

SMA CONGRESS 2024

ACCESSIBILITY BROCHURE

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4th

Scientific International Congress on
Spinal Muscular Atrophy

GHENT

14th — 16th March 2024



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VENUE



Address:

Familie van Rysselbergheedreef 2

9000 Gent

www.iccghent.com

In this guide we try to inform you as much as possible how to navigate to the ICC from the airport, train station by different transportation options. We strongly advice to read all information in case you need specialised transportation.





BY PLANE





1) By plane to Brussels and then to Ghent

The easiest way to reach Ghent from Brussels International Airport is to take the train because the railway station is in the basement of the airport, at level -1. The platform is easily reached by a lift. There are direct train (no changes) that takes you to the Gent Sint-Pieters station in 56 min (other trains are available as well, but with changes in Brussels).

The walk from the Ghent St. Peter station to Gent ICC is about 10 minutes. There are several bus lines that stop right in front of Gent ICC as well. You can find more information [here](#) about the travel time between Brussels Airport and the Ghent St. Peter station.

If you have luggages, it is easier to take a taxi from the station to the hotels in the center. The Conference venue ICC Ghent is only a 10 min walk from the Gent Sint-Pieters railway station.

Read more about travelling with a reduced mobility on [Brussels Airport](http://www.brusselsairport.be/en/passengers/at-the-airport/passengers-with-reduced-mobility/faq):
www.brusselsairport.be/en/passengers/at-the-airport/passengers-with-reduced-mobility/faq



By plane to Brussels South Charleroi Airport and then to Ghent

- The Door2Gate is a shared shuttle solution that will pick you up directly from your home (or the place you have indicated) and drop you off at the airport at the time you wish to arrive. The price for one ride is from 15 euros per person. Customers with reduced mobility can book a Door2Gate service by email. Bookings can only be made by email at info@flibco.com and must be done at least 72 business hours in advance. Please remember to provide your phone number in the email. A customer care agent will call you to complete your booking, and will also book your carer's free journey.

For more information on the area of operation, advantages and rates please visit [this dedicated page](#).



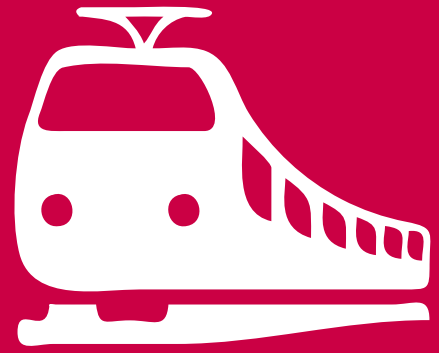
By plane into Brussels South Charleroi Airport and then to Ghent

By public transport

Visit the TEC website to find out about rates and schedules. Travel from Brussels South Charleroi Airport by train will take around 2h30.

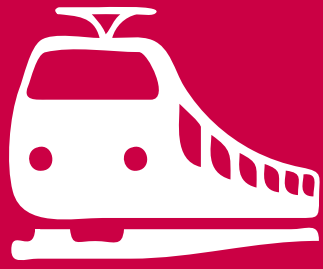
Transfer to Ghent by train: please find more detailed information on the next pages.

Read more about travelling with a reduced mobility on **Brussels South Charleroi Airport**: <https://www.brussels-charleroi-airport.com/en/pmr>



BY TRAIN





By train

Gent ICC is just 10 minutes from the Ghent St. Peter station by foot. When you arrive at the Ghent St. Peter station, go to the right and exit via the “Koningin Astridlaan”. At the end of the “Koningin Astridlaan”, cross the “Kortrijksesteenweg”, and walk into the Citadel Park towards Gent ICC. You can find more info here about the travel time to the Ghent St. Peter station.

National travel (Brussels, Antwerp, ...)

How can you book assistance for a trip in Belgium?

1. Up to 24 hours before departure:

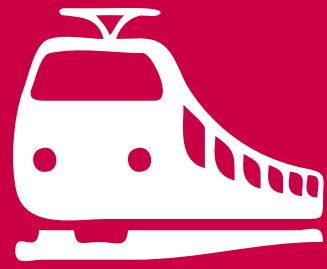
a. Reserve national assistance online

b. Call: +32 2 528 28 28 (open every day from 7.00 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.).

