



ART & ARCHITECTURE

BRUSSELS &
FRENCH-SPEAKING
BELGIUM





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BRUXELLES

BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS: artistic and cultural capital with over 80 museums

BRUSSELS HAS MANAGED TO DIVERSIFY ITS FACADES THROUGHOUT THE YEARS. THE CITY WAS REBUILT FOLLOWING WARS IN 1695, THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, EARLY 20TH CENTURY AND BETWEEN THE TWO WORLD WARS, WITH EACH RENOVATION INTRODUCING A DIFFERENT ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: INDIVIDUALISTIC YET UNITED.

Every year in September, during the Heritage days ("Journées du Patrimoine"), visitors can tour many historical buildings that are normally closed to the public.

GOTHIC

CITY HALL : The City Hall of Brussels is a masterpiece of **15th century Gothic architecture**. It is one of the few remaining Gothic buildings on the Grand'Place not destroyed after the bombing by the French army in 1695.

Open every day
www.brussels.be

ST GUDULE & ST MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL : The first church was transformed to Gothic style in the **13th century**. Today, the foundations of the first church can still be seen under the crypt. The Gothic choir was constructed between 1226 and 1276, while the nave and transept were constructed in the middle of the 15th century. The western facade, completed between **1450** and **1490**, follows the example of the French Gothic facades.

Open every day
www.cathedralestmichel.be

CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF SABLON : Built in the **15th** and **16th** centuries, Notre Dame du Sablon is noted for its four-fold gallery with brightly colored **stained-glass windows** (illuminated from the inside at night).

Open every day

BAROQUE

GUILD HOUSES - GRAND'PLACE : A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, The guild houses were rebuilt between **1695** and **1700** after the French bombing in August 1695. Their architectural style is a local interpretation of **Italian Baroque**. There is a rich variety of shapes, forms and designs in the grouping of these houses. Stop by the House of the Belgian Master Chocolate-Makers, guild house number 10, which unites the expertise and tradition of Belgium's chocolate craftsmen, as well as the café "Roy d'Espagne," originally the House of the Baker's Guide.

www.mmcb.be & www.roydespagne.be

NEOCLASSICAL

ROYAL SQUARE : The Royal Square was built in a natural hill at the edge of the Medieval city center; however, the square burned down in **1731**. It was rebuilt in the then fashionable neo-classical style, the style of the **age of enlightenment**.

THEATRE ROYAL DE LA MONNAIE : The theater and its embellished facade of ionic columns and gable relief, was built in **1819** to replace an earlier theater. It is now Belgium's leading **opera house**.
www.lamonnaie.be

PALAIS DE JUSTICE : It was the largest building in the world when it was finished in **1883**, bigger than St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. The building has 8 courtyards with a surface of 65000 square feet, 27 large court rooms and 245 smaller court rooms and other rooms.
Open to the public

NEO-RENAISSANCE

ROYAL SAINT-HUBERT GALERIES : They were constructed by the architect Cluysenaer in **1847** and house a unique mix of cultural style and commercial spirit under a beautiful glass roof. **As one of the most beautiful covered galleries of Europe**, they have become the favorite shopping promenade location.
Open every day

PALAIS ROYAL : The King's Palace, which overlooks the Parc de Bruxelles, was built in **1820** and experienced a grandiose Louis XVI-style face-lift in 1904 designed by Belgian architect, Alphonse Balat. The interiors resemble a neo-Baroque style with impressive chandeliers.
Open during the summer months every day except Monday
www.monarchie.be



