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1. Geographical location

Brussels is the capital city of Belgium and of Brussels capital region. It is completely surrounded by the Dutch speaking Flanders region. The city has an area of 3161 hectares and has a population of around 175,000. The city is municipality consisting of the historic old town and other areas from Brussels capital Region which are Haren, Laeken, Neder--Over-Heembeek, Avenue Louise and the Bois de la Cambre.



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2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Major Cities Close To Brussels Are Antwerp (42 Kms), Binche (50 Kms), Bruges (88 Kms), Lille (France, 94kms) And Rotterdam, Netherlands (120kms). Also Close To Brussels Are Small Towns Waterloo (18kms) And Aaist (28kms).



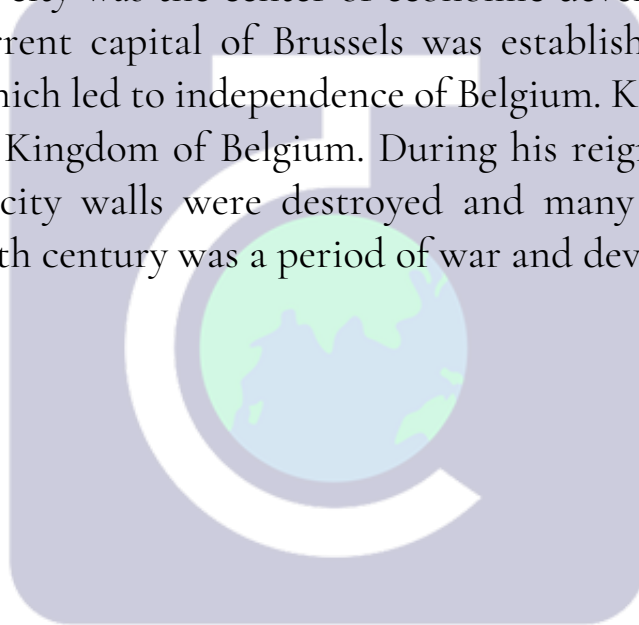
3. Significance

Brussels has been a major centre for international politics and is home to numerous international organizations, politicians, diplomats and civil servants. It is also known as the de facto capital of European Union because it hosts a number of principal EU institutions. The Secretariat of the Benelux and the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are also located in Brussels.



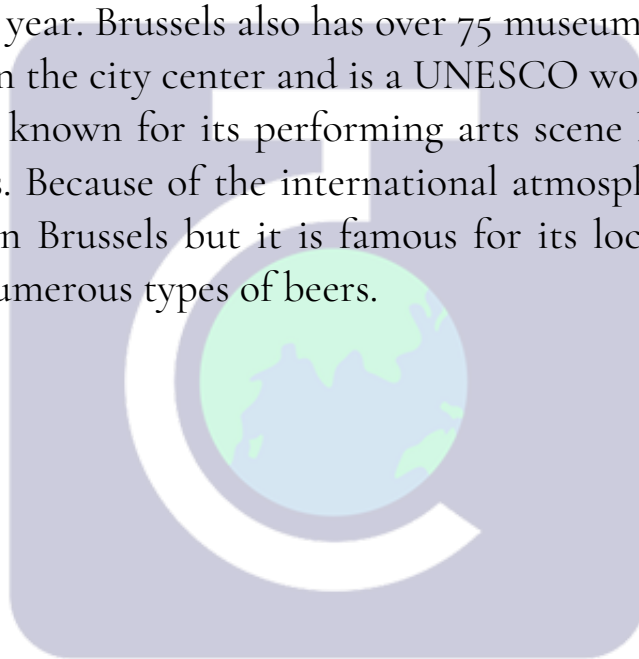
4. History

Brussels was founded around the year 979 by Charles, Duke of Low Lotharingia. Brussels quickly developed from a town into a city. Because of its location on the shores of Senne Brussels became an important trade route between Bruges, Ghent and Cologne. The city walls were first constructed in the 11th century and because of the protection offered by them the city grew in population rapidly. During the 1700s the city was the center of economic development, occupations and revolts. The current capital of Brussels was established in 1830 after the Belgian revolution which led to independence of Belgium. King Leopold I became the first King of the Kingdom of Belgium. During his reign the city underwent many changes. The city walls were destroyed and many new buildings were constructed. Early 20th century was a period of war and development.



5. Cultural identity

Brussels is a cultural center for cultures from western Europe and beyond. Brussels is a dual language city with both Dutch and French being the official languages. The European Union, European Parliament, NATO and United Nations offices are in Brussels which draw people from Europe and all over the world to the city. Brussels is a very lively city with hundreds of events taking place throughout the year. Brussels also has over 75 museums. The Grand Place is the main attraction in the city center and is a UNESCO world heritage site since 1998. Brussels is also known for its performing arts scene being home to thirty independent theatres. Because of the international atmosphere it is easy to find any type of cuisine in Brussels but it is famous for its local waffle, chocolates, french fries and its numerous types of beers.



Index**6. Natural resources**

At the edge South Eastern edge of Brussels lies the 4421 hectares Sonian Forest. The forest consists mainly of European beeches and oaks. Some of the trees are over 200 years old. The natural resources here include construction materials, silica sand and carbonates. It also used to have coal mines.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Musical Instruments Museum

Internationally celebrated for accommodating more than 8,000 instruments, the Musical Instruments Museum houses the finest collection covering almost all cultures of the world. It started with a donation of 100 Indian musical instruments by a king in 1876, which was then combined with the rare collection of Belgian musicologist Fétis. Representing exhibits that exemplify the Belgian music history and European musical traditions, visitors are provided with headphones to immerse themselves in the melodies of 200 musical extracts of instruments that are on display.

Address : Rue Montagne de la Cour 2, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8430942, 4.3591283000000066

Contact : +32 2 545 01 30

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

Nearest Public Transport : Royale Bus Station

Entry Fee : €12 for adults €2 for 4-25 years old, unemployed and disabled €9 for 65 and above

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Friday 09:30hrs-17:00hrs Saturday and Sunday 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.2. Museum of Natural Sciences

Dedicated to natural history, this Natural Science Museum has on display the most important pieces of 30 fossilized Iguanodon skeletons that were discovered somewhere around 1878, as well as the Ishango bone discovered in 1960. It has the world's largest museum hall dedicated only to dinosaurs. This museum is a part of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and has a diverse and exceptionally rich zoological collection.

Address : Rue Vautier 29, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8365453, 4.376791200000071

Contact : +32 2 627 42 11

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

Nearest Public Transport : Museum Bus Station

Entry Fee : €8 for adults €6.50 for students, 65+ and disabled people €5.50 for 6-17 year old

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Friday: 09:30hrs-17:00hrs Saturday and Sunday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Magritte Museum

Located in the heart of Brussels, the museum has arranged over 200 artworks of the Belgian surrealist artist, René Magritte. It contains works like oils on canvas, gouaches, drawings, sculptures and painted objects. Comprising of purchases made by the Royal Museums of Fine Arts, the museum welcomed more than 500,000 visitors within its first year of operation.

Address : Rue de la Régence 3, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.84240570000001, 4.358640700000024

Contact : +32 2 508 32 11

Website : <http://www.musee-magritte-museum.be/Portail/Site/Typo3.asp?lang=FR&id=languagedetect>

Nearest Public Transport : Loyaute Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 Children and people between 6-25 years, handicapped and companion, unemployed, persons receiving minimum wage: €2

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Friday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Saturday and Sunday: 11:00hrs-18:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Atomium

This is an oddly shaped building which was constructed in 1958 and looks like an enlarged iron crystal comprising of 9 interconnected large steel spheres out of which 5 are publicly accessible. The building represents an iron molecule magnified 165 billion times. The top sphere includes a restaurant that offers a panoramic view of the city. At the foot of Atomium is Mini-Europe which displays over 300 miniature models of famous buildings from all over the continent.

