TASTE ROUTE HASSELT

DISCOVER HASSELT'S GREATEST LOCATIONS

CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT MAKES HASSELT DIFFERENT FROM OTHER CITIES? THEN THIS TASTE ROUTE PROVIDES THE ANSWER RIGHT HERE AND NOW!

It's a voyage of discovery to the heart of the city, packed with unique locations: from trendy to authentic, from creative to inspiring, from culinary to fashionable ...

Give your senses a run for their money on this journey through the cosy streets and alleys of Hasselt while learning all about the exquisite taste of Hasselt's citizens. Insiders' tips add an extra dimension and ensure an unforgettable experience that will undoubtedly leave you with a craving for more.

We wish you lots of fun!

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HASSELT HEEFT HET.

START

The beautiful Huis de Corswarem (01) is the starting point of this Taste Route. The enchanting interior of the Smaaksalon is reminiscent of the film set of 'Sissi, the Young Empress'. Try the delicious food, prepared with local produce from Limburg and especially Hasselt, or cross the threshold of the accompanying Smaakwinkel to buy the local products yourself.

CORSWAREM

Taking a good look at the shops across the street from Corswarem, you will notice why Maastrichterstraat used to be called the Golden Alley. You can still discover the creations and collections of different jewellers. At 't juweelateljee (02) you can also find handbags and leather articles in addition to the jewels, with or without colour tones.

KADETJESPLEIN

Turn back to the Italian restaurant Il Pasticcio (03) and take a right turn onto Kadettensteeg. This alley leads to one of Hasselt's happiness spots - the Kadetjesplein. In this charming garden, you can enjoy a heavenly moment of peace and admire some artwork.

PLEASE NOTE *The garden square is accessible to the public from Mondays to Saturdays (9h00 - 18h00). Closed on Sundays.*

On your left, you can see the fashion paradise for kids, '2x Kadet' (04) with Belgian and international premium brands. Take a look at the signposts and follow the arrow towards the next street, Hemelrijk. To reach it, you have to pass through a passageway connected to restaurant Kookpunt (05), where you can go for true culinary indulgence inside the mansion or on the cosy terrace. Be sure to keep looking at the artwork 'Blinded by the Lights' (06) by Michaël Verheyden and note the transition from light box to mirror.

KOOKPUNT

HEMELRIJK

Turn left onto Hemelrijk. On this street, you can also find the eponymous beer café Het Hemelrijk (07). The extensive beer menu includes some 400 different types!

A little further down the road is Bardot (08). Here, they serve a piece of Spain in your glass or on your tapas board.

SAINT QUENTIN CATHEDRAL

Leave Hemelrijk and take a left. You will see the main church of the diocese of Hasselt, Saint Quentin Cathedral, looming up ahead. This protected Romanesque-Gothic monument, located between Vismarkt and Fruitmarkt also houses the carillon museum with its impressive bell tower.

Turning left behind the cathedral you will run into some great dining places and pubs such as In De Kleine Hal (09). At this authentic 'brown café' you can enjoy a Hasselt Coccinelle beer or a 'witteke' (a shot of jenever).

MAASTRICHTERSTRAAT

The route now takes you to the Borrelmanneke (small black statue hinting at the jenever industry) (10) and subsequently, to the right, onto Maastrichterstraat. Look up when walking on this picturesque street and see the numerous charming signs adorning the façades. You can spot fashionable women's clothing at o'det (11), with a blend of trendy brands at affordable prices. Next, follow your nose and step into the deliciously smelling artisanal coffee roasting house Maes (12).

SIGN MAASTRICHTERSTRAAT

Turn to your right when you leave the store and stop before walking onto the Grote Markt. When you look across the market place to the other side, you will immediately notice the pharmacy 't Sweert (13). This former inn, in the authentic half-timbered style, is the oldest building in Hasselt

SHOPPING GALLERY DE WARE VRIENDEN

Instead of walking onto the Grote Markt, you now turn left and enter the gatehouse of shopping gallery De Ware Vrienden. Keep walking until you see a passageway on your right. Turn right here. Right in front of you, you can see the beautifully decorated sweet shop Temmerman (14). Can you feel the nostalgia rising? The gallery continues to the main shopping street which you now follow to the right, towards the Grote Markt.