A booking for multiple wheelchair users is possible.

c. Send a message via Facebook or Twitter (daily from 6:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.)

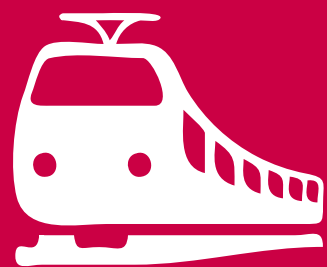
Find all meeting points [here](#)



International travel (Amsterdam, Paris, ...)

Up to 24 hours before departure

1. First purchase your international ticket
2. Eurostar, Thalys and TGV INOUI offer a special fare (subject to availability) for wheelchair passengers, with specific designated spaces in first class. This allows you to travel without having to get out of your wheelchair. You can also travel in first class (together with your companion) for the price of a standard second-class ticket. If you travel with Thalys, Eurostar or TGV INOUI, book your ticket at special fare online (direct connections to and from Belgium only) or by phone (all connections) on 02 432 38 01 from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., weekends and public holidays from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
3. Then reserve your assistance when you know your seat number:
 - i. Reserve international assistance online
 - ii. Call 02 528 28 28 (open every day from 7 a.m. to 9.30 p.m.)



Receive free assistance confirmation by SMS text message (option to be confirmed when booking)

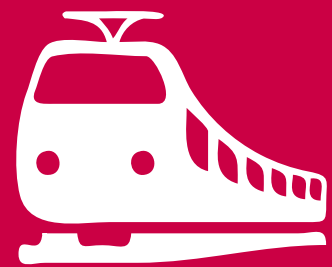
On the day of travel, proceed to the agreed meeting point at least 30 minutes (Eurostar: 60 minutes) before your train's departure time. (Meeting point is often the 'Assistance pillar' which you can see on the picture).



Caregivers/ personal assistants

Free Carer Card:

You need to be domiciled in **Belgium** at the time of the application to be eligible to apply for the Free Carer Card. Please note that there are no alternatives or discount rates for caregivers. Find more information [here](#).



You can buy your train tickets at www.belgianrail.be/en/

Select train station 'Ghent Sint-Pieters' as your destination. After paying , you will receive a pdf of with your tickets. It is useful to print them out, but you can also show the QR code on your phone.



BY CAR





By car:

By car from Antwerp/Kortrijk (E17)

Take the E17 in the direction of Ghent. Drive in the direction of “Gent-Centrum” and take the slip road for the same. Then take a right to take the “Alle richtingen” slip road. Follow the road to the left and take a right into the “St. Lievenslaan” at the lights under the viaduct.

At the second set of lights, at the double intersection, go left, towards “Oudenaarde”. Drive past the Museum of Fine Arts (MSK) on the left and the Museum of contemporary arts (S.M.A.K.) on the right. Gent ICC International Convention Center is located on the right, approximately 50 metres further down the road.



By car from Brussels/Oostende (E40)

Take the E17 in the direction of Ghent. In Zwijnaarde, take the E17 towards Antwerp. Drive in the direction of “Gent-Centrum” and take the slip road for the same. Then take a right to take the “Alle richtingen” slip road. Follow the road to the left and take a right into the “St. Lievenslaan” at the lights under the viaduct.

At the second set of lights, at the double intersection, go left, towards “Oudenaarde”. Drive past the Museum of Fine Arts (MSK) on the left and the Museum of contemporary arts (S.M.A.K.) on the right. Gent ICC International Convention Center is located on the right, approximately 50 metres further down the road.

**Do not forget to check whether your vehicle is allowed to enter the
Low Emission Zone!!**



Public parking

Sint-Pieters station

- 64 parking spots for disabled people
- No reservation possible
- Kon. Fabiolalaan 152, 9000 Gent

Sint-Pieters Plein

- 3 parking spots for disabled people
- No reservation possible
- Sint-Pietersplein 65, 9000 Gent



ICC Parking

A parking ticket costs € 12,00/day (vat included) and can be collected with the park attendant who will be at the parking entrance upon your arrival.

There are 4 parking spots for disabled people. In case you want to reserve one of these parking spots in advance, please send an email to astrid@medicongress.com.

