



**BELGIUM: SMALL COUNTRY, BIG... ART, CASTLES, DIAMONDS, CULTURE, CATHEDRALS, FESTIVALS, BEER, WAFFLES, SHOPPING, FUN AND MANDATORY CHOCOLATES!**

### WHERE IS IT?

Centrally located in the heart of Europe, between France, Holland, Germany and Luxembourg, a country the size of Maryland. Belgium is 85 minutes from Paris and 1 hour 51 minutes from London by high-speed train!

### WHAT IS THE CURRENCY?

The Euro, but with a little imagination you can still get great values!

### WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE?

Belgium is seldom too hot or too cold. Summer averages 54F to 85F and winter from 32F to 43F. Check [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com)

### WHAT IS THE CAPITAL OF BELGIUM?

Brussels is the capital of Belgium and the European Union, headquarters of NATO and home to over 1000 US-based companies

### WHAT ARE THE ACCOMMODATIONS AND FOOD LIKE?

All hotels, from small properties to international chain hotels, assure that a quality experience awaits you. Take advantage of up to a 50% discount on hotel rates in Brussels year round on weekends and daily in July and August!

Every type of gourmet cuisine in the world is on the menu in Belgium. You can delight in fine chocolates and waffles, munch on Belgian fries with mayo, savor fresh mussels from the North Sea and then wash it all down with the country's diverse variety of beer, over 500 available!

### WHAT ABOUT TRANSFERS FROM THE AIRPORT?

Train shuttle service is located on the lower level of Brussels International Airport which connects to the North, Midi and Central Stations of Brussels. The 20 minute train ride departs every 20 minutes and costs approximately \$7.00. Taxi service is also available from the airport to the city center, approximately \$60.00 (NB: The Thalys and Eurostar trains leave from Midi Station).

### HOW DO I GET AROUND BELGIUM AND HOW FAR APART ARE THE CITIES?

Within Brussels there is an efficient subway system and an extensive rail network which connects all of Belgium. Purchase train tickets after you arrive in Belgium. Some distances (in miles) from Brussels to major cities in French-speaking Belgium are listed below:

**Bastogne:** 93 **Bouillon:** 97 **Dinant:** 58 **Liege:** 61 **Mons:** 35 **Namur:** 39  
**Spa:** 86 **Tournai:** 52 **Bruges:** 60

### WHAT'S NEW?



**The NEW Magritte museum** is now in Brussels to honor the Belgian, surrealist painter, Rene Magritte.

[www.musee-magritte-museum.be](http://www.musee-magritte-museum.be)

**The Hergé museum**, an oasis dedicated to the creator of Tintin, opened in June in Louvain-la-neuve, just outside Brussels.

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

**New Calatrava train station in Liege**, designed by Santiago Calatrava, is a must-see as is the newly-renovated **Grand Curtius museum complex**, also in Liege.

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

### SPECIAL INTEREST ON VISITBELGIUM.COM

ART LOVERS • BEER LOVERS • CHOCOLATE LOVERS • COOKING CLASSES • SPA TREATMENT • BIKING • RIVER CRUISES • FAMILY FUN • WWII GAY TRAVEL • GOLF • CASTLES & GARDENS • JEWISH HERITAGE • SHOPPING • YOUNG & HIP • **AND MUCH MORE**

**Calendar of Events:** <http://www.visitbelgium.com/calendar.html>



# BEFORE YOU GO

Useful information at: [www.visitbelgium.com/practical.htm](http://www.visitbelgium.com/practical.htm)

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

US and Canadian citizens need a valid passport. A visa is not required for stays of less than 90 days. Other nationalities should check with the Belgian embassy or nearest consulate office for visa requirements.

## AIRLINES

9 direct flights to Belgium from North America:

**American Airlines:** New York (JFK) and Chicago (ORD) - daily  
(800) 433-7300, [www.aa.com](http://www.aa.com)

**Continental Airlines:** Newark (EWR) - daily  
(800) 525-0280, [www.continental.com](http://www.continental.com)

**Delta Airlines:** New York (JFK) and Atlanta (ATL) - daily  
(800) 221-1212, [www.delta.com](http://www.delta.com)

**Jet Airways:** New York (JFK), Newark (EWR) and Toronto (YYZ) - daily  
(and more to come!)  
(877) 835-9538, [www.jetairways.com](http://www.jetairways.com)

**United Airlines:** Washington, DC (IAD) - daily  
(800) 241-6522, [www.united.com](http://www.united.com)

**US Airways:** Philadelphia (PHL) - daily  
(800) 428-4322, [www.usairways.com](http://www.usairways.com)

**Brussels Airlines:** New York (JFK co-share with AA) - daily  
(516) 740-5200, [www.brusselsairlines.be](http://www.brusselsairlines.be)  
Easy connections with Air France, BA, BMI and Virgin Atlantic

## RAIL

Buy a Benelux pass or tickets through Rail Europe: [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com)  
For schedule and price: [www.b-rail.be](http://www.b-rail.be)

**Thalys Train:** Paris-Brussels in 85 minutes, 25 daily departures. Brussels-Amsterdam in 2h 30 minutes, 7 daily departures.

