

The experience starts here...





07.45 AM

WAKE UP TO THE VIEW

A beam of sunlight pierces the curtains of my charming Maastricht hotel room. Room service has just delivered breakfast. Still half dreaming, I take my first sip of orange juice. There's just time for a shower before the taxi picks me up. The medical congress at MECC Maastricht opens in an hour. My colleagues and I arrived in the city last night. After a relaxed dinner on a terrace overlooking the quaint old port, we strolled back over the historic Sint Servaas Bridge to our riverside hotel.

MECC, the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre, is a dynamic, modern specialist in the organisation of trade fairs, conferences and other events. What makes MECC Maastricht special is our unique combination of high-quality facilities, excellent services and a great setting. Together, these factors really will take your event to a higher level. Our venue offers 30,000 square metres of exhibition or event space, a congress centre with two auditoriums and meeting rooms for between 10 and 1650 people. Despite its size, the building is intimate and extremely flexible. Whether you are holding an event for 50 guests or 5000, MECC Maastricht is the place to be.





08.40 AM

MEDICAL CONGRESS AT MECC MAASTRICHT

A short taxi ride brings me right to the entrance of MECC Maastricht. I can feel the buzz as soon as I walk into the centre.

Doctors, medical specialists and professors from all over the world. It's really special to meet so many people who share the same passion. The building looks quite different from the inside. Lights and projection screens have been used to create a friendly, intimate atmosphere in the foyer. A top specialist from Italy is opening the congress at nine, so there's just time to grab a cappuccino.

charm: you will find it embedded in marvellous Maastricht, we will blend it into your event



MECC Maastricht is the ideal meeting place at the heart of Europe. With a history stretching back some 2000 years, the Romans, Spaniards, French and Germans have all left their mark in Maastricht. The result is a cultural melting pot with its own uniquely exuberant personality – a place where everyone will feel at home. You can literally feel the city's rich history all around you, in its magnificent buildings, beautiful squares and ancient churches. But lovers of modern architecture will also find plenty to marvel at.

Today's Maastricht is a city of culture, learning and business. And one of the three leading conference venues in the Netherlands. Sometimes referred to as "Europe's second home", event organisers value Maastricht for an intimacy which is often lacking in larger meeting places like Paris, Berlin and Amsterdam.

Famous as the birthplace of the euro, which was introduced under the 1992 Treaty of Maastricht, our city is also home to many international institutions and European multinationals. Their presence is another of MECC Maastricht's attractions as a venue for international business meetings, and one reason why many organisers have already chosen us. We also have an excellent public profile as the venue for such events as the JIM indoor equestrian meet and the TEFAF antiques fair.







01.10 PM

WORKING LUNCH AT A REAL CHÂTEAU

Now I realize what they mean by Maastricht's exuberant lifestyle. Taking a welcome break from the congress, I enjoy a delicious three-course lunch at a beautiful seventeenth-century castle which has been converted into a Michelin-star restaurant. The view of the rolling landscape from the terrace is breathtaking. When I close my eyes, I could almost be on holiday in the south of France. For a moment, I forget that I'm here to work. The wine tastes wonderful, but I stick to just the one glass. Who knows what more the day has in store?

we turn your
event into
an experience



MECC Maastricht is ideal for congresses lasting several days. The NH Maastricht Hotel within the complex itself offers 275 comfortable, fully equipped guest rooms. And the city as a whole has more than 2000 rooms in charming hotels, ranging from two to five stars. They include design hotel Bergère and the Kruisherenhotel, located in a fifteenth-century monastery. The capital of the Limburg region also has a fine gastronomic reputation, as the many friendly terraces around the Vrijthof and Onze-Lieve-Vrouweplein squares prove. In and around the city you will find no fewer than five Michelin-star restaurants. Little wonder, then, that Maastricht is one of the most popular cities for a weekend break.

