

EUROPEAN MARITIME PILOTS' ASSOCIATION



60th

EMPA

GENERAL MEETING | GHENT | 2026

"NAVIGATING THE PAST, STEERING THE FUTURE"

14/04/26 - 15/04/26

QUICK INFORMATION GUIDE

GM Venue:
NH Collection Ghent
Hoogpoort 63, 9000 Ghent

EMPA



About Ghent

All information on:

visitgent

<https://visit.gent.be/en>



As soon as you walk through Ghent's city centre, you will understand why Ghent is also internationally popular and gets so much praise as a tourist city. Nowhere else will you flash so quickly from the 14th to the 21st century (and back!).

- Ghent has had a port since the Middle Ages. The old port was located in the city centre at the Gras- and Korenlei. In the 19th century, port activities moved to the north of Ghent.
- The port of Ghent is part of North Sea port which is the 60-kilometre-long cross-border port area that stretches from Flushing on the North Sea coast in the Netherlands, some 32 kilometres inland to Ghent in Belgium.
- Main port for 46 Flemish Canal Pilots

We are delighted to host our General Meeting at NH Collection Gent, ideally situated in the heart of Ghent's historic centre. Just steps away from landmarks such as St Bavo's Cathedral, the impressive Gravensteen, and the iconic Belfry of Ghent, the setting perfectly reflects the importance of our gathering.

The hotel offers 174 recently renovated rooms, combining contemporary comfort with elegant surroundings, as well as excellent facilities including a fitness centre, sauna and inviting indoor terrace.

Lunch will be served at Spinner, the hotel's stylish restaurant. Guests can also enjoy the welcoming atmosphere of Grand Café Van Artevelde, renowned for its fine selection of Belgian beers and delightful outdoor patio.

With its modern meeting facilities, historic character, central location and dedicated event support, NH Collection Gent provides an inspiring and fitting venue for our General Meeting.



The venue





NH COLLECTION

GENT



HOOGPOORT 63, 9000 GHENT

HOW TO GET THERE



BY TRAIN TO GHENT



Take one of the regular direct trains to Gent-Sint-Pieters, the main railway station in Ghent. To travel from Brussels Airport to Ghent, take the direct train from the airport railway station (located on level -1 of the terminal).

FROM THE STATION TO HOTEL BY TAXI

The most convenient option is to book in advance via Bolt or Uber.

Tip: download the app beforehand so you can request a ride immediately upon arrival.

Download the apps here:

- Bolt — <https://bolt.eu/en/>
- Uber — <https://www.uber.com/app>

The price for a short trip is usually between €7 and €12.

FROM STATION TO HOTEL BY TRAM



- Tram 1 stops are just outside the main station entrance, on the forecourt in front of the station.
- Look for the signs for “De Lijn” trams and the platform marked for Tram 1 towards Wondelgem.
- There are usually electronic display boards showing the next departures.
- How to pay: Buy a single ticket via the De Lijn app or at the ticket machine at the tram stop and validate before boarding.

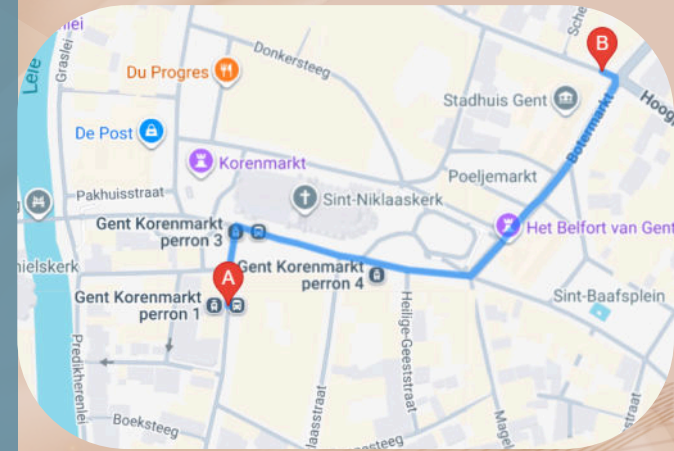
- 1.Exit Gent-Sint-Pieters station to the forecourt and look for Tram 1 towards Wondelgem.
- 2.Board Tram 1 and get off at Korenmarkt.
- 3.Walk 5 minutes to NH Collection Gent.

THE WALK FROM THE TRAM TO THE HOTEL

From Gent Korenmarkt, walk east toward Cataloniëstraat. Continue straight onto Emile Braunplein and follow the square past Belfort van Gent. Then turn left onto Botermarkt and continue onto Hoogpoort.

The hotel NH Collection Gent is located at Hoogpoort 63, just a short walk from the Belfry.

Walking time: approximately 5 minutes (350–400 m).



visitgent

<https://visit.gent.be/en>

Trains – NMBS:

Check timetables & buy tickets:

belgiantrain.be

Buses & Trams – De Lijn

Plan routes & see departures:

delijn.be/en





BY CAR

LOW EMISSION ZONE IN GHENT

REGISTER YOUR CAR AND AVOID A FINE

The hotel parking is located within the city's low emission zone. To avoid a fine of €150, check your vehicle on

<https://visit.gent.be/en/low-emission-zone-ghent>

Enter your vehicle's number plate and date of first registration. Depending on the result, you can then register your vehicle free of charge or buy a permit or day pass.

If your car is allowed to enter the city centre but you do not have a Belgian or Dutch number plate, you should ALWAYS register it!



You recognise the LEZ by these signs

HOW TO GET THERE

The hotel is located in a car-free zone (Hoogpoort), but our underground car park is accessible via Onderstraat.

Access to Hoogpoort is not permitted.

The hotel's GPS Coordinates:

51.054749°N 3.725495°E

Adres entrance underground car park:

Onderstraat, 9000 Ghent

Parking is immediately on the left when entering the street.

Do not drive further to avoid fines.

When exiting the garage, keep right immediately.



HOTEL PARKING

120 parking spaces available in the hotel car park at € 30/24H for residents € 60/24h for non residents Parking spaces cannot be reserved in advance.



NEARBY CAR PARK

4 minutes on foot from the hotel.

632 parking spaces available
MAX €31- 34/24h
Parking spaces cannot be reserved in advance.

PARKING VRIJDAGSMARKT
Vrijdagmarkt 1, 9000 Gent



**MONDAY 13 APRIL 2026
AT 19:00 HOURS**

**RECEPTION & WELCOME DINNER
in our venue hotel NH Collection Ghent
"13th-century Denys Medieval Crypt"**



Hoogpoort 63, 9000 Ghent

**THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2026
AT 19:30 HOURS**

**Dinner in "d'oude vismijn"
"EAU'rangerie"**



We are pleased to invite you to our prestige dinner at D'Oude Vismijn, located in the heart of historic Ghent. This iconic marketplace, one of the oldest in the city, offers an unique setting for an unforgettable evening.



From NH Collection Gent, turn right onto Hoogpoort and continue via Groentenmarkt, Kleine Vismarkt and Geldmunt. The venue is located at Veerleplein, opposite Gravensteen (approximately 5 minutes on foot).



Sint-Veerleplein 5, 9000 Gent





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3 HORIZON



TRENZ

Baltic Workboats

shipyard ABEKING & RASMUSSEN



Navicom Dynamics

Innovate | Integrate | Communicate

