



IMPACT STORIES

The Lost Ports of the Zwin

Ghent University

The 'Lost Ports of the Zwin' is a public outreach initiative designed to disseminate the results of the large-scale UGent project 'High Tide, Low Tide: The late-medieval harbour of Bruges as a maritime-cultural landscape', in which a multidisciplinary team of archaeologists, geologists and historians investigates the maritime access and landscape transformation of medieval Bruges and its outports.

Dynamic interplay between humans and nature, urban and rural areas, and cultures over time, serves as the guiding conceptual framework for both research and valorisation. 'Lost Ports of the Zwin' employed a wide range of activities to create broad impact. Grounded in the sociological concept of "sense of place," it applied advanced digital tools to immerse visitors in the historical landscape evolution.

Activating an extensive network of stakeholders and applying high-quality digital tools, a wide range of initiatives have been developed, including an immersive exhibition, VR-viewers in the landscape of the lost ports, a cycling route, a web-app, a historically inspired gastronomic program by local chefs, and much more.

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