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1. Geographical location

Antwerp is the capital of the Antwerp province in Belgium. It lies on the Scheldt River in the northernmost region of the country, bordered on the South by France and Netherlands on the North. It is one of the most densely populated areas of Europe. The city is also an integral part of a big harbor complex and is one of the major seaports in the world.



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Antwerp Provides Easy Access To Other Beautiful Cities Of Belgium. The City Is 45 Minutes (by Train) From Brussels, 45-50 Minutes (by Train) From Ghent, 45 Minutes (by Train) From Leuven And A Little Over One Hour (by Train) From Bruges. The City Also Has Close Proximity To Some Cities Of Germany And Netherlands. It Is Just 78 Km To Rotterdam In Netherlands, 61 Km To Tilburg In Netherlands, 97 Km To The Hague In Netherlands, 128 Km To Aachen In Germany And 133 Km From Amsterdam In Netherlands.



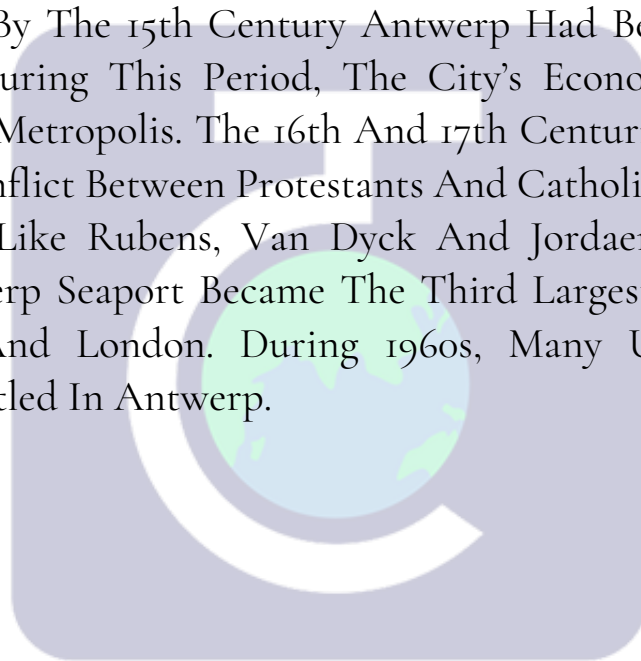
3. Significance

Antwerp Has One Of The Biggest Ports In The World And Ranking Second In Europe. It Also Falls Among The Top 20 Globally. Antwerp Has Long Been An Important City, Both Economically And Culturally. Antwerp Is Renowned As Being The Diamond Capital Of The World. It Has A Beautiful Historic City Center And Is Very Famous For Its Fashion Industry. Antwerp Is A Dynamic City That Offers A Perfect Mix Of History And Present-day Modern Life.



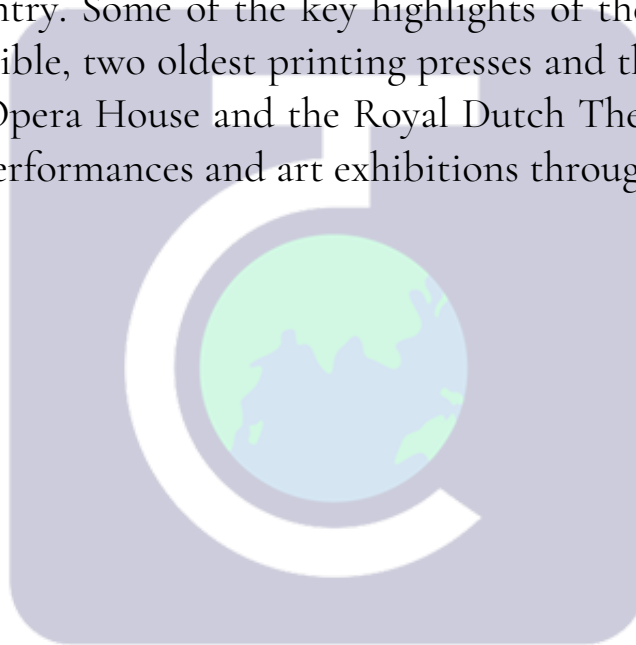
4. History

Excavations Show That The City Of Antwerp Was Inhabited In The 2nd Or 3rd Century A.D. The First Fortification Was Built In The 7th Century. With Its Prime Location On The Scheldt River, Antwerp Quickly Came To Be Known As Western Europe's Greatest Economic Centre. By Mid-14th Century, The City Had Become The Leading Centre For Trade And Finance Because Of Its Seaport And Wool Market. By The 15th Century Antwerp Had Become An Important Diamond Centre. During This Period, The City's Economy Boomed And It Turned Into A Top Metropolis. The 16th And 17th Centuries Saw Bitterness As A Result Of The Conflict Between Protestants And Catholics, But Also The Rise Of Artistic Talent Like Rubens, Van Dyck And Jordaens. During The 19th Century, The Antwerp Seaport Became The Third Largest Port In The World After New York And London. During 1960s, Many Unskilled Moroccans Immigrated And Settled In Antwerp.



Index**5. Cultural identity**

The performing arts in Antwerp are represented by the city's numerous theatres, museums, cultural festivals, art exhibitions, architectural sites and historic monuments such as the Rubens' House. One of the most popular museums in the city is the Plantin-Moretus museum. Originally a publishing house and a printing plant dating back to the sixteenth-century, this museum is one of the finest museums in the country. Some of the key highlights of the museum include an original Gutenberg bible, two oldest printing presses and the first printed Atlas. The Royal Flemish Opera House and the Royal Dutch Theatre in Antwerp also host many cultural performances and art exhibitions throughout the year.



6. Natural resources

The port of Antwerp not only serves as the economical base of Belgium but is also strategic to the country's ecological network. It includes a large part of the Scheldt estuary which contains many nature reserves protected by the EU legislation. These reserves are fully or partially open to the public. Accessible to walkers, the Opstal Valley has ponds and reed land areas which is why it is also home to many water and marsh-dwelling birds. Kallo Reedbed and Great Reedbed are very popular nature reserves with meadows, ponds and reed marshes. Kallo Reedbed, however, is still under development. Home to the extremely rare 'fen orchid', Haasop nature reserve is open to general public and is a great spot for relaxing nature walks. It has beautiful areas of meadows, alkali marshes and toad ponds and attracts open water as well as meadow birds. Although not open to the general public, Paarden and Ouden Doel Saltmarshes can be easily observed from the Scheldt dike. Thousands of rare birds come here to breed. It is also home to rare species of halophyte (salt-tolerant) plants.

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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Zoo Antwerpen

Open since 1843, the Antwerp Zoo is one of the world's oldest animal parks and is visited by nearly 2 million people every year. Along with its sister park, Planckendael, Antwerp Zoo is an abode to almost 7,000 animals belonging to 950 species. Spot the penguins living in the Vriesland that is their own Arctic enclosure, tall elephants and giraffes in their abode and hippopotamuses goofing around in pink villas. The zoo also hosts a cultural function where symphonic concerts are organized and attended by a large number of people.