!! The max. height of the parking is 1,80 m.

In case your car/ van is higher than 1.80 m, please contact astrid@medicongress.com to reserve a place outside the car park.

Please note these places are limited!

When you managed to reserve a parking spot, please ask the parking boy where you can park. He will guide you to the right place.



KISS AND RIDE ZONE ICC

In case you need to be dropped off in front of the ICC building, please drive to the 'Van Rysselberghedreef' and ask your driver to drive in next to the car park entrance (see arrow on the right).





BY TRAM - BUS
...





By bus/tram:

You can buy a ticket or pass on an electronic card from a ticket machine at the stop, in a Lijnwinkel store or at a sales point. Always scan your ticket before taking a seat on the bus or tram.

Ghent's public transport network is operated by the Flemish Transport Company De Lijn, and consists of trams and buses. A useful tram is line 1 which connects the train station Sint Pieters with the city centre (e.g. Castle Gravensteen) and can be used to reach the Congress Venue (ICC Ghent) from downtown: about every 6 min, from 6 AM until 11 PM, see downtown stops below. Exit from the tram at stop "Van Monckhovenstraat" and walk 7 min across the Citadelpark to get to the entrance of the ICC. "De Lijn" buses also stop in front of the entrance of the ICC (stop "Ledeganckstraat").

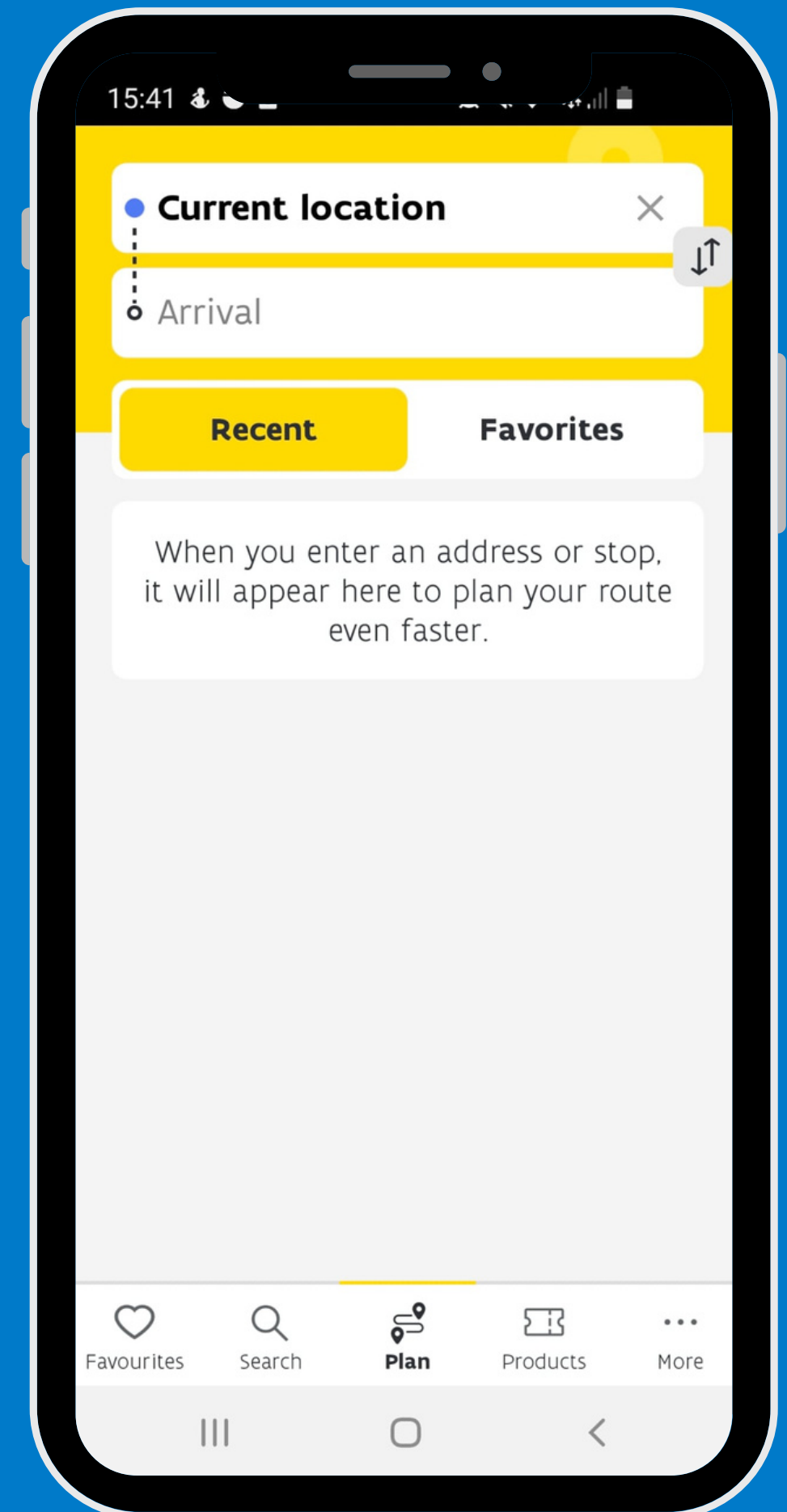
The following public buses have a stop in the "Ledeganckstraat" directly across from the Gent ICC main entrance: routes 9, 28, 34, 35, 36, 55, 57, 58, 70, 71, 72, 76, 77, 94, 95.