HAVERMARKT

On the left side of Havermarkt you can admire the magnificent craftsmanship of the Leerske building. This building from the 15th century has been beautifully renovated and now houses the trendy optician's shop Tackoen (15). The hidden courtyard shows a perfect combination of a historic construction style and modern glass elements.

OPTICIAN'S SHOP TACKOEN

A little further down the street, on the other side, you simply have to walk into Donum (16), located in the beautifully renovated postal building. The wide range of interior design objects makes it clear that interior aesthetics and lifestyle are central here.

Almost invisible yet very present in all its glory is the Peterseliesteeg. This alley lies to the right of Donum and is accessible through a graceful wooden door. The artwork adorning the walls - the 'Leesmuur' (17) which translates as 'the reading wall' - is a creation of the hand of Pierre Dujardin, and symbolises the 110-year anniversary of Hasselt's Reading Association.

LEESMUUR

KAPELSTRAAT

You have now reached the posh Kapelstraat with its exclusive boutiques. Turning right here you can follow the extension of the route. At boutique Jeurissen (18), you will always find assistance and good advice to assemble a complete outfit with designer items. At Helsen Tailors (19), clothes make the man, from tailor-made suits to casual wear. Turn around and walk back onto Kapelstraat.

HELSEN TAILORS

To make it all complete, we recommend that you take a peep at jewellery Van Esser (20). This luxury watchmaker also offers special cuff-links.

TIP *If you have a sweet tooth, you must stop by gourmet bakery Cools (21). For 150 years they have been serving the most delicious pastry and Hasselt speculaas.*

Now you are back en route. On the left hand side, you can discover ROOMS (22). Here, you can find stylish furniture, art, and colourful accessories for your interior. The sisters of Les Soeurs (23) bring together gems, leather, and metal in their collection. Clothing and decorative items are also available!

EVOLUTION

We continue towards interior design shop Evolution (24), where you can admire special furniture from different countries.

DIESTERSTRAAT

Kapelstraat leads to the exclusive Diesterstraat. First, you encounter Helsen ladies (25), after which you arrive at Stijn Helsen's concept store (26) with collections both for ladies and gents, and furniture and accessories. The story behind this fashion designer goes way back in history. In 1939, grandpa Helsen launched a couture shop. Thus, Stijn was surrounded by fashion from a very young age.

Huis Pricken (27) used to be a grocery shop and it has been there for 120 years. Nowadays, you can go there for a fresh sandwich, different types of cheese, and candy.

DR. WILLEMSSTRAAT

Sustainable fashion label Wearable Stories (28) is of Limburg origin. Their collection has been manufactured, under good conditions in Bali, amongst others.

At clothing and shoe store Wathion (29), you can discover exclusive 'sex and the city' style creations from different designer brands. Trendy men will surely find what they're looking for at ICON (30). Owner Kris will gladly guide you through the high-quality clothing brands.

ALDESTRAAT

Turn right onto Aldestraat, where you can find the trendy children's clothing boutique Eigenwijs (0-10 years) (31) and the surprising gadget store Oui (32). A little further down the street you can see boutique Copines (33). And as the name of the shop implies in French, it is run by two girlfriends.

EIGENWIJS

At La Casa del Habano (34) handmade Cuban cigars are central. Teastation (35) offers a choice of 150 types of tea. Tasting new teas or smelling the sniffing boxes makes it all the more fun! Turn back a little and go right onto Zwanestraat. Then turn left onto Lombaardstraat.

