

BRUSSELS

our best recommendations
and useful information about the city

2020



a guide by
MEININGER Gare du Midi

INTRODUCTION

As part of our philosophy, we at *MEININGER Bruxelles Gare du Midi* are committed to offer the best experience to our guests, and as a consequence, this Brussels book guide was created by staff members with the purpose to advise on special places in this amazing city.

Next pages are full of adventures, laughs, and special ideas from our own experiences. We hope you enjoy this book as much as we did making it.



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TOURISTIC POINTS

GRAND PLACE

to see by day and by night!

The MUST see of Brussels, one the of most beautiful squares in the world. The Grand Place is the main point in the city - you can not miss it!

Price range: Free

Opening hours: Always available

How to get there: Take the Tram line #3 or 4 (direction Gare du Nord) and get off at Bourse station. And walk towards your destinations for a few minutes.



Flower Carpet:

Every 2 years the Grand-Place in Brussels is covered with a flower carpet of begonias. This year, from 13 to 16 August 2020 at the Grand-Place in Brussels.

Tickets available online at flowercarpet.be



MANNEKEN PIS AND JEANNEKE PIS

classic of Brussels

Price range: free

Opening hours: always there for you

How to get there: Take the Tram line #3 or 4 (direction Gare du Nord) and get off at Bourse station. And walk towards your destinations for a few minutes.

Note: Manneken Pis is really close to Grand Place and Jeanneke Pis is next to Delirium Bar

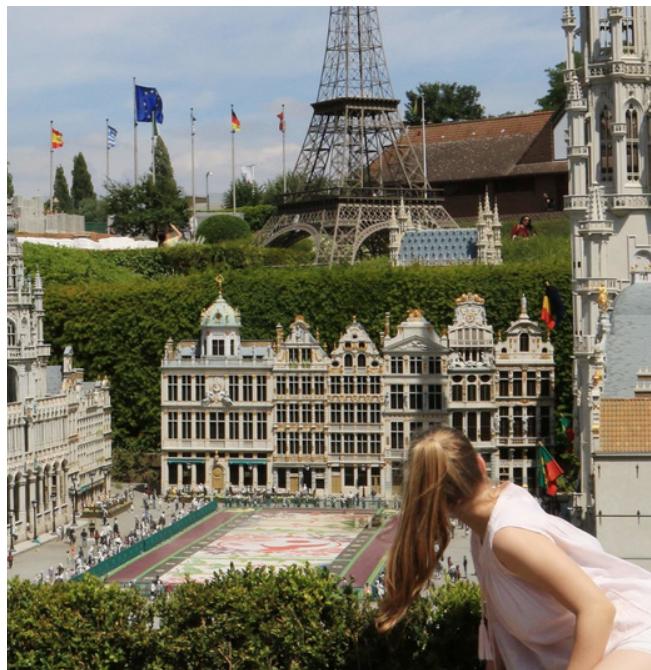
ATOMIUM

Price range: 15€ adults, children free (up to 115 cm)

Opening hours: Every day (365 / 365): from 10:00 to 18:00 (exception on 24,25 and 31 December and 1st of January).

How to get there from midi station: take the metro line #6 (direction Roi Baudoin) and get off on Heizel station. It will be next to you.

Note: purchase your ticket at the reception and save 2€ and avoid time on the queue!



MINI-EUROPE

Price range: Adults 16,50€ and children 12€ (children until 11 years old and below 1m15cm, for free).

Opening hours: open from 13th of March until 3rd of January. In general, from 09:30-18:00 (visit website for changes depending on the season).

How to get there from midi station: take the metro line #6 (direction Roi Baudoin) and get off on Heizel station. It will be next to you.

Note: Annual closure: from 04/01/2021 until 12/03/2021

GALERIES ROYALES SAINT-HUBERT

Price range: free

Opening hours:

How to get there: Take the Tram line #3 or 4 (direction Gare du Nord) and get off at Bourse station. And walk towards your destinations for a few minutes.

Note: the Galeries are always opened, but the shops have their own opening hours during business day.

MONT DES ARTS GARDENS

Price range: free

Opening hours: always there for you

How to get there: from Gare du Midi, take IC/IS trains until Gare Central, and just walk 2 minutes.

