MINI
GUIDE TO BRUSSELS

HALLO! BONJOUR!

Brussels

BELGIUM

UNICA
Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

BRUSSELS

CITY GUIDE

Country	**Belgium**	Time Zone	**CEST**
Population	**1.175 million**	Climate	**Sub-Oceanic**
Area	**32.61 km**	Mayor	**Philippe Close**

TOP REASONS TO VISIT THE CAPITAL OF EUROPE

Brussels has an Eurocrat rep but dig a little deeper and you'll find an urban playground of medieval architecture, surreal public art and lovely green spots. Explore the best of Belgium's capital with this perfectly planned guide.

Architecture

Belgium is famous for its Art Nouveau architecture from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.Victor Horta is Brussels' undisputed father of Art Nouveau.

Beers

Notorious for its micro-breweries and creativity, Brussels is the ideal destination for any beer lover. In 2018, there were approximately 304 active breweries in Belgium

Food

Get ready for delicious ride! Here's a taste: Pommes Frites · Moules-frites · Chicons au gratin · Belgian Meatballs · Vol-au-vent · Carbonade flamande · Stoemp.

Green Spaces

Brussels is greener than you may think, with over 8,000 hectares of green spaces. They take the form of parks, woodland, among other things, covering half the Region in total.

The Arts

Belgium's long and rich cultural and artistic heritage is epitomized in the paintings of Pieter Bruegel, , Jan van Eyck, Hans Memling, Peter Paul Rubens, and René Magritte.

Bande Dessinée

Brussels is where Tintin, Spirou and the Smurfs grew up. You'll find comic strips famous characters across the city. A delight for the eyes!

FUN FACTS

Brussels' International Airport is the world's largest chocolate selling point

Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert in Brussels are the oldest shopping arcades in Europe

There are three official languages in Belgium: French, Dutch, and German.

Brussels has 138 restaurants per square mile.

POINTS OF INTEREST

Grand-Place of Brussels

The Grand-Place is the central square of the City of Brussels. All over the world it is known for its decorative and aesthetic wealth. The Grand-Place is surrounded by the guild houses, the City Hall and the Maison du Roi.

The Grand-Place is considered as one of the most beautiful places of the world. The Grand-Place of Brussels was registered on the World Heritage List of the UNESCO in 1998.

Mannekin Pis

Manneken Pis is a landmark 61 cm bronze fountain sculpture of a puer mingens in central Brussels, depicting a naked little boy urinating into the fountain's basin. It was designed by Jérôme Duquesnoy the Elder, and put in place in 1618 or 1619. The current statute is a replica which dates from 1965.

Legend tells a young boy was awoken by a fire and was able to put out the fire with his urine. In the end, this helped stop the king's castle from burning down

Monts des Arts

The Mont des Arts or Kunstberg, meaning "Hill/Mount of the Arts", is an urban complex and historic site in central Brussels, Belgium, including the Royal Library of Belgium, the National Archives of Belgium, the Square – Brussels Meeting Centre, and a public garden.

The Mont des Arts offers one of Brussels' finest views.

Parc + Palais de Bruxelles

The Parc de Bruxelles (Brussels Park) is also known as the Royal Park. It is the largest urban park in the center of Brussels: not comparable in size to Hyde Park in London nor Central Park in New York, but it is where many Belgians and foreigners go to relax and go for a stroll. During the Middle Ages, the Dukes of Brabant used this land as hunting grounds until 1770 when the area was renovated and transformed into a park full of sculptures, fountains and footpaths.

The Brussels Park is bounded by the Royal Palace (on the south side)

POINTS OF INTEREST

Notre Dame du Sablon

The Church of Our Blessed Lady of the Sablon is a Roman Catholic church from the 15th century located in the Sablon/Zavel district in the historic centre of Brussels, which was patronised by the nobility and wealthy citizens of Brussels.

Notre Dame du Sablon is a remarkable Late Gothic church, founded during the fifteenth century, although on the same site there was once a small chapel founded in 1304 and commissioned by the archers of the city.

Atomium

The Atomium is a landmark building in Brussels, originally constructed for the 1958 Brussels World's Fair. It is located on the Heysel/Heizel Plateau in Laeken, where the exhibition took place. It is now a museum. Designed by the engineer André Waterkeyn and architects André and Jean Polak, it stands 102 metres tall.

The construction of the Atomium was a technical feat. Of the nine spheres, six are accessible to the public, each with two main floors and a lower floor reserved for service. Tubes of 3 metres (10 ft) diameter connect the spheres along the 12 edges of the cube and all eight vertices to the centre.

Saint Catherine

Located very close to the Grand-Place, the Dansaert - Sainte Catherine neighbourhood is a lively district that hosts many designer stores. Discover the area through its cultural activities, including a café in a typical Brussels bar and end your day with a jazz concert.

St Catherine neighborhood is centrally located, equally popular with locals and tourists. Fish Market area is known for great restaurants and is especially popular during summer months when Brusseleirs and tourists stroll around cafe bars and fountains near St Catherine's church.

Choco Story

TSmall museum featuring chocolate-related exhibits & live demonstrations with a master chocolatier.

The museum dips its visitors in the history of cocoa and chocolate. From the Maya and the Spanish conquistadores to the chocolate connoisseurs of today. https://choco-story-brussels.be/fr

POINTS OF INTEREST

European Commission

The European Commission is the executive branch of the European Union, responsible for proposing legislation, enforcing EU laws and directing the union's administrative operations.

The Commission helps to shape the EU's overall strategy, proposes new EU laws and policies, monitors their implementation and manages the EU budget. It also plays a significant role in supporting international development and delivering aid.

