



Small country, big...
art, castles, culture,
cathedrals, festivals,
beer, waffles, shopping
fun and mandatory
chocolates!



welcome to Belgium



28
CASTLES

35
UNESCO
WORLD HERITAGES

200
MUSEUMS

500
TYPES
OF BEER

2000
CHOCOLATE
SHOPS



www.visitbelgium.com

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE - BRUSSELS
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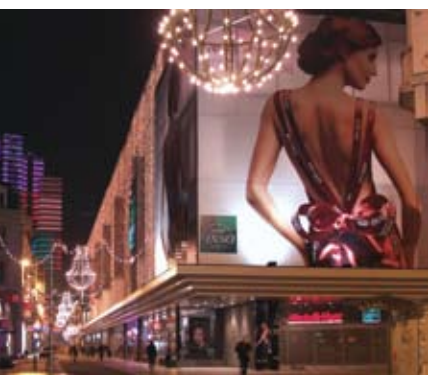
René Magritte
La Poitrine, 1961
huile sur toile, 90 x 110 cm
© Charly Herscovici with his kind authorization - c/o SABAM-ADAGP, 2008

10 Reasons to visit Belgium

BRUSSELS: LA GRAND' PLACE, A HAPPENING PLACE

In the center of the city, the historical Grand'Place is famous for its markets, the Hotel de Ville, cafés, festivals, museums and shops. **Don't miss** the Brussels Jazz Marathon in May, and come August, Grand' Place turns into a flowering wonderland during the three-day Tapis de Fleurs. The Belgian **Beer Weekends** in September are a must.

www.brusselsjazzmarathon.be/
www.flowercarpet.be
www.weekenddelabiere.be



A MARKET FOR ALL SEASONS AND CHRISTMAS!

All year-round Belgium is bustling with markets of all kinds. All Belgian towns hold special flea markets. In **Brussels** every Saturday and Sunday, you can visit the **antique** market at the Place du Grand Sablon. For the real antique aficionados, visit the Bruneaf Market in March (www.bruneaf.com), the BRAFA in January (www.brafa.be), and the BAAF in June. Flea markets are also popular such as La Batte, Sundays in **Liège**. Annually, during the month of December, Belgium holds special **Christmas markets** in Brussels and throughout French-speaking Belgium.

www.visitbelgium.com/?page=christmas-markets
www.visitbelgium.com/?page=antiques-flea-markets
www.sablonantiquesmarket.com

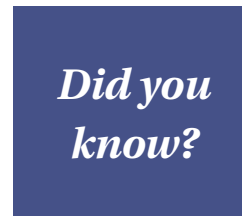


COOL DEALS

Brussels and French-speaking Wallonia can always be fun and affordable; consider these special rates and packages www.visitbelgium.com/?page=special

BEYOND BRUSSELS

Beyond Brussels is a world of landscapes, **castles**, stone-built villages, **gourmet** restaurants, and **carnivals**. Collectively, these and many more superlatives are found in Wallonia, the southern French-speaking region of Belgium. For a quick getaway, visit scenic Namur, the **Citadel** in Dinant, the castles of Bouillon, **historic** Bastogne, relaxing **Spa**, the biggest city in French-speaking Belgium, Liège, or the smallest, Durbuy, and for the **architecture** lovers, the Notre Dame Cathedral of Tournai is a must-see.



Brussels is the Capital of Belgium and the headquarters of the **European Union** and NATO, no wonder **English** is widely spoken.

Brussels is still **less expensive** than London, Paris, Amsterdam and most western European capitals.

There is a wide range of accommodations to choose from in Brussels, with particularly **good rates** available on week-ends.

From comics to music and from gothic to surreal Magritte, Brussels offers more than **80 museums** covering every imaginable topic.

Jazz has been a strong feature of Brussels' night life since the 1920s and year-round live jazz sessions can be found at a cluster of venues. **The saxophone** was invented in Dinant, Belgium in 1846.

There are more **castles** per square mile in Belgium than anywhere in the world.

Weekend **antiquing** is the sport of kings at the antique markets open every weekend, at the Grand Sablon and Place du Jeu de Balle in Brussels and all around Belgium.

Brussels is the capital of **Art Nouveau** with more than **500 buildings** that are fully or partially Art Nouveau.

