





## WELCOME TO BRUSSELS, THE CITY THAT DARES YOUR CUSTOMERS

What is Brussels? Brussels is a multi-layered, multi-faceted city that dares to be itself and invites visitors to do the same. Regardless of ideas, identity or origins, your customers will feel right at home. Brusselers, Bruxellois and Brusselaars represent 184 nationalities—which means that Brussels is a city that speaks their language. Literally and figuratively.

As they wander, visitors discover that Brussels is an affordable and accessible city of innovators in every domain, from culture to architecture, business to food. Brussels loves to eat! Your customers can savour the creativity and diversity of our restaurant scene at internationally-renowned tables and at hundreds of neighbourhood gems. They'll taste a multi-cultural world here.

And they'll soon realize that the capital of Europe is also the capital of conviviality. Brussels knows how to lead, and we know how to live. International leaders and policy-makers rub elbows with artists, craftsmen and innovators all over the city.

Visitors find open, warm and welcoming Brusselers everywhere. Here in one of Europe's greenest cities, they can live like the locals in some 20,000 acres of parks and green spaces, in countless cosmopolitan neighbourhoods, or at one of the 20,000 events, performances, activities, gatherings and festivals that we offer every year.

Your customers will discover a city that's less coded and more casual, playful and open. Brussels dares visitors to be themselves, and rewards them with an unforgettable experience.

**We look forward to welcoming all of you!**

**Patrick Bontinck**  
*visit.brussels CEO*

**Elisabeth Van Ingelgem**  
*visit.brussels Strategy & International Director*

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*“Brussels  
City Hall is a jewel  
comparable to the spire of Chartres  
Cathedral; the dazzling fantasy of a poet that came  
from the head of an architect. Also, the square  
surrounding it is a marvel.”*

**Victor Hugo,**  
French classical writer who lived  
on the Grand-Place

*“Brussels cultivates  
the unparalleled  
art of a simple, warm  
welcome, thanks to the  
atmosphere that only the  
people of Brussels know how to  
create.”*

**Jacques Delors,**  
former President  
of the European  
Commission

*“I’m really attached to Brus-  
sels, so much so, that if someone  
tried to take me away, well, it would  
be as if I’d lost a part of myself.”*

**Fred Jannin,**  
Belgian humourist  
and cartoonist

*“I compare  
Brussels to the attic that  
you might find in your grandparents’ home.  
The sort of place where everything gets put away, where  
there are all sorts of little treasures.”*

**Elise, French expat**

*“Brussels is one hell  
of a Bazaar.”*

**Arno, Belgian singer**

*“I had it in  
my head that Brussels was  
the centre of Europe, the place where you can  
speak many different languages, and I have always found the  
diversity that exists here to be truly astonishing.”*

**Daniela, eurocrat**

**A CITY OF  
MANY FACES,  
THROUGH THE  
EYES OF ITS  
INHABITANTS &  
ARTISTS**

Brussels,

# THROUGH its DISTRICTS



Through Brussels' diversity and authenticity, its districts have developed strong and welcoming identities. It's a real patchwork, with a mix of genres, origins, desires, trends... Starting with **THE HISTORICAL CENTRE AND ITS LISTED BUILDINGS**, with **THE GRAND-PLACE** as a figurehead, **THE STOCK EXCHANGE**, **THE ROYAL SAINT-HUBERT GALLERIES**, **THE CATHEDRAL OF SAINTS MICHAEL AND GUDULA** and, only a stone's throw, **THE SUMPTUOUS ROYAL QUARTER**.

Dominated by the courthouse, **THE AUTHENTIC AND WELCOMING MAROLLES DISTRICT** vibrates to the rhythm of small cafes, antique shops, **ITS FAMOUS FLEA MARKET ON PLACE DU JEU DE BALLE**, and the fiery beats of its mythical club **LE FUSE**. **SAINT-GILLES STANDS OUT AS ONE OF THE ARTISTIC HEARTS OF THE CAPITAL**, with its mix of nationalities and its bourgeois-bohemian tendency that bring the café terraces of the **PARVIS** to life. Explore the area's incredible Art

Nouveau facades, like the **HORTA MUSEUM**, the architect's former residence.

Brussels becomes increasingly beautiful and surprising as you walk through its districts. It's an abundance of riches that never ceases to amaze even the most curious visitors. Did you think you knew the city?

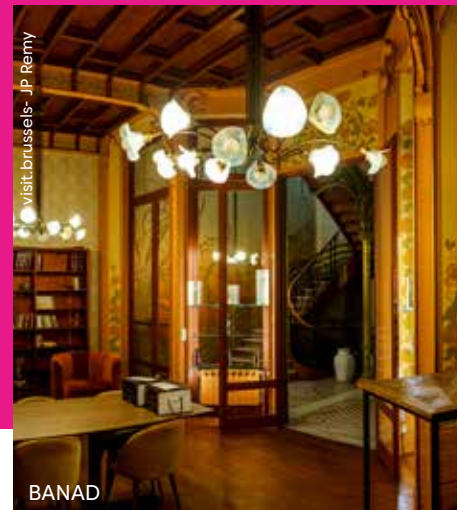


**THE EUROPEAN QUARTER**, to the east, is a reminder of the city's status as the capital of Europe, with **THE PARLIAMENT ON PLACE DU LUXEMBOURG** and **THE COMMISSION** housed in the famous **BERLAYMONT** building. **THE CANAL DISTRICT** has successfully transformed from a declining industrial centre **INTO A TRENDY NEW SPOT** that is home to redeveloped industrial settings such as **TOUR & TAXIS AND ITS GARE MARITIME WITH ITS REMARKABLE ARCHITECTURE**, **KANAL - CENTRE POMPIDOU**, the **COOP** discovery centre and the **MIMA**, and underground venues such as **LAVALLÉE** and **RECYCLART**.

