



The Mobley family ready to take to the sky.




First stop, Brussels, capital of Belgium and the European Union

*The
cathedral
of Saints
Michel
and
Gudule*





As lovely inside as out.

A photograph of the interior of a Gothic cathedral. The view is looking down a long nave towards a large, colorful stained glass window at the far end. The ceiling is high and features a complex network of ribbed vaults. On the right side, a large pipe organ is visible, with its pipes extending upwards. The walls are decorated with statues and intricate carvings. The lighting is dramatic, with light streaming in from the stained glass window and highlighting the architectural details.

*And in
such
beautiful
condition*



The famous Baroque pulpit designed in 1699



From the sacred to the profane, the shopping arcade of the king.



**The
townhall
in the
Grand
Place**



**Mark entering the guildhall of the brewers.
Ahhh...nirvana!**



A new version of an old classic clock. Just missed the noon performance.



**One of
the many
Horta
designed
Art
Nouveau
buildings
in
Brussels**

A taste of Belgium in downtown Esneux





Ahhh..les bonnes vivantes!



Mark surveys the quarry below and the high plains above the Ourthe River

**An old stone
hut near the
top of the
ridge.**



The intrepid travelers slept their way to Paris,

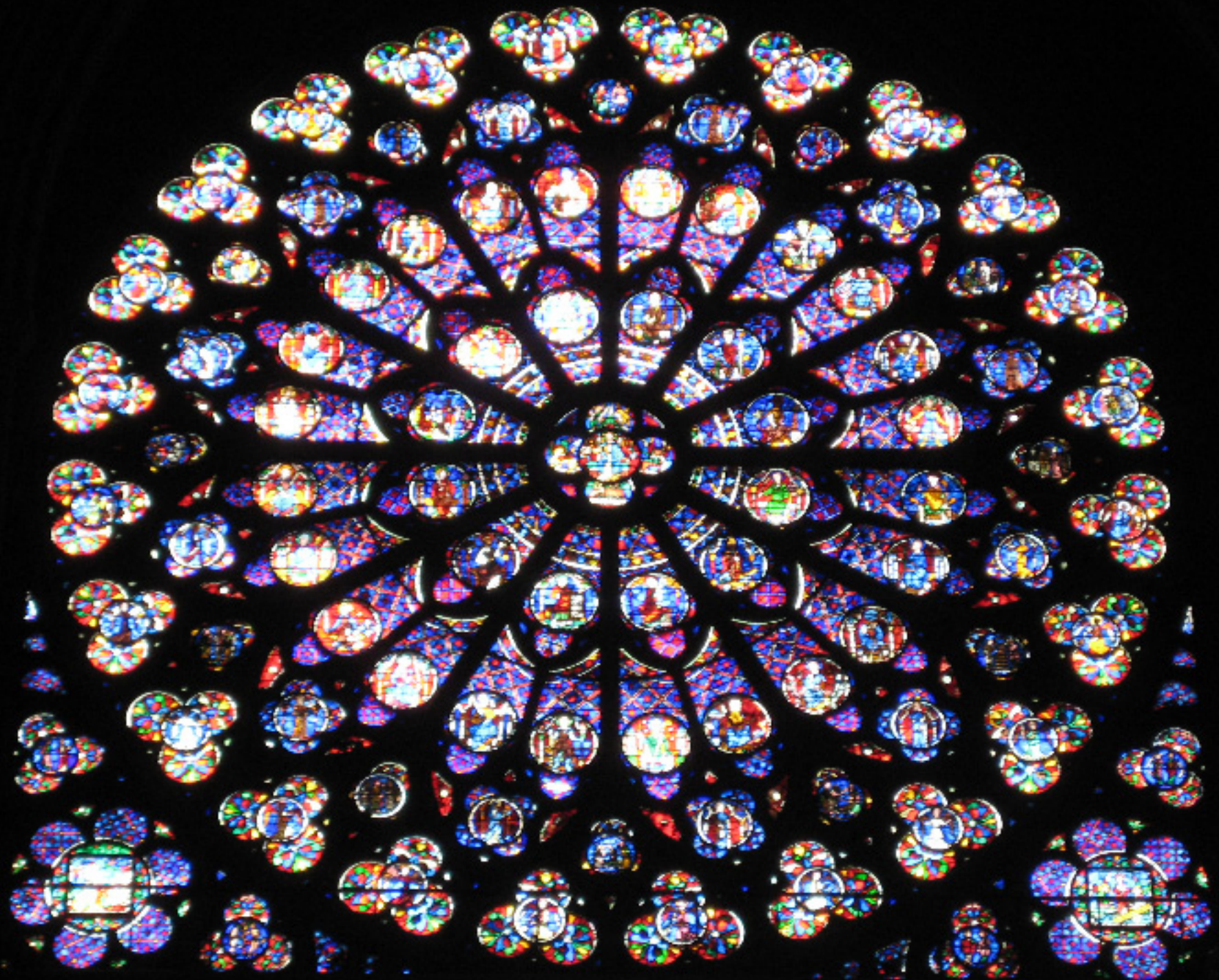


popping out of the Metro to be met by Notre Dame...WOW!

*A pair of
Parisian
beauties*



The marvelous Notre Dame





*Something
interesting
around
every
corner*

This tree
obscures
a
wonderful
bit of
trellis
artwork.



A jewel
of
Parisian
Art
Nouveau





Art
Nouveau
uses every
building
material
and style
to make
something
almost
alive.



The
stone
becomes
organic.

Another
inviting
portal



Paris at night... Magnifique!