Note: It offers one of Brussels' finest views, including La Gran Place.



MAROLLES FLEA MARKET

Price range: depends on what you get 😊

Opening hours: The market is open daily 06:00-14:00

How to get there from:

Note: From clothing, to artwork, and old brass pots and pans. Marolles Flea Market has everything you'd expect of a typical flea market and is a great way to spend an hour or two. Who knows you may even pick up a unique Belgian souvenir.

PARKS AND FORESTS

PARC DU CINQUANTENAIRE

Large public and U-shaped park located in the European quarter, is totally worth visiting. Find close by the AutoWorld vintage car museum and Arst and History museum.

Bus 27 (direction Pléiades, stop Nerviens) or metro stop Schuman.



BOIS DE LA CAMBRE

The park has a small lake with an island in the center which gives access to the restaurant. On Saturdays and Sundays, some routes are closed to cars, giving the way to cyclists, joggers, etc.

Direct access by bus or taking tram and metro (direction to Av. Louise).



LE BOTANIC

Now urban park and place for concerts and exhibitions, this complex used to work as botanical garden which includes a mixture of styles (French, Italian and English) and a large variety of trees and plants.

Metro 2 or 6 (direction Elisabeth, stop Botanic).



PARC DE BRUXELLES

Known as the "Parc Royal" (for being next to the Royal Palace), it was the first public park in Brussels. This is a good spot for many people who want to escape from the busy life and enjoy nature.

Metro 2 or 6 (direction Elisabeth, stop Arts-Loi).



SONIAN FOREST

Words as "magical" and "fantastic" are often the description of visitors to this beautiful forest located (for the surprise of many people) around Brussels. If you need a relaxing moment in the nature, this is perfect for you.

Take the metro 2 or 6 until Louise stop, and from there the tram 8, stop Coccinelles.



MUSEUMS

ROYAL MUSEUMS OF FINE ARTS



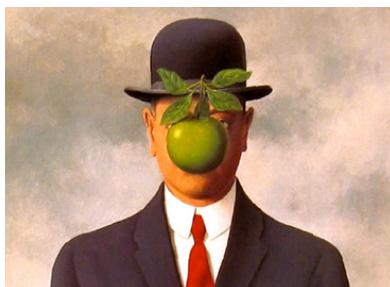
The Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium assemble six different museums: the Oldmasters Museum, Modern Museum, Meunier Museum, Wiertz Museum, Magritte Museum and the Fin-de-Siècle Museum.

Price range: free-15€

Opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 10:00-17:00, Saturday-Sunday 11:00-18:00, Monday closed

How to get there: take the bus #27 from Gare du Midi (direction Pléiades), and get off in Koning bus stop (8 stops). The museum will be next to you.

MAGRITTE MUSEUM



Visit the largest collection of this surrealist and well renowned Belgian artist that includes over 200 pieces: oil paintings on canvas, gouaches, sketches, sculptures and painted objects as well as advertising posters, music scores, old photographs and films.

Price range: 8€

Opening hours: Monday-Friday 10:00-17:00, and Saturday-Sunday 11:00-18:00

How to get there: bus #27 from Gare du Midi

WIELS

The Contemporary Art Centre in Brussels located near your MEININGER Gare du Midi, in which you can enjoy conferences, debates, exchanges, workshops, community programs.

Price range: 0-10€

Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11:00-18:00 (The 24.12 and 31.12 until 16:00).

How to get there: 20min walking towards Av. Van Volxemlaan 354, 1190 Brussels



NATURAL SCIENCES MUSEUM



Price range: 7€

Opening hours: Tuesday-Friday 9:30-17:00, Saturday-Sunday 10:00-18:00, Monday closed

How to get there: Bus 27 (direction Pléiades) and get off in Koning stop (8 stops). It will be next to you.

BOZAR

For those who like concerts, spectacles, debates, plays, performances, and talks, you can't miss the Bozar museum and its two big exhibition halls.