Address : Koningin Astridplein 20-26, 2018 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2018

Location : 51.2163428, 4.4235413999999976

Contact : +32 3 224 89 10

Website : <http://www.zooantwerpen.be/>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen-Centraal Train Station Antwerpen-Centraal Bus Station

Entry Fee : Children (3 years): €19 Children (3-17 years): €22 Adults (18 and above): €24 Senior citizens (above 60): €23 Disabled: €21.50 Tour (1 guide/ 25 persons): €50

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 5

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.2. Cathedral of Our Lady

Standing as one of the tallest buildings in the whole of Europe, Cathedral of Our Lady exemplifies the grandeur of stunning Gothic architecture. Gaze at the jaw-dropping interiors depicting a blend of Baroque and Neoclassical styles. No wonder, the majestic cathedral tower is on the UNESCO World Heritage List and is thronged by a large number of visitors annually.

Address : Groenplaats 21, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.22026779999999, 4.4015157000000045

Contact : +32 3 213 99 51

Website : <http://www.dekathedraal.be/>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Groenplaats Light Rail Station
Antwerpen Premetrostation Groenplaats Light Rail Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €6 Senior citizens (Above 60 years): €4 Children below 12 years: Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Saturday: 10:00hrs-15:00hrs Sunday: 13:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.3. The Rubens House

Presently a museum, Rubens' House is an erstwhile residence and studio of Peter Paul Rubens, a legendary Flemish artist. Situated right in the heart of the city, a substantial refurbishment was carried out on the purchased house and was made open to the public as Rubenshuis. The museum exhibits a large and unique collection of his outstanding artwork which also comprises of antique furniture.

Address : Wapper 9-11, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.2169895, 4.409315699999979

Contact : +32 3 201 15 55

Website : <http://www.rubenshuis.be/nl>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Premetrostation Meir Light Rail Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 Under 12 years, last Wednesday of every month, companions of disabled people: Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Mas Museum

Situated in the hip Eilandje district, an old dockside neighborhood, MAS Museum gained a lot of love very quickly. The museum's astounding structure and

numerous items on display that speak about the industrial spirit and history of Antwerp make it a popular tourist site. Browse through more than 500,000 items that comprise of artwork as well as utensils and also visit the viewing gallery at the top of the building that gives breathtaking views of the city.

Address : Hanzestedenplaats 1, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.2289238, 4.404820299999983

Contact : +32 3 338 44 00

Website : <http://www.mas.be/nl>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Tavernierskaai Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 2-16 years: €11 Thursday after 17:00hrs: €1 Under 12 years:

Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Plantin-Moretus Museum

Originally a publishing house and a printing plant dating back to the 16th century, the Plantin-Moretus Museum is one of the finest museums in the country. Some of the key highlights of the museum include the original Gutenberg Bible, 2 oldest printing presses, and the first printed Atlas. A World Heritage Site and an abode to a great art collection, this museum takes you back to Antwerp's Golden 16th century.

Address : Vrijdagmarkt 22-23, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.2184457, 4.397957099999985

Contact : +32 3 221 14 50

Website : <http://www.museumplantinmoretus.be/nl>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Sint-Jansvliet Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 Under 12 years, last Wednesday of every month: Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.6. Museum Mayer van den Bergh

An abode to unique art collection from Belgium and abroad, Museum Mayer van den Bergh comprises of major works belonging to the Gothic and Renaissance period. Browse through the paintings by Pieter Brueghel the Elder and other masterpieces as well. The museum exhibits a collection that has been gathered over a period of 41 years.

Address : Lange Gasthuisstraat 19, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.21541610000001, 4.405333199999973

Contact : +32 3 338 81 88

Website : <http://www.museummayervandenbergh.be/men.net>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Oudaan Light Rail Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 Under 12 years, last Wednesday of every month, companions of disabled people: Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : Yes



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Antwerp Central Station

Renowned as the 'Railway Cathedral', the Central Station is the main railway station of Antwerp and considered to be one of the most beautiful train stations in the world. Scattered over 4 floors, it is equipped with various shops, cafés, and modern amenities. Marvel at the beautiful architecture while visiting this station.

Address : 2018 Antwerp, Belgium

Zipcode : 2018

Location : 51.21719179999999, 4.421252900000013

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Premetrostation Diamant Light Rail Station

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Grote Markt

A clean and spacious town square, Grote Markt is encircled by alluring buildings on all sides and speckled with numerous bars and restaurants that enliven the place. Ask a local about the story of the spectacular statue of Brabo (local legend) in the center that dominates the square. Stroll around or grab a cup of coffee and spend an amazing evening here.

Address : Grote Markt, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.2212442, 4.400194899999974

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Suikerrui Steenplein Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. St. Carolus Borromeuskerk

Earlier known as the Ignatius Church, St. Carolus Borromeuskerk is a church for Jesuits. There isn't much to speak about its beauty since its stellar Baroque architecture says it all. It is said that the interiors were decorated by Rubens and his disciples. Marvel at the functioning mechanism above the main altar that is

used to switch paintings.

Address : Hendrik Conscienceplein 12, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.220970000000001, 4.4046458999999991

Contact : +32 3 231 37 51

Website : <http://carolusborromeus.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Sint-Katelijne Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-12:30hrs and 14:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. The Middelheim Sculpture Museum

Housing sculptures from the time of Rodin until today, Middelheim Sculpture Museum is a world-renowned outdoor sculpture expo. With an inventory that spans across 50 years, the park now has an amazing collection of modern sculptures. As unique as its display, the museum is an abode to over 200 pieces and is known to have been born out of an open-air exhibition in the 1950s.

Address : Middelheimlaan 61, 2020 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2020

Location : 51.1804388, 4.4132008000000027

Contact : +32 3 288 33 60

Website : <http://www.middelheimmuseum.be/nl>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Lindendreef Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. St. Paul's Church

With a highly sophisticated architecture, St. Paul's Church is one of the finest churches in Antwerp and is located in the old city center near the Scheldt River. Originally a Dominican monastery from the 16th century, gaze at imposing interior adorned with 50 paintings, over 200 sculptures, alluring baroque altars, and sculpted church furniture. The facade shows Renaissance features with a major highlight being the 18th-century Calvary with 60 life-sized figures.

Address : Sint-Paulusstraat 22, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.22392860000001, 4.401373599999943

Contact : +32 3 231 33 21

Website : <http://sint-paulusparochie.be/>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Klapdorp Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 14:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. St. Jacob's Church

With majestic exteriors and ornate Baroque interiors, St. James' Church was built as a chapel for medieval pilgrims in the 15th century. With 23 altars, religious art treasures, over 100 types of marble and grave of Rubens, there is a lot to explore here. Also known as the resting place of Rubens, the church is renowned for having one of the most ancient working tower clocks.