SCHRIJNWERKERSSTRAAT

Right in front of the grand former Provincial Council building, where the centre for contemporary art CIAP (36) is located, you turn onto Schrijnwerkersstraat. Still looking for an evening activity? Then sipping cocktails at Koks & Tales (37) is not a bad idea!

On this street, you should also try the sweet and savoury pancakes in a homely atmosphere at lunch bistro Coeckepanne (38).

MINDERBROEDERSSTRAAT

Follow this street until you reach the church of Father 'Heilig Paterke' Valentinus. A little to your left, you can find the Hendrikshuis (39), a unique shop with upcycling products and curiosities. Now turn back to No 10 and get yourself some real Hasselt speculaas – with or without chunks of marzipan or chocolate – at Depaifve (40).

DEPAIFVE

PAARDSDEMERSTRAAT

Now cross the large shopping street towards the Paardsdemerstraat. At the narrow, but ever so cosy, coffee house 't Pandje (41) you can browse the many decorative objects that surround you while enjoying a steaming cuppa. Are you well rested? Then make sure to take a peep inside the fabulous clothing and shoe store La Bottega (42), located in a former jenever distillery. Stylists help you find the perfect outfit. Continue down the road and enter chocolate house Boon (43) to enjoy original chocolate creations and extraordinary coffees.

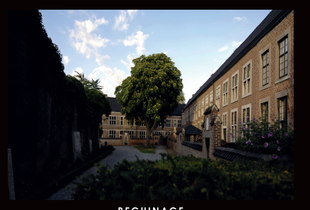
TIP *With a bit of luck you'll even see the chocolatier at work in his glass studio!*

BOON

Get into a Celtic mood with a pint of draught Guinness at the Irish pub De Egel (44) on the corner of Paardsdemerstraat.

ZUIVELMARKT

Continue down Paardsdemerstraat and take a right. Walking through the large wooden gate to the left, you will find yourself in the old Beguinage, a green oasis of tranquillity in the middle of the city. This building also houses the arts centre Z33 (free entrance) (45). Here, projects and exhibitions about design and multidisciplinary creativity are complemented with films, workshops, performances, and lectures.



BEGUINAGE

For culinary activities, Zuivelmarkt is the street to hit. This Mecca of culinary indulgence surprises you with a wide range of exotic, trendy and exclusive culinary locations. L'Aperi vino (46) offers 34 wines you can combine with exquisite snacks and Italian or Spanish delicacies.

TIP *Café Latino (47) brings a taste of Mexico to the heart of Hasselt with a menu packed with tacos and exotic cocktails.*

Feel like a delicacy with typical Hasselt ingredients like speculaas, jenever, and hazelnut? Then be sure to try the scrumptious Hasselt pâté from butcher shop Brepoels (48) .

BOTERMARKT

At Panamarenko's Batopillo (49) statue, you take a right turn towards Botermarkt.
Batopillo is a character with propellers on his back who is trying to fly and who symbolises `dare to dream'.

Hungry? Then we recommend you to try one of the special soups at Soupbar Zuppa (50). Subsequently, you leave Botermarkt on the right towards Hoogstraat. The first street on the left includes one of Hasselt's established values: Hat shop L. Reekmans-Peeters (51) . This gem has been around since 1904 and is presumed to be the oldest shop in the city.

REEKMANS - PEETERS

GROENPLEIN

Walk straight ahead and then take a left turn to the entrance of the former city hall. In front of it, you can find Bistro Nano (52) . At this small restaurant you can opt for a three-course menu or you can give the chef carte blanche. The dishes from the menus can also be ordered à la carte. Return towards the rear side of the city hall.

Here, you will find Walputsteeg, a small alley that is cheerfully lit in the evenings. Walk through the alley.

WALPUTSTEEG

TIP *The sweet scent of speculaas fills the air here when the nearby bakery Depaifve is baking.*

You walk onto Minderbroedersstraat. On the other side, you can find the busy brasserie Het Magazijn. Cross the street and continue straight ahead, into the passageway of Het Magazijn (53) .