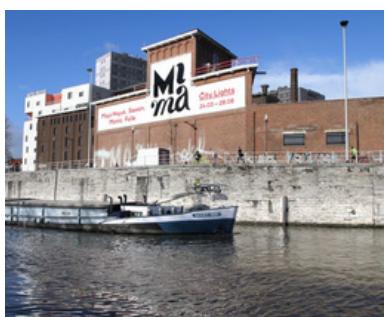
Price range: ticket on the website or at the entrance

Opening hours: Tuesday-Sunday 10:00-18:00, Thursday 10:00-18:00

How to get there: from Gare du Midi, take IC/IS trains until Gare Central, and just walk 2 minutes.



MIMA - THE MILLENNIUM ICONOCLAST MUSEUM OF ART



The place to be for millennials who enjoy art. Situated right in front of our sister hotel (Meininger City Center), where you are welcome to grab a drink.

Price range: free-9,5€ museum

Opening hours: Wednesday-Friday 10:00-18:00, Saturday-Sunday 11:00-19:00, Monday and Tuesday closed.

How to get there from your MEININGER Gare du Midi: from Gare du Midi, take tram 82, direction Berchem, stop Triangle.

PARLAMENTARIUM

Price range: free

Opening hours: Tuesday- Friday 09:00 - 18:00, Saturday - Sunday 10:00 - 18:00, and Monday 13:00 - 18:00

How to get there from your MEININGER Gare du Midi: Bus 27 (direction Pléiades) and get off in Luxembourg stop (11 stops). It will be next to you.



RESTAURANTS



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1 Les fondus de la Raclette

Place de la vieille halle aux blés 28, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Cheese lover ? Try the very famous and typical raclette and fondue. Reservation advised.

2 Wolf - food market

Rue du Fossé aux Loups, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : varies on what you get

With its 17 stalls, this food market allows you to get specialties and drinks from all over the world,

3 Fin de siècle

Rue des Chartreux 9, Bruxelles 1000
Price range : €€

A lovely venue with all the traditional Belgian dishes - home cooked! Cash only.

4 NONA

Rue Sainte-Catherine 17-19, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Authentic Italian pizzas, various flavors and very tasty. The wait can be a bit long, but it's worth it!

5 Mer du Nord

Place Sainte-Catherine 50, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Delicious and fresh seafood, to eat in or take away. The calamari sandwich is a favorite.

6 Bia Mara

Quai aux briques 2, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €

Bia Mara is a fast food restaurant for fried seafood, classic fish& chips. Original, fresh and affordable.

RESTAURANTS



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7 Mémé Café

Rue des Riches Claires 17, 1000 Bruxelles

Price range : €€

This adorable little restaurant offers amazing vegan and pescatarian dishes. Only a few tables.

8 Kabuki

Rue du marché au poulets 32, 1000 Bruxelles

Price range : €€

Japanese restaurant beautifully styled, rice and noodle dishes, with all-you-can-eat sushi train.

9 Rachel

Rue du Marche au Charbon 100, 1000 Bruxelles

Price range : €€

Craving a burger or a bagel ? This place has both! Fresh ingredients, vegan options.

10 L'Express Lebanese

Rue des Chapeliers 8, 1000 Bruxelles

Price range : €

Near Grand Place, cheap and delicious Lebanese specialties to eat in or take away. Cash only.

Our favorites near the hotel

Emporio Brazil

Rue Bara 97, 1070 Anderlecht

Price range : €

Brazilian restaurant, right next to us.

Athenes

Rue de l'Argonne 22, 1060 Saint-Gilles

Price range : €

Greek café behind the station.

Le Bistro

Boulevard de Waterloo 28, 1000 Bruxelles

Price range : €€

Belgian brasserie, 15 mn walk.