*Ben and the onomatopoeic
beverage*



A budding French photographer and his beautiful model





Jim and Steph

Beneath the Eiffel Tower, the French flag in flowers

and as seen
from the first
level of the
Tower

Jim and
Steph



Brass band buskers beneath the tower





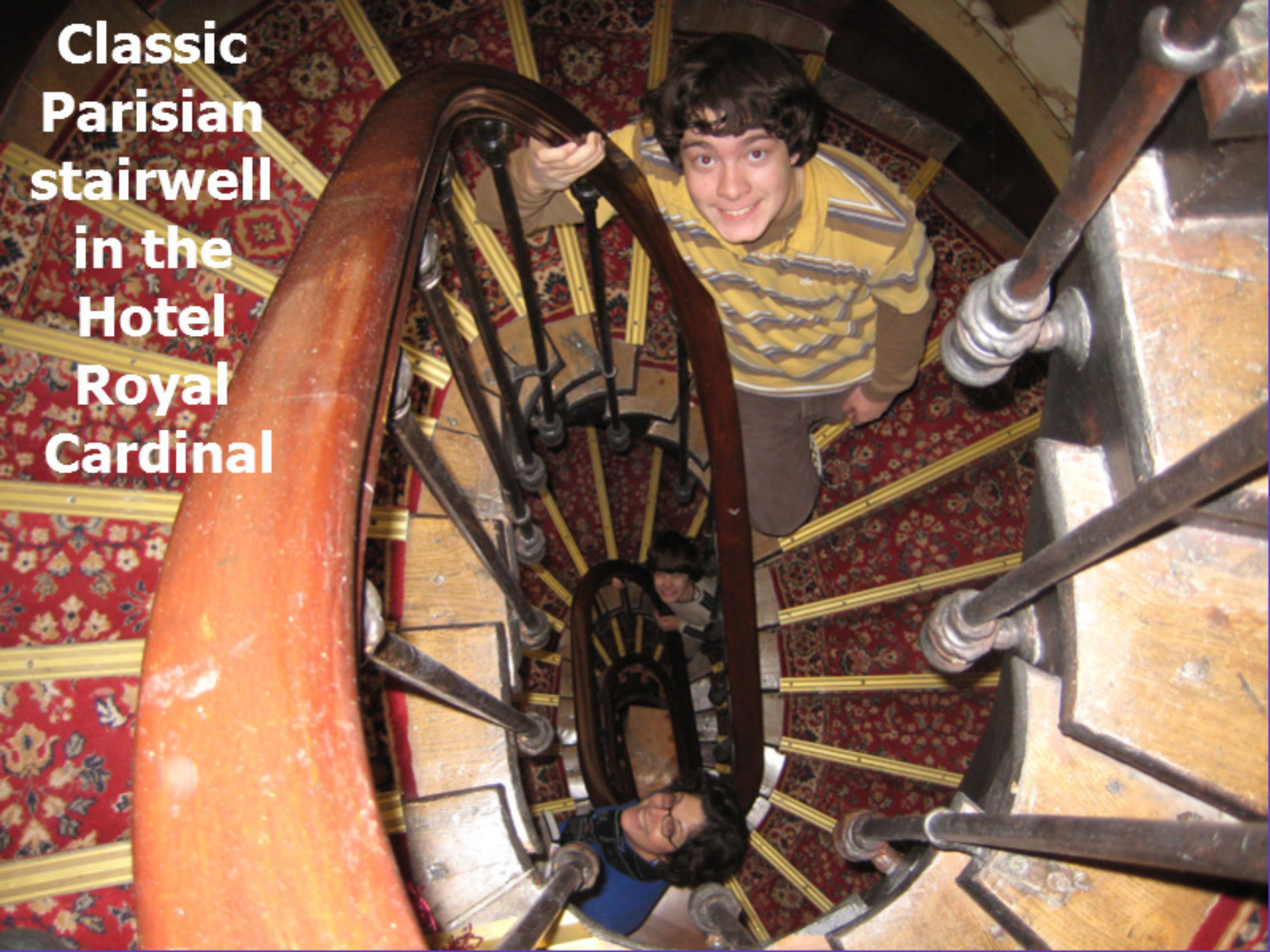
Paris in the early springtime



What can I say? Square trees!



