

# **World66's guide to Belgium**

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# Belgium

Located in north–western Europe, Belgium is a small country bordered by The Netherlands, France, Germany, and Luxemburg. There's more to the country than Belgian fries, glass and beer: multicultural and multilingual, Belgium is a veritable Europe in miniature.

Belgium reached its zenith under the Duke of Burgundy during the 14th century. However, the country declined in the mid–15th century. During the First World War, despite Belgium's neutral policy, the Germans invaded the country in 1914. The Germans attacked it again in 1940, this time taking control over the entire country within barely three weeks. After the war, Belgium witnessed an economic boom, which was further boosted by Brussels appointment as the headquarters of both the European Union and NATO.

Brussels today is a bustling city of diplomats, followed closely by towering skyscrapers and numerous restaurants. You will see superb examples of art and architecture, both past and present–Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque, and Nouveau. The city is also famous for some well–preserved ancient châteaux, colourful fairs and festivals, nature reserves as well as amusement parks–all within easy reach.

Due to the country's strategic location, Belgians play host to tourists from all parts of the world. The local people are always friendly, cooperative and courteous. Though Dutch and French are the commonly used languages, you'll find that almost everyone can manage to communicate in English.

Belgium has some of the renowned art cities of Europe– Antwerp , Bruges and Ghent . The southern region of the country is interspersed with the rolling hills of the Ardennes, numerous castles, and the cities of Liege , and Tournai . The Ardennes, in particular, are a major centre for skiing in winter and kayaking in summer, with added facilities of hiking and mountain biking along the forest tracks.

## Belgium – Getting Around

### *By Air*

Belgium is a relatively small country; so flying around is not really an option to get around. There are some private charters from small local airports though and a tour over the country can also be arranged.

### *By Car*

The most comfortable way to travel is by car. This does not only give you freedom to move without having to meet schedules. Furthermore there are a lot of sights in–between the cities that are hard to visit without your own means of transport. A dense network of highways connects all of Belgium. Its probably the country that has the highest highway per square kilometer rate in Europe. The Belgian highways are renowned for their illumination, so try to do at least some nocturnal driving. On satellite photo's of Europe taken during the night time you can actually see where Belgium is situated as it is one lighted spot (Recently the government decided to shut all freeway lights between 1am and 6am to save power. Except on the R0 around Brussels).

### *Driving Rules*



Belgians and the law don't go along very well. Speeding limits are 120km/h on freeways, 90km/h outside residential/build-up areas (in Flanders, however, more and more roads have a speed limit of 70km/h), 50km/h in towns and cities, 30km/h in schoolzones. Driving is on the right hand side of the road. On freeways this means you always have to drive on the right lane, and use the middle or left lane only to pass. Passing someone on the right is forbidden (even on the freeway). Since many Belgians and foreigners like driving in the middle lane, this may cause some problems.

When driving somewhere, make sure you have prepared your trip. Not only will you need to totally focus on hectic driving, but there are also a lot of intersections you'll have to take and cities are not US-like. Bear in mind when driving you won't see any signs like "I-5 north", but you'll rather see "E19 towards Antwerpen". Here we have another difficult thing: Language. When driving in Flanders, every sign is in Dutch, in Wallonia everything is in French and in Brussels everything is in both the languages. For example, you're somewhere in Flanders near the state border. You want to go to Mons in Wallonia. But there aren't any signs! At that point you should know that Mons is translated "Bergen" in Dutch, so follow these signs... So when buying a map, be sure to buy one with both versions of cities on it... Interesting to know is that highways are depicted using green arrows or signs (for instance the sign "E19" will always be in green), and major roads (like "N1") are in blue.

### ***By Train***

If you don't want to rent a car, or don't want the hassle of finding an affordable parking place, traveling by train is very convenient. Belgium has an extensive rail net and also excursions to the neighboring countries are quite easy.

National and international passes like the Benelux Pass, which can be used to travel between Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, are available at all major train stations. Seat reservations are not available on national trains (except for groups over 15 persons). The main international train station is "Brussel-Zuid / Bruxelles-Midi". There you can connect to the Eurostar (reservations obligated) towards London, Paris and Lille (France); the Thalys (reservations obligated) to Paris, Amsterdam, Köln (Germany) and special Summer/Winter locations; normal IC (intercity) trains towards Amsterdam; Köln and Luxembourg; ICE trains (reservations obligated) towards Frankfurt am Main (Germany) as well as a lot of national destinations.

Buses connecting cities are available but not recommended.

For more info check the official railroad sites for national and international travel. <http://www.b-rail.be>

### ***Hitch hiking***

Hitch hiking is forbidden on the highways. You better use the beginning of the ramps towards the highways. Not many Belgians are willing to take hitch hikers though.

### ***Hiking***

Actually it's not uncommon to walk or bike through some parts of it. Especially the Southeast is well known hiking territory.

**all**

## **Astral rent a car**

url: [www.astral-rent-a-car.com](http://www.astral-rent-a-car.com)

tel: +32 2 734 30 90

## **Belgium – People**

**Population:** 10 174 922 (July 1998 est.)

### **Age structure:**

*0–14 years:* 17% (male 903 954; female 860 940)

*15–64 years:* 66% (male 3 387 329; female 3 318 221)

*65 years and over:* 17% (male 693 519; female 1 010 959) (July 1998 est.)

**Population growth rate:** 0.09% (1998 est.)

**Birth rate:** 10.21 births/1 000 population (1998 est.)

**Death rate:** 10.41 deaths/1 000 population (1998 est.)

**Net migration rate:** 1.05 migrant(s)/1 000 population (1998 est.)

### **Sex ratio:**

*at birth:* 1.05 male(s)/female

*under 15 years:* 1.04 male(s)/female

*15–64 years:* 1.02 male(s)/female

*65 years and over:* 0.68 male(s)/female (1998 est.)

**Infant mortality rate:** 6.27 deaths/1 000 live births (1998 est.)

### **Life expectancy at birth:**

*total population:* 77.35 years

*male:* 74.13 years

*female:* 80.74 years (1998 est.)

**Total fertility rate:** 1.49 children born/woman (1998 est.)

**Nationality:**

*noun:* Belgian(s)

*adjective:* Belgian

**Ethnic groups:** Fleming 55% Walloon 33% mixed or other 12%

**Religions:** Roman Catholic 75% Protestant or other 25%

**Languages:** Flemish 56% French 32% German 1% legally bilingual 11%

**Literacy:**

*definition:* age 15 and over can read and write

*total population:* 99% (1980 est.)

*male:* NA%

*female:* NA%

## Belgium – Economy

**Economyoverview:** This highly developed private enterprise economy has capitalized on its central geographic location highly developed transport network and diversified industrial and commercial base. Industry is concentrated mainly in the populous Flemish area in the north although the government is encouraging reinvestment in the southern region of Walloon. With few natural resources Belgium must import substantial quantities of raw materials and export a large volume of manufactures making its economy unusually dependent on the state of world markets. Two-thirds of its trade is with other EU countries. The economy grew at a strong 4% annual pace during the period 1988–90 slowed to 1% in 1991–92 dropped by 1.5% in 1993 recovered with moderate 2.3% growth in 1994 and 1995 and fell off again to 1.4% in 1996 with continued substantial unemployment. Belgium's public debt fell from 127% of GDP in 1996 to 124% in 1997 and the government is trying to control its expenditures to bring the figure more into line with other industrialized countries. GDP growth of 2.5% is forecast for 1998.

**GDP:** purchasing power parity\$236.3 billion (1997 est.)

**GDPreal growth rate:** 2.3% (1997 est.)

**GDPper capita:** purchasing power parity\$23 200 (1997 est.)

**GDPcomposition by sector:**

*agriculture: 2%*

*industry: 28%*

*services: 70% (1994)*

***Inflation rateconsumer price index: 1.7% (1997 est.)***

***Labor force:***

*total: 4.283 million (1997)*

*by occupation: services 69.7% industry 27.7% agriculture 2.6% (1992)*

***Unemployment rate: 12.75% (1997)***

***Budget:***

*revenues: \$NA*

*expenditures: \$NA including capital expenditures of \$NA*

***Industries:*** engineering and metal products motor vehicle assembly processed food and beverages chemicals basic metals textiles glass petroleum coal

***Industrial production growth rate: 9.7% (1995)***

***Electricitycapacity: 13.592 million kW (1995)***

***Electricityproduction: 69.56 billion kWh (1995)***

***Electricityconsumption per capita: 7 306 kWh (1995 est.)***

***Agricultureproducts:*** sugar beets fresh vegetables fruits grain tobacco; beef veal pork milk

***Exports:***

*total value: \$172 billion (f.o.b. 1997) Belgium–Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU)*

*commodities: iron and steel transportation equipment tractors diamonds petroleum products*

*partners: EU 67.2% (Germany 19%) US 5.8% former Communist countries 1.4% (1994)*

***Imports:***

*total value: \$158.5 billion (c.i.f. 1997) Belgium–Luxembourg Economic Union*

*commodities:* fuels grains chemicals foodstuffs

*partners:* EU 75% (Germany 22.1%) US 5% former Communist countries 0.8% (1997)

*Debtexternal:* \$31.3 billion (1992 est.)

*Economic aid:*

*donor:* ODA \$808 million (1993)

*Currency:* 1 Euro ( ) = 100 Eurocent

*Exchange rates:* Euro ( ) per US\$10.7697 (Febr 2004)

*Fiscal year:* calendar year

## Belgium – Getting There

## Belgium – Books

all

**German Defensive Batteries and Gun Emplacements: On the Normandy Beaches Invasion: D-Day June 6, 1944**

author: Karl-Heinz Schmeelke, Michael Schmeelke

isbn: 0887407552

subject: history

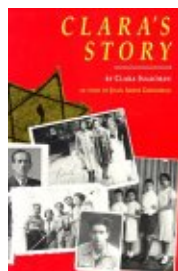
**On the Fields of Glory: The Battlefields of the 1815 Campaign**

author: Andrew Uffindell, Michael Corum

isbn: 1853672327

subject: history

**Claras Story**



author: Clara Isaacman,Designed by Joan A. Grossman  
isbn: 0827605064  
subject: history

### **Rick Steves' France, Belgium and the Netherlands 1999**



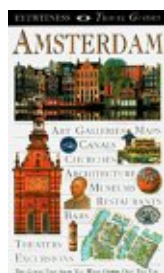
author: Rick Steves,Steve Smith  
isbn: 1562614622  
subject: travel

### **Frommer's Amsterdam**



author: George McDonald,Arthur Frommer  
isbn: 0028626001  
subject: travel

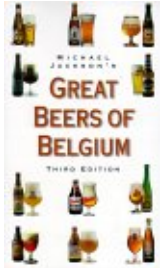
### **Eyewitness Travel Guide:Amsterdam**



author: DK Travel Writers,Christopher Catling  
isbn: 078940186X  
subject: travel

### **Michael Jackson's Great Beers of Belgium**

**Robert Cosgrove:** Anyone who knows great beer, knows Michael Jackson. If you are interested in beer and you are traveling to Belgium, this is the book you need to get.



author: Michael Jackson  
isbn: 0762404035  
subject: culture

### Culture Shock!:The Netherlands



author: Hunt Janin  
isbn: 155868400X  
subject: culture

### Rene Magritte

author: Jacques Meuris  
isbn: 1566197384  
subject: culture

## Belgium – Map

bruge

## Belgium – Shopping

gucci

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### Notes:

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# Aalst

## Aalst – Internet Cafes

all

### Cyber Cafe Chopin

Cyber Cafe Chopin

tel: 053/70.47.47

Hertshage,

address: 53

9300 Aalst

url: [053](#)

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### Notes:

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# Antwerp

Antwerp is one of the Belgium cities where you can fancy yourself the King of Belgium over a glass of *Koninck* beer (or one of the other 400 brands) with a view on the old guildhouses on the Grote Markt. Belgium's second city, and the biggest one of Flanders, is also a receptacle of monuments, museums and churches. Besides this, the city of Rubens, is the worlds centre for diamond processing as well as Belgiums primary seaport.

The heart of the city on the Scheldt beats at the 'Grote Markt', an irregularly-shaped square, surrounded by decorative guild houses dating from the 16th and 17th century. This square is home to the statue of Brabo. According to a 16th century legend, his action of 'handwerpen' (Dutch for 'flinging your hand') led to the city's name. Silvius Brabo is said to have flung the hand of Antigonus, a giant who terrorized passing ships. The 15th century City Hall on the square shows a successful blend of the Flemish style and Italian Renaissance characteristics. Southeast of the square, you can see the 'Onze Lieve Vrouwe Cathedral', a beautiful Gothic cathedral which will throw the rest of the square in the shade.

Antwerp's most famous resident is undoubtedly Pieter Paul Rubens. The painter's, and diplomat's, spirit is present all throughout town. His statue is at the 'Groenplaats' and he was buried at the St Paulus kerk. Many churches are enriched with his paintings. The Rubenshuis, the place where the painter lived and worked, still exudes the grandeur of the height of the Baroque in Antwerp. In the decorative restored Rockoxhuis, Rubens has a substantial presence, together with Jordaens, Matsys and his pupil Van Dyck.

The city of Rubens is a paradise for museum lovers. The Fine Arts Museum in the south houses over a thousand works by classical painters, including the Flemish Primitives. In addition, you can enjoy over 1500 more recent works. Naturally, this is where you will find the world's most beautiful and largest collection of the work of Antwerpen's great master Rubens. The Museum of Contemporary Art (MUHKA) has a collection of mainly Belgian art from the nineteen-seventies. These are only a few of the museums you will come across on your walk from the central station to the Grote Markt Mayer van den Bergh Museum is dedicated to fine and applied arts, particularly from the 14th to the 16th century. If you are at the Berchem station, make sure you see the Zurenborg district, known for its unique architectural complexities. Nowhere else in Europe than here will you find such a decorative collection of Art Nouveau and Jugendstil houses.

The city of diamonds has its main museum in the heart of the diamond district, the streets behind the central station. This part of the city is known as the 'Jerusalem of the North', because it has the largest settlement of Orthodox Jews in this part of Europe. Over 70% of the world's cutting and trading in diamonds takes place in Antwerp.

One of the reasons why Antwerp can maintain its world centre position is because of the port's international trade links. A river cruise is definitely not to be missed, not only to admire the famous skyline with its antique towers from the water, but also to experience the busy world port from the inside. Those who don't like boats can still enjoy the Scheldt from the unique promenade near the 'Steen'. The Steen is the oldest building within Antwerp and houses the National Maritime Museum with its open-air department exhibiting real ships.

So when your eyes are tired and your feet are raw because of all the miles you have walked, sit down again at the Grote Markt and soak in the atmosphere. Prepare yourself for a night out in the sparkling city with its many names and its slight inferiority complex (Brussels and Bruges still get all the attention). May the beers soothe your tiredness and soften your own dialect.

## Antwerp – Getting Around

The train station, or the 'Railway Cathedral', is connected with the rest of the city by tram, bus and metro. Tickets can be bought in advance or at the spot. However, a 24-hours pass can only be bought at the Diamant Underground Station (open Mon.–Frid. 8am–12:30pm & 1:30am–4pm). The city centre is easily explored by foot. Most sights are between the Central Station and the Scheldt, with a high concentration of churches and cathedrals around the Grote Markt.

## Antwerp – Practical Information

**all**

### The Tourist Office

Open: Monday–Saturday 9am–6pm. Sundays 9am–5pm.

address: Grote Markt 15

tel: 01.297.7655

### City Transport Information Office

Open: Mondays–Fridays 8am–12:30pm & 1.30–4pm.

address: Diamant Underground station

## Antwerp – Eating Out

Antwerp is a place where you are unlikely to die of hunger or thirst. Of course you can just enjoy the Belgian Waffels and Belgian beers, finished off with a nice plate of cheese. But at a certain time, you want to grab a bite. No fear, Antwerp has all sorts of food for both the million and the millionaire. The 'Grote Markt', and its vicinity, is swarmed with places where you can grab a quick meal, such as frites or a kebab. There are countless cafes where simple but tasty lunches and meals are served. What to eat? That is up to you. Indulge in the traditional Flemish cuisine (there is more to Antwerp than beer and frites), go for extremely sophisticated gastronomy or choose exotic cuisines from all around the world.

**all**

### Roma

Excellent pizzas prepared in a wood oven, superb pastas.

Known for its Sabayon.

zipcode: 2018

address: Statiestraat

### **Hoffy's**

Jewish food.

Closed on Saturday.

address: Lange Kievitstraat 52

tel: 03.234.3535

### **De Peerdestal**

address: Wijngaardstraat  
8

tel: 03.231.9503

### **Bizzie Lizzie**

*beer:* Bizzie Lizzie is an excellent restaurant with sometimes surprising dishes! Very friendly service and nice interior. Not cheap though

address: Vlaamsekaai 16

tel: 03.328.6197

### **Hippodroom**

Closed on Sundays

address: Leopold de Waelplaats 10

### **Bitterpeeen**

address: Ijzerlaan 26

tel: 03.227.4696

### **Hoorn des Overvloed**

Seafood restaurant

address: Melkmarkt  
1

tel: 03.232.8399

### **Morderato**

Fine italian food for a moderate price.

address: Kipdorpvest 38 – Antwerpen

tel: 03 226 3016

PriceOfMenu: 20

priceofmenu: 20

zipcode: 2000

**Facade**

address: Hendrik Conscienceplein 18

**Metalurgie**

address: Grote Pieter Potstraat 1

tel: 03.232.5410

**De Grote Gans**

address: Pelgrimstraat  
15

**Het Dagelijks Brood**

address: Steenhouwersvest 48

**Faam**

Bar nearby the Grote Markt. *beer*: the "Faam" is in the first place a pub! Particulary appreciated by people around their thirties... Think it got put in the wrong section of the site because you won't find any tables to eat!

address: Grote Pieter Potstraat 12

**Het Elfde Gebod**

Kitschy bar.

address: Torfbrug 10

**Patersvaetje**

address: Blauwmoezelstraat1

**Quinten Matsijs**

address: Moriaanstraat 17

**Cafe Den Engel**

address: Grote Markt 3

**Den Billekletser**

address: Hoogstraat  
22

## Antwerp – Accommodation

Finding accommodation in Antwerp should not cause you any trouble. There is a bunch of Sleep Cheap, most of them situated near the central station. If you are looking for some extra luxury, and you do not feel like

spending all your money on fabulous Belgian beers and traditional Flemish food, there are plenty of Middle Class and First Class places to spend the night. For some reason, however, you will only find a few hotels located in the city centre. Most places are at a ten to fifteen minutes' walk from the 'Grote Markt'.

**all**

### **B&B Family Bouserd–Rodriguez**

Very central, huge and comfortable en–suite rooms, good breakfast, friendly owner.

address: Sudermanstraat 18, 2000 Antwerp, Belgium

tel: +32 3.227.1530

### **Hotel Billard Palace**

The Billard Palace Hotel, known for its famous Billiard– and Snookerhall exists over 30 years. At 5 minutes walking distance you will find the Central Station and the Sabena busstop for Brussels Zaventem

[Book](#)

[this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **New International Youth Hotel**

This well–kept family hotel in the heart of Antwerp is a very pleasant place to stay. You'll be in easy walking distance from the Central Railway Station, the zoo, many museums, and very many interesting places

[Book](#)

[this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Internationaal Zeemanshuis**

Anyone who knows Antwerp's port district will no doubt also have come across the INTERNATIONAL SEAMEN'S HOUSE on the Falconru. This is a hotel for seamen, but it also provides perfectly suitable accomodation for other people such as members of sport clubs, tourists or others who are looking for temporary overnight accomodation in the Antwerp area at economical prices

[Book](#)

[this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Tourist Hotel**

The Tourist Hotel is a friendly budget hotel in the heart of Antwerp. When you book a room at the Tourist Hotel, you may expect a simple but very comfortable room, provided with all modern appliances as full comfort bathroom, TV, mini–bar...etc. The cosy restaurant Curnonsky serves gastronomic and modern menu's.

[Book  
this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Tulip Inn Antwerp Docklands**

[Book  
this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Eden Hotel**

The Eden Hotel is situated in the centre of Antwerp, 350 m of Central Station, in the diamond area. All rooms have fully equipped bathrooms, color TV, mini-bar, telephone, modem-connection and safe. The hotel has an underground private parking. All shopping streets and major tourist sights are within walking distance

[Book  
this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Colombus Hotel**

You will find the Colombus a charming family and business hotel in the Antwerp just opposite the Opera, at a few steps from the diamond and shopping area, at walking distance from many museums and churches of the historical centre

[Book  
this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Hotel Euro**

Modern hotel with parking, near the shopping centre Meir. 500m from the Central Station and the Sabena bus. At walking distance to the historical market square. A friendly welcome and a warm atmosphere.

[Book  
this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Tulip Inn Hotel Astoria**

The Tulip Inn Hotel Astoria, just off Antwerp's Central Park, is the ideal location to start your exploration of this beautiful city, the city of Diamonds, Rubens, Plantin, Shopping, Eating and Drinking. Park your car in our underground garage. Our tastefully decorated rooms offer all modern comfort to make your stay a relaxing one.

[Book  
this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Agora Hotel**

The Agora Hotel is to be found on the Astridplein, facing the worldfamous zoo and the beautifully restored Central Station. The comfortable 3–star Hotel suffuses with the spirit of times gone by but offers modern comfort. The Agora Hotel means spacious, personal rooms fitted with bath, WC, TV, telephone and mini–bar.

[Book](#)

[this hotel](#)

[\*\*BOOKINGS\*\*](#)

### **Atlanta Hotel**

The Atlanta Hotel has 60 beautiful and modern rooms. The rooms are exclusively equipped with a TV (and in–house movie system), mini–bar and telephone. You will notice the soft colours of the hotel immediately as well as the modern furniture. The rooms give a lovely view of the Koningin Astridplein and the restored Central Station

[Book](#)

[this hotel](#)

[\*\*BOOKINGS\*\*](#)

### **ALFA Congress Hotel**

[Book](#)

[this hotel](#)

[\*\*BOOKINGS\*\*](#)

### **Hotel Astrid Park Plaza**

The Astrid Park Plaza is located in the heart of the world famous diamond area of Antwerp, opposite the Central Station and the Zoo, and near the bustling shopping area. The hotel is designed by US architect Michael Graves

[Book](#)

[this hotel](#)

[\*\*BOOKINGS\*\*](#)

### **Best Western Hotel Villa Mozart**

First class 4 star hotel situated in medieval Antwerp, opposite the famous Antwerp Cathedral (most rooms have a view on the cathedral), 100 meters from river Schelde, near museums – shopping arrea, business centre. We have attractive rooms and suites in Laura Ashley stile). Public parking available less than 100 meters from the hotel

[Book](#)

[this hotel](#)

[\*\*BOOKINGS\*\*](#)

### **Alliance Hotel Antwerp**

The Alliance Hotel Antwerp is the ideal setting for any of your plans to Antwerp. At the heart of the diamond city, a mere 500 meters away from the Keyserlei and Meir, the majority of the 17 city museums are within walking distance



[Book](#)  
[this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Golden Tulip Hotel Carlton**

The Golden Tulip Hotel Carlton, facing Antwerp's Central Park, is the ideal location to start your exploration of this beautiful city, the city of Diamonds, Rubens, Plantin, Shopping, Eating and Drinking. With 24-hour roomservice and 24-hour valet-parking (in our own private closed parking), we offer outstanding service with a genuine smile! Our tastefully decorated rooms offer all modern comfort to make your stay a relaxing one.

