

Belgium

Continent: Europe

Languages Spoken: Dutch, French, German

Population: 11,700,000

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Area: 30,688

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Atomium', 'writeup': 'A unique building in Brussels designed to resemble an iron crystal magnified 165 billion times.'}
- {'name': 'Grand Place', 'writeup': 'The central square of Brussels, known for its ornate guildhalls and historic buildings.'}
- {'name': 'Manneken Pis', 'writeup': "A famous small bronze statue of a boy urinating, symbolizing Brussels' irreverent spirit."}
- {'name': 'Belfry of Bruges', 'writeup': 'A medieval bell tower in Bruges offering panoramic views of the city.'}
- {'name': 'Waterloo Battlefield', 'writeup': 'Historic site of the 1815 Battle of Waterloo where Napoleon was defeated.'}

Head of State / Government:

King Philippe

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Carnival of Binche', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO-recognized carnival featuring traditional Gilles costumes and lively parades.'}
- {'name': 'Ommegang Festival', 'writeup': 'A historical reenactment festival in Brussels celebrating medieval traditions.'}
- {'name': 'Gentse Feesten', 'writeup': 'A ten-day music and theatre festival held annually in Ghent.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Belgian cuisine is famous for its waffles, chocolates, fries, and a wide variety of beers. Traditional dishes include moules-frites and stoofvlees.

Brief History:

Belgium gained independence from the Netherlands in 1830. It has a complex linguistic and cultural division between Dutch-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia. Belgium is a founding member of the EU and NATO.

Important People:

- Audrey Hepburn - Actress
- René Magritte - Surrealist artist
- Eddy Merckx - Professional cyclist

- Georges Simenon - Author

- Hergé - Creator of Tintin

Current Conflicts:

Belgium is currently peaceful with no active internal or external conflicts.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Belgium: A Journey Through Its Culture and History

- Top 10 Places to Visit in Belgium

- Belgian Food and Drink: Waffles, Chocolate, and Beer

- The History of Belgium Explained

- Belgium Travel Guide: Tips and Highlights