

**1 UCO DESMET-GUEQUIER**  
 In 1905, the company Desmet-Guequier built a cotton mill modelled after the English factories, with a saw-tooth roof and enormous windows to let sunlight in. The halls were full of machines spinning the raw cotton into yarn. About one hundred workers were employed here until 1975. In 1982, the City of Ghent purchased the building and later turned it into the Museum of Industrial Archaeology and Textile (MIAT), the current Museum of Industry.



The Museum of Industry today. Photograph Corlazzoli, 2020



Textile worker at work. Photograph Robert Van de Putte, ca. 1970.

**2 VAN ACKER**  
 The oldest preserved remnant of the former Vanden Broecke-Grenier cotton factory, later Van Acker, is the remarkable square chimney from 1851. The spinning and weaving machines continued to run there until 1972. In 1982, the workshops gave way to social housing units. The machine house, boiler room, chimney, steam boiler and the adjacent building with saw-tooth roof are protected as a monument. Today, the building is the base of guide organisation Vizat.

**3 UCO DE HEMPTINNE**  
 In 1853, Jules de Hemptinne founded a Manchester-style spinning mill which was extended later on with a weaving mill. From the 1960s onward, numerous labour migrants from Turkey and North Africa found employment in Ghent's textile industry. In 1965, Faruk and Mehmet were the very first Turkish workers at UCO de Hemptinne. The factory continued in operation as part of the UCO group until 1983.



Photograph Gustaaf Van Damme, 1975.

**4 DE HEMPTINNE MANAGER'S HOUSE**  
 Jules de Hemptinne had a stately manager's house built next to his spinning mill around 1860. Little is left of the factory buildings on this site, but the manager's house with its neoclassical interior has been repurposed and listed as heritage.

**5 FLORIDA**  
 Originating from the merger of a cotton printing mill and a spinning mill in 1823, Florida developed into an important weaving mill. After the closure of the factory in 1950, Union Cotonnière (UCO) took over the complex to install the central warehouse and the technical services there. The buildings were sold in portions after 1990.

**6 LA LYS**  
 The machines of La Lys spun flax, jute and hemp into yarn between 1838 and 1960. This enormous factory occupied nearly the entire island in the river Lys and extended across the water with 'the little Lys' in 1864. After its demolition in the 1960s, the site became overgrown and was eventually turned into a public park in 2007.



Photograph from album of construction company Serck, 1937.

**7 FIÉVÉ / TOLLENAERE**  
 Around 1870, the Fiévé flax mill was founded in the Brugse Poort, one of the popular neighbourhoods that developed around the city centre in the 19th century. Later taken over by Tollenaere, the factory finally closed its doors in 1953 and was then used as a warehouse for a metalworks company.

**8 UCO ROOIGEM**  
 The UCO Rooigem cotton mill closed its doors in 1989, after more than 90 years of spinning and twisting. This imposing building, which was designed by Ghent architect Serafinus De Taeye, was repurposed in 1999 and converted into flats, shops and a gym.



Photograph Alexander Dumarey, 2020-2021.

**9 ALSBERGE-VAN OOST**  
 Founded in 1879 by Joseph Alsberge and Auguste Van Oost, this bleachery for linen fabrics developed into one of the most important of its kind and employed hundreds of workers. After its closure in 1978, it remained vacant and was vandalised for several decades. The factory has now been converted into flats, but the boiler room and engine room are still awaiting restoration.

**10 FILATURE DU RABOT**  
 Founded in 1899, Filature du Rabot was specialised in spinning and twisting jute. After the Second World War, the company grew considerably thanks to the acquisition of three nearby factories, but went bankrupt in 1999. After years of disuse, most of the buildings have made way for new build homes and open space.

**11 VERCOUTERE**  
 Around 1880, Théophile Vercoutere had a factory constructed that processed textile waste from spinning mills. A striking feature is the stately manager's house along the Nieuwevaart canal. After approximately 100 years of textile activities, the site was transformed into a business centre.

**12 FILATURE NOUVELLE ORLÉANS**  
 The La Nouvelle Orléans cotton mill and twine mill is characterised by cast iron columns, a steel frame and huge windows. A water tank for the fire-extinguishing system was installed on top of the square stair tower. After being taken over by UCO, the factory continued in operation until 1988. The site is currently owned by the City of Ghent and awaits repurposing.



Photograph Alexander Dumarey, 2020-2021.