[Book](#)  
[this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Ambassador Hotel**

[Book](#)  
[this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Hotel Antverpia HR**

Welcome to Hotel Antverpia HR, a luxurious business and tourist hotel, for a comfortable stay by a personalised service, in the middle of town, near the central station and only a few minutes from the cathedral and the old town. Hotel Antverpia HR serves a large delicious breakfast at the table.

[Book](#)  
[this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Hotel Mercure Diamant Antwerpen**

Hotel Mercure Diamant Antwerpen warmly welcomes you to the Diamond capital of the world. The glass architecture of the hotel itself is a jewel with all its facets. Only 10 minutes away from the old city center. Opposite the cultural centre deSingel and 3 minutes walk from the exhibition halls Bouwcentrum.

[Book](#)  
[this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Golden Tulip Waldorf Hotel**

The Golden Tulip Waldorf, situated in the heart of the Antwerp diamond district, has all facilities to please both businessman and tourist. Unique is the large secure carpark and the beautiful garden terrace. At walking distance from major tourist attractions and animated city centre.

[Book](#)  
[this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

**Scoutel Jeugdverblijfcentrum**

address: Stoomstraat 3-7

tel: 03.266.4606

**Globetrotters Nest**

address: Vlagstraat  
25

tel: 03.236.9928

**HI Youth Hostel**

address: Eric Sasselaan 2

tel: 03.238.0273

**Tourist Hotel-Bargain hotel**

Nearby the Central Station. Although it is not the most charming option, it certainly saves you money.

address: Pelikaanstraat 20

tel: 03.232.5870

**International Zeemanshuis (Seamen's House)**

You do not have to be a seaman to get a bed at this hostel.

address: Falconruï 21

tel: 03.227.5433

**New International Youth Hotel**

address: Provinciestraat 256

tel: 03.230.0522

**Cammerpoorte**

address: Nationalestraat 38

tel: 03.231.9736

**Eden**

address: Lange Herentalsestraat 25

tel: 03.233.0608

**Prinse**

Nice hotel not too far away from the centre.

address: Keizerstraat  
63

tel: 03.226.4050

### **Rubens**

address: Oude Beurs 29

tel: 03.222.4823

### **Firean Hotel**

address: Karel Oomsstraat 6

## **Antwerp – Sights**

Antwerp: the City of Rubens, the City of Diamonds and the City of the Scheldt. A city with so many names is destined to have something for every traveller. It is a must for museum lovers. The city has a broad collection of paintings, ranging from classical works to modern Flemish paintings. Of course, Antwerp's most famous son Rubens is memorated in many museums and churches. The 'Grote Markt', with its view of the Brabo statue, the guildhouses and the City Hall, offers a good sight of what the old days must have been like. If you are more interested in Antwerp's present activities, such as its position as the world centre of diamonds, go to the Diamond Museum. The city is also the city of the Scheldt. Whenever your looking for some fresh air, take a walk along the Scheldt and let yourself be impressed by other guild houses, such as the 'Vleeshuis'.

### **all**

#### **Cogels Osylei**

Art nouveau street, unique architecture from around 1920.

address: Cogels Osylei

zipcode: 2018

#### **Onze Lieve Vrouwe Cathedral**

Open Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat 10am–3pm, Sun 1–4pm. Gothic cathedral which houses several impressive and famous paintings of Rubens, such as 'the Descent from the Cross'.

It is located in the heart of the city, between Groen Plaats and Grote Markt.

#### **St Jacobskerk**

Open April–October Mon–Sat 2–5pm, November–March Mon–Sat 9am–noon. This is the church where Rubens was buried, and his close relatives, when he died in 1640.

address: Lange Nieuwstraat

#### **St Pauluskerk**

Open May–September 2–5pm. This is a late Gothic church with some interesting carvings.

address: Veemarkt

## **Grote Markt**

The heart of the City on the Scheldt beats at the 'Grote Markt', an irregularly-shaped square, surrounded by decorative guild houses dating from the 16th and 17th century. This square is home to the statue of Brabo.

According to a 16th century legend his action (flinging a hand, or in Dutch 'Hand werpen') led to the city being given its name. The 15th century City Hall is a successful blend of the Flemish style and Italian Renaissance characteristics.

Probably the best example of this blended architecture is the Stadhuis, the Town Hall built between 1561 and 1564.

## **Groen Plaats**

Groen Plaats is a big square located in the city centre, just next to Grote Markt and the Cathedral.

This square was built over the old cemetery of the cathedral and it's characterized by many restaurants and pubs and by the big statue of Rubens in the centre.

## **Museum voor Schone Kunsten (Museum of Fine Arts)**

The Fine Arts Museum houses over a thousand works by painters from th old days, including the Flemish Primitives. In addition, you can enjoy over 1 500 more recent works. Naturally, this is where you will find the world's most beautiful and largest collection of the work of Antwerp's great master Rubens.

address: Plaatsnijdersstraat 2

tel: 03.238.7809

## **Museum Plantin–Moretus**

Open Tuesdays–Sundays 10am–4:45pm. This was the house of the printer Christopher Plantin, the father–in–law of Mortus, who was a close friend of Rubens. The museum shows how the 16th century printing plant actually worked and how the Plantin family took care of their business. One can find a fine collection of bibles, prints and family portraits. These portraits were mostly made by the illustrator of the family, Rubens.

## **Ethnografisch Museum**

address: Suikerrui 19

tel: 03.220.8600

## **Rubenshuis (Rubens Museum)**

Open: Tuesdays–Sundays 10am–4:45pm. You can see Rubens' work in many churches and museums. The Rubenshuis on the Wapper, where the painter lived and worked, still exudes the grandeur of the height of the Antwerp Baroque. In this museum, thanks to the furniture objects d'art and works from the master's private collection, you can relive Rubens' time.

address: Wapper  
9

## **Rockoxhuis Museum**

In the decorative Rockoxhuis, Ruben has a substantial presence, together with Jordaens, Matsys and Van Dyck.

url: [www.rockoxhuis.be](http://www.rockoxhuis.be)

### **Mayer van den Bergh Museum**

This museum is dedicated to fine and applied arts, particularly from the 14th to the 16th century. Besides pictures and sculptures, you will find a unique collection of tapestries and furniture.

address: Lange Gasthuisstraat 19

tel: 03.232.4237

### **MUKHA –The Museum of Contemporary Art**

This museum has a collection of mainly Belgian art from the nineteen-seventies.

address: Leuvenstraat  
32

tel: 03.238.5960

### **Nationaal Scheepvaart Museum (The National Maritime Museum)**

It is housed in the 'Steen', the oldest building in Antwerp. An impressive range of ship's models and an open-air department with real ships, make this museum one of the most fascinating in the city –if the maritime business makes your heart beat faster.

address: Steenplein 1

tel: 03.232.0850

### **Provinciaal Diamant Museum**

Open daily 10am–5pm, except on the 25th & 26th of December and the 1st and 2nd of January. The Provincial Diamond Museum lies in the heart of the Diamond District, the streets behind the Central Station. This part of the city is known as the 'Jerusalem of the North', because it has the largest settlement of Orthodox Jews in this part of Europe. In the Diamond Museum, you can learn about every facet of diamonds, which have made Antwerp the world centre of diamond cutting and trading.

address: Lange Herentalsestraat 31–33

tel: 03.202.4890

### **Stadhuis**

Located in Grote Markt, the Stadhuis is Antwerpen Town Hall.

Built between 1561 and 1564 it is probably one of the best examples of the blending of the Flemish and the Italian Architecture, which characterize most of the buildings in the historical city centre.

### **KBC Tower**

KBC Tower was the first skyscraper to be built in Europe (1930)

The tower is nicknamed *Boerentoren*, Farmer's tower, because the bank, whose headquarters are in the building, at that time was owned by a farmers corporation.

## Antwerp – Shopping

When leaving the central station, you can start walking along the 'Golden Mile'. This walk, via the Meir to the Groen Plaats (with the statue of Rubens), will take you not only past many sights, but also through the city's main shopping district.

The boutiques are stuffed with Belgian fashions and typical Antwerp delicacies. One tip for shoppers is the annual Rubens Market on the 15th of August. On that public holiday, the market traders sell their wares at the Grote Markt dressed up in traditional Rubens–style clothing.

## Antwerp – Events

On the 15th of August, the annual Rubens Market takes place at the Grote Markt. On this public holiday, the market trader sell their wares in traditional Rubens–style clothing.

## Antwerp – Internet Cafes

**all**

### **C@fé Online**

Internet, games and more. Address: Dorp Oost 14, 2070 Zwijndrecht, very cheap (200 fr/hour), Tel. (03) 254 14 68, Fax. (03) 254 14 68 Mail WEBPAGE

### **2Zones**

They offer public internet access, computer training, graphics design, website development and a host of other computer services. Opening Hours: 11:30am – 12:00pm

Mail WEBPAGE

address: Wolstraat 15, 2000 Antwerp

tel: 03.232.2400

### **WarpFactor 9**

Good service, drinks, snacks and help available. 9 computers available, cheap prices (150 BEF per hour). Tel. +323 288.60.51

Address: Kasteelpleinstraat 6, 2000 Antwerpen

Mail

### **OutPost Gamecenter**

Specialised in mtg, lotr and several other cardgames, boardgames, rpg's and pcgames. 24 pc's in LAN and internet connection DSL and cable.

email: [info@outpost-gamecenter.be](mailto:info@outpost-gamecenter.be)

url: [www.outpost-gamecenter.be](http://www.outpost-gamecenter.be)

tel: 03/231.54.56

address: Beggaardenstraat 6, 2000 Antwerpen

zipcode: 24

### **2zones**

price: 2zones is a well-known hi-tech internetcaf?, centrally located in the heart of Antwerp with a very fast internet link, a most remarkable decoration and friendly, helpful staff.

tel: +32 3 232 24 00

email: [info@2zones.com](mailto:info@2zones.com)

hours: Every day: 11h30 till 24h00 Friday and saturday till 01h00 of the night

address: Wolstraat 15  
Antwerpen B-2000 Belgium

url: [www.2zones.com](http://www.2zones.com)

### **C@f? Online**

price: Enkel donderdag gesloten. 4 computers networked with DSL connection. Seperate jacks for laptops. Fax, Scanner, laser and color printer, zip drive.

tel: (03) 254 14 68

email: Alle dagen open vanaf 14 uur.

hours: Internet:200 fr/uur (studenten 150 fr) Games: 100 fr/uur

address: [cafeonline@cafeonline.be](mailto:cafeonline@cafeonline.be)

url:  [\(03\) 254 14 68](http://(03)2541468)

### **easyEverything**

email: Number of PCs: 400, easyEverything's 1st store to open in Belgium.

address: 50 BEF

url: [www.easyeverything.com](http://www.easyeverything.com)

### **FORUM – Internet–Ca–Verne**

address: [forum@forum.be](mailto:forum@forum.be)

### **Globetrotter**

price: Internet Club, owned by Globe, a Belgian Internet Provider. Surfing at high speed ! Networkgaming

Saturday

Price: 1 hour \$8, 30 min \$5, 15 min \$3, 1 min \$0.21

email: New Orleans style decore provides excellent atmosphere to get all your computing needs done like printing, scanning, digiphotos, faxing, digital laser color copies, graphics, email,

hours: 200fr/hour

address: xandra@glo.be

**internet cafe**

midnight

Besides internet, we help those who have computer(s) at home solving their PC's problems whether applications or internet sharing, even soft and hard ware router at home or in offices. We are planning to show people even how to do wir

price: 3.00 Euro/hour, 75.90 Euro unlimited /month

tel: +32 15 343118

email: info@econliner.com

hours: We open everyday from 12:00 till midnight, except Monday from 15:00 till

address: bergstraat 89, Antwerpen,, belgium

url: [www.econliner.com](http://www.econliner.com)

**internet with snack, game corner and shop**

250 Quadratmeter Internet pur. Das Klammerafferl bietet mit 32 PCs nicht nur den Treffpunkt f?r junge und junggebliebene Internetsurfer sondern auch Domainservice, Webspace und Webhosting, Webdesign und High-Speed Internetanbindung.

price: 99 bef./hr

tel: +32 15 343118

email: info@econliner.com

hours: monday 15:00 to 24:00

address: bergstraat 89, heist-op-den-berg, antwerpen,  
2220, belgium

url: [www.econliner.com](http://www.econliner.com)

**Kv-Kaffee Cyberspace**

we are a youth club with a special multimedia room for student. cheap gaming and free internet.

price: free for students

email: info@kv-kaffee.be

hours: friday: 19:00 – 01:00 saterdag: 14:00 – 01:00



address: Oudaen 14, Antwerpen, 2000,  
Belgium

url: [www.kv-kaffee.be](http://www.kv-kaffee.be)

### **MediaShake**

#### **MediaShake nv**

MediaShake is like the name says a shake of everything concerning Media. Our Cybercorner is one of the biggest and most visited parts but you can also find a large amount of magazines and newspapers in our papershop, eat or drink something cold o

price: 180 BEF

tel: +32 3 218.85.60

email: [info@mediashake.be](mailto:info@mediashake.be)

hours: During the week: 7:30 am – 10 pm Saturday: 7:30 am – 5 pm

address: Belgi?lei 57a  
Antwerp 2018 Belgium

url: [www.mediashake.be](http://www.mediashake.be)

#### **Openbare Centrale Bibliotheek**

tel: Lange Nieuwstraat, 105  
2000 Antwerpen

url: [03.231.18.05](http://03.231.18.05)

#### **'t Netkot**

Wednesday 14.00 – 01.00 h.

Friday 16.00 – ...

Saturday 14.00 – ...

Sunday closed

Nice pub in Mechelen

price: 250 BEF

tel: 3,22E+09

email: [netkot@pandora.be](mailto:netkot@pandora.be)

hours: Mon., Tue, Thur: 16.00 – 01.00 h.

address: Leopoldstraat 81  
Mechelen 2800 Belgium

url: [www.netkot.be](http://www.netkot.be)

#### **Warpfactor9**

tel: Kasteelpleinstraat 6  
Antwerp 2000 Belgium

email: 150 Bef

hours: every service available, games, drinks, snacks...at the lowest prices... You haven't seen Antwerp, if you haven't seen WF9

address: 13.00 till 01.00 and later.... every day

url: [+323 288.60.51](tel:+3232886051)

### **Wie Katoen**

tel: Kleine Kraaiwijk, 10  
2000 Antwerpen

email: Sat – Sun from 3 p.m.  
Mondays closed

address: Tue – Fri from 5 p.m.,

url: [03](tel:03)

## **Antwerp – Nightlife and Entertainment**

Antwerp has a sparkling nightlife. Besides numerous discos and bars with live music, it is also well known for its abundance of brown cafes. Drinking a 'Koninck' at the Grote Markt will make you feel like a King in Belgium– or at least for the time that your glass, a *bolleke*, is still full of Belgian beer. Most cafes open their doors around tenish. Especially at the 'Grote Markt' and the 'Handschoenmarkt', you should just sit down, relax and soak in the atmosphere. Live music, especially blues and jazz, is common sense at a lot of clubs. Check the local newspapers or flyers to see what's keeping the city awake at night.

### **all**

#### **Bourlaschouwburg**

address: Komediëplein 18

tel: 03.233.2376

#### **Het Oerwoud**

"Het Oerwoud" meaning The Jungle is a easy to find bar in the center of the city near the river "Schelde". Like most bars it is open untill the early morning hours. Many locals use it as a place to meet and start a long night out. The kitchen is open all night and the home made tomate soup is to die for!

address: Corner Suikerrui and Kaaien

openinghours: noon till ...

#### **Het Paeters Vaetje**

Small pub with little mezzanine floor. Like in every real Flemish pub you can get something surprisingly tasty to eat at any time. Furthermore, this cafe has over 150 kinds of beers!

address: Left from the cathedral tower

openinghours: every day till morning

#### **Reve's**

The Reve's is the most famous stripclub in Antwerp, Belgium. The hottest dancers, the hottest dj's, the best music.

address: Anneessensstraat 21, Antwerp 2018  
email: info@thereves.be  
openinghours: 24.00h – ...  
tel: +32 3 475 20 58  
zipcode: <http://www.thereves.be>

### **Swingcafé**

Jazz and blues. Closes its doors around midnight.

address: Suikerrui 13

### **Sloppy Store**

Good club when you feel like dancing. Open Thurs.–Sat.

address: Jan van Gentstraat 7

### **Café de Muze**

Music bar with performances of local bands. **Barton:** Every night live Jazz bands. Cool!!!

address: Melkmarkt 15

### **Cafe d Anvers**

where Amsterdam and Brussels come to party... Cafe d Anvers is a classic!

address: Verversrui (red light district)

## **Antwerp – Getting There**

### **Antwerp – Map**

*World66 is Open Content. All content is free for everybody to use, but we're also dependent on travelers for updating our contents. Please use the space below for notes and when you get back home, please take the time to add your notes to World66 so everybody can profit.*

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**Notes:**

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# Arlon

Arlon is the southernmost city of Belgium, situated close to the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. With a population of only 24.000 inhabitants and has succeeded in preserving its quiet charm. In the historic centre you find many old houses in either the typical Luxemburgian style or the more Belgian-oriented neo-styles of the end of the 19th century.

The name Arlon comes from the Latin 'Orolanum', which indicates that the city was founded by the Romans. After the decline of the Roman Empire, Arlon was taken by Germanic tribes (the Francs). During the Middle-Ages the city was part of the County of Luxembourg. The Musée Lyxembourgeois has a good collection of archeological finds from the regio. The Gallo-roman department of this museum boasts a prominent collection with over 450 statues from tombstones or from the Roman 'Thermae' (baths). Nearly 600 sculptured panels give more information about life in Roman times.

Also worth a visit is the Archeological park (situated Rue des Thermes Romaines). In the center of the park are the foundations of the oldest church in Belgium: a basilica from the 5th century. Around it is a cemetery where christianized Merovingians were buried as from the beginning of the 6th century. Many of the ancient tombstones are still present. Furthermore, one can see at the back of the park the remainders of Roman Thermae and bathhouses.

## Arlon – Internet Cafes

all

### Café de la Paix

tel: 063/23.65.12  
email: [guy.paquay@tornado.be](mailto:guy.paquay@tornado.be)  
address: Rue de la poste, 1  
6700 Arlon

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# Basecles

## Basecles – Internet Cafes

all

### Cyberweb

tel: 069/56.24.24  
cyberweb@arcadis.be  
email: Sat from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
Sun from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. or on appointment  
hours: Mon – Fri from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.  
address: Rue des Ecoles, 21  
7971 Bas?cles (Beloeil)

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# Bastogne

Bastogne is located in the South-east of Belgium, close to the border with Germany and Luxembourg . The region is very beautiful with rolling hills, small rivers and great outdoor opportunities. Many old castles and mansions are to be found in the area. Bastogne is an ideal place for

## Bastogne – Internet Cafes

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# Beveren

## Beveren – Internet Cafes

all

### Netscaf? Beveren

tel: 03/755.47.99

email: Tue – Sat from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

address: wim@belgonet.be

url: 03

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# Bouillon

Bouillon is located in the Belgian Ardennes. The main claim to fame of the town is that it was here that in the 11th century, Duke Godefried of Bouillon started the Crusades that would end in the fall of Jerusalem. The castle still stands proud, draw bridges and all.

The town is very pretty and the surroundings are extremely beautiful and excellent for outdoor activities such as hiking, biking or canoeing.

## Bouillon – Internet Cafes

## Bouillon – Accommodation

The Youth Hostel is located above the town opposite one of Europe's most impressive fortresses. The view over the castle and the Semois river is outstanding. The hospitable team and comfortable facilities will ensure your stay is a success.

[http://www.laj.be/html/en/hostels/bouillon/aubergesbouillon\\_en01.htm](http://www.laj.be/html/en/hostels/bouillon/aubergesbouillon_en01.htm)

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# Bruges

Bruges is one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. It rightly deserves the name Venice of the north, canals, bridges and old city houses make it a very romantic place to visit.

Bruges came to prominence in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. However the city lost its important position as a trading center of the Netherlands, which included half of the current Belgium, soon to Antwerp and later to New amsterdam. The good thing about this is that here you can find a city that has remained practically unchanged since its heyday at the end of the Middle Ages.

The city has many sights to see, but it is also very pleasant to just wander along the canals, sit down in a small pub to taste a few special Belgian brews and then walk on, a little less steadily maybe, but with a smile on your face!

## Bruges – Accommodation

For hotels in Bruges please check out the following website:

Here you can check out the availability of hotels and make your reservations.

Below you find a small selection of Hotels–Belgium.com. When you want to have more information about this hotels I refer to the link on this website.

**all**

### **Hotel–Restaurant DE BARGE**

.... unique in Bruges

In the heart of Bruges and near the well-known attractions such as the Beguinage and the "Minnewater" (Lake of Love), you will find one of the most pleasant hotels in Bruges : Hotel–Restaurant De Barge. This ship which has been converted into a hotel is anchored along the Bruges–Ghent canal and has 23 comfortable rooms – each with bath/shower and toilet. The restaurant in the hotel can accommodate up to 100 persons and offers excellent meals.

**HOTEL 't VOERMANSHUYS \*\***

Full of atmosphere and ideally situated in the centre of this beautiful medieval city.

't Voermanshuys undoubtedly belongs to the class of genuine family hotels.

### **Hotel Van Eyck**

A typical 18th Century Bruges mansion has been transformed into the comfortable Hotel VAN EYCK.

The tasteful fitting–up guarantees a very pleasant stay.

### **Orangerie**

Linked to its sister hotel the Tuilleriën this hotel offers a very relaxed atmosphere and sure luxury. All rooms are different but all are decorated very stylish. The hotel offers a bar and a good breakfast including champagne. Guests can use the swimmingpool of the Tuilleriën hotel located across the Dijver canal.

address: Kartuizerinnenstraat 10

### **Tuilleriën**

Very nice hotel linked to its sister hotel the Orangerie across the Dijver canal. All rooms are different but all are decorated stylish. The hotel includes a nice bar and a swimming pool.

Bikes are available for guests.

address: Dijver 7

### **Best Western Premier Hotel Acacia \*\*\*\***

The Best Western Premier Acacia Hotel, run by an official guide of the city of Bruges, with excellent facilities and decorated in soft colors to create a relaxing atmosphere. We are found in a quiet location near the market in the oldest part of the city. Start your day with our buffet breakfast and then relax by our heated indoor pool or our sauna. Our rooms include cable television, mini-bar and hairdryer.