Address : Lange Nieuwstraat 73, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.22024709999999, 4.409847000000013

Contact : +32 3 225 04 14

Website : <http://topa.be/microsite/topa/>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Sint-Jacob Light Rail Station

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Antwerp City Hall

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Town Hall is an example of the new Renaissance architectural style. Primarily built in 1565, the hall was burnt to ashes in the Spanish Fury in 1576 and was reinstated in the late 19th century. Do not miss out on the City Hall while in Antwerp for it is a fantastic spot to visit displaying beautiful architecture, especially during Christmas.

Address : Grote Markt 1, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.22131090000001, 4.399160499999994

Contact : +32 3 221 13 33

Website : <https://www.antwerpen.be/>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Suikerrui Steenplein Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 08:30hrs-17:30hrs Saturday and Sunday closed

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Bourla Theatre

Constructed in 1819, this elegant theater has encountered countless renovations and is famous for its works of art like that of Apollo and the 9 Muses looking down at the patrons. Bourla is the last enduring theater across Europe that is still intact with initial stage machinery stacked 5 levels below and above the stage with a seating capacity of around 900.

Address : Komedieplaats 19, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.2159759, 4.407212399999935

Contact : +32 3 233 55 17

Website : <http://bourlaschouwburg.nu/>

Nearest Public Transport : Antwerpen Oudaan Light Rail Station

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Meir

Running from the Keyserlei (close to the central station) to the Groenplaats, Meir is an upstreet market in the city of Antwerp. One of the most popular shopping districts in the city, it is your one-stop destination for all high-end fashion labels.

Address : Meir, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.2188259, 4.402949900000067

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Huidevettersstraat

An extension of St. Katelijnevest, Huidervettersstraat is renowned for its location and has access to all popular shopping streets of the city. Take home a little something from the best of luxury brands on this street and return with a bag full of apparels and accessories.

Address : Huidevettersstraat, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.2175153, 4.405384799999979

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Groenplaats

Located right in the heart of the city, Groenplaats is a place where you can find some lovely traditional shops and chocolate-dealers. Head here to buy some local souvenirs and the best of chocolates along with getting a taste of Antwerp's culture.

Address : Groenplaats, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.2194101, 4.401092500000004

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Theaterplein Square

If you wish to shop even on a rainy day, it is possible at Theaterplein Square market. One of the best places for weekend markets in the city, you will find everything from antiques to fruits. With a diverse range of options, you will surely walk out of here with your bags filled.

Address : Theaterplein Square, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Zipcode : 2000

Location : 51.2141656, 4.409798799999976

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. China Town

Only 300 meters away from the Central Station, China Town is a one-stop-shop

for indulging in some affordable retail therapy. Also, if you crave Chinese food, this town has got it all for you.

Address : ChinaTown, 2060 Antwerp, Belgium

Zipcode : 2060

Location : 0.1, 0.2

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



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8. Key sites sports & adventure

Antwerp is a treasure trove of adventure and culture. It is an easy sell for people who are adventurous and adrenaline. People who have brave souls can try ballooning in Antwerp.

- **Airventure Ballooning - Ballonvaart Wachtebeke -**

Address : 's Wolfsdam 20, 9120, Belgium

Location : 51.2257553,4.19524279999996

Contact No : +32498506578

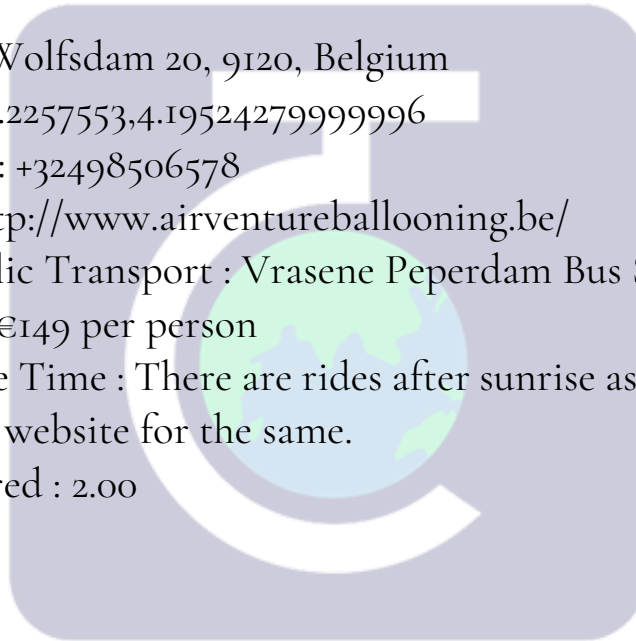
Website : <http://www.airventureballooning.be/>

Nearest Public Transport : Vrasene Peperdam Bus Station

Entry Fees : €149 per person

Open / Close Time : There are rides after sunrise as well as before sunset, please check website for the same.

Time Required : 2.00



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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Tennis is the most popular sport in Antwerp and many professional tennis tournaments are organised in the city. There is little scope for extreme sports activity in the city. However, there are some indoor sites to satiate your sporty spirit. There are many swimming options in the city. Also, indoor climbing in the greater Antwerp area is easily available. Not to forget the free ice skating at de grote markt every year in December.

- **Antwerps Sportpaleis:**

Address : Schijnpoortweg 119, 2170 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.23112200000001,4.441029100000037

Contact No : +3234004040

Website : <http://www.sportpaleis.be/nl>

Open/Close time : Depends on the matches

10. Spas and relaxation

After a long day of sightseeing in Antwerp, you might want to relax and rejuvenate for the next day. The city offers a range of beauty and health treatments that can be availed at discounted prices if booked in advance. Many hotels in Antwerp also offer wellness services. Hotel Julien, Hotel Mercure Mechelen Vê, Hotel Drie Eiken, Maison de Trazegnies and Radisson Blu Astrid Hotel are some top choices of spa hotels in Antwerp.

- **Sauna Wellness Hezemeer:**

Address : Hezemeer 14, 2430 Eindhout, Belgium

Location : 51.111321,5.0272820000000014

Contact No : +3214867952

Website : <http://www.hezemeer.be/>

- **Sauna Aquatis:**

Address : Herentalsebaan 457, 2100, Belgium

Location : 51.22095299999999,4.4659560000000006

Contact No : +3233216076

Website : <http://www.aquatis.be/>

- **The Wellness Room:**

Address : Amerikalei 202, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.2051345,4.3900246000000061

Contact No : +3232577732

Website : <http://www.the-wellness-room.be/>

11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Winterfoor Funfair

A fun-filled festival, especially for the kids held at Rijnkaai 150, 2000. You can find amazing circus acts, rides, food stalls and other enjoyable activities to engage in.