But Brussels is also the **LOUISE DISTRICT** and its luxury stores, the **FOREST** district and its parks, **THE HEYSEL DISTRICT** and the emblematic **ATOMIUM**, **FLAGEY**, its cafés and ponds, **KOEKELBERG** and its gigantic Art Deco **BASILICA**... and much more besides.

There is always something to discover.

# The MAIN EVENTS



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

Brussels has an abundance of events of all kinds. All disciplines are represented, from contemporary art to history and gastronomy. No fewer than 20,000 events take place here each year. We've put together a selection of some of the capital's must-see events.

## **BRAFA**

Eclectic by definition, the BRAFA (Brussels Art Fair) covers a wide artistic spectrum, from antiquity to the 21<sup>st</sup> century and all disciplines in between. Art nouveau jewellery, 18<sup>th</sup> century chests of drawers, African masks, designer objects and contemporary works. Its 135 exhibitors, from 14 countries, bring incredible variety year.

**When? January-February**

[www.brafa.art/en](http://www.brafa.art/en)

## **BRIGHT FESTIVAL**

Bright Festival, Brussels' unmissable festival of lights, illuminates winter evenings in the capital. Over four days, monumental light works created by national and international artists take over the streets and enhance several emblematic sites. It's an opportunity to (re)discover Brussels' rich heritage in a new light, and it's free!

**When? February**

[www.bright.brussels/en](http://www.bright.brussels/en)

## **BANAD**

The Brussels Art Nouveau & Art Deco (BANAD) Festival highlights the Art Nouveau and Art Deco heritage of the Brussels-Capital Region. The programme for this exceptional event includes guided tours of Art Nouveau and Art Deco interiors which are usually closed to the public.

**When? March**

[www.banad.brussels/en/](http://www.banad.brussels/en/)



## **THE ROYAL GREENHOUSES in Laeken**

Every spring, the Royal Greenhouses in Laeken open their doors to the public for almost three weeks. The greenhouses, are an architectural masterpiece in themselves and were created by Alphonse Balat, Victor Horta's teacher. They house a rare and priceless collection of flowers.

**When? April - May**

[www.monarchie.be/en/heritage/royal-greenhouses-in-laeken](http://www.monarchie.be/en/heritage/royal-greenhouses-in-laeken)

## **THE QUEEN ELISABETH COMPETITION**

Since its creation in 1937, the Queen Elisabeth Competition has become a springboard for young violinists, pianists, singers and cellists at the start of their international career. It allows these young virtuosos from all over the world to access some of the greatest musical stages.

**When? May - June**

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

## **THE OMMEGANG**

The Ommegang is a great Brussels event, a proud ambassador of the capital's history. This impressive procession of nearly 1,400 people in period costume illustrates many aspects of Renaissance folklore. It evokes the feast given on 2 June 1549 by the Magistrate of Brussels in honour of Emperor Charles V and his family. It's a breathtaking visual spectacle that works its magic from the very first moments.

**When? June-July**

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



## **BELGIAN NATIONAL DAY**

21 July is Belgian National Day. It's the date on which the first king of the Belgians, Leopold I, took the constitutional oath in 1831. The programme includes a series of original activities and events proposed by the Belgian and European institutions. Not to mention the impressive military parade on the ground and in the air and the magnificent fireworks display to end the day of festivities. It's all free of charge.

**When? 20 & 21 July**

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

## **FLOWER CARPET**

Every other August, the Flower Carpet adorns Brussels' magnificent Grand-Place. This exceptional installation is accompanied by a visit to the balcony of City Hall (for a fee), which provides a breathtaking view of the work. And that's not all! Every evening, a sound and light show enhances the work and the buildings on this unique square.

**When? On the weekend of 15 August, every other summer**

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

## **BD COMIC STRIP FESTIVAL**

The ninth art is put in the spotlight with the BD Comic Strip Festival. The programme for this free event includes exhibitions, activities, signing sessions, guided tours, talks and giant balloons to the greatest pleasure of comic book lovers and fans of the genre. All this in the exceptional setting of Tour & Taxis' Gare Maritime.

**When? September**

[www.bdcomicstripfestival.brussels/en](http://www.bdcomicstripfestival.brussels/en)



© Marurine Toussaint

EAT FESTIVAL



© Visit.brussels - E. Damhier

Winter Wonder

## EAT FESTIVAL

Eat Festival is the meeting place for those who love pleasures of the palate. Located in the heart of Tour & Taxis' Gare Maritime, this festival celebrates the artisans of Brussels gastronomy. Four days of festivities dedicated to tasting the best of the capital. All the culinary richness of Brussels can be found on your plate thanks to a range of signature dishes, pastries, cheeses, beers and cocktails.

**When? September - October**

[www.eat.brussels/en](http://www.eat.brussels/en)

## WINTER WONDERS

To celebrate the end-of-year celebrations in Brussels, there is nothing better than Winter Wonders. This huge, free to visit Christmas market with its chalets, activities, big wheel, ice rink and illuminations transports visitors into the magical world of all things Christmas. In total, more than 200 chalets are scattered around the centre of the capital and take visitors on a stroll between artisanal souvenirs and culinary pleasures. Not forgetting the highlight of the show, the magnificent Christmas tree on the Grand-Place.

