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1. Geographical location

Bruges is the historic capital and the largest city of the West Flanders, Flanders being one of the three regions of Belgium. The city is spread across 13,840 hectares and is approximately 10 kms from the North Sea port of Zeebrugge, connected by a canal.



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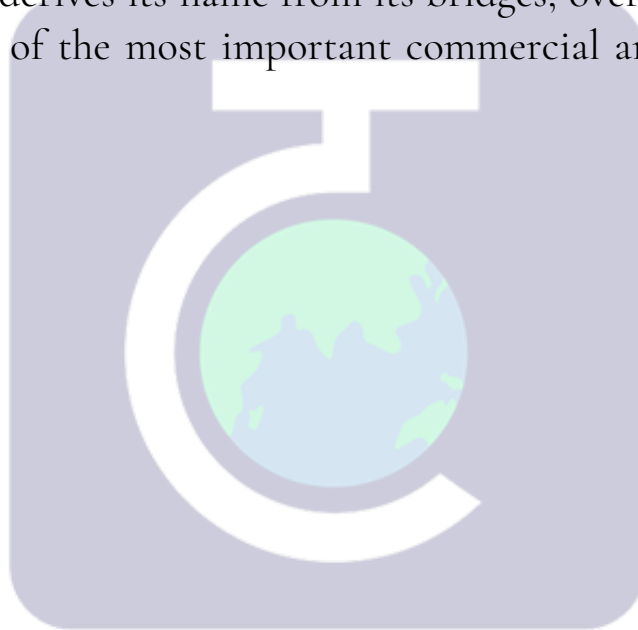
2. Neighbouring cities/countries

The Closest Major Cities To Bruges Are Ghent (38 Kms), Antwerp (82 Kms), Brussels (88 Kms) And Rotterdam, Netherlands (118 Kms). Damme And Lissewege Are Two Small Villages (within 30-45 Minutes Drive) That Are Picturesque And Also Very Popular Among Tourists.



3. Significance

Bruges was a location of coastal settlement during prehistory. This Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement is related to medieval city development. Bruges became important due to the tidal inlet that was important to local commerce. This inlet was known as the “Golden Inlet”. The city enjoys proximity to waterways and has many canals which is why it is often called ‘The Venice of the North’. It is also believed that Bruges derives its name from its bridges, over 50 of which cross its canals. Bruges is one of the most important commercial and cultural capital of Europe.



4. History

Early signs of human activity in Bruges date back to the Pre Roman Gaul era but it was in 1128 that Bruges got its city charter. Bruges became the famous trade capital of Europe lying north of Italy by the 14th century. The Dukes of Burgundy, who had a refined taste for grandeur, made Bruges their main residence, lending some extra flair to the city. Allured by the wealth of the city, a lot of great artists (painters, weavers, spinners etc) and other prominent European personalities came to settle here during this period. Flemish art blossomed and the oil painting techniques of the Flemish School got recognition and appreciation from world over. Prosperity and growth continued under the Dukes of Burgundy, especially Philip the Good, who came in 1430 to marry Isabella of Portugal. This period (14th-15th century) is called 'The Golden Age' of Bruges. The city sprouted to its full bloom and it is said that the population inflated to 200,000 inhabitants during this period. However the decline of Bruges started soon after the split from the Netherlands in 1584. The city's cultural and economic revival occurred gradually with the independence of Belgium in 1830. Fortunately, the city remain unaffected from both the World Wars.

5. Cultural identity

Bruges is a paradise for art connoisseurs. The city is world famous for its Flemish Primitive paintings amongst other forms of art. It has a well preserved historic center which was acknowledged as the UNESCO World Heritage site in 2000. The city was also designated the "European Capital of Culture" in 2002. Bruges has as many as 30 museums but for most people, the main appeal of the city lies in its cobbled lanes, pretty bridges and old squares. The people of Bruges are very warm and welcoming. They like to rewind and indulge in festivities. Concertgebouw (Concert Hall) is a beautiful platform dedicated to music and culture. It is known for its fusion of classical dance and music and hosts hundreds of cultural events throughout the year. Contemporary dance and concerts are organised by the Bruges Culture Centre and are held at Stadsschouwburg. A great way to comprehend the cultural scene of the city is to follow the Bruges Art Route. An initiative of local artists, it leads visitors on a walking/ cycling route to see and admire all the beautiful galleries and studios that Bruges has to offer. Also includes a sight of some beautiful windmills.

6. Natural resources

Bruges is well known for its natural and cultural richness. Minnewater Lake is a great place to visit in the natural scenery of Bruges. It houses swans and other birds and is surrounded by a small park with a lot of walkable trails. It is very peaceful and taking a stroll in this area will get you a feel of what Bruges must have been in the past. Koningin Astridpark is another lovely park to relax and unwind. If you are looking out for some quiet place to yourself, this is a great option. It has a children's section too.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Belfry of Bruges

The Belfry Tower is a very famous landmark that dominates the skyline of Bruges visible from almost anywhere in the city. It is an 83-meters tall medieval bell tower offering beautiful, panoramic views of the city housing a carillon with 47 melodious bells. It was used as a watchtower to spot enemies and other dangers, such as storms, in earlier times.

Address : Markt, 8000 Bruges, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.20825, 3.2248309999999947

Contact : +32 50 44 87 43

Website : <https://bezoekers.brugge.be/nl/belfort>

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Wollestraat Bus Station Brugge Simon Stevinplein Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 People below 26: €6 Free entry for kids under 6 years of age

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.2. Church of Our Lady in Bruges

Being the second tallest brickwork tower in the world, the church displays extensive Gothic architecture. It was built across 2 centuries and holds a wealth of art treasures including the famous Madonna and Child by Michelangelo, as well as the painting of the Crucifixion of Christ by Anthony van Dyck. The building is a fine example of the craftsmanship of Bruges' artisans and is a must-visit if you are someone who appreciates architectural brilliance.