DE LIJN APP



We strongly suggest to download the 'De Lijn' app.

You can easily look up what routes there are available from and to the ICC.



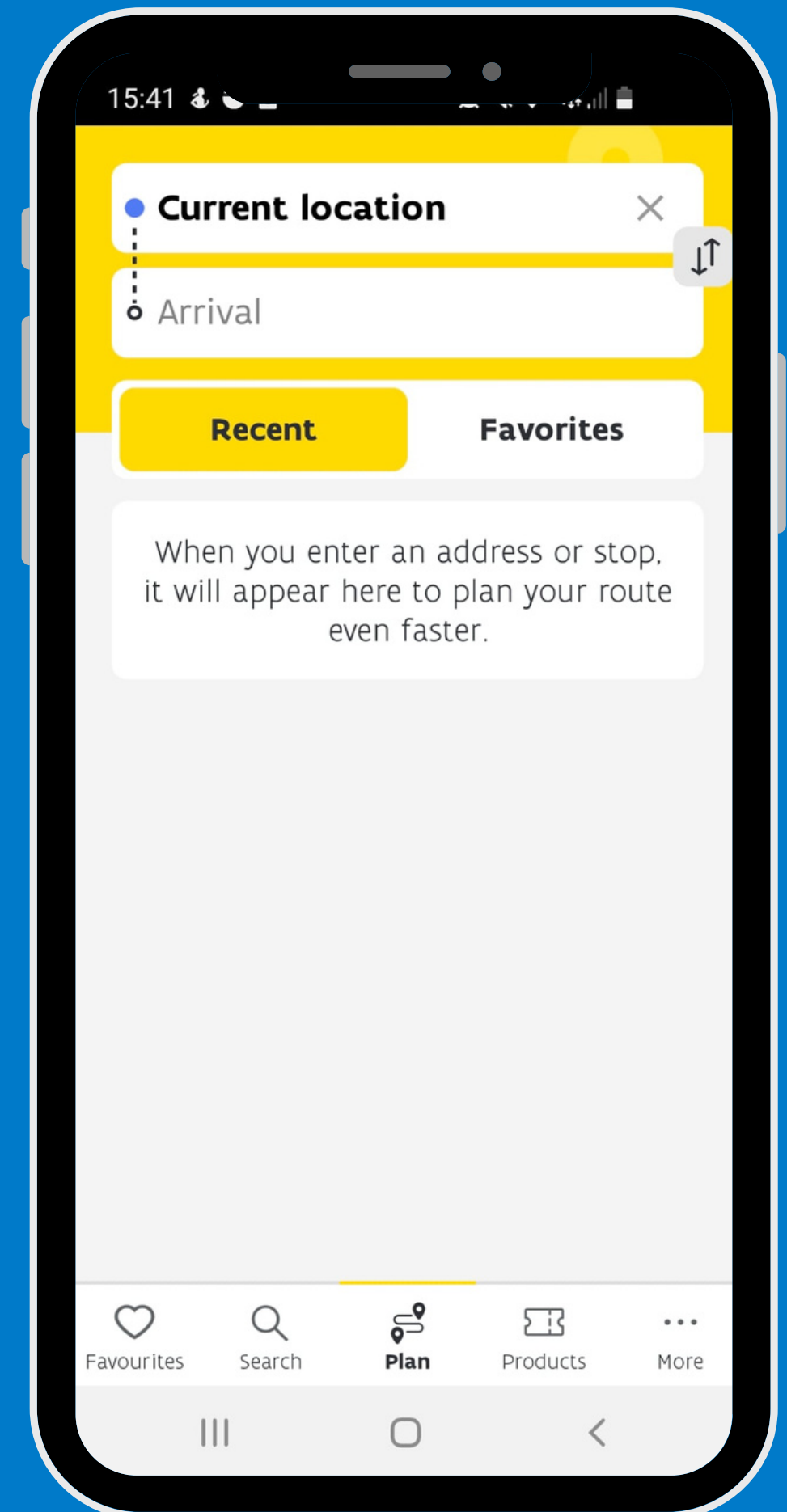
To find your route, a few steps need to be taken first.