Address : Avenue de l'Atomium, 1020 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1020

Location : 50.894941, 4.341546999999991

Contact : +32 2 474 13 13

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

Nearest Public Transport : Heizel Tram Station Heizel Subway Station Stade Bus Station

Entry Fee : €23.50 is for Mini Europe and Atomium €14.30 for Mini Europe alone €11 for Atomium alone

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:30hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 1 hour

Buy Ticket : Yes



7.1.5. Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium

Tagged as one of the largest and best art galleries in the world, the Royal Museum contains over 20,000 drawings, sculptures, and paintings from early the 15th century to the present. It also houses a comprehensive collection of Flemish paintings by famous artists like Bruegel, Robert Campin, and Jacob Jordaens. The cynosure of the museum is the "Ruben's room" ornated with more than 20 paintings by the artist. The museum also conducts several exhibitions throughout the year.

Address : Rue de la Régence 3, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8419778, 4.3579036999999952

Contact : +32 2 508 32 11

Website : <http://www.fine-arts-museum.be/en>

Nearest Public Transport : Royale Koning Tram Station Royale Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults (26-64): €8 Children and young people (6-25), Disabled people: €6 Children below 5, any visitor first Wednesday of each month from 13:00hrs: Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Friday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Saturday and Sunday: 11:00hrs-18:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.6. Autoworld

Belgium had been ranked second in the world for the production of cars at the initial stages of automobile introduction. This museum has about 350 vintage European and American cars dating back to the 17th century. The cars are arranged according to the era they were produced and used in, make you feel like you are walking through time. The other highlights here include a 1928 Bentley, 1930 Bugatti, 1930 Cord, and several limousines that belonged to the royal family.

Address : 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8393417, 4.3934237999999937

Contact : +32 2 736 41 65

Website : <http://www.autoworld.be/onthaal>

Nearest Public Transport : Gaulois Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €9 Students, disabled, 65 years and above: €7 Children between 6-12 years: €5 Free admission for less than 6 years old

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.7. MOOF Museum

Ever desired to take a journey back to your childhood days? The MOOF museum in Brussels lets you relive the magic of your favorite comic heroes. Be it Asterix, Tin Tin, Franquin, Blake or Mortimer, name any character, and you'll find it here. The museum also covers a lot of American and Japanese comics, and

features more than 650 figurines which let you complete your exciting voyage into this comic world.

Address : Rue du Marché aux Herbes 116, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.846009, 4.3557069999999385

Contact : +32 2 207 79 92

Website : <http://wp.moof-museum.be/>

Nearest Public Transport : Gare Centrale Bus Station Brussels Central Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 Children below the age of 12: €3 Students, 65+, people between 12-25 years of age: €5

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.8. Hergé Museum

Hergé museum is dedicated to the life and works of the world famous cartoonist, Georges Remi who wrote the series of the comic album, The Adventures of Tintin. The museum is 3 floors long and houses 9 exhibition rooms, a café, a museum shop and mini cinema. On display are many of Hergé's interests and early comics, which the visitors can explore through a narrated tour via headphones connected to an iPod.

Address : Rue du Labrador 26, 1348, Belgium

Zipcode : 1348

Location : 50.67115200000001, 4.612769999999955

Contact : +32 10 48 84 21

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

Nearest Public Transport : LLN Champ Vallée Bus Station Louvain-La-Neuve-Univ. Train Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €9.50 Large families, Students, and seniors (over 60): €7 Children (7-14 years): €5

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Friday: 10:30hrs-17:30hrs Saturday and Sunday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.9. Horta Museum

This museum is dedicated to the life and works of the famous Belgian architect, Victor Horta and is situated in his former house and atelier in the Brussels municipality of Saint-Gilles. The museum displays collections of furniture, utensils, and art objects designed by Horta, as well as documents related to his life and time. There are many temporary exhibitions arranged by the museum on topics corresponding to Horta and his art.

Address : Rue Américaine 25, 1060 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1060

Location : 50.8242485, 4.355479100000025

Contact : +32 2 543 04 90

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

Nearest Public Transport : Janson Light Rail Station Ma Campagne Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €10 Students: €5 Seniors and Sint-Gillis inhabitants: €6

Children (6-18years): €3

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 14:00hrs-17:30hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.10. Brussels City Museum

A UNESCO World heritage site, this building is also known as Broodhuis and is located at the Grand Place opposite Brussels Town Hall. The main highlights of the museum are its architecture and collections of artefacts, paintings, engravings, photos, models and tapestries from Brussels' history and folklore as well as an entire room displaying nearly 750 costumes of Manneken Pis statue. The museum also has two replicas of the city of Brussels in its former days and its development since 1500s.

Address : Grand Place, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8469992, 4.352743299999929

Contact : +32 2 279 43 50

Website : <http://www.brusselcitymuseum.brussels/nl>

Nearest Public Transport : Plattestein Bus Station Beurs Light Rail Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 Senior, Group: €6 Student, Job seeker: €4 Free admission for children below 18 years and for everyone on the first Sunday of the month

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Thursday: 10:00hrs-20:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.11. Belgian Brewers Museum

Housed in the basement of the brewer's house, this museum explains to you why Belgians love beer and how this country became an abode of lager. The rich tradition of Belgian beer is kept alive at this Brewery Museum. Visitors get a chance to see the implements, brewing and fermentation hubs, a boiling kettle and all material found in the 18th-century brewery.

Address : Grand Place 10, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8462191, 4.3525230000000019

Website : <http://www.belgianbrewers.be/en/home/>

Nearest Public Transport : Brussels Parlement Bus Station Beurs Light Rail Station

Entry Fee : Individual: €5 Group visit (By appointment): €4 per person (Minimum 10 people)

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.12. Stadhuis van Brussel

The dazzling town hall dates back to 1402 and is a masterpiece of Gothic design with a façade that ornaments dozens of arched windows and sculptures. The interior is a melange of the best and most beautiful styles from Gothic to Louis XIV. The mirrored hall is a spectacular highlight of the visit to this amazing monument.

Address : Grand Place, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8465378, 4.3517031000000009

Contact : +32 2 279 22 11

Nearest Public Transport : Plattestein Bus Station Beurs Light Rail Station

Entry Fee : Guided tours only Adults: €5 Seniors, Students and children (6-12years): €3 Free admission for children below 5 years

Open & Close Timing : April to September: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.13. Royal Greenhouses of Laeken

Being world-famous with their ironwork frames, the Royal Greenhouses are home to a wide and charming range of flora as well as many rare species. These greenhouses were erected by King Leopold II on the grounds of the Laeken Palace and remain open to public once a year for a few weeks at the start of spring. Spreading over an area of 2.5 hectares, it houses the royal botanic collection with old plants from Africa and a variety of flowers that are cultivated for use at court.

Address : Avenue du Parc Royal, 1020 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1020

Location : 50.8907986, 4.359024200000022

Contact : +32 2 551 20 20

Website : <https://www.monarchie.be/fr/patrimoine/serres-royales-de-laeken>

Nearest Public Transport : Serres Royales Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult: €2.50 Free admission for children below 18 years

Open & Close Timing : Every Spring for 3 weeks (April-May). Kindly check website for the same.

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.14. St. Michael and St. Gudula Cathedral

Dedicated to St. Michael and St. Gudula, the patron saints of Brussels, this Gothic Church was found in 1225 but could only be completed in the 15th century. It has a stately facade which rises above a staircase crowned with twin towers of 69-meters, whereas the exterior is made of Gobertange quarry and the portals resemble the French gothic style. Known as the National Church of Belgium, it is the seat of the Roman Catholic diocese of Malines-Brussels.

Address : Place Sainte-Gudule, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8478332, 4.3601075000000264

Contact : +32 2 217 83 45

Website : http://www.cathedralisbruxellensis.be/language_selection?destination=%3Cfront%3E

Nearest Public Transport : Parc Bus Station

Entry Fee : Cathedral: Free admission Archaeological site: €1 Romanesque crypt: €3 Treasury: Adults: €2 (Children below 14 years: Free admission) Groups: €20 (minimum 10 persons - maximum 30 persons); €30 (minimum 31 persons - maximum 50 persons) Combined ticket (Archeological Site, crypt, and treasury): €6

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 07:30hrs-18:00hrs Saturday: 07:30hrs-15:30hrs Sunday: 14:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.15. King Baudouin Stadium

Deemed to be the largest stadium in Belgium, King Baudouin Stadium was inaugurated in 1930 where the opening ceremony was attended by Crown Prince Leopold. Originally named as Jubilee Stadium, it is also the home ground of the Belgian national football team. Enroll for a guided tour and get into the depths of the stadium's history and structure.