**Classic
Parisian
stairwell
in the
Hotel
Royal
Cardinal**



NAPOLEON'S GRAND AXIS OF PARIS



The Arches of Triumph and Carrousel with the Obelisk of Luxor between them



**More
monuments,
and what is
left of a
church after
the
revolution
of 1789**



The
Conciergerie,
an ancient
palace, and
its bridges



15th century Gothic mansion now housing the
Museum of the Middle Ages



**3rd century Gallo-Roman baths of
Cluny**



Fun with photography



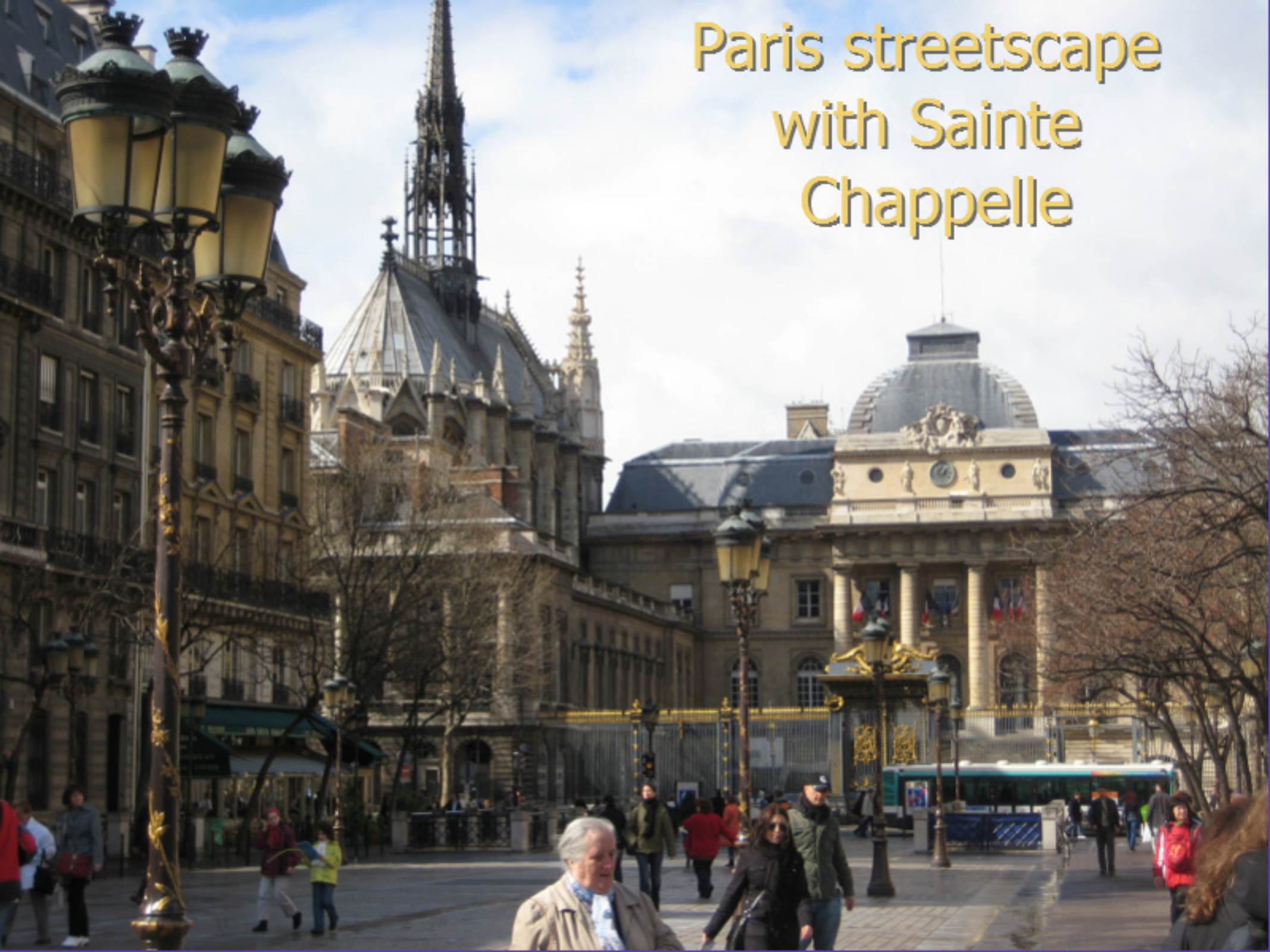
Panorama of the royal gardens

One wing of the Louvre Palace from the Royal Gardens



Yes, that is a giant spider!

Paris streetscape with Sainte Chappelle



From the belltower of Notre Dame




In north-west Belgium

**The magical city of
Ghent in Flanders**



Miles points out
the
belltower(1380)
and guildhall
(1425) of the
Cloth
merchants in
Ghent





