



13 MAY 2012

HANSWIJK HOLY PROCESSION

Long, long ago, somewhere early in the Middle Ages... A boat got stuck on the river Dijle in Mechelen, and it could only be released when a statue of the virgin Mary was removed from the boat. It was clear to everybody: Mary wanted to stay in Mechelen! This miracle is still celebrated with a Holy Procession every year, with local schoolkids and adults dressing up like Jesus, the devils and the saints. Don't expect spectacular self-torture like in South-America, but just a very local traditional thing. Good moment to sniff the Mechelaars!

Free / www.hanswijkprocessie.org

24 JUNE 2012

OTTERTROTTER FESTIVAL

If you're in Mechelen on the last Sunday of June, also check a multicultural fiesta in the Tivolipark, just outside the city centre: Ottertrotter. Expect the usual improvisation with exotic food, Moroccan mint tea, sitar sounds, and weird stuff like a workshop in hawk training or a flamenco guitarist called Mark Sinatra.

Free / Exact date to be confirmed
www.ottertrotterfestival.be

28 JUNE > 1 JULY 2012

DIJLEFEESTEN OUTDOOR MUSIC

The organizers of the Dijlefeesten have one principle: no famous bands please. To keep this festival small and cosy, only the more unknown indie bands come to play. Last year they had Avi Buffalo, The Heavy and She Keeps Bees and from Belgium: Flying Horseman. The festival partly happens on the water, partly on an old square, and partly in a futuristically renovated brewery. Good vibes, and you'll be the only tourist around.

Free.
www.dijlefeesten.be

JULY AND AUGUST 2012

(exact dates to be confirmed)

"MAKE A FISH" OPEN AIR CONCERTS

Mechelaars really don't need any excuse to visit the Vismarkt. Everyone is in the bars on the square, always. On sunny summerdays, it's even more fun. On these three wednesday evenings, there's a free concert going on. But it's more about being at the Vismarkt than about the music, actually.

EVERY THURSDAY IN JULY AND AUGUST 2012

PARKPOP

Well, what do you think Parkpop means? Park? Check. Pop? Check. The bands are mainly local heroes and some coverbands, but we don't come here for the music. It's just where everybody hangs out in the late summer sun, to have some beers and shout every five minutes "Hey! I haven't seen you for ages!"

Free, Thursday from 20.30 to 23.00
www.parkpop.be

25-26 AUGUST 2012

MAANROCK MUSIC FESTIVAL

The central square in Mechelen (Grote Markt) has been recently renovated and they made a big improvement: they put springs under the ground to make the surface elastic. So now it's festival-proof and we can all jump as hard as we can without damaging the surrounding old houses. The main event here is Maanrock: two days of free outdoor music, from coverbands over eurodance to the bigger names in the Flemish alternative music scene. Last year's line up included Broken Glass Heroes, Gabriel Rios, The Scene, The Clement Peerens Explosion, Milk Inc and Drums Are For Parades. Also on two other squares in Mechelen.

Free / www.maanrock.be / bands to be confirmed