

# BRUSSELS CITY GUIDE



Produced by  
SHAPE HIVE  
For  
HIVE Support Team

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Tourist Information	4
Travel Information	5
Museums	6 - 7
Sights & Attractions	8 - 9
Art Nouveau	10
Shopping	11
Places to Stay	12
Food & Drink	13

Brussels is not only the Capital of Belgium but also of Europe. It is one of the most International cities in the world and is officially bilingual, with both French and Flemish being spoken.

### **Tourist Information**

Brussels International  
Grand Place

[www.brusselsinternational.be](http://www.brusselsinternational.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2513 8940

Mon - Sat 0900 - 1800hrs (open on Sundays in the summer)

1000 -1400hrs in the winter.

This is Brussels main city tourist office located inside the town hall. It sells discount booklets and the Brussels card (see below).

BIP

Rue Royal 2-4

[www.biponline.be](http://www.biponline.be)

Tel: 0032 (0) 2548 0458

1000 - 1800hrs

The official Brussels region tourist office. It also sells the Brussels card. (See below).

Espace wallonie-Bruxelles

Situated in the arrivals hall at Brussels Airport.

[www.belgique-tourisme.net](http://www.belgique-tourisme.net)

Tel: 0032 (0) 2504 0200

0800 – 1900hrs

Use-It

Rue de l'Ecuyer

[www.use-it.be](http://www.use-it.be)

Tel: 0032 (0) 2725 5275

Tue – Fri 0900 – 12.30 & 1300 – 1800hrs

Sat 1300 – 1700hrs

Free guide maps full of local tips. Copies are available from a door dispenser when the office is closed and also by download.

The Brussels Card

[www.brusselscard.be](http://www.brusselscard.be)

The card gives you entrance into 30 major museums and free city transport on the metro, tram and bus STIB. It is available in 24hrs (€20), 48hrs (€28) or 72hrs (€33). It also provides discounts for other attractions, some shops and restaurants.

Buying online saves €1 on the price.

The Must of Brussels

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

A booklet with 10 vouchers that can be exchanged for entry into many museums and attractions. It costs €18 for 10 vouchers and can be purchased from Tourist Information at the Grand Place.

## **Travel Information**

Brussels has an integrated bus, tram and metro system. Tickets can be bought at metro stations and most newsagents. You will need to get your ticket stamped before travelling at the machines at the entrances to the metro stations or inside the buses and trams. You can buy various ticket options including five or ten journey tickets and a two person weekend ticket. Children under 6 travel for free when with an adult with a valid ticket (maximum of 4 children per adult). Trams and buses only stop on request.

Maps, timetables and more details on how to use the system can be found at [www.stib.be](http://www.stib.be)

The Brussels card entitles you to free travel on city transport. Please see the Tourist Information on page 4 for more details on this card.  
[www.brusselcard.be](http://www.brusselcard.be)

### **Metro**

The Metro has 4 lines and trains travel every 10 – 15 minutes. There are over 60 works of art on the platforms and corridors of the stations including a life sized mural of Tintin and friends at Stockel Station. Please check how close the recommended station is to your chosen destination as sometimes they can be some distance away.

### **Bicycle**

There are some bike paths that are separated from the traffic. Maps and information can be found at [www.bicycle.irisnet.be](http://www.bicycle.irisnet.be)

Villo is a system of automated stations for short term bike hire. You need to subscribe which can be daily (€1.50), weekly (€7) or for a year (€30) and then you are charged depending on the time you choose, either 30mins (free), 60mins (€0.50), 90mins (€1.50) or 120mins €3.50. The idea is use a bike from one of the Villo stations, when you get to your destination you return the bike to the nearest station and then take a new one when you continue your journey.

For more information and a map of the stations visit [www.villo.be](http://www.villo.be)

### **Car**

The Ring Road can get very busy but once in Brussels there are many car parks and on street parking at meters.

A list of car parks can be found at [www.brussels.be](http://www.brussels.be)

## **Museums**

Most museums are closed on Mondays. Please check the websites for more information on opening hours.

### Museum of Natural Science

Visit the new gallery housing the largest dinosaur exhibition in Europe; this is an extremely interactive museum. Please bear in mind that the nearest Metro station is quite some walk away so it may be best to drive and use the car park although this can get full in the afternoons.

[www.naturalsciences.be](http://www.naturalsciences.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2627 4238

Rue Vautier 29

1000 Brussels

Tue - Fri 09.30 – 16.45hrs

Sat & Sun 10.00 – 18.00hrs

### Scientastic

Explore 80 scientific experiences and interactive discoveries.