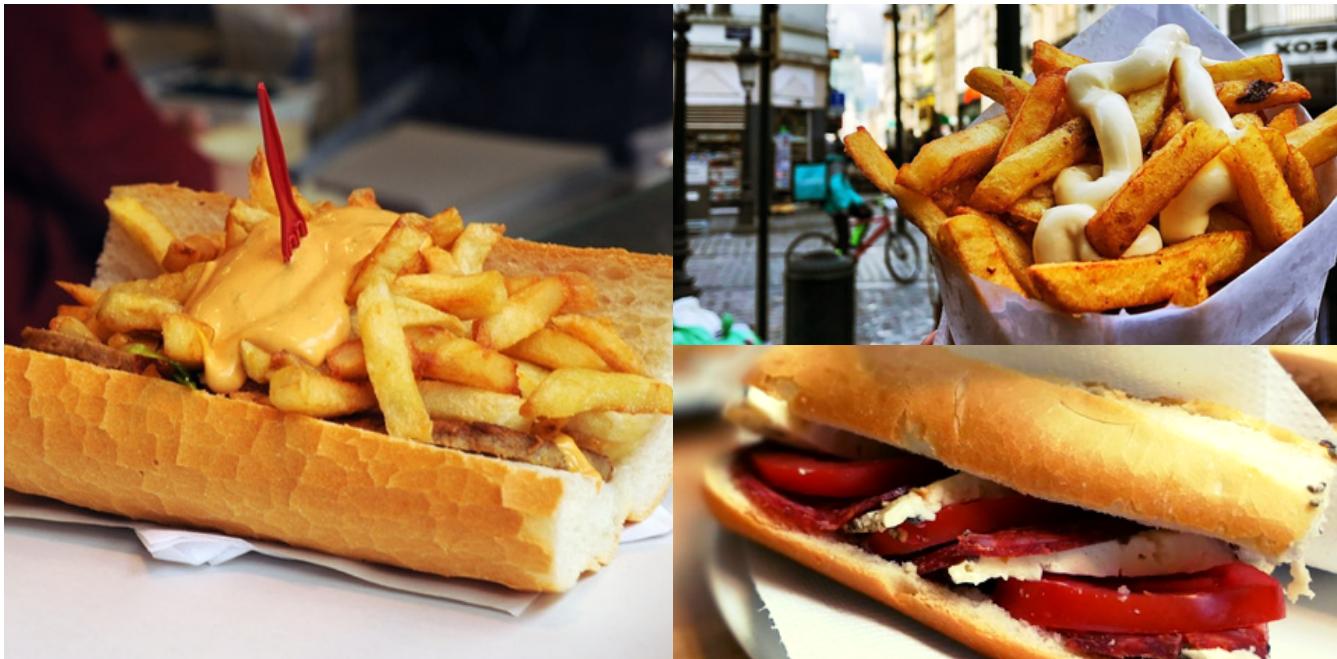
Brasserie Europa

Place Victor Horta, 16, 1060 Saint Gilles

Price range : €€

In the pedestrian street at the station.

FRIES & SNACKS



Fritland

Rue Henri Maus 49, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Fast food joint with outdoor seating.
The name says it all! A good spot to
try the classic "mitraillette".

Friterie Tabora

Rue de Tabora 2, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Tasty fries and other fried specialties,
great selection of sauces. The fries
are cooked in halal beef fat.

Maison Antoine

Place Jourdan 1, 1040 Etterbeek
Price range : €€

Established in 1948, serving classic
Belgian fries with choice of sauces,
plus burgers & snacks.

Tonton Garby

Rue Duquesnoy 6, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €

Sandwich and cheese shop. There
might be a bit of queue but if you are
a cheese lover : do not miss on it!

Snack Tonic

Rue de l'Etuve 67, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €

Very affordable snacks, salads,
sandwiches, soups. Fresh
ingredients and quick service.

Note: if you're vegan or vegetarian, don't forget to ask in what kind of fat the fries are cooked.

WAFFLES & SWEETS



Eight and Three

Rue du Marché aux Herbes 21, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €

This place offers a great choice of waffles and hot drinks for a really fair price. Only a few seating spaces.

Maison Dandoy

Galerie du Roi, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Tea house with great quality waffles, it is possible to sit at a table but there might be a little bit of wait.

Veganwaf'

Galerie Agora 48, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

100% vegan and gluten free waffles
with many different flavors.
100% tasty.

Au merveilleux de Fred

Rue du Marché au Herbes 7, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Brioches, meringues, and waffles...
a true pastry heaven. You can also buy their products packed to gift.