[www.hotel-acacia.com](http://www.hotel-acacia.com)

email: [info@hotel-acacia.com](mailto:info@hotel-acacia.com)

url: [www.hotel-acacia.com](http://www.hotel-acacia.com)

tel: +32-50-344411

address: Korte Zilverstraat 3a-5 – 8000 Brugge (near market)

## **Bruges – Getting There**

To reach Bruges, choose one of the means of transportation below.

### **all**

#### **By plane**

Brussels, home port of the national airline SN Brussels Airlines, is an important junction in the international air traffic.

Bruges is within easy reach (ca 1 hour).

By road : E 40 highway, direction Ostend (exit nr. 8).

By train: regular trains (every half hour) between the airport and railway stations Brussels Centraal or Brussels Noord, from where several trains per hour to Bruges.

#### **By car**

Eurotunnel

By the E40: Calais – Oostende – Brugge (exit nr 8)– Gent – Brussel – Köln – ...

Near the E17 : Antwerpen – Gent – Cambrai – Reims – Beaune

Near the E19: Amsterdam – Den Haag – Rotterdam – Breda – Antwerpen – Brussel – Mons – Valenciennes – Paris

### **By train**

By Train

Bruges, on the important railway line London–Brussels–Cologne, is attainable by direct trains from:

the main Belgian cities (Gent, Kortrijk, Brussel, Antwerpen, Leuven, Hasselt, Liège) *Kathy*: Travelling in Belgium by train is a joy! The trains are clean and run on time, the staff are efficient and polite, and the fares are reasonable. What a change from Britain!

### **By ship**

Ferries (passengers/vehicles) and catamarans operate regular services between Great Britain and Zeebrugge or Ostend.

Via Zeebrugge – Ferries to and from Felixstowe: 5,5 h (day), 8 h (night) (FREIGHT ONLY) P&O European Ferries, Clipper Line

– Ferries to and from Hull (night crossing, ca 14 hrs).

P & O North Sea Ferries, Leopold II dam 13, 8380 Zeebrugge Tel. 050/54.34.30 – Fax. 050/54.71.12

Via Ostend

Hoverspeed

Via Calais

Hoverspeed, Daily

Seafrance, Daily

## **Bruges – Getting Around**

To get around in Bruges please check the possibilities below.

**all**

**Cycling**

Cycling is a most enjoyable way to get around in Bruges: cyclists are allowed to ride in both directions in more than 50 one way streets.

### **City buses**

City busses cost 1,- one way

Free Info Line : tel. 32(0)800 – 13663 (De Lijn)

Main bus stops :

Station

Centrum : Markt, Wollestraat, Biekorf, Kuipersstraat.

One Day pass : unlimited travel on all city buses (27,50).

### **Arriving by car**

Arriving by car, you will be able to use one of the five underground parkings (3.675 pl.) in the inner city or one of the parking lots alongside the ring road from where you will quickly reach downtown, walking or using one of the frequently operated bus lines.

In the big parking garage near the station you can park for 50ct per hour or 2,50 for the whole day. A parking ticket will even give you the right to a free bus ticket to the centre!

325 extra parking spaces are available at the open-air parking Pandreitje in the town centre.

### **Arriving by train**

When arriving by train, our Tourist Office near the main exit of the railway station is at your service for tourist information and hotel bookings.

## **Bruges – Shopping**

Brugge is one of the most attractive shopping cities in West Flanders, with a large variety of shops within reach of everyone's budget.

The main shopping streets are situated between Markt square and the old city gates : Super Shopping Straat (Steenstraat, Simon Stevinplein, Mariastraat, Zuidzandstraat, Zilverpand), St.–Jakobsstraat, St.–Amandsstraat, Geldmuntstraat, Noordzandstraat, 't Zand, Smedenstraat, Vlamingstraat, Philipstockstraat, Acade–miestraat, Hoogstraat, Langestraat, Smedenstraat, Katelijnestraat, Gentpoortstraat. Most shops are open from 9 a.m. through 6 p.m. (late night shopping on Friday).

In the centre there are also a number of charming shopping galleries, such as : Zilverpand (Zuidzandstraat), Alberthal (Zuidzandstraat) , Ter Steeghere (Burg), De Gouden Boom (Hallestraat), Theaterboetieks (Vlamingstraat). The main supermarkets are situated just outside the city centre. (open : 9 a.m.–8 p.m., on Friday to 9 p.m.).

Market days in Brugge : Wednesday (7 a.m.–1 p.m.) on Market square, Saturday (7 a.m.–1 p.m.) on 't Zand square and on Beursplein. Fish market : Tuesday through Saturday, every morning. Flea market along Dijver : Saturday– and Sunday afternoon (March–October).

## Bruges – Day Trips

When you

**all**

### Provincial Estate Tillegembos

In St.–Michiels you'll find Provincial Estate Tillegembos: over 200 acres of well–kept woodland with interesting flora and fauna, footpaths, playgrounds, horse–mill, rural inn "De Trutselaar", etc. Also remarkable 14th–century water–castle, today seat of Westtoerisme, the Provincial Tourist Board for West Flanders.

Bus nr.25 St.–Michiels/Driehoek (boarding point : Biekorf).

By car : via Torhoutse Steenweg).

### Tudor City Park

Tudor City Park Sint–Andries : charming country park (ca 100 acres) with majestic castle in Tudor style. Signposted foothpath. Daily open from dawn till sunset. The botanic garden and bee–hives can be visited from 1.5 through 31.10 (Monday–Friday : 2–5 p.m., Sunday : 2–6 p.m.).

Info : Stedelijke Groendienst, tel. 32(0)50–319803 (Mon–Fri, 8.30–12 a.m./2–4 p.m.).

Bus nr. 5 St.–Andries/Hermitage (boarding point: Biekorf).

By car : via Torhoutse Steenweg

### Boudewijnpark & Dolfinarium

Boudewijnpark & Dolfinarium, A. Debaeckestraat 12, Sint–Michiels : attractive family theme park with lots of games for children, ice rink, giant wheel, horror–castle, rollerskate rink, midget golf, etc.. At the Dolfinarium (1.600 seats), playful dolphins and sea–lions offer a fascinating show.

The panoramic aquarama allows spectators to have a look under the water surface..

Bus nr. 7 and/or 17 St.–Michiels (boarding point: Biekorf)).

By car : via Koning Albertlaan.

### City Park Beisbroek

In Sint–Andries there's City Park Beisbroek : lovely country park covering some 200 acres, with deciduous and needle–leaved trees, heath–land, footpaths, picnic–grounds, deer–compound and cafetaria. Permanent

exhibition at the Nature Centre : open from 1.4 through 30.11 : Monday–Friday, 2–5 p.m. and Sunday, 2–6 p.m. / from 1.3 through 31.3 : Sunday, 2–6 p.m.

Info : Stedelijke Groendienst, tel. 32(0)50–319803 (Mon–Fri, 8.30–12 a.m./2–4 p.m.).

At the Observatory, sun, stars and planets can be watched after the regular planetariumshow.

In the planetarium, shows are presented in a weekly schedule. Wednesday at 15h00 and 16h30, Friday at 20h30, Sunday at 15h00 and 16h30. During local schoolholiday extra shows on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 15h00. For content and language of the show, please refer to [www.beisbroek.be](http://www.beisbroek.be).

Groups (starting from 15 persons) can visit on other times and dates, only after reservation by phone.

Planetarium and observatory are open all year round.

Info : tel. 32(0)50 – 39 05 66 or [info@beisbroek.be](mailto:info@beisbroek.be).

Bus nr. 793 Gistel–Oostende (boarding point : 't Zand and Station). By car : via Torhoutse Steenweg or Gistelse Steenweg.

email: [info@beisbroek.be](mailto:info@beisbroek.be)

url: [www.beisbroek.be](http://www.beisbroek.be)

tel: +32 50 39 05 66

address: Zeeweg 96 Brugge

zipcode: B–8200

### **Zeebrugge**

Linked with Brugge, its historic metropolis, by a 7.5 mile canal, Zeebrugge is a seaside resort looking to the future. The international port, jutting far out into the sea, doesn't prevent holidaymakers from frolicking on the fine little sandy beach. On the sea front, hotels and cafés give tourists their warmest welcome. Being Belgium's leading fishing port, Zeebrugge has quite a lot of fishmongers' shops. Besides being a passenger port with regular ferry services between the United Kingdom and the continent, Zeebrugge also has an attractive marina which can accommodate some 100 vessels. Zeebrugge also enjoys a very convenient geographical location, just a few miles away from beautiful Brugge, the fashionable sea resort of Knokke, and the picturesque village of Lissewege.

### **Sint–Trudo Abbey Male**

Sint–Trudo Abbey Male : former castle of the Counts of Flanders, with a 14th–15th century keep. Restored and enlarged from 1952 to 1972. Today convent of the canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre. Near the Abbey is the former town hall of Male (the 'Hooghe Huus') and an ancient pillory ("pelderijn").

Bus nr. 6 St.–Kruis/Malehoek (boarding point: Wollestraat).

By car: via Maalse Steenweg.



## Bruges – History

### *Foundation*

Bruges (Brugge) was founded in the 9th century by Vikings who settled here at the end of the little river 'de Reie'. The name Bruges is probably derived from the old-Scandinavian word 'Bryggia', which means 'harbor, or mooring place'. Because of the proximity of the North Sea, the settlement very quickly became an important international harbor. A sea-arm, called the Zwin, connected Bruges with the North Sea. The young settlement acquired city rights as early as the 12th century. At that time a first protective wall was built around Bruges. Soon, however, the Zwin started to silt up. This would have caused major problems for the city, were it not that Bruges adapted itself to this situation by creating outports in Damme and in Sluis. Moreover, transport of goods over land became more and more usual. In the 14th century Bruges became the starting point of a commercial transport road to the Rhineland (over Brussels and Leuven, cities in Brabant which also started to flourish because of this trade).

### *Trade*

Already in the 13th century Bruges was an important international trading center. Traders from all over the then known world came to the city to sell their products to each other and to buy Flemish cloth, a internationally acclaimed textile product, produced in different Flemish cities (e.g. Gent). In the early 14th century Bruges was the scene of political unrest between the citizens and the count of Flanders. Because of this unrest the French king tried to annex the county of Flanders, but the population managed to kick out the French garrison on May the 18th 1302. Later the Flemish army beat the French army in the 'Battle of the Golden Spurs' on July the 11th in the Flemish city of Kortrijk.

### *Internationalisation*

In the 14th century Bruges turned also into an international financial and trading center. It became the warehouse of the North-European Hanza cities. Several countries had their own representation in Bruges: the Italians, the Germans, the Scottish, the Spanish made the city into a true European center where different languages could be heard and where the most exotic products could be found.

### *Downfall*

The decline of Bruges' wealth started in the 15th century : the unstoppable silting up of the Zwin, the competition with the bigger harbor of Antwerp and the crisis in the cloth industry resulted in less commercial activity. The crisis, however, was not immediately noticable. Bruges continued to construct splendid late-gothic buildings and churches, and the Flemish painting school (with e.g. the brothers Van Eyck and Hans Memling ) started to flourish as never before.

### *The big sleep*

By the end of the 16th century the former glory was only a memory and Bruges slipped into a wintersleep that took several centuries. New textile industries were introduced in the 19th century, but to no avail. In the middle of the 1800's Brugge was the poorest city in Belgium.

### *Tourism and new life*

The 20th century, however, brought new life. The city was discovered by the international tourism and the medieval heritage turned out to be a new source of wealth for the 'Venice of the North'. Economically and industrially another important evolution took place. The new harbor of Zeebrugge (Seabrugge—at 10 miles outside of the city, at the Belgian coast) brought new developments and new industries to the region.

## Bruges – Eating Out

In Bruges you definitely are at the right place for delicious food. For a bite to eat choose one of the following restaurants.

**all**

### **DE HERDERSHOEVE**

Restaurant situated at the canal Brugge– Zeebrugge in DUDZELE. Typical renewed old farm from 1477. very nice food, especially, T–BONE steaks and fish.

address: STATIONSWEG 45

tel: 050.31.50.36

### **Kasteel Minnewater**

address: Minnewaterpark 4

tel: 050/33.42.54

### **Huidevettershuis**

address: Huidenvettersplein 10–11

tel: 050/33.95.06

### **Vischerie**

At the nice and small square called Huidenvettersplein there are many good restaurants including the Duc De Bourgogne (very classy, very expensive), Mosselkelder (if you like mussels), 't Huidenvettershuis (nice) and the Vischerie (fish) neither of them is cheap. Expect about 60,— for a menu.

address: Vismarkt 8

tel: 050/33.02.12

### **Tom Pouce**

address: Burg 17

tel: 050/33.03.36

### **Bhavani Indian Restaurant**

address: Simon Stevinplein 5

tel: 050/33.90.25

## **De Gouden Korenhalm**

address: Oude Oostendse steenweg 79 a

tel: (050) 31 33 93

### **Voermanshuys**

A real treat is the Voermanshuys. Located in a 'gezellige' cellar the food is really great and the service very friendly. The cook even won the 'Best cook of Flanders' award in 1998.

Price? 50 for a menu Marché (4 course). 70,- including pre-dinner drink, wines at every course, mineral water and coffee or tea.

The restaurant is located not far from Market square but keep in mind: the address is 'Oude Burg' and not just plain 'Burg'.

address: Oude Burg 14

tel: 050 337172

email: johan.nelissen@pandora.be

PriceOfMenu: 50,-

priceofmenu: 50,-

zipcode: 8000

url: [www.resto.be](http://www.resto.be)

## **Bruges – Things to do**

### *Horse and carriage rides*

You can find these carriages everywhere in the town. You can start at Market square or the Begijnhof. Price: 27,50 for up to 5 people.

### *Ramparts*

Take a walk along the ramparts which surround the city. A full circle of the city is about 9 KM.

### **all**

### **Rent a Scooter**

Rent a Scooter and discover all the secrets of Bruges!!! Extremely nice!!!

## **Bruges – Sights**

When you are visiting Bruges you must keep your eyes wide open because there are so many beautiful things to see. Check it out for yourself.!

## all

### Belfort

The real city centre of Brugge is formed by the impressive Market Place and the adjacent Castle. The fine facades give the atmospheric square an improbable air of class. At the beginning of the twentieth century, the Provincial Court was built on the east side. The south side is occupied by the 13th century Hall, the historic commercial centre. The most impressive building is the Belfort bell-tower with its carillon. The tower offers a splendid view over the city and the environment. In the middle of the square stands the statue of the heroes of the Golden Spurs Jan Breydel and Pieter De Koninck. Via Breydelstraat you walk to the Castle. There you will find the Old Court of Justice, the Civil Registry, the City Hall and the Basilica of the Sacred Blood. This is where the relic of the Sacred Blood is kept. In the adjacent museum, you can admire the Shrine of the Sacred Blood. During the famous procession, the relic is carried around in this jewel of the goldsmith's craft. The Procession of the Sacred Blood takes place every year on Ascension Day at 3 p.m.

### Museums

While we may describe Brugge in its entirety as a museum, the city still has a wealth of museums to boast about. The Groeningemuseum offers a remarkable picture of painting in the Southern Low Countries and Belgium from the 15th century to the present day. The Gruuthusemuseum opposite houses a treasure of old utensils and art works. Until 25 years ago, Sint-Janshospitaal was still used as a hospital, but now houses the Memling museum, including six masterpieces by Hans Memling.

### Lace

To the north of the city centre lies the Saint Anna district with the Lace Centre, the Jerusalem Church and the Museum of the Saint Sebastian guild. Here you can watch the famous lace-makers hard at work.

### Begijnhof and Minnewater

A visit to Brugge is not complete without having seen the idyllic Beguine Convent and the romantic Minnewater. In the Beguine convent, there are no longer any Beguines, but Benedictines in 15th century costume still maintain the historic atmosphere. The legendary swans swim on the Minnewater. The people of Brugge look after these noble creatures in fulfilment of the punishment imposed on them by the Maximilian of Austria, after they had beheaded his councillor Pieter Lanchals. *Filip Claeys*: Recently the Beguine Convent was declared a world monument by the UNESCO. This is one of the most romantique places of Bruges (being one of the most romantique citys of the world)!

### Boudewijnpark

Outside the city lies the Boudewijn park, with its famous Dolphinarium. In this sports, culture and leisure centre, you can relax actively and passively thanks to the Olympic ice rink, the swimming pool, an art gallery or the dolphin show.

### Polderland

If you want to get to know the beautiful polder landscape around Brugge in a gentle, relaxing way, climb aboard the Lamme Goedzak. This boat takes you in half an hour to the picturesque village of Damme, once the outport of Brugge, and world famous as the birthplace of Tjil Uilenspiegel.

## Bruges – Internet Cafes

**all**

### **Snuffel**

Snuffel Sleep In is a characterful budget hotel without budgeting on friendliness, hospitality and great atmosphere. A home away from home in Belgium's most charming town Bruges.

price: 100 francs for 1/2h  
tel: 0032 50 333133  
email: [snuffel@flanderscoast.be](mailto:snuffel@flanderscoast.be)  
hours: 8 AM until 2AM  
Sleep In  
address: Ezelstraat 47–49  
Brugge 8000 Belgium  
url: [www.flanderscoast.be](http://www.flanderscoast.be)

### **The Coffee Link**

/ minute

price: 0.07 &euro  
tel: +32 50 349973  
email: [info@thecoffeelink.com](mailto:info@thecoffeelink.com)  
hours: open every day from 10AM–9.30PM  
address: Mariastraat 38  
Brugge 8000 Belgium  
url: [www.thecoffeelink.com](http://www.thecoffeelink.com)

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# Brussels

*Beer, waffles and festivals* – if this is what you're looking for you will find them in abundance when you visit the country's capital city (pop. 1 000 000). Brussels is the major gateway for the country: it is on the main routes heading inland from the Channel ports via the Flemish art towns and it is as well a convenient stopover on the train between France and the Netherlands.

Brussels took its name from Broekzele, or city of the marsh, which grew up in the sixth century on the trade route between Cologne and Bruges / Gent. Under the Habsburgs the town flourished, eventually becoming capital of the Spanish Netherlands. In the 19th century it became the capital of the newly-independent Belgium. Although nowadays, the city is often primarily regarded as a destination for businesspeople or diplomats it is the headquarters for the European Union (EU) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) there is plenty to see and do for other travellers. Manneke Pis, plenty of impressive museums, delicious chocolate and a city centre divided into the upper and the lower town with a beautiful cathedral and the Oude Markt where you can enjoy your Belgian beers. Brussels requires a minimum of two nights to get a feeling for the city but an even longer stay should be planned if there is a festival in town. While Brussels is a safe city some areas are prone to crime, especially at night. Be careful when walking near the westward arc between North and Midi railway stations and Rogier and De Brouckere Metro stations.

Note: Brussels is an international city; for the two great parts of Belgians (French and Flemish-speaking) there is parity in Brussels. This means that every instance of the written word, from road signs to the yellow pages, has to appear in both languages.

## Brussels – Nightlife and Entertainment

Brussels has two main centres for going out, both areas where you can shop until you drop. Popular purchases are pralines, chocolate, lace, crystal, pewter and diamonds – you will find them in the Royal District, that is around the Louizapoort, Naamsepoort and Zavel. The cinemas, discotheques and cafes are naturally grouped around. In the Lower Town, visit the boulevards and adjacent streets between the De Brouckereplein and Beursplein. In both districts, you can enjoy the culinary delights of Brussels, which are among the best in the world.

**all**

**New Domino**

[www.literotica.com](http://www.literotica.com)

address: Rue du Pont Neuf 54

tel: +32-2-2195100

**Goupil Le Fol**

Groovy place that look a bit like a dump, nearby Manneken Pis. But don't let it's exterior fool you, for inside low ceilings, soft music and a lot of sofas make it a place to chill out. They have many imported special wines, which are simply delicious and off course, beer. A little expensive, but good for when one needs a break from the world.

address: 22 rue de la Violette

tel: 02 511 1396

### **A la Mort Subite**

Popular bar with a wonderful 1920s interior. Snacks served, or just order a plate of nibbles – cheese cubes, salami, chips – to accompany your Mort Subite (sudden death) beer. *Robert Cosgrove*: Worth seeking out. A short walk from the train station and very close to the Grand Place. If you are looking for a good representation of the classic Lambic beer styles of Kriek and Gueuze, this is a very good place to start. The name, Mort Subite, means "Sudden Death," and comes from a dice game that was played there by local journalists.

address: rue Montagne–aux–Herbes–Potagères 7

### **Rick's**

A gathering place of resident English–speakers for close on thirty years. Full menu available, though it is most famous for its ribs.

address: ave Louise 344

### **Au soleil**

Cosy bar with a wide choice of beer, crowded until late every night with a young trendy crowd.

address: rue Marché au Charbon 86

### **Toone**

Down the alley, cosy largely undiscovered bar belonging to the Toone puppet theatre.

address: petite rue des Bouchers 21

### **L'Ultime Atome**

Young clientele, affable café serving a range of 75 beers and an excellent and varied menu. Out in the suburbs of Ixelles.

address: rue Saint Boniface 14

### **Het Spinnepopke**

Ancient restaurant and bar near the Bourse that serves many traditional Bruxellois dishes cooked in beer as well as lots of fish and mussels. Closed Sundays.

address: Place du Jardin aux fleurs 1

### **(Au) Soleil**



Nice place with excellent seats both inside and outside during summer time.

address: 86 rue Marché au Charbon

tel: 02 513 3430

### **La Porte noire**

Situated in an 18th century cellar. Good choice of beers.

address: Rue des Alexiens 65

### **Le Cerceuil**

This café is quite special. It is decorated like a morgue and you can drink beer from a skull sitting at a table that looks like a coffin (cerceuil in French). Needless to say they play spooky music here.

address: Rue des Harengs 10

### **La Fleur à papier doré**

This café was in the 1920's the meeting place for the Belgian Surrealists. Today it is a cluttered, cosy local's bar, with walls covered with doodles and poems and a couple of cats prowling around the place.

address: Rue des Alexiens 55

### **A la Becasse**

Old fashioned but cosy bar right near the Bourse. One of the few remaining venues for sampling lambic, along with other snacks.

address: 11 Taborastraat / Rue Tabora

### **H2O**

Quieter place than most of the others with a sophisticated atmosphere.

address: 27 rue du Marché au Charbon

tel: 02 512 38 42

### **L'Image de Notre Dame**

At the end of a long alley, you will find this quiet bar, decorated like an old Dutch kitchen. Good range of specialty beers. Near the Grand Place.

address: Rue du Marché aux Herbes 6

### **L'Atelier**

Probably the most popular hang-out place for students.

address: 77 rue Elise

tel: 02 649 19 53

### **Le Greenwich**

A very popular chess café with a lovely old wood–panelled and mirrored interior. Laid–back atmosphere. Close to place St. Gery.

address: Rue des Chartreux 7

### **Le Java**

Perfect bar with a good atmosphere and an interesting setting.

address: 14 rue St Géry

tel: 02 512 3716

### **Sint–Goorikshallen area**

You will find lot's of great pubs in the Sint–Goorickshallen area where especially students like to go out. Make sure to pay a visit at the Mapa (South American style) and De Bizon (dark, Jazz).