**When? November - December**

[www.plaisirsdhiver.be/en/](http://www.plaisirsdhiver.be/en/)

DO YOU NEED  
INSPIRATION FOR  
YOUR OUTINGS?

Check the visit.  
[brussels calendar](#)

Are you looking for  
exciting exhibitions  
and guided tours,  
unmissable events  
or original themed  
trade fairs and  
shows?

Do you want to  
delight your ears with  
a concert or your  
eyes with a film?

To discover  
what's happening  
in Brussels,  
browse here.  
[www.agenda.brussels/en](http://www.agenda.brussels/en)

# AWAKEN YOUR TASTE BUDS!



Gastronomy and the pleasure of the palate are inescapable parts of Brussels' DNA. While staying in Brussels, you'll discover food habits and different ways of eating. You'll be sure to find something to delight your taste buds, from Michelin-starred establishments to Belgian and Brussels specialities, not to mention more unusual experiences.

## Unusual gastronomic experiences: surrealism on a plate

Brussels is full of surprising dishes, but you'll also enjoy the decor and atmosphere. Board the **TRAM EXPERIENCE** to take your taste buds on a journey along the most beautiful streets of the capital. To get some height, book the star-filled experiences at **DINNER IN THE SKY** or **LA VILLA IN THE SKY**. Are you tempted to dive into the depths of the abyss? There's nothing like a good Thai meal at **NEMO 33**, one of the deepest pools in the world. Don't miss the following concepts if you are in a festive mood: **L'ENFANT TERRIBLE**, **LILY'S**, and **MIKI** are bound to get you dancing.

### PRO TIP

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE WITH YOUR CLIENTS!

Contact our team for a personalised follow-up of your reservations or privatisations (maximal capacity of 36 persons) onboard the **Tram Experience**:  
[corporate@visit.brussels](mailto:corporate@visit.brussels)  
[www.tramexperience.brussels](http://www.tramexperience.brussels)



## Cooking with the locals: passion on your plate

The people of Brussels love to eat well but also to cook gourmet dishes with and for the people they love. Brussels offers cooking experiences with the best ambassadors of this art de vivre, namely the locals! Some even welcome you into their homes, like **VÉRONIQUE TOEFAERT** who invites people into her apartment in the Royal Saint-Hubert galleries. Chefs welcome the public to **LA CUISINE DE FLORE** to share their techniques and their love of beautiful produce. You can learn how to cook good food with the enthusiasts at **MMMUSSELS** and **SWING'N COOK**.



© Pierre Havrenne

Comme chez soi



© Ph. De Gober

Bozar Restaurant



© Sebastien Van De Walle

Chalet de la forêt

## Michelin-starred Brussels

Brussels has 14 Michelin-starred restaurants. While each is an experience in itself, some have a special setting that makes the experience even more unique. For example, the **CHALET DE LA FORÊT**, nestled on the edge of Sonian Forest and boasting an exceptional terrace; the nearby **VIL- LA LORRAINE** also offers a setting as exceptional as its dishes. **COMME CHEZ SOI**, which will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary, offers meals in the kitchen, in the magnificent Art Nouveau-inspired main room or at the table d'hôtes in the middle of the house's cellar. **BOZAR RESTAURANT** is located in Bozar, the century-old Centre for Fine Arts designed by Victor Horta. There's also **LA VILLA IN THE SKY**, which really is located on the roof of a skyscraper and offers a breathtaking view of the city.



© visit.brussels - E. Dornhier

Aux Armes de Bruxelles



© visit.brussels - JP Remy

Aux Armes de Bruxelles



© JJ Demeyer

Gaufres & Waffles

## Belgian and Brussels specialities: here, calories don't count

Belgian and Brussels cuisine is generous, friendly, invigorating and accessible. It can be eaten simply in the street with your fingers, for example eating fries bought from a fritkot(chip shop) such as **MAISON ANTOINE**, **FRI'T'FLAGEY** or **CHEZ PALMA**. It can also be enjoyed, again in the street, by eating seafood at the **MER DU NORD/NOORDZEE** counter, or at **FERNAND OBB**, the king of shrimp croquettes. It can be savoured in the many Belgian restaurants, such as **BRIGITTINES**, **AUX ARMES DE BRUXELLES**, **RESTAURANT VINCENT**, and **LA BELLE MARAICHÈRE**, which offer mussels and fries, Flemish stew, stoemp (potatoes and vegetables), vol-au-vent, sole meunière, bloempanch (blood sausage) or américain préparé (raw beef steak with sauce). It can be eaten on the go at **PISTOLET ORIGINAL**, where you can discover crunchy round rolls filled with specialities from our childhood. Sweet and savoury versions can be enjoyed at **GAUFRES & WAFFLES**, in the form of Brussels waffles whose recipes were created by two-Michelin-starred chef Yves Mattagne.

© Christian Hagen



Monella

© EquinoxLightPhoto



humus x hortense

© Delphine Lang



My Tannour

## Diversity on a plate

Brussels is the capital of diversity and this is reflected in its food scene, which is as varied as it is excellent. The Italian restaurants would make any city in Italy swoon, from a Michelin-starred restaurant like **SENZANOME** to the street food of **MONELLA** to restaurants and from osterias like Racines and Certo, to some of the best pizzerias in the world outside of Italy, such as **PIOLA**, or **NONA**, and many more. For a Japanese getaway, try the Michelin-starred **KAMO** or **NONBE DAIGAKU**, for classic or modern Indian, **EVEREST** or **GANESH**, for veggie food, the unmissable **HUMUS X HORTENSE** or vegan brasserie Verdo. For Thai, the very modern **OLD BOY**, for Ethiopian the festive **TOUKOUL**, and for Greek the iconic **NOTOS**. In short, Brussels has everything you could dream of.