ROYAL SAINT-HUBERT
GALLERIES



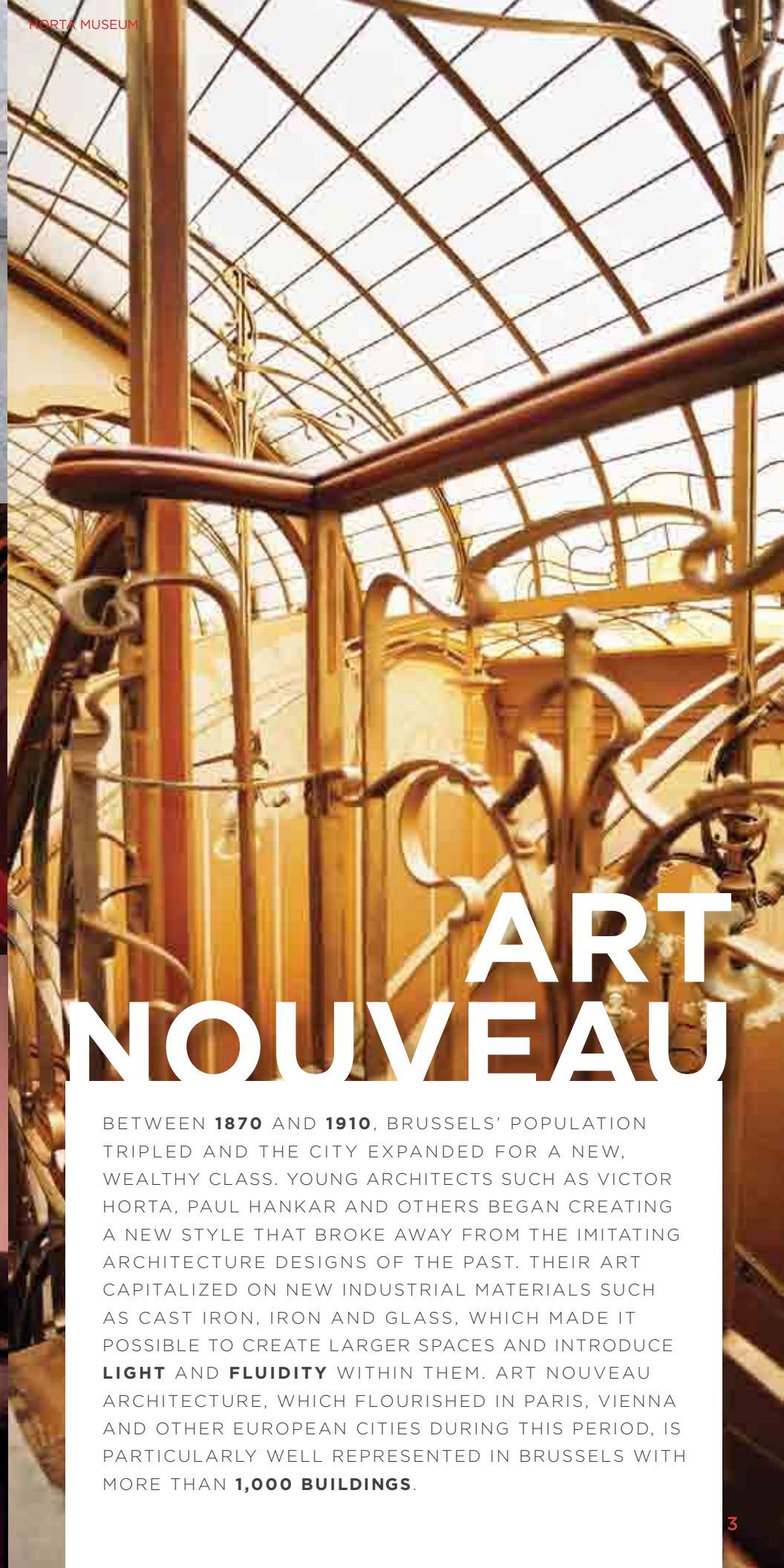
CAUCHIE HOUSE



LA PORTEUSE D'EAU



MUSICAL INSTRUMENTAL MUSEUM



HORTA MUSEUM

ART NOUVEAU

BETWEEN **1870** AND **1910**, BRUSSELS' POPULATION TRIPLED AND THE CITY EXPANDED FOR A NEW, WEALTHY CLASS. YOUNG ARCHITECTS SUCH AS VICTOR HORTA, PAUL HANKAR AND OTHERS BEGAN CREATING A NEW STYLE THAT BROKE AWAY FROM THE IMITATING ARCHITECTURE DESIGNS OF THE PAST. THEIR ART CAPITALIZED ON NEW INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS SUCH AS CAST IRON, IRON AND GLASS, WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE TO CREATE LARGER SPACES AND INTRODUCE **LIGHT** AND **FLUIDITY** WITHIN THEM. ART NOUVEAU ARCHITECTURE, WHICH FLOURISHED IN PARIS, VIENNA AND OTHER EUROPEAN CITIES DURING THIS PERIOD, IS PARTICULARLY WELL REPRESENTED IN BRUSSELS WITH MORE THAN **1,000 BUILDINGS**.

ART NOUVEAU

HORTA MUSEUM : The private house of Victor Horta, who had free rein to the home's style by also designing the interior furniture. His home is recognized as a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

To be seen: The central stairs as central axis of the building, the decorative undulating motifs, as well as original plans, pictures and models.

Open every day from 2 pm to 5:30 pm except Monday.

www.hortamuseum.be

CBBB – BELGIAN CENTRE FOR COMIC STRIP ART : This building designed by **Victor Horta** displays all the characteristics of Art Nouveau: use of new materials such as iron and glass, free flow of light and elegant, wavy lines. Today it houses the Comic Strip Museum.

Open every day except Monday

www.cbbd.be

MIM – MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS MUSEUM : Located Place Royale, it was a turn-of-the-century department store, Old England. Now it is the stylish home of the Musical Instrument Museum, housing a collection of ancient and rare instruments from all over the world. **A must for music fans.**

To be seen: The tea room and restaurant on the sixth floor, with a panoramic view of Brussels.

Open every day except Monday

www.mim.be

AUTRIQUE HOUSE : Built in **1893**, this is the first major Art Nouveau work from Victor Horta.