Address : Mariastraat, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.20462449999999, 3.2244173999999993

Contact : +32 50 34 53 14

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge O.L.V. Kerk Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €4 Children and people between 6-25: €1 Free admission for children below 6 years

Open & Close Timing : Monday to Saturday: 09:30hrs-16:30hrs Sunday: 12:00hrs-16:30hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Groeninge Museum

Built on the site of the medieval Eekhout Abbey between 1920-1930, the Groeninge Museum is a municipal museum housing a superb collection of Flemish Primitives, 15th and 16th-century paintings, baroque and Renaissance works as well as major items from city's collection of post-war modern art. It is one of the most celebrated art galleries as it houses a complete survey of 6 centuries of Belgian and Flemish paintings.

Address : Dijver 12, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.2052205, 3.22666789999999385

Contact : +32 50 44 87 11

Website : <https://bezoekers.brugge.be/nl/groeningemuseum>

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Dijver Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 People above 65 and youth up to 25 years: €6 Free admission for children below 11 years

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday: 09:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Basilica of the Holy Blood

Located on Bruges' Castle Square (Burg), Basilica of the Holy Blood is a beautiful 12th-century historic church in Bruges consisting of a lower and upper chapel. It presents a spellbinding sight from the 12th century and is home to the precious vial which is said to contain Christ's blood. Visitors will get to appreciate the Romanesque and Gothic architecture of the church.

Address : Burg 13, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.2081068, 3.2265290000000277

Contact : +32 50 33 67 92

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

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Wollestraat Bus Station

Entry Fee : Treasury/Museum: Individual: €2.50 Group of minimum 15 people: €2 per person Basilica is freely accessible

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

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.5. Chocolate Museum

Also known as the Choco-Story, the Chocolate Museum is a paradisiacal stopover for adults as well as children. Entertaining as well as informative, the museum has a section that sheds light on the health benefits of chocolate and visitors also get a chance to see how chocolate is made. Anyone who is interested in knowing the origins and history of chocolate must pay a visit to the Chocolate Museum.

Address : Wijnzakstraat 2, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.2108009, 3.226264899999933

Contact : +32 50 61 22 37

Website : <http://www.choco-story.be/NL/>

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Sint-Jansplein Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 Groups, 65+, students: €7 Children (6-11years): €5 Free admission for children below 6 years

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

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.6. Bruges Waterways

Bruges is a beautiful town crisscrossed with canals and a visit to the city isn't complete without a trip on one. Go ahead with any of the trips that will make you appreciate the major highlights of the city from a completely different perspective. Canals are as useful as roads if a lot of goods are being ferried, which was the case during Bruges' Golden Era when it used to be a busy port and

important center of commerce in Northern Europe.

Address : Nieuwstraat 11, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.2059614, 3.2243303999999853

Contact : +32 50 33 32 93

Website : <http://www.boottochten-brugge.be/>

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Simon Stevinplein Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 Groups (Minimum 20 people): €7 Children (4-11years): €4

Private boat hire: €240

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.7. Historium Brugge

Historium Brugge offers a multi-sensory trip with a combination of sights, sounds, and smells about the story of a young man whose life is actually a history lesson. This amazing experience lasts for 35 minutes after which you can take a stroll in the outdoor terrace. It attracts children with its interactive, engaging and educational experience.

Address : Markt 1, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.2092438, 3.2250461999999516

Contact : +32 50 27 03 11

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

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Stadsschouwburg Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €13.50 Students: €10 Children (3-12 years): €7.50 Children (below 2 years): Free admission Disabled people - €12.50

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

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.8. Memling In Sint-jan Hospitaal Museum

This hospital turned museum dates back to 12th century that explores the history of the structure and contains displays highlighting the same. The archaic building

belongs to the 1100s and is full of treasures comprising of an amazing combination of medical instruments and works of art that make the visit a unique experience for history lovers as well as casual visitors.

Address : Onze-Lieve-Vrouwekerk , Mariastraat 38, Brugge 8000

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.20330300000001, 3.2219360999999935

Contact : +32 50448711

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge O.L.V. Kerk Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults: €8 People above 65 and youth up to 25: €6 Children below 11 years: Free admission

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday to Sunday 09:30hrs-17:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.9. Frietmuseum

Listed in the World Heritage Sites, the Friet Museum is committed to the history of potatoes and production of Belgian fries. Describing itself as “the first and only museum dedicated to potato fries”, it is located in the Gothic Saaihalle, which is one of the oldest buildings. The exhibits in the museum consist of photographs, historical potato peelers, artwork, and chip making machines spanning over 3 floors.

Address : Vlamingstraat 33, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.211040799999999, 3.22400990000000555

Contact : +32 50 34 01 50

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

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Stadsschouwburg Bus Station Brugge Kipstraat Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adult: €7 Group (Minimum 15 people): €6 Students and people above 65: €6 Children (6-11 years): €5 Free admission for children below 6 years

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

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Burg Square

Representing a variety of architecture ranging from Gothic to Renaissance and neo-classical, the Burg Square is the administrative center and the historical heart of Bruges. The presence of interesting buildings on the square especially the Town Hall or locally known as Stadhuis takes you on a journey through Bruges' long history. Also lined up are a couple of brasseries and restaurants where you can sit and admire the beauty of the square while sipping on your coffee.

Address : Burg, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.2085709, 3.2267850000000635

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Wollestraat Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Market Place

Located in the heart of the Bruges, the Market is a bustling plaza with various eateries and fine historic buildings. Spread over an area of 1 hectare, the Market is a beautiful open space laced on three sides by gabled buildings and horse-drawn carriages since it is car free since 1995. The city's foremost edifice, the Belfry dominates the scene, while the statue of Jan Breydel and Pieter de Coninck stand right in the center of the square.

Address : Markt, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.2088255, 3.2243722000000616

Contact : +32 50 44 46 46

Website : <https://bezoekers.brugge.be/>

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Wollestraat Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Minnewater

Minnewater, fondly called the Lake of Love in English, is a beautiful spot just a 10-minute walk back into the center. Surrounded by trees and Minnewaterpark, this lake turns into an exceptionally romantic setting offering a lyrical scenery from the bridge above the lake. Legend says you will experience eternal love if you walk over the lake bridge with your beloved. You can also sit on benches along the lake or stroll around the calm park to enjoy the ambiance.