## Food courts & markets: transport your taste buds

Transport your taste buds around the world while staying in one place...the dream! And it can become a reality thanks to the food courts of Brussels. Foodies and the curious alike flock to **WOLF FOOD MARKET**, where they can choose (or not) from among 19 restaurants and two bars. Its little brother, the **FOX FOOD MARKET**, located in the green areas of Watermael-Boitsfort, has ten restaurants and a magnificent outdoor terrace. Within Tour & Taxis, Belgian and international local produce gets a new look in the **GARE MARITIME-FOOD MARKET**, with ten street food concepts. For an authentic experience, what could be better than a stroll between the **MARKET STALLS OF PLACE DU LUXEMBOURG** (Tuesdays, 12:00 to 20:30) and **PLACE DU CHÂTELAIN** (Wednesdays, 12:00 to 20:30). The small tasting sessions are a wonderful bonus!



## The brunch trend

It has been THE trend for the past few years: gourmet brunches are an unmissable part of the late morning routine! And in Brussels, there's something for every taste and profile. Some venues have beautiful spaces and features that can easily accommodate families or groups, such as the **CHICAGO CAFÉ**, the **BALMORAL MILK BAR** and the Tricoterie. If you are looking for a cuisine with a taste of distant lands, you'll find what you are looking for at **VOISIN** or **BELI**. You'll love the chic **FABRIQUE EN VILLE**, **HÔTEL AMIGO** and **LE LOUIS XV**. And if what matters to you is healthy, seasonal, organic and sustainable food, we suggest you visit **SERRA**, **LES FILLES** and **CHEZ CHYL**.

© T Tony Le Duc



Laurent Gerbaud

© NC ND



Pain à la Grecque - Dandoy

© Jean-Paul Remy



Chocolate Atelier

© Joeri Mostmans



Speculoos

© Peter Bocklandt



© Papabubble



Papabubble

## Chocolate and other sweet pleasures: expertise

In Brussels, a love of good food is not seen as a weakness! In fact, for more than 100 years, the people of Brussels have been tempting food-lovers from all over the world with their famous **PRALINES**, which were invented by Jean Neuhaus in the Royal Saint-Hubert galleries in 1912. Brussels is also the home of the famous **WAFFLE** and the delicious speculoos. Alongside these international stars we can also find the timeless **PAIN À LA GRÈCQUE**, a sugar-coated bread that has been a favourite of locals and travellers since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Do you want to know more about these sweet treats? The capital has many **DISCOVERY WORKSHOPS** (Laurent Gerbaud, Mike & Becky, Papabubble, Chocostory, etc.) Not forgetting the welcoming **TEA ROOMS** for a break with delicious snack, at **DANDOY**, for example.

### PRO TIP

DO YOU NEED TO ORGANISE AN ACTIVITY BASED AROUND THIS THEME?

Associations offer a kaleidoscope of guided tours or discovery activities, such as **DISCOVER BELGIUM**, **BRUXELLES BAVARD** or **ITINÉRAIRES**. Contact them!

[info@discover-belgium.be](mailto:info@discover-belgium.be)  
[info@bruxellesbavard.be](mailto:info@bruxellesbavard.be)  
[info@itineraires.be](mailto:info@itineraires.be)



## An unusual way to experience beer

In Brussels, beer is becoming more and more varied! Those who like to relax can visit **GOOD BEER & SPA** and **BATH & BARLEY**, a new concept of thermal treatment in beer baths, with a glass of beer in hand, of course. The more sporty **BEER BIKE** will have you pedalling through the streets of the capital while drinking beer, on a vehicle that can hold up to 20 people. The **BRUSSELS BEER BUS** offers a guided tour of the city that includes a tasting of several Brussels beers. The **BXLBEER-FEST**, at the end of the summer, brings together some 30 independent breweries offering craft beers; they are from Brussels, Belgium and abroad. The Grand-Place in Brussels is the setting for the three-day **BELGIAN BEER WEEKEND**, which takes place in early September and honours Belgian beers and their brewers.



## Discover the world of Brussels breweries and microbreweries

The reputation of Belgian beers has long been known beyond our borders. Over the last ten years, Brussels has seen a resurgence of interest in artisanal production and craft beers. Of course, there is the **BRASSERIE CANTILLON**, the historic flagship of Brussels brewing, but a dozen young breweries are now revisiting the great classics. The brewers of the **BRASSERIE DE LA SENNE**, **BEERSTORMING** and the **BRUSSELS BEER PROJECT** create, test and modernise... Brussels has even created a cooperative of craft microbrewers thanks to **COHOP**. These breweries are not resting on their laurels and are determined to evolve the city's brewing heritage. They also open their doors to the public for visits or workshops so they can share their knowledge. Cheers!

### PRO TIP

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR AN ACTIVITY AROUND THIS THEME?

Are you looking for activities, tastings and themed visits based around beer? **BEER MY GUEST**, **BEER SECRET** and **AGALMALT** will meet your expectations. Contact them!