To be seen: The characteristic Art Nouveau wall

Open Wednesday to Sunday from 12 to 6 pm

www.autrique.be

HOTEL SOLVAY : A luxurious residence entirely designed by **Victor Horta** for the Solvay family. An unlimited budget was given to Horta, resulting to the use of expensive and precious materials. Today it is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

Reservations required to visit

www.hotelsolvay.be

CAUCHIE HOUSE : The Maison Cauchie, located near the Parc du Cinquantenaire, was built for personal use in **1905** by the architect, painter and decorator Paul Cauchie. It bears wall paintings, for which Art Nouveau is famous.

Open the first week-end of every month & every Tuesday (from May to August)

www.cauchie.be

PAVILLION HORTA-LAMBEAUX : Located at the Cinquantenaire, it was built by **Victor Horta** in **1896** & even though it's done in a classical style, it shows the young Horta's first steps towards Art Nouveau.

To be seen : The beautiful facade.

Closed for renovation

HOTEL HANNON : In **1902**, Edouard Hannon, an engineer with Solvay, oversaw the construction of his townhouse with each detail, both interior and exterior, reflecting the style of Art Nouveau.

To be seen : The sumptuous **stained glass windows** created with the **Tiffany's** technique.

Open every day except Monday & Tuesday

The building is used for exhibitions.

www.contretype.org

ROYAL GREENHOUSES : Designed by the architect Balat (Victor Horta's teacher), these greenhouses are sure to please both aficionados of 19th century architecture and green-thumbed plant enthusiasts. These highly impressive greenhouses, featuring soaring ironwork, are home to a wide range of flora and many rare species.

Open in Spring months

www.monarchie.be

STOCLET HOUSE : This masterpiece, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, was built between 1905 and 1911 for banker and art lover Aldophe Stoclet. The outside of the building is entirely covered with white marble framed by gilded moldings and is the only one of its kind in Brussels.

The building is not open to the public

LA PORTEUSE D'EAU & FALSTAFF : These typical Brussels **brasseries** feature authentic Art Nouveau décor.

www.laportusedeau.be & www.lefalstaff.be

BRUSSELS ART NOUVEAU BIENNIAL : During the four weekends of **October 2011**, the innovative, artistic and creative aspects of the work of the great Art Nouveau architects will be presented through guided visits of the building usually not open to the public.

www.voiretdirebruxelles.be

ART DECO

CENTER FOR FINE ARTS : The Palais des Beaux-Arts, often referred to as "Bozar", was built in **1928**. **Horta** traded the graceful lines of Art Nouveau for the geometric design language of Art Deco. It is home to exhibitions, conference rooms, the Queen Elisabeth Competition and a movie theater, as well as a concert hall for the National Orchestra of Belgium.

Exhibitions are open from Tuesday to Sunday and until 9 pm on Thursday.

www.bozar.be

VAN BUUREN MUSEUM : The estate was designed as a private house, which became a museum after the owners' death and has remained unchanged from the time the Van Buurens lived there. The **gardens** also highlight elements of the Art Deco style.

Open every afternoon from 2 to 5:30 pm. Closed on Tuesdays

www.museumvanbuureen.com

FLAGEY : Flagey was built in **1938** by the Belgian architect, Joseph Diongre. It is now a concert hall and a movie theatre.

Open every day

www.flagey.be

VILLA EMPAIN : Considered a remarkable testimony to Art Déco architecture, the Villa was built in the **early 30's** and is situated in the heart of the European capital area. It was entirely restored and opened in April 2010 as a Center of Cultural and Artistic Dialogue.

Open every day except Monday

www.villaempain.com

L'ARCHIDUC : This bar known for its artists, cocktails and live Jazz music, still features the original wooden benches and cast-iron door at the entrance from its opening in **1937**.

Open every day from 4 pm to 5 am

www.archiduc.net

CONTEMPORARY

ATOMIUM : Built for the **Universal Expo in 1958**, it is meant to represent a 9-atom molecule magnified 165 billion times. The spheres, which house exhibitions, are connected to one another with escalators and a restaurant is located at the top.

Open every day

www.atomium.be

BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART : Its construction was completed in 1969 and is the fifth largest church in the world, accommodating 2000 people. The cupola platform affords an excellent **panoramic view of Brussels**.

Open every day

www.basilique.be

EUROPEAN DISTRICT : Most of the European institutions are located within this **architecturally striking district**, which extends over a few dozen hectares. **The Berlaymont**, occupied by the European commission, was the first building to be constructed in the 1960s.



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MUSEUMS

ROYAL MUSEUMS OF FINE ARTS OF BELGIUM

(ANCIENT & MODERN ART) : Founded two centuries ago, it houses over **20,000** drawings, sculptures, and paintings. The museum has an extensive collection of **paintings of Brueghel**, Rogier van der Weyden, Anthony van Dyck, Jacob Jordaens & more than 20 paintings by **Rubens**. The Museum also houses the famous painting 'The Death of Marat' by Jacques-Louis David & Hieronymus **Bosch's** sensational triptych *The Temptation of St. Anthony*.