The 13-15th
century
merchants
church of St
Nicholas

Sixteenth century buildings in Ghent

Small and large



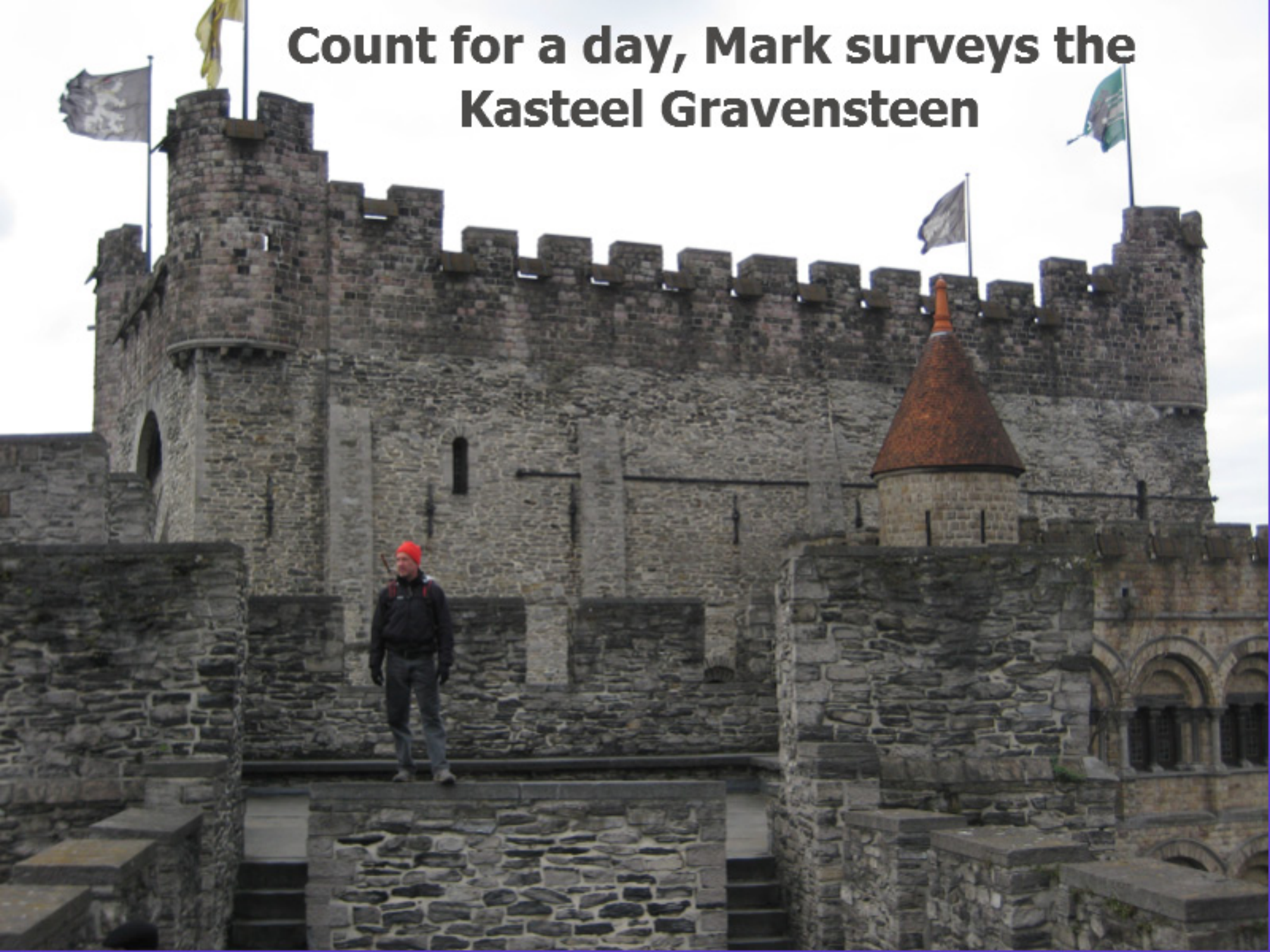


Reflections along the Graslei, 16th century guildhouses on the Leie River



The gatehouse of the Castle of the Counts of Flanders