You can delight in **chocolates**, munch on Belgian **fries**, savor fresh **mussels** and drink a diverse variety of **beer**.

BASTOGNE

Site of the battle of the Bulge (winter of 1944-45)
www.si-bastogne.be

WATERLOO

At the gates of Brussels, site of the famous battle
www.waterloo1815.be

LIÈGE

Ardennes' largest city, visit the Palais des Eveques, the Grand

Curtius (museum) and the new Calatrava train station
www.liege.be

TOURNAI

A 2,000 years old town with an outstanding gothic cathedral
www.tournai.be

NAMUR

Romantic town with its citadel overlooking the River Meuse
www.namur.be



OPENING OF NEW MAGRITTE MUSEUM

The New Magritte Museum is now open in **Brussels**. The museum holds 200 works of surrealist painter Rene Magritte, the largest collection in the world of his works, including archival material, letters, photographs and drawings. Hours: Tuesdays to Sundays, 9.30 am-5pm, late night Wednesday until 8pm.

www.museemagrittemuseum.be

OPENING OF NEW HERGÉ MUSEUM

Just a short train ride away from Brussels and designed by acclaimed French architect Christian de Portzamparc, the New Hergé Museum is now open in Louvain-la-Neuve, a university town worth a detour. Celebrating the work of **Tintin's creator**, the Hergé Museum marks the first public exhibition of the artist's monumental body of work.

www.museeherge.com

LIÈGE: THE GRAND CURTIUS MUSEUM & NEW RAIL STATION

The new Liège-Guillemins Station was designed by the great and famous Spanish architect **Santiago Calatrava**. This station links Liège to other great European cities such as Paris and Cologne. Just under an hour from Brussels, Liège is known as the "Fiery city" and home to many great museums, including the new Curtius Museum. The complex, containing the famous Arms Museum, reopened after major renovations. The new rail station makes the museum easy to access.

www.euro-liege-tgv.be
www.grandcurtiusliege.be/

YOUNG & HIP IN BELGIUM

For tips on the Brussels nightlife, cheap eats and great youth hostels, visit www.brusselsmania.com

SPA

Mother of all spas, fine examples of early 20th century spa town architecture
www.spa-info.be

BOUILLON

Medieval city dominated by the feudal Castle of Godefroid, leader of the first crusade
www.info-bouillon.co.uk

DINANT

The famous caves of Han are close to this city, known for its citadel and cathedral
www.dinant.be

MONS

Once a roman camp and town of tradition with the celebration of "Lumecon" and "Le Car d'Or"
www.paysdemons.be

ORVAL

Home to 25 Trappist monks who produce bread, cheese and some of the best Trappist beers
www.orval.be

DURBUY

The smallest city in the world
www.ourthe-et-aisne.be

BELGIUM ROCKS!

In the land where the saxophone was invented, it's no wonder the music is an integral part of Belgian daily life. May in Brussels includes the **Brussels Jazz Marathon** and the Nuits Botanique Festival. In Namur, the Verdure Rock Festival is held under the stars. **Classical music** is always in the air; orchestras and soloists perform in castles, abbeys and churches during the Festival of Wallonia held from June to October.

www.visitbelgium.com/?page=nightlife#musicfestivals

BELGIUM FOR FOOD LOVERS

Belgium enjoys an unparalleled reputation for its specialty beers. Connoisseurs favor Belgian beers for their variety, real flavor and character. With more than 400 types of beer, the choices are endless. With more than 2,000 chocolate shops throughout the country, Belgium is irresistible. Beyond Chocolates and beer, street food is a delectable bargain; try the Belgian fries, the mussels, the shrimp croquettes, or the Brussels & Liège waffles. And burning off the scrumptious calories is easy with: hiking and biking, ballooning, riding, rock climbing...

www.mmmmb.be

COMIC STRIP

Belgium is the homeland of the comic strip: Tintin, the Smurfs, Spirou, Lucky Luke, Gaston Lagaffe, Boule & Bill...
www.museeherge.com
www.cbbd.be
www.marc-sleen.be



GETTING TO BELGIUM-BRUSSELS

6 HOURS NON-STOP FROM EAST COAST

American Airlines

New York (JFK)
Chicago (ORD)

