

# **World66's guide to Brussels**

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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

concerthalls. It is easy 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.

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#### 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 countrys 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 boys 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 pigs 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 mene 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 grimmer 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 .**

..

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.

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**Notes:**

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