European Parliament

The European Parliament is one of three legislative branches of the European Union and one of its seven institutions. Together with the Council of the European Union, it adopts European legislation, commonly on the proposal of the European Commission. The Parliament is composed of 705 members.

The European Parliament decides upon EU legislation, including the multiannual budget, together with the Council of the European Union (EU Member State governments). The EP holds other EU institutions, like the European Commission, to account.

House of European History

The House of European History (HEH) is a museum in Brussels, Belgium focusing on the history of Europe. The permanent exhibition begins with the myth of the goddess Europa, delving into Europe's ancient roots and the continent's heritage of shared traditions and achievements, before continuing through Europe's dramatic journey towards modernity in the 19th century and the rebuilding process following World War II. The final section challenges visitors to critically assess European history, its potential and its future.

https://historia-europa.ep.eu/en/welcome-house-european-history

Parlamentarium

The Parlamentarium is the visitors' centre of the European Parliament and is located in the Parliament's Espace Léopold complex in Brussels. The official opening was on 14 October 2011 by President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek. The permanent exhibition contains hundreds of multimedia components, explaining the European Parliament and other European Union institutions. The entrance to the centre is located on the Parliament's esplanade.
https://visiting.europarl.europa.eu/en/visitor-offer/brussels/parlamentarium

POINTS OF INTEREST

Parc du Cinquentennaire

The Parc du Cinquantenaire or Jubelpark is a large public, urban park of 30 ha in the easternmost part of the European Quarter in Brussels, Belgium.

Most buildings of the U-shaped complex which dominate the park were commissioned by the Belgian Government under the patronage of King Leopold II for the 1880 National Exhibition commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Belgian Revolution. During successive exhibitions in the same area, more structures were added. The centrepiece memorial arch, known as the Cinquantenaire Arch (French: Arc du Cinquantenaire, Dutch: Triomfboog van het Jubelpark), was erected in 1905.

Place Jourdan

A village atmosphere in the heart of the European quarter: cosmopolitan terraces, a good selection of quality stalls, the famous Antoine chip stall.... and for connoisseurs, "Marc Escargot" will let you try his delicious specialities for free.

Flagey

The Place Eugène Flagey or Eugène Flageyplein, usually shortened to the Place Flagey, or Flagey by locals, is a square in the Brussels municipality of Ixelles, Belgium. It bears the name of a former mayor of Ixelles, Eugène Flagey.

Bois de la Cambre

The Bois de la Cambre (French) or Ter Kamerenbos (Dutch) is an urban public park in Brussels, Belgium. It lies in the south of the Brussels-Capital Region, in the municipality of the City of Brussels, and covers an area of 1.23 km2. The park consists of two large, slightly oval parts. The northern part is the most wooded and is home to some 19th-century buildings. The southern part comprises a 6 hectares (15 acres) large artificial lake with an island in the centre, called Robinson's Island, home to the Chalet Robinson.

AROUND BRUSSELS

Bruges

Bruges, the capital of West Flanders in northwest Belgium, is distinguished by its canals, cobbled streets and medieval buildings. Its port, Zeebrugge, is an important center for fishing and European trade. In the city center's Burg square, the 14th-century Stadhuis (City Hall) has an ornate carved ceiling. Nearby, Markt square features a 13th-century belfry with a 47-bell carillon and 83m tower with panoramic views.

The historic center is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a little Google image search will flood you with photos of a beautiful picturesque town.

Gent

Ghent is a port city in northwest Belgium, at the confluence of the Leie and Scheldt rivers. During the Middle Ages it was a prominent city-state. Today it's a university town and cultural hub.

Its pedestrianized center is known for medieval architecture such as 12th-century Gravensteen castle and the Graslei, a row of guildhalls beside the Leie river harbor.

Antwerp

Antwerp is a port city on Belgium's River Scheldt, with history dating to the Middle Ages. In its center, the centuries-old Diamond District houses thousands of diamond traders, cutters and polishers. Antwerp's Flemish Renaissance architecture is typified by the Grote Markt, a central square in the old town.

At the 17th-century Rubens House, period rooms display works by the Flemish Baroque painter Peter Paul Rubens

BELGIAN DELICACIES

Moules

Frites

Boulettes Liegeois

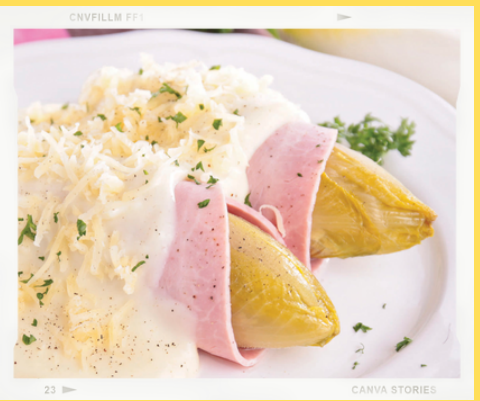
Carbonnade Flamande

Gauffre de Liège

Paling in 't groen (*eel in green*)

Stoemp

Vol-au-vent



Chicons au gratin

Speculoos

Belgian chocolate

Belgian beer

USEFUL LINKS

- **Visit Brussels**: https://visit.brussels/en/
- **Brussels Capital Region**: https://be.brussels/
- **Belgian railways**: www.b-rail.be
- **Brussels tram, bus and metro company (STIB)**: https://www.stib-mivb.be/index.htm?l=fr
- **Cultural events info**: www.agenda.be
- **Booking Desk Brussels**: https://www.brusselsbookingdesk.be/
- **BrusselsCard**: https://visit.brussels/en/sites/brusselscard
- **Experience Brussels**: https://visit.brussels/en/sites/experiencebrussels
- **Tourism Information Desk**: https://visit.brussels/site/en/article/tourism-information-desks
- **UNICA**: https://www.unica-network.eu/