Antwerp is getting a lot of attention in the media. I am not referring to the huge crowds of course that pass through the port or even the social undesire that the Flemish find so hard to stop up for. Antwerp is considered by a very select Trip Advisor Travel Destination.

It is true that Antwerp is Flemish and lacks the drama and the instant photogenic charm of Bruges or Ghent, but there is more to it than meets the tourist eye. As a Dutchman I have also a richer and more dramatic history than any other Belgian region.

Its port lies 15km from the North Sea on the bank of the river Scheldt. Antwerp profited from early colonial trade and by the end of the 17th century was a major Hanseatic metropolis. In 1588 the English Channel was captured, and Antwerp, the south-eastern port of the Dutch Republic, became a major commercial gateway to the colonies.

Antwerp was particularly influential in the flourishing school of painting led by the Rubens family. The family of innovative canonists like Mersenne and the experimental scientist Galileo Galilei were first to explore the wonders of the universe. The humanist Christopher Plantin, who today is commemorated in the Plantin-Moretus museum. By envisaging the world that you walk around de Centralehuis, studying the photographic guilds with their golden statues, City Hall, with its rich ornamentation, is an interesting example of Flemish Renaissance incorporating and virtually evolving its Italian inspiration. Backpainted, the防控和 the brandishing Spanish forces brought about a steady decline and massive birth strain in the 16th century, but it can't have been too damaging when one considers that at the time the Baroque was a very splendid church.

Moorhouse kept the pity press and printers like Henry Reubens, Anthony van Dyck, and Jacob Jordaens began to establish themselves.

Admittedly, there has a bit of fall between the teeth of the 19th century and the famous artists of the future, but one can't help but wonder what would have happened if the Baroque era had been more bountiful.

Today, Antwerp is one of the world's major ports with a long tradition in the marketing of European raw materials. The city is a major cultural center, with a rich and varied cultural life. The Rubens Museum, the Plantin-Moretus Museum, and the Groeninge Museum are among the highlights.

The city is also home to the University of Antwerp, which is one of the largest and most prestigious universities in the country. The city has a vibrant cultural scene, with a wide range of theaters, concert halls, and galleries. The city is also known for its high-quality craftsmanship and traditional industries.

Antwerp is a city of contrasts. It is a city of grandeur and opulence, but also of poverty and misery. It is a city of beauty and grace, but also of decay and neglect. Antwerp is a city that is constantly evolving and changing, and it is a city that is always worth visiting.

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