

WHEN TO COME TO GHENT



30 JUNE - 2 SEPTEMBER 2012

DOK BEACH AND MUSIC

Finally Ghent has its little piece of Berlin! Before all the lofts start coming in, some young Ghentish organizations got a huge part of the old harbour docks to do whatever they want, really: a fake beach, concerts in open air, a secondhand market every sunday of august & september, drive-in cinema each friday of september. Everybody is happy here, even the people selling the drink coupons. Just go.

www.dokgent.be

5 - 15 JULY 2012

GENT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Kind of a warmup to the big Ghent Festival, on the edge of town at the old Bijloke site. The festival always offers a mix of mainstream jazz (like Sonny Rollins), more experimental jazz (like Backback), and even jazzy pop (like Agnes Obel).

www.gentjazz.com

13 - 23 JULY 2012

10 DAYS OFF DANCE FESTIVAL

This is a ten-night techno festival that runs together with the Ghent Festival. Expect Belgian idols (like dr Lektroluv, Maxim Lany), and big international names (like Carl Craig, Richie Hawtin). Prices are much lower than what you would pay for the same names in Paris or New York.

www.10daysoff.be

14 - 23 JULY 2012

!!! THE GHENT FESTIVAL !!!

Ten days a year, Ghent is the centre of the world (at least, so we like to think ourselves). The whole historical city centre gets bulldozed by street theatre, concerts, alcohol and a few hundred thousand people. Almost everything is for FREE. The Ghent Festival is one of the craziest city festivals in Europe, and we're glad the millions of European tourists haven't found out yet. Once you've seen the sun rise on the party crowd after a night out, you probably will never want to miss it again.

TIP: During the Ghent Festival, finding a cheap bed really means trouble. Four solutions:

1) Go to the campsite (you cannot book in advance there during the festival).

2) Sleep in a Bruges hostel during the day, and come and party in Ghent at night. It's only about twenty minutes by train.

3) Try www.couchsurfing.org

4) Don't sleep.

www.gentsefeesten.be

1 - 15 AUGUST 2012

WARNING! WARNING! WARNING!

Don't come to Ghent in the first half of August! The whole town is asleep after the festival, and almost everything is closed (except for the museums and one or two bars).

9 - 20 OCTOBER 2012

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The biggest film festival in Belgium. Twelve days, five cinemas, hundreds of movies: new and old, normal and bizarre, commercial and arthouse. The glitter and glamour of our prizes doesn't compare to the Palme d'Or in Cannes or the Golden Lion in Venice, so don't come if you're a starfucker. /// www.filmfestival.be

10 NOVEMBER 2012

I LOVE TECHNO

This one-night techno festival really turns Ghent upside down. The crowds come in full trains and buses, and they are yelling like crazy even before the party has started. Every year, tickets and vodka Red Bulls become more expensive, but we don't mind. The good thing is: everybody wants their money's worth, so dancing starts immediately. Always an impressive line-up: check the site.

www.ilovetechno.be