[magali@beermyguest.be](mailto:magali@beermyguest.be)  
[hello@beersecret.com](mailto:hello@beersecret.com)  
[hello@agalmalt.com](mailto:hello@agalmalt.com)



Brasserie Cantillon



Brasserie de la Senne



Brussels Beer Project

## Beer tasting: Brussels, its cafés and its beer bars

The diversity of Brussels can also be found in its cafés and beer bars, which are abundant and varied. There is literally something for everyone! Here are a few inspiring examples:

The **POECHENELLEKELDER**, a timeless small cafe with a view of Manneken Pis, is a benchmark for all lovers of traditional Belgian beers. The **CANTILLON BREWERY'S** small cafe allows you to taste vintages not found anywhere else and attracts beer geeks from around the world. The bar of the **BRASSERIE SURREALISTE** perfectly embodies the dynamism and resurgence of the Brussels brewery scene. For a completely different atmosphere, the two venues of **MOEDER LAMBIC**, in the city centre and in Saint-Gilles, regularly rank among the best beer bars in the world. For a completely timeless experience, it is a good idea to settle down in the Art Nouveau cocoon of **CIRIO**, which oozes tradition. Lastly, the **SKYBAR** on the roof of the Bourse building, the icing on the cake of the brand-new **BELGIAN BEER WORLD** project, offers no fewer than forty pumps. The bar is open for a few hours at the end of the day, once the exhibition tours have ended.

# CULTURAL

# CROSSROADS



Brussels is the second most cosmopolitan city in the world, home to no fewer than 184 nationalities. Nearly 108 languages are spoken. It's no wonder that Brussels is a real cultural hub all year round. There is so much to see and discover! Its charm lies precisely in the extensive range of interests it represents. Not only is Brussels the world capital of Art Nouveau, it is also the epicentre of surrealism, the Mecca of comics and a gastronomic paradise. And that's without mentioning its magnificent historic centre and its many green spaces. Brussels is without a doubt a city in the heart of Europe that welcomes children and loves to be artistic and lively.

## Brussels, Art Nouveau capital

Did you know that there are almost a thousand Art Nouveau buildings in Brussels? Every street corner reveals splendid façades, often hiding dream interiors... **SOLVAY HOUSE, CAUCHIE HOUSE, HANNON HOUSE, THE HOTEL VAN EETVELDE, AUTRIQUE HOUSE** - so many places that show off this typically Brussels style! Since 2023, 130 years after the completion of **TASSEL HOUSE**, the founding Art Nouveau work in the Belgian capital, Brussels has asserted itself as the capital of this diverse, international artistic movement.

### PRO TIP

#### ART NOUVEAU PASS

With the Art Nouveau Pass, all of Brussels' Art Nouveau gems are gathered together in one place! Economical and easy to use, this architectural pass opens the doors to three Art Nouveau places of your choice (out of seven) over a period of nine months, not to mention discounts on various guided tours and access to the exhibitions scheduled as part of the 2023 Art Nouveau year!

[info@artnouveupass.brussels](mailto:info@artnouveupass.brussels)

[www.brusselmuseums.be/en/our-projects/art-nouveau-pass](http://www.brusselmuseums.be/en/our-projects/art-nouveau-pass)



## Ride the wave of UNESCO heritage of Brussels

Brussels is admired for the richness of its heritage, a testimony to its almost thousand-year-old history, which has not escaped UNESCO's attention. Some famous Brussels sites have been recognised by the international organisation for their indisputable value: the **GRAND-PLACE**, some of the **HOUSES BUILT BY HORTA**, **STOCLET PALACE** and the **SONIAN FOREST**. And, on the intangible side, events such as the **MEYBOOM**, the **OMMEGANG**, the city's **BEER CULTURE** and, last but not least, **CARILLON CULTURE**. So, are you ready to discover the capital's UNESCO heritage?

### PRO TIP

THE OMMEGANG  
OR BRUSSELS IN THE  
RENAISSANCE. RESERVE  
YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE!

This high-flying show is held every year at the end of June or the very beginning of July. It will immerse you in 16<sup>th</sup> century Brussels, in the stunning setting of the Grand-Place.

Contact : [info@ommegang.be](mailto:info@ommegang.be)

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



© Marin Driguez

Museums of Fine Arts



© JP Remy - visitbrussels

House of European History



© visit.brussels - Jean-Michel Byl

Bozar



© Marin Driguez / Agence Vu

Museum of Natural Sciences



© visit.brussels - Jean-Michel Byl

Cinquantenaire



© Marie-Françoise Plissant

Train World

## A kaleidoscope of museums and exhibitions

Did you know that Brussels has more than 100 museums and nearly 20,000 cultural events, including internationally renowned exhibitions? One of the cultural highlights is undoubtedly the Mont des Arts, where the exceptional collections of the **ROYAL MUSEUMS OF FINE ARTS**, the **MAGRITTE MUSEUM**, or the **MUSEUM OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS** are displayed. Not forgetting **BOZAR** and its exceptional exhibitions. Cinquantenaire Park also houses some wonderful surprises at the **ART & HISTORY MUSEUM** and **AUTOWORLD**. And not far from there, in the European Quarter, we find the giants that are the **PARLAMENTARIUM**, the **HOUSE OF EUROPEAN HISTORY** and the **MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES**. The **DESIGN MUSEUM BRUSSELS**, dedicated to design from the 20<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, and **TRAIN WORLD**, with its breathtaking scenography designed by the artist François Schuiten, are also not to be missed.

### PRO TIP

#### BRUSSELS CARD

Make the most of the European capital while saving money with the Brussels Card, which gives you admission to 49 museums and discounts to the best attractions, guided tours, shops, restaurants & bars in Brussels. Free app & maps. Optional extras to include transport and the Atomium. All on one card!