Address : Avenue de Marathon 135, 1020 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1020

Location : 50.8956995, 4.334151900000005

Contact : +32 2 474 39 40

Website : https://www.bruxelles.be/artdet.cfm?id=4614&highlight=stade%2Croi%2Cbaudouin#a_10

Nearest Public Transport : Heizel Bus Station Heysel Subway Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €6 Children, students, and seniors: €4

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Thursday: 10:00hrs-17:00hrs Friday: 10:00hrs-16:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Brussels Comic Book Museum

Dedicated to the long history of cartoon and comic strips, the Comic Book Museum was designed by Victor Horta in 1906 and is definitely worth a visit when in Brussels. A constant rotating exhibition of 200 original comic strip drawings by French and Belgian artists is shown here. There is an auditorium on the first floor and a room dedicated to animation. The second floor exhibits the chronological history of the medium in Belgium called "The Museum of Imagination".

Address : Rue des Sables 20, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8511292, 4.360091699999998

Contact : +32 2 219 19 80

Website : <https://www.comicscenter.net/en/home>

Nearest Public Transport : Bru.-Congres/Brux.-Congres Gare de Bruxelles-Congrès Train Station De Berlaimont Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 10:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Grand Place

An iconic landmark of Brussels and a crowd-pleasing destination, the Grand Place or Grote Markt is the central square encircled by majestic buildings dating back to the 14th century. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is girdled with lavish guildhalls and two major edifices, the city's Townhall and Breadhouse. The Grand Place looks extraordinary every two years in August when an enormous flower carpet is set up for few days.

Address : 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8467316, 4.352413800000022

Contact : +32 2 279 22 11

Website : <http://www.brussel.be/artdet.cfm/5757>

Nearest Public Transport : Plattestein Bus Station Bourse Tram Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Les Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert

This 19th-century shopping gallery emblemizes fine architecture and is a paradise for shoppers thanks to its perfect combination of cafés and luxury retailers flaunting international brands. The gallery is known for its stunning facades with varnished shop fronts under an intricate cast-iron framework. The international curve makes the gallery look long and distinctive.

Address : Galerie du Roi 5, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.847286, 4.3546142000000145

Contact : +32 2 545 09 90

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

Nearest Public Transport : Storm Bus Station Gare Centrale Subway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and Military History

In 1910 at the Brussels Exhibition, a section of military history was presented to the public, which became a huge hit amongst the people. After the Great War, the collection expanded from 900 items to a heavy legacy enriched by donations, gifts, and exchanges. You can find uniforms, weapons, vehicles and military equipment of a number of time periods and countries here.

Address : 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.84129309999999, 4.392921999999999

Contact : +32 2 737 78 11

Website : <http://www.klm-mra.be/>

Nearest Public Transport : Gaulois Bus Station Merode Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Friday: 09:00hrs-17:00hrs Saturday and Sunday: 10:00hrs-18:00hrs Monday closed

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Eglise Notre Dame Du Sablon

Dating back to 15th century, Our Blessed Lady of the Sablon Church is a Catholic Church known for its mesmeric Brabantine Gothic exterior. It boasts about its lavish interior decoration that includes 2 Baroque chapels showcasing high baroque sculpture and architecture developed in South Netherlands. Another treasure housed by this church is the reliquary with the bones of St. Wivina. The church looks its best at the night, so make sure to drop by during your visit to Brussels.

Address : Rue de la Régence, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8403064, 4.3561199000000067

Contact : +32 2 511 57 41

Nearest Public Transport : Kleine Zavel Petit Sablon Tram Station
Kleine Zavel Petit Sablon Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Friday: 09:00hrs-18:30hrs Saturday and Sunday: 10:00hrs-18:30hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Bois de la Cambre

This is a lush royal park on the site of a former hunting ground, with statues, a fountain, and outdoor theatres. It is the largest urban public park located in the center of Brussels and is home to several public building and monuments. There is also a small island in the center of the park known as Robinson's Island. Head there to spend your free time and relax in the lap of nature.

Address : 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8008128, 4.3828023999999946

Contact : +32 2 279 61 00

Website : <http://www.brussel.be/artdet.cfm?id=4000>

Nearest Public Transport : Gendarmes Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 06:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Cinquantenaire

Situated in the easternmost part of the renowned European quarter, Cinquantenaire or Jubel Park is a huge public town park symbolizing the economic and industrial performance of Belgium. The Royal Military Museum dominates the northern part of the park, whereas Autoworld and Cinquantenaire occupy the southern half. The centerpiece triumphal arch was erected in 1905 built in iron, glass and stone.

Address : 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.841393, 4.3904833000000028

Nearest Public Transport : Schuman Subway Station Merode Bus Station Merode Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Law Courts of Brussels

Palais de Justice, also known as Law Courts of Brussels, is the most significant court building in Belgium and also tagged as the largest courthouse in the world. Built between 1866 and 1883 by the famous architect Joseph Poelaert, it is an important landmark of Brussels. Rumor has it that Adolf Hitler was really fond of this building.

Address : Place Poelaert 1, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8366449, 4.3516068000000013

Contact : +32 2 508 61 11

Website : <http://justice.belgium.be/fr>

Nearest Public Transport : Poelaert Light Rail Station

Open & Close Timing : Monday 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Popularly known as Koekelberg Basilica, this is a Roman Catholic Minor Basilica and Parish Church dedicated to the sacred heart located in the Parc Elisabeth atop the Koekelberg Hill in Brussels. The green copper dome rising at a height of 89 meters dominates the north-western skyline of Brussels. Undoubtedly falling among the top 10 largest Churches of the world, it is hard not to marvel at the architectural beauty of the church. The church also has a museum inside its premises, the entry to which is chargeable. Refer to the website for further price details.

Address : 1083 Brussels, Belgium

Zipcode : 1083

Location : 50.86709339999999, 4.317083400000001

Contact : +32 2 421 16 67

Website : <http://www.basilicakoekelberg.be/documents/home.xml?lang=en>

Nearest Public Transport : Heilig Hartcollege Light Rail Station Heilig Hartcollege Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Basilica: NA Museum: Every Wednesday 14:00hrs-16:00hrs

Panorama: 09:00hrs-17:00hrs (Summer time) 10:00hrs-16:00hrs (Winter time)

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Manneken Pis

Manneken Pis which means “Little Man Pee” is a renowned bronze sculpture in Brussels, which portrays a naked boy relieving himself into a fountain’s basin. Having several legends behind it, it was put in place around 1618 designed by the famous architect Hieronymus Duquesnoy the Elder. The statue is dressed in costume several times a week, according to a schedule which is posted on the railings around the fountain.

Address : 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8449933, 4.3499778000000033

Nearest Public Transport : Brussels Parlement Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Palais Royal

The Royal Palace of Brussels was the official palace of the King and the Queen of the Belgians located in the heart of Brussels. However, the royal family now lives in the Royal Palace of Laeken on the outskirts of Brussels. The palace contains a royal collection comprising of state portraits and significant furniture of Napoleon, Leopold I, King Louis Phillipe, and Leopold II. Porcelain, silverware and fine crystals are retained in cellars and Queen Paola furthermore added modish art in a few staterooms.

Address : Rue Brederode 16, B-1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8419582, 4.36237929999993

Contact : +32 2 551 20 20

Nearest Public Transport : Palais Light Rail Station Palais Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : 22nd July to 4th September: 10:30hrs-15:45hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Galeries Louise

Galeries Louise is a popular shopping mall in the city of Brussels. With few famous brands, restaurants and an entertainment area, this mall is frequented by most locals and tourists.

Address : Avenue Louise 32, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1050

Location : 50.83454740000001, 4.357325400000036

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Galerie Toison d'Or

One of the biggest malls in the city, Galerie Toison d'Or has 80 shops, a UGC cinema as well as Théâtre de la Toison d'Or. This mall has the best boutiques and

emporiums making it a one-stop-shop for all shopaholics.

Address : Avenue de la Toison d'Or 17a-20 b43, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1050

Location : 50.8372609, 4.360102500000039

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.14. Dinky

With a great variety of footwear, Dinky pleases all types of shoppers! Browse through the available collection and you are sure to step out with a bag in your hand.