Summer in Antwerp (Zomer van Antwerpen)

Held from July till August, the festival features an impressive range of performing arts including live music and theatrical productions.

Summer in Antwerp (Zomer van Antwerpen)

Held from July till August, the festival features an impressive range of performing arts including live music and theatrical productions.

Sfinks World Music Festival

A very popular Belgian music festival held in the last week of July at Jan Frans Willemsstraat 10a. Various bands from various

countries participate in the event.

Antwerp Parade

Antwerp generously accepts gay lifestyle and is one of the most gay friendly cities in the world. Antwerp parade is a celebration of gay rights. It is a 4-day long festivity full of colors and enthusiasm from locals and tourists alike.

Jazz Middelheim

An annual event to promote jazz music with participation of bands from all over the world. It is held at Middelheimlaan 61, 2020.

Cultuurmarkt van Vlaanderen

A cultural celebration held on the last Sunday of August in the Grote Markt. It includes colorful performances by local and international musicians, stage artists, actors and street performers.

Antwerp Christmas Market

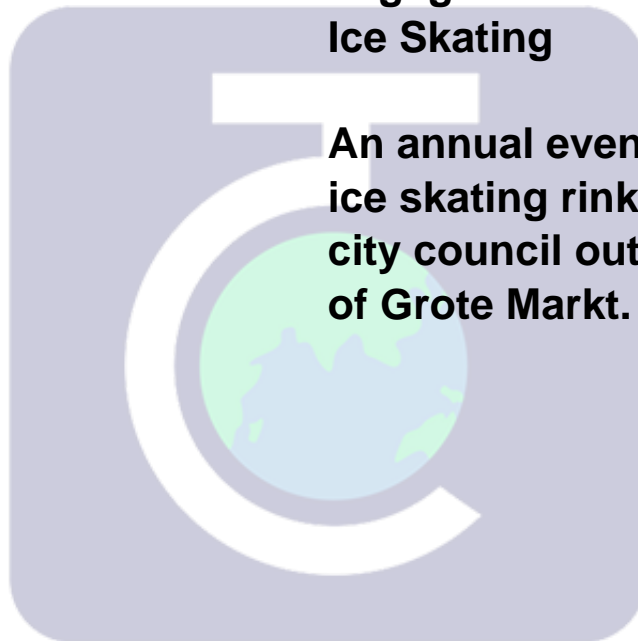
Every year, a huge Christmas tree is positioned and beautified at the Grote Markt. You can also find various stalls selling goodies, eatables, gifts and

items of home decor.
Winterfoor Funfair

A fun-filled festival, especially for the kids held at Rijnkaai 150, 2000. You can find amazing circus acts, rides, food stalls and other enjoyable activities to engage in.

Ice Skating

An annual event where a public ice skating rink is put up by the city council outside the city hall of Grote Markt.



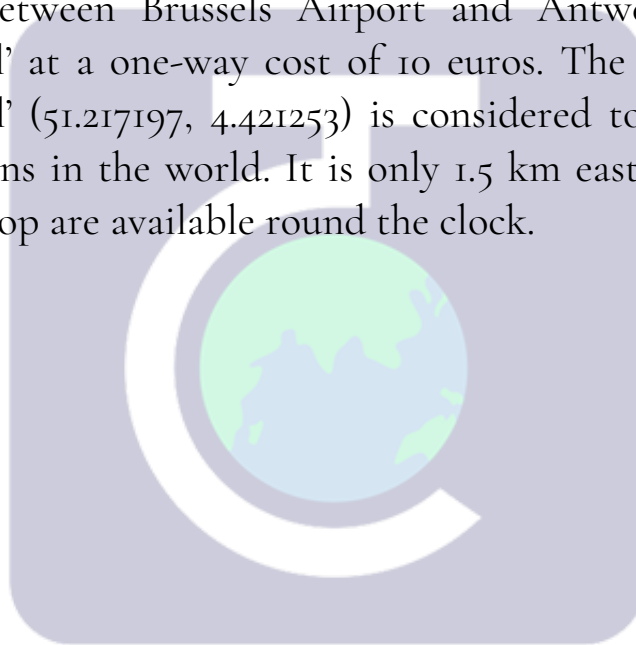
12. Key local guides and tours

If you are short on time in the city, hiring a local guide can be a good idea. There are many options to choose a private guided tour of Antwerp and the tours can also be customized for your personal interests. Christophe Tamborijn is a popular choice of guide in Antwerp. He speaks Dutch, English, French and German. Price per person for private sightseeing by this guide starts at €30.



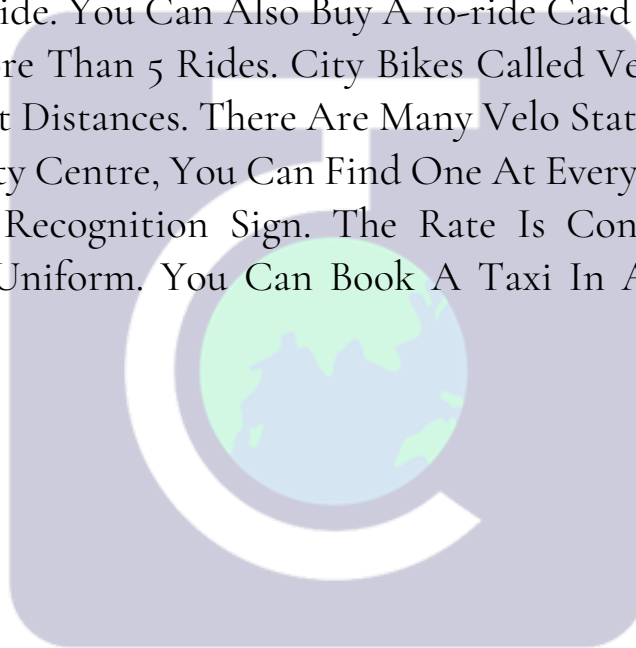
13. Transportation hubs

Antwerp International (Deurne) Airport (51.188745, 4.460828) connects the city to the rest of the world. It is only 6-7 km from the Antwerp city centre and takes only 15 minutes by car. One way taxi fare is approximately 15-20 euros. Brussels Airport (50.900999, 4.485574) is about 45km from Antwerp, It is a 40 minute drive by car (one way Taxi fare is approximately 90 euros). There is also a direct coach connection between Brussels Airport and Antwerp's railway station 'Antwerpen Centraal' at a one-way cost of 10 euros. The city's railway station 'Antwerpen Centraal' (51.217197, 4.421253) is considered to be one of the most beautiful train stations in the world. It is only 1.5 km east of the Grote Markt. Taxis for pick and drop are available round the clock.