Another of Maastricht's advantages is that it is very compact. Congress delegates find it easy to meet in the city, making this a great place to network in a relaxed atmosphere away from the conference floor. That same intimacy is a feature of MECC Maastricht, too: hospitality is in our blood. Short lines of communication and a personal approach mean that we are always on hand to turn your event into a real experience.







07.35 PM

DRINKS AT MECCAFÉ

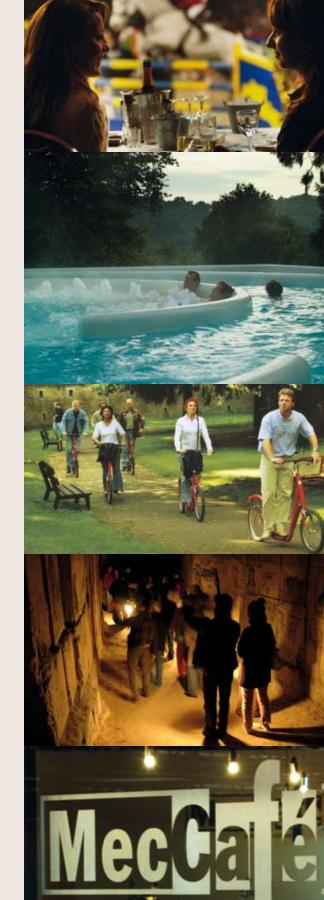
The first day of the congress is over. I've seen, heard and experienced so much already. I recognise a lot of familiar faces. Now it's time to look back at the day over a drink with my colleagues. Friendly waiters come round with huge trays of canapés. They look so delicious that I just can't resist them. All around me people are busily networking and discussing the day's topics. Tomorrow there's only a morning session – we have the afternoon off. The organisers have given me a booklet packed with things to do. Shall I go shopping? Or relax in the saunas at Thermae 2000? Take a stroll around the city, or just unwind on one of the terraces on the Vrijthof?

we meet your demands, you meet your targets



A varied social programme is the perfect complement to your business meeting. Maastricht has plenty to offer. Walks through the historic old city, for example, or visits to museums, galleries and artists' studios. The nearby countryside is perfect for hiking or mountain biking. And there are golf courses, caves and spas to enjoy, too. Or what about a wine-tasting at one of the local vineyards? To arrange transport, book a hotel room, make a restaurant reservation or even organise a complete event, simply contact Maastricht Booking Service, a division of MECC Maastricht. With its years of support services for congresses and other events, Maastricht Booking Service knows the city and region better than anyone.

For all your culinary needs, MECC Maastricht has its own catering service. MECC@table is our in-house restaurant and the MecCafé is the place to relax with a drink. We can also assist you with services ranging from multimedia technology and décor to security and cleaning. And much more. In fact, everything you need for a successful event.



discover the accessibility of MECC Maastricht



Maastricht lies in the so-called euregio, at the heart of Europe, close to where the Netherlands, Belgium and Germany meet, making MECC Maastricht easy to reach from anywhere.

We have excellent rail links with all major European cities, including fast connections to Paris, London, Brussels, Berlin and Amsterdam. With the completion of the new high-speed line, Brussels is now less than 75 minutes away. Moreover, the trains stop right in front of the congress centre. Maastricht is a key hub on the European highway network, too, with the congress centre practically on the motorway. And you can park right outside the main entrance, and the city centre is just a stone's throw away.

MECC Maastricht is close to numerous international airports:

Maastricht-Aachen (10 km), Liege (25 km), Eindhoven (90 km),

Düsseldorf International (100 km), Cologne-Bonn (100 km), Brussels

Zaventem (100 km), Weeze-Niederrhein Airport (110 km), Brussels

Charleroi (120 km) and Antwerp (120 km). All are less than an hour away, and there are also regular direct flights between Maastricht and Amsterdam Schiphol Airport; the journey time is just twenty minutes.

Whether you come by rail, road or air, reaching MECC Maastricht is easy.









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