Open every day except Monday

www.fine-arts-museum.be

MAGRITTE MUSEUM : Housed in the elegant Hotel Altenloh, the Magritte museum has the world's largest collection of the great **Surrealist** painter's work that is open to the public, with 200 exceptional works of art.

Open every day except Monday

(advance purchase of tickets suggested)

www.musee-magritte-museum.be

COUDENBERG : Located in the former location of the Palace of Brussels, the Coudenberg Museum houses the most impressive **archaeological** discoveries that have been made for the last 25 years in Belgium.

Open every day except Monday

www.coudenberg.com

ROYAL BELGIAN INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCES : Founded in **1846**, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences is famous for housing the **world's largest hall** entirely dedicated to **dinosaur** fossils and skeletons.

Open every day except Monday

www.naturalsciences.be

THE CINQUANTENAIRE : One of the watershed architectural and town planning projects of King Leopold II, the "Builder King". The construction started in **1880** to commemorate the 50th anniversary of



Belgium's independence. The complex houses the **Royal Museum of Art and History**, **Autoworld** and the **Army museum**.

THE CHINESE PAVILION & THE JAPANESE TOWER : The Japanese tower was a feature at the **1900** International Exposition in Paris & King Leopold II was so impressed that he bought the plans and had a replica built on the edge of his royal estate at Laeken, which today houses Japanese art exhibits. The king also ordered the construction of a Chinese pavilion next to the tower & it displays a collection of Chinese porcelain and furniture.

Open every day except Monday

ARCHITECTURAL MUSEUM : Located in a former **Masonic lodge**, the museum presents collections of architectural documents (drawings, models, photographs and pieces of furniture).

Open every day except Monday

www.aam.be

ARCHITECTURAL & ART CITY TOURS

ARAU TOURS www.arau.org

ARKADIA www.asbl-arkadia.be

BUS BAVARD www.busbavard.be

ITINERAIRES www.itineraires.be

VOIR ET DIRE BRUXELLES www.voiretdirebruxelles.be

GET TO BELGIUM www.get-to-belgium.be

ANTIQUES & ARTS FAIR

ANTIQUES AND FINE ARTS FAIR, BRUSSELS www.brafa.be

ART BRUSSELS, CONTEMPORARY FAIR, BRUSSELS www.artbrussels.be

EURANTICA, BRUSSELS www.eurantica.be

ANCIENT ART FAIR, BRUSSELS www.baf.be

ORIENTAL ART FAIR, BRUSSELS www.boafair.be

NON EUROPEAN ART FAIR, BRUSSELS www.bruneaf.com

ANTICA, NAMUR www.antica.be

CLOSE TO BRUSSELS

MUSÉE HERGÉ : Located in Louvain la Neuve (a unique university town planning project), the Hergé Museum, designed by **Christian de Portzamparc**, opened in 2009. This amazing contemporary construction is a celebration of the work of Tintin's creator.
Open every day except Monday
www.museeherge.com

VILLERS-LA-VILLE : THE RUINS OF THE ABBEY : This Abbey was founded in **1146**. Although in ruins, it is an outstanding example of Cistercian architecture, with imposing vaulted arches and rose windows.

Open every day

www.villers.be

WATERLOO : Site of the famous Napoleonic battle.

www.waterloo1815.be



MUSÉE HERGÉ





LUXEMBOURG

BASTOGNE: walk in the steps of history

MARDASSON AMERICAN MEMORIAL : Built in 1950, it stands as a token of gratitude by the Belgian population for the liberation of the country by the **American Army** and the allies.

Open every day
www.si-bastogne.be

MUSEUM

INTERPRETATION CENTRE SECOND WORLD WAR : This brand new museum site is located at camp Heintz in Bastogne. The historic venue also houses **General Mac Auliffe's former headquarters**, when he headed the 101 Airborne Division.

Open Saturday and Sunday
www.klm-mra.be

BOUILLON: captivate your senses

MEDIEVAL

THE CASTLE FORTRESS : The Castle-Fortress of Bouillon, whose construction started in the **8th century**, is one of the earliest remains of feudalism in Belgium. Overhanging the Semois River, it is characterized by its numerous corridors and vaulted halls.

Open every day
www.bouillon-initiative.be

CASTLES & ABBEYS

ORVAL : ABBEY OF OUR LADY : A Cistercian monastery founded in 1132, it is well-known for its history and spiritual life and for its local production of Trappist **beer** and **cheeses**.

Guided tours every afternoon in July through August and on Sunday afternoons in September
www.orval.be

LA ROCHE EN ARDENNE : FEUDAL CHATEAU : Dating from the **9th century** and despite all the changes endured by the castle, the actual ruins with their towers, arrow slits and oubliettes, have retained the feel of **feudal** times.

Open every day
www.chateaudelarocche.be

SAINT HUBERT: BASILICA : Renowned place of pilgrimage dating back to **817**. The baroque facade strongly contrasts with its slender Gothic interior which is all light and colors.