[www.scientastic.be](http://www.scientastic.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2732 1336

Level 1 of Bourse tram and metro station.

Boulevard Anspach

1000 Brussels

Mon, Tues, Thurs, 10.30 - 17.30hrs

Wed, Sat, Sun

### Royal Museum of Army and Military History

This is one of the world's largest military museums housing over 100,000 items dating from the Middle Ages through to the present day.

Entry is free.

[www.klm\\_mra.be](http://www.klm_mra.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2737 7807

Parc du Cinquantenaire 3

1000 Brussels

Tues - Sun 09.00 - 12.00hrs & 13.00 - 16.45hrs

### Children's Museum

Based in a mansion this museum gives children the opportunity to become a magician, be the hero of a fairy tale, build a flying machine, pilot a bathyscaphe and to discover their own talents. It is aimed at children from 4 to 12 years of age.

[www.museedesenfants.be](http://www.museedesenfants.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2640 0107

Rue du Bourgmestre 15

1050 Brussels

Wed, Sat & Sun 14.30 -17.00hrs.

School holidays Mon - Sun 14.30 - 17.00hrs

Please check the website for further details on opening hours.

### Aquarium museum

This museum has 47 aquariums featuring species from every continent, some of which no longer exist in their natural habitat.

[www.aquariologie.be](http://www.aquariologie.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)24140209

Avenue Emile Bossaert 27

1081 Brussels

Sat & Sun 10.00 - 18.00hrs

Tue - Fri 12.00 - 18.00hrs  
School holidays Tue - Fri 10.00 - 18.00hrs

#### Museum of Cocoa and Chocolate

Learn everything about the origins and arrival of cocoa and chocolate in Europe plus demonstrations by a master chocolate-maker.

[www.mucc.be](http://www.mucc.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2514 2048

Rue de la Tete d'Or 9/11

1000 Brussels

Tue - Sun 10.00 - 16.30hrs

Open every day during July and August.

#### The Beer Museum of Schaerbeek

This small museum is located in the workshops of an old school. Learn the history and all the steps of beer production. A tasting of Schaerbeek beer is included in the admission price.

<http://users.skynet.be/museedelabiere>

Tel: 0032 (0)2241 5627

Avenue Louis Bertrand 33

1030 Brussels

Wed & Sat 14.00 - 18.00hrs

#### Belgian Brewers Museum

Discover the brewing equipment used in the 18th century and in complete contrast the new, hi-tech brewing centre. At the end of the tour you can taste the beer.

[www.beerparadise.be](http://www.beerparadise.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2511 4987

Maison des Brasseurs

Grand-Place 10,

1000 Brussels

Open everyday 10.00 - 17.00hrs

#### The Belgian Comic Strip Centre

Housed in an Art nouveau masterpiece designed by Victor Horta, this museum has everything relating to the comic strip from its origins up to the latest developments. It has the world's largest collection of comic strips with more than 30,000 volumes, a book shop and library. The reading room next to the library allows everyone to read comics to their hearts content.

[www.cbbd.be](http://www.cbbd.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2219 1980

Rue des Sables 20

1000 Brussels

Tue - Sun 10.00 - 18.00hrs

#### Royal Museum of Art and History

Housing materials and artefacts from various civilisations.

[www.kmkg-mrah.be](http://www.kmkg-mrah.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2741 7211

Parc du Cinquantenaire 10

1000 Brussels

Tue - Fri 09.30 - 17.00hrs

Sat & Sun 10.00 - 17.00hrs

#### Museum of Modern Art

With paintings, sculpture and drawings from the end of the 18th century to the modern period.

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

Tel: 0032 (0)2508 3211

Royal Museum of Fine Arts,

Place Royale 3

1000 Brussels

### **Sights & Other Attraction**

#### Atomium

Built for the Brussels world fair in 1958, it stands 102m high and consists of 9 metallic balls linked by steel columns containing escalators and lifts.\_

[www.atomium.be](http://www.atomium.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2475 4777

Square de l'Atomium

It also has a panoramic restaurant called Belgium Taste In The sky.

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

#### The European Parliament

Visitors can sit in on parliamentary sessions or take the audio –guided tour.

[www.europarl.eu.int](http://www.europarl.eu.int)

Tel: 0032 (0)2284 3457

Visitor's Centre - Rue Wietrz 43

Mon - Thurs 10.00 - 15.00hrs

Fri - 10.00hrs.

#### Autoworld

One of Europe's biggest displays of vintage and 20<sup>th</sup> century cars.