### **Le Bazaar**

In the Marolles, split–level club with a dimly lit restaurant upstairs and a dance floor below playing funk, soul, rock and indie.

address: rue des Capucins 63

### **Cartagena**

Downtown club which offers the best and certainly the widest range of South American and Latin sounds in town. Attracts a late–twenties age group, and gets going around midnight. Open Friday and Saturday nights only.

address: rue du Marché au Charbon, 70

### **The Fuse**

Large, young and vibrant techno, jungle and house club in the Marolles district. Big–name, international DJ's are a regular feature. Chill–out rooms and visuals. Saturday nights only.

address: rue Blaes, 208

### **Pitt's Bar**

Near the Palais de Justice. Music: techno, garage, bhangra and house. Very populr with students. Open on Tues to Sun.

address: rue des Minimes 53

### **Who's Who Land**

Right in Marolles quarter, a trendy house club which offers occasionally foam parties. Large teenage crowds, even from abroad. Open Thu to Sat, The is rap and ragga night.

address: rue du Poinçon, 17  
**New York Café Jazz Club**

address: Chaussée de Charleroi 5  
**Sounds Jazz Club**

address: Tulpstraat 28  
**Grain de sable**

address: Place du Grand Sablon 15  
**Chez la gaffe**

address: Rue de l'Epée 4  
**Travers**

Informal jazz club with a reputation for showcasing up-and-coming Belgian musicians.

address: Rue Traversière 11  
**Two one two Jazz Bar**

address: Avenue Louise 212 – 1050 Brussels  
**Archiduc**

Small and tasteful bar with regular live jazz on the weekend.

address: Rue  
Dansaert 6  
**Magasin 4**

Small converted warehouse, it is a great place for catching up-and-coming rock and indie bands. Only open for gigs, entrance about 7 USD, Metro: Yser

address: rue du Magasin 4  
tel: 02 – 223 34 74  
**Sounds**

Earthy bar in Ixelles suburb serving up Latin jazz and Rhythm & Blues

address: rue de la Tulipe 28  
**Travers**

Informal jazz club with a reputation for showcasing up-and-coming Belgian musicians.

address: rue Traversière 11  
**L'Archiduc**

Small and tasteful bar with regular live jazz on the weekend.

address: rue Antoine Dansaert 6

**Le Cercle**

Just off place du Grand Sablon. Live music several times a week: Jazz, Latino, French chansons ... A relaxed and easy atmosphere. Usually bands are very good.

address: rue du Saint Anne 20-22

**Gardens Club**

address: Rue d'Auderghem 203

tel: +32-2-6477280

**Le show point**

address: Place Stephanie 14

tel: +32-2-5115364

**Le Parisiana 54**

address: A Rue du Pont Neuf

tel: +32-2-2230468

**Mystère**

address: Place Fontainas 4

tel: +32-2-5122199

**Le Cactus**

address: Boulevard du Souverain 147

tel: +32-2-6726701

**The Sparrow**

address: Rue Duquesnoy 18

tel: +32-2-5126622

**Les Jeux dhiver**

address: Bois de la Cambre

tel: +32-2-6490864

**Le bal**

address: Boulevard du Triomphe 47

tel: +32-2-6493500

**Le Malibu**

address: Rue François Beeckmans 54

tel: +32-2-4204005

### **Movy Club**

address: Rue des moines 21

tel: Tel: +32-2-5376954

### **Kinopolis**

Big cinema-complex with over 25 separate screen and one IMAX-screen room (very big with superior sound). Is located near the Atomium and in the middle of Eurovillage, where one can find a lot of little bars and restaurants. You can also visit Mini Europe, all of Europe's most important buildings in a small version.

address: Avenue du Centenaire 1

tel: +32-2-4780450

### **Musée du Cinema**

address: Rue Baron Horta 9

tel: +32-2-507 83 70

### **Aventure**

address: Galerie du Centre 57

tel: +32-2-2191748

### **Stockel**

address: Avenue de Hinnisdael 17

tel: +32-2-7791079

### **UGC Toison D'or/Guldenvlies**

Normal cinema complex with a nice variety of new movies. Located in one of Brussels top-districts.

address: Avenue de la Toison d'Or

tel: +32-900/29930

### **Actors Studio**

address: Petite rue des bouchers 16

tel: +32-2-5121696

### **Vendôme**

address: Chaussée de Wavre 18

tel: +32-2-5126553

### **UGC De Brouckère**

Nice modern cinema complex in the centre of Brussels near 'De Munt'/'La Monnaie', the city's big

concert halls. It is easily accessible by underground or by foot. It has several normal sized rooms and one special big room called 'el dorado' where the big blockbusters are played. This room's walls are painted white and gold and one can notice different animals and plants, especially carved into the walls with the use of gold. A great visual experience is guaranteed!

## Brussels – Accommodation

Brussels has no shortage of places to stay, but given the number of visitors, finding a room can be hard, particularly in summer. Cheapest stay in Brussels is under a bridge or camping. But do not worry. If you book ahead at least the first night, tourist offices can book hotel rooms on arrival. To look for hotels on your own, we've listed a few hotels in three sections. Camping outside official campsites is prohibited in Flanders, but there is a wide range of campsites. All licensed campsites satisfy modern quality and fire-safety requirements.

### all

#### Hôtel des Eperonniers

Hotel situated behind the "Market Square" (GrandPlace) and its remarkable city hall and quaint guild houses in the tourist center in full heart of the city, with a few meters of the Central Station (trains, subways, bus), direct rail link with the Shuttle trains from the Brussels National Airport, with the railway station of the South (Thalys and TGV coming from Paris, London, Amsterdam...), and with the Brussels South Charleroi Airport (Ryanair) by train and bus.

address: 1 rue des Eperonniers  
 tel: 02 513 53 66  
 zipcode: 1000  
 email: [infos@eperonniers.be](mailto:infos@eperonniers.be)  
 CostOfDoubleForANight: 40  
 url: [eperonniers.be](http://eperonniers.be)

#### Maison du Dragon

Hotel Maison du Dragon is ideally situated in the heart of Brussels, near the railway station, shopping areas and the Jardin Botanique. After visiting Brussels major tourist attractions and cultural sites, you can relax in one of the restaurants or enjoy Brussels nightlife.

address: Boulevard Adolphe Max 146–160, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

#### Hotel Queen Anne

The Queen Anne is a 3-star hotel and is in a central location (800 m from the Grand Place, 800 m from the north station, 200 m from the Metro, 200 m from the most important commercial area of the town). Services include free tea and coffee in the lounge. Free newspapers are at the disposal of the client. The 60 rooms are modern, compact and well-maintained, all have shower or bathroom, TV, telephone and trouser-press

address: Boulevard Emile Jacqmain 110, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hôtel Saint Nicolas**

Just off the Royal Opera House La Monnaie and the Grand Place, the Hotel Saint Nicolas offers you its 60 rooms, all equipped with telephone, cable television and on-suite bathroom. Buffet breakfast awaits you in atmosphere

address: Rue Marché aux Poulets 32, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Aris Hotel**

The Aris Hotel is extremely well-situated next to the Grand' Place (50 meters!). On one side of the hotel, the shop-windows in the Passage Royal St. Hubert glitter with all sorts of delights for you

address: Grasmarktstraat 78-80, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Euroflat Hotel**

Located in the proximity of the European Community (Schuman station) and close to the famous Parc du Cinquenaire well known for museums. The Euroflat with its 133 spacious rooms and suites (35 sq.m. minimum) full equipped – a kitchenette included – provides all services you are looking for in a four star hotel, while preserving comfort and intimacy of home.

address: Boulevard Charlemagne 50, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hotel President Nord**

The hotel is located in the city centre right next to the main shopping area and at only a few minutes away from the beautiful and historical Grand'Place \*Detail:Astrid Centre Hotel The Astrid Centre Hotel is extremely well located at 400 metres of the famous Grand Place and the Fish Market, with its excellent restaurants

address: Zaterdagplein 11, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hotel Vendôme**

In the heart of Brussels, the Hotel Vendôme wishes you a warm welcome within a hotel where everyone can feel at home

address: Boulevard Adolphe Max 98, Brussel

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Tulip Inn Brussels City Centre**

A striking newly refurbished Hotel in the heart of Brussels, adjacent to the fashionable city's commercial retail district and to the prestigious cultural attractions (i.e. Grand Place, antique market

address: Chaussée de Charleroi 17, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Le Dôme**

A 4 star hotel, typical Belgian Art Nouveau style in the centre of Brussels, located just 10 minutes walk from the Grand Place. A gastronomic restaurant with traditional French meals and a brasserie typical Belgian

address: Boulevard du Jardin Botanique 12–13, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **New Hotel Charlemagne**

Along side the headquarters of the European Union and just a short walk from the European Parliament, the NEW HOTEL CHARLEMAGNE is a charming hotel, international meeting place of personalities and co-workers of Europe

address: Boulevard Charlemagne 25–27, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Le Lido**

The exceptional setting of Le Lido, as well as its warm welcome, attentive service and efficient staff, will give your stay an incomparable style and atmosphere. Close to the lake of Genval. Own garden and ponds. Only 20 kms from Brussels city centre in a quiet and green surrounding

address: Rue de Limalart 20, Rixensart / Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hotel Bristol Stephanie**

Ideally located in the most fashionable shopping and business district of Brussels, the Hotel Bristol Stephanie, recently refurbished in an elegant Norwegian style, offers 142 very spacious rooms, 10 meeting rooms, banquetting rooms, an indoor swimming pool, a fitness center with sauna and jacuzzi. Restaurant, Bar and underground parking

address: Avenue Louise 91–93, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hotel Le Sablon**

The ALFA Sablon Hotel is a charming hotel in the heart of Brussels where culture mixed with art and history meets the future. Behind the classic exterior of the building hides a contemporary interior with a cosy atmosphere. A place for rest and reflection while busy Brussels is just around the corner of the Place du Sablon / Grote Zavel, where antique shops and the famous Wittamer and Marcolini (best Belgian chocolatiers) are situated.

The hotel was recently bought by the same owner of Hotel Le Dixseptième (see first class hotel in Brussels). They changed the name to "Hotel Le Sablon" although many still know it as "Alfa Sablon". They also started renovating the entire hotel, from June 2003 on, into a luxury hotel. Prices remain fairly cheap for Brussels



though.

address: Strostraat 2–8 rue de la Madeleine  
CostOfDoubleForANight: 174.00 – 254.00 euro  
tel: +32 2 513 60 40  
email: info@hotellesablon.be  
costofdoubleforanight: 174.00 – 254.00 euro  
zipcode: 1000

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hotel Chambord**

Ideally situated in the most luxurious district of Brussels, this Art Deco hotel, which was refurbished in 1996, has 70 comfortable rooms, all with the modern facilities demanded by modern business people

address: Rue de Namur 82, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hotel Manhattan**

The hotel Manhattan, in the heart of Brussels. Near north and central station, Grand Place, shopping centre and business centre. Located near by the Metro–station which brings you to EEC, exhibition centre, Atomium

address: Boulevard Adolphe Max 132–140, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hôtel Opéra**

We offer you more than a room, a very typical atmosphere and our most personal sense of servicing. The Brussels Opera Hotel: a symphony of service you will never forget. The Hotel Opera is close to the Underground Tube Station De Brouckère and is located in the heart of Brussels at 2 minutes walking distance from the Grand Place and 5 minutes from the Central Station

address: Rue Grétry, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Park Hotel**

The Park Hotel with its 51 beautiful rooms, nestles in the shadow of the Cinquantenaire, a stone's throw from the European Parliament. The hotel has 3 meeting rooms for 10 to 150 persons. In the evening you can relax in the health club with sauna, fitness and jacuzzi (free of charge for lodging guests) or you can take a drink in the cosy lounge bar or in the private garden, which is a veritable oasis of rest

address: Avenue de l'Yser 21, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Residence La Source**

The Residence La Source offers you spacious and completely furnished studios and apartments, situated next to the Avenue Louise. The ideal solution for visitors who want to stay for a longer period in an area renowned for its tranquillity and its various facilities

address: Rue de la Source / Bronstraat 14, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hotel La Madeleine**

Situated only a few steps from the Grand-Place and the historic centre of Brussels, refurbished in 1996, and with a listed facade of period architecture, the Hotel La Madeleine has 52 rooms each with its own individual atmosphere

address: Rue de la Montagne 22, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Brussels Royotel**

We are situated in the rue Royale, it's very famous. Our hotel is near the shopping centre of the city, North and Central station, the exhibition palace and the house of the King of Belgium

address: Rue Royale 312, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Hotel A La Grande-Cloche**

The hotel A La Grande Cloche is situated in the centre on a quiet and nice square. Parking is free on the square in front of the hotel. The old hotel is completely renovated. Very large rooms with all full comfort.

address: Place Rouppe 10, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Le Plaza**

Built in 1930 the Plaza Hotel is a reincarnation of an old favourite. Touches of the past remain in intricate mouldings, trompe-l'oeil ceilings soaring columns and graceful arches. Today, its 193 freshly refurbished rooms with bright Louis XVI and Directoire style furnishing, combined with the latest technological amenities, are ready to welcome a new generation of guests

address: Boulevard Adolphe Max 118-126

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **President World Trade Centre**

Centrally located in a quiet area in the central business district, just minutes from the Grand Place and the shopping area. This fine hotel is surrounded by its own private garden.

address: Boulevard du Roi Albert II, 44, Brussels

[Book this hotel](#) **BOOKINGS**

### **Palace Crowne Plaza**

This grandiose belle époque building next to the botanical gardens has received guests since the turn of the century. The spacious rooms of this stylish hotel have recently been beautifully redecorated. Relax in the derby bar or enjoy a meal at the gourmet brasserie, "le Temps Present". 360 rooms, bath or shower, WC, radio, cable TV, radio, minibar. Bar, sitting room, restaurants, buffet breakfast, snack bar, lift.

address: Rue Gineste

[Book this hotel](#)

[BOOKINGS](#)

### **Hotel Metropole**

At the very heart of the city, just within walking distance from the famous Grand'Place, the Metropole is the only 19th century hotel in Brussels. You'll enjoy every facet of service and true comfort based on the best traditions of hospitality and elegance.

address: Place de Brouckere 31

[Book this hotel](#) [BOOKINGS](#)

### **Château Du Lac**

Château Du Lac lies amidst the romantic setting of the Genval Lake. At only 20 kms. from Brussels City Centre, the International Airport and Eurostar terminal, it is the ideal location for leisure and business purposes.

address: Avenue du Lac 87

[Book this hotel](#) [BOOKINGS](#)

### **Montgomery Hotel Brussels**

Welcome to the Montgomery, the finest and most charming, intimate, luxury hotel in Brussels. Here you will discover style and understated elegance, efficient and friendly service and true hospitality. For the traveller the ultimate luxury at the Montgomery is the warm welcome you will receive from us all. The Montgomery is conveniently located in Brussels district on the Square Montgomery.

address: Avenue de Tervueren 134

[Book this hotel](#) [BOOKINGS](#)

### **Golden Tulip Stephanie**

Charming hotel located in a quiet street near the well known Avenue Louise. Close to the European Parliament and city's business center. The hotel can be easily reached by public transportation. The main train station Midi is 10 minutes from the hotel (Thalys & Eurostar). Our hotel was completely refurbished in 2000. And our staff will offer you a warm and friendly service.

address: Rue Jean Stas 32

[Book this hotel](#) [BOOKINGS](#)

### **Manoir du Lac**

The Manoir Du Lac is a beautiful Victorian Residence standing in the green surroundings of a magnificent park. The elegant and refined decor of its bedrooms and reception makes it an exceptional place for all leisure and meeting purposes

address: Avenue Hoover 4, Genval / Brussels

tel: URL=<http://www.bookings.org/be/hotels/manoir?id=300047>

**De France**

address: 21 boulevard Jamar

tel: 02 522 7935

**Auberge de Jeunesse Jacques Brel**

If you're looking to stay in Brussels in a friendly, international atmosphere, the Jacques Brel Youth Hostel is perfect for you. Located in the very heart of the city, it is ideal for all the sights. The Jacques Brel Youth Hostel organises special theme visits around Brussels, concerts, activities run by different associations and much more.

address: 30 rue de la Sablonnière

tel: 02 218 0187

email: [brussels.brel@laj.be](mailto:brussels.brel@laj.be)

url: [www.laj.be](http://www.laj.be)

**George V**

address: 23 rue 't Kint

tel: 02 513 4493

**Duke of Windsor**

address: 4 rue Capouillet

tel: 02 539 1819

**Auberge de Jeunesse Bruegel**

address: 2 rue de St Esprit

tel: 02 511 0436

**CHAB – Hôtel des Jeunes**

address: Centre Vincent van Gogh, 8 rue Traversière

tel: 02 121 0217

**Les Bluets**

address: 124 rue Berckmans

tel: 02 534 39 83

**Rembrandt**

address: 42 rue de la Concorde

tel: 02 512 71 39

### **Swissotel Brussels**

Situated in the European Quarter across from the European Parliament and just 13 kilometers from Brussels National Airport, Swissôtel Brussels is a favorite of members of Parliament, government officials, and business leaders.

address: Rue du Parnasse 19, Brussels B-1050, Belgium

tel: +32-2-5052929

url: [www.swissotel.com](http://www.swissotel.com)

### **Hotel Le Dixseptième \*\*\*\***

It's a small luxury hotel right off the Grand'Place. Great place for business people relaxing after a hard day at work, couples on a romantic trip, small families demanding high quality standards. The hotel features 24 rooms, most of them are suites (in fact I believe they only have 4 standard rooms) and a small conference room for meetings up to 20 people. There is no restaurant (only breakfast) but plenty of cheap, mid-range and top-end restaurants are within walking distance of the hotel.

The hotel was originally an apartment building but was turned into a hotel in 1990. In 1996 the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Desplenter, bought the hotel and changed it into a wonderful place where you will feel at home immediately. Mrs. Desplenter personally takes care of the decoration of the hotel and you will agree she does a terrific job: all rooms are different; each with their own style. And they're named after Belgian painters... all to make you feel like you're a guest and not a number.

The hotel is divided into two parts. A contemporary part, where rooms have a lighter, more modern touch and the – more expansive – main part or antique part where suites all feature a fire place, wooden floors, high ceilings, etc. Every suite in the hotel has a big plasma screen with cable TV (CNN available), and all rooms feature wireless internet access ( 3 per hour), a/c, bathroom (some with extra separate toilet), in-room safe, ...

Staff is terrific and gives you a great welcome as soon as you enter the door. Be carefully though: you could just walk by the hotel without noticing it!

address: Magdalenasteenweg 25 rue de la Madeleine

CostOfDoubleForANight: 190.00 – 430.00

tel: +32 2 517 17 17

email: [info@ledixseptieme.be](mailto:info@ledixseptieme.be)

costofdoubleforanight: 190.00 – 430.00

zipcode: 1000

url: [www.ledixseptieme.be](http://www.ledixseptieme.be)

### **Youth Hostel Génération Europe**

The Génération Europe Youth Hostel is located in central Brussels only 15 minutes walking distance from the Grand-Place. It has all the necessary facilities for groups such as coach parking and activity rooms, etc. It

runs special activity programmes and organises evening events, outings and more. It's the ideal youth hostel for meeting new people in a both relaxing and lively atmosphere.

email: [brussels.europe@laj.be](mailto:brussels.europe@laj.be)

address: Rue de l'Eléphant, 4

tel: 02 410 38 58

url: [www.laj.be](http://www.laj.be)

## Brussels – Sights

The centre of the city can be divided into two parts: the upper town made up of broad boulevards and stately buildings and the lower town a maze of narrow medieval lanes surrounding the ornate 12th-century Grand Place one of the most perfectly preserved of all market squares in Europe. The many faces of Brussels are expressed in the four quarters of the city, which are a must for every visitor.

First of all, there is the Lower Town, which extends from Manneken Pis via the Grand Place with its guild houses and the town hall to the Botanique. The Royal District in the Upper Town occupies the area between the Warande and the impressive Palace of Justice. In the North of the City lies the Heizel with the Atomium and Bruparck. Just outside the city centre you will find the Cinquantenaire park and the European District. Cinquantenaire Park with its triumphal arch and military art and history museums provides a calm respite from the bustle of the city.

There are multiple interesting museums showing exhibitions relating to subjects such as Brussels' history, famous painters and even Brussels' comic cartoon art. .

### all

#### City Museum

The Museum of the City of Brussel is housed in the Broodhuis. You can admire early paintings by Breugel, as well as the entire wardrobe of Manneken Pis, Brussels' most famous citizen. In the Stoofstraat behind the city hall, you will find the statue of the little rascal, who has been pissing here since 1691. Open Monday to Thursday (April to October) from 10am till 12.30pm and from 1.30pm till 5pm. Monday to Thursday (Nov. to March ) till 4pm. Weekends from 10am till 1pm.

address: Grote Markt/ Grand'Place

tel: 02 279 43 50

#### Museum of Modern Art

This section houses works of art from the end of the 18th century up to the modern period: paintings, sculptures and drawings. It represents the logical continuation of the artistic evolution which starts in the Museum of Ancient Art. This particularity of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium contributes to their originality.

The collections from the 19th century are exhibited in the neoclassical building overlooking the place Royale (entrance to the Museum of Modern Art). The paintings and sculptures on display are arranged on a thematic

and chronological basis and are spread over six floors or levels. Those of the 20th century are grouped together in the rooms which were opened in 1984. In part underground, these are arranged around a light shaft which gives the architectural structure a special identity.

The Modern Art section also includes the Antoine Wiertz and Constantin Meunier Museums, which are specially devoted to the work of those two artists who were key figures in Belgian art in the 19th century.

Opening hours from 10am till 1pm and from 2pm till 5pm (closed on Mondays and public holidays).

Entrance fee : 5 euro / 3,5 euro / 2 euro, Free for the <sup>3</sup>Friends of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium<sup>2</sup> and on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month

address: Koningsplein/ Place Royale 1-2

tel: 02 508 32 11

email: [info@fine-arts-museum.be](mailto:info@fine-arts-museum.be)

url: [www.fine-arts-museum.be](http://www.fine-arts-museum.be)

openings: from 10h00 to 17h00

### **Autoworld**

Autoworld opens its doors and invites you to discover the automotive history through a unique and outstanding collection : more than 300 vehicles, of all origins.

Horse-drawn coaches, two-doors sport sedan from back in the Fifties, dream limos, popular cars And let us not forget the Motorcycles and the Commercial vehicles!