Open every day
www.saint-hubert-tourisme.be

MUSEUM

LA ROCHE EN ARDENNES : BATTLE OF THE ARDENNES MUSEUM : The museum houses the largest collection of artifacts linked to the British troops who fought in the **Battle of the Ardennes**.

www.batarden.be

DURBUY: the smallest town on Earth!

The old town dates mainly from the **17th century**. Its pedestrian streets, winding between the ancient houses, are narrow and cobbled. Durbuy is a very pleasant **relaxing town** renowned for its **excellent food**.

www.durbuy.be



DURBUY
LUXEMBOURG

NAMI ID

NAMUR: seize the romance

THE TOWN BEGAN AS AN IMPORTANT TRADING SETTLEMENT DURING CELTIC TIMES. ITS PEDESTRIAN QUARTER DATES BACK TO THE **18TH CENTURY** AND DISPLAYS A RICH ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE. HOME OF THE INTERNATIONAL ART & **ANTIQUES FAIR ANTICA** (EVERY YEAR IN NOVEMBER) WWW.ANTICA.BE

MEDIEVAL

CITADEL : The Citadel, originally from the **Roman era**, has been rebuilt several times. It served as a **military stronghold** throughout Belgian history. Located on a hill, it offers an **impressive view** of Namur.

Open every day

www.citadelle.namur.be

BELFRY : Originally built in the **14th Century**, the belfry, a **UNESCO World Heritage site**, was located in the tower of the collegiate church Saint-Pierre-au-Château. However, after the tower burnt down in 1745, the belfry was transferred and given a public clock with a “gate bell” to order the opening and closing of the city’s gates.

GOTHIC

JEAN BAPTISTE CHURCH : Built in Gothic style in the **16th century**, it is one of the oldest and most popular churches in Namur. Every year, on the Monday of the “Fetes de Wallonie”, the Church holds a traditional, and now famous, mass in Wallonia called “Bonnes fiesses!” www.fetesdewallonie.be

BAROQUE

CHURCH OF SAINT LOUP : Built in the **17th century**, Saint Loup Church was a College of Jesuits, but is now used as a Grammar School. This architectural masterpiece was described by the French poet Baudelaire as “profoundly fascinating”.

ART NOUVEAU & ART DECO

NAMUR IS HOME TO SOME UNSUSPECTING ARCHITECTURAL RICHES FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE 20TH CENTURY. THE STREETS OF RUE DES CARMES AND RUE DES CROISIERS SHOW A FAIRLY RARE EXAMPLE OF AN ENTIRELY ART DECO QUARTER IN THE HEART OF A CITY.

MUSEUMS

MUSEUM DE GROESBEECK DE CROIX : Upon the Count of Groesbeeck’s request, the building was transformed into an elegant mansion at the end of the **18th century**. It then became a museum in 1935 and houses now a large collection of Namur’s furniture, glassworks and ceramics which recreate the atmosphere of an **aristocratic residence** during the Enlightenment age.
Open every day except Monday

MUSEUM FELICIEN ROPS : Situated near Rops’ house and the Church of Saint Loup, the museum houses a large collection of drawings, paintings, and engravings which represent different periods of the artist’s life.

Open every day except Monday, every day in July and August

www.museerops.be

CASTLES & ABBEYS

MAREDSOUS ABBEY : This abbey is a masterwork of neo-gothic style in Belgium. The Maredsous Abbey is also known for its production of Maredsous **cheese & beers**.

Open every day

www.maredsous.be

CHATEAU DE LAVAUX SAINT-ANNE : This medieval castle has three massive **15th century** corner towers. It houses 3 museums devoted to hunting, nature and conservation.

Open every day from mid-March to December

www.chateau-lavaux.com

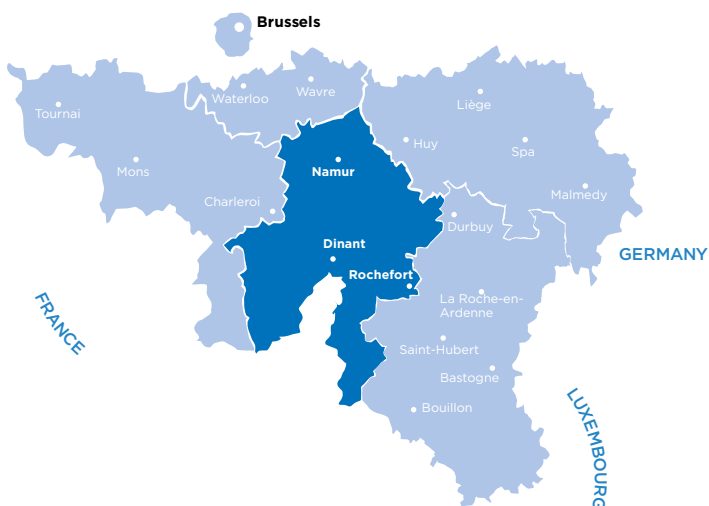
CHÂTEAU DE VEVES





DINANT: travel back in time

FIRST MENTION OF DINANT AS A SETTLEMENT DATES FROM THE 7TH CENTURY. THE **SAXOPHONE** WAS INVENTED BY DINANT NATIVE: ADOLPHE SAX.