#### Contact:

Audrey Tribolet  
audrey@brusselismuseums.be

[www.brusselismuseums.be/en/  
our-projects/brussels-card-3](http://www.brusselismuseums.be/en/our-projects/brussels-card-3)



## Brussels, the crossroads of contemporary art

Brussels is considered a must for artists as well as fans and collectors of contemporary art. The city has more than a hundred galleries of all styles and sizes, both national and international in scope. The **XAVIER HUFKENS GALLERY** has established itself as one of the most influential in Europe; a stone's throw from the **WIELS, CLEARING**, the European duplicate of a gallery founded in Brooklyn, builds bridges with its cutting-edge transatlantic programming; the **PATINOIRE ROYALE | GALERIE VALÉRIE BACH** presents the work of established artists in the breathtaking setting of the former Royal Ice Skating Rink. Alongside these galleries, private individuals regularly open their collections to the public, such as Galila Barzilai, a true "artoholic", who opened the renowned **GALILA'S P.O.C.**, and the Vanhaerents family and their **VANHAERENTS ART COLLECTION**. It is also possible to visit the studio of several contemporary Brussels artists, on request. Belgian designer **ISABELLE DE BORCHGRAVE**, for example, who has made paper her working medium, offers guided tours of her 1,000m<sup>2</sup> studio in Ixelles.



## The essential addresses for your first visit

The more you visit Brussels, the more the capital reveals itself. For a quick first visit, make sure you add the following places to your must-see list. First of all, the majestic **GRAND-PLACE**. Often considered the world's most beautiful square, its reputation is already well established. A few steps away, a Brussels celebrity relieves himself without shame: **MANNEKEN PIS**. While this statue is surprisingly small, the **ATOMIUM** is 102m high. Feeling a little bit dizzy? Then a detour to **MINI-EUROPE** is a must. It's a genuine open-air museum that allows you to visit all of Europe's major monuments in one place. For fans of architecture, stop off at the **VILLA EMPAIN** or the **HORTA MUSEUM**, which will reveal the secrets of the Art Deco and Art Nouveau movements.

### PRO TIP

#### TOOTBUS, A BETTER WAY TO DISCOVER THE MUST-SEE SIGHTS

The famous Hop-On Hop-Off buses, now 100% electric, allow you to travel wherever you want within Brussels and be as close as possible to the capital's must-sees.

Contact:

Peggy Palmieri

[peggy.palmieri@tootbus.com](mailto:peggy.palmieri@tootbus.com)

[www.tootbus.com/en/brussels/home](http://www.tootbus.com/en/brussels/home)



© visit.brussels - JP Ferry

La Monnaie



© visit.brussels - E. Darnier

Sewer Museum



© M. Vanhulst

Toone Theatre

## Brussels as you've never seen it before

Explore Brussels off the beaten track? You can! The capital willingly reveals its secrets during unusual discoveries and walks. First of all, there are unusual museums such as the **SEWER MUSEUM**, which takes you into the bowels of Brussels, the **BELGIAN MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY** and its mysteries, and the remains of **COUDENBERG PALACE**, an exceptional archaeological site and the former residence of Emperor Charles V in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Brussels' folklore is presented in an unparalleled way by the joyful puppets of the **TOONE THEATRE**. For a behind-the-scenes visit to rarely accessible places, **LA MONNAIE** and the **PALACE OF JUSTICE** welcome a few lucky visitors each year. Several tour organisations have even made these singular experiences their specialities.



© @visitbrussels - JP Remy

Laeken Cemetery



© @visitbrussels - JP Remy

the Basilica of the Sacred Heart



© @visitbrussels - JP Remy

The Florist's Gardens

## Unusual places for memorable walks

What could be better than bringing a souvenir of an unusual walk among the region's unknown gems back with you in your luggage. This is a wonderful way to discover another of Brussels' many facets. **THE FLORIST'S GARDENS**, part of the Royal Gardens of Laeken, form an extraordinary green setting where hundreds of rare plants flourish. Not far from there, **LAEKEN CEMETERY** is a real open-air museum that offers a historical and surprisingly bucolic escapade among the tombs of Brussels personalities. And to enjoy a breathtaking view of Brussels from the top of an exceptional building, head to **THE BASILICA OF THE SACRED HEART IN KOEKELBERG**. It's a must!



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Le Logis - Floréal

Visit the garden cities, these unique places to live in

Have you heard about the concept of garden cities? They were first created in England at the end of the 19th century and our capital happily adopted the concept... in Brussels, these districts, with their very particular look, were mostly developed in the 1920s. Their main intention was to offer the less fortunate a comfortable place to live, with all the modern facilities, in an environment that was both peri-urban and at the same time reminiscent of the countryside thanks to its tranquillity and the integration of abundant vegetation. There is nothing like a walk through these small, picturesque areas. The **LE LOGIS** and **FLORÉAL** garden cities, the most famous ensemble, offer visits with guides or inhabitants and downloadable audio-guide walks. **TERDELT** garden city in Schaerbeek can also be visited with a guide, while **FOREST-VERT** can be discovered independently, with the help of a map.

# EXPERIENCE **by NIGHT** **BRUSSELS**



Brussels has a vibrant nightlife scene. To really get to know the capital, you have to experience it at night, through its parties, clubs and bars. The festivities usually begin on Thursday evening and continue until the early hours of Sunday. As you will see, the people of Brussels know how to party. There's always a good reason to go out, have a drink, dance and enjoy life.

## Dancing in clubs

Hip-hop, house or techno, why choose? In Brussels, there are clubs for all audiences. Start with Fuse, the temple of techno in the heart of the Marolles district. This club has been a must for all the biggest international DJs since 1994. Another big club, the **MIRANO**, a former cinema, has people dancing in its unusual decor. Those who like unusual venues can make their way to Spirito, located in a former Anglican church. **C12**, **BLOODY LOUIS**, **CABANE**, **BIRDY**, **ZODIAK** and **JEUX D'HIVER** are also must-see Brussels nightlife venues.