**Eurostar:** London-Brussels is only 1h 51 minutes. Up to 9 daily departures. No advanced purchase within the Belgian system, check [www.raileurope.com](http://www.raileurope.com) for schedule information

## CAR RENTAL

[www.autoeurope.com](http://www.autoeurope.com) • [www.europcar.com](http://www.europcar.com) • [www.hertz.com](http://www.hertz.com)  
[www.avis.com](http://www.avis.com) • [www.sixt.be](http://www.sixt.be) • [www.budget.com](http://www.budget.com)

## THE MUSTS OF BELGIUM

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

**Bastogne:** [www.si-bastogne.be](http://www.si-bastogne.be)

**Bouillon:** [www.bouillon-tourisme.be](http://www.bouillon-tourisme.be)

**Dinant:** [www.forteressesetchateaux.be/hautemeuse-dinantaise-fr/](http://www.forteressesetchateaux.be/hautemeuse-dinantaise-fr/)

**Durbuy:** [www.durbuy.be](http://www.durbuy.be)

**Liege:** [www.liege.be](http://www.liege.be)

**Mons:** [www.paysdemons.be](http://www.paysdemons.be)

**Namur:** [www.namurtourisme.be](http://www.namurtourisme.be)

**Spa:** [www.spa-info.be](http://www.spa-info.be)

**Tournai:** [www.tournai.be](http://www.tournai.be)

**Waterloo:** [www.waterloo-tourisme.be](http://www.waterloo-tourisme.be)

**Other Beautiful Villages of Wallonia:** [www.beauxvillages.be](http://www.beauxvillages.be)

**Bruges:** [www.bruges.be](http://www.bruges.be)



## DID YOU KNOW ?

### Interesting facts about Belgium...

**Brussels** is the capital of **Belgium** and headquarters of the **European Union (EU) & NATO**. With this much international activity, it's no wonder English is widely spoken.

The famous statue of **Manneken Pis** is found in Brussels. Heads of state and famous artists have donated over 800 outfits on display at the Brussels Museum.

The little blue cartoon creatures known as **Smurfs** are also-smurfly Belgian, created by Peyo. Throughout Brussels there are murals attesting our love for Comic Strip Art.

There are 35 **UNESCO** World Heritage sites in Belgium.

There are 3 official languages in Belgium: French, Dutch and German - although English is widely spoken.

Belgium produces 172,000 tons of **chocolate** per year in over 2,130 chocolate shops. Our chocolate has pure cocoa flavor because we don't use vegetable shortening.

There are more **castles** per square mile in Belgium than anywhere else in the world. Some castles are moated and others have labyrinth garden mazes to get lost in!

The **saxophone** was invented in Belgium by Adolph Sax in 1846. There are numerous **jazz festivals** throughout the year celebrating Belgium's love for jazz music.

There are over 500 different types of **beer** in Belgium running the gamut from white to raspberry beer. Most beers have their own glass in which only that beer may be served.



### SPECIALTIES OF THE REGION

Frites • Chocolate • Mussels • Mustard • Charcuterie  
Cheese • Couque de Dinant • Green Produce  
Famous strawberries from town of Wepion

## ENJOY

**Famous Breweries**  
[www.visitbelgium.com/beer.htm](http://www.visitbelgium.com/beer.htm)

**Chocolate**  
[www.visitbelgium.com/chocolate.htm](http://www.visitbelgium.com/chocolate.htm)

**Shopping**  
[www.brusselscreativity.com](http://www.brusselscreativity.com)

**Discount Passes**  
[www.mustofbrussels.com](http://www.mustofbrussels.com)

**Antiques & Flea Markets**  
[www.visitbelgium.com/markets.htm](http://www.visitbelgium.com/markets.htm)

## DISCOVER

**Nightlife**  
[www.visitbelgium.com/younghip.htm](http://www.visitbelgium.com/younghip.htm)

**Culture**  
[www.visitbelgium.com/artculture.htm](http://www.visitbelgium.com/artculture.htm)

**WWII Sites**  
[www.si-bastogne.com](http://www.si-bastogne.com)  
[www.bastognehistoricalcenter.be](http://www.bastognehistoricalcenter.be)  
[www.henrichapelle.com](http://www.henrichapelle.com)  
[www.waterloo-tourism.be](http://www.waterloo-tourism.be)

**Events**  
[www.visitbelgium.com/calendar.html](http://www.visitbelgium.com/calendar.html)

## THE MUSTS OF BRUSSELS

85 MUSEUMS • HANGING OUT AROUND THE GRAND PLACE • MARKETS, ATOMIUM • CAFE-HOPPING • MAJOR EVENTS  
FASHION HUB • ARCHITECTURE AND ART NOUVEAU • NEW HOTELS • GASTRONOMY • BEER AND CHOCOLATE AT EVERY CORNER!