Address : Galerie Agora 50, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.846429, 4.354434999999967

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.15. Boulevard de Waterloo

A luxurious shopping area in the city, Boulevard de Waterloo chockful with cafés, ice-cream parlors, tea rooms and restaurants that are frequented by affluent crowds. The architecture of the boulevard is a balance of neo-rococo and neo-classical. Some famous boutiques like Versace, Christofle, Ralph Lauren, Christian Dior, Chanel and Gucci are located here.

Address : Boulevard de Waterloo, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.835621899999999, 4.353894500000024

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.16. Rue Antoine Dansaert

This street enlivens the city of Brussels with the presence of various fashion outlets, restaurants and pubs. This street has everything ranging from boutiques, stylish boîtes and seafood bistros to an amazing food and flower market.

Address : Rue Antoine Dansaert, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8509525, 4.3453346000000001

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.17. Rue Neuve

A famous pedestrian street in the heart of Brussels, this area in Belgium buzzes with shopaholic vibes. Known as the center of luxurious shopping since early 20th century, it has now become a retail district and is regularly flocked by tourists.

Address : Rue Neuve, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Zipcode : 1000

Location : 50.8530639, 4.356302499999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



Index

8. Key sites sports & adventure

People who want a break from the stress of daily life, take a challenge and go in for extreme sports, Belgium provides a lot of them and Brussels is not an option.

- **NEMO33 -**

Address : Rue de Stalle 333, 1180 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.7960763,4.317066000000006

Contact No : +32 2 332 33 34

Website : <http://www.nemo33.com/en/>

Nearest Public Transport : Stalle (P) Bus Station Stalle (P) Tram Station

Entry Fees : €25 for certified divers €35 for non-certified divers

Open / Close Time : From Monday to Friday: NOON: One session from 12:30hrs-13:30hrs - Check in: from 12:00hrs-12:15hrs - Entrance to the changing rooms at 12:15. EVENING: 3 sessions each night during the week: 19:00hrs-20:00hrs-21:00hrs. ATTENTION, the only exception is on Wednesday evenings from 20:00hrs-21:00hrs the pool is not available. 1 NIGHT DIVE on Thursdays from 22:00hrs-23:00hrs. Saturdays: WINTER (from 01/11 to 30/04) - 9 dives: from 11:00hrs-20:00hrs (last dive at 19:00hrs). SUMMER (from 01/05 to 31/10) - 4 dives: 12:00hrs-13:00hrs-14:00hrs-19:00hrs (last dive at 19:00hrs). Sundays and holidays: WINTER (from 01/11 to 30/04) - 9 dives: from 11:00hrs-20:00hrs (last dive at 19:00hrs). SUMMER (from 01/05 to 31/10) - 4 dives: 12:00hrs-13:00hrs-14:00hrs-19:00hrs (last dive at 19:00hrs).

Time Required : 3

Index**9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums**

Soccer is the most popular sport in the region. The local club for Brussels is Anderlecht which is the most successful club of the country. Other sports are also played in this stadium including Rugby and athletics. There are various sports clubs around the city dedicated to wide variety of sports.



10. Spas and relaxation

Spa treatment centres have been blossoming all over Belgium and Brussels is no exception. Various centres combine well with proximity to the city.

- **The Hotel Brussels:**

Address : Boulevard de Waterloo 38, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.837402,4.3574610000000575

Contact No : +32 2 504 11 11

Website : <http://www.thehotel-brussels.be/en/spa.html>

- **Serendip Spa:**

Address : Place Stéphanie 18, 1050 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.8335743,4.358915700000011

Contact No : +32 2 503 55 04

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

11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Brussels Forum

The Brussels forum is a weekend conference of world leaders, industry groups and media in Brussels. The event is hosted at the Conrad Hotel on Avenue Louise. The topics discussed concern transatlantic relations, international relations, climate and trade.


Jazz Marathon

The Brussels Jazz marathon is an annual music fest. During a weekend at the end of May different artists from Belgium and around the world come together for massive 3 day concert. Outdoor stages are set up at the Grand Place and indoor avenues include over 25 bars and cafes.

Ommegang

This is a festival which re-enacts the celebrations that took place when Emperor Louis V of France visited Brussels in the 1500s. It is complete with performers in

**medieval costumes and makeup.
A March takes place from the
Sablon church to Grand Place
which is followed by a
performance.
Ommegang**

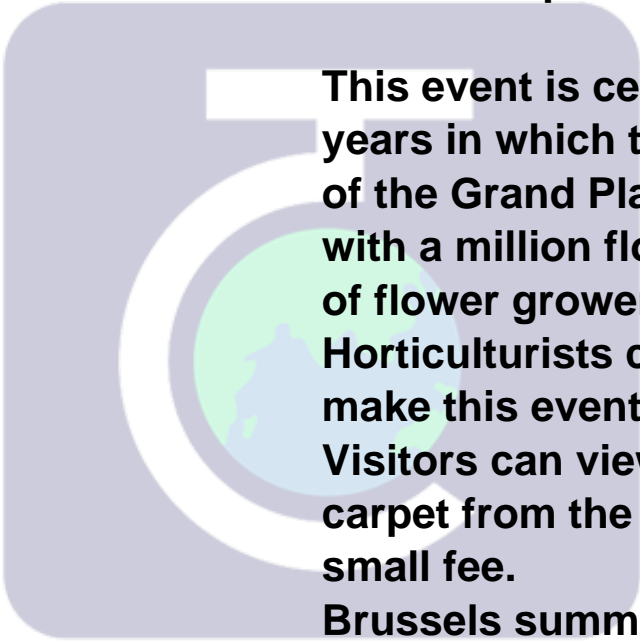


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when Emperor Louis V of France
visited Brussels in the 1500s. It
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medieval costumes and makeup.
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Sablon church to Grand Place
which is followed by a
performance.
Brussels Beach Festival**

**Every year between July 15th
and August 15th the banks of
Brussels channel are
transformed into an urban beach
for Bruxelles les Bains. The
beach is decorated with huts,
deckchairs and fountains. 3000
tons of sand from the North Sea
is poured on the site. It is not
only a place for relaxation but
also for street entertainment,
concert and sports. Since 2002
Brussels Beach has been a huge
success with visitors.
Midi Fair**

Midi fair, one of the oldest Brussels summer events is held in July and August. This traditional fair is organized along the small ring road near Midi train station. The Midi Fair includes over 120 attractions both traditional and new.

Flower Carpet



This event is celebrated every 2 years in which the cobblestones of the Grand Place are covered with a million flowers. Hundreds of flower growers and Horticulturists come together to make this event possible. Visitors can view this grand carpet from the town hall for a small fee.

Brussels summer festival

The Brussels summer festival abbreviated BSF is a ten day musical and cultural festival organized in August. The festival was first organized in 2002 and included performances by 30 European artists. Now BSF has grown to include more than 100 concerts. The festival is organized at Place des Palais and Mont des Arts.

Brussels Beach Festival

Every year between July 15th and August 15th the banks of Brussels channel are transformed into an urban beach for Bruxelles les Bains. The beach is decorated with huts, deckchairs and fountains. 3000 tons of sand from the North Sea is poured on the site. It is not only a place for relaxation but also for street entertainment, concert and sports. Since 2002 Brussels Beach has been a huge success with visitors.

Midi Fair

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Nuit Blanche

With the success of Nuit Blanche in Paris (2002), many cities followed suit with their own Nuit Blanche. It is a cultural and artistic event that takes place at the start of autumn. Lot of events are held during the night including culture, music,

partying etc. The aim is to rediscover the city in a new light. Christmas market

During the month of December Brussels city center transforms into a large christmas market. Christmas is celebrated with fairy lights, laser shows and shopping chalets (wooden stalls). There is also a skating rink and a Big wheel to add to the fun.



Index**12. Key local guides and tours**

If you are looking for guided tours of Brussels, there are several options available. Most of the museums have their own guided tours and walks. The tour can be full day or half day. There are some tours like Brussels-Grand city tour that gives you an excellent overview of Brussels, Chocolate tour, Parliament and city tour etc. The cost for a tour is approximately €30 per person. They can also provide pickup from your hotel.