### PRO TIP

#### VOLUME PASS

The Volume Pass is a good deal for hardcore partygoers: for €29, it offers access to the best clubs in the city for a weekend.

Contact:  
Frederick Boutry  
f.boutry@visit.brussels  
[www.volumebrussels.com](http://www.volumebrussels.com)



## Meet in music bars

For a drink with friends, there is nothing like meeting in bars that regularly offer concerts or DJ sets until the wee hours. The **ARCHIDUC** is a classic of the genre, as big international jazz names have been meeting there since 1934. For jazz lovers, the **SOUNDS JAZZ CLUB** organises around four concerts per week as well as jam sessions. **BONNEFOOI** gets people dancing with an eclectic and alternative programme in a hushed atmosphere. For a drag queen show, there is nothing like a trip to **CABARET MADEMOISELLE** or **CHEZ MAMAN** to see the true queens of the night in action! Atmosphere guaranteed!



## Sip a drink in a cocktail bar

With some 20 venues on its territory, Brussels has been developing a real cocktail culture for several years now. Mixologists prepare both revamped classics and their own creations. **ARTHUR ORLANS** welcomes visitors in a cosy British atmosphere in the heart of the trendy Dansaert district. **LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL** offers a menu comprising personal creations as well as great classics. There's a steampunk atmosphere at **LA PHARMACIE ANGLAISE**, which offers all kinds of cocktails and mocktails. Plunge into the prohibition era with **PLUMETTE**, a bar located at the foot of the Palace of Justice with a beautiful terrace. Don't hesitate to contact them, as some, like Life Is Beautiful, offer workshops!

# LIFE THE BRUSSELS TOUCH STYLE



Shopping in Brussels will surprise you with its diversity and satisfy all your expectations and needs.

## Shopping pleasure for yourself or others

In the lower part of the city, designers (Delvaux, Lespagnard, etc.), chocolate makers and exclusive boutiques-workshops, occupy the Royal Saint-Hubert galleries and **THE DANSAERT AND SAINT-JACQUES DISTRICTS**. Luxury has become more established in the upper part of the city, with **AVENUE LOUISE** and **BOULEVARD DE WATERLOO**, for example, where international brands are widely represented alongside the country's high-end addresses such as Wolfers and Natan. Not forgetting the streets where you'll find all the big chains (Rue Neuve first and foremost), and the covered galleries and shopping centres. Lastly, sustainable and ethical shopping is not to be outdone, with numerous addresses worth a visit!



## Relax in Brussels

In the midst of the city's bustle there are still places where you can enjoy moments of rest and relaxation. In the heart of Brussels, **LES BULLES À FLOTTER** has developed a concept that halts time and allows for total disconnection, where you bathe in water saturated with Epsom salts, known for their therapeutic properties. If you are in Brussels, you might as well try the beer spa concept! **AT GOOD BEER & SPA** and **BATH & BARLEY**, you bathe in beer while also enjoying a glass or two. On the gigantic and sumptuous Tour & Taxis site, why not indulge at Lovina Spa, which combines a hammam and a massage, beauty and hairdressing centre.



L'Antichambre



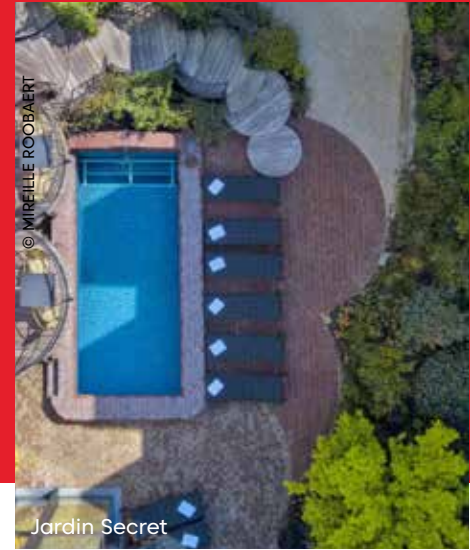
Smell Stories

## Discover Brussels through its scents

A real olfactory paradise welcomes you at various specialised shops in Brussels. If you're looking for exclusivity, go to **L'ANTICHAMBRE**, where you can create your own perfume. In the trendy Saint-Jacques district, **SMELL STORIES** is a concept store dedicated to scents, where you'll find home-made perfumes, scented candles, soaps, incense and even laundry products. **LABELCHIC**, on Rue Dansaert, is a haven of happiness for lovers of ecological cosmetics.

FIND TAILORED  
**ACCOM**

**MODATION!**



The capital of Europe has a wide range of accommodation to suit all needs. Hotels, apartment-hotels, tourist residences, homestays, youth hostels, even campsites... the offer is plentiful. Some addresses will not fail to surprise you.

Here is a selection: **THE VINTAGE AIRSTREAM** is a room in a caravan designed in 1958! For a Japanese bathing experience, check out the **ATSUKAN** in the **JAM HOTEL**. The **JARDIN SECRET** is nestled in an alley and decorated like a garden. Looking for urban glamping? **COCOON** is a tiny house with a view of the Grand-Place! For a more arty atmosphere, a stay at the **NHOW BRUSSELS BLOOM** or the **YOOMA URBAN LODGE** is a must. The **ROCCO FORTE HOTEL AMIGO** and the **JULIANA** will satisfy those in search of luxury and refinement. **HOME & THE CITY (BED & BREAKFAST)** provides a cosy atmosphere in a typical Brussels house.