Address : Minnewater, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.19977970000001, 3.2248065999999653

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Bargeplein (Katelijnparking) Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Historic Centre of Bruges

A testimony to the brilliant architecture of the city, the Historic Centre of Bruges is a must-visit attraction. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000, you cannot help but admire the magnificent Gothic buildings and the medieval settlement. It serves as an outstanding example of how well-maintained the historic fabric is, and how it has evolved over the centuries, while also displaying major changes in the cultural and commercial fields in Europe.

Address : Historic Centre, 8000 Bruges, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.208927, 3.225249

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Stadsschouwburg Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Steenstraat

Steenstraat, running from the Market square to the Zand square, is the main shopping street of Bruges having a wide range of fashion retailers and departmental stores. All big retail brands can be found here, which usually have

sales and discounts during July and January. Halfway down the street you will find Simon Stevinplein, where you can taste and shop some of the finest chocolates in the world. 1kg chocolate would cost you approximately €50 in this area.

Address : Steenstraat, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.20701679999999, 3.2226044000000023

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Geldmuntstraat

Geldmuntstraat and the Kleine Sint Amandstraat have a good blend of food, clothing and accessories. Head there to indulge in some retail therapy while having a great time.

Address : Geldmuntstraat, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.2086647, 3.2217521999999969

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. 't Zand Market

Zipcode : 0

Location : 51.2052059, 3.2177384999999996

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Eiermarkt

The Eiermarkt is an outdoor square that features a plethora of shops and activities. From clothing to pottery and chocolates, shoppers have a wide array of products they can shop for. The place is also speckled with good restaurants and bars.

Address : Eiermarkt, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.20926619999999, 3.2231785000000173

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Brooklyn Brugge

If you are looking for casual clothing, Brooklyn Brugge has a great collection of brands along with some local labels.

Address : Noordzandstraat 50, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Zipcode : 8000

Location : 51.207095, 3.2196582000000262

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



8. Key sites sports & adventure

If you are someone who doesn't like lazing around on the beach or explore local sights, then you can try Ballooning in Bruges. It's the best way to go around the city and have fun.

- **Bruges Ballooning -**

Address : Markt, Bruges 8000, Belgium

Location : 51.208723,3.223860000000005

Contact No : +32475972887

Website : http://www.bruges-ballooning.com/#_=_

Nearest Public Transport : Brugge Markt Bus Station

Entry Fees : €180 for adults and €110 for kids (You can also book a private balloon flight for 2 passengers at €699)

Open / Close Time : Pick up morning before 10:00hrs and evening between 17:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 3.00

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9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Bruges is the city where the tour of Flanders cycle race takes place every year in the month of April. It is one of the biggest traditional events in the country. Another sport that enjoys popularity in Bruges is football. It was one of the host cities for the UEFA European Football Championship in 2000. The city has two professional football teams: Club Brugge K.V. (Belgian First Division) and Cercle Brugge K.S.V (Belgian Second Division).

- **Jan Breydel Stadium:**

Address : Koning Leopold III-laan 50, 8200 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.1933557,3.18060909999999697

Contact No : +32 50 72 70 03

Website : <https://www.brugge.be/sport>

Open/Close time : Monday to Friday 10:00hrs-16:00hrs Saturday 10:00hrs-12:00hrs

10. Spas and relaxation

Just like any other city in Europe, Bruges offers its fine share of relaxation and wellness opportunities to its tourists. Almost every hotel has a spa with sauna, a gymnasium and massage facilities.

- **Hotel Dukes' Palace 5*:**

Address : Prinsenhof 8, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.208548,3.2201049999999896

Contact No : +32 50 44 78 88

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

- **Vanhalle Wellness:**

Address : Brieversweg 326, 8310 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.2122897,3.280619099999967

Contact No : +32 50 36 05 91

Website : <http://www.vanhalle-wellness.be/>

11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Bruges Beer Festival



Every year in the first week of February, the historic city of Bruges transforms itself into a beer paradise! A tradition that started in 2007 continues today and has come to be known as one of the best Belgium beer festivals. If you are a beer buff, this festival is only going to increase your love for beer!

Meifoor Festival

Meifoor is a lovely annual fair held after Easter in t'Zand area and adjacent areas. It lasts for more than a month and involves colorful parades and fun activities.


Meifoor Festival

Meifoor is a lovely annual fair held after Easter in t'Zand area and adjacent areas. It lasts for more than a month and involves colorful parades and fun activities.

Procession of the Holy Blood

The Procession of the Holy Blood is an extremely impressive annual religious event that has been taking place in Bruges since 1150. The procession finds a mention on the UNESCO World Heritage list and is carried out on the Ascension Day in May each year.

Cactus Festival



Going strong for more than twenty years, the Cactus Festival is a multicultural outdoor concert of world music and dance. It spans 3 days over the second weekend of July in the Minnewaterpark, Bruges. The festival enjoys popularity among tourists and locals alike. You can check the lineup information and admission fee on the official website of Cactus Festival.

MA Festival

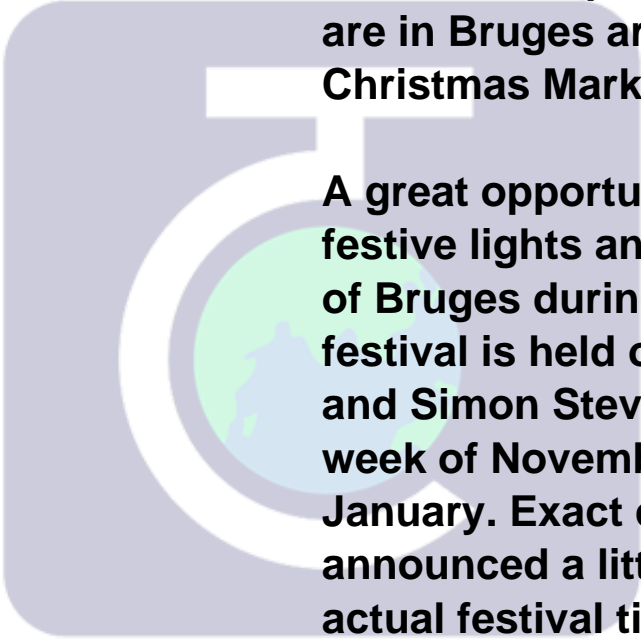
Also called the Flanders Festival Bruges, MA Festival is a well-regarded festival that celebrates Baroque music. This 10-day music festival happens in early August and is one of the most renowned Early Music festivals in the world. Lovers of music gather from all around the world

to celebrate this event with gusto.