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

Tel: 0032 (0)2736 4165

Parc du Cinquanteaire 11

1000 Brussels

From April - September - 10.00 - 18.00hrs

October - March - 10.00 - 17.00hrs

#### Mini Europe

350 models and sites that take you on a whistle-stop tour of Europe! Some of the models are interactive.

[www.minieurope.eu](http://www.minieurope.eu)

Tel: 0032 (0)2474 1313

Bruparck

1020 Brussels

Opening hours vary depending on the time of year. On some Saturday nights during July and August it stays open until midnight with firework displays at 22.30hrs.

Please see the website for more details on opening times.

#### Oceade

A subtropical water park with indoor and outdoor pools, 12 waterslides, a wave machine, sauna land, bounty raft and much more.

[www.oceade.be](http://www.oceade.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2478 4320

Bruparck

1020 Brussels

Wed – Fri – 10.00 – 18.00hrs

Sat, Sun and bank holidays – 10.00 – 21.00hrs

#### The Cathedrale des St Michel and Gudule

Construction of this Cathedral started in 1226 and took 300 years to complete.

[www.cathedralestmichel.be](http://www.cathedralestmichel.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2217 8345

Parvis Sainte-Gudule

Mon – Fri – 07.00 – 18.00hrs

Sat 08.30 – 15.30hrs  
Sun – From 14.00hrs

#### Cathedral Treasure:

Mon – Fri 10.00 – 12.30 & 14.00 – 17.00hrs  
Sat – 10.00 – 12.30 & 14.00 – 15.00hrs  
Sun – 14.00 – 17.00hrs

#### The National Basilica

The world's fifth largest church and also the world's largest art deco building. There is a lift to the 53m high panorama balcony. (€4)

It houses the Museum of the black sisters (open Wednesday 14.00 – 16.00hrs) and the Museum of religious modern art (open Thurs & Fri 14.00 – 16.00hrs)

[www.basilique.be](http://www.basilique.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2421 1669

Parvis de la Basilique 1

1083 Brussels

May – Sept – 09.00 – 17.00hrs

Oct – April – 10.00 – 16.00hrs

#### Comic Strip Murals

There are over 40 comic-strip murals throughout the old city centre. Most are mapped on [http://www.bruxelles-tourisme.be/contenus/mural\\_paintings\\_comic\\_strips\\_/en/362.html](http://www.bruxelles-tourisme.be/contenus/mural_paintings_comic_strips_/en/362.html) and there is also a link on this website to the Tintin route. A detailed brochure is available from the Brussels International tourist information in the Grand Place.

Just a few highlights are:

Tintin – Rue l'Etuve

Le Chat – Blvd du Midi

Herge's Peeping Policeman – Rue Haute.

#### Manneken Pis

This bronze fountain statue of a little boy has become a national symbol for Belgium. He has been given numerous costumes and now has over 740 outfits, some of which can be seen in the Maison du Roi which is opposite. He has been kidnapped several times and hasn't always been recovered! You can find him on the corner of Rue de l'Etuve & Rue du Chene.

#### Galleries St-Hubert

This covered gallery which houses shops (including many chocolate shops and cafes) was opened in 1847 by King Leopold 1 and formed Europe's first shopping arcade. The glass roof is 18m high and the galleries are split into 2, the Galerie du Roi (King's arcade) and Galerie de la Reine (Queen's arcade).

Rue du Marche-aux-Herbes

1000 Brussels

#### Carpet of Flowers

The first carpet of flowers was laid on the Grand Place in 1971. Every 2 years, on the weekend of 15th August, a different carpet is created, made up of approx 800,000 begonias grown in the region of Gent. The next event is in 2012.

[www.flowercarpet.be](http://www.flowercarpet.be)

#### National Botanical Garden of Belgium

Situated 12km north of Brussels, just off the ring road. It has 93 hectares and based around 2 lakes. It includes Kasteel Van Boechout, a moated castle that Leopold II gave to his sister. There are 13 connecting green houses, a herb garden, an outdoor medicinal garden and a café and shop.

[www.botanicgarden.be](http://www.botanicgarden.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)22600920

Domein van Boechout,

Meise

## **Art Nouveau**

Brussels excels in Art Nouveau architecture. Some of the best examples include:

### Maison Cauchie

Known as Brussels' greatest art nouveau gem with a 1905 façade adorned with stylised female figures.

[www.cauchie.be](http://www.cauchie.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2733 8684

Rue des Francs 5

### Old England building

Built in 1899 this former department store now houses the Musical Instrument Museum.

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

Tel: 0032 (0)2545 0130

Rue Montagne de la Cour 2

### Café Falstaff

The interior of this café was designed by Horta disciple Houbion

Rue Henri Mau's 17.

