

WHEN TO COME TO GHENT



8 > 18 JULY 2010

GENT JAZZ FESTIVAL

Kind of a warmup to the big Ghent Festival. Gent Jazz offers a mix of mainstream jazz (Toots Thielemans), fusion (Chick Corea), warm exotica (Gilberto Gil and Cinematic Orchestra), more experimental jazz (Ornette Coleman), soul (Gil Scott-Heron), ska (Madness) and even pop (Norah Jones).

www.gentjazz.com

16 > 26 JULY 2010

10 DAYS OFF DANCE FESTIVAL

What's in a name? This is an eleven-night techno festival on the edge of the Ghent Festival. Dj's include Belgian idols (like Hermanos Inglesos, Ultravid, dr Lektroluv and Murdock), but big names (like Benga, Joy Orbison, Felix The Housecat and Hot Chip dj's) also come over. Prices are much lower than what you would pay for the same names in Paris or New York. www.10daysoff.be

17 > 26 JULY 2010

!!! 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

AUGUST 2010

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).

12 > 23 OCTOBER 2010

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

13 NOVEMBER 2010

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