**13 UCO E.J. BRAUN**  
 Located on Maïstraat, UCO opened this factory in 1949. It was one of the first factories constructed with prestressed concrete and is almost entirely made up of a single storey. After 1974, the factory's main activity was the production of denim. The closure of this last UCO factory in Ghent in 2009 marked the end of an era.



Factory hall with combing machines, preparation for spinning. Photograph Remy Bulters, ca. 1958-1970.



Photograph Alexander Dumarey, 2020-2021.



Photograph Charles Argy, 1978.



**14 UCO GALVESTON**  
 Named after a Texan cotton port, the UCO Galveston cotton mill processed bales of raw cotton into thread from 1910 to 1999. Designed by architect Emile De Weerd, the building currently accommodates several businesses and recreational facilities.



Oktay Sancak worked as a mechanic in UCO Galveston until 1994. Photograph Corlazzoli, 2021.

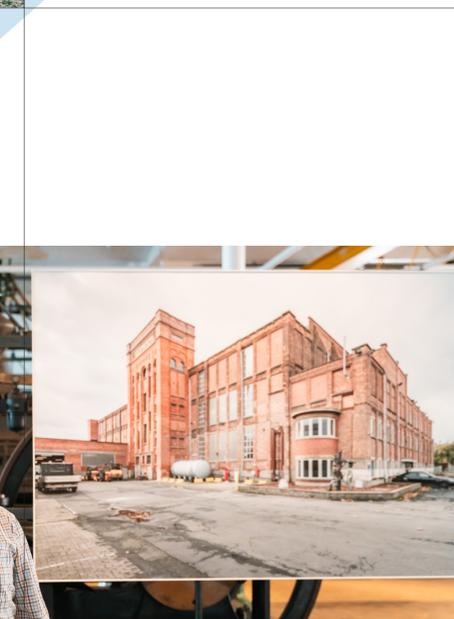


**15 COTTON WAREHOUSE**  
 The closed warehouses were constructed in the Voorhaven area between 1885 and 1892 to temporarily store raw materials for Ghent's textile factories. Nowadays, the harbour cranes, lockkeepers' homes and railway lines are left as reminders of the fact that the area used to be a hive of activity. Three listed warehouses have been converted into flats and offices.

**16 UNITED SPINNING AND WEAVING MILLS**  
 In addition to shops, pharmacies and bakeries, the socialist cooperative Vooruit managed this large cotton mill from the beginning of the 20th century. But the cooperative factories quite soon encountered financial difficulties, and the factory was taken over by Filatures Gantoises Réunies. The buildings accommodated the Gentse Meubelhallen in the 1970s and currently houses a furniture shop and sports shop.

**17 ACEC**  
 From 1861 onward, machine manufacturer Carels developed its activities on this large site and became a global leader in the industry. The company was acquired by electrical engineering firm ACEC in 1961. After a series of takeovers, the production site finally closed its doors in 2005. Behind the stately façade, there is currently a mix of offices, shops, flats and recreational facilities.

**18 WORKING-CLASS HOUSES ON BANDELIERSTRAAT**  
 In the 19th century, working-class neighbourhoods expanded rapidly, especially in Ghent. For many decades, factory workers lived in shabby cottages grouped around a courtyard or alley, often in miserable conditions. Many of these houses were demolished or renovated from the mid-20th century onwards.



**CAN'T GET ENOUGH?**  
 Pick up a free 'Traces of industrial Ghent' walking map from the Museum of Industry or the Visit Ghent tourist office and discover lots of heritage gems while strolling through the city centre.



Photograph Edmond Sacré, ca. 1900. Archief Gent



Photograph Alexander Dumarey, 2020-2021.

**ABOUT ALEXANDER DUMAREY**



In 2020 and 2021, Alexander Dumarey took new photographs of more than 70 Ghent textile factories whose pictures were already included in the Museum of Industry's collection. With the original black-and-white photographs in hand, Alexander Dumarey visited all sites and looked for the right perspective. Some pictures turned out to be impossible to reproduce due to various changes in the urban landscape, but he managed to capture other locations on film. The photographs are not just the starting point for the exhibition 'Alexander Dumarey, Cathedrals of industry' (April - September 2021) and the accompanying book, but also the central theme of this cycling tour.

www.alexanderdumarey.be



**CATHEDRALS OF INDUSTRY**  
 A CYCLING ROUTE ALONG GHENT'S FORMER TEXTILE FACTORIES  
 DISCOVER MORE ALONG THE WAY VIA THE HERITAGE APP  
 entire route: 17 km | shortened route: 9 km

Industrial heritage is trendy. Factory buildings, boiler rooms, machine rooms and warehouses are being repurposed nowadays. Despite such success stories, quite a few buildings are still being demolished. The preservation of industrial sites is often more sensitive and problematic than that of churches, castles or town houses. The value of a factory is not always clear from the building's aesthetic or architectural characteristics. It reveals itself subtly in the stories told by those who used to work there, in the products that were manufactured between the brick walls and cast-iron columns, and in the oil stains that serve as silent witnesses on the worn-out floors.