1. Install the 'De Lijn' app en create your account
2. Go to the 'plan' tab and give in your starting point or use your current location to find the nearest bus stop*
3. Select the route that is most convenient for you

*finding a convenient bus stop which is wheelchair accessible, is not easy. That is why we made an interactive plan of Ghent with accessible busstops near the congress centre and our recommended hotels.

[Open the plan here.](#)

- yellow dots: regular stops
- blue dots: wheelchair accessible stops



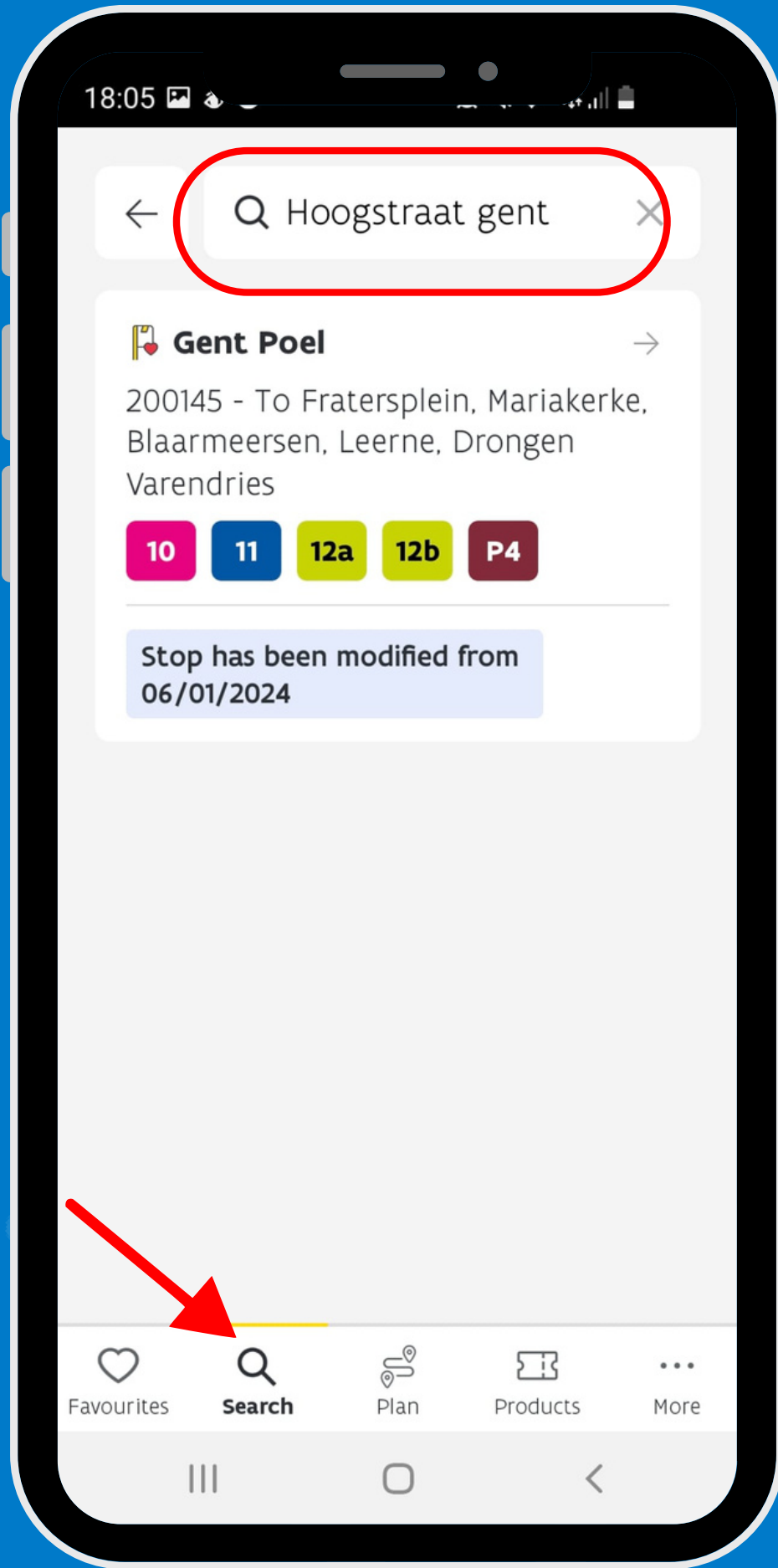
More information for wheelchair travelers you can find www.delijn.be/en/content/toegankelijkheid/