Lace Days

A very popular 3-day lace exhibition to showcase and trade the finest qualities of Belgian Lace. It takes place in August and is worth participation if you are in Bruges around that time.

Christmas Market



A great opportunity to enjoy festive lights and colorful stalls of Bruges during Christmas! The festival is held on Markt Square, and Simon Stevinplein from last week of November till early January. Exact dates are announced a little before the actual festival time and can be checked online. A good opportunity to purchase artistic items and clothes.

Christmas Market

A great opportunity to enjoy festive lights and colorful stalls of Bruges during Christmas! The festival is held on Markt Square, and Simon Stevinplein from last week of November till early January. Exact dates are announced a little before the

actual festival time and can be checked online. A good opportunity to purchase artistic items and clothes.



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12. Key local guides and tours

Hiring a local guide is a good idea if you want some help in discovering the city. Carl Ooghe is a very famous, independent travel guide. He is a local historian and an extremely skilled storyteller. He has a great record of engaging his clients with lovely stories about Bruges. Bruges offers one beer and chocolate tasting tour that offers the perfect combination of sightseeing and culinary delights. Also it offers a tour that allows you to go around with a local.



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13. Transportation hubs

Bruges does not have its own airport and the nearest airport to Bruges is the Brussels International Airport (50.900972, 4.485585) which is 110 kms away. It takes around 1 hour 15 minutes for a train journey from Brussels Airport to Bruges. The railway station of Bruges (51.197646, 3.217829) is on the outskirts of the city centre. Trains to and from Brussels leave every half an hour during the day. Bus routes from other Belgian cities also terminate at the railway station.



14. Transportation cost

Bruges is a small city, best explored on foot which is why it is often called an ambler's paradise. Of course there are many local transportation options and you could always take a canal boat tour or a horse carriage ride but they say, the city is best seen on foot. However, if you are not a big fan of walking, you can rent a bicycle for around £9 a day. Cyclists make up for around 60% of all incoming traffic in the city as the Government encourages cycling a lot. You can easily find various bike rental companies in the city. Regional and city buses are operated by De Lijn with over 50 routes in the city and surrounding areas. Tickets (single journey or day passes) can be bought from De Lijn sales point, automatic ticket machines or online. It costs around €3 for 60 minutes. One day pass costs around €6 for adults whereas it costs €4 for children, three day pass around €12 and five day pass around €17. You might also like taking a boat for a ducks-eye view of the city. An individual ticket costs £5.24 for adults (children under 4 are free). Horse and carriage tours are usually expensive (£30 for half an hour) Cheap parking is scarce and most streets are narrow with one-way traffic. There are no subways or trams. If you've planned to spend more than a weekend in Bruges, a good idea is to get hold of the Brugge City Card. It not only allows discounted admission to many museums/ attractions, but you can take canal/ bus tour, and many other discounts on it. The card is available for €46 for 48 hours and €49 for 72 hours.

15. Baggage allowance

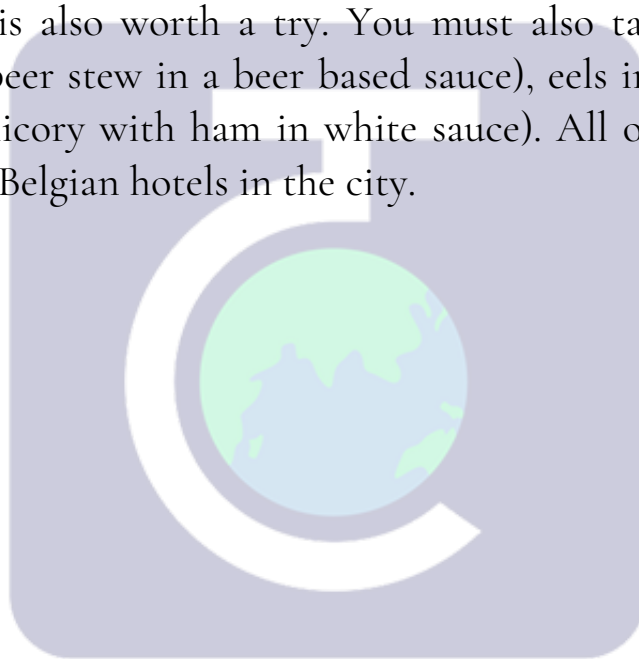
Free baggage limit for most buses/ trains is one piece of small hand luggage and one piece of "checked in baggage". Note: Smaller bags are easier to squeeze in.



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16. Must try food and local savouries

Belgium is a country of food lovers and you have a lot of mouth-watering delicacies to choose from when it comes to tasting traditional cuisine. On the top of the list are their delicious waffles, fries, pralines and of course, the world famous beer of Belgium. The traditional meal of Bruges which includes Lapin la Flamande (a marinated rabbit) or Chou rouge a la Flamande (red cabbage with onions and prunes) is also worth a try. You must also taste the very popular mussels, stoofvlees (beer stew in a beer based sauce), eels in a creamy sauce and witloof met hesp (chicory with ham in white sauce). All of these delicacies are easily available in all Belgian hotels in the city.



17. Restaurant & Nightlife

There is no dearth of good restaurants, cafes and pubs in the city. If you are a lover of good food and beer, Bruges will not disappoint you at all!

Food -

There is no dearth of good restaurants, cafes and pubs in the city. If you are a lover of good food and beer, Bruges will not disappoint you at all!