MEDIEVAL

CITADEL : The **fortified** Citadel was first built in the **11th century** to control the Meuse valley. It is reached from the town either by cable car or by the 408 steps cut into the hillside. The citadel is now home to Dinant's Arms Museum.

Open every day in the spring and summer

www.citadellededinant.be

NOTRE-DAME COLLEGIATE CHURCH : After falling rocks from an adjacent cliff partially destroyed the former Romanesque church in **1227**, it was rebuilt in Gothic style on its old foundations, with limestone from Dinant.

To be seen: One of the largest original stained glass windows.

CASTLES & ABBEYS

CASTLE OF VEVES : The castle, composed of five magnificent towers, is perched dramatically on a rocky outcrop overlooking the picturesque village of **Celles**, which is ranked one of the **"Most Beautiful Villages of Wallonia"**.

Open every day from April to October

www.chateau-de-veves.be

CASTLE OF FREYR : Dating from the **18th century**, the magnificent Renaissance style residence on the river, has a refined and cosmopolitan interior. The sweeping classical gardens, laid out in formal French style, are home to **300-year-old orange trees** and orangeries that are among the oldest of the country.

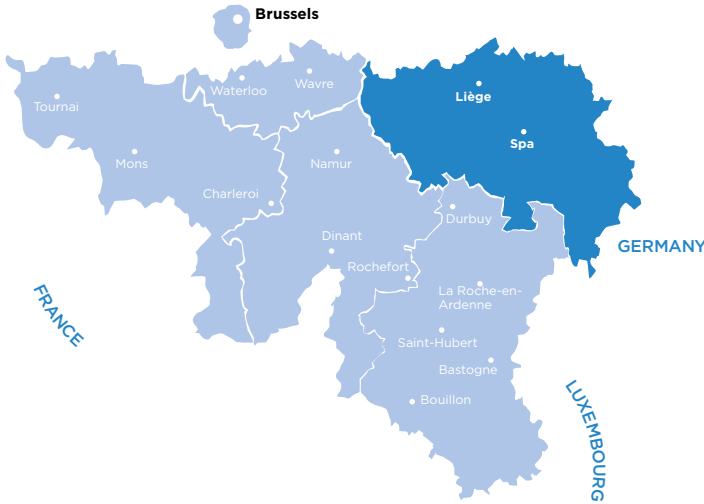
Open every day but times change seasonally

www.freyr.be

LIÈGE

LIÈGE: feel the pulse of life

LIÈGE, CITY OF CHARLEMAGNE, HOSTS ONE OF THE OLDEST CHRISTMAS MARKETS IN BELGIUM.



BAROQUE & GOTHIC

PALACE OF THE PRINCE BISHOPS : Built in the **10th century**, it was given its current appearance by Prince-Bishop Erard de la Marck in **1526**. The building is comprised of two courtyards. The Palace houses both the provincial government and the law court.
To be seen: The beautiful facade.
The first courtyard is open every day - the palace itself can only be visited with an approved written request

SAINT PAUL'S CATHEDRAL : Founded in the **10th century** it is part of the seven Collegiate churches of the city and the main cathedral.
To be seen: the superb 16th century decoration in the nave.
Open every day
www.cathedraledeliege.be

THE COLLEGIAL CHURCH OF SAINT BARTHOLEMEW : Founded outside the city walls in the **11th century**, the church underwent modifications throughout the centuries. It is one of the original seven collegiate churches of Liege and features many various works of art.

CONTEMPORARY

LIÈGE GUILLEMIN RAILWAY STATION : The new impressive railway station is one of the **biggest train hubs in Europe** and is part of the European high-speed train network. It was designed by the world famous Spanish architect **Santiago Calatrava**.
www.euro-liege-tgv.be

MEDIACITE : Mediacite in Liege was **designed by Ron Arad**. The latest technologies and materials were used for the construction of this futuristically shaped complex, which accommodates shopping, cultural and leisure activities.
Open every day except Sunday
www.mediacite.be

MUSEUMS

THE GRAND CURTIUS : The Grand Curtius building was built over the course of the **16th century** as a private mansion for Jean Curtius. It was reopened in 2009, following an extensive renovation, and now contains collections of archaeology, **world famous weaponry**, decorative arts, religious art and more.
Open every day except Tuesday
www.grandcurtiusliege.be

ANSEMBOURG MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS : The Ansembourg Museum is an old private townhouse from the **18th century** which portrays aristocratic life during the Enlightenment. It houses huge collections of **luxury objects** and furniture including tapestries, leather curtains and Venetian-style glass chandeliers.
Open every day except Monday

MUSEUM OF WALLOON ART : The modernly designed Museum of Walloon Art offers a wide range of works, **everyday objects**, sculptures and paintings, from the 16th to the 21st centuries.
Open every day except Monday
www.museeartwallon.be