A must for people who love old-timers. Open from 10am until 5pm (closed on Mondays) (November -March) From 10am until 6pm (closed on Mondays) (April - October)

address: Jubelpark/ Parc du Cinquantenaire 11

tel: 02 736 41 65

url: [www.autoworld.be](http://www.autoworld.be)

openings: until 5pm (closed on Mondays) (November -March) From 10am until 6pm (closed on Mondays) (April - October)

### **Grote Markt District (Lower Area)**

At the heart of the city, this is where you'll find the finest square and some of the finest buildings in Brussels. On the square is the 16th-century Maison du Roi now known as the Manneken-Pis Museum named for the country's small 17th-century bronze statue of a boy relieving himself in the classic fountain pose. The Manneken-Pis Fountain itself is regarded by the Belgians with the reverence usually reserved for religious icons there are some 100 outfits for the statue on display at the museum and there is considerable ceremony attached to changing the boy's clothes. (During our last visit we found a visit to the fountain reminiscent of going to the cathedral at Lourdes. Instead of shops with statues of the holy family there are shops filled with all sorts of Manneken-Pises, some more utilitarian than others with bottle openers in strategic places.)

Also on the square are the 14th-century town hall (one of the most beautiful buildings in Europe), a Godiva

chocolate shop (above which Victor Hugo lived when he wrote his *Contemplations*) and gold-encrusted 16th- and 17th-century guild houses (including one that's now a brewers museum). A flower market occupies one corner; antique markets are held on the square on Saturday and a bird market on Sunday. In the area are other guild houses including those of keg makers, larders, tailors, bow-and-arrow makers (the one with Romulus and Remus on the facade) and boatbuilders (the top looks like the stern of a 17th-century frigate).

After you have seen the square, continue walking down one of the narrow side streets which are lined with quaint shops, beer halls, cafes, and beautiful architecture. Turn onto Rue de l'Étoile next to the town hall so you can walk past the bronze plaque of a man and his dog on the side of l'Étoile (the Star) building. It's a monument to the guild leader Everard Serclaes who led a rebellion against the Flemish in 1365 and had his tongue cut out in retribution. (If you rub his arm or the dog's nose, it's supposed to bring you good luck.) Near the Amigo Hotel, you'll see a shop where sugared lilacs are sold (they are real flowers dipped in sugar) and another that sells lovely tapestries. About a block farther (two long blocks from Grand Place) is Semal, a family-owned lace and crystal shop.

### **Royal District**

One easy landmark to find in this district is the Cathedral of Saint Gudule and Saint Michael. The building of this majestic cathedral church started in the 13th century. The cathedral was completed in the 15th century. The two complete towers are a striking feature, and are unusual for a Gothic church, and it has beautiful Renaissance leaded windows.

### **Administrative District**

Via Treurenberg, you then reach the administrative district, built around the Warande, a completely symmetrical park. On the north side, lies the Parliament or Palace of the Nation, as well as the Flemish Parliament. Immediately opposite is the Royal Palace, with remarkable rooms which are open to the public for a few months each year. To the west is the Paleis voor Schone Kunsten where, among other things, the annual Queen Elisabeth Music Competition is held. Via the decorative Koningsplein, you reach the Royal Fine Arts Museums, with the Museum of Ancient Art (from the Flemish Primitives to Rubens and Van Dyck) and the Museum of Modern Art (with a substantial amount of work by Delvaux and Magritte).

### **Zavel District**

This antiques district of Brussels, with the Gothic Zavelkerk and leading to the Kapellekerk, where Pieter Bruegel is buried. The painter lived and worked in the Marolles, the Brussels working-class district par excellence, with the Vossenplein at its heart, where a daily bric-a-brac, antique and flea market takes place. The Marolles district is dominated by the imposing Palace of Justice, which is also the largest public building in Europe. In the centre of this excellent antique district, you'll find Brussels' most fashionable neighbourhood, the Grand Sablon Square.

### **Cinquantenaire and European district**

The headquarters of the European Commission and the European Council of Ministers is near the Schuman roundabout. The European Parliament is in the Leopoldwijk area.

The Triumphal Arch dominates the Cinquantenaire Park with the Royal Museum of Art and History, the Army Museum and Autoworld, the largest museum of old cars in the world. For the Museum of Natural Sciences, the most modern of its kind, you should go to the Waversesteenweg.

### **Riolenmuseum**



address: Anderlechtsepoort

tel: 02 513 85 87

### **The Museum of Art and History**

Open from 9.30 am until 17 pm (closed on Mondays) From 10 am until 17 pm on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

address: Jubelpark/ Parc du Cinquantenaire 10

tel: 02 534 15 18

### **Natural Sciences Museum**

This museum has an exhibition of natural life in Belgium. Opening hours from 9:30am to 4.45pm. Saturdays and Sundays from 10am to 6pm.

address: Waversesteenweg/ Chaussée de Wavre 260

tel: 02 627 42 38

### **Royal Museum of the Army and Military History**

Open from 9am till 12am and from 1pm till 4:30pm (closed on Mondays). Entrance to the huge exhibition of military airplanes is free.

address: Jubelpark/ Parc du Cinquantenaire 3

tel: 02 737 79 07

### **Museum of Ancient Art**

Together with the Museum of Modern Art, this museum makes the nearly all comprising Museum of Fine Arts.

address: Regentschapsstraat/ Rue de la Régence 3

### **The Belgian Centre for Comic Strip Art**

The history of comic strip art presented in a marvellous building. Nearby, in the Zandstraat, you will find the National Comic Strip Centre, better known as the Strip Museum. In this typical Art Nouveau house, you can see the work of over a hundred Belgian cartoon strip artists. Opening hours from 10am to 6pm.

address: Zandstraat / Rue des Sables 20

tel: 02 219 19 80

### **The Horta Museum**

Open from 2pm to 5.30pm (closed on Mondays and holidays).

address: Amerikaanse Straat/ Rue Américaine 23–25

tel: 02 537 16 92

### **Museum Album**

Open from 10 am to 7 pm – closed on Tuesday.

address: Kartuizerstraat/ Rue des Chartreux 25

**Museum voor de Kant en het Costuum**

address: Viletstraat 4–6

tel: 02 512 77 09

**The David and Alice van Buuren Museum**

address: Avenue Léo Errera 41

tel: 02 343 48 51

**Palais Royal**

address: Place des Palais

tel: +322 551 2020

**City Hall**

The City Hall is probably the finest building in Brussels. You can visit several exhibitions on Brussels glorious past in the sumptuous rooms.

address: Oude Markt

**The Town Hall**

address: Grand  
Place

**Guildhouses**

Located at the heart of the city, the impressive guild houses left their own mark on the square. Check out, amongst many others, the Maison du Roi (Bread house), Le Cygne (The Butchers Guild) and the LArbre dOr (The Brewers guild).

address: Grand  
Place

**Hôtel de Ville**

Jan van Ruysbroecks added the impressive tower to this Gothic structure.

address: Grand Place

tel: +322 513 8940

**La Bourse**

The Belgian Stock Exchange is housed in an impressive neo-classical building.

address: Palais de la Bourse

tel: +322 509 1211

**Marché St Géry**

The former meat hall (that now houses several shops)

address: place St Géry

**Maison d'Erasmus**

address: Rue du Chapitre 31

tel: +322 521 1383

**Palais de Justice**

address: Rue de la Regence

**Manneken Pis**

Manneken Pis is Brussels' answer to the Statue of Liberty. The statue is smaller than you might expect.

A legend says that a man had lost his little son. He found the child after two days near the place where now the fountain of manneken-pis can be seen. When the father spotted his child, the latter was peeing. As a token of gratitude the father had the fountain with a statue of a peeing boy constructed.

Location: On the corner of Stoofstraat/Rue de L'Etuve and the Eikstraat/Rue du Chêne (At the Grand-Place follow the street on the left side of the town hall)

**Janneke Pis**

address: Getrouwheidssteeg/Impasse de la Fideltite

**Everardt t Serclaes**

address: Grote Markt

**Eglise Ste Cathérine**

address: place Ste Cathérine 1000

tel: +322 513 3481

**Kapellekerk**

**the Cathedral of Saint Gudule and Saint Michael.**

address: Grand  
Place

**Notre Dame du Sablon**

address: Rue de la Regence

**Eglise St Jean-Baptiste**

Suburb example of Flemish Baroque in Belgium.

address: place du Béguinage 1000

### **The Martelaarsplein**

The Martelaarsplein dates from the 18th century. A number of symmetrical buildings, recently restored, give this square a unique appearance. Behind one of the fine facades is the headquarters of the Flemish government.

### **Place de petit Sablon**

### **Place du Grand Sabel**

### **Place du Jeu de Balle**

### **Grand Place**

The most famous and finest square in the Lower Town area. After a bombardment in 1695, the city hall was the only building that remained standing. The guild houses have their own specific frontage but they are all in complete harmony with each other. *paullucien:*

### **Musical Instrument Museum**

The Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) exhibits a large collection of musical instruments. It also offers a large diversity of activities and a hands on approach for children visiting the museum. The MIM is in the Old England Building, one of the nicest Art Nouveau buildings in Brussels. The nice cafeteria has a panoramic view over Brussels and is open for the public without entrance fee.

email: [info@mim.fgov.be](mailto:info@mim.fgov.be)

address: Rue Montagne de la Cour 2, 1000 Brussels

openings: Tuesday to Thursday 9h30 à 17h; Saturday and Sunday 10h à 17h

tel: +32 / (0)2 / 545.01.30

url: [www.mim.fgov.be](http://www.mim.fgov.be)

## **Brussels – Getting There**

There are several possibilities for going to Brussels. Nearly all major European cities offer a direct flight to Belgium's capital. There are also very good train options when you're arriving from one of the neighbouring European countries. Check out the several getting there sections for more details.

## **Brussels – Eating Out**

Brussels has an international reputation for the quality of its cuisine, which is richly deserved. Even at the dowdiest snack bar, you will almost always find that the food is well-prepared and generously seasoned. Many of the city's best restaurants are equal anywhere in Paris. Traditional Bruxelles dishes are rabbit cooked in gueuze beer or steamed pig's feet. But you will find many really delicious international restaurants as well. Turkish, Spanish, Vietnamese and Japanese cooking is worth a try. Belgian kitchen is although popular for its fresh seafood, mussels and fish, especially in and around the Saint Catherine district.

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### **L'Achepot**

Small and basic family-run estaminet or tavern that looks as if it hasn't changed for several generations. The food is traditional Belgian and French, with dishes such as stoemp and goat's cheese salad, and plenty of offal, including kidneys, brain, tripe and liver. Métro Ste Cathérine. Open 11am–midnight Mon–Sat; food served noon–3pm, 6.30–10.30pm. Average 800 BF.

address: 1 place Ste Cathérine, 1000 Brussels

tel: 02 – 511 62 21

### **La Bonne Humeur**

A traditional family-run restaurant in St Josse that produces wonderful mussels and chips, as well as a few other Belgian classics such as shrimp croquettes. If you want moules-frites and are fed up with the hordes of tourists around Grand Place and the centre, this is the place to come. It's also cheaper than the more central restaurants. Bus 29. Open noon–2pm, 6.30–9.30pm, Mon, Thur–Sun. Average 900 BF.

address: 244 chaussée de Louvain, 1030 Brussels

tel: 02 – 230 71 69

### **Les 4 Saisons**

Well known first class restaurant. With Frédéric Gonzalez taking over from the brilliant but unassuming Dutch chef André Smit its reputation grows. The food is still excellent value: genuine haute cuisine that is sophisticated without being pretentious, seasoned with an occasional hint of southern France, where Gonzalez learned his skills. The luxurious decor, including stained-glass cupola, is what locals fondly believe to be the British look. Closed Sat lunchtime & all Sun.

address: 2 Rue de l'Homme Chrétien

tel: +32 (2) 505 51 00

### **Brasserie Au Beumes de Venise**

A favourite retreat of locals in the snobby southern commune of Uccle. Decor is traditional without succumbing to cliché, while culinary style is several cuts above your average bistro nosh. A seasonal menu offers four choices of starter, main course & dessert for around BFr1,000. But call ahead, because the 40 available places are invariably occupied. Closed Sun and Mon.

address: 62 Rue Darwin

tel: +32 (2) 343 82 93

### **Bruneau**

Bruneau is impressive. It is a haughty restaurant near the Koekelberg basilica. Jean-Pierre Bruneau is a brilliantly creative chef. Sleek decor provides a perfect setting for his exquisite designer cuisine. Look for classics with a modern inflection, such as coucou de Malines. Closed Tues evening & all Wed.

address: 75 Avenue Broustin

tel: +32 (2) 427 69 78

### **La Rose Blanche – De witte roos**

Taverne and restaurant right in the centre of town, open every day from 10am.

address: Grand Place, Grote Markt 11

tel: 02 – 513 64 79

### **Comme Chez Soi**

What to say about Belgium's most famous restaurant that has not been said many times before? Perhaps that it's much smaller than you expect – just 40 places, on bistro-style banquettes. Also that it's refreshingly unpretentious, despite its glittering reputation. Comme Chez Soi is still fronted by courtly Pierre Wynants. For a business lunch with a difference, up to 30 diners can be seated at a special table in the kitchen – offering a unique view of the small army of chefs, working feverishly to produce food of sublime quality & refinement. Closed Sun, Mon.

tel: +32 (2) 512 29 21

### **La Mosaïque**

An excellent choice if you're looking for somewhere small but classy near Avenue Louise. All revolves around the slight figure of Joël Crasset – a talented cook who worked at top restaurants such as Bruneau before taking over La Mosaïque. He personally slaves over a hot stove and can feed just 35 lucky mouths at each sitting, but if you're not partial to rich pickings like foie gras, don't bother. Closed Sat lunchtime & all Sun.

address: 23 Rue Forestière

tel: +32 (2) 649 02 35

### **Nico Central**

The arrival of London super-chef Nico Ladenis, with a branded restaurant in the Swissôtel, was not enthusiastically received by the local gastro-press. Opinions mellowed, however, as they got to know the food and worked out it was actually being prepared by a vrai Belge, Philippe Lecomte. In fact, that special Ladenis touch is clearly evident in the best of Lecomte's dishes, especially the sublime sauces. Closed Sun.

address: 19 rue du Parnasse

tel: +32 (2) 505 25 78

### **Falstaff**

Falstaff was Brussels. The restaurant behind the Bourse had so much art nouveau atmosphere, that the waiters could afford to be very rude. To me it is unclear what the status is right now, but let's hope that Falstaff will be back to its normal self soon. \*D: L'Eperon d'or Very nice house of the seventeenth century, soft and padded interior, carefully prepared meals. We recommend to make reservations.

address: Rue des Eperonniers 8

tel: 02/512 52 39

### **Au Stekerlaplatte**

The street outside is rundown, and the façade is unassuming to say the least, but this traditional bistro is always full. Inside it's dark and the atmosphere is convivial. There is a long menu, most of it traditional Belgian food and all of it good value. Métro Hotel des Monnaies. Open 7pm–1am Tue–Sun. Average mène 1.500 BF.

address: 4 rue des Prêtres

tel: 02 – 512 86 81

### **Chez Léon**

One of Belgium's most successful culinary exports, Chez Léon works to a simple formula: big portions of mussels and chips, paper tablecloths, brisk (sometimes impatient) service and a quick turnover. Locals sneer at it, and it's certainly not the place for a romantic tryst, but it's good value and popular with every nationality other than the Belgians. There are other branches in the Bruparck in Heysel, and at Waterloo. Métro Bourse. Open noon–11pm daily. Average 850 BF. Menu 595–970 BF.

address: 18 rue des Bouchers

tel: 02 – 511 14 15

### **Totem**

Hidden behind Grand Place this small and fashionable restaurant is the hit with Brussels Vegetarians, who comes for the friendly atmosphere and wholesome food – organic soups, fresh salads, tofu ... quiet cheap, good choice of wines. Metro: Bourse

address: rue des Grands Carmes 6

### **La fiancée du pirate**

Kitchen open from 12 am till 2 pm and from 7 pm till 1 am. The one and only Madagascan restaurant in Belgium.

address: 37 Place de la Vieille Halle aux Blés, 1000 Brussels

tel: 02/502 72 56

### **Chaochow City**

Large, bustling Kantonese restaurant with mainly Oriental guests, which must be a good sign. The dim–sum and the steamed fish are great. Daily special at lunch–time for 125 BEF (3 EUR), from 5–9pm a larger special can be ordered for 190 BEF (4.75 EUR), at noontime on Sundays you can partake in a phantasmogoric eat–till–you–drop buffet for 515 BEF (12 EUR). Open: 11am–12.30am Daily

address: 89 boulevard Anspach

tel: +32 2 512 37 56

### **La Cité du Dragon**

Most of Brussels Chinese restaurants are low–profile places better suited to a quick takeaway than a business lunch. Not so La Cité du Dragon, an outcrop of exoticism amid the filling stations & furniture warehouses of the old Waterloo road. Its big & showy, with the intimate charm of a hotel atrium, but the food is not bad and

the ambience seems to impress the local business fraternity.

address: 1024 Chaussée de Waterloo

tel: +32 (2) 375 80 80

### **Samourai**

Brussels is badly supplied with ethnic restaurants and many of those tend to dumb down their flavours to suit local tastes. This comfortable little Japanese restaurant, hidden in one of the city's grimmier side streets, is an exception. Chef Saito Harumis sushi is as delicious as any you'll find in Tokyo. Closed Sun lunchtime & Tues.

address: 28 Rue du Fossé aux Loups

tel: +32 (2) 217 56 39

### **Apocalypse**

Near the campuses of the two Free Universities (one French, one Dutch) you will find this excellent Vietnamese restaurant. Delicious food, nice interior and sit-in-the-garden facilities in summertime. Open: midday–11pm Mo–Fri.; weekends only evenings. Take bus 95/96.

address: 20 Avenue Adolphe Buyl

tel: +32 2 647 07 18

### **King Hwa**

King Hwa means the best from China, but Mrs. Wa–Was delightful restaurant, close to the European institutions, also serves the best from Vietnam. This is not an average Chinese restaurant, everything served here is basically authentic. Weekdays there's a three course menu for just 330 BEF (8 EUR), the four course Menu Découverte (Discovery Menu) can be yours for 810 BEF (20 EUR). Open: midday–2pm 6pm–10pm Tue–Sun.

address: 240 Chaussée de Louvain

tel: +32 2 230 15 79

### **La Khaima**

It is hard to imagine that you are still in Brussels when you enter this authentic Moroccan restaurant. The walls, ceiling and floor are all draped in Moroccan carpets, the staff are dressed in authentic clothes, the tables are large round copper trays. The only difference between this and a Nomad's tent are the wicker chairs and the cushioned benches. Of course the food follows its interior; there's a wide selection of "Tajines" and "Couscous". Average cost per person: BEF 1200 (EUR 30). Open: 12am–2.30pm & 7pm–11pm Mon–Sun

address: 1390 Chaussée de Wavre

tel: +32 2 675 0004

### **Marina**

In this pleasant old street close to the Bourse you will find one of the best, and definitely one of the nicest Italians in Brussels. Quiet but warm atmosphere, a rather kitschy interior, but great food at very friendly prices and an impressive (Italian) wine list. Average cost per person: BEF 800 (EUR 20). Open: 7pm–midnight daily



address: 56 rue des Chartreux, Brussels 1000

tel: +32 2 502 06 36

## Brussels – Day Trips

There are also a number of towns and sites near Brussels that are perfect for day trips when you want to be entertained and you've already paid a visit to the Brussels Bruparck. The Brussels Bruparck has a variety of surprising attractions near the Atomium. Some of the highlights are the subtropical water paradise «Océade» and «Mini-Europe», where you can visit Europe along 300 faithful scale models of European monuments. Are also part of Bruparck, the cinema «Kinopolis» and «The Village», a mini-village with bars and restaurants, karaoke-bar, cyber-café, Venetian merry-go-round and a free play-ground.

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#### Heizel

On the Heizel plateau, in the district of Laken, stands the Atomium, representing an iron crystal molecule magnified 165 billion times. This unique construction dating from 1958 dominates the Exhibition Centre, where the huge annual exhibitions are organised, and the King Baudouin Stadium, where large sporting events are held. The Bruparck leisure complex consists of a subtropical swimming pool (Océade), cinemas (Kinopolis) and the Mini-Europa model village.

The Royal Palace, where the sovereign actually lives, is also situated in Laken, in 160 hectares of grounds. The Chinese Pavilion and Japanese Tower add an exotic touch to the area.

#### Tervuren

In Tervuren (about 10 mi/15 km east) the wonderful Musée Royale de l'Afrique Centrale has a fabulous collection of art from countries in central Africa that were colonized by Belgium.

#### Waterloo

Waterloo where Napoleon met his defeat in 1815 is also very close to Brussels just 10 mi/16 km south. Waterloo sights include the Panorama of the Battle and the Lion Memorial (150 ft/45 m high this British symbol commemorates the Allied victory). While there also see the Wax Museum the Wellington Museum and other monuments.

#### Other excursions

Other excursions include: Beersel a suburb 7 mi/11 km southwest of Brussels (a very nice castle drawbridge and moat); Knokke-Heist and its beach resorts casinos and golf courses about 65 mi/105 km northwest; Mechelen an ecclesiastical center 15 mi/25 km north known for its tapestries a school for carillonneurs a museum with a carillon exhibit and wonderful churches; Nivelles 20 mi/30 km south and its 11th-century church St. Gertrude and its crypts dating to the 7th century; and Spontin 55 mi/85 km southeast with a magnificent medieval castle. 25 mi/40 km south of Antwerp.