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The City Of Antwerp Is Compact And Extremely Easy To Navigate. By And Large, All Major City Attractions Can Be Covered On Foot But You Can Always Hop On A Bus Or Tram If You Feel Like. The City Has A Dense Network Of Buses, Trams, And Underground Tram (pre-metro) Connections Operated By The Flemish Public Transport Company, De Lijn. A Single Ticket In A Bus Or Tram Costs €3 Per Ride. You Can Also Buy A 10-ride Card (Lijnkaart) For €14 If You Plan To Use More Than 5 Rides. City Bikes Called Velos Are Also Popular In The City For Short Distances. There Are Many Velo Stations In The City And If You Are In The City Centre, You Can Find One At Every 400 Meters. Licensed Taxis Have A Red Recognition Sign. The Rate Is Controlled By The City Authorities And Is Uniform. You Can Book A Taxi In Antwerp Using Their Mobile App.



15. Baggage allowance

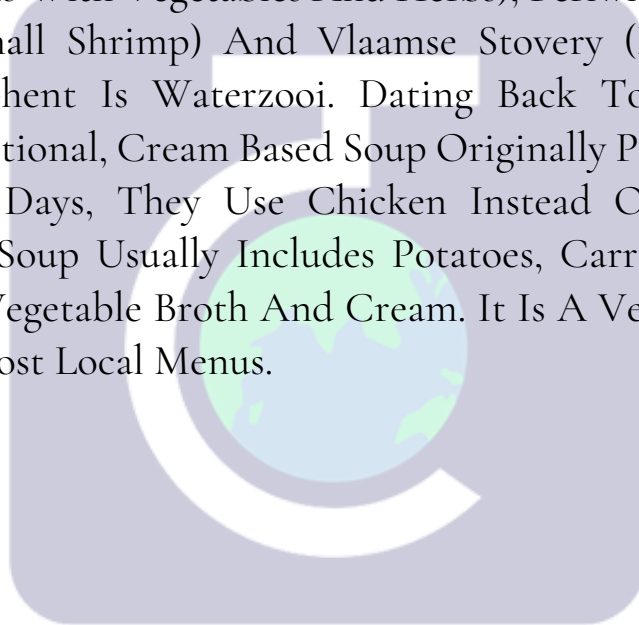
Free Baggage Limit For Most Buses/ Trains In Antwerp Is One Small Hand Bag And One Piece Of "checked In Baggage". Backpacks Are Easy To Carry Around The City.



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16. Must try food and local savouries

Belgium Provides A Smorgasbord Of Culinary Delicacies. When It Comes To Tasting The Traditional Belgian Cuisine, Antwerp Has A Lot Of Options And You Will Not Be Disappointed. On The Top Of The List Are, Of Course, The Famous Belgian Fries, Freshly Baked Waffles, Fried Pastries And Yummy Mussels. When In Antwerp, You Must Also Try The Ubiquitous Mosselen (mussels), Paling In't Groen (eels With Vegetables And Herbs), Periwinkles (marine Snails), Grijze Garnalen (small Shrimp) And Vlaamse Stoverij (Beef Stew). Another Popular Dish Of Ghent Is Waterzooi. Dating Back To The Middle Ages, Waterzooi Is A Traditional, Cream Based Soup Originally Prepared With Fish. In Some Places These Days, They Use Chicken Instead Of Fish. Other Than Chicken/ Fish, The Soup Usually Includes Potatoes, Carrots And Celery. The Base Is Made From Vegetable Broth And Cream. It Is A Very Popular Dish And Can Be Found On Most Local Menus.



17. Restaurant & Nightlife

When in Antwerp, you can find a lot of cafes and restaurants in the Grote Markt but if you are looking out for some traditional places to eat, you must check out along the smaller streets around the square. Many of them are also clustered in Oude Stad. For trendier cafes, head to Het Zuid. It's a busy area and it is best to make prior reservations. Antwerp is quite a happening city to drink and dance. Opening hours, of most clubs, are flexible and a majority of them close only when the customers leave at dawn. The highest concentration of clubs and bars is in the city centre and the cafe-bars on Groenplaats and Handschoenmarkt are the best to visit for laidback evenings. A good number of them feature live music almost every day.

Food -

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- **De Taloorke:**

Address : Lange Koepoortstraat 61, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.222003099,4.4024346999

Contact No : +3232343998

Website : <http://taloorke.com/>

Open / Close Time : Sunday to Wednesday 11:00hrs-22:00hrs Thursday to

Saturday 11:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Konditori:**

Address : Schermersstraat 8, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.212040599,4.4036446999

Contact No : +3233448293

Website : <http://konditori.be/>

Open / Close Time : 07:00hrs-19:00hrs (Tuesday and Wednesday closed)

- **De Koninck - Antwerp City Brewery:**

Address : Mechelsesteenweg 291, 2018 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.1992882,4.4151510000

Contact No : +32 3 866 96 90

Website : <http://www.dekoninck.be/>

Open / Close Time : 10:00hrs-18:00hrs (Monday closed)

- **Desire De Lille:**

Address : Schrijnwerkersstraat 14, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.2178368,4.4036541000

Contact No : +3232316226

Website : <https://desiredelille.be/>

Open / Close Time : Sunday to Thursday 09:00hrs-20:00hrs Friday and Saturday 09:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **The Jane:**

Address : Paradeplein 1, 2018 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.202480500,4.4234455000

Contact No : +3238084465

Website : <https://www.thejaneantwerp.com/?lang=en>

Open / Close Time : 12:00hrs-13:30hrs and 19:00hrs-20:30hrs (Sunday and Monday closed)

- **Graanmarkt 13:**

Address : Graanmarkt 13, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.2161505,4.4087697999

Contact No : +3233377991

Website : <http://www.graanmarkt13.be/>

Open / Close Time : 12:00hrs-14:30hrs and 18:30hrs-22:00hrs (Sunday and Monday closed)

- **'t Zilte:**

Address : Hanzestedenplaats 5, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.22904,4.4048229999

Contact No : +3232834040

Website : <http://www.tzilte.be/>

Open / Close Time : NA

- **Brasserie Appelmans:**

Address : Papenstraatje 1, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.2198431,4.4005594000

Contact No : +3232262022

Website : <https://www.brasserieappelmans.be/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:30hrs-16:00hrs and 17:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **'t Hofke:**

Address : Oude Koornmarkt 16, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.220368,4.399545

Contact No : +3232338606

Website : <http://www.thofke.com/>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Friday 12:00hrs-15:00hrs and
18:00hrs-22:00hrs Saturday and Sunday 12:00hrs-22:00hrs

- **Fiskebar:**

Address : Marnixplaats 11, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.210071,4.397232

Contact No : +3232571357

Website : <http://fiskebar.be/>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Thursday 18:00hrs-21:30hrs Friday
18:00hrs-22:00hrs Saturday 12:00hrs-22:00hrs Sunday 12:00hrs-21:00hrs

- **Het Nieuwe Palinghuis:**

Address : Sint-Jansvliet 14, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.218358,4.396453