Hop on your bike and discover these gigantic gems from Ghent's glorious industrial past. Discover the cathedrals of industry.

**DISCOVER MORE WITH THE HERITAGE APP**



Use the Heritage App to access a great deal of extra background information from the Museum of Industry's collection, ranging from photographs and drawings to testimonies from former employees and fascinating objects that will immerse you in the world of Ghent's textile industry.




Install the free Heritage App on your smartphone via the App Store or Google Play Store.

Open the app, click the compass symbol and download the 'Cathedrals of industry' tour before starting your bike ride.

Along the way, you can use the app to access extra content about each site indicated on the map.

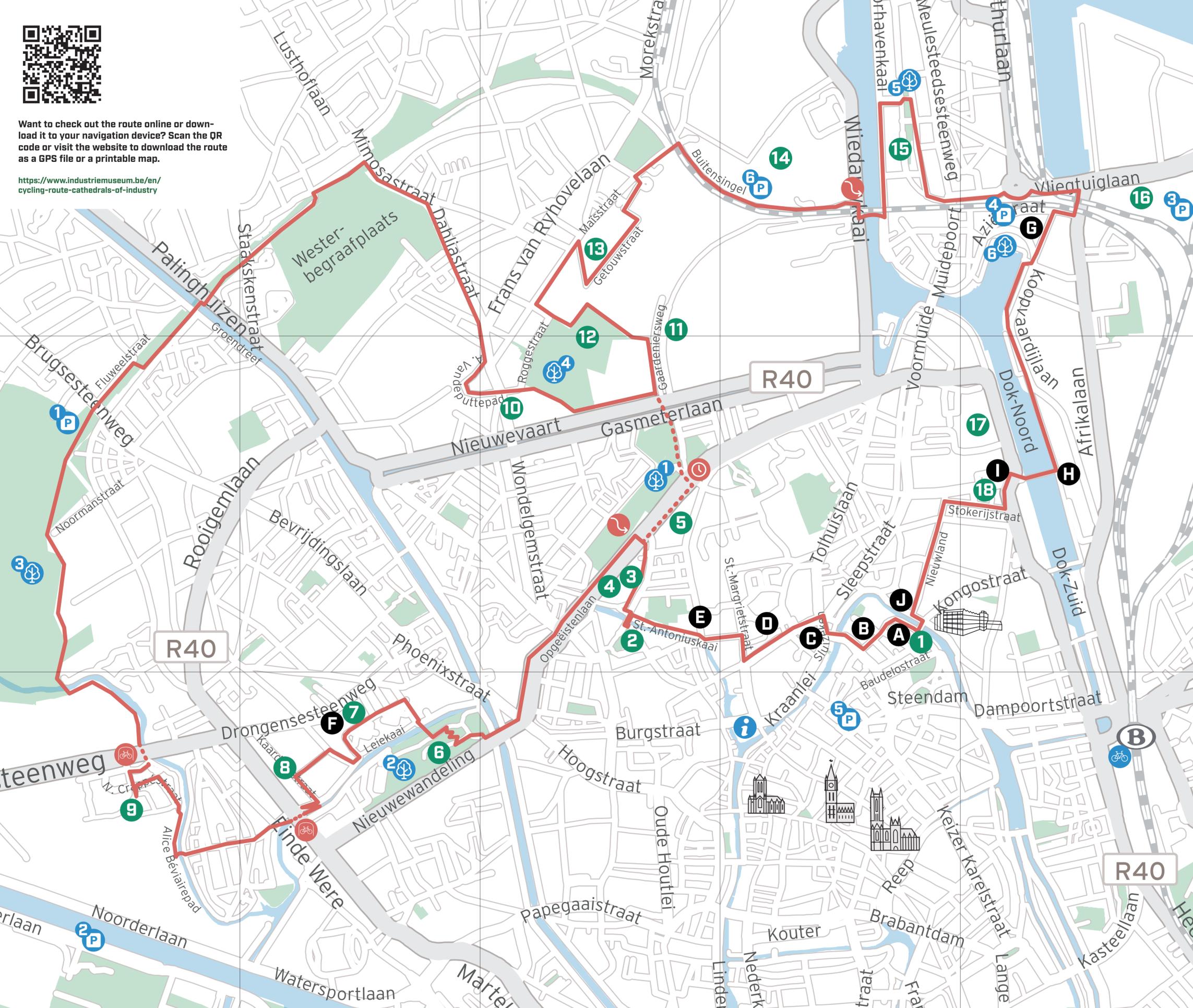
Taking your kids along? The app features game elements that make the tour even more fun.