## Brussels – Internet Cafes

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### **Internet Center .**

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url: [lysithea.iocom.be](http://lysithea.iocom.be)

tel: 02 534 61 41

**Cyberb@r**

address: 185 Chaussee d'Ixelles

url: [www.cyberbar.be](http://www.cyberbar.be)

tel: 02 502 51 25

**CyberAccess**

address: 27 Ave Adolphe Buyl

url: [www.cyberaccess.be](http://www.cyberaccess.be)

tel: 02 640 71 58

**Surf & Education Center**

url: [www.pointnet.be](http://www.pointnet.be)

tel: 2 251 31415

**@internem**

address: Boulevard Général Jacques 68

url: [www.internem.be](http://www.internem.be)

tel: 02 649 4509

**Le N@VIGATOR**

The first cybercafé in Brussels center. We have 5Pc at 233MMX with local network. Our internet access ISDN. Le N@vigator is also a cafe belgian beers, wines and sandwicks are served.

tel: 02 514 37 20/ 02 514 37 22

**Po-Boy Cyber Cafe**

url: [www.american-bar.be](http://www.american-bar.be)

tel: 02 479 17 44

**B@scule Online**

This brand new designer cafe is located in the

center of Brussels (la Bascule). It has 11 PC's fully equipped for video chat and offers a very pleasant ambiance. Additional services are dactylography, scanning, printing, photocopy, fax, call shop

tel: 3223442932  
email: dool68@hotmail.com  
hours: All days open from  
address: Chaussee de Waterloo 600

**Ambigo Kiosk – Hostel Bruegel**

Ambigo Internet Kiosk located in the reception of Hostel Bruegel in central Brussels. Free access to many sites.

price: 150 BEF  
tel: +32 2 227 1137  
email: info@ambigo.com  
hours: 24 hours per day  
address: 2 H. Geestraat  
Brussels 1000 Belgium  
url: [www.ambigo.com](http://www.ambigo.com)

**Ambigo Kiosk – Jacques Brel**

One Ultra Fast Internet Kiosk connected with ADSL. 1 MB transfer speed. Video e-mail. Free access to [www.Gorillaguide.com](http://www.Gorillaguide.com) The kiosk is located in the reception of the Hostel

price: 150 BEF  
tel: +32 2 227 1137  
email: info@ambigo.com  
hours: Open 24 hours every day.  
address: 30 Rue de la Sablonniere  
Brussels 1000 Belgium  
url: [www.ambigo.com](http://www.ambigo.com)

**Avenue CyberTheatre s.a.**

Fax : +32 2 500 78 45  
url.  
80 terminals (PC,Mac) and a B&

price: 250bef/hour and 100bef/hour with CyberPass ! more information go to  
tel: +32 2 500 78 78

email: [info@cybertheatre.net](mailto:info@cybertheatre.net)  
hours: Mon–Sat 10AM TO 11PM. (10h to 23h) Except on Sunday.  
address: Av. de la Toison d'Or n 4/5  
1050 Bruxelles (Brabant)  
url: [www.cybertheatre.net](http://www.cybertheatre.net)

### **Cyber Café**

tel: 02/331.33.03  
hours: Sat – Sun from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m  
address: Nonnemanstraat, 21  
1600 Sint–Pieters–Leeuw

### **Cybercafe Filink**

We are located at 20km south of brussels, we are near the 'Grand Place in Nivelles. 5 PC, a fast internet connexion and assistance to help people. We have so food and drink. Each place is very comfortable.

price: 250 FB  
tel: 067 84 09 03  
email: [info@filink.net](mailto:info@filink.net)  
hours: all days, 2:00 Pm until 22:00 close on  
tuesday  
address: Place de l'Abreuvoir 5  
Nivelles 1400 Belgium  
url: [www.filink.net](http://www.filink.net)

## **Brussels – Shopping**

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### **Brussels Shopping**

I would like to recomend a very nice and interesting Shop dedicated to reproductions of famous ART NOUVEAU items ang gift inspired by ART NOUVEAU: SENSES ART NOUVEAU 31 RUE LEBEAU 1000 BRUSSELS T&Fax: +32 (0)2 502 15 30 opens from Tuesday till Sunday (included !!) It is located in the Sablon Area and their web site is: <a href="http://www.senses-artnouveau.com">http://www.senses-artnouveau.com</a>. I like very much the place, they have wonderful gift ideas and I found it reading the BULLETIN magazine. IT IS ORIGINAL, UNIQUE and ... BELGIAN !!

### **Sint–Hubertus and Ilot Sacré**

To the northeast of the Grand Place, you will find the Sint–Hubertus gallery, built in 1846 and the oldest covered shopping arcade in Europe. Via this arcade with its shops, restaurants, cafés and 3 theatres, you reach the famous "Ilot Sacré", the gastronomic centre of the city.

**Antiek– en Rommelmarkt**

address: Vossenplein/Place du jeu de Balle

**A Dansaertstraat/Rue A Dansaert**

**Rue Neuve/Nieuwstraat**

The city's main shopping street where one can find clothes and the like, but also loads of nice little shops eg in the City 2, a shopping complex on this particular road.

*World66 is Open Content. All content is free for everybody to use, but we're also dependent on travelers for updating our contents. Please use the space below for notes and when you get back home, please take the time to add your notes to World66 so everybody can profit.*

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**Notes:**

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# Charleroi

Charleroi is the third biggest city of Belgium, situated in Wallonia, the French-speaking part of Belgium.

Charleroi is not like any other Belgian city – no Grand Places, and its very hilly, lots of slopes in the town. The atmosphere feels different too, slightly scarier, more oppressive, but not altogether unfriendly. In Harry Pearsons book *A Tall Man In A Low Land*, he visits Charleroi and comments that it was "like a scene from a Martin Scorses film – alas, not the *Age Of Innocence*". It's a special place. As the gateway of the Ardennes it of course has a lot more to offer besides this huge event. It has a lot of beautiful sights, shopping–streets, parks, many cultural activities and museums. Shopping is pretty good, there's Ville2, a shopping centre next to the stadium in the North town (Metro – Samaritains) which has a big cinema complex next to it, Carollywood, as well as restaurants and a big car park. There are lots of clothes shops on the steep Rue de la Montaigne, which leads up to the Place Charles II, where you'll find the Cathedral and the Town Hall, plus huge spouting fountains that come up from the ground. Nearby in Chatelineau there is a shopping centre called Caro, and in nearby Gilly there are also lots of shops (Gilly is at the end of the Métro), and a good theatre, Le Temps Choisis.

Charleroi is also the cradle of the Belgian comic strip in the "Marcinelle School" style as illustrated by "Dupuis Publishers". Amongst others you will meet Spirou and Fantasio, the Marsupilami, Lucky Luke, Boule et Bill, the Daltons ... in the centre of the city or when you use the underground. In Parc Astrid is a remarkable Lucky Luke statue.

## Charleroi – Getting There

You can reach Charleroi very easily by one of the following means of transport:

### *Plane*

Charleroi has its own regional airport, but since not much international flight arrive there, you are likely to arrive at Brussels Airport in Zaventem. From here it takes only 30 minutes to reach Charleroi, either by car (E 19) or by train.

### *Car*

The following motorways bring you to Charleroi:

E19 from Brussels, Antwerp and Amsterdam, in the North ;

E 42 from Lille, Paris and the Euro Tunnel, in the West ;

E 42 from Namur, Liège and Cologne, in the East ;

### *Train*

When visiting Charleroi by train, you will arrive at Charleroi Station, right at the heart of the city centre. Here are train links from all big European cities to Charleroi.

The Gare de Charleroi (Charleroi Station, Square des Martyrs du 18 août, 6000 Charleroi, phone 32(0)71 60.22.94 (Information) 60.23.88 (Travellers/60.23.62 (trade service) SNCB.

## Charleroi – Accommodation

In Charleroi you'll find a wide range of hotels.

### all

#### **Socatel\*\*\*\***

65 rooms / tariff from 2550 to 5600 BEF

situated in the city

Restaurant – parking

Meeting room (50 persons)

email: [sotel@skynet.be](mailto:sotel@skynet.be)

address: Bd Tirou, 96

tel: 32(0)71 31.98.11

url: [www.restofun.com](http://www.restofun.com)

#### **Holiday Inn, Garden Court\*\*\*\***

57 rooms / tariff 3750 BEF

Meeting room (from 8 to 200 persons)

300 m of the city

Restaurant – private parking

email: [nathalie.henri@skynet.be](mailto:nathalie.henri@skynet.be)

address: Bd Mayence, 1

tel: 32(0)71 30.24.24

url: [www.holiday-inn.com](http://www.holiday-inn.com)

#### **Hôtel IBIS \*\*\***

55 rooms / tariff 2795 BEF to 3295 BEF

200 m of the city

Restaurant –parking

email: [ibis@skypro.be](mailto:ibis@skypro.be)

address: Quai de Flandre, 12

tel: 32(0)71 20.60.60

url: [www.hotelibis.com](http://www.hotelibis.com)

**Les Balladins\*\*\***

45 rooms / tariff from 1590 to 2350 BEF bed and breakfast

Meeting room (45 persons)

2 km of the city

Restaurant – private parking

address: Route de la Basse Sambre

tel: 32(0)71 42.01.68

**Hôtel Formule 1\***

73 rooms tariff from 1150 BEF for 1, 2 or 3 persons

10 km of the city – 2 km of the B.S.C.Airport

Restaurant – parking

address: Chaussée de Courcelles, 6041 Gosselies

tel: 32(0)71 37.22.22

**Le Piersoulx \*\*\*\***

14 rooms / tariff from 2500 to 4050 BEF

Meeting room (40 persons)

10 km of the city

email: [piersoulx@promin.be](mailto:piersoulx@promin.be)

address: Rue du Grand Piersoulx, 8

tel: 32(0)71 35.66.87



## Charleroi – Museums

When you have some time left on your stay in Charleroi, try one of the museums in this city.

**all**

### **The Fine Arts Museum**

The Fine Arts Museum presents the works by some artists from the Hainaut Region and from Charleroi.

address: Hôtel de Ville

Place du Manège

6000 Charleroi

Phone 32(0)71 86 11 32/34/36

Fax 32(0)71 86 11 33

Open from 9am to 5 pm

from Tuesday to Saturday

### **The Jules Destrée Museum**

This museum presents to the public the life and work of Jules Destrée, the great lawyer, journalist and statesman from Charleroi. address: Hôtel de Ville Place du Manège 6000 Charleroi Phone 32(0)71 86 11 32/34/36 Fax 32(0)71 86 11 33 Open from 9am to 5 pm from Tuesday to Saturday

### **Glass Museum**

Here you can see the whole history of glass, from its discovery until the present time. address: Bd A. de Fontaine, 10 6000 Charleroi Phone 32(0)71 31.08.38 Fax. 32(0)71 33.44.80 Open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 am to 5 pm

### **The Archaeological Museum**

forming an annex to the Glass Museum, houses different collections from the Roman and Merovingian periods and others from the 16th to the 18th centuries... address Bd A. de Fontaine, 10 6000 Charleroi Phone 32(0)71 31.08.38 Fax. 32(0)71 33.44.80 Open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 9 am to 5 pm

## Charleroi – Sights

There's no lack of sights in Charleroi. You can visit one of the many churches, watch beautiful architecture or take a look at some remarkable houses and statues.

**all**

### **The Church of St Antoine**

19th century

### **The Basilica of St-Christophe**

(18th century – renovated in 1955), Charles II Square in Charleroi

### **The Chapel of St Fiacre**

(17th century), Charleroi

### **The Protestant Church**

(19th century), Boulevard Audent, n° 20, Charleroi

### **Former Corporal Tresignies barracks**

(1887), Avenue Général Michel in Charleroi

### **Remarkable listed houses**

–2 and 4 rue Turenne (1780)

–The " Gilded house " : 15 rue Tumelaire (Art Nouveau – 1899)

–40 rue Bernus (Art Nouveau – 1908)

–7 Bd Solvay (modern style – 1920)

### **Civil architecture**

–Gare du sud (South Station) (1865 and 1960), Charleroi

–Post office (1907), 23, place Albert 1er, Charleroi

–Town Hall (1936), Place Charles II, Charleroi

–Palais des Beaux-Arts (Fine Arts Palace) (1957), Place du Manège, Charleroi

–Palais des Expositions (Exhibition Centre) (1952), Avenue de l'Europe, Charleroi

### **Statues**

" The Miner " and " The Steelworker " by Constantin Meunier, King Baudouin bridge, Charleroi

## **Charleroi – Nightlife and Entertainment**

### **all**

### **Nightclubs**

There are a few nightclubs in Charleroi, near the station, and some on Place du Manège.

### **La cuve a bière**

At Place du Manège/Boulevard Bertrand there's a great café-bar in called La cuve a bière, which sells a good range of beers, the staff are very friendly and accommodating, and its near all of the other small bars and eateries.

### **The Irish times pub**

the Irish times pub, on Boulevard Tirou, is THE place to be, always full of young people, its only just opened in April and they are not used to Irish pubs in Charleroi, the only thing is it sells mainly irish beers, and the Belgian selection is minimal. The bar staff speak just English too, which bewilders the Walloon only clientèle. You can watch sports on the big screen here, football usually.

### **The Star Rock Cafe**

Down the Boulevard Tirou, you have also the Star Rock Cafe, an American theme pub full of guitars and stuff which can be pretty rocking, but can also be quieter than a dead mouse, depending on whether the Irish bar has music on (and it tends to, at weekends).

## **Charleroi – Internet cafés**

**all**

### **Cybourne**

Quai de Flandres, 6 – B-6000 Charleroi Tel : 071/702.362 E-Mail : cybourne@cybourne.be Contact : Patric Guyot opening hours: mon to sat : 12.00 – 00.00 sun : appointments only

### **CybadK.fe**

Boulevard Jacques Bertrand, 225 – B-6000 Charleroi Tel : 071/30.78.00 Fax : 071/30.78.00 Contact : Mister Bader

## **Charleroi – Internet Cafes**

**all**

### **Cybourne**

Su: 17.00–00.00

Hosting, Web Design, computer dealer

price: 250 FB

tel: 702401

email: cybourne@cybourne.be

hours: Mo–Sa: 12.00–00.00

address: Quai de Flandres, 6  
Charleroi 6000 Belgium

url: [www.cybourne.be](http://www.cybourne.be)

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**Notes:**

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# Diksmuide

Situated 20 km behind the Belgian coastline, Diksmuide forms a peaceful oasis in the polder landscape. During Worldwar I (1914–1918) and II (1940–1945) it was a battlefield for the Allies and the Germans, where many soldiers on both sides lost their lives for peace.

To visit: Trench of Death and The Peace Domain with the Ysertower.

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# boroughs of Diksmuide

The city of Diksmuide exist of 15 boroughs:

Diksmuide, Kaaskerke, Esen, Beerst, Vladslo, Keiem, Leke, Woumen, Nieuwkapelle, Oudekapelle, St.Jacobskapelle, Pervijze, Oostkerke, Stuivekenskerke, Lampernisse

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# Dinant

Dinant is a very cute town in the Belgian Ardennes. It has an impressive citadel and is a great base for exploring the region which is an outdoor paradise.

South of Dinant, begins the romantical part of the Meuse, a deep trench in the Ardennes plateau. The most spectacular section being located at Freyr (6km from Dinant) with on the right bank spectacular rocks, and on the left bank a mini Versailles with its Renaissance castle surrounded by classical gardens. Two breathtaking free outlooks are located on the road between Dinant and Beauraing.

Boat trips on the meuse river can be arranged here and many daytrips can be made to charming town in the Ardennes.

## Dinant – Things to do

**all**

### **Caves**

There are several caves in the area of Dinant. The most beautiful one is 'La Merveilleuse' (the wonderful). Visit the magnificent waterfalls and stalactites. The entrance is about 500 m from the Dinant Railway station.

openings: from April till 15 Noember daily from 11am to 5pm (In July/August till 6pm).

### **Boat trips**

During the summer season several boat trips on the Meuse can be taken daily. The following lists gives you some indication of rpices and times.

Dinant–Anseremme–Dinant (45 min) : Adults 180 BEF – Children 140 BEF

Dinant–Freyr–Dinant (1h30) : Adults 320 BEF – Children 260 BEF.

(departure every Wednesday and Sunday in July/August at 2.30 pm) Dinant–Hasttière–Dinant (3h) : Adults 420 BEF – Children 340 BEF

(departure every Tuesday in July/August at 3.15pm) Dinant–Givet–Dinant : Adults 520 BEF – Children 400 BEF (departure every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday in July/August from 10am till 7pm (free time in Givet)

address: BAYARD BOATS1, Quai de Meuse, 1 – 5500 Dinant

tel: (082) 22.30.42

## Dinant – Sights

**all**

### **Citadel**

To visit this fortress one can take the cable–lift (entrance next to the Notre Dame church). Those who don't mind some physical exercise can follow a 420 step stair leading to the top of the rock. Inside the citadel is an arms museum, dioramas and a collapsed shelter cave.

openings: all year (except weekdays in January, and Fridays from November to March). Winter shedule: 10am – 4pm. Summer shedule: 10am – 6pm.

## Dinant – Day Trips

**all**

### **Chateau de Veves**

In the nearby village of Celles the Chateau de Veves is a very picturesque castles in the Ardennes. Inside one can see and learn everything about late–medieval and 18th century life in a castle. Open from April to end October (from 10am till 6pm) Adults : 175 BEF – Children : 100 BEF In the nearby village center is one of the oldest churches in the Ardennes: the 12th century Romanesque Saint–Hadelin Church. Celles is also the village where the allied troops stopped the Germans during the Battle of the Ardennes in January 1945. A tank serves as a memorial to that event.

### **Annevoie**

The gardens of Annevoie (15km outside Dinant) were created in the 18th century by Charles–Alexis de Montpellier. The combination of beautiful flower beds and running water (without any mechanical aid) make these gardens to some of the most wonderful in Europe. The gardens can be visited from April to end October, daily from 9.30 am till 6.30 pm. Adults : 180 BEF – Children 125 BEF.

### **Scenic Tours**

Based in Dinant, Scenic Tours ([www.scenic-tours.be](http://www.scenic-tours.be)) operates sightseeing tours, day tours, tailor–made excursions and travel by coach for small groups.

email: [info@scenic-tours.be](mailto:info@scenic-tours.be)

url: [www.scenic-tours.be](http://www.scenic-tours.be)

tel: +32–82–21 96 37

## Dinant – Internet Cafes



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# Durbuy

Durbuy is the smallest city of Belgium. It is a very cute place, with lots of old houses, cobblestone streets and a great setting on the banks of the Ourthe.

As you enter the city, once you've crossed the old bridge on the Ourthe, you face the old castle of the Graves from Ursel which was built in the 11th century and rebuilt by this family in the 17th century on the ruins of the ancient feudal fortification. You then notice the Saint-Nicolas church from the 17th and the 18th centuries (baptismal funds) and the ancient convent from the Recollects.

The Corn Hall, an old half-timbered house, stands conspicuously between the homogenous and picturesque group of houses. This house was already mentioned in 1380 and was especially used as seat for judicial and administrative activities. This house dates from the 16th century, it was transformed in the 18th century and it is now in restoration.

The region is excellent for kayaking, rock climbing and hiking. Many of these activities can be arranged either here or in Barvaux just 5 km up the road, which is the administrative centre of Durbuy.

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# Eupen

## Eupen – Internet Cafes

all

### Euregio.Net

tel: 087/56.11.77

email: hubert@euregio.net

hours: Mon – Fri from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on APPOINTMENT only

Building of BRF

address: Kehrweg, 11

4700 Eupen

250 BEF /hour. On appointment ONLY

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# Gembloux

Located in the province of Namur, Gembloux is a cut town with lots of old building. Sights include the Belfry, the Benedictine Abbey and the Church.

There is an agricultural university in town so expect lots of young people and a lively atmosphere at night.

## Gembloux – Internet Cafes

all

### Cyber Euro–Dag

tel: 081/60.14.64

\$10.00/hr. Simple Solutions is a nice quiet place where everyone from business travelers to those who do not own computers can come and connect to High Speed Internet. Refreshments are free, and we have all the equipment and software available th

email: cyber.dago@gate71.be

address: 081

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# Genk

## Genk – Internet Cafes

all

### Infoweb Cybercenter

tel: 089/32.35.28

email: Every day from 14h00 till 21h00. Closed on Sundays and holidays.

hours: 3

address: netcenter@infoweb.be

url: [www.cybercenter.be](http://www.cybercenter.be)

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# Ghent

Ghent was one of the biggest cities in Western Europe at the end of the Middle Ages. Today it is the third biggest city of Belgium and one of the most beautiful ones. Nearby Bruges may be cuter, but Ghent is more of a real city, and has better museums, better nightlife and restaurants and is not that touristy.

In a unique way Ghent has managed to preserve its medieval power while keeping up with the times. The city center alone is a showcase of medieval Flemish wealth and commercial success.

The tourist will not have eyes enough to admire the awesome architectural wealth, which offers a splendid combination of impressiveness and idyllic charm of the proud and (in former times) often rebellious city of Ghent.

Modern Ghent certainly cannot be overlooked either. The city has an important port, thanks to the canal Ghent–Terneuzen which allows sea-going vessels to bring their products to the city and its industrial hinterland.

## Ghent – Museums

**all**

### **Museum for Industrial Archeology and Textile**

Dedicated to Ghent industrial heritage.

address: Minnemeers 9

tel: 09–223.59.69

url: [www.miat.be](http://www.miat.be)

### **Dr. Guislain Museum**

A museum linked to the psychiatric clinic, with exhibitions about the representation of different themes.

address: Jozef Guislainstraat 43

tel: 09–226.12.91

### **Museum of Decorative Arts and Design**

A museum dedicated to decorative styles through the ages, from the 1500's till today. Baroque, Louis XVI, Empire and Art Nouveau styles, but also modern forms like the Alessi design.

address: Jan Breydelstraat 5

tel: +32 (0)9–267 99 99

zipcode: 9000

email: [museum.design@gent.be](mailto:museum.design@gent.be)

url: [design.museum.gent.be](http://design.museum.gent.be)

**Museum of Fine Art**

address: icolaas de Liemaekereplein 3 (Citadelpark)

tel: 09-222.17.03

**Museum of Contemporary Art S.M.A.K.**

**S.M.A.K.**

Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst

address: Citadelpark

tel: 09-221.17.03

**Archeological Museum of the Bijloke**

address: Godshuizenlaan 2

tel: 09-225.11.06

**Museum of Folklore**

The title 'Museum of Folklore' may sound stuffy but the photo of the building in a Ghent guide looks highly attractive, enough to get you there. It is indeed a most interesting building, first almshouses for women and later used as a children's hospital.

The contents of the museum are far from stuffy, however. To give but two examples, there is a device for the baptism of unborn infants and a lovely black wedding dress, noting to do with mourning, with masses of beads of all sorts of bright colours laboriously sewn on. have a look at the website below and you will see more.

However if only the building appeals, it is still worth going!

address: Kraanlei 65

tel: 09- 223.13.36

url: [www.trabel.com](http://www.trabel.com)

**Schoolmuseum Michel Thiery**

address: Sint Pietersplein 14 (sidewing of St. Peter's abbey)

tel: 09-222.80.50

**Lapidary Museum (Ruins of St. Bavo's Abbey)**

address: Gandastraat 7

tel: 09-225.11.06

**Saint Peter's Abbey – Centre of Art and Culture**

address: Sint Pietersplein 9

tel: 09-222.07.62

**Museum A. Vander Haeghen**

address: Veldstraat 82

tel: 09-225.79.37

**Museum of Court Paraphernalia (Castle of the Counts)**

address: Sint-Veerleplein

tel: 09-225.93.06

**Museum for the history of Sciences**

address: Krijgslaan 281

tel: 09-09-264.49.30

**History of Education Collection**

address: Baertsoenkaai 3

tel: 09/224.02.24

**Museum of the Greater Beguinage**

address: Huis Sint Juliana 64

tel: 09-228.19.13

**Meerhem Museum**

address: Fratersplein 9

tel: 09-225.82.96

**Museum Hof van Ryhove**

address: Onderstraat  
22

tel: 09-223.99.22

**Historical Archive and Documentation Centre**

address: Klein Raamhof 8

tel: 09-225.29.03

**Museum on the history of Medicine**

address: Het Pand, Onderbergen 1 – 9000 Gent

tel: 09-223.08.32



## Ghent – Sights

all

### Graffiti Alley

If you walk around the city center, you may stumble upon a little alley (Werregarenstraat) which is completely filled with graffiti. The paintings, which can be real works of art, change every week or so, as some 20 youngsters come to express themselves in a place where nobody seems to be bothered by their splendid 'vandalism'.

address: Werregarenstraat

### Botanical Garden of the University of Gent

address: K. L. Ledeganckstraat 35

tel: 09– 264.50.73

### Botanical garden M. Thiery

address: Berouw 55

tel: 09–225.05.42

### St. Bavo

Ghent may well be the most beautiful city in Belgium and the SAINT BAVO may be the most awesome cathedral in the country. It was named after Saint Bavo, a 7th century local nobleman who became a saint after he had given away his possessions to the poor and entered the monastery. The cathedral with its mighty uprising tower is perhaps the most visible sign of the pride of the citizens of Ghent

address: St.Baafsplein

### St. Nicholas

Right in the heart of Ghent stands the Saint Nicholas church, one of the oldest churches of the city. An older version stood here until the 12th century until it burned down in 1120 and 1176. Because of their growing wealth the citizens of Ghent were able to construct a new and much bigger church. The present-day version was finished between 1220 and 1250.