Delta Airlines

New York (JFK)
Atlanta (ATL)

Jet Airways

New York (JFK)
Newark (EWR)
Toronto (YYZ)

Continental Airlines

Newark (EWR)

United Airlines

Washington DC (IAD)

US Airways

Philadelphia (PHL)

TRAIN

Brussels - London
Eurostar: 111 minutes

Brussels - Paris
Thalys: 85 minutes

Brussels - Liège: 1 h
Brussels - Namur: 1 h
Brussels - Spa: 2 h 10
Brussels - Tournai: 1 h
Brussels - Bruges: 1 h

RAIL PASSES

For information on trains and rail passes:
www.raileurope.com
Within Belgium:
www.b-rail.be

TOURS OPERATORS OFFERING BELGIUM

www.avantidestinations.com
www.autoeurope.com
www.americanexpressvacations.com
www.clubabc.com
www.eeitavel.com
www.gate1travel.com
www.generaltours.com
www.globusandcosmos.com
www.imagestours.com
www.tauck.com
www.bits-dmc.be (Virtuoso specialist in Belgium)
www.booktravelbound.com (via travel agents)

BELGIUM FOR EVERYONE

Belgium has a something for everyone. See below our special interests:

- Cultural Belgium
- Beer & Chocolate
- Bastogne/Waterloo
- Castles & Gardens
- Family
- Young & Hip
- Shopping & Markets
- Festivals
- Sports
- Green Belgium

DISCOUNT PASSES

Brussels card provides free access to 26 museums, discounts in shops, restaurant, tourist attractions and unlimited travel on public transport, choose between a 24, 48 or 72 hours pass.

www.brusselscard.be

HOT DEALS on visitbelgium.com

Check out online the latest hotel bargains, tours packages and train offers

www.visitbelgium.com/?page=special

calendar

HIGHLIGHTS

Atomium

Built in 1958 for the Universal Exhibition
Brussels, www.atomium.be

Royal Greenhouses open to the public

Brussels, from April through beginning of May

Flower Carpet on the Grand Place

Brussels, every other year in august
www.flowercarpet.be

Biennal Art Nouveau

Brussels, every other year in october
www.bruxellesartnouveau.be

Royal Palace open to the public

Brussels, from end of July through mid-september

Christmas markets

Brussels and all over Wallonia in December
www.plaisirsdhiver.be

Europalia

Annual festival showcasing the visual and performing arts of a chosen country (2010 : China)
www.europalia.be

International Design Biennial

Liege, october
www.designliege.be

HISTORICAL EVENTS

FAT TUESDAY

Binche: Carnival

MARCH

Stavelot: Carnival of the Blancs-Moussis

Mons: Ducasse of Messines

GOOD FRIDAY

Tournai: Annual Flower Market

MAY

Mons: Doudou, Procession of the Golden carriage

Brussels: Zinneke Parade

JUNE

Waterloo: Napoleonic Bivouacs reanactement

JULY

Brussels: Ommegang Pageant

AUGUST

La Roche en Ardenne: Medieval week-end

Brussels: Planting of the Maytree

Castle of Seneffe: Flower Carpet

Ath: Procession of the Giants & Ducasse

Brussels: Flower Carpet

SEPTEMBER

Saint-Hubert: Historical parade

Tournai: Grand Historical Procession

NOVEMBER

Saint-Hubert: Feast of the Patron Saint

Bouillon: Festival and Procession of Saint-Eloi

ANTIQUES/ARTS FAIR

JANUARY

Antiques and Fine Arts Fair, Brussels, www.brafa.be

APRIL

Art Brussels, contemporary art fair, Brussels, www.artbrussels.be

MAY

Eurantica
Brussels, www.eurantica.be

JUNE

Ancient Art Fair
Brussels, www.baf.be

Oriental Art Fair

Brussels, www.boatfair.be

AUGUST

International Flea Market
Temploux (Namur)

COMIC STRIP

MAY

Comic Strips Fortnight
Brussels.