CASTLES

CHATEAU DE JEHAY : Built in the **16th century**, it houses breathtaking collections of furniture, silver and gold, as well as paintings and tapestries. The checker-board façade of black and white is **unique in Europe**.
Open every day in the summer except Monday
www.chateaujehay.be

CHATEAU DE MODAVE : Built in the **mid-17th century**, the Counts of Marchin requested the residence be a combination of mediaeval architecture and the modern Renaissance styling of the time.
Open every day from spring to fall except Monday
www.modave-castle.be





SPA : experience relaxation redefined

SPA IS RENOWNED FOR ITS MINERAL SPRINGS. DURING THE 18TH CENTURY IT BECAME THE MEETING PLACE FOR ROYALTY AND THE FAMOUS.

RENAISSANCE

THE SPA CASINO : In 1762, the world's oldest gaming room, "La Redoute" first opened. With the help of Le Prince Eveque de Liege, it was a venue for dances and concerts. It quickly became, along with the Le Waux Hall, one of the most popular places in Spa. Today, the casino also features popular **events** such as the Francofolies.

www.casinodespa.be & www.francofolies.be

NEO RENAISSANCE

THE SPA THERMAL BATH: Built in the 1860's, it represented a true revolution and led to the expansion of **spa treatments** throughout Europe. *Under renovation. Not open to the public.*

www.thermesdespa.com

ART NOUVEAU

DURING THE LATE 19TH CENTURY, SPA EXPERIENCED AN IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT. THE SIGNS OF THE ART NOUVEAU STYLE ARE STILL VISIBLE AROUND TOWN TODAY.

MUSEUMS

ABBAY OF STAVELOT : The 11th century abbey was completely renovated in 1999 and restored its cloister to the monastery by building a new wing of glass and stainless steel on the foundations of the fourth wing, which was destroyed after the French Revolution. The abbey is now home to three museums: The Museum of the Principality of Stavelot-Malmédy, the Spa-Francorchamps Racetrack Museum and the Guillaume Apollinaire Museum.

Open every day
www.abbayedestavelot.be

LAUNDRY MUSEUM : The 25 rooms of this unusual museum follow the evolution of washing techniques from Antiquity to present times. *Open every afternoon in July and August; Open every Saturday and Sunday afternoon in April, May, June and September; Open every Sunday afternoon*

CASTLE

FRANCHIMONT CASTLE : This medieval fortress, built in the 11th century, was crucial to the defense of Liege. It was also the summer residence of the Prince-Bishops of Liege.

Open Saturday and Sunday
www.chateau-franchimont.be

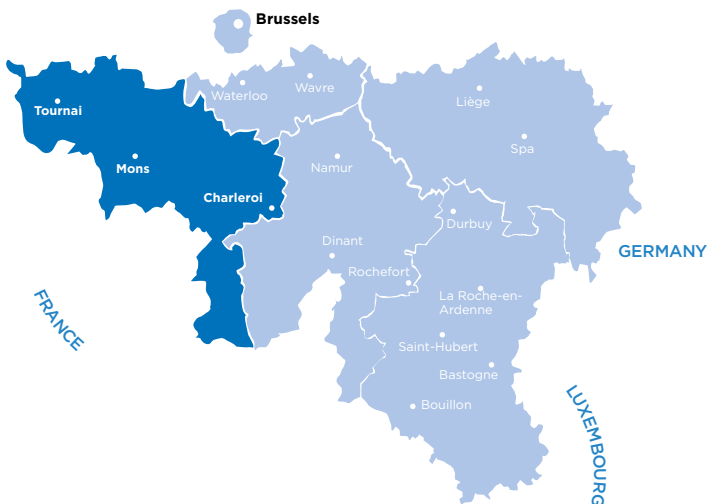
This flyer highlights noteworthy architectural sites and is by no means a comprehensive list. Nothing in this brochure shall bind the Belgian Tourist Office in any contract or obligation and remains informal. All pictures provided by www.opt.be unless otherwise noted.

For more information, please contact us at info@visitbelgium.com



MONS – TOURNAI AREA

MONS :
celebrate the European
Capital of Culture 2015



EACH YEAR, MONS HOSTS THE DOUDOU: THIS **SEVEN HUNDRED-YEAR-OLD** PROCESSION IS A **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE**. VINCENT VAN GOGH LIVED IN MONS BETWEEN 1879 & 1880 (HIS HOUSE CAN BE VISITED).

GOTHIC

TOWNHALL : The Town Hall primarily constructed during the second half of the **15th century** and retains an accentuated Gothic style strongly resembling the Collegiate Church of Saint Waudru. Behind the hall, the Mayor’s **garden** is a picturesque and beautiful spot, containing the bronze “Ropieur” fountain. The Town Hall can only be visited by groups with an approved written request

THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH OF SAINTE WAUDRU : The construction of the Collegiate Church of Sainte Waudru started in **1450**. The church houses numerous reliquaries and around the nave are 29 chapels.