Count for a day, Mark surveys the Kasteel Gravensteen





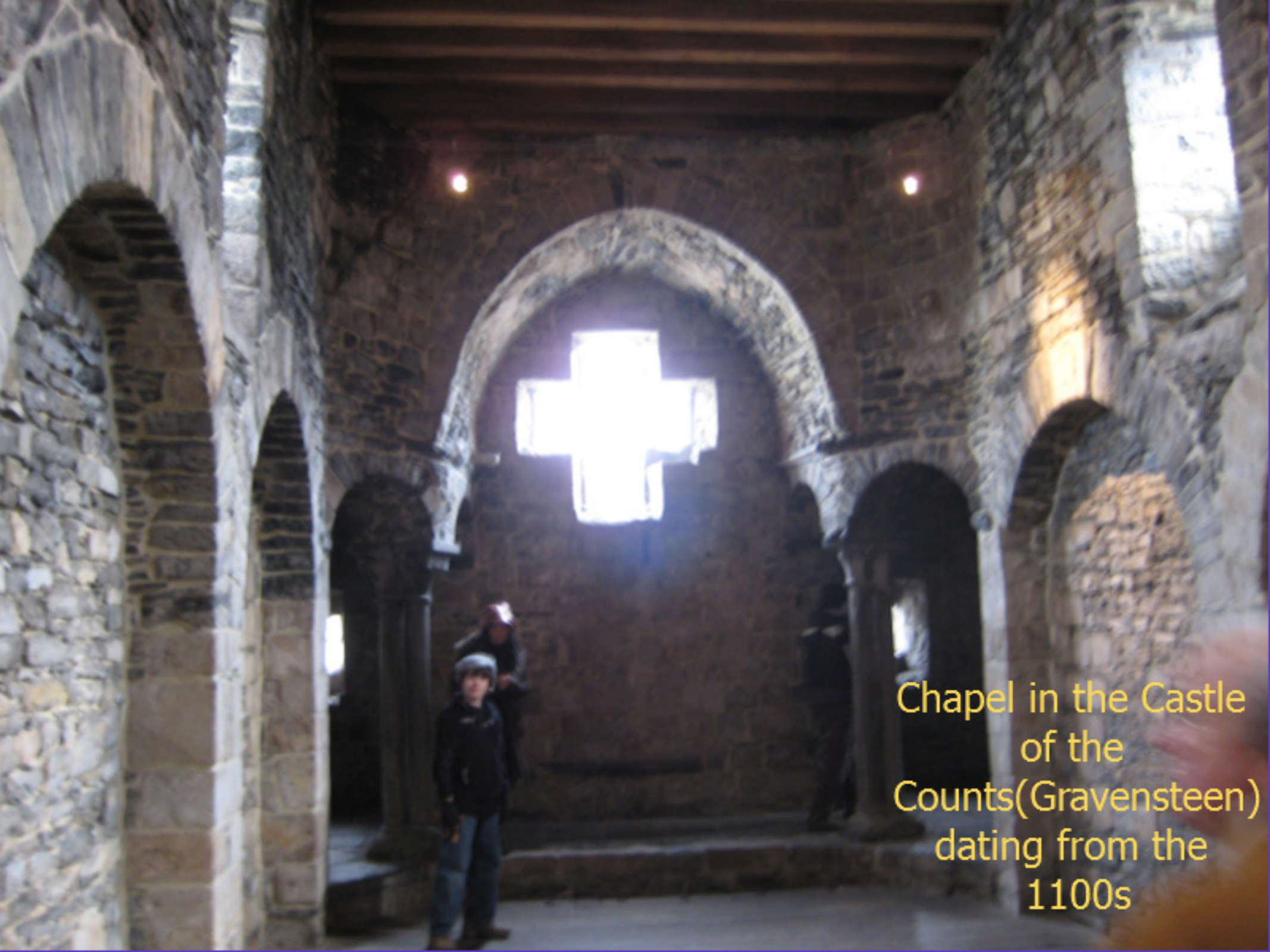


The Count's view of Ghent









Chapel in the Castle
of the
Counts(Gravensteen)
dating from the
1100s

A
fireplace
big
enough
to roast
an 11
and 14
year-old...