13. Transportation hubs

Airports Brussels' main airport is the Brussels Airport commonly referred to as Brussels National or Zaventem. Several major carriers operate out of this airport. To travel between the airport and the city you may use Belgian Rail which operates every 15 minutes to Brussels' three main train stations. Most trains continue on to other parts of Belgium. The fair for train is as follows: 2nd class: Single: €8.60; Weekend return: €14.60; 1st class: €10.30. The journey to the central station takes 15-20 minutes. Brussels South Charleroi airport is located 60km south of the central train station. Several budget airlines operate from this airport to other European cities. To travel between the airport and city you may use Brussels City Shuttle which runs every 30 minutes. You may also use a Taxi but they operate at a higher rate in Brussels. Train stations Brussels has three main train stations Midi-Zuid which is at south of the city core, Central-Centraal which is right next to the city center and Nord-Noord located north of the city center. High speed trains only stop at Midi-Zuid except ICE which also stops at Nord-Noord. Various trains operate out of these stations that connect to different parts of Europe. By Bus Eurolines and Megabus connect Brussels by bus to other parts of Europe. De Lijn connects to the Flemish region while TEC operates in the Walloon region.

14. Transportation cost

On foot Most sights in Brussels are quite close together and are in reasonable walking distance of each other therefore walking is a popular mode of transport. The old part of the city may have uneven cobblestones which may be a little difficult to walk on but walking is quite easy on rest of the parts. Brussels has a lot of rainy days so if you plan on walking use water resistant footwear. Public transport The Brussels region is serviced by Metro, Public bus and trams. The metro system in Brussels is quite clean compared to other metro systems. Metro entrances are marked with a big “M” sign in blue and white, with the name of the station beneath it. All announcements are made in Dutch, French and English. There are 4 metro lines (1, 2, 5, 6) and 3 tram lines (3, 4, 7). Single tickets called jump 1 cost €2.10 if pre purchased or available from the driver for €2.50 (on bus and tram). You can validate the tickets in the small orange machines located in the buses/trams or at the entrance of metro stations. The ticket is validated for 1 hour. There is also a 1 day pass available for €7.50. By bike Villo runs a bike sharing network with over 2,500 bikes available at over 200 bike stations spread all over the city. You may pick up the bike at any station and drop it at any other station. Membership fee is €1.60 per day or €7.65 per week. On top of membership fee, usage fee is levied which varies but the first 30 minutes are free. When on a bike it is advisable to wear a helmet and a fluoro vest.

Index**15. Baggage allowance**

There is no set limit on the luggage but the trams are quite narrow, though the metro is wider travelling with more than one bag is not a great idea.



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16. Must try food and local savouries

Belgian cuisine varies widely with influences from neighbouring countries of France, Germany and the Netherlands. Belgium is best known for its chocolate, waffles, fries and beer. People in Brussels love good food, good beers and a relaxing atmosphere for dining. Traditional food of Brussels include dishes like Filet Americaine which is raw minced beef with herbs, Stoemp (mashed potato with stewed vegetables mixed inside), Lapin à la Kriek (Rabbit's leg in Kriek beer), Cuisse de Canard (Slightly salty cut of duck meat), Mussels in Brussels and frites (fries).



Index

17. Restaurant & Nightlife

Eating out is one of the greatest pleasures of visiting Brussels. The city is home to some of the best dining spots in Europe. There are plenty of options for all kinds of different cuisines. Rue des Bouchers is a famous street in Brussels which is jam-packed with restaurants.

Food -

Eating out is one of the greatest pleasures of visiting Brussels. The city is home to some of the best dining spots in Europe. There are plenty of options for all kinds of different cuisines. Rue des Bouchers is a famous street in Brussels which is jam-packed with restaurants.

- **Fin de siècle:**

Address : Rue des Chartreux 9, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.8489069,4.3470981000

Contact No : +32 2 512 5123

Open / Close Time : Monday to Friday 16:30hrs-00:00hrs Saturday and Sunday 12:00hrs-15:00hrs and 16:30hrs-00:00hrs

- **Aux Armes De Bruxelles:**

Address : Rue des Bouchers 13, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.8480923,4.3539086000

Contact No : +32 2 511 55 98

Website : <http://www.auxarmesdebruxelles.com/en/>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Friday 12:00hrs-22:45hrs Saturday 12:00hrs-23:15hrs Sunday 12:00hrs-22:30hrs

- **Maison Antoine:**

Address : 1040, Place Jourdan 1, 1040 Etterbeek, Belgium

Location : 50.836823900,4.3814770000

Contact No : +32 2 230 54 56

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

Open / Close Time : Sunday to Thursday 11:30hrs-01:00hrs Friday and Saturday 11:30hrs-02:00hrs

- **La Quincaillerie:**

Address : Rue du Page 45, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium

Location : 50.823187,4.3583750000

Contact No : +32 2 533 98 33

Website : <http://www.quincaillerie.be/en/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-14:30hrs and 19:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Mer du Nord:**

Address : Rue Sainte-Catherine 45, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.8503415,4.3475812000

Contact No : +32 2 513 11 92

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

Open / Close Time : Tuesday to Saturday 08:00hrs-18:00hrs Sunday 11:00hrs-20:00hrs Monday closed

- **L'Idiot du Village:**

Address : Rue Notre-Seigneur 19, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.840337000,4.3502952000

Contact No : +32 2 502 55 82

Website : <http://www.lidiotduvillage.be/homepage>

Open / Close Time : 12:00hrs-14:00hrs and 19:00hrs-23:00hrs Saturday and Sunday closed

- **Comme Chez Soi:**

Address : Place Rouppe 23, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.842359799,4.3458250999

Contact No : +32 2 512 29 21

Website : <http://www.commechezsoi.be/fr-fr/>

Open / Close Time : Tuesday and Wednesday 19:00hrs-21:00hrs Thursday-Saturday 12:00hrs-13:30hrs and 19:00hrs-21:00hrs Sunday and Monday closed

- **Le Cercle Des Voyageurs:**

Address : Lievevrouwbroersstraat 18, 1000 Brussel, Belgium

Location : 50.8452604,4.3493981999

Contact No : +32 2 514 39 49

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

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Belga Queen:**

Address : Rue du Fossé aux Loups 32, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.850337,4.3547650000

Contact No : +32 2 217 21 87

Website : <http://www.belgaqueen.be/fr/Brussels.aspx>

Open / Close Time : Monday to Thursday 12:00hrs-14:30hrs and 18:30hrs-23:00hrs Friday 12:00hrs-14:30hrs and 18:30hrs-00:00hrs Sunday 18:30hrs-00:00hrs

- **Fuse:**

Address : Rue Blaes 208, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.835332000,4.3448559999

Contact No : +32 2 511 97 89

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

Open / Close Time : Tuesday to Friday 10:00hrs-19:00hrs Saturday 23:00hrs-07:00hrs Sunday and Monday closed

- **You Night Club:**

Address : Rue Duquesnoy 18, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.8448252,4.3545609999

Contact No : +32 2 639 14 00

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

Open / Close Time : Friday and Saturday 23:30hrs-05:00hrs Sunday 22:30hrs-04:00hrs

- **The Wood:**

Address : Avenue de Flore 3/4, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.809220599,4.3769729000

Contact No : +32 2 741 63 20

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

Open / Close Time : Thursday to Saturday 23:00hrs onwards

- **Cactus Club:**

Address : Boulevard du Souverain 147, 1160 Auderghem, Belgium

Location : 50.815716999,4.4264110000

Contact No : +32 475 28 41 24

Website : <http://www.cactus-club.be/>

Open / Close Time : Friday and Saturday 22:30hrs-07:00hrs

- **Nostalgia Club:**

Address : Rue de la Fourche 49, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.848785000,4.3536010000

Contact No : +32 2 513 32 91

Website : <http://www.nostalgia-club.be/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 22:00hrs till dawn

- **Havana Club:**

Address : Rue de l'Epée 4, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.8384656,4.3505202999