The style of Saint Nicholas is the so-called 'Scheldt Gothic Style'. It differs from the later Brabantine Gothic Style because of the use of the blue-gray stone from the Tournai area.

### Castle of Gerald the Devil

Behind the Saint Bavo Cathedral one can see the 'Geeraard de Duivel Steen', or the castle of Gerald the Devil. This little castle was one of the first houses to be built in stone. According to a long-living legend, a man lived here who was called Gerald. He was nicknamed 'the devil' because he married five times. Each time, however, he killed his wife to marry another one. Hence, the devil !. It is now used by the city administration of Ghent for storage of the archives.

### The Gravensteen

Gravensteen is the Dutch name for the 'castle of the count'. The counts of Flanders had castles built in the principal cities of the county. Because they had to maintain law and order, they continuously had to move from one city to the other. Therefore, they disposed of a castle in most cities where they wanted to stay for a few months. The castle of Ghent is the only one which survived the centuries more or less intact.

The Gravensteen, like we know it today, has been constructed by Fillips of Alsasse who was count of Flanders between 1157 and 1191. He took part in one of the crusades and died during the siege of Akko in the Holy Land. The opening in the form of a cross, right above the main entrance gate, proves that he already had taken part in a crusade when the Castle was built around 1177–1178.

### **Belfry Tower**

The Belfry tower of Ghent is perhaps one of the most impressive ones in Flanders. It dominates, together with the St–Nicholas tower and the cathedral tower the medieval center of the city. The architects were Jan van Aelst and Filips van Beergine. The tower was completed in 1338, when the bells were rung for the English king Edward II. At the top corners of the towers a stone soldier on watch was placed. The only remaining original stone soldier was placed in the treasury room in 1870 to preserve the sculpture from further withering. Copies now adorn the four corners of the tower. The 'secret', or treasury room, was protected by two large doors, each with three locks. The keys of these locks were in the hands of the different guilds of Ghent. Therefore, the 'secret' could only be opened in the presence of the main representatives of these powerful leaders of the economic life of the city. In Ghent, there were always four soldiers on guard on top of the tower. Every hour, they had to blow their horns as a sign that the city was still being guarded.

The Carillon (or set of Bells) is part of the Flemish tradition of bell music. The most famous of all Flemish bells, the 'Roeland' bell, used to hang in the Belfry. Later, other and smaller bells were hung in the tower. In 1914, one of the bells was electrically tested, with a burst as a result. This bell, the 'Triomfant', can now be seen on the square next to the tower. The tower is also crowned with a gilded dragon, which was cast in Ghent in 1377.

entrancefee: 100 BEF

openings: from 10 a.m. to 12a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m

address: Sint Baafsplein

### **Town Hall**

The town hall is situated on the site where until 1482 the town representatives and guild's men met in separate houses. Because these houses were judged too small and too unrepresentative for such important people, it was decided that a new and bigger town hall had to be built. The first stone of this new hall was laid in 1482. The building was finished in 1484. Very soon, however, also this new hall was considered too small and from 1518 until 1535 a new and much bigger town hall was constructed in late–gothic style.

### **Cloth Hall**

Cloth was what made Ghent rich. Against the belfry tower stands the cloth hall of Ghent, built between 1425 and 1445. Everything in relation to the cloth trade, the main industry of Ghent, happened here. Sales contracts were signed here, the products were weighed here, etc.

### **Fish Market**

This beautiful building with its baroque facade from 1689 stands near to the old Gravensteen on the Saint Veerle square. On top of the facade thrones a statue of Neptune, king of the seas. The other two statues

represent the two rivers that flow through Ghent, the Scheldt river and the Leie river.

### **Meat Hall**

Near the Gravensteen stands the impressive meat hall, built between 1407 and 1419. The gothic building with its large step-gable facade was used in the 15th and 16th centuries as the central hall where the butchers of Ghent could sell their meat.

### **Graslei and Korenlei**

Great sight at the borders of the Leie.

## **Ghent – Internet Cafes**

**all**

### **Exact**

tel: 09/221.26.75  
address: Voskenslaan, 294  
9000 Gent

### **Jeugdhuis Lodejo**

located in Western Massachusettes,  
USA. PC based cafe.

email: lodejo@dma.be  
address: Dorp-Oost 1  
9080 Lochristi Phone: 09 355 56 77

### **The Globetrotter**

17 PC's available scan, print, email, scanning, games and surf.

always on internet connection.

Ability to connect your laptop !

price: 3 euro  
tel: 0032/(0)9269.08.60  
email: info@globetrotter.be  
hours: Open from monday till sunday, from 12H to 24H-----in the summer from 12.00 till  
20.00 and bbq for members !!!!  
Kortrijksepoortstraat 180,  
address: Gent – Oost–Vlaanderen, 9000,  
Belgium  
url: [www.globetrotter.be](http://www.globetrotter.be)

zipcode: +- 20

## Ghent – Bars and Cafes

Ghent is a city of students. If you want to go dancing with them, go to the Overpoort. In this street you have one bar next to the other. Also, the best pizza's in town are found here, in Prima Donna.

Other places that you shouldn't miss include:

ChaCha: with a dark-exotic interior in a small house in the Steendam, this is the place for wine lovers. They have great food too, although a bit pricy (around 15 euro).

Het Oeverloze Eiland: if you're in for a cup of tea served the way it should be served, this is the place to be. They have a large variety of coffee too, and the ambience is different on the three floors you can choose from. (Oudburg 39)

## Ghent – Accommodation

There is plenty of accommodation of different types in Ghent

**all**

### **Brooderie**

This is a wonderful place for B&B provided only that you don't mind using the toilets of the cafe below your room.

Rooms are huge and comfortable and the Brooderie is sited within a stone's throw of the most scenic bit of waterway in Ghent and of the castle. Breakfast in the cafe is excellent.

address: Jan Breydelstraat, 8

CostOfDoubleForANight: Modest

tel: 092 25 06 23

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**Notes:**

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# Hainaut

## Hainaut – Internet Cafes

all

### Cyber City

Friday: 11:00am to 2:00am Saturday: 3:00pm to 02am  
Sunday: 3:00pm to 11:00pm

price: Our cyber caf? is called Cyber City. Weve got a caf?, 8 linked computers  
(for  
network games) which are all connected to the Net.  
We also have a Laser Game.

tel: +32 65 40 18 19

email: Monday to Thursday: 11:00am to 11:00pm

hours: 3\$/hour for network games and 5.5\$ to get connected to the Net

address: navez@ugr.be

url: +32 65 40 18 10

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# Hasselt

## Hasselt – Internet Cafes

all

TVM

address: Maastrichterstraat  
3500 Hasselt

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# Hastiere

*Hastiere* is a rural commune located along the most romantical part of the Meuse in the Belgian Ardennes at the boarder with France . You can discover

the famous Renaissance of *Freyr* and its classical gardend facing the sperctacular rocks dominating the river on the opposite bank;

the charming old village of *Waulsort* with its formal benedictine monastery;

the *Romanesque* church of another formal benecictine monastery at hastière as well as a the groto of the *Pont d'Arcoles*.

## Hastiere – Internet Cafes

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# Hoeselt

## Hoeselt – Internet Cafes

all

C@f?.COMM

Cyber- and communication caf? with video wall, 3 internet P.C.'s, member of the Stella.cam project, connected with Vancouver and New York (URL [www.beer.com](http://www.beer.com))

price: 120Bfr/H

tel: 089/41.44.04

email: [cafecomm@hotmail.com](mailto:cafecomm@hotmail.com)

hours: Monday–Friday 16u00–03u00 Saturday–Sunday 14u00–03u00

address: Europalaan 2  
Hoeselt 3730 Belgium

url: [come.to](#)

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# Huy

Small town in the Meuse Valley

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# Jabbeke

## Jabbeke – Internet Cafes

all

ap.be

tel: 050 81 43 24

email: arta@unicall.be

address: Merelstraat 26  
8490 Jabbeke

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# Kortrijk

Kortrijk (Courtrai in English and French) is the cultural, social and economic centre of an agglomeration of more than 300,000 inhabitants. Courtrai is a city on the Leie River. Its most famous moment in history was the Battle of the Golden Spurs, when a peasant militia scored a victory against an army of heavily armed French nobility. Due to this victory Flanders became independent from the dominion of the French King Louis IX.

Courtrai was well-known for its textiles, especially its linen.

Courtrai lies at the junction of many important roads (E17, A17, A19) and railways, and can also be reached from the regional airport.

The Kortrijk University and many schools of all levels are attended by over 25,000 pupils and students.

Moreover, dynamic Kortrijk is also famous for the hospitality of its inhabitants.

## Kortrijk – Eating Out

### *Restaurant Name:*

La Dolce Vita

### *Type:*

Italian

### *Description:*

This cosy restaurant is one of the place2be's in the centre of Courtrai!

The decoration is very trendy and the food is delicious!

### *Favorite Dish:*

pizza & tagliatelli

### *Prices:*

US\$11–20

### *Comparative Price:*

about average

***Customer Satisfaction:***

Very Satisfied.

***Address:***

Stationsstraat 10

***Directions:***

In the heart of the old city: near the railway station.

***Phone:***

0032 (0)56 20 36 30

***Website:***

<http://www.proximedia.com/local/la-dolce-vita/frame.html>

## **Kortrijk – Internet Cafes**

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# Leuven

With its five hundred year old university and its open campus the city of Leuven is infused with an unmistakably student-oriented character. The place is swarming with more than 25.000 students, keen scholars and partygoers alike, the latter having taken over the longest bar in the world, as the locals have affectionately nicknamed the Old Square or Oude Markt with its selection of over 60 cafés. This university town on the banks of river Dyle is also endowed with a number of historic architectural landmarks, by far the most outstanding of which are Sint-Pieterskerk (Church of St Peter) and the imposing Stadhuis (town hall), on the Grote Markt.

## Leuven – Sights

**all**

### **Naamsestraat**

Take a stroll down Naamsestraat towards Begijnhof, the pedestrian street is lined with various old buildings which perfectly portray the history of the five hundred year old university. These include the Lakenhalle (Drapers' Hall) , which temporarily houses the rectory, and a little further, Sint-Michielskerk (Church of St Michael) featuring one of the most monumental church façades in Belgium.

### **University**

You will also come across a number of equally noteworthy colleges. Probably the most impressive of all landmarks bearing witness to the university's intellectual past is the perfectly refurbished Van Dale college.

### **Begijnhof**

Leuven's Groot Begijnhof is among the most beautiful Beguine convents in Flanders. This site, totally free of traffic, has become a walker's paradise.

### **Abdij van Park**

This magnificent architectural ensemble situated in Heverlee boasts a unique baroque church featuring a vast collection of paintings. The ceilings of its refectory and library are decorated with skilfully crafted bas-reliefs.

### **Library**

The stately university library centrally located on Ladeuzeplein is a compelling attraction for book lovers. The building is also a silent witness to the dedication of the countless contributors who helped to restore Leuven to its former splendour in the aftermath of the ravages of World War I and World War II.

## Leuven – Internet Cafes

**all**

### **Spacebar**

Cyber- &

price: 80 bef

tel: 32 16 58 26 45

email: [info@spacebar.be](mailto:info@spacebar.be)

hours: 12am – 2am

address: Naamsestraat 66  
Leuven 3000 Belgium

url: [www.spacebar.be](http://www.spacebar.be)

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# Liege

Liège, daughter of the Meuse river. Liège is called 'La cité ardente' (the fiery city). A city at the crossroads of Northern and Southern European culture. Liège is an old industrial center which faces the challenge of adapting to the 21st century.

Liège is also the city of GEORGE SIMENON (1903 – 1989), the creator of police detective MAIGRET. Simenon was a very prolific writer. His enormous literary production has been translated everywhere in the world. He wrote hundreds of novels and stories, both under his own name or under a pseudonym. In 1931 he started the series of Maigret stories. Of humble beginnings, he has become one of the most popular novelists of the 20th century.

Nowadays Liège is a rapidly changing city where old meets new. Take a walk through the old city center and discover the typical traffic-free alleys and shopping streets where terraces abound. Visit the central St. Lambert square where a new modern Liège is growing. Take a walk alongside the banks of the majestically flowing Meuse river and see Liège from a distance.

If you like local specialties you cannot leave the city without having tasted a sweet 'Gaufre de Liège' (Waffle of Liège). You will find this delicacy at every bakery and even at stands in the street.

*In courtesy of*

## Liege – History

Liege lies at the border of the river Meuse. However, the city thanks its creation to a smaller river, called the Legia. This river created a lot of sedimentation at the site where it ended in the Meuse river. The new settlement, protected by a double hill (the Publémont) on the Northwestern side, was already inhabited in the Paleolithic era. In the early Middle-Ages a small village grew on the site of a Gallo-roman villa. At the spot is now the main square of Liège, the 'Place Saint Lambert'.

Three events marked the development of the village: the murder of Saint Lambert, the decision of Saint Hubert to make Liège the capital of a new bishopric and, finally, the fact that bishop Notger received from Emperor Otto II worldly power in addition to his religious power. This changed the status of bishop Notger (and of his successors) into 'Prince-bishop', which meant that he could rule over Liège both as a bishop and a prince. Because of this, Liège quickly developed a national identity which set the entire area apart from the mighty neighbors Germany and France. The inhabitants of Liège always accentuated their neutrality towards the German Empire (to which the city actually belonged) and at the same time Liège always made clear that it belonged to the Romance language part of Europe. Frequently Liège had to defend its independence against its neighbors, such as the Duke of Brabant and the Duke of Burgundy : the destruction of the city and the mass-slaughter of its population in 1468 by Charles the bold of Burgundy is still engraved in today's national memory.

On the 30th of May 1506 a new bishop, Everhard van der Marck, took power over the city and Liège started to blossom again. Through financial donations this bishop ensured that the industry around the city started to develop. Hence, the creation of a weapon industry that profited from the introduction of new inventions such



as gun–powder and new methods to work metal. Because of this economic uprising, the arts started to flourish and in the 18th century Liège accepted the new Age of Enlightenment to its full extent.

At the end of the 18th century, however, high taxes and the abusive privileges of the clergy ensured that Liège was more than ready for the new ideas created by the French Revolution. This was also due to the fact that Liège, at heart, had always felt itself part of France, or at least part of the French identity. After the Battle of Waterloo, Belgium had been joined again with Holland. However, in 1830 a revolution broke out in Brussels against the Dutch king. The revolutionists wanted to return to France. Especially in Liège this feeling was very strong and a lot of citizens from the city went off to Brussels to fight the Dutch army. The revolution turned out much different than planned : the European super–powers (England, Austria, Russia, Prussia) opposed the idea of a bigger France. The revolutionists of Brussels and Liège had to accept the creation of a new independent state : Belgium (with Liège becoming a part of this new state) !

After the creation of the Belgian state Liège (with its metallurgic industry and coal–mines) became all through the 19th century the economic backbone of Belgium. At the moment, the economic situation of Liège has suffered from the closing of the coal–mines and the international economic competition. However, it is still now the third largest city in Belgium (400.000 inhabitants) and an economic attraction pole in the area of Maastricht – Aachen – Liège.

## Liege – Practical Information

The main tourist attractions of Liege you will find below:

**all**

### **Montagne de Bueren**

Those who are not afraid of some physical effort can take a walk up the 406 steps of the MONTAGNE DE BUEREN: the reward will be a fantastic panoramic view over the city of Liège.

According to legend, the 600 Franchimontese soldiers climbed up the hill in 1468 to take the camp of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. They were lead by the Liège patriot Bueren, who wanted to encourage his fellow citizens to take up arms against Charles the Bold who had taken the city. The whole plan failed , the 600 Franchimontese were killed and the city was plundered for 7 weeks. As a matter of fact, the adventure took place on another hill of the city. The montagne de Bueren staircase was actually only built in 1880 to allow the soldiers of the garrison on top of the hill to go down to the center without having to pass through the dangerous little alleys.

If you're still fit enough after having reached the top of the staircase, you can go a little bit higher to the terraced park from where the best panoramic photographs of Liège can be taken.

### **Tchantes**

This is the name of the most popular folklore puppet of the Outremeuse part of Liège. Legend has it that Tchantches appeared from between two stones in the ground a long time ago (in the year 760 !). As a baby he already preferred the local gin (pékèt) over the milk his mother would give him. He stars in the puppet theaters which still give performances in Liège. This good–natured, stubborn, sometimes rebellious person

symbolizes the character of the Liègeois.

### **Domaine de Blegny**

Outside of Liège is the little village of Blegny, where one can visit the grounds of a former coal-mine. The Liège area thrived on coal-mining and metallurgy in the 19th century. Now all the coal-mines are closed. In Blegny you can visit the old mine buildings, enjoy an audiovisual presentation about the history of coal-mining in Liège, and even visit the old underground mine pits with a former coal-miner as a guide.

DOMAINE DE BLEGNY

Rue Lambert Marlet, 23

4670 Blegny

PRICE: approx. 220 Belgian Francs. Blegny can be reached by bus from the Place Saint-Lambert in Liège.

## **Liege – Churches**

Liège has been an important religious center all through the ages. Even today the city boasts an impressive number of churches. Here are some of the most important ones.

**all**

### **Saint Martin's church**

Bishop Notger chose Saint Martin as the patron saint of this church from the 10th century. Saint Martin was the patron of the warriors. Hereby, Notger, accentuated the military role of the church, which was building on the old fortifications of the city. The original building was destroyed by fire in 1291, rebuilt in the 15th century, plundered by the troops of Charles the Bold and subsequently reconstructed and redecorated. It is, nevertheless, a nice example of Mosan Gothic style. The beauty of the choir is highlighted by the decorative ceiling with its many stars (1525). It was in this church that for the first time 'Sacrament's Day' was celebrated. This celebration in honour of the Holy Sacrament became an official celebration in 1264 for all Catholics after it had been recognized and approved of by Pope Urban IV.

### **Saint Bartholomew church**

This church was built by the successor of Bishop Notger. The choir dates from the 11th century, the transepts and the nave are from the 12th century. The Western façade in typical Mosan style (the style from the cities situated alongside the river Meuse) was constructed at the end of the 12th century. The church is already worth a visit for the splendid baptismal font made by Renier d'Huy, one of the seven wonders of Belgium. Other art treasures from the 17th and 18th century complete the attraction of this building.

### **Saint Paul's Cathedral**

The cathedral was founded in the 10th century but rebuilt from the 13th until the 15th century. In 1801 the church was promoted to cathedral to replace the demolished St. Lambert Cathedral.

Consequently, changes were undertaken to prepare St. Paul's for its new function. The building shows the typical elements of the Mosan Gothic style: three naves with seven bays and chapels. The entrance is on the

Northern side. On the ceiling some beautiful frescoes can be admired. They date from 1557 (renovated in 1860) and show a panoply of people, birds, arabesques and mythical animals. Saint Paul's cathedral possesses a splendid treasure with ivory artifacts from the 11th century as well as the golden relic–shrine of St. Lambert (donated by Bishop Everhard van der Marck) and a smaller relic–shrine offered by Duke Charles the Bold (probably to make up for the destruction and plundering of the city that he had ordered). Another art treasure: the marble sculpture of 'Christ in his grave' made by Delcour in 1696.

### **Saint Jacques**

SAINT JACQUES (Saint James' church)

Probably the most beautiful and most impressive church of Liège. Originally the church was meant as a stop for pilgrims on the road to Santiago the Compostella in Spain. The building offers a nice overview of the different stages in medieval architecture. There are remainders from the first Ottonian church of the 12th century. The nave and the choir show the typical late–gothic style of the 16th century. The Northern entrance has a Renaissance sculpture 'The dream of Jacob'. Inside, all the attention is drawn to the magnificent gothic vaults with their arabesques in early Renaissance style. They belong to the most beautiful on the continent. Some stained–glass windows from 1525 portray the donators (the families Van der Marck and Hornes), as well as Saint Lambert and Saint James. In a side–chapel is a beautiful gilded wooden sculpture of Our–Lady of Saint James from 1523.

## **Liege – Museums**

Liège boasts a number of very interesting museums with collections that rank among the most interesting in Belgium. Here is a selection of some of the most important museums to visit.

### **all**

#### **Museum of Walloon art**

address: En Feronstré 86, 4000 Liège

This museum focuses on the art in the Walloon provinces of Belgium (Liège, Hainaut, Namur, Luxembourg and Walloon–Brabant). The works on display date from the 16th until the 20th century. The four–story modern building of the museum with its spiraling interior reminds one of the American museums. There are works from such artists as : Lambert Lombard (Liège 1505–1566), the Liège school of the 17th and 18th century (Gérard Douffet, Bertholet Flémalle, Jean Latour, and others), Léonard Defrance (1735–1805), Nicholas de Fassin (1728–1811), Xavier Mellery, François–Joseph Navez, Constantin Meunier. Also the 20th century is adequately represented: Léon Frédéric, Paul Delvaux, René Magritte, Anne Bonnet, Bertrand, Bury, Delahaut.

#### **Other museums**

THE GLASS MUSEUM (Quai de Maastricht 16 – 4000 Liège)

MUSEUM OF PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY (Place du Vingt Août 7 – 4000 Liège)

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART (Parc de la Boverie 3 – 4020 Liège)

MUSEUM OF WALLOON LIFE AND FOLKLORE (Cours des Mineurs – 4000 Liège)

TCHANTCHES MUSEUM (Rue Surllet 56 – 4020 Liège)

### **House of the metallurgic industry**

The museum is housed in a former industrial edifice. The focus is on the industrial development of the area. There is a reconstruction of an authentic 19th century forge as well as a portrait of a 14th century steel workshop. Different ferro items (the famous zinc bathtub of Napoleon). Another section is about the evolution of 'energy-creation': (the Marly machine, the dynamo of Zenobebebebe Gramme). There is also a separate section about information technology.

