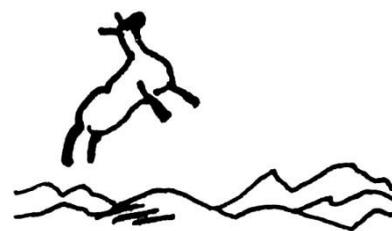


Advancing animal welfare science: How do we get there? – Who is it good for?

UFAW International Symposium 2019

3rd-4th July 2019

Site Oud Sint-Jan, Bruges, Belgium



Venue:

Site Oud Sint-Jan
Zonnekemeers 18
Bruges 8000
Belgium



Bruges

The symposium is being held in the UNESCO world heritage city of Bruges, Belgium. [Bruges](#), located in the north-west of Belgium, is one of the most well-preserved medieval towns in Europe and because of the number of its canals is sometimes referred to as the Venice of the North. Indeed the name Bruges is a derivative of an old-German word 'brugj' which means 'mooring place'.

From the 11th century the city was a prosperous trading metropolis and, as the main fortified residence of the counts of Flanders, a seat of political power. The most important trade centre in North West Europe over the next few centuries Bruges was also the site for the world's first ever stock exchange – the Beurs/Bourse. At the height of its prosperity and influence in the 15th century, famous painters such as [Jan van Eyck](#) and [Hans Memling](#) were attracted to the city to work for the Burgundian court. Buildings such as the city hall were built at this time. The first book in English ever printed was also published in Bruges at this time, by [William Caxton](#).

With the loss of the court and the increasing dominance of Antwerp and its port, Bruges experienced a long period of declining fortunes, although lace making flourished from the 17th century. The late 19th century saw Bruges become a popular destination for French and British tourists – and the development of nearby Zeebrugge (literally Bruges on Sea) as an important port. In 2009 UNESCO added the medieval city centre to its World Heritage list.

A guide to Bruges can be downloaded [here](#).

Symposium venue: Site Oud Sint-Jan

The venue for the symposium is Site Oud Sint-Jan, which forms part of a complex of buildings that include the 12th century medieval Hospital of St John ([Oud Sint-Janshospitaal](#)), one of Europe's oldest surviving hospital buildings. Other parts of the former hospital complex include the Hans Memling museum, where a number of the artist's works are displayed-as well as hospital records, medical instruments and other works of art.

- **Information about the Hospital of St John**

Saint John's Hospital has an eight hundred-year-old history of caring for pilgrims, travellers, the poor and the sick. Visit the medieval wards where the nuns and monks performed their work of mercy, as well as the chapel, and marvel at the impressive collection of archives, art works,



medical instruments and six paintings by Hans Memling. Also worth a visit: the Diksmuide attic, the old dormitory, the adjoining custodian's room and the pharmacy.

Sint-Janshospitaal is one of the oldest preserved hospital buildings in Europe. In the museum, you can learn more about hospital life in the past and how the wards would have looked then. The building's supporting framework is also unique and is one of the oldest and largest in Europe. In the hospital chapel, the focus is all on the work of the most famous of the Flemish Primitives: Hans Memling. This painter lived and worked in Bruges in the 15th century and created his most important masterpieces here, including the famous [Shrine of St Ursula](#), which was painted specifically for Sint-Janshospitaal.

History

The old infirmary took patients in from the 12th to the middle of the 19th century. Initially anyone in need of food or a bed could come here. The nuns, however, had limited medical knowledge and devoted themselves mainly to the care of the soul.

Museum

The nuns owned unique artistic treasures that they exhibited for the first time in 1839 in the chapter house. The museum is now located in the old infirmary. The fact that the art objects are so closely connected to the location and its former inhabitants lends the museum an added value. Furthermore, many objects were specially commissioned by the hospital community and depict the patrons.

Collection

Sint-Janshospitaal owns six masterpieces by the Flemish primitive artist [Hans Memling](#), as well as many religious paintings and sculptures. Objects of applied art, such as furniture, silverwork, medical instruments, reliquaries, archive documents, and apothecary pots reflect 800 years of care.



Other sites:

Most of the medieval architecture in Bruges has survived, making it one of the best preserved medieval towns in Europe.

Notable buildings include:

- [City Hall](#) – Constructed in the 14th century and one of the oldest city halls in [The Low Countries](#).
- The [Church of Our Lady](#), which is one of the world's highest brick towers/buildings. It houses [Michelangelo's](#) sculpture [Madonna and Child](#), believed to be the only of Michelangelo's sculptures to have left Italy within his lifetime.
- [The Belfry](#), a 13th century bell tower and one of Bruges' most famous landmarks.
- The 12th century [Basilica of the Holy Blood](#). This houses a relic of the [Holy Blood](#), allegedly collected by [Joseph of Arimathea](#) and brought to the city after the [Second Crusade](#) by [Thierry of Alsace](#).
- With parts dating back to the 9th century, the [Saint Salvator's Cathedral](#) is the main church of Bruges.
- The [Groeningemuseum](#), a modern museum which houses an extensive collection of medieval and early modern art, including Hans Memling, Jan van Eyck, [Hieronymus Bosch](#) and other [Flemish Primitives](#).
- The [Béguinage](#) - a housing complex built to house [beguines](#), lay religious women who lived in community without taking vows or retiring from the world.

A map of Bruges can be downloaded [here](#)

Other attractions:

- [Exploring Bruges' canals](#).
You can board at any of five landing stages for a half-hour [boat trip](#) around the canals. The boats run daily from 10.00am-6.00pm (last departure at 5.30 p.m.). The cost for a trip is € 8.00.
Alternatively, you can walk along the inner canals. Starting at Zand Square and finishing at the Bonifacius bridge near Church of Our Lady this 2.8 km walk, will take you past many of the best sites of Bruges.

Maps of other walks around Bruges can be found [here](#)

- [The Lace Museum](#)

- Shopping.
The most important shopping streets run between the Market Square and the old city gates: Steenstraat, Simon Stevinplein, Mariastraat, Zuidzandstraat, Sint-Jakobsstraat, Sint- Amandsstraat, Geldmuntstraat, Noordzandstraat, Smedenstraat, Vlamingstraat, Philipstockstraat, Academiestraat, Hoogstraat, Langestraat and the Katelijnestraat. Each street has its own character, eg The Steenstraat, features many of the major chain stores, the Langestraat has many little second-hand and bric a brac shops.

Evening receptions

A reception will be held at the [De Halve Maan](#) brewery on the evening of the 3rd July, when delegates (and partners who have booked) will be able to sample some of their beers.

There will also be a reception at Bruges' gothic City Hall the evening before the symposium, 2nd July, for delegates who arrive early, where delegates will be welcomed by a City Alderman. Places for this are free but limited and will be allocated on a first come basis.

Accommodation

We have arranged a range of different accommodation in Bruges, to suit all budgets. Click on this [link](#) for further details.

Alternatively, delegates can find their own accommodation. Search for '[hotels Bruges](#)'.