Contact No : +32 2 502 12 24

Website : http://www.havana-brussels.com/home_r.html

Open / Close Time : Thursday 19:00hrs-02:00hrs Friday 19:00hrs-05:00hrs

Saturday 19:00hrs-19:00hrs-07:00hrs

- **Mirano Continental:**

Address : Chaussée de Louvain 38, 1210 Saint-Josse-ten-Noode, Belgium

Location : 50.8494673,4.3714429000

Contact No : +32 2 227 39 42

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

Open / Close Time : Friday and Saturday 23:00hrs onwards

- **The Factory:**

Address : Industrieterrein Kanaal-Noord 1167, 3960 Bree, Belgium

Location : 51.146577099,5.6218565000

Website : <http://www.club-factory.be/>

Open / Close Time : Friday 22:00hrs-07:00hrs

- **Soixante (Le):**

Address : Rue du Marché au Charbon 60, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium

Location : 50.846221899,4.3487641000

Contact No : +32 477 70 41 56

Open / Close Time : Thursday to Saturday 20:00hrs-09:00hrs



Index**18. Average meal cost**

Meal, Inexpensive restaurant 15.00€ 3 course meal for 2 people at a mid-range restaurant 60.00€ Combo meal at McDonalds or equivalent 8.00€ Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught) 3.00€ Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle) 3.50€

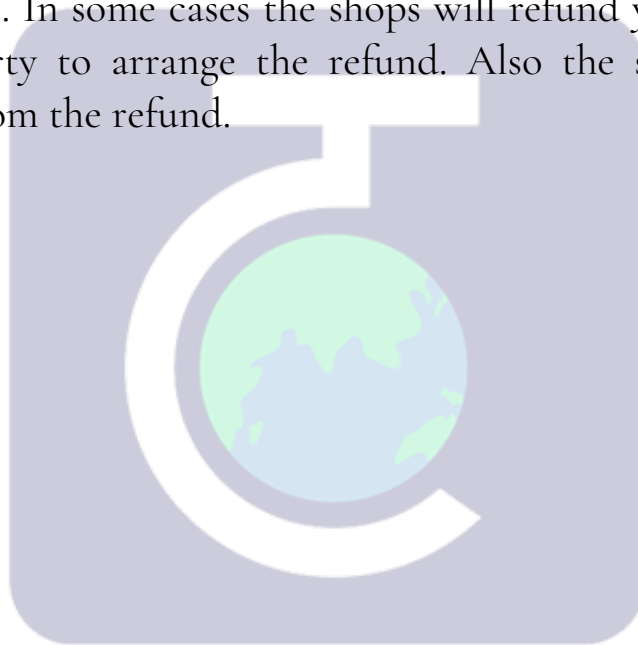


19. Shopping

Shopping in Brussels is not limited to Chocolates, beer and lace. You can shop at the highest quality boutique shops and Brussels markets. Most people in Brussels shop on Saturdays as most shops are closed on Sundays. To avoid crowds do not shop on Saturday afternoons. Brussels has one of the oldest shopping arcades in the world. The shopping arcades are usually set inside old buildings which is great for escaping rain and shopping at leisure. Some of the popular shopping Arcades in Brussels are Galeries St Hubert located near the Grand Place, Galeries Louise and Toison d'Or in the Louise fashion district which offers affordable shopping and Galeries Agora which is across the street from Galeries St Hubert and offers cheap clothing options. Luxury brands and boutique shops can be found in Brussels on two streets namely Boulevard de Waterloo and Rue Antoine Dansaert. The regular shopping street is called Rue Neuve which is a pedestrian only street with a large selection of shops and a large shopping mall called City2. For local people, Brussels markets are the place to shop. There are hundreds of markets operating throughout the week in small squares all over the city. You may use them to buy fresh vegetables, handmade cheese or freshly chopped meat. Sundays are the busiest days for the markets with eager shoppers rushing with small trolleys. If you would like to buy souvenirs you may get them at the tourist shops along the pedestrian streets leading to the Grand Place. The shops are usually open on Sundays.

20. Tourist benefits

If you are a visitor to the EU, you may be able to buy goods free of VAT. To do this, you will have to ask the shop assistant in advance if they provide this service and confirm what threshold applies to the purchase in order to be eligible for the refund. To claim the tax refund, you must have spent at least €125.01 in each store. At the checkout you would need to show your passport to prove your residence outside EU. In some cases the shops will refund you. In other cases, it may use a third party to arrange the refund. Also the shop may deduct an administrative fee from the refund.



21. Essential local apps

Local apps make travel hassle free and makes traveling convenient. Some of the apps to be used while in Brussels are Brussels Airport, Brussels Transports, Villo Brussels and Brussels Metro Map.



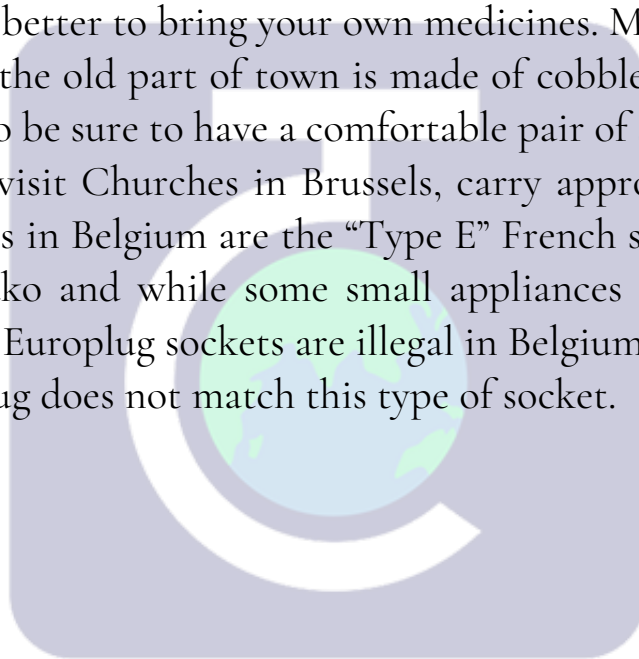
22. Driving

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.



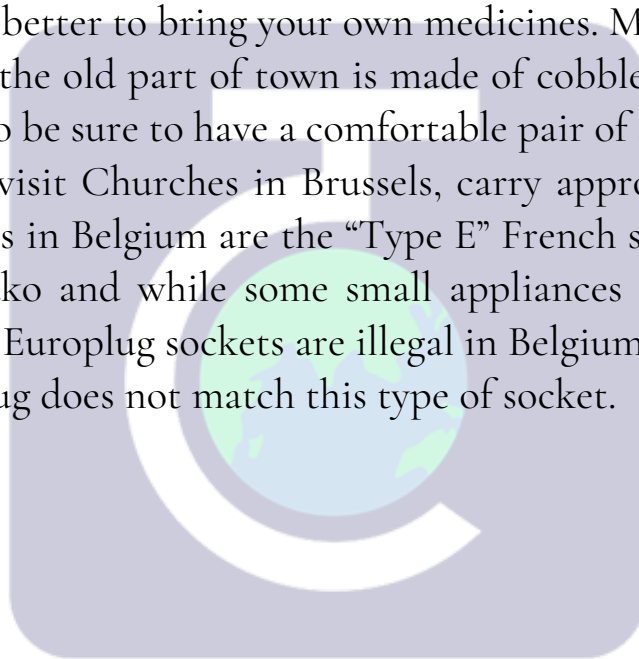
23. Travel essentials

Brussels on average receives 200 days of rainfall, so while travelling it is good to be prepared for rains. You may pack an umbrella/raincoat. During the summers you should carry sunscreen. During evenings it gets cold even during summers so keep a jacket handy. Pharmacies can easily be found in Brussels. Most operate on normal working hours while some are open 24 hours. But if you are on some specific medicine it's better to bring your own medicines. Most of Brussels is easy to walk through but the old part of town is made of cobblestones which may be difficult to walk on so be sure to have a comfortable pair of shoes if you intend to walk around. If you visit Churches in Brussels, carry appropriate clothing with you. Electrical sockets in Belgium are the "Type E" French style CEE 7/5 Schuko. All sockets are Schuko and while some small appliances come with "Type C" Europlug style plugs, Europlug sockets are illegal in Belgium. Use a travel adapter if your appliance's plug does not match this type of socket.



