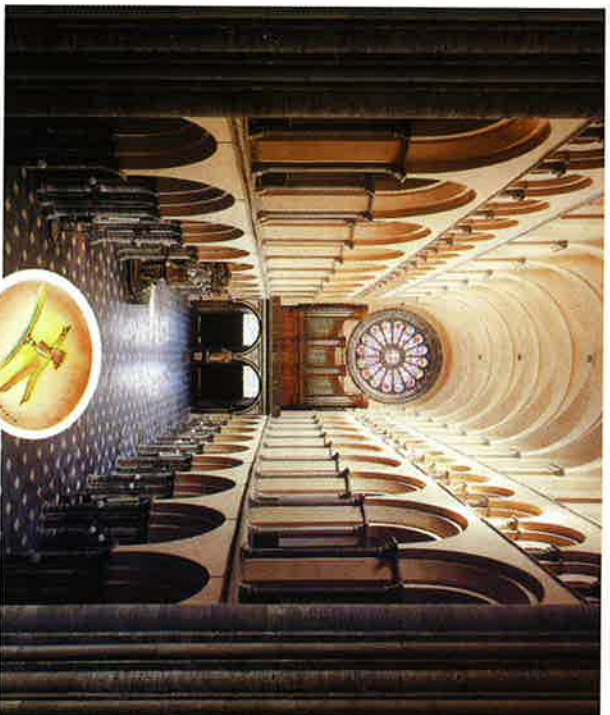


OFFICE DU TOURISME

Package N°8



St Gertrude's Collegiate Church and  
the Cathedral of Our Lady, Tournai



**PRACTICAL INFORMATION :**

**The price includes :** Reception (coffee), guided tour of the Collegiate Church, meal, visit to the Cathedral of Our Lady, Tournaï, services of guide(s).

**Meal :** Starter, main course, dessert - Drinks NOT included

**Languages :** Fr, Nl, En, De.

**Min. 25, max. 50 people.**

**Reservation essential :** 30% down-payment required at time of reservation. Balance to be paid no later than one week before visit. No refund for cancellations made within the week preceding the visit.

**Contact :** Tél.: +32(0)67 84 08 64 - Fax.: +32(0)67 21 57 13

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Ville de  
Nivelles



## ST GERTRUDE'S COLLEGIATE CHURCH

The town sprang up around the noble abbey founded at the dawn of Christian evangelisation in this country, and, a rare thing in Europe, consisting of a double community, ruled by women.



The exceptional architectural record includes the

romanesque church of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, an archaeological basement, crypt, cloister, westwork and treasures from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Under the Carolingians,

it became an imperial abbey, and later, part of the pilgrim route to Compostella. The St Jacques district, at the feet of the church, is a witness to this pilgrimage. From 646 and the first Merovingian church, to the present, 1350 years of architectural history can be traced. The church is built in the Ottonian style of the great monuments of the Holy Roman Empire : Early Romanesque for the 11<sup>th</sup> century construction, and Late Romanesque for the exceptional westwork of the late 12<sup>th</sup>, which is complete and very rare. The ground-plan with a choir at each end is in the Carolingian tradition.

The westwork features no less than 8 cupolas : this is unique in Belgium and emphasises the imperial nature of the foundation.

## CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY, TOURNAI

(classified UNESCO World Heritage Site)

The Cathedral of Our Lady in Tournai is one of the great masterpieces of western mediaeval architecture. It was constructed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century on the site of several more ancient churches, a project enabled by the surge in economic growth of the town at that time.

The Romanesque-style structure is surmounted by no less than five towers, stabilising this enormous block of masonry which has both Norman and Rhenish stylistic influences. Less than a century later, the cathedral was modified when a Gothic-style choir was added . As well as fine architecture, there is much to be seen in the way of decorative objects and furnishings: the side entrances are embellished with Romanesque carvings and a rood-screen by Corneille Devriendt (1572) is preserved.

The museum in the Treasure Room is of exceptional interest, housing as it does such pieces of major importance as the two great shrines of Our Lady and St Eleuthere, precious objects of ivory, of gold and an Arras tapestry dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century....

Since 1999, major restoration and stabilisation works have been underway which have enabled archaeological investigations to take place, revealing burials from the 11<sup>th</sup> century .