Gaston Ice Cream

Quai aux Briques 86, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Iconic and delicious ice cream. The waffles are very tasty as well but more expensive than other places.

BARS



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1 Delirium Café

Impasse de la Fidélité 4, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

This very famous venue has more than 2000 types of beers. Live music on Thursdays. Gets pretty busy.

2 Bar des amis

Rue Sainte-Catherine 30, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Bar des amis is a Belgian chain, with lots of local beers and cocktails too. Great atmosphere.

3 Au Bassin

Quai aux Briques 74, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Formerly known as "via via café" this one is a local's favorite. Great selection of beers. Beautiful venue.

4 Toone

Impasse Schuddevelde 6, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

The Royal Theater of Toone is a "puppet theater" bar, loved for its unique vibe and local brews.

5 Poechenellekelder

Rue du Chêne 5, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

In this great little bar, the waiters will recommend you beers based on your tastes. They serve food too.

6 Scott's Bar

Rue Montagne aux Herbes Potagères 2, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Belgian pub with great selection of drinks, is it also the meeting point for the Sandemans Beer Tour.

BARS



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7 **Goupil Le Fol**

Rue de la Violette 22, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Some call it "one of Brussels's institution". This bar has the most unique decor. You have to see it!

8 **Bonnefooi**

Rue des Pierres 8, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

This beautiful venue with techno and house music vibes is a great place to get the party started.

9 **Maison du peuple**

Parvis Saint Gilles 38, 1060 Saint-Gilles
Price range : €€

All day café with exposed brickwork, a menu for French and Italian cuisine, long bar & guest DJs.

10 **Brewdog**

Putterie 20, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€€

Chain bar specializing in craft beers with regular guest brews. A big venue with lots of seating options.

11 **Drug Opera**

Rue Grétry 51, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

A traditional Belgian pub, a nice place if you want to sit and enjoy beer, crepes and waffles.

12 **Halles Saint-Géry**

Place Saint-Géry 1, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : varies

This market hall houses a bar at night and is surrounded by more; La Machine, Mappa Mundo, Chili Bar...

CLUBS



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1 Spirito
Rue de Stassart 18, 1050 Ixelles
Price range : €€€

An atypical venue, various music types, ancient church converted into club. Open on fridays and saturdays.

2 Nua
Boulevard Anspach 79, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

A karaoke bar downstairs and a night club upstairs. Meeting point of the Sandemans Pub Crawl.

3 C12
Rue du Marché aux Herbes 116, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Situated inside the Horta Galleries, C12 is a great place for electronic music lovers. Opening days vary.

4 Fuse
Rue Blaes 208, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

This famous techno club is situated close to our hotel. The raves take place on fridays and saturdays.

5 Madame Moustache
Quai au Bois à Brûler 5/7, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

A burlesque-like club with live music and themed parties. Closed on sundays and mondays.

6 Mezzo
Borgwal 18, 1000 Bruxelles
Price range : €€

Dancing bar with different style of music depending on the events, open everyday.

THE STAFF'S FAVORITES



To eat, dance, or go on a walk...

Au bon bol

restaurant
Price range : €

This restaurant is Lucille's favorite to eat noodles at a good price.

Le Cercle

restaurant/bar
Price range : vary

Alida's awesome place to eat and have a good time.

Vertigo

bar

Price range : €€€

Coralie recommends this cozy place of good cocktails and tapas

Palace of Justice

spot
Price range : FREE

Lilas' favorite spot. Take the outdoor elevator and enjoy the view.

Al Bacio

restaurant
Price range : €

Siham recommends this restaurant for affordable authentic italian pizza.

Le Marmiton

restaurant
Price range : vary

Jonathan's favorite Belgian restaurant.

Mont des Arts

spot
Price range : FREE

These gardens are Irene's favorite spot in the city.

Parc Duden

spot
Price range : FREE

Kasia's favorite park in Brussels.

Bloody Louis

night club
Price range : vary

Stephane's favorite night club for rap and hip hop music.

MIM Rooftop bar

museum/bar
Price range : FREE

Carolina's favorite for a great (and free) view of the city.

Etiquette Wine

bar
Price range : €€

Olga's place for good wine and relaxing moments.