- **De Karmeliet:**

Address : Langestraat 19, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.2097428,3.2324069999

Contact No : +32 50 33 82 59

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

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

- **Den Dyver:**

Address : Dijver 5, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.206475,3.2268890000

Contact No : +32 50 33 60 69

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

Open / Close Time : Tuesday to Saturday 12:00hrs-14:30hrs and 18:00hrs-22:00hrs Sunday and Monday closed

- **De Halve Maan:**

Address : Walplein 26, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.2024473,3.2241779999

Contact No : +32 50 44 42 22

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

Open / Close Time : Sunday to Wednesday 10:00hrs-18:00hrs Thursday to Saturday 10:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Parkrestaurant:**

Address : Minderbroedersstraat 1, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.2073078,3.2309086000

Contact No : +32 497 80 18 72

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

Open / Close Time : Open every night except Mondays, Thursdays and annual holidays (Closed lunchtime)

- **The Olive Tree:**

Address : Wollestraat 3, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.2082889,3.2253355999

Contact No : +32 50 33 00 81

Website : <http://www.theolivetree-brugge.com/>

Open / Close Time : Wednesday to Saturday 18:00hrs-22:30hrs Sunday 12:00hrs-14:00hrs and 18:00hrs-22:30hrs Tuesday closed

- **Restaurant Beethoven:**

Address : Sint-Amandsstraat 6, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.2085605,3.2232367000

Website : <http://www.two4one.be/>

Open / Close Time : 12:00hrs-14:00hrs and 18:00hrs-21:00hrs (Except Wednesday and Sunday)

- **De Plaats:**

Address : Wapenmakersstraat 5, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.209861,3.2265629999

Contact No : +32 50 66 03 66

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

Open / Close Time : Tuesday to Saturday 11:00hrs-23:00hrs Sunday and Monday closed

- **Vismarkt:**

Address : Vismarkt, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.2078864,3.2283325999

Website : <https://bezoekers.brugge.be/nl/vismarkt>

- **Ma Rica Rokk:**

Address : Het Zand 6, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.205868,3.2176867000

Contact No : +32 50 33 24 34

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

Open / Close Time : Monday to Thursday 07:30hrs-03:00hrs Friday and Saturday 07:30hrs-05:00hrs Sunday 11:00hrs-03:00hrs

- **Bras-Café:**

Address : Het Zand 10, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.2057417,3.2177415999

Contact No : +32 50 34 45 65

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

- **The Duke:**

Address : Sint-Jakobsstraat 41, 8000 Brugge, Belgium

Location : 51.210368,3.221193

Contact No : +32 50 34 05 61

Website : <https://www.hotelnavarra.com/index.html>

Open / Close Time : NA



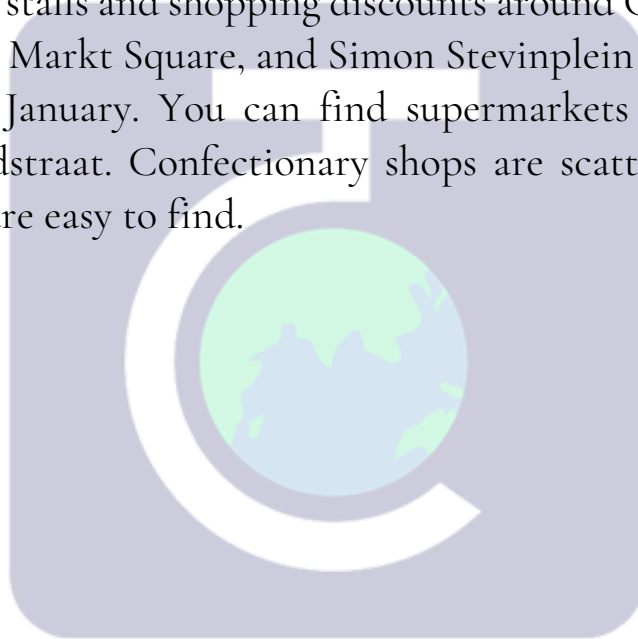
Index**18. Average meal cost**

Average prices for eating out in Bruges: • Full course Meal (in a decent/inexpensive restaurant) – €13 • 3 course meal for 2, (in a mid-range restaurant) – €37.50 • Combo meal at McDonalds (or similar) – €8 • Domestic Beer(0.5 liter draught)- €3.50 • Imported Beer(0.33 liter bottle)- €3.00 • Cappuccino (regular)- €2.64 • Coke/Pepsi (0.33 liter bottle)- €2.07 • Water (0.33 liter bottle)- €1.82



19. Shopping

Bruges is a small city and the shopping complex is within walking distance. You will find that most of your shopping needs can easily be met in the historical center. The city is touristy and it is very common to find typical souvenir stores all around. Fridge magnets, chocolates and lace items are great items to buy from Bruges. The Christmas Market is also a great way to enjoy the festive celebrations, colorful stalls and shopping discounts around Christmas. The festive market is held on the Markt Square, and Simon Stevinplein from the last week of November till early January. You can find supermarkets at the train station, Noord and Zuidzandstraat. Confectionary shops are scattered pretty much all around the city and are easy to find.



20. Tourist benefits

Tourists can avail certain tax benefits while shopping in Bruges. Residents of non-EU countries can claim tax refunds if they spend over €125.01 in one shop. You need to take back home the receipt and the purchased item when departing from Belgium to be able to qualify for refund. The Europe Tax-Free Shopping programme is also functional in Bruges. All you need to do is show your passport to participating shops (specially marked) in return for a cheque indicating tax-free shopping.



21. Essential local apps

Use of local apps make travel hassle free. Shopping App Bruges is an app that provides you with all information related to shopping in Bruges.



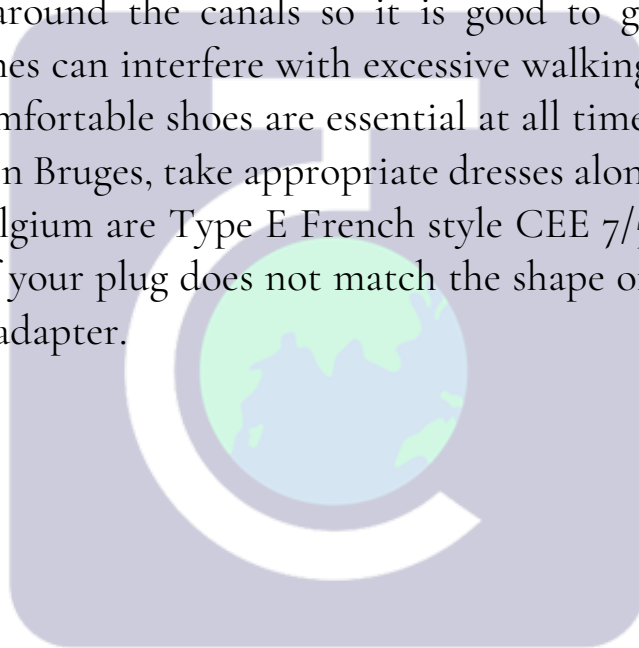
22. Driving

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.