If you want to check if bus stops are wheelchair accessible, first check the interactive plan on the previous page.

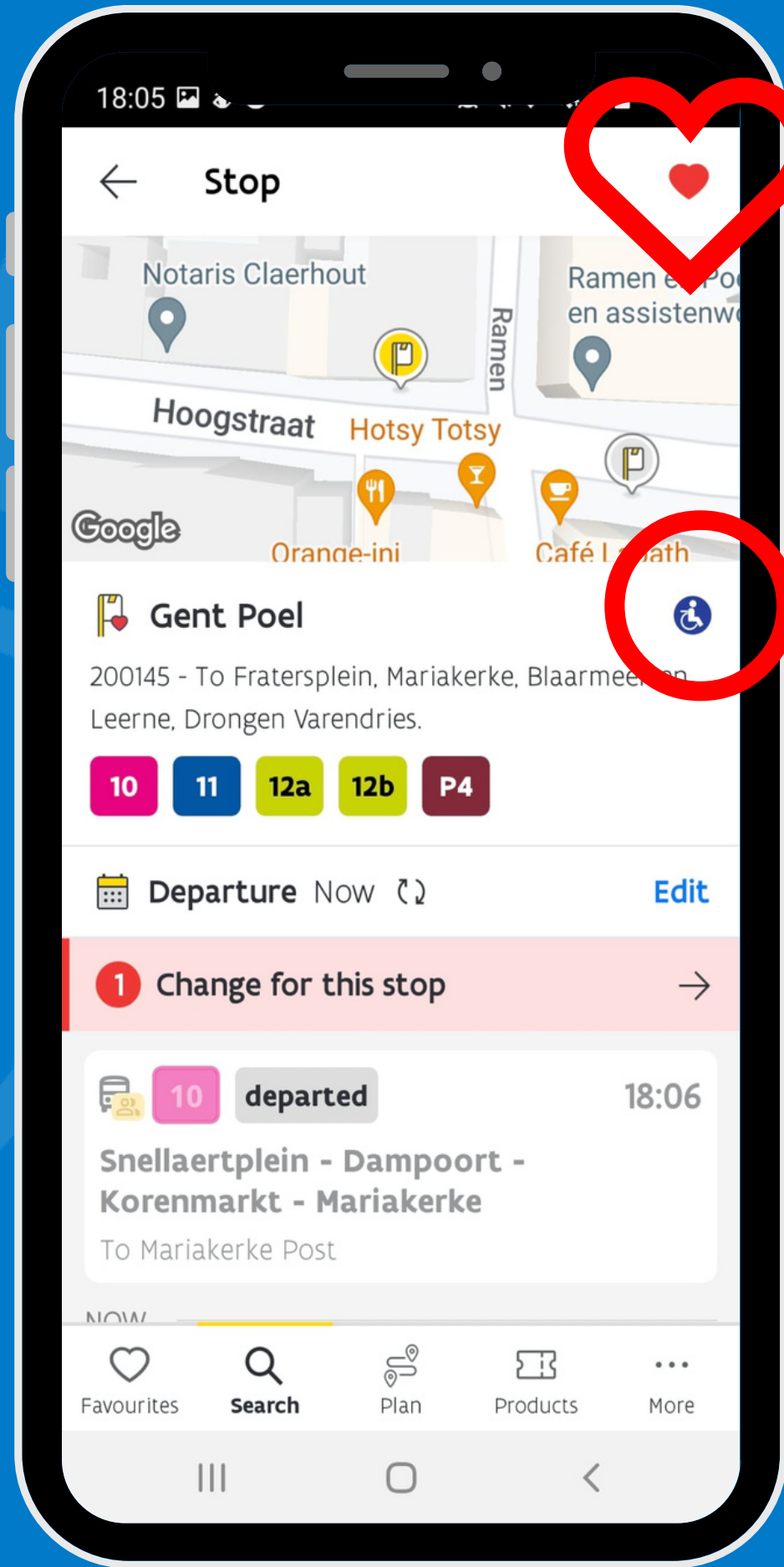
If you can not find the preferred bus stop, you can use the app to do so.

