

Antwerp Route (25 kilometers)

Description

This trail takes you past castles, fortresses and parks across the south edge of the city of Antwerp.

The starting point is in Hoboken's **Sorghvliedt Park (1)**. Visit the rococo-style Districthuis, and Sorghvliedt castle, where people are said to "leave their troubles behind". Follow the alley that circles around Fort 8 until you arrive at **Klaverblad Castle (2)** in Hemiksen. The park is not accessible to the public. Ride on a farm road until you reach two farmhouses. One of them, "The Small Cloverleaf", was built in 1759 as an annex to the castle. Cross the groenenhoek district to arrive at **Cleydael Castle (3)**, a well-preserved citadel with four corner turrets that was built in 1331 on a natural island surrounded by the Grote Struysbeek.

Proceed toward Aartselaar. At the center of the village, be sure to stop by Saint Leonardo's Church. Built in 1841, it houses a reliquary containing Saint Leonardo's right arm. Follow baron Van Ertbonstraat until you see **Solhof Castle (4)** in a small park. Once the seat of a seigneurial estate, it is now a hotel. The surrounding moat and century-old trees form a picturesque setting. Also noteworthy is the cellar built in a small hill where ice was stored until summer. Follow Groeningendreef alley, and you'll reach **Terlinden Castle (5)**, built in 1773 in the classical style.

You're now riding toward Wilrijk. Behind Saint-Bavo Church, you'll arrive at **Steytelick Park (6)**, on your way back to Hoboken. Stop by the memorial cemetery built on the grounds of old estate **Schoonselhof Domein (7)**. Its imposing buildings and burial grounds are well worth a visit. Ride past Krijgsbaan and Broydenborglaan, and you'll arrive at Sorghvliedt Park's second entrance back in Hoboken.

Directions for the ride

The starting point is Sorghvliet Castle (Hoboken).

Turn right onto the main alley - Right onto Krijgsbaan - Stay on the bike path surrounding Fort 8 along Architecture Route -- Stay on the trail -- Cross Sint-Bernardsesteenweg -- Klaverbadd alley (follow Architecture Route) - At Groenendaalhoek, turn right -- Take Baksteenroute until Cleydaelaan -- Turn right -- Kleidaal Castle -- Turn left onto Zinkvalstraat (Architecture Route) -- Stay on the left until Antwerpsesteenweg -- Cross Leugstraat - Turn to the fourth street on your left -- Carillolei -- straight ahead -- Bear left at the church -- take Baron Van Ertbornstraat -- Right onto Kleistraat -- Turn left -- private path : Groeningelei -- First street on the right (Bakstenenroute) -- Left onto Kontichhof -- straight ahead -- Aartselaarstraat -- Right onto drie Eikenstraat -- straight ahead -- Cross Prins Boudewijnlaan -- Second left, Baron de Celleslaan -- Turn Right -- Terlindenlaan -- Straight ahead -- Left onto R. Keldermansstraat -- Right onto the bike trail surrounding Fort 5 -- Left onto Vestinglaan -- Left -- Parklaan -- Turn right -- Church square. Straight ahead -- Ir. Haesarts laan -- Take bicycle tunnel under E-19 -- Edegensesteenweg -- Turn right around Fort 6 -- Edegensesteenweg -- Dokter Donny square -- Alfons Wellenstgraat -- Arrive at Steytelinck Park.

The starting point is Steytelinck Park (Wilrijk)

Ride on Kerkhofstraat -- Left on Jules Moretuslei -- Proceed under viaduct A12 -- Pass Schoonselhof municipal cemetery -- Straight Ahead -- Krijgsbaan. Turn right onto Broydenborglaan -- Proceed ahead to Marneflaan. Arrive at the park.



Traduction done by P. Charpentier