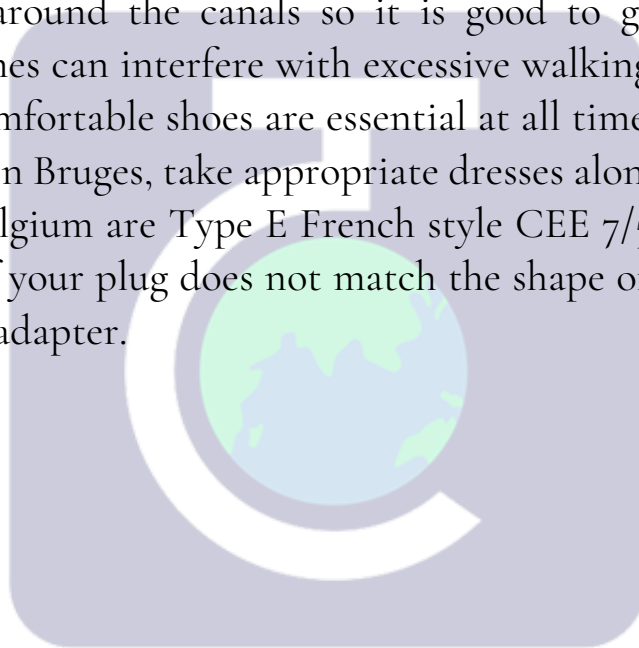
23. Travel essentials

Weather can be really unpredictable in Bruges and a good tip is to be always prepared for rains. Even if you are travelling during summer, make sure you carry a raincoat, umbrella, sunscreen and a sweater or two. Drug stores can be found easily around the city but if you are allergic to something or are on a specific medication, it is advised you bring your own medicines. Although rare, but there can be mosquitoes around the canals so it is good to get along a mosquito repellent. Cobblestones can interfere with excessive walking around the city and hence, strong and comfortable shoes are essential at all times. Also, if you intend to visit the churches in Bruges, take appropriate dresses along with you. Electrical sockets in Bruges, Belgium are Type E French style CEE 7/5 Schuko (usually 220 and 240 volts AC). If your plug does not match the shape of this socket, you will require a travel plug adapter.



24. Essential clothes

Weather can be really unpredictable in Bruges and a good tip is to be always prepared for rains. Even if you are travelling during summer, make sure you carry a raincoat, umbrella, sunscreen and a sweater or two. Drug stores can be found easily around the city but if you are allergic to something or are on a specific medication, it is advised you bring your own medicines. Although rare, but there can be mosquitoes around the canals so it is good to get along a mosquito repellent. Cobblestones can interfere with excessive walking around the city and hence, strong and comfortable shoes are essential at all times. Also, if you intend to visit the churches in Bruges, take appropriate dresses along with you. Electrical sockets in Bruges, Belgium are Type E French style CEE 7/5 Schuko (usually 220 and 240 volts AC). If your plug does not match the shape of this socket, you will require a travel plug adapter.



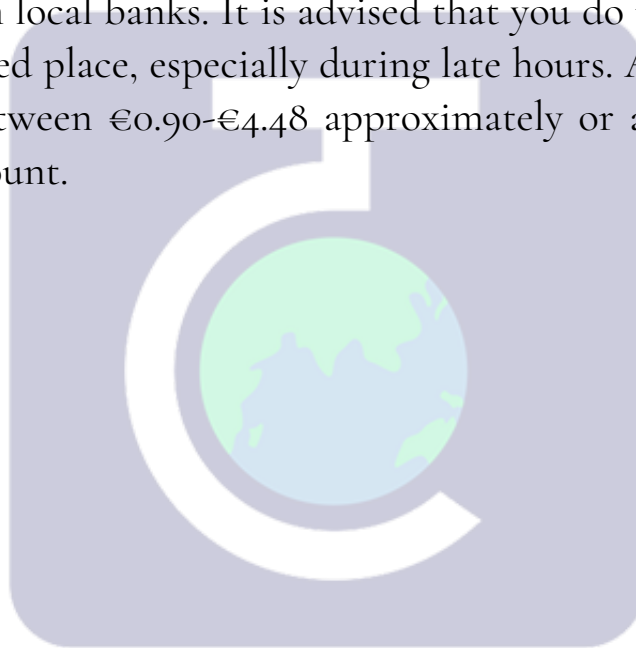
25. Local currency

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



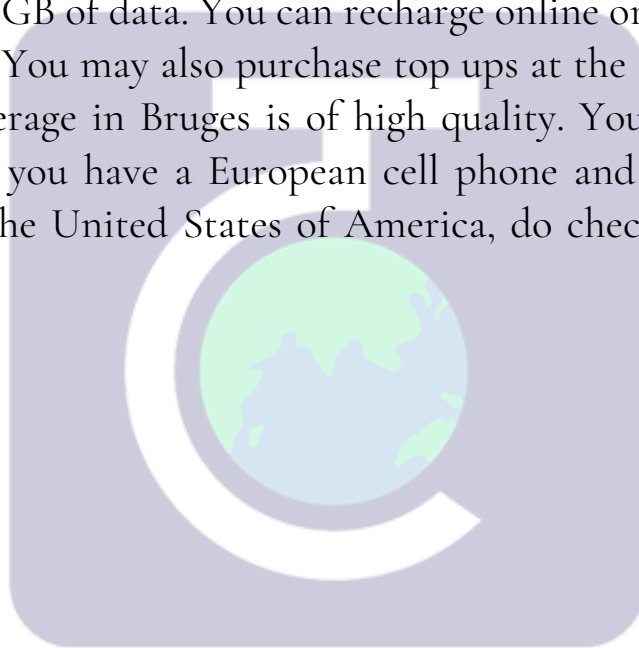
26. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

Most credit cards are widely accepted in Bruges but do keep some cash handy for small purchases (coffee etc). In restaurants and bigger shopping complexes, you should be able to make payment using your credit card. Some bus drivers and shopkeepers can refuse foreign currency so it is advised you keep some Euros handy with you. There are many money exchange offices in the center or you can also change money in local banks. It is advised that you do not withdraw a lot of money from a secluded place, especially during late hours. ATM fees in Bruges 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 Bruges. 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 Bruges 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 Bruges 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.