1. go to 'search' tab in the app and enter the name of the street or (if you know) the name of your bus stop
2. click on bus stop that appears, you will immediately see the International Symbol of Access in case the bus stop is accessible (more info on page 23)
3. you can add the bus stop to your favorites, so you can easily use find this bus stop next time you search for a route

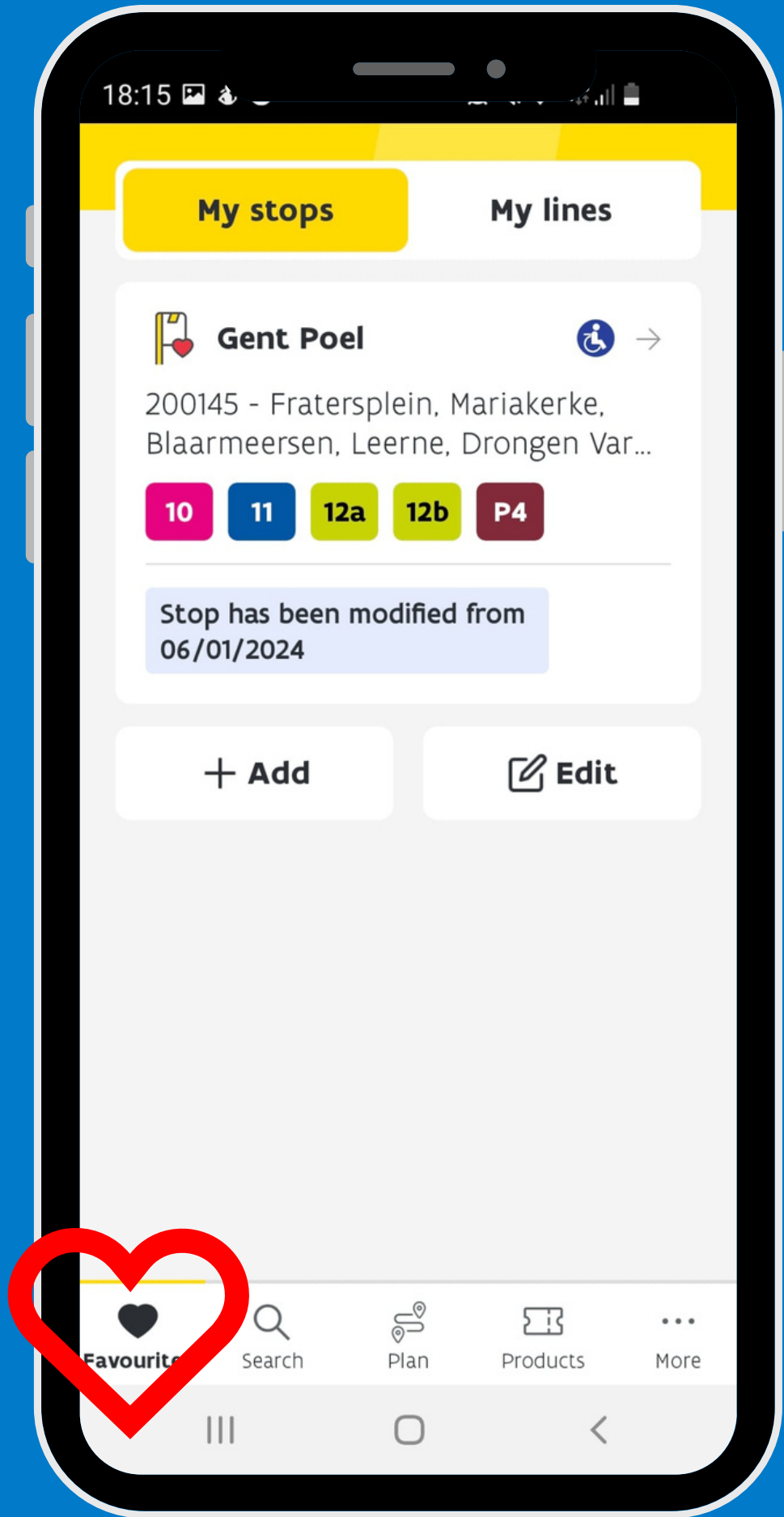
1.