Go down the stairs and walk towards the Molenpoortplein. Cross this square diagonally towards Gasthuisstraat. This is where the Hasselt Fashion Museum (54) is located. Here, you can either admire the historical core collection in various arrangements, elaborated around a theme, supplemented with items on loan or - at other times - exhibitions focusing on a designer, or a certain material or technique. To the great joy of everyone who's into fashion, cross pollination between fashion and other art forms is also addressed here.

HASSELT FASHION MUSEUM

Continue straight to the crossroads on Demerstraat and cross over towards Witte Nonnenstraat.

WITTE NONNENSTRAAT

Witte Nonnenstraat harbours some very special locations. At literary café De Tijd Hervonden (55) , for example, in addition to satisfying your hunger, you can also enjoy a good book.

If you say Hasselt, you say jenever. But how should you keep, serve, and taste jenever? And which of the complex palette of flavours of jenever is your favourite? Go to the Jenever Museum (56) and find out. The story of the production process, the origins, and the development of our national distilled treasure will make you *jenever wise.*

JENEVER MUSEUM

Continue down the street. The imposing building on the left side is the Provincial Library of Limburg (57) .

DUSARTPLEIN

Now turn left onto the Badderijstraat, towards the Kolonel Dusartplein, where you can take a break at one of the many cafés. In the evenings these atmospheric locations transform into dance cafés, gladly welcoming the nighthawks.

TIP *Walk into café Export (58) and go all the way to the back. Here, you can expect comfy couches, a pool table, and a relaxed atmosphere.*

With the slogan 'everything was better in the old days' Retrooz (59) welcomes you for a meal or a drink, or to browse the collection of old trinkets.

MAASTRICHTERSTRAAT

Continue your route along by the cafés. Now, you find yourself on the small ring road around the city centre, also known as the Green Boulevard. Turn right onto the Maastrichterstraat.

Gin, food and wine bar Entourage (60) is located at the Refuge Shelter of Herkenrode. During the weekend, you can also come here for the `clubbing'. The entrance is on the side of the building in Persoonstraat. A little further along you can see JER (Just Eat Right) (61) . This Michelin-starred restaurant serves dishes to the highest possible standards. Go back to the Maastrichterstraat.

On your left, you can see Het Stadsmus (62) , a building with a large white gate. This is a museum about the history of Hasselt and its inhabitants, and entrance is free. The little ones can have a great time with the Sparrow Cushion quest, or an exciting MP3 listening route across the city.

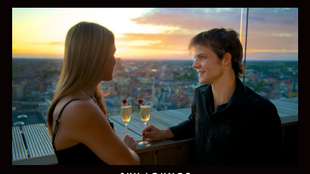
HET STADSMUS

On the corner of Guido Gezellestraat, you can find second hand store Hallelujah (63) . Designer clothing and objects are given a second life here.

GUFFENSLAAN

Continue along Guido Gezellestraat towards Guffenslaan. At Jürgen Eetboetiek (64) fresh daily products are converted into culinary masterpieces. Turn right onto Guffenslaan (Green Boulevard). See that high yellow pole with two cabinets to your right? That's the Sky Hive (65) , a special project with beehives in the city. Continue on Green Boulevard towards Capucienenstraat where you turn right.

The two towers you are walking towards are determining factors of the Hasselt skyline. One of these towers houses the elegant Radisson Blu Hotel. On the 19th floor, the Sky Lounge (66) offers a magnificent view of the entire city. A nice closure to retrace the route you have walked from above!


SKY LOUNGE

Did this route make you crave for more tastes of Hasselt? Then do not hesitate to explore this surprising provincial capital on your own!

For more information about the tourism and cultural offerings of Hasselt and the surrounding area, you can visit the website *www.visithasselt.be* or the office of Tourist Information Hasselt.