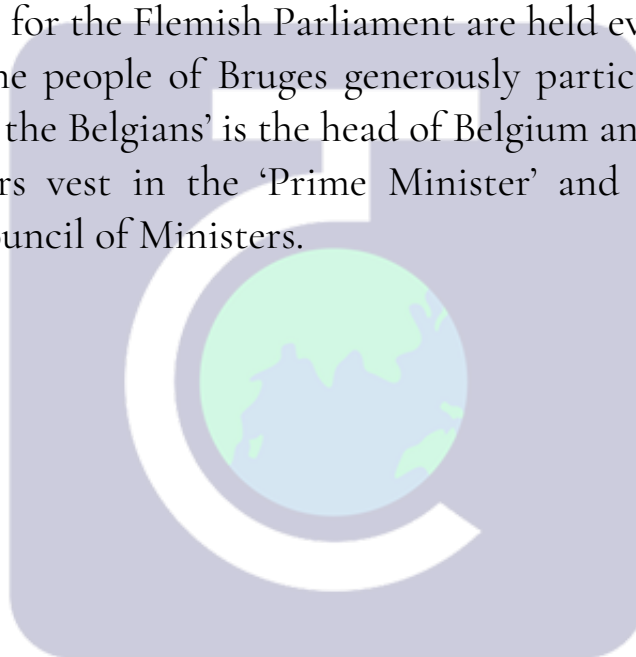
29. Languages

Flemish (similar to Dutch) and French are the two most widely spoken languages in Bruges. English and German are also common with tourists. Many TV channels also use English subtitles. You can also find English menus in some restaurants and cafes. Although, it is not a bad idea to learn some Flemish or German phrases if you want to come across as warm and polite.



30. Political Scenario

The Flemish community enjoys great political autonomy. It includes the Flemish Parliament (representative branch) and a Flemish Government (executive branch). The legislative powers are prescribed by the Belgian constitution while the Residual powers reside with the Belgian Parliament or the EU. The Flemish Government consists of a cabinet of ministers appointed by the Flemish Parliament. Elections for the Flemish Parliament are held every five years. Voting is compulsory and the people of Bruges generously participate in the electoral process. 'The King of the Belgians' is the head of Belgium and holds office for life. The executive powers vest in the 'Prime Minister' and state ministers, who together form the Council of Ministers.



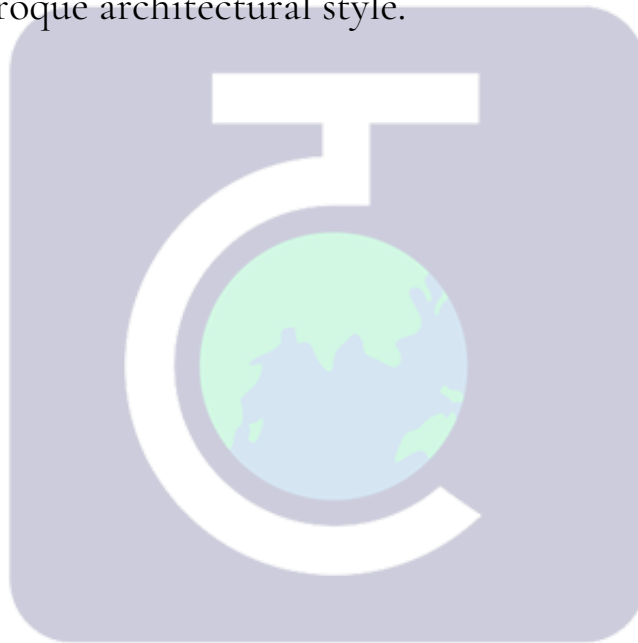
31. Economic Scenario

Bruges enjoys a strategic geographical location and a diversified industrial base which is why it has been one of the key commercial cities in the world since many years. The Port of Bruges - Zeebrugge is the foundation of the economy of Bruges. It is largest port of Europe for natural gas. It is also the largest port in the world for import and export of new vehicles. Tourism is also one of the chief components of the economic base of Bruges. Approximately 2.5 million day tourists visit the city every year and add to the economic wealth of the city. The Government of Bruges encourages new foreign investment in order to promote employment in the city.



32. Religious belief

The most widely practised religion in Belgium is Christianity (Roman Catholicism in particular). Approximately 57% of the total population follows the Catholic Church, 1.7% follows Protestantism, and 0.3% the Orthodox Christian Churches. Other religions in the city include Islam, Judaism and protestant varieties of Christianity. The city is home to many historic churches that are built in the Gothic and Baroque architectural style.



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 for an unlimited period. Nationals of Australia, Canada and the USA also do not need a visa for stay up to 90 days. Nationals of the rest of the world need to apply for a visa to visit Bruges, Belgium. 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

Belgium is a relatively safe country and the crime rate is not alarming at all. But when dealing with strangers, it makes sense to keep your wits about you. Do not look or act too touristy and avoid secluded places, especially at night. It is also advised not to keep too much cash in your pockets. Last but not the least, always crosscheck and be careful of what you are being charged for. Shopkeepers can sometimes try to dupe innocent tourists by overcharging.