Contact No : +3232317445

Website : <http://www.hetnieuwepalinghuis.be/>

- **Club Petrol:**

Address : D'Herbouvillekaai 25, 2020 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.201190,4.371775

Contact No : +3232264963

Website : <http://www.petrolclub.be/>

Open / Close Time : NA

- **Club Ikon:**

Address : Kotterstraat 3, 2030 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.243124,4.419116

Contact No : +3232955465

Website : <http://ikonantwerp.com/>

Open / Close Time : Thursday to Saturday 23:00hrs-06:00hrs

- **Red & Blue:**

Address : Lange Schipperskapelstraat 11, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.226169,4.401374

Contact No : +3232130555

Website : <http://www.redandblue.be/>

Open / Close Time : Saturday 23:00hrs-07:00hrs

- **Café d'Anvers:**

Address : Verversrui 15, 2000 Antwerpen, Belgium

Location : 51.2260507,4.4038092000

Contact No : +3232263870

Website : <http://www.cafedanvers.com/>

Open / Close Time : Thursday 23:00hrs-06:00hrs Friday and Saturday 23:00hrs-07:30hrs

Index**18. Average meal cost**

Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant 16.00 € Meal For 2 People, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course 67.50 € McMeal At McDonalds (or Equivalent Combo Meal) 8.00 € Domestic Beer (0.5 Liter Draught) 3.50 € Imported Beer (0.33 Liter Bottle) 3.00 € Cappuccino (regular) 2.61 € Coke/Pepsi (0.33 Liter Bottle) 1.97 € Water (0.33 Liter Bottle) 1.83 €



19. Shopping

Despite its modest size, shopping in Antwerp is an experience that befits the city's status as an international fashion capital.



20. Tourist benefits

The Standard VAT Rate In Belgium Is 21%. If You Are A Non-EU National, You Are Entitled To Tax Refund For Purchases Made In Antwerp If The Spend Is Over €125.01 In One Shop. You Can Claim It At The Time Of Leaving The Country. All You Are Required To Do Is Look For Stores With 'Global Blue Tax Free Shopping' Or 'Tax Free For Tourists' Sign On The Store Window. At The Time Of Payment, Ask For A Tax Free Form. Fill It And On Your Return, Get It Stamped From The Customs' Desk. Once This Is Done, You Need To Go To A Refund Office With The Global Blue Logo And You Will Receive The Refund. Note: To Qualify For A Refund, The Goods Must Be Unused.



Index**21. Essential local apps**

Local Apps Make Travel Hassle Free And Makes Traveling Convenient. Some Of The Apps That Can Be Used While In Antwerp Are Runtastic Road Bike Tracker, Velo Antwerpen And A Diamonds.



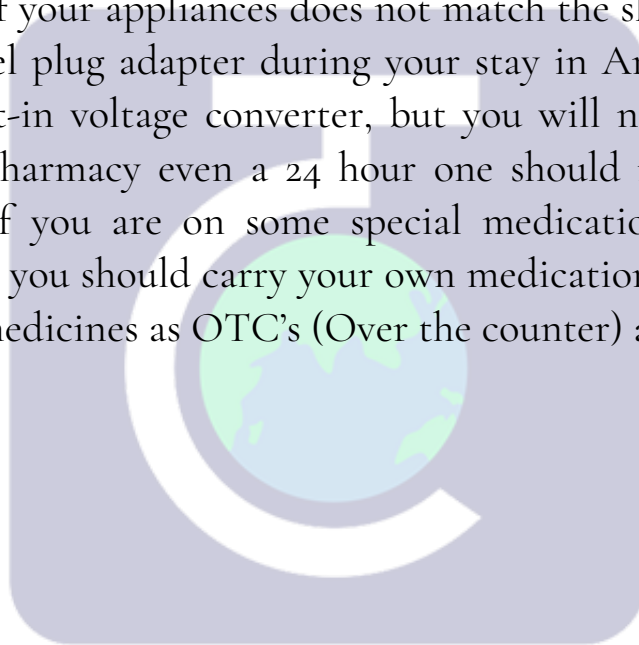
22. Driving

If you wish to drive in Belgium, the following items are required: • Valid UK driving licence • Insurance documents • Vehicle documents If you are driving a vehicle that does not belong to you then written permission from the registered owner may also be requested. Do not drink and drive, frequent alcohol checks are made, in daytime as well as at night. A maximum of 0.22 mg/l is allowed. A blood sample will be taken if you refuse to be breathalysed. Fines are heavy depending on the degree of intoxication and range from € 1,100 to € 11,000. In certain cases driving licences have been confiscated immediately. In Belgium, EU members can drive with their license, however, non-EU drivers can use their driver's license along with International Driving Permit which may be requested in some cases.



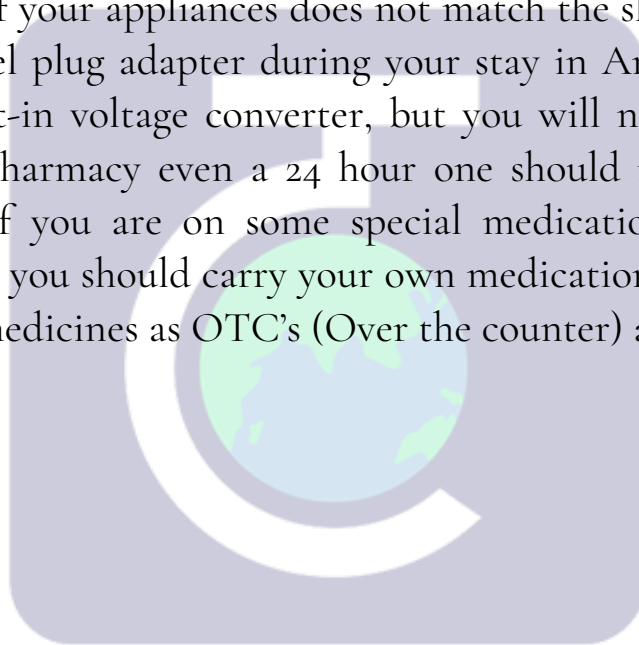
23. Travel essentials

Regardless of the time of the year, the first thing that you need to pack for a trip to Antwerp is a pair of good walking shoes. Rains can be unpredictable and hence, an umbrella and a raincoat are essential at all times. Mosquito spray might also be needed. Like most of continental Europe, Belgium is on the 220-240 Volts. Electrical sockets (outlets) in the country are of "Type E" French style CEE 7/5 Schuko. If the plug of your appliances does not match the shape of these sockets, you will need a travel plug adapter during your stay in Antwerp. Most battery chargers have a built-in voltage converter, but you will need a socket adapter anyway. Finding a pharmacy even a 24 hour one should not be a problem in Antwerp, however if you are on some special medication or are allergic to particular medicines, you should carry your own medication. It is always advised to carry prescribed medicines as OTC's (Over the counter) are not allowed.