BAROQUE

BELFRY : Built in **17th century**, after the collapse of the bell tower in 1661, the tower is the only Baroque-style belfry in Belgium. This **UNESCO World Heritage Site** is classically decorated with Bray sandstone walls, embellishments, and pilasters of blue stone.

MUSEUMS

GRAND HORNU : An old industrial mining complex, The Grand-Hornu is a remarkable reminder of the Industrial Revolution. Built between 1810 and 1830, it serves as an example of functional town-planning. It is currently home to the **Museum of Contemporary Arts (MAC)**.

Open every day except Monday
www.grand-hornu.be

BAM – MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS : The BAM was reopened in 2007 after a full renovation. Since then, major temporary exhibitions of **20th century art** have been organized.

Open every day except Monday
www.bamart.com

THE PASS - PARK OF SCIENTIFIC ADVENTURES :

The PASS, once a **coal-mining site**, now works to promote scientific culture. Designed by the **architect Jean Nouvel**, it was opened in May 2000 and is Belgium's largest science museum.

Open every day except Wednesday
www.pass.be

THE ROYAL MUSEUM OF MARIEMONT : The museum, inaugurated in 1975, is home to some of the world's finest **collections of porcelain** from Tournai and priceless works from ancient Rome, Greece, and Egypt. It also houses the most complete **collection of Chinese antiquities in Belgium**.

Open every day except Monday
www.musee-mariemont.be

THE MUNDANEUM : Created by two Belgian jurists, the Mundaneum project's objective was to put all the knowledge of the world together. The archives moved to the Art Deco building in Mons and now houses an impressive amount of documents spread among 50 rooms.

Open every day except Monday
www.mundaneum.be

TOURNAI : discover 2000 years of history

ONE OF THE OLDEST CITY IN BELGIUM WITH
AN EXCEPTIONAL CATHEDRAL.

MEDIEVAL

THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY : The construction began on this amazing **UNESCO World Heritage Site** in the **12th century**. Due to the long duration of the construction, it combined the work of two different styles in architecture, **Romanesque and Gothic**. The nave and the transept, done in Romanesque style, were built in the 12th Century and the choir, in Gothic style, was built in the 13th century.

Open every day
www.tournai.be

BELFRY : The Belfry of Tournai, the **oldest in Belgium and in Northern Europe**, symbolizes the right of self-governing and was erected when Philippe Auguste, King of France, gave Tournai its freedom charter in **1188**. He granted Tournai the 'Right of Bell' and an especially a large bell called the 'Banclouque', which was used to summon the population in case of danger.

Open every day except Monday. Closed on Sunday mornings in the winter.

www.tournai.be

PONT DES TROUS : This bridge was part of the **13th century** city walls. The two towers on each bank served to defend the city against possible attacks via the river. Enormous gates could be lowered to block the passage through the arches.

www.tournai.be

MUSEUM

FINE ARTS MUSEUM : The collections show the big movements in Belgian painting from the 19th century to today, with a particular focus on regional artists (James Ensor, Rene Magritte, Paul Delvaux..) but also some impressionists like Manet, Monet and Seurat. The museum was conceived by **Victor Horta**.

Open every day except Sunday & Monday
www.tournai.be

CASTLES

CHATEAU DE BELOEIL : This vast stately home of the **Princes de Ligne** began life as a medieval fortress; over the course of centuries it has been transformed into a country home. The gardens were designed in **1664** in the Baroque style.

Open every day in the summer
www.chateaubeloeil.com

CHATEAU DE SENEFFE : With its magnificent park and annexes, the chateau built in the neo-classical style, offers a fine example of a mid **18th century** noble residence. It is home to a collection of antique (mainly **18th century**) silverware.

www.chateaudseneffe.be

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

LESSINES THE HOSPITAL OF NOTRE DAME A LA ROSE :

The hospital was founded in **1242** and is one of the last examples of a self-sufficient hospital, complete with farm, gardens, ice chamber and cemetery, next to the convent buildings and hospital. It is an example of **how hospitals worked during the Middle Ages**.

*Open Saturdays & Sundays from 2:00 to 6:30 pm
from April to October*

www.notredamealarose.com

LA LOUVIERE THE HYDRAULIC LIFTS OF THE CANAL DU CENTRE : Each of these four elevators, activated by water, were built at the end of the **19th century** in order to bridge a height difference of 17 meters. They are listed as **World Heritage by UNESCO**.

Two departures each day at 10:00am & 2:00pm

MUSEUM OF PHOTOGRAPHY : Located in a renovated neo-gothic Carmelite **monastery** in Charleroi, the museum retraces the footsteps of photography from its invention to its creative uses today. It is the **largest photography museum in Europe** with more than 8,000 pictures in its collection.

Open every day except Monday
www.museephoto.be

BOIS DU CAZIER : Located south of Charleroi, this remarkable architectural complex shows all the aspects of the area's industrial heritage. It also houses a museum on coal, steel and glass.

Open every day except Monday
www.leboisducazier.be

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