Want to check out the route online or download it to your navigation device? Scan the QR code or visit the website to download the route as a GPS file or a printable map.

<https://www.industriemuseum.be/en/cycling-route-cathedrals-of-industry>



**LEGEND**

- Route
- Inquiry desk Visit Gent (Sint-Veerleplein 5) [www.visit.gent/en](http://www.visit.gent/en) | +32 9 266 56 60
- Gent-Dampoort train station
- Bike point Gent-Dampoort (Oktrooiplein 10) bicycle rental and repair [www.defietsambassade.gent](http://www.defietsambassade.gent) | +32 9 266 77 00
- Rabotpark
- Groenevalleipark
- Bourgoyen-Ossemeersen
- Bloemkenspark
- Voorhavenpark
- Kapitein Zeppospark
- P+R Bourgoyen
- P+R Watersportbaan
- P+R Weba/Decathlon
- P+R Muide
- Vrijdagmarkt
- P+R Galveston
- Cross over
- Shortened route
- Biking tunnel

- A** **Bar Baudelo** (Minnemeers 10)  
cosy museum café serving Ghent specialties and featuring a peaceful outdoor area  
[barbaudelo.be](http://barbaudelo.be) | +32 493 09 40 08
- B** **L'AmuZette** (Krommewal 2)  
mini concept store and lunch place serving dishes prepared with organic and natural ingredients  
[lamuzette.be](http://lamuzette.be) | +32 9 398 29 80
- C** **Simon Says** (Sluizeken 8)  
coffee bar with internationally trained baristas, a cosy outdoor area and a menu full of local top-class products  
[simon-says.be](http://simon-says.be) | +32 9 233 03 43
- D** **Café Folklore** (Lange Steenstraat 69)  
traditional working-class pub full of treasures from the past  
+32 9 224 31 18
- E** **'t Floere Foeffe** (Molenaarsstraat 3)  
cosy rustic pub in a centuries-old building at a stone's throw from the Lieve canal  
+32 472 93 69 85

- F** **Woest** (Drongensesteenweg 41)  
place where creative people have brunch, lunch or tapas and make new plans  
[woestgent.be](http://woestgent.be) | +32 9 278 07 78
- G** **Bar Bricolage** (Chinastraat 1)  
green oasis hidden between the old Ghent docks with a unique menu (only open in summer)  
[bar-bricolage.be](http://bar-bricolage.be)
- H** **CUP** (Galjoenstraat)  
the most sporty bar in Ghent offering coffee, snacks and ... bikes  
[cup.gent](http://cup.gent) | +32 470 70 23 20
- I** **Amigo** (Stapelplein 31)  
a restaurant, bar and club rolled into one: food and drinks accompanied by music take centre stage  
[amigosareforever.com](http://amigosareforever.com) | +32 478 15 20 16
- J** **Allumette** (Nieuwland 1)  
aperitif bar where you can enjoy a drink or a snack as well as a view of the former Desmet-Guequier cotton mill after your cycling tour  
[allumette.gent](http://allumette.gent) | +32 9 335 30 99

**A SOFT SPOT FOR HERITAGE**

The Museum of Industry is housed in an impressive factory building located just a stone's throw from Vrijdagmarkt square. Three exhibitions bring back to life the large and small stories of Ghent's eventful industrial past. In addition to a surprisingly versatile collection, the museum offers a wide range of activities, workshops and events.

Are you interested in heritage and want to find out more about Ghent's textile factories or industrial history in general? Then pay a visit to the museum library, the place to be for research, knowledge sharing and connecting with people. If you have any questions about the broader technical, scientific and industrial heritage, you can ask them to the ETWIE expertise cell.

[www.industriemuseum.be/en](http://www.industriemuseum.be/en)  
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#industriemuseumgent



The cycling route and tour in the Heritage App have been developed by the Museum of Industry in partnership with the Institute for Public History. Photos: Collection Museum of Industry.

