

# Welcome to Antwerp

*The second largest port in Europe, the world diamond centre, a fashion capital with a world-renowned academy... Churches and museums are indicative of a rich history, while new urban development and sublime architecture showcase a constant drive for innovation. And all that in a city where it's very easy to walk or cycle from one attraction to another and where you will always find a nice restaurant or bar to taste all the delicious things Antwerp has to offer. Be amazed by Antwerp!*

## A glorious past

You can read about it in Michael Pye's widely praised book *The Glory Years*, in the 16th century Antwerp was **the New York of its time**. The city was a successful international metropolis and a dazzling hub for trade and economy. In 1531, **the first ever stock exchange** was built in Antwerp, long before London and Amsterdam. Antwerp also was an influential city in the 17th century. Not in the least thanks to the world famous baroque painter Rubens. In the Rubens House you can discover his powerful influence. The first museum on the UNESCO World Heritage List was **Museum Plantin-Moretus**, where the centuries-old history of books and book printing comes to life. And of course you can't miss the Gothic Cathedral of Our Lady. Ready to discover Antwerp's history in a fun way? Visit **The Antwerp Story** in The Steen, the newly renovated historical fortress. Don't miss the Visitor Center in the same building, here you can find lots of inspiration and insider tips for your visit to the city.

## Port, diamond and fashion

Did you know that the port of Antwerp is Europe's second largest port? Step aboard a **harbour tour** and admire the activities, the giant ships and experience the enormous panoramas of the landscape. Where the port and the city meet, the magnificent **Port House** will surely catch your eye. On the bottom part, once a fire station, a striking and contemporary superstructure shaped like a diamond was added. Which brings us to the relation between diamonds and Antwerp. The city is the oldest and largest **diamond centre** of the world. Visit **DIVA** and discover this fascinating and sparkling story. Antwerp is also a trendsetter in the field of fashion with one of the most renowned fashion academies, fashion museum **MoMu** and loads of trendy labels, large brands and boutiques of independent designers. Do you fancy a day of shopping? Antwerp is the right place for you!



## Architecture

You'll notice it when strolling around the city, there's no lack of striking architecture.
**The Boerentoren** once was Europe's first skyscraper, **Central Station** is one of the most beautiful train stations in the world and the architecture of **MAS** is based on the many historic warehouses in Het Eilandje, the old port area which has been transformed to one of the coolest spots in town.

## Drive for innovation

Europe's second largest port, the continent's top chemical cluster, the diamond trade capital of the world and Belgium's largest retail destination: Antwerp had a strong track record in terms of **innovation** and trade. Today the city is stepping up its game, with digital innovation, sustainable chemistry, creative services and health forming the pillars on which its future economy is built. Lots of thriving businesses choose Antwerp and its prosperous region as their **homebase and launching pad** for innovative ideas and products. And that's just one of the reasons why Antwerp is a great location for a **(hybrid) meeting or congress**.







## The good life

Thanks to the 170-plus nationalities that make the city's population, Antwerp is a melting pot of cultures and flavours. From Michelin starred restaurants to breweries and from Belgian cuisine to multicultural influences: Antwerp's gastronomical DNA is unique. And of course Antwerp is a perfect spot to discover the best **Belgian beers** and tastiest **Belgian chocolate**. But maybe the city's scale is its greatest asset. Many districts, attractions and shopping streets are just a short walk away from each other. A popular trip is walking through the pedestrian tunnel to the other side of the river to enjoy a magnificent view of Antwerp's **skyline**.

Have fun in Antwerp!