24. Essential clothes

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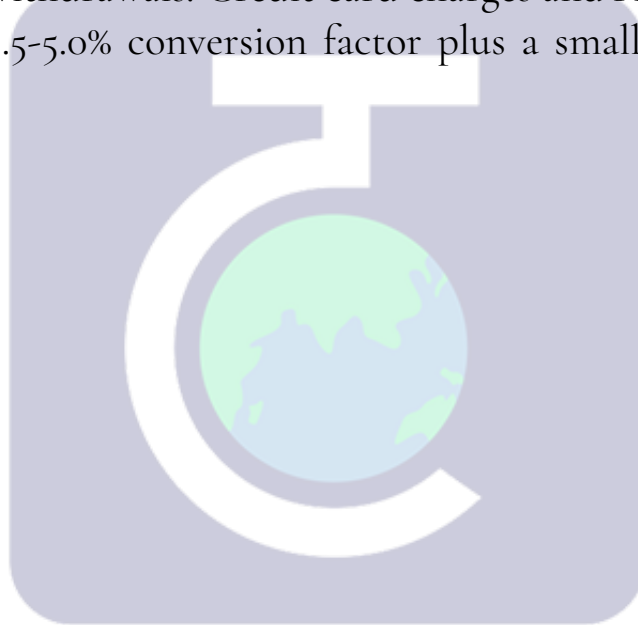
25. Local currency

The Official Currency Of Belgium Is Euro (€). 1 USD = €0.89.



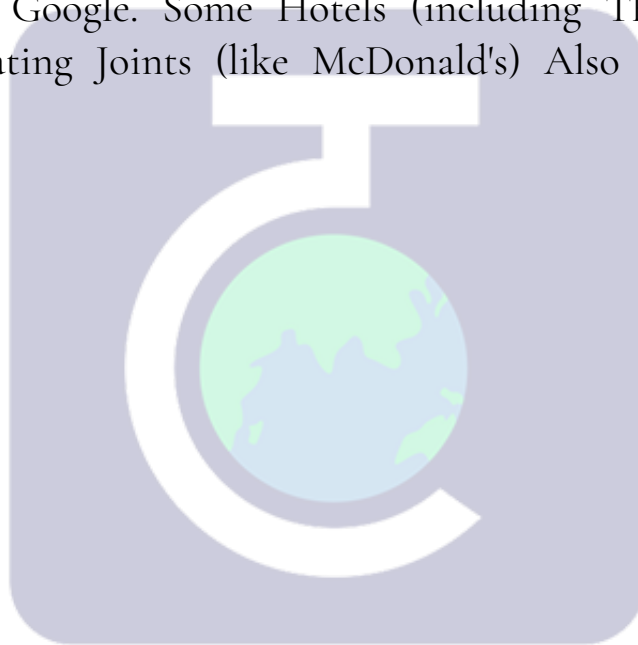
Index**26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges**

Generally, all major credit cards (including VISA, MasterCard, American Express etc) are easily accepted. But you must always carry some cash handy for small purchases. For international money transfers and currency exchange, you must check out exchange bureaux located in the various banks. ATM machines (known as a geldautomaat in Dutch) are scattered all around the city and it is not difficult to find one for cash withdrawals. Credit card charges and ATM withdrawals will most likely incur a 1.5-5.0% conversion factor plus a small percentage as ATM withdrawal fees.



27. Staying connected

The Main Companies Offering Wireless Service In Antwerp Are Proximus, Mobistar And Base, And A Large Number Of MVNOs (virtual Operators). Sim Cards Are Readily Available At Supermarkets. Startup Cost Is € 15 Approximately. Default Data Rate Is € 0.50 Per MB. The City Centre In Antwerp Now Has Free Wi-fi That Is Available Once You Register Using An Account With Facebook Or Google. Some Hotels (including The Radisson), Cafés, Restaurants And Eating Joints (like McDonald's) Also Offer Free Wireless Internet Too.



28. Time Zone

Antwerp falls under the CET (Central European Time). It is one hour ahead of GMT.



29. Languages

As In All Other Flemish Provinces, The Official And The Most Commonly Spoken Language Of Antwerp Is Dutch (Flemish Version). You Can Also Find A Large German And French Speaking Community In The City. English Is Understood By A Good Percentage Of Population And If You Are On A Short Visit To Antwerp, English Should Do You Just Fine. Some Hotels In Antwerp Have Separate English Menu. Signboards Are Also In English At Many Points In The City. However, It Is Advised That You Learn At Least A Few Dutch Words/ Phrases To Win Over Locals, Shopkeepers, Tour Guides Etc.



30. Political Scenario

Just Like Other Municipalities In The Country, The City Of Antwerp Is Run By An Elected City Council. The City Council Then Elects A Board Of Aldermen, Which Is Headed By A Burgomaster (nominated On Recommendation Of The Council By The King).



31. Economic Scenario

The Economy Of Antwerp Primarily Relies On Its Seaport, Chemical Industry And Diamond Trade. Port Of Antwerp The Port Of Antwerp, Which Is The Second Largest Port In Europe After Rotterdam, Has Been The Driving Force Behind The Country's Economy Since The Middle Ages. Of Late, It Has Developed Into The Ideal European Gateway And Acts As A Reliable Link In World Trade. It Is Estimated That 150,000 People Who Work In The Port Of Antwerp Provide A Joint Added Value Of About 18 Billion Euros. The Port Authorities Are Investing Heavily In Developing Its Economic Activities Further. Diamond Trade Antwerp Is Called The Diamond Capital Of The World. Diamond Trade In The City Is Extremely Crucial For The Flemish And Belgian Economy. The Capacities And Skills Of Diamond Traders In The City Are More Than Five Centuries Old. Not Only Does This Industry Generate Value In Terms Of Foreign Income But Is Also The Source Of Employment For Approximately 32,000 People In Antwerp. The Antwerp World Diamond Centre (AWDC) Officially Represents And Coordinates The Diamond Sector In The City. Chemical Industry Chemical Industry, Which Accounts For 2% Of The Country's Exports, Is Also Significant To Belgium's Economy. The City Has The Second Largest Plant Of BASF, Making It The Largest Chemical Complex In Belgium. Power Generation Is Also An Important Industry In The City And Doel Nuclear Power Station Is One Of The Two Important Nuclear Power Plants In Belgium.