24. Essential clothes

Brussels on average receives 200 days of rainfall, so while travelling it is good to be prepared for rains. You may pack an umbrella/raincoat. During the summers you should carry sunscreen. During evenings it gets cold even during summers so keep a jacket handy. Pharmacies can easily be found in Brussels. Most operate on normal working hours while some are open 24 hours. But if you are on some specific medicine it's better to bring your own medicines. Most of Brussels is easy to walk through but the old part of town is made of cobblestones which may be difficult to walk on so be sure to have a comfortable pair of shoes if you intend to walk around. If you visit Churches in Brussels, carry appropriate clothing with you. Electrical sockets in Belgium are the "Type E" French style CEE 7/5 Schuko. All sockets are Schuko and while some small appliances come with "Type C" Europlug style plugs, Europlug sockets are illegal in Belgium. Use a travel adapter if your appliance's plug does not match this type of socket.



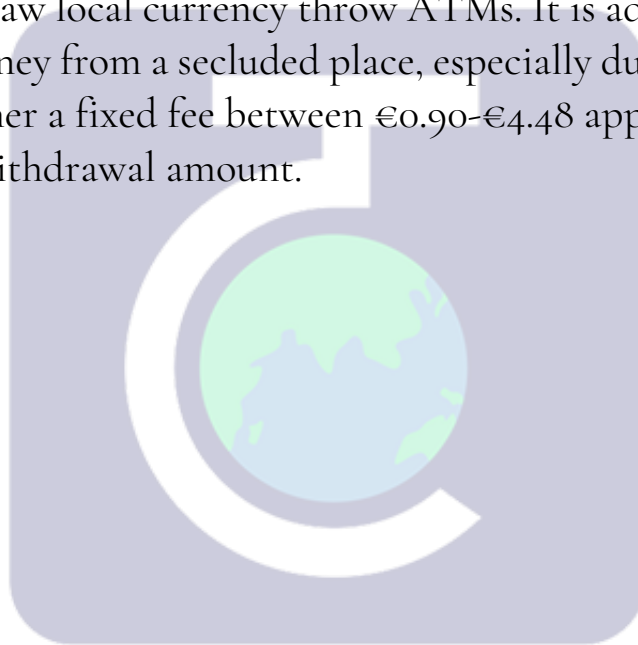
25. Local currency

The official currency of Belgium is Euro (€). 1 USD=€0.89.



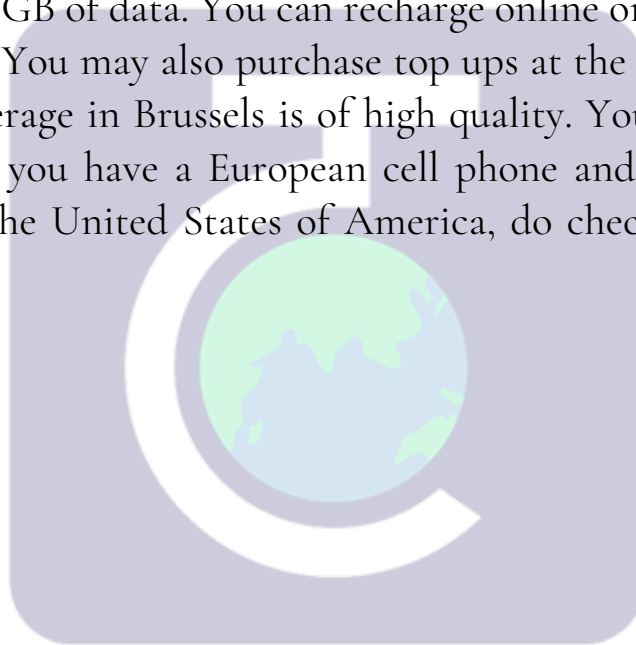
26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

Most credit cards are widely accepted in Brussels but it is advisable to keep some cash for establishments that do not accept Credit cards or for small charges. In restaurants and bigger shopping complexes, you can use your credit cards. Some bus drivers and shopkeepers can refuse foreign currency so you should convert some of your money to Euros. You may change your money through any of the local banks or withdraw local currency throw ATMs. It is advised that you do not withdraw a lot of money from a secluded place, especially during late hours. ATM fees in Brussels is either a fixed fee between €0.90-€4.48 approximately or a small percentage of your withdrawal amount.



27. Staying connected

You can get easily free wi-fi in many parts of Brussels. Most hotels and cafes offer free wi-fi facility. There are three mobile network operators in Belgium: • Proximus • Base • Mobistar For best coverage, you can opt for Proximus. Prepaid SIM cards are usually available for €10 - €15. With the amount being credited to the SIM card. To use Internet, you may also purchase data packs which cost around €10 for every GB of data. You can recharge online or at ATMs if you have a Belgian debit card. You may also purchase top ups at the store or utility shops. Mobile network coverage in Brussels is of high quality. You should be fine with connectivity so long you have a European cell phone and provider. But if you come from Asia or the United States of America, do check beforehand if your phone is compatible.



28. Time Zone

Daylight Saving Time is observed in Belgium and from the last weekend of March till the last weekend of October, Bruges is GMT+2. During the rest of the year, the city is GMT+1.



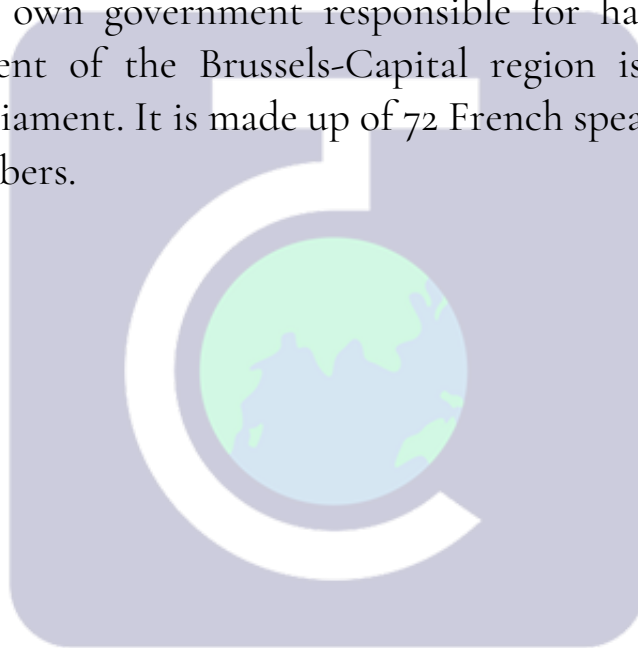
29. Languages

Brussels region is officially bilingual so all road signs and documents are written in both French and Dutch. A small minority of the population in the Ardennes area also speaks German. Around 80% of the population around Brussels speaks French as their first language. A large number of people in the service industry speak English too but you cannot rely on it therefore it is advisable to know some travel phrases in French.



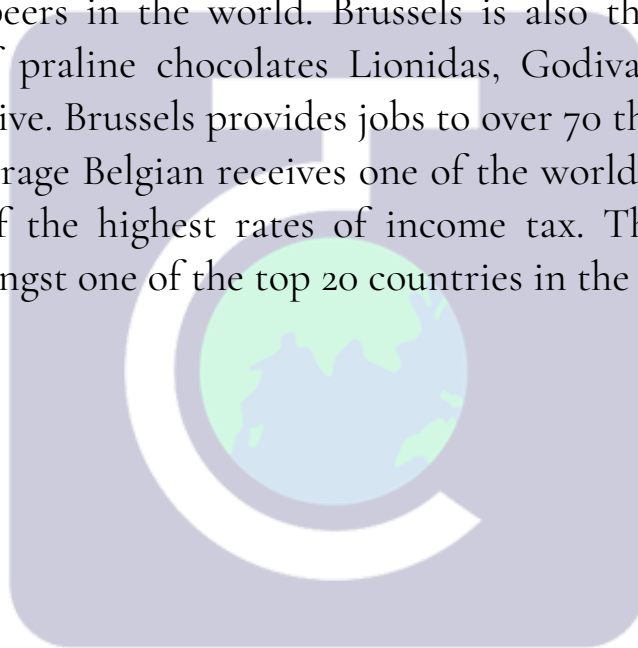
30. Political Scenario

Brussels is the capital of Belgium and the de facto capital of the European Union. The government of the Brussels-Capital region is the political administration of the Brussels region of Belgium. An election is held every five years and the government is headed by a Minister-President, four ministers and three state secretaries. The Brussels capital region is divided into 19 municipalities. Each municipality has its own government responsible for handling of local level duties. The parliament of the Brussels-Capital region is also known as the Brussels regional parliament. It is made up of 72 French speaking members and 17 Dutch speaking members.