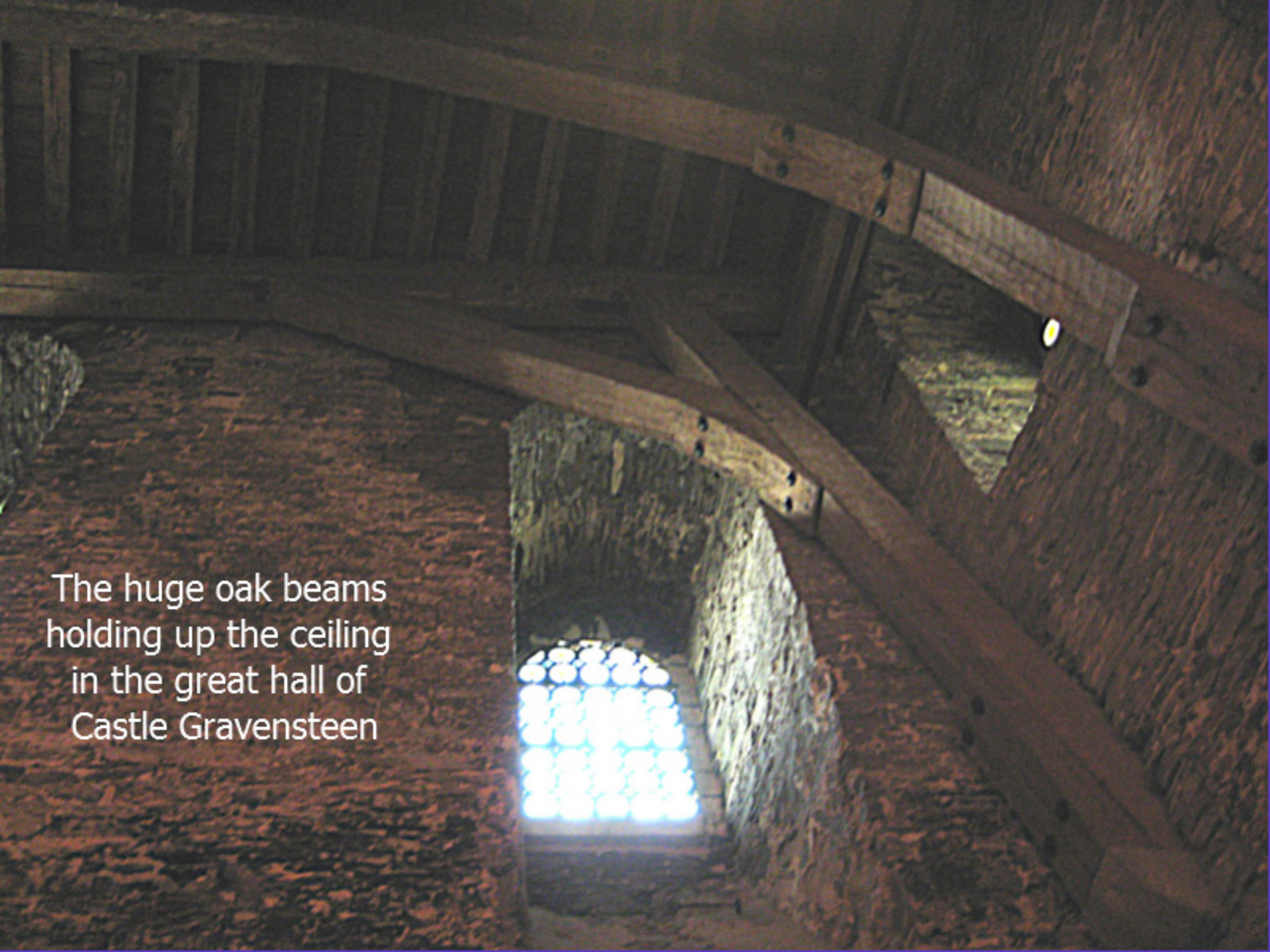


but not
big
enough
to heat
a stone
hall!

Watch
out
boys!
That's a
real
guillotine



... last
used in
this
castle in
1861

The image shows the interior of a large, vaulted stone hall. The ceiling is supported by a complex network of dark, heavy oak beams. The walls are made of rough-hewn stone. In the center, a stone window with a semi-circular top is filled with a grid of small, bright, glowing panes. The floor is made of dark, textured stone. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the textures of the wood and stone.

The huge oak beams
holding up the ceiling
in the great hall of
Castle Gravensteen

**Now multiply that and understand why they call it
a Great Hall!**



Ghent's three towers: St.Baff's, the Belfry and St. Nick's



One of the
oldest
family
compounds
in Ghent,



they had
one of
only 5
wells in a
city of
65,000!

A couple
of new
additions
to Ghent,
from early
1900's





Some prominent figures from Ghent's past

Heading south from Esneux



The citadel above La Roche en Ardennes

A tank in every town reminds us of



the great battle fought here in 1944

Our goal for today, the brooding Castle Boullion



Perched on a rock surrounded by the river, nearly impregnable, unless
you have the body of St. Lambert





a formidable approach





Beautifully
fitted
unmortared
staircase in
castle
Boullion






Looking
down
on the
Semois
River



A
presentation
of birds of
prey
(including
scavengers)



A stone archway is built into a wall of rough-hewn grey stones. A dark, weathered cannon barrel is mounted on a wooden carriage and points directly through the center of the arch. The arch is supported by two large, rectangular stone blocks. Through the arch, a wide river flows, with a small village of houses and a church visible on the opposite bank. The scene is captured from a high vantage point, looking down at the river and the village. The text "Nothing beats a good defense unless you have the body of a Saint..." is overlaid in white on the right side of the image.

**Nothing
beats a
good
defense
unless you
have the
body of a
Saint...**

**Our
travellers
say" Au
Revoir" to
Boullion**



**and to
Belgium!**