De Belmonte

bar
Price range : €€

Mateusz's favorite bar for cocktails and burgers.

Bowling Stones

entertainment
Price range : €

Have some fun with Aziz's favorite bowling spot.

L'Aubette

brunch
Price range : €€

Mohamed's advice for a family-friendly brunch.

Là Haut Viage

bar
Price range : €€€

This casino rooftop bar is Matthieu's favorite (Thursdays only).

Kumiko

restaurant/bar
Price range : €€

Thibault's favorite bar restaurant. Special offer in between 18:00-19:00.

Café Belga

restaurant/bar
Price range : €€

Sebastien's recommendation for good breakfast.



Too rainy outside?

- Bozar Museum is also a cultural center with a lot to see.
- Futurist games : virtual reality with many different scenarios.

Family outing ?

- Toy Museum Brussels.
- Stardust, an indoor playground for ages 2-12, plus lounge bar & restaurant.
- Enigma Nautilus & School of Wizardry



MIDI STATION



Brussels Midi is a bus-metro-tramway and train station used by all mainline trains serving Brussels including Eurostar to London, Thalys to Paris, Amsterdam & Cologne, German Railways ICEs to Cologne & Frankfurt, Intercity trains to Luxembourg and Belgian domestic trains to Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp & so on. Changing trains is easy and only takes a few minutes.

The station is Bruxelles Midi in French, Brussel Zuid in Flemish, Brussels South in English.

SHOPS

Grosseries : Carrefour Market (level 0) / Delhaize Shop&Go (level -1)

Cosmetics and hygiene products : Di, Yves Rocher, The Beauty shop

Souvenirs & Chocolates : Relay, The Belgian Chocolate House, La Belgique Gourmande

Medical supplies : Pharmacie du Midi

MONEY

Withdrawal : ATM BNP Fortis, ING Gare du Midi

Currency exchange and transfer : Ria - Place Bara 27, 1070 Bruxelles

FOOD AND DRINKS

Inside the station : Exki, Prêt à manger, Point Chaud, Paul, Panos, Wok away, Sushi Shop (level 0) / Guapa (juice), Starbucks (level -1)

Outside the station : Fabcafe, Brasserie de la Gare, Brasserie Europa, Taverne Horta

DAY TRIPS



Bruges

1 hour away

Considered World Heritage city by UNESCO, Bruges is a totally worth visiting spot in Belgium. This ancient city will captive your heart, and is accessible by train from Gare du Midi every 30 minutes..

Don't miss the day trip to Bruges with Sandemas (English & Spanish). Check availability at the reception.



Ghent

30 minutes away

This vibrant city offers great options of art, food, and night life. Its city center is a pedestrian area that gives the taste of early Flemish architecture, and allows you to enjoy the most of the city within a few hours, giving you time to grab a beer after.

In the same train line to Bruges, you can easily access Ghent by train leaving from Gare du Midi.



Antwerp

45-55 minutes away

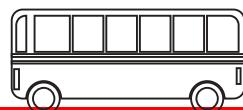
Enjoy the perfect mix of historic and modern trendy places, in the capital of diamond, Antwerp is the second largest city in Belgium and brings awesome examples of architecture, is part of the life of Rubens (baroque painter) and home for many concerts in Belgium.

This one hour trip by train from Gare du Midi is highly recommendable.

*Train tickets are available on the ground floor of Gare du Midi (SNCB) at the machines or at the office. Available also online or through the app SNCB.
Tips: Go pass 1 (up to 26 years old, flat fee for all trips) and Weekend ticket (with 50% discount from Friday 7pm until Sunday - for everyone)*

GETTING AROUND

from Midi Station



PUBLIC TRANSPORTS

Once you are at the station; for buses, follow the DELIJN signs, on the ground floor. Follow the Metro and STIB-MIVB signs for metros and tramways, which will take you downstairs. The tickets can be bought on the "GO" machines or in the kiosks. A single ticket cost 2,10€ (2,50€ at the bus driver) and a 24-hours ticket costs €7.50. If you wish to take the train from one Brussels station to another, a single ticket costs 2,50€ and has to be bought on the specific machines on the ground floor. It is also possible to buy any type of train ticket via the app SNCB. The bus stop for Flibco, Flixbus, BlablaBus and Eurolines, is outside in front of the station (exit : Place Horta).