### Musee Horta

These 2 adjoining houses, built between 1898 and 1901, were designed by Victor Horta who also lived there until 1919. The exterior has distinctive dome ironwork and the interior is extremely impressive.

[www.hortamuseum.be](http://www.hortamuseum.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2543 0490

Rue Americaine 25

Tue - Sun 14.00 - 17.30hrs

Art nouveau tours are offered by Aura tours, either walking or by bus. Visit [www.arau.org](http://www.arau.org) for more details.

## **Shopping**

Generally speaking shops are open from Monday - Saturday 10.00 -18.00hrs.

### Rue Neuve

This is the main shopping street where you will find high street brands and large stores. At the north end is the City 2 shopping centre which has department stores.

### The Grand Place

Touristy shops selling chocolate and lace.

### Rue Antoine Dasaert

Designer shops and boutiques

### Galleries St-Hubert

Chocolate shops

### Sablon Area

Art, antiques and interior design.

### Rue de Namur, Poter de Namur

Shoes, clothes, accessories and interior design.

## **Chocolate Shops**

### Mary

Supplier of pralines to the Belgium Royal family.

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

Rue Royale 73

### Pierre Marcolini

[www.marcolini.be](http://www.marcolini.be)

Place du Grand Sablon 39

### Planete Chocolat

At 16.00hrs on Saturday and Sunday there is a praline making demonstration and a chance to make your own chocolates.

[www.planetechocolate.be](http://www.planetechocolate.be)

Rue du Lombard 24

### Neuhaus

Established in 1857 and situated in the Galerie de la Reine

[www.neuhaus.be](http://www.neuhaus.be)

## **Places to Stay**

Hotel bookings and information are available at the BIP tourist Information office. (See page 4)

The Brussels International website contains a hotel search tool that enables you to check availability and find the lowest rates by scanning multiple hotel reservation websites.

[www.brusselsinternational.be](http://www.brusselsinternational.be)

Bed and Breakfast

[www.bnb-brussels.be](http://www.bnb-brussels.be)

[www.bedandbreakfast.eu](http://www.bedandbreakfast.eu)

[www.bedandbreakfastrooms.com/Europe/Belgium](http://www.bedandbreakfastrooms.com/Europe/Belgium)

Camping

This campsite in central Brussels is only open in the summer.

Camping Bruxelles-Europe a Ciel Ouvert

Tel: 0032 (0)2640 7967

Chase de Wavre

Useful websites:

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

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

[www.hotels.nl/brussel/](http://www.hotels.nl/brussel/)

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

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

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

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

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

## **Eating & Drinking**

Some useful websites which enable you search for places to eat are:

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

[www.deltaweb.be](http://www.deltaweb.be)

The following are just a few examples of the many and varied places to eat and drink in Brussels.

Chez Leon

Serving the famous “Mussels from Brussels” on the photogenic Rue des Bouchers.

[www.chezleon.be](http://www.chezleon.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2513 0426

Rue des Bouchers.

Comme Chez Soi

Michelin-starred restaurant which needs advance booking.

[www.commechezsoi.be](http://www.commechezsoi.be)

Place Roupe 23

L'Ogenblik

Historic bistro-restaurant with sawdust floors, close packed tables and plenty of atmosphere.

[www.ogenblik.be](http://www.ogenblik.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2511 6151

Galerie des Princes 1

Ricotta & Parmesan

Italian food served in an atmospheric Restaurant.

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

Tel: 0032 (0)2502 8082

Rue de l'Ecuyer 31

Mystical

Late night restaurant serving grills, mussels and kangaroo.

[www.mysticalresto.be](http://www.mysticalresto.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2512 1111

Rue des Eperonniers 57

Delirium Café

Over 2000 world beers and live music from 22.15hrs

[www.deliriumcafe.be](http://www.deliriumcafe.be)

Tel: 0032 (0)2511 3601

Impasse de la Fidelite

Le Cercueil

Coffins for tables and mainly lit by UV

Rue des Harengs 10 - 12

Goupil le Fol

Rambling passage-ways, old sofas and fruit flavoured wines (no beer)

Rue de la Violette 22

### **Useful Websites**

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

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

[www.brussels.info](http://www.brussels.info)

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

[www.brusselsinternational.be](http://www.brusselsinternational.be)

[www.biponline.be](http://www.biponline.be)

[www.brusselscard.be](http://www.brusselscard.be)

[www.stib.be](http://www.stib.be)

### **Notes**

We make every effort to ensure that our information is current and correct. Your help is invaluable in keeping our records up to date by informing us of any changes to our handouts, by sharing any additional information, which may be of interest to others.



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