31. Economic Scenario

Brussels being the default European capital has the highest GDP per capita in Europe. The economy is highly service oriented and is the basecamp for several multinational corporations. It has in fact been the hub of international banking transactions ever since 1822. There are over 50,000 businesses in Brussels and more than 2200 are foreign. Brussels also produces more than 450 varieties of some of the finest beers in the world. Brussels is also the producer of world renowned brands of praline chocolates Lionidas, Godiva and Neuhas and is usually pretty expensive. Brussels provides jobs to over 70 thousand people in the health sector. An average Belgian receives one of the world's best health services but also pays one of the highest rates of income tax. The life expectancy of Belgium is rated amongst one of the top 20 countries in the world.



Index**32. Religious belief**

Christianity (Roman Catholicism in particular) is the most practiced religion in Belgium. Approximately 57% of the total population follows the Catholic Church, 1.7% follows Protestantism, and 0.3% the Orthodox Christian Churches. Islam is the second largest religion in Belgium which accounts for 5% of the population. Muslims are more concentrated in Brussels comprising of 15%-17% of the population.



33. Visa requirements

If you have a Schengen visa, you can stay (but not work) in Belgium for 90 days. EU nationals with residence permit may stay in Belgium for any length of time. Visa is not required for nationals of Australia, Canada and the USA. For nationals of other countries, a Visa is required to visit Belgium. 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



Index**35. Theft and Safety**

Although Brussels is the political capital of the EU, petty crime is quite common in Brussels. In most cases victims of petty crimes do not report it or are not taken seriously by the authorities. There is very little violent crime in Brussels, particularly where tourists are concerned. The neighborhoods of Schaarbeek, St-Josse, Marollen, Anneessens, Molenbeek and Anderlecht should be avoided by tourists at night if possible.



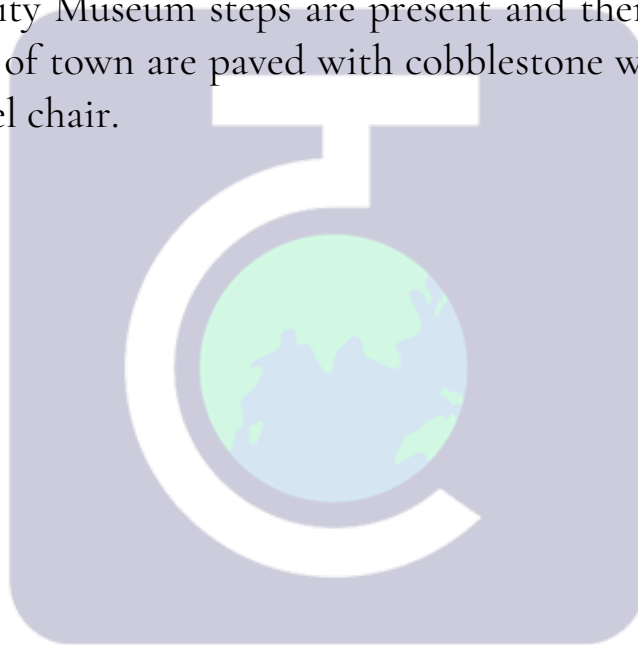
Index**36. Embassy/Consulate**

Various countries have their embassies and consulates in Brussels. To seek assistance from their home countries, tourists from all over the world can find information about their country's embassy in Belgium here: <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/belgium>



37. Accessibility

The public transportation in Brussels is moderately accessible to wheelchair users. The city bus system is almost completely accessible for people in wheelchairs but the metro/tram system is not so friendly. Navigating many metro stations requires a lot of planning and patience. The majority of must see attractions in Brussels are at least partially wheelchair accessible. Unfortunately for some areas like Town Hall or City Museum steps are present and there are no elevators to navigate. Some parts of town are paved with cobblestone which may be difficult to navigate on a wheel chair.



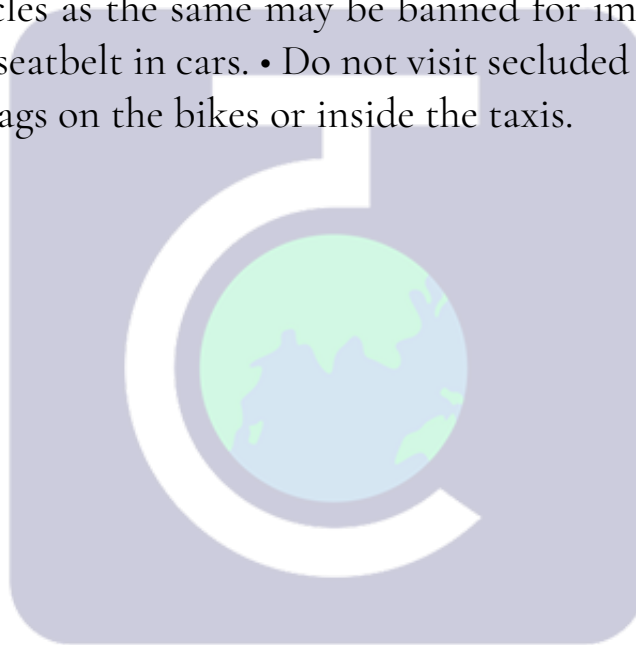
38. Emergencies

Tourists are advised to take a comprehensive travel medical insurance to cover any overseas medical costs. If you hold a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC), it will enable you to access the necessary health care in Belgium. The major hospital located in Brussels is CHU Brugmann-Brussels (50.887176, 4.331071). Emergency numbers: Police: 101 Ambulance / Fire brigade: 100



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

Do's • Do try samples from shops selling chocolates. It is fun. • Do carry your identity proof everywhere. • Do carry your college/ university id if you are a student. This will get you some discounts in museums. • Do lock your bikes. • 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 fasten your seatbelt in cars. • Do not visit secluded streets alone at night. • Do not leave your bags on the bikes or inside the taxis.



Index**40.Tipping basics**

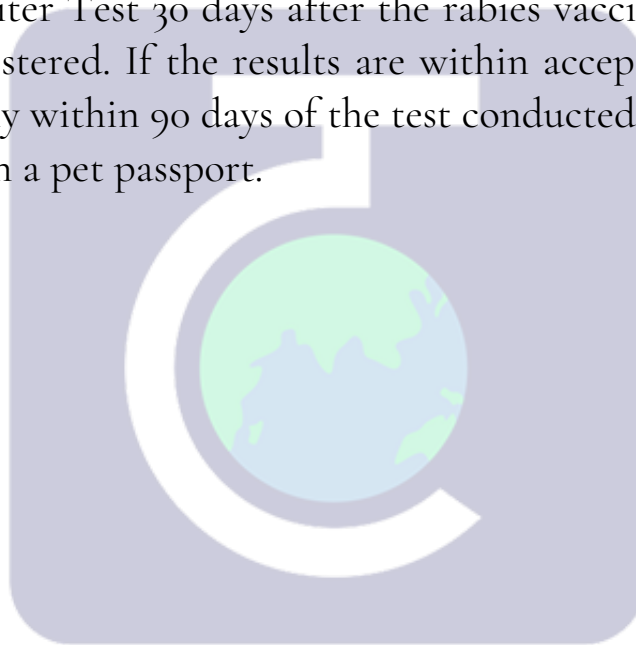
Although tipping is not very common in Belgium, it is almost expected that foreigners leave a tip in Brussels. If a service charge is applied to your bill, there is no need for a tip. If not, you can leave a small tip (5-10%) if you liked the service. Tipping taxi drivers and at spa centres is not needed.



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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

Brussels is the center of art, architecture, fashion and food in Belgium. It is a beautiful city and is often called one of the top must-see destinations in Europe. The city encompasses many beautiful sightseeing attractions and if you are someone who loves food and festivity, you will love this place.



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