OCTOBER

Comic Strip and Children book,
Arlon, www.arlonbd.be

Comic Strips Festival

Saint-Gilles,
www.comicsfestivalbelgium.com

ALL YEAR

Comic Strip Museum open everyday (except Mondays).
Brussels, www.cbbd.be

MUSIC

APRIL

Ars Musica, also known as "the spring of contemporary music."
Brussels, www.arsmusica.be

MAY

Botanique Nights, reggae, world music, electro & rock.
Brussels, www.botanique.be

Queen Elisabeth of Belgium

International Music Competition,
Brussels, www.cmireb.be/en/

Festival des Arts, Brussels.

www.kunstenfestivaldesarts.be

Jazz Marathon Week-end, 125 free concerts and 450 musicians.
Brussels.

www.brusselsjazzmarathon.be

International Jazz Festival

Liège, www.jazzaliegge.be

Contest for young saxophone players

Dinant, every odd years.

JUNE

Music Village Jazz Concerts, 12 jazz nights with live music.

Brussels, www.musicvillage.com

Couleur Café, music from the

Caribbean, Africa & Latin America.
Brussels, www.couleurcafe.be

Verdur International Rock Festival,
Namur. www.verdur-rock.be

JUNE/OCTOBER

Wallonia Music festival with more than 500 free concerts,
www.festivaldewallonie.be

JULY

Brosella Folk & Jazz, free festival staged in a park at the Atomium.
Brussels, www.brosella.be

Musica Mundi, chamber music for young musicians.

Wallonia, www.musicamundi.org

Francofolies, the biggest names in French song.

Spa, www.francofolies.be

Alternative Music Festival, 4 days, 6 stages, 240 groups and DJ's.
Dour, www.dourfestival.be

Dinant Jazz Nights : international jazz festival

www.dinantjazznights.org

AUGUST

Night of Music at Chateau of Beloeil: "concert walk"

Summer Festival, more than 280 free concerts with a diverse range of music.

Brussels, www.infofestival.be

SEPTEMBER

Festival of Baroque Music at

Chateau of Chimay:

www.chateaudechimay.com

ALL YEAR

Bozar, www.bozar.be

Music Village, www.musicvillage.com

Forest National, www.forestnational.be

BEER

MAY

Beer Festival, Mons

Beer Festival, Exchange Fair & Flea Market, Lustin

JULY

Meeting of the Breweries, Hotton

SEPTEMBER

Belgian Beer Week-end

Brussels, www.weekenddelabiere.be

Bruxellensis Festival

Brussels, www.festivalbruxellensis.be

JUST FOR FUN

MARCH

Night of the Brussels Museums: 10 museums open from 8:00 pm to 1:00 am

MAY

Belgian Lesbian & Gay Pride

www.blgp.be

Iris Day

Brussels, www.fetedeliris.be

Festival of the fairground arts,

Namur, www.namurenmai.be

World's biggest competition of chivalry sports, Seraing.

JULY

Fair of Libramont : huge green rural festival where the past and the present come together
www.foiredelibramont.com

JULY-AUGUST

Brussels Beach
www.bruxelleslesbains.be

JULY 21

National Holiday - Fireworks

AUGUST 15

International Bathtub Regatta,
Dinant

SEPTEMBER

Heritage Day, Brussels and Wallonia

Sleepless Night, Brussels

A Sunday Without Car, Brussels

FILM FESTIVALS

JANUARY

Gay & Lesbian Film festival,
Brussels, www.fglb.org

FEBRUARY

Anima Film Festival
Brussels, www.animatv.be

International Love Film Festival

Mons, www.fifa-mons.be

MARCH-APRIL

Festival of Fantastic Film
Brussels, www.biff.org

APRIL-MAY

Shortfilm Festival
Brussels, www.courtmetrage.be

JUNE/JULY

European Film Festival
Brussels, www.fffb.be

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

International French-Language Film Festival
Namur, www.fiff.be

SPORTS EVENTS

APRIL

"Liège-Bastogne-Liège",
International Cycle Race

"The Flèche Wallone"

International Cycle Race, Charleroi

SEPTEMBER

Ivo Van Damme Memorial (Track & Field), Brussels

Grand Prix of Belgium, Formule 1 Race
Spa, www.spa-francorchamps.be

OCTOBER

Brussels Marathon

For more information

www.visitbelgium.com/?page=calendar

www.opt.be

www.bitc.be