



ETN Field trip Belgium / North France For ETN members only!

29. May – 1. June 2024

Let's go to the blue fields!

Our first ETN field trip takes us to the historic regions of Flanders (Belgium) and Normandy (France), a larger area known for centuries for its flax and linen culture. In Flanders, we will visit exciting weaving mills, an innovative design studio and unique museums. A short detour into the world of tapestry is planned (while we're at it!). In northern France, the production chain in flax cultivation and processing has been maintained and innovatively developed, which is unique in Europe on this scale. Let's hope for fields full of blue blossoms! The complete flax cycle will be impressively shown and explained to us. The organic cultivation of flax and hemp will also be highlighted. Finally, we allow ourselves to be enchanted at the lace museum in Calais.

Our journey begins and ends in Ghent. From there we will take a comfortable travel bus that will take us to our destinations. The hotels for the three nights (from 29.05. until 01.06.) on our tour will be booked by ETN and are included in the package price. The first and last night in Ghent are not included and members are asked to book their accommodation, if necessary, on their own.

On our trip, we are very happy to be joined by our guide, Marie Anne Van der Plaetsen, a Belgian textile entrepreneur who works for B&T Textiles and knows the textile scene in Belgium inside out.

PROGRAMME (Subject to changes)

Tuesday 28 May: arrival in Gent

Some recommendations for accommodations in Ghent, which you will have to book yourself.

- Post Hotel: single: 119 €, double: 129 €, including breakfast, <https://parkhotelgent.be/en>
- B&B Verhaeghe: double rooms from 204 to 260 €, <https://www.theverhaegen.com/>
- The boatel: single: 99-119 €, double: 129 – 149 €, including breakfast, <https://www.theboatel.com>

Wednesday 29 May: Start of our Tour // Ghent – Waarschoot- Kortrijk

09:00 – 10:00 Registration at the Foyer of the Industrie Museum

10:00 – 12:00 **Industrie Museum Gent**, guided tour (price included)

The Museum is located in an impressive old cotton mill in the centre of Ghent. It hosts three permanent exhibitions which bring the industrial past back to life. During a guided tour we will learn about the history of the textile city Ghent and will see old machineries running.

<https://www.industriemuseum.be/en>

12:00 individual lunch in the museum cafeteria or somewhere close to the museum (price NOT included)

13:15 travel to Waarschoot (driving time appr. 40 min)

14:00 – 15:30 **B&T Textilia**, jacquard and dobby weaving mill, guided tour (price included), possibility to buy fabrics.

B&T Textilia produces high-end fabrics made in Belgium and crafted from the best weaving yarns produced primarily in Belgium, France, Italy and Peru. They work a lot with natural materials, such as alpaca, mohair, wool, cotton, Belgian linen, silk and cashmere. Our guide Marianne Van der Plaetsen will guide us through the company she is working for.

<https://btextilia.com/en>

15:30 travel to Kortrijk (driving time 1 hour)

16:30 Check in at the hotel IBIS (price included)

<https://all.accor.com/hotel/6330/index.de.shtml>

17:15 the bus brings us to the Kortrijk Flax Museum

17:30 **Kortrijk Flax Museum** individual visit and dinner (price included)

The history of the Kortrijk Flax museum goes back to the 1960s. Until this time, the flax industry was the most important economic activity in the south of West-Flanders. They have a huge collection of work tools, laces and linen. Since 2009 the museum has been re-profiled and relocated in the city of Kortrijk. After being closed for two years, the museum reopened its doors in 2014 and was named Texture.

<https://www.texturekortrijk.be/en/>

Everything is explained very well in the museum, so we will not have a guided tour. Everyone can explore the exhibition individually in the own speed.

In the museum there is a restaurant, called the Damast-Café where we can have our dinner until 19:00. (price NOT included)

The museum closes at 22:00. It is 15 min walk to the hotel, so everyone can leave when he/she wants.

Thursday 30 May: Kortrijk – Ingelmunster – Tournai

08:30 travel to Ingelmunster (driving time 20 min)

09:00 – 11:00 **Deltracon**, weaving and trimming mill, mainly linen
guided tour (price included) + possibility to buy fabrics and yarns

Deltracon is a family-owned weaving mill of high-end linen fabrics, founded in 1990. They produce jacquard and dobby fabrics and embroidered textiles for sheers, drapery, upholstery and wallcovering. In 2009 they also took over a Belgian trimming company and renamed it Flanders' Trimmings. This company produces high quality trimmings & tiebacks/tassels.

<https://www.deltracon.be/>

11:00 – 11:45 travel to Tournai (driving time appr. 40 min)

12:00 Check in at the hotel Alcantara (price included)

<https://www.hotelalcantara.be/>

Individual lunch near or at the hotel (price NOT included)

13:30 – 15:00 **Crecit** – restauration manufacture - guided tour (price included)

CRECIT (Center for Research, Testing and Scientific and Technical Controls for the Textile Industry), is a non-profit organization, focused on conservation, restoration and cleaning of old tapestries and historic flags, as well as on the production of contemporary tapestries.