### **Museum of religious art**

address: Rue Mère-Dieu – 4000 Liège

An overview of the development of religious art in the bishopric of Liège from the early Middle-Ages till modern times. There is a lot of attention for the cult of Saint-Lambert with historical and iconographic testimonies as well as objects that have a relationship to the patron saint of Liège. The museum also possesses a scale model of the destroyed Saint Lambert cathedral.

### **Museum curticus**

address: Quai de Maastricht 13, 4000 Liège

Already the house in which this museum is situated, belongs to the most remarkable buildings in Liège. It was the house of the 17th century Liège patrician Jean de Corte, more known under his Latin name 'Curtius'. The collection, together with the collection of another museum, the MUSEE d'ANSEMBOURG, gives an splendid and extensive overview of archeology and decorative arts in the Liège area from Gallo-Roman times over the Middle-Ages to the 18th century. Some examples are: the gospel book of bishop Notger (ivory and enamel – 10th and 12th century), a Madonna from Dom Rupert. Other items of the collection are: souvenirs from the history of Liège, coins, seals and medals from the old Prince-Bishopric of Liège.

### **The arms museum**

address: Quai de Maastricht 8, 4000 Liège

It is the second most important arms museum in Europe. It reminds the fact that Liège has been for a long time a center of arms trade to all parts of the world. Most arms were manufactured in the arms factories of Herstal, close to Liège. The collection is situated in a neo-classical house that was built between 1775 and 1779. During the French occupation the house was the seat of the Prefect of the 'Département de l'Ourthe'. Napoleon Bonaparte stayed in the house twice. Later, the Dutch governor stayed here. In 1858 it was bought by Pierre Joseph Lemille, an arms manufacturer and collector. After his death the city of Liège purchased the house for the arms collection. The museum possesses a total of more than 13.000 items. Only a selection is on display. It is an interesting visit for both the arms connoisseur and the curious visitor.

## **Liege – Sights**

The symbol of the city of Liège is the 'Faggot' at the 'Place du Queer'. The monument represents the Province of Liège and the city freedoms. The original Perron had been demolished by Charles the Bold of Burgundy. Mary of Burgundy, however, had it reconstructed. The present Perron, designed in 1697 by Jean Delcour,

consists of a octagonal fountain with arcades in which a column, carried by four lions, supports the Three Graces who carry a pine cone. Close to the Perron is the town hall of Liège, known as 'La Violette'.

Close to the Perron is the Place St. Lambert (Saint Lambert's square) with the most awesome building of the city : the former palace of the Prince–Bishops of Liège. It now functions as the Palace of Justice. The construction of the present palace was ordered by Prince–Bishop Everard van der Marck in 1526. The palace shows a remarkable mixture of styles. The outside was constructed in Italian Renaissance style, whereas for the interior the Gothic style was used. Especially in the inner square one can see the transition from late–gothic style to early Renaissance by looking at the large, hefty, chandelier–like columns of the side–corridors. After a visit to Liège, the French writer Victor Hugo wrote about the inner court of the palace : 'Nowhere have I seen a construction so remarkable, serious and grandiose at the same time'. The main façade which serves as entrance to the palace from St. Lambert's square was built in 1737 and shows the quintessence of the French architectural style of the 18th century. The interior decoration is still the original one and gives an overview of the decorative arts in Liège from the second half of the 16th century until the era of Louis XVI.: chimneys, Brussels wall tapestries, painted wall–paper, etc.

The entire old city center of Liège is one great collection of beautiful old private houses, most of which are built in the typical Mosan style. Especially in the old streets 'Hors Chateau' and 'Feronstré' the visitor needs eyes on his back to admire this wonderful old charm. Also in both streets one is easily drawn away from the main road by the numerous picturesque little alleys and dead end streets ('Les Impasses) where one quickly forgets that Liège is a large modern city (400.000 inhabitants).

We would like to mention one especially attractive house : the 'Musée Curtius' (the Curtius Museum). This patrician's house was build between 1600 and 1610 by the wealthy Jean de Corte, more famous under his Latin name 'Curtius'. This building is a true gem of the Mosan Renaissance style.

## Liege – Accommodation

For hotels in Liege please check out the following website:

Here you can check out the availibility of hotels and make your reservations.

Below you find a small selection of Hotels–Belgium.com. When you want to have more information about this hotels I refer to the link on this website.

**all**

**Hotel CAMPANILE \*\*\***

address: Rue Jules de Laminne

url: [www.hotels-belgium.com](http://www.hotels-belgium.com)

**Hotel Comfort Inn**

The Comfort Inn "L'UNIVERS" Hotel is close to the railway–station and near by the motorway leading to Brussels, Antwerpen, The Netherlands Germany and France.

address: Rue des Guillemins 116  
url: [www.hotels-belgium.com](http://www.hotels-belgium.com)  
**Hotel SIMENON \*\*\***

Hotel SIMENON lies in Outre-Meuse (literally "over the Meuse") the part of town that has always been known for its rebellious mind and true love of old traditions.

address: Boulevard de l'Est 16  
url: [www.hotels-belgium.com](http://www.hotels-belgium.com)

## Liege – Internet Cafes

**all**

### **Cyber Capvert Café (C.C.C.)**

tel: 04/374.00.12  
email: [capvert1@cybernet.be](mailto:capvert1@cybernet.be)  
hours: Mon – Fri from 5 p.m., Sat – Sun from 12 a.m.  
address: Avenue F. Roosevelt, 12  
4600 Visé

### **Cyber Chaos**

Great refreshments with or without high-speed Internet.

tel: 04/232.15.55  
email: [florida30@redestb.es](mailto:florida30@redestb.es)  
address: En Neuvise, 51  
4000 Liège

### **cybercafe-au-lait**

At the beginning of December 1995, the Pot-au-Lait gave birth to the Cyber Café au Lait which is located in a new room just beside the

price: 1,25 EUR per 1/2 hour  
tel: 00.32.4.221.26.52  
email: [info@potaulait.be](mailto:info@potaulait.be)  
hours: Monday to Friday: 12 am to 2 am Saturday and Sunday: 2 pm to 2 am  
address: rue Soeurs de Hasque, 9, Liège, 4000, Belgium  
url: [www.potaulait.be](http://www.potaulait.be)

### **Cyberspace**

Q-stick Cafe

661 East 24th Street

Holland, MI 49464 USA

AM

Q-stick Cafe is a family friendly billiards and Internet Cafe. Have a seat at one of our Internet connected computers while sipping your latte. Or take your shot at a game of

Sun closed

tel: 04/221.23.53

email: cyberspace@mail.interpac.be

hours: Mon – Sat from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Rue Saint-Gilles, 90b

address: 4000 Liège

Tarifs: 200frs/hour – 100frs/half

### **II-mel**

tel: 04/342.00.77

email: info@ii-mel.com

hours: Mon – Sun from 12.00

address: Rue Grétry, 77  
4020 Liège

### **L'Arobase**

tel: 04/221.23.42

hours: Mon – Sun from 6 p.m.

address: Rue de la Cité, 7  
4000 Liège

### **Liege Hostel**

Ultra Fast Internet Kiosks connected with ADSL. 1 MB transfer speed. Video e-mail. Free access to [www.Gorillaguide.com](http://www.Gorillaguide.com) The kiosk is located in the reception of the Hostel

price: 150 BEF

tel: +32 2 227 1137

email: info@ambigo.com

address: Rue Georges Simenon 2  
Liege 4020 Belgium

url: [www.ambigo.com](http://www.ambigo.com)

**Soundstation**

Sat from 12.00 a.m. to 1 a.m.

Sun from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.

tel: 04/2.321.321

email: [courrier@soundstation.be](mailto:courrier@soundstation.be)

hours: Mon – Fri from 7.30 a.m. to 1 a.m.

address: Rue Pouplin, 6  
4000 Liège

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# Louvain-la-Neuve

The biggest french speaking university in Belgium was the starting point of this new city because of the split of the university of Leuven in the sixties.

## Louvain-la-Neuve – Practical Information

<http://www.ucl.ac.be>

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# Maasmechelen

## Maasmechelen – Internet Cafes

**all**

**internetcafe**

tel: 0032-89-464036

email: open evry day:17.00 klok

hours: 1

address: menudesigner@hotmail.com

url: [themacafenewyork.com](http://themacafenewyork.com)

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# Mouscron

## Mouscron – Internet Cafes

all

### Cyber Club Internet

tel: 056/84.30.28

address: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri from 5.30 p.m. to 12 p.m.

url: [056](#)

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# Namur

Namur may not be the most attractive Belgian city but it's still a nice place to visit and an excellent base for exploring the valleys around it which are of great natural beauty.

Over the centuries Namur has been one of the main strategic points of the whole of Belgium, on account of its geographical position where the Sambre flows into the Meuse. Namur is also historical town whose foundation goes back to the Roman conquest. Unfortunately it played a role in many wars and many of its historic buildings have been destroyed over the years.

The main attraction of the city is the Citadel, but you should also take your time to discover the picturesque old quarter of Namur. Passing through its narrow streets and passageways, you will be surprised by its rich architectural history, dating mainly from the 18th Century.

## Namur – Internet Cafes

**all**

### **L'Estaminet**

tel: 081/23.14.69

email: estami3@mail.interpac.be

hours: Mon – Sat from 11 a.m. to 4 a.m., Sun closed

address: Rue Saint Nicolas, 21  
5000 Namur

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# Nieuwpoort

Nieuwpoort is a fishing harbour by the North Sea, and is very well-known for his shrimps. Nieuwpoort is the greatest belgian harbour for sailing-boats and yachts. It lies at the mouth of the river Yser. This river was during the Worldwar I and II a fighting place against the Germans.

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# Oostende

Oostende is one of the nicest beach resorts on the North Sea. With its Pier, its Casino and its Boulevard it has the grandeur of any of the resorts on the riviera. Combine that with the Belgian charm, the Moules & Frites and the great Belgian beer and you have an ideal place to spend your beach holiday.

But Oostende has more to offer than that. James Ensor's name and fame are closely linked to that of Ostende. Both his house and the Provincial Museum of Modern Art (PMMK) have very interesting exhibitions on his work and life.

If you want to get around a bit, there is a very nice streetcar running from Knokke (north of Oostende) to De Panne, near the French border. It is an ideal way of visiting some of the other charming towns along the coast.

The nightlife in the Langestraat is the best of the whole Belgian coast. There is a new Irish pub and plenty of other bars of all kinds.

In the "bosje", a large park close to the train station, you can rent bikes for free. There is also a pay-parking near the Casino in the centre of town where you can get free bikes if your car is parked there.

## Oostende – Sights

**all**

### **Napoleon Fortress**

The building of this fortress started in 1810. The fortress was constructed under orders of Napoleon. It was completed in 1814. The fortress had to protect 250 soldiers. In World War II the Germans had a command post there. It is now restored and houses exhibition rooms, a restaurant and occasionally musical performances.

email: [info@fortnapoleon.be](mailto:info@fortnapoleon.be)

address: near 'Dune and Sea' buildings

### **Promenade**

In Ostend the promenade, named after King Albert I, is the sunniest part. It would be a sin to leave Ostend without taking a walk on the traffic-free promenade. Our late King Leopold II and his family gave us the example to follow. Next to the many tearooms with terraces there is also a sandy beach. During the Summer theres a marked out area to sunbathe in, where children can play and where various sports are organized. This is known as the Lido. At the Kemmelbergstraat there is a little tower , with a clock on top. Many people make an appointment at this place, because you do not need a watch and it is a well known landmark. A little bit further along you pass by the Drie Gapers (the three yawners), an arcade with three arches . Further on you can take a walk in the Oostendse Gaanderijen and pass by the Royal Villa, built by our late King Leopold I.

### **Mercator marine**

You cannot miss it arriving at Ostend. The Mercator Yacht Harbour not only houses the three masted sailing ship Mercator, it also contains many yachts. It is nice to take a walk among the pride of many seaman. More than 300 berths are available.

### **Fish market**

Just outside of town you will find the fish market. Here the fishing fleet of Ostend hold their fish auctions. Certainly worth a visit.

### **Leopold-park**

5 hectares. Centrally situated in the middle of town. The park was constructed in 1870. The famous flower clock is situated at the edge of the park. In the middle of the park there is a kiosk from the 19th century.

### **Maria-Hendrikapark**

45 hectares of traffic free park, at the edge of Ostend. Next to footpaths, jogging circuits, fishponds, rowing boats, watercycles and a playground, you can also enjoy yourself playing miniature golf. The park is called tbosje (The wood) in Ostend.

### **Wellington racecourse**

Named after the Duke of Wellington. Trotting races and gallop races take place daily during the Summer. Many gamblers spend a good deal of money at the races. Each year we have The Night of the Horse. The racecourse is used for other activities as well. In 1997 the Belgian concert of Michael Jackson took place on this racecourse.

### **Stene**

Stene at the edge of Ostend, is a picturesque village. There are many restaurants here. Stene is known for its annual horse-blessing, its windmill, the Christmas-market and many other activities.

### **The Pier – (oosterstaketsel)**

Not to miss, a walk along the Pier of Ostend, where you can take, as it were, a walk above the sea. After a refreshing walk, there is the possibility to enjoy a drink on the terrace at the end of the pier.

### **The Little Beach**

A small beach, situated between the Zeeliedenplein and the harbour mouth. On the square you will find a monument dedicated to the seamen. (1953 Willy Kreits). Each year many Ostend fishermen and naval war veterans pay homage to all the "seamen lost at sea".

### **Fishermen's quay – 'De Trap '**

When you come to Ostend you must visit the Fishermens Quay. In the morning you can attend the homecoming of the shrimping boats. This is the best place to go to if you want to learn the dialect of Ostend. The most delicious shrimps and many other kinds of fish are offered for sale in typical fish stands. Along the quay many stands sell lots of seafood.

### **Europa-building 'Europacentrum '**

This building (100m high) is the highest along the European coast. On the 34th floor there is a café, which offers you next to a drink or a snack a panoramic view. An ultra-quick lift brings you to the 34th floor in just a few seconds. When the weather is clear, you can see Bruges, the Flemish inland and lots more from the terrace. At the moment though this cafeteria is not open to the public.



## Oostende – Museums

**all**

### **P.M.M.K. Museum of modern art.**

This museum presents a collection of paintings , sculptures and objects , which give you an almost complete picture of modern art in Belgium since the beginning, until the present day. The museum is situated in an old warehouse, S.E.O.; designed by the architect Gaston Eysselinck in the Romestraat.

address: Romestraat 11

url: [www.pmmk.be](http://www.pmmk.be)

tel: +32 (0) 59 / 50 81 18

### **Schooner Mercator**

A former Belgian training ship of the Belgian Merchant Navy , which transported the remains of Father Damian. A Schooner which kept her authentic interior and which has been restored as a nautical museum.

address: Vindictivelaan (across city hall)

url: [www.oostende.be](http://www.oostende.be)

### **North Sea Aquarium**

Flora and fauna from the North Sea. Next to a collection of shells and seaweed you can admire the aquariums with fish, crustaceans and shellfish from the North Sea. The aquarium is situated on the Fishermens Quay, close to the pier, between the fisher boats.

zipcode: 8400

### **Museum of local history « De Plate »**

At this moment , the museum is situated in the Feest– en Kultuurpaleis on the main market place, but soon it will be moved to the Langestraat. Here you can find a collection of objects from de Neolithic and the Roman times. Next to many photographs , posters and pictures from the 19th century there is a maritime section, a Belle–Epoque section and a section from the First and Second World Wars.

### **Museum of Fine Arts**

Among the different works of art from Ostend such as Ensor, Permeke, Spilliaert, Finch, De Clerck, etc.. theres a large variety of works from Belgian masters from 1830 until 1914.

address: Feest– en Kultuurpaleis, Wapenplein

### **James Ensor House**

Home and studio of James Ensor situated in the Vlaanderenstraat 27. On the ground floor you will find a collection of shells and souvenirs from his aunt and his uncle. On the first floor there is a documentation room and an exhibition room. On the second floor you can visit the painters original sitting room and studio.

address: Vlaanderenstraat 27

### **Prince Charles Memorial – Domain Raversijde The Atlantic Wall museum**

Situated at the Duinenweg at Raversijde there is the Prince Charles Memorial. Next to the museum, in honor of Prince Charles (1903 – 1983), Count of Flanders and Regent of Belgium ( 1944 – 1950), you can visit the excavation of a fishermen s village from the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries. Outdoors you have bunkers, underground trenches, remains of German coastal batteries , observation posts and artillery . This domain must be visited accompanied by a guide.

address: Duinenweg

### **Museum Sint–Pieterstoren**

A private museum, situated in the tower of the Saint– Pieters Church. The main body of the church burned down in 1896. You can find the museum on the Léandre Vilainplein. History of the old Saint–Pieters Church with a collection of models, photographs and other documents. A stair case with 74 steps brings you to the top where you can have a panoramic view all over the town.

address: Vilainplein

### **Museum of Religious Arts**

address: Sint Sebastiaanstraat.

## **Oostende – Internet Cafes**

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# Roeselare

## Roeselare – Internet Cafes

all

### Patricks Pub

Very cosy bar.

price: This is a private bar and one is supposed to ring to enter.  
tel: +32 475 464234  
email: Every day from 18 –03 hrs, except on Wednesday  
hours: free  
address: Patricks.pub@telenet.be  
url: [www.patrickspub.tk](http://www.patrickspub.tk)

### Patricks Pub

This is a small bar, you are supposed to ring to enter.

price: free as for now  
tel: +32 475 464234  
email: Patrickspub@telenet.be  
hours: Every day from 18.00 hrs till 03.00 hrs except on Wednesday!  
St Jorisstraat 25,  
address: Roeselare, 8800,  
Belgium  
url: [patrickspub.tk](http://patrickspub.tk)  
zipcode: 8800

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# Sint-Niklaas

## Sint-Niklaas – Internet Cafes

all

Netscaf?

price: Wed, Thu, Sat from 11.30 a.m. to 2 p.m, Fri from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
Sun closed  
email: netscafe@belgonet.be  
hours: Mon from 1.30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Tue from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.,  
address: Mercatorstraat, 154  
9100 Sint-Niklaas

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# Sint-Truiden

## Sint-Truiden – Internet Cafes

all

**Het Nieuwscaf?**

tel: 011/69.51.89

url: 011

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# Soignies

## Soignies – Internet Cafes

all

### Hardware Caf?

email: Mon – Fri from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

hours: Sat – Sun from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m.

address: [hoss.co1@skynet.be](mailto:hoss.co1@skynet.be)

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# Tongeren

## Tongeren – Internet Cafes

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### Cyberdome

tel: 012/39.02.53

Dijk 111

address: 3700

Tongeren

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# Tournai

Located on the Scheld River 10 km from the French Border, Tournai is one of the oldest cities in Belgium, established by the Romans on the road from Cologne to France. The Franks of Merovingian dynasty chose Tournai as the seat of their kingdom for a time in the 5th century: Chlodewetch (who aquired the more familiar nickname Clovis from storytellers centuries after he died), was born there. Our Lady's Cathedral of Tournai is one of the most spectacular churches in Belgium. Another famous native of Tournai is Flemish master painter Roger de la Pasture, better known as Rogier van der Weyden.

Barry, Beclers, Blandain, Chercq, Ere, Esplechin, Froidmont, Froyennes, Gaurain–Ramecroix, Havinnes, Hertain, Kain, Lamain, Marquain, Mauldem, Melles, Mont–Saint–Aubert, Mourcourt, Orcq, Quartes, Ramegnies–Chin, Rumillies, Saint–Maur, Templeuve, Thimougies, Vaulx–lez–Tournai, Vezon, Warchin, and Willemeau are all are boroughs within the municipal district of Tournai.

## Tournai – Internet Cafes

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# Veurne

Veurne , 6 km from the Belgian Coast in the Westhoek near the french border, is a very old, charming little town in the Polders landscape. A famous inhabitant of Veurne was the surrealist painter Paul Delvaux (1897–1994). Veurne is also well-known for his annual Procession of Penitence which is organized by the Sodality since 1644 on the last sunday of July.

The city of Veurne exist of the following boroughs:

Avekapelle, Beauvoorde (Vinkem and Wulveringem), Booitshoeke, Bulskamp, De Moeren, Eggewaartskapelle, Houtem, Steenkerke, Veurne, Zoutenaai.

## Veurne – Sights

Zoutenaai

This village was the smallest independant place in Belgium until 17/4/71 when it was absorbed by the town of VEURNE. It had only 28 inhabitants and a surface of 207 ha. There was even a mayor and a council. And they had a escutcheon of their own.

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# Beauvoorde

Beauvoorde, one of the small places in Veurne with a beautiful Castle to visit.

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# Vielsam

## Vielsam – Internet Cafes

all

### Cyber-ferme

tel: Ottr?, 75  
6690 Vielsam  
Why Bother) as well as croissant  
sandwiches, pizza, bagels, cookies to munch on. Services include networked  
address: games, scanning, printing, faxing, file downloads to floppy, Zip, or CD-ROM  
Disks. Also, original mugs and T-shirts.  
url: [080](#)

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# Waterloo

## Waterloo – Internet Cafes

all

### Blue Cyber

Unique, Youth's House of Waterloo  
tel: Rue Th?ophile Delbar, 18  
1410 Waterloo

Located inside the Prudential Center (next to Sheraton,  
Hynes convention center), Downtown Boston. Full service High Speed Internet  
email: Cart. Top of the line machines, Windows XP, Office, IM, AOL, IE, Lap top access,  
Digital camera uploads (Smart med

url: 02 354 01 38

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# Ypres

Ypres (locally: Ieper) is a small cosy town in Western Flanders, Belgium's coastal region. Its roots are back in the early middle ages. In those days, Ypres lived from its sheet-weaving industry. The trade was mainly with France, London, Italian States, and also up north with the Hanze. As the wealth was amounting quickly, the inhabitants raised some very impressing buildings, such as the cathedral. In the end of the 18th century, Flanders and Ieper were under French rule. Their famous architect Vauban designed the impressing fortifications, still in place today.

In the first world war, Ypres was just 8 km away from the frontline, within shooting range of the german canons. The whole town was completely destroyed, all old buildings where truly gone. It is said that a man on a horse could oversee the entire city ! Around Ypres, there are a lot of British, Canadian, Belgian, German, French, Australian,... war cemeteries. During the 1920's, the town was reconstructed in the original style. So today, it is like a living museum. At Menin's gate, there is a monument with thousands of names of commonwealth soldiers, still missed today... Every night at eight, there is still a short moment of honour for all those fallen in the Great War.

Ieper is easy to travel to by train, motorway... and has over 10 hotels.

Make sure you don't miss out Ieper on your trip through Belgium !

## Ypres – Getting Around

There is a train to and from Brussels and Kortrijk every hour. Only local busses serve Ypres,

by Jeroen Nuytten, 13th of may, 04

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# Hill 62

A memorial place for the first world war. The bombraters and trenches are preserved. This 'Sanctuary Wood' can be a place for meditating the real world of the war, after the high-tech musea of Ieper ( [Ypres](#)).

(adress: Canadalaan 26, Zillebeke)

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