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MAP

START

TOURIST INFORMATION HASSELT
MAASTRICHTERSTRAAT 59
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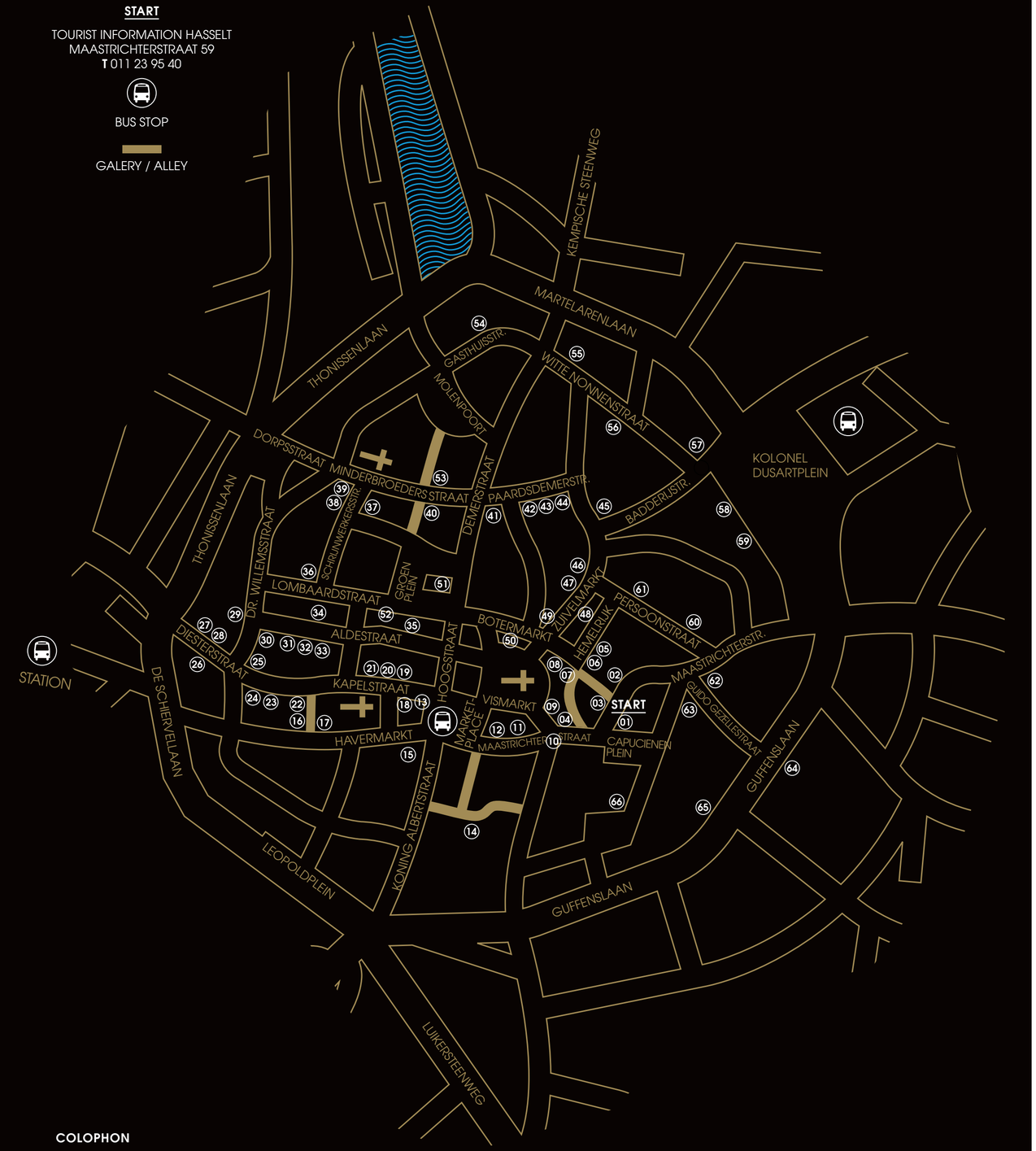
BUS STOP

GALERY / ALLEY



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