AIRPORTS

There is a train going in between **Brussels Zaventem Airport** and Brussels Midi Station every 10 minutes from 5am to midnight, 7 days a week. The ride takes 25 minutes and costs 9€.

To reach **Charleroi Airport** there are two ways :

Flibco : a direct shuttle that costs 15€ and departs every half an hour from the Midi station. It is possible to pay at the driver but it is advised to book online. The journey takes more or less one hour.

Train + Bus : another way to get to Charleroi Airport is to first take a train from Midi station to Charleroi South which takes 50 minutes and cost 6,60 to 9,60€. And then from Charleroi South to take the airport Bus TEC, which takes 20 minutes and costs 6€.



BIKES

As a bike-friendly hotel in a bike-friendly city, we are proud to offer a service such as bike rentals. Don't hesitate to ask the staff about it. And if you came with your own bike, please note that you can park it in the back terrace for free and that we have a tool-kit and a pump at your disposal.

SHOPPING

and alternative shopping



SHOPPING STREETS & MALLS

Avenue Louise : From Midi Station, the metro lines 2 and 6 will take you to Louise where you will find a huge shopping street with all fancy clothing and accessory brands.

Rue Neuve & Passage du Nord : These arcades dating from 1882 are housing a selection of popular shops and boutiques. To get there : tramway lines 3 or 4 direction North exit De Brouckère.

Anspach Shopping Brussels : A small shopping center featuring well-known as well as unique retailers, plus coffee shops.

SECOND HAND & VINTAGE

Here are a few second-hand and outlet stores that you can find in Brussels :
 Les petits riens, Think Twice (T2), Episode, Isabelle Bajart, and Oxfam.

Also, the street Chaussée d'Ixelles leading to the neighborhood Flagey is full of second hand shops.

If you are more into retro clothing, kilo shops and vintage boutiques in Brussels are plentiful, here are a few : Melting Pot Kilo, Ramon & Valy, Mademoiselle l'Ancien, Rose Tendre, Rare, American Vintage, DiVintage Brussels, Podium Vintage, Foxhole Vintage, Phase II Vintage.

MARKETS

Marolles Flea Market : Every day till 14:00.

Gare du Midi Market : Every sunday from 06:00 till 14:00.

Brussels Vintage Market : Every sunday from noon till 19:00.



Want to buy some good Belgian chocolate at a fair price ?
 Godiva is a chain of Belgian chocolate shops and you can find their outlet store with discounted products just outside the metro station Simonis (ligne 6 from Midi Station).

USEFUL INFORMATION

in case of emergencies

HOSPITALS

Saint-Pierre Hospital
and emergency room
Rue Haute 322, 1000
Bruxelles,

POLICE

General number: 101
Anderlecht: +32 24 12 12 12
Closest: Rue du Marché au
Charbon, 30 -1000 Bruxelles

DOCTORS

On call doctor 24h
"SOS Médecin"
Phone: 02/513.02.02

AMBULANCE

General number: 112

PHARMACIES

Pharmacie Sophabel
Duty pharmacy - 11 minutes distance
by foot from the hotel
Rue Emile Féron, 29
1060 Saint-Gilles
Phone : 02/537.51.73

FIRE FIGHTERS

General number: 112

PASSPORT STOLEN ?

Please let us know.
Ask reception to call the police/ go to the nearest
police station to get your report.
Advise your consulate/embassy.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Dear Guests,

We want to thank you for choosing to stay with us and sharing our passion for traveling and discovering new places.

Special thanks to Carolina & Lilas for editing this guide book, and all the staff for contributing with suggestions.

We hope you'll make the best of it.

Sincerely,

Your Meininger Hotel Bruxelles Gare du Midi



download the latest version

Disclaimer : this book was made with information found on official websites and we encourage you to do your own research before going anywhere (opening days and hours, age restrictions...)

Price ranges are based on Google Maps, and therefore, the property doesn't take responsibility on changes.