36. Embassy/Consulate

A lot of countries around the world have their embassies and consulates in Bruges, Belgium so that visitors can seek assistance from their home country while they are abroad. A complete list of embassies by country and address can be viewed at: <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/belgium>



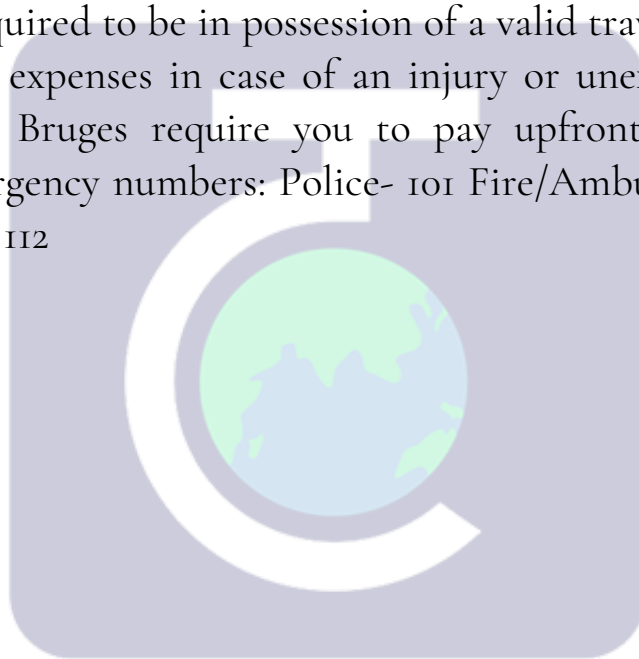
37. Accessibility

The city of Bruges is entirely flat. Even the bridges are flat without any steps so wheelchair users don't need to worry much. Although the cobblestones can give a bumpy ride, they have a 4 star smoothness rating which means they won't throw major problems for wheelchair users. Unfortunately there is not enough room on boats to hold a wheelchair and hence none of the boats are 100% wheelchair accessible. Visitors using wheelchairs need to leave their wheelchair back on the dock. So far as accommodation goes, Hotel Boterhuis is a wheelchair friendly hotel. Their rooms and showers are specially designed to accommodate visitors with special needs. It is just five minutes from the Markt Plaza.



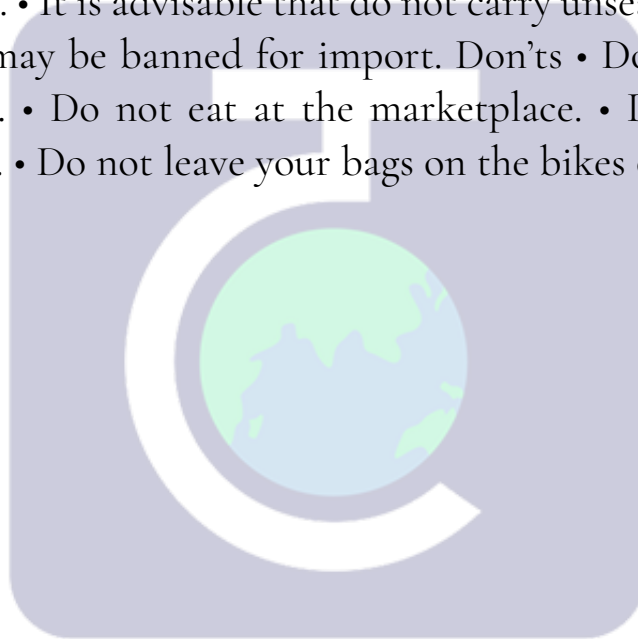
38. Emergencies

Belgium is a first world country and there are no major health risks associated with visiting the country as such. Hospitals in Bruges are best of class and in the unfortunate event where you have to see a doctor, any pharmacy can point you in the direction of nearest clinic. The most centrally located hospital is Akademische Ziekenhuis (5.836792, -55.183068). However, applicants for Schengen visa are required to be in possession of a valid travel medical insurance to cover up medical expenses in case of an injury or unexpected illness. Most clinics/ hospitals in Bruges require you to pay upfront and claim medical insurance later. Emergency numbers: Police- 101 Fire/Ambulance- 100 European Emergency Number- 112



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

Do's • Do try samples from shops selling chocolates. It is fun and the shopkeepers do not hesitate. • 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 store your camera safely. • 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 eat at the marketplace. • Do not visit secluded streets alone at night. • Do not leave your bags on the bikes or inside the taxis



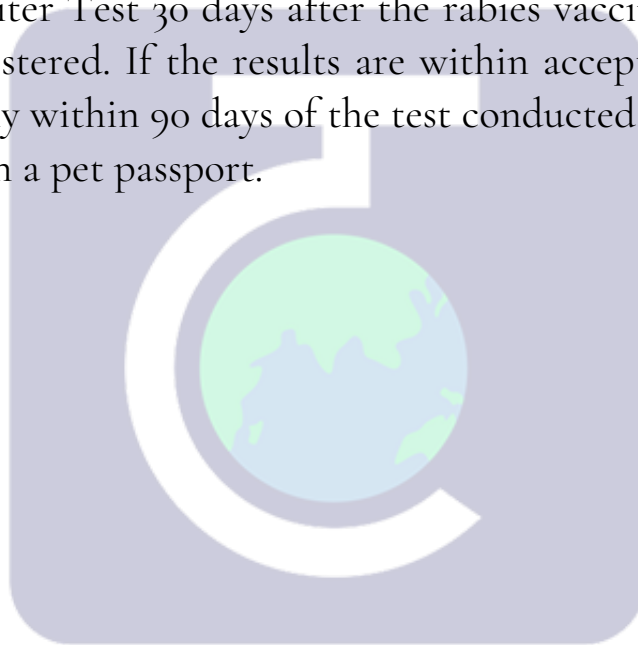
40.Tipping basics

Tipping is not common in Bruges. However, it is pretty common to round up bills in restaurants and cafes.



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

Postcard-perfect setting, cultural wonders, world-class lace, luxurious chocolates and local beers - that is what Bruges (or brugge), Belgium is all about! The city is one of the best preserved European cities and offers the kind of charms rarely seen elsewhere. It is a small city and meandering through its narrow streets or taking a boat trip on the canals makes for a perfect daycation. Bruges attracts enormous amount of travelers every year. If you are someone who has always enjoyed history, fine architecture, quaint streets and good food, Bruges is the place for you.



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