<http://www.crecit.com/>

15:30 – 17:00 **TAMAT- Museum of Tapestry and Textile Arts of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation**
– guided tour (price included)

TAMAT is located in the heart of Tournai and exhibits tapestries and textile art. The museum preserves, studies, enriches and promotes more than five centuries of textile heritage thanks to an innovative museum policy and strong and dynamic public action. For 40 years, TAMAT has also been supporting artists from all over the world through its Fellowship Programme and hosting them in its studios.

<https://tamat.be/>

17:00 – 19:30 free time and individual dinner at the town centre of Tournai (price NOT included)

19:30 **Daniel Henry Studio** (price included)

The Daniel Henry Studio is a research and development laboratory and a textile producing workshop. It is well known for its innovation, mastery of a cross-section of techniques and its work in transforming materials.

<http://danielhenry.eu/>

The studio is close to the hotel, so everyone can leave when he/she wants.

Friday 31 May: Tournai – Béthune – St Valery en Caux

- 8:00 travel travel to Béthune (1h 15 min drive)
- 9:30 – 11:00 **Safilin**, linen and hemp spinning company, guided tour (Olivier Guillaume) (price included)
- Safilin is a family-owned company, located in the heart of a traditional linen areas in the North of France, concentrating on spinning and weaving linen. As part of the European expansion, Safilin started operating in Poland. In 2022 they brought parts of the production back to France and opened a new linen spinning factory in Béthune, in the Hauts de France region, historic cradle of the company.*
- <https://www.safilin.fr/?lang=en>
- 11:00 – 14:00 travel to St Pierre le Viger (driving time appr. 3h), short stop on the road for light lunch (price NOT included)
- 14:30 **Terre de Lin**, visit and guided tour (Anne Nizery) (price included)
- Terre de Lin is a cooperative specialized in the cultivation and the converting of textile flax/linen from the seeds to the fiber. The 600 adherent farmers and 220 employees share the same passion for flax, they are committed to quality flax/linen and to innovation. Terre de Lin is based in the Upper Normandy area, unique terroir for the world production of quality textile flax/linen. The cooperative represents 15% of the world quality flax production. It is a major actor of the flax/linen textile supply chain upstream.*
- <https://www.terredelin.com>
- in the evening: travel to St Valery en Caux (travel time appr. 20 min)
- Check in at Hotel du Casino (price included)
<https://www.hotel-casino-saintvalery.com/en/>
- 19:00 **dinner** (price NOT included) **and talk with Catherine Sauvage**, organizer of the Festival du Lin

Saturday 1 June: St Valery en Caux – Saint-Vaast-Dieppedalle – Calais- Gent

9:00 – 9:30 travel to Saint-Vaast-Dieppedalle (driving time appr. 20 min)

9:30 – 11:00 **visit of one of the organic farms of Lin et Chanvre Bio** (price included)

The Flax and Hemp Bio association was founded in June 2013 on the initiative of producers and processors of organic flax and hemp. Members include organic farmers, textile processing companies and people from civil society who support the project. We visit a farmer and find out more about this initiative.

<https://linetchanvrebio.org>

11:00 – 14:00 travel along the coast to Calais (driving time appr. 2h 45 min), little stop for lunch (price NOT included)

14:30 – 16:00 **Lace Museum Calais** (price included)

The Museum of Lace and Fashion, located in the Saint Pierre district of Calais, is an international landmark that traces the evolution of the lace industry, rooted in the history of the city. This industrial site, in operation until 2000, is one of the last proof of the “collective” factories in Calais.

<https://www.cite-dentelle.fr/en/home>

16:30 travel to Ghent (driving time appr. 2h)

18:00 **back in Ghent**



Our guide:

Marie-Anne Van der Plaetsen is a Belgian textile lover. In her youth she worked in a shop that specialized in hand-woven Indian textiles and traveled through India several times for this purpose. She worked for the Belgian weaver Martine Gyselbrecht, for Solbiati and several other larger Belgian weaving mills. She is currently employed at BT Textilia, where she is in the process of setting up a textile laboratory.

Overview of the Route



[Click here for the interactive map](#)

REGISTRATION DETAILS

Maximum number of participants: 30 people

Cost:

Flat rate with single room: 820 € per person

Flat rate with double room: 690 € per person

Included in the price:

- all entrance fees and guided tours
- tour bus
- 3 nights in the tour hotels selected by ETN, including breakfast

not included in the price:

- hotel in Ghent
- food, except breakfast

How to proceed

To register, please follow the link below or scan the QR code and fill in the registration form. Please do not pay in advance but wait for our invoice, which we will send you at a later date by email to the email address stored in your ETN profile. Your registration is only considered final once payment has been received.

As soon as we will have sent you the invoice, the following cancellation regulations apply:

Cancellation by January 31. 2024- we will retain 20% of the invoice amount as a cancellation fee.

Cancellation by February 28. 2024- 50% cancellation fee.

Cancellation by April 31. 2024- 80% cancellation fee.

If you have to cancel your participation after April 31. 2024, we will unfortunately have to withhold the entire invoice amount.

REGISTRATION: <https://etn-net.org/2024-belgium-north-france.html>