2.



3.



On this [website](#) and in the De Lijn app, symbols provide information about stops' accessibility. They are used in all travel information applications (route planner, timetables, real-time arrivals at a stop).

You can see the accessibility symbols after the stop's name. If a stop is not accessible, there is no symbol. In that case, check the other stops on the route by clicking on the line number: one of the other stops on your journey may have been adapted.



Accessible if you have a mobility impairment

These stops are easy for anyone to access. The gradient to get onto the vehicle does not exceed 12%.



Accessible if you have a mobility impairment, with the help of an accompanying person

These stops are designed to be accessible, but the platform is less high. The gradient to get onto the vehicle is more than 12%, up to a maximum of 20%. Assistance may be necessary.

SPECIALISED TRANSPORTATION



Specialised wheelchair transportation:

Hendriks vervoer

www.hendriks.be

Please send your request 1 month before to: info.gent@hendriks.be

One bus can be shared by 4 wheelchair users.

Transportation is also possible during the evening, **upon early request.**

Taxi De Waele

info@taxi-dewaele.be

Taxi Cisse - Airport transportation

Please send your request as soon as possible to: info@taxicisse.be

Mdf Mobility - Airport transportation

A service must be booked at least 48 hours (2 days) in advance. This can be done by telephone at 015/79 34 22 or via email at booking@mdfmobility.be If the line is busy or remains unanswered, you can leave a message and we will call you back as soon as possible. If you book less than 48 hours in advance, an administrative fee of €8 will be charged automatically.



HOTELS



Hotel Den Briel

Abraham Voortmanstraat 2

9000 Gent

! All bedrooms in Hotel Den Briel are wheelchair accessible.

In case you do not have a hotel reservation yet and you prefer to book here, please contact nele@medicongress.com.

- Flexible rate
- City tax: € 3,00/person/night
- Parking: € 15,00/day
- Breakfast: €15,00/day
- WiFi is included
- Cancellation policy: Free cancellation up to 2 days before arrival. After this period the first night will be charged in full.
- Please note that all rooms have twin beds.

ADRESSES RECOMMENDED HOTELS

Pillows Grand Boutique Hotel Reylof

Hoogstraat 36

9000 Gent

Marriott Hotel

Korenlei 10

9000 Gent

Yalo Urban Boutique Hotel

Brabantdam 33

9000 Gent

NH Gent Belfort

Hoogpoort 63

9000 Gent



VISIT GHENT



You can find an attractive route with a minimum of obstacles. You'll find some small cobbled streets in the historical centre of Ghent. This walk is partly on cobblestones, but usually they are flat and evenly laid.

This brochure provides information about museums and attractions, pubs, restaurants and public toilets. You can also read all about accessible accommodation, care, mobility aids, transport and parking.

[OPEN ACCESSIBILITY BROCHURE](#)