### PRO TIP

LOOKING FOR AN EASY BOOKING EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR DELEGATES?

Brussels Booking Desk relieves event organisers from the day-to-day stress of accommodation management.

Contact:  
[info@brusselsbookingdesk.be](mailto:info@brusselsbookingdesk.be)  
[www.brusselsbookingdesk.be](http://www.brusselsbookingdesk.be)

# FOLLOW THE GUIDE!



If you are looking for a guided tour of the city, you will not be disappointed. The European capital offers an extensive range of guided tours in many different languages (FR, EN, NL, D, IT, ES, PT, etc.). Contact one of our tour partners who are experts in the destination and passionate about its heritage! They have permanent tours and can also adapt to your requests and meet your needs, in terms of themes or the type of audience.

## The Brussels associations

Some examples: **ITINÉRAIRES, SUR LES SENTIERS DE L'HISTOIRE** will help you discover the secrets of the Grand-Place and the more remote areas of the city centre. **PROVELO** takes you for a discovery tour on two wheels. It's even possible to take a guided tour while running, with **BRUSSELS RUNNING TOURS**. The **EXPLORE.BRUSSELS** network brings together several guide associations in Brussels.

Discover our partners!

[www.visit.brussels/en/professionals/travel-trade](http://www.visit.brussels/en/professionals/travel-trade)



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## Greeters: discover Brussels with locals

The guided tours of the Brussels Greeters allow visitors to discover the city and its districts in an open and friendly atmosphere. A unique experience! Greeters are local people who become volunteer guides to share their view of Brussels, their favourite spots and things to do and their anecdotes. These enthusiasts welcome visitors during their free time and tune them into what really makes Brussels tick! These unusual and original visits, in groups of **six people maximum**, are completely free and available in **12 languages**. Greeters are not professional guides, they welcome the public in a warm and relaxed way, a bit like taking care of your family or friends.

[www.visit.brussels/en/visitors/plan-your-trip/greeters](http://www.visit.brussels/en/visitors/plan-your-trip/greeters)

## APPS: MAKE LIFE EASIER FOR YOURSELF

It is not always easy to find your way around the city... fortunately, many smartphone apps are available to make the city easier to navigate! With practical information, travel (parking, taxis, soft mobility, public transport, etc.), luggage lockers, public toilets, restaurants, and even tax-free shopping and air quality, there's something for every need and topic!

[www.visit.brussels/en/visitors/what-to-do/practical-brussels-apps-that-make-the-city-easier](http://www.visit.brussels/en/visitors/what-to-do/practical-brussels-apps-that-make-the-city-easier)



## GETTING AROUND BRUSSELS

The Brussels-Capital Region is banking on soft mobility. The ideal way to get to Brussels from the airport or an international train station and to travel between the different districts is undoubtedly **THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT NETWORK**, which has a **WIDE CHOICE OF METRO, TRAM AND BUS LINES**. However, several companies offer **QUALITY TRANSPORT SERVICES** for travelling by bus or car. With customised and high quality service, the teams adapt to your requests. Trust **LUXAVIATION OR VIP ESCAPE** to travel to Brussels from the airport, for example. For customised transport for your groups, **KEOLIS**, which has the widest choice of vehicles, **MODERN CAR** or **FUN CARS** are at your disposal. Choose **BELGIAN LIMOUSINE SERVICE** if you would like a private chauffeur. And for luxury rentals, choose **RENTAL CARS**.

### PRO TIP

#### STIB CARDS AND TICKETS

Brussels' public transport company, STIB-MIVB, will take you to any corner of the capital. Find all the information you need about their services on their [website](#) or on our page.

[www.visit.brussels/en/professionals/travel-trade/get-around](http://www.visit.brussels/en/professionals/travel-trade/get-around)

## DMC AND CONCIERGE SERVICES: AT YOUR SERVICE!

Reception agencies, or “Destination Management Companies”, specialising in travel for groups and/or individuals, offer a wide range of services to help you prepare original programmes for discovering Brussels. For example, use **MP BENELUX** or **GET TO BELGIUM** to receive creative proposals, or **BRILLIANT IDEAS** to meet the needs of your VIP clients! For personalised, high-end services, contact concierge agencies that will give you the benefit of their specialised expertise, such as **WORLD CONCIERGE**, **QUINTESSENTIALLY** and **SAVVIVA**. Contact us to find out which DMC is best suited to your customers!

[www.visit.brussels/en/professionals/travel-trade](http://www.visit.brussels/en/professionals/travel-trade)

## THE LABELS RECOGNISED BY THE BRUSSELS-CAPITAL REGION

The tourist and cultural landscape of Brussels is so vast that it's sometimes useful to see which labels correspond to your values or needs. The Brussels-Capital Region recognises various labels that can guide you in your choices. They include the **GOOD FOOD** label, which informs you about restaurants that use locally-sourced produce and alternatives to animal proteins, while respecting the environment. The **BIKE FRIENDLY** label certifies accommodation that meets the needs of cyclists. Check the **ACCESS-I** label to find out the accessibility of places, infrastructures and events in Brussels. Trust the **GREEN KEY** international ecolabel if you are interested in how companies are working to manage the environmental impact of their activities. And last but not least, the **BRUSSELS HEALTH SAFETY LABEL** provides information about the quality and safety of tourist infrastructure in Brussels.

[www.goodfood.brussels](http://www.goodfood.brussels) - [www.visit.brussels/en/professionals/partners/labels-awards](http://www.visit.brussels/en/professionals/partners/labels-awards)



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