



## 5 minutes of history

- 1277 Arrival of the first trade fleet from Genova (Italy), making the harbour of Bruges the most important link with the Mediterranean Sea.
- 1292 First mention of the Stock Exchange in Bruges, one of the most sophisticated early capitalist businesses in Western Europe. Yes, we helped invent capitalism. You're welcome.
- 1302 Big fight with France. A whole regiment of French soldiers is murdered in their sleep. (When you're used to being rich and peaceful, you have to be smart.)
- 1482 Mary of Burgundy falls off her horse and dies a few weeks later. She is buried in <sup>(73)</sup>.
- 1489 Hans Memling paints the shrine of Saint Ursula. By now, Flemish painters have set the standard for European painters with their impressive eye for realism.
- +/-1500 The combination of too much sand in between the sea and the harbour and political troubles is bad for business. The Antwerp harbour takes over.
- 1600 and 1700 and 1800: Bruges falls asleep.
- 1892 Bruges wakes up. The popular book 'Bruges-la-Morte' describes the city as a dark, poor and ugly place. Locals are not too happy with this, but tourists see some romance in it, and start visiting Bruges more and more.
- 1896 Bruges builds a new harbour a bit further, called Zeebrugge. During World War I, the Germans try out the first generation of submarines there.
- 1975 First independent hostel in Bruges, run by a few hippies with a documentation center. There is no way to stop young travellers anymore.
- 2000 The entire inner city gets declared UNESCO world heritage.
- 2013 A tree falls over in the canal! One day without tourist boats. Drama!
- 2016 Club Brugge wins the Belgian soccer championship for the first time in a decade. That was about time...
- 2018 Both Bruges football teams win their competition. Cercle wins second division, so returns to first: we can now enjoy derbies again.
- 2019 Will we be champions again? Sure looked like it when this map went into print!