00 p.m., after submitting an application the preceding workday at Muidebrug or Tolhuissluis, and according to the practical modalities given by the manager	

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General information about sluices

SLUICE	MINIMUM WATER DEPTH	USEFUL WIDTH
Sluice K1	2 m	7,50 m
Sluice K2	2,70 m	7 m
Sluice E3	2,50 m	7 m

2.a. Do you wish a navigation itinerary without any sluices, then sail the Ringvaart in the direction of Merelbeke. Beyond the Blaarmeersen bridges S1 & S2, you turn to port to **sluice K2**.

2.b. An alternative is to sail towards Merelbeke and after the Klaverbladbrug choose the Schelde on starboard side at **sluice E3**.

3. Via **lock Evergem** you reach the canal Gent-Terneuzen (see description accessibility page 1)

BRIDGE / LOCK	VHF	TELEPHONE / MOBILE	HEADROOM
Evergemsluis	20	+ 32 9 253 06 34 or + 32 253 86 01 Waterway: Ringvaart Gent	/
Operation		Monday to Friday: 24 hours a day. Saturday: 0.00 a.m. - 10.00 p.m. Generally the lock is not operated on Sun- and legal holidays. For yachts however and from 1 May to the last Sunday of September, the lock is operated on Sunday and legal holidays from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. Exact information is given every year via separate messages On legal holidays mentioned (not on Sundays) operated during normal hours: Easter Monday, 1 May, Ascension Day, Whit Monday, 21 July, 15 August, 1 and 11 November. On 26 December operated from 9.00 a.m. Day before Easter, on 24 and 31 December, operated till 6.00 p.m.	

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From the east: Boven-Zeeschelde

You sail to tourist Flanders by rising tide, so you can win time and speed. Past Mellebrug you keep to starboard (forbidden passage in the right channel) and steer to Merelbeke lock. Announce your arrival in time to the lockkeeper via VHF or mobile and he will pilot you safely through the tide lock to the Ringvaart (rising average of 1,50m). Past the lock, cross the Ringvaart and follow the Schelde before coming to sluice E3.

BRIDGE / LOCK	VHF	TELEPHONE / MOBILE	HEADROOM
Mellebrug (fixed)	/		5,50 m
Merelbeke lock	20	+ 32 9 230 94 77 Waterway: Ringvaart Gent	/
Operation		Monday to Saturday from 6.00 a.m. till 10 p.m. On the holidays mentioned (not on Sundays): service during normal hours Easter Monday, 1 May, Ascension Day, Whit Monday, 21 July, 15 August, 1 and 11 November. On Sun- and legal holidays, with exception of Easter, Whitsunday, 25 December and 1 January, service from 7.00 a.m. till 1.00 p.m. On 26 December operation starts at 9.00 a.m. The day before Easter, on 24 and 31 December operation ends at 6.00 p.m.	
Sluice E3	/	sluice usually open	/

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From the Southwest : Bovenschelde

Past Zwijnaarde industry zone, cross the Ringvaart. Beyond Lock E3, Yachting Merelbeke has his home port. Vaulted by a chaotic network of motorway and railway bridges, the Scheldt quietly flows further on. At the fork of the Strop quarter, you sail left to the historical centre of Gent via the Muinschelde, while on the right the Afleidingskanaal brings you to the outskirts of town. Towards Gentbrugge, the Schelde divides itself under the St-Lievenspoortbrug, with on starboard side the Franse Vaart, a not navigable channel. Once past the Brusselsepoortsluis and under the Keizerpoortbrug, you swerve 90° to starboard, pass under the Visserijkombrug, on to the Visserijvaart. Both via the Muinschelde (Yacht basin Lindenlei) and the Visserijvaart (Yacht basin Portus Ganda) you can visit the transient yacht basins of Ghent and book a storage for one or more nights.

BRIDGE / LOCK	VHF	TELEPHONE / MOBILE	HEADROOM
Sluice E3	/	Sluice usually open	/
St-Lievenspoortbrug (fixed)	/		4,50m
Brusselsepoortsluis	/	+ 32 9 253 68 26 (District office Evergem) 0477 58 15 94 (André Masquelier) 0477 58 18 04 (Mobile team Gentbrugge) Waterway: Schelde	/
Operation		Monday till Saturday from 8.00 a.m. till 5.00 p.m., on request at the latest the previous workday before 4.00 p.m. On 26 December operation from 9.00 a.m. Day before Easter, 24 and 31 December operation till 6 p.m. No operation on Sun- and legal holidays (1 Jan., Easter Monday, 1 May, Whit Monday, 21 July, 15 Aug., 1 and 11 Nov. and 25 Dec.)	
Lousbergsbrug	/	+ 32 9 253 68 26 (District Office Evergem) 0477 58 15 94 (André Masquelier) Waterway: Visserijvaart	4,60m
Operation		Monday till Saturday from 8.00 a.m. till 5.00 p.m., on request by phone the previous workday before 4 p.m.	

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From the West: the river Lys

After sailing through the picturesque part of the Lys between Astene and Afsnee, take the direction Ringvaart at the fork "De Drie Leien" (the three Lys). You have to be careful when crossing the Ringvaart, under the bridges of the Ring road (R4) and through the sluice K2. Near the recreation park "De Blaarmeersen" lays a big yacht basin runned by different yacht clubs. You are welcome for a drink, information and a transient berth. Sail carefully along the moored yachts. Sint-Pietersstation is nearby and that explains the busy railway traffic here. The urban landscape along the banks changes from charming cottages at the Gordunakaai to compact urban development to change again, at the height of Blandijnberg, in stately manors with historical ramparts. Bridge (Europabrug) after bridge (Albertbrug) you sail towards the Bijloke site (Jan Palfijnbrug), situated on the left bank of the Lys. In the distance the three towers of Ghent arise...

BRIDGE / LOCK	VHF	TELEPHONE / MOBILE	HEADROOM
Krommehambrug (fixed)			4,50m
R4 brug (fixed)			4,50m
Sluice K2	/	sluice usually open	/
The bridges in the direction of Ghent centre have a minimum height of 4 meters			

- Sources:
- Vademecum van de pleziervaart in België**
Publicatiejaar 2005 – 7^{de} uitgave
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Maritiem Vervoer
 - Bedieningstijden van sluizen en bruggen op bevaarbare waterwegen in Vlaanderen**
Publicatiejaar 2004 – 4^{de} uitgave
Verantw. uitg.: Waterwegen en Zeekanaal NV
Afdeling beleid Havens, Waterwegen en Zeewezen
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 - Vaarkart Gent 2005**
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 - Toeristische vaargids**
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Verantw. uitg.: Albert De Smet, Provinciegriffier Provincie Oost-Vlaanderen
Hiliaire Ost, Provinciegriffier Provincie West-Vlaanderen
 - Vademecum voor de Toervaarder**
Publicatiejaar 2005 – 8^{ste} jaargang
Verantw. uitg.: Vlaamse pleziervaartfederatie