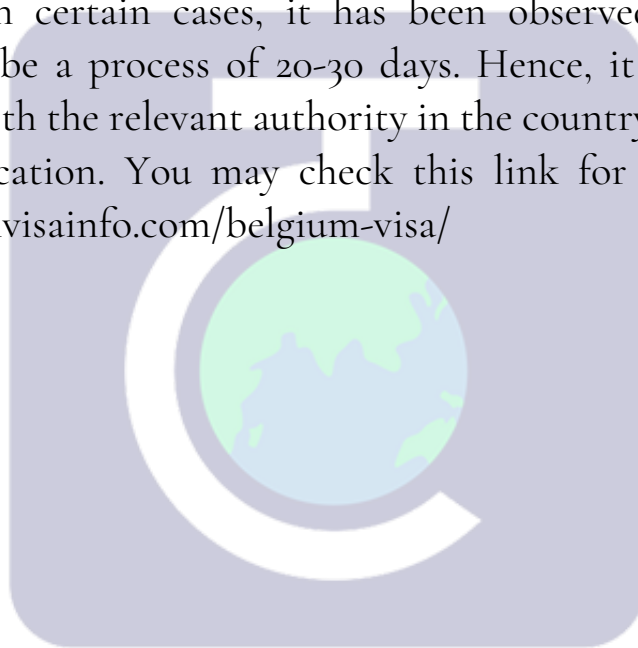
Index**32. Religious belief**

The Most Prevalent Religion In The City Is Roman Catholicism. People With Jewish Inclination Also Exist. However, A Big Portion Of The Population In Antwerp Is Growing Non-religious.



33. Visa requirements

If you have a Schengen visa, you can stay (but not work) in Antwerp for 90 days. EU nationals with residence permit may stay for an unlimited period. Nationals of Australia, Canada and the USA can visit Antwerp with a valid passport for a period of 90 days. Nationals of the rest of the world need to apply for a visa to visit the city. It is advisable to keep 2 pages free in your passport for arrival and departure stamps. In certain cases, it has been observed that applying and receiving a visa can be a process of 20-30 days. Hence, it is essential that you check the timeline with the relevant authority in the country where you intend to make the visa application. You may check this link for further information: <http://www.schengenvisainfo.com/belgium-visa/>



34. Essential vaccination

In General, No Special Immunizations Or Medications Are Necessary For Travel To Belgium. Vaccinations: Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR): Two Doses Recommended For All Travelers Born After 1956, If Not Previously Given Tetanus-diphtheria: Revaccination Recommended Every 10 Years Influenza: Recommended For All Travelers From November Through April



35. Theft and Safety

Antwerp Is A Safe City For Residents And Tourists. It Is Never Really Abandoned But Petty Crimes Such As Pickpocketing And Snatching Are Often Heard Of. Some Neighbourhoods Of Borgerhout, Seefhoek And The Area Around De Coninckplein Are Very Happening But Cannot Be Felt Very Comfortable By Tourists, Especially Females. If You Are Travelling Alone, You Should Avoid Secluded Places, Especially At Night. It Is Advised That You Do Not Leave Your Belongings Unattended And Stay Alert All The Time. Bicycle And Car Theft Is Also Common, And Hence A Good Lock Is Very Essential.



Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

For A List Of Foreign Representations In Antwerp, Belgium, You Can Log On To: [Http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/belgium](http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/belgium)



37. Accessibility

The Flemish Tourist Board runs a service by the name Accessible Travel Info Point that provides necessary information about travelling in Belgium by those who have a disability. For disabled parking space, you will need the blue disabled parking card or a European Community blue badge which can be obtained from the local town hall. Hotel Julien, Antwerp close to the Gothic cathedral has been beautifully adapted for disabled guests, with spacious doors and wheelchair-accessible showers. Radisson BLU, Tulip Inn, Hotel Prinse, Hotel Le Sud and Novotel Antwerpen too are some of the most wheelchair friendly hotels in the city.



38. Emergencies

Citizens of EU with compulsory health insurance are covered for medical expenses which are reimbursed to you if you present a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to the medical practitioner. Visitors who come from a country outside of the EU are advised to take out a valid, private medical insurance to cover medical expenses in Antwerp. Algemeen Ziekenhuis Middelheim (ZNA Middelheim) is one major hospital in the city. Emergency numbers: Police- 101 Fire Service/Medical Service- 100 European Emergency Number- 112



Index**39. Do's and Don'ts**

Do's • Do keep an eye on your valuables. • Do lock your bike properly if left outside on the street. • Do carry your passport. • Watch out for pickpockets, especially at Antwerp's Central Station. • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/ unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import. Don'ts • Do not forget to sample some authentic Belgian chocolate. • Do not visit dark/ unlit places, especially if you are alone.



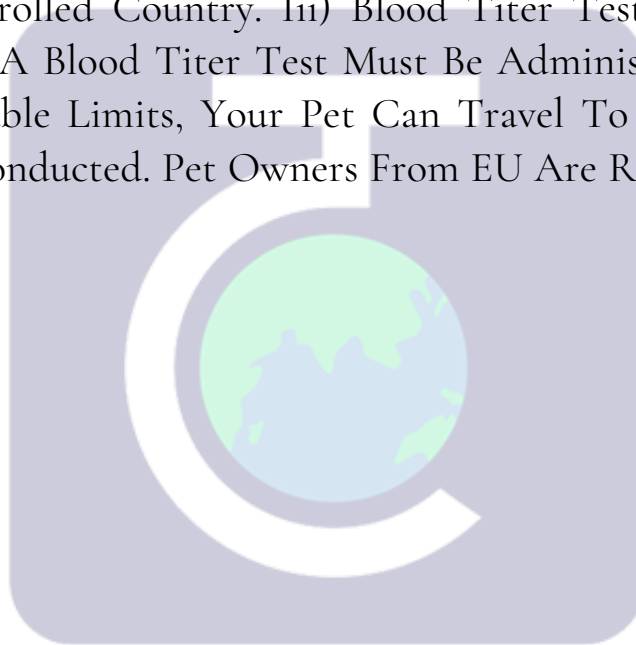
Index**40.Tipping basics**

The Service Charges Are Almost Always Included In Your Bill In Antwerp. Tipping Is Not Customary And Unless The Service Was Exceptional, You Do Not Need To Feel Obligated To Tip.



Index**41.Pet info**

Belgium Is A Pet-friendly Country. There Are, However, Certain Rules And Regulations That You Must Adhere To Before Bringing Pets Into The Country. I) Pet Microchip Your Pet Should Be Microchipped With An ISO 11784 Pet Microchip Ii) Proper Vaccination After The Microchip, Your Pet Will Need A Rabies Vaccination, Especially If You're Traveling With Them From A Rabies-free Or Rabies-controlled Country. Iii) Blood Titer Test 30 Days After The Rabies Vaccination, A Blood Titer Test Must Be Administered. If The Results Are Within Acceptable Limits, Your Pet Can Travel To Germany Within 90 Days Of The Test Conducted. Pet Owners From EU Are Required To Obtain A Pet Passport.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Antwerp Is One Of The Most Beautiful Cities In Belgium, Highly Popular Among Fashionistas, Art Lovers And Diamond Dealers. The City Is A Famous Weekend Destination Among People From All Across The World. If You Are Planning A Visit To Belgium, Antwerp Should Definitely Be On Your List.



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