BRUSSELS GUIDE

Trip planning you’ll love
**Essential Information**

Brussels as a city was not set to impress anyone – but when it became the seat of many European institutions, travelers discovered its charms. It is now becoming one of the most popular destinations in Europe, and for good reason. Brussels combines Gothic and medieval grandeur with modern office buildings to create a unique landscape – just compare Grand Place Brussels and the European Parliament.

Brussels is not just a city of sights, but a city of atmosphere. The café culture and love of surrealism are prevalent here – in fact, you might feel like you’re visiting a mini-version of Paris. Do not forget that Brussels is also a fashion and design capital and, being a European melting pot, the city doesn’t lack that metropolitan ambiance. And when evening falls, you’ll want to discover the city’s fabulous party scene, too.

**Time Zone**

CET (UTC+1), observes DST.

**Contacts**

Tourist Contacts
- Tourist centre (Brussels Info Place): +32 2 513 89 40
- Tourist centre (Town Hall): +32 2 513 89 40
- Lost and found: +32 2 274 16 90

**Currency**

Euro, 1 € = 100 cents

You can exchange your currency at banks or exchange offices, which are abundant in the city and at the airport. You can also withdraw local currency from the ATMs if you want to save yourself the trouble of going to a bank or exchange office. ATMs are abundant in Brussels too, so you’ll have no trouble finding them. You can also refer to the ATM page (www.brussels.be) on the official website of Brussels.

Most establishments also accept credit or debit cards, including American Express; however, it is best to always carry at least a small amount of cash around, since not all places accept them. Traveler’s checks are accepted by most shops.

**Tax Refunds**

There is a VAT refund available for tourists from outside of the EU. VAT is 21% (with reduced rates being 6% and 12% for certain products) and you need to spend a minimum of €125 in one shop on one day to qualify for the refund. Make sure you get a VAT refund form from the store at the time of your purchase. Fill out the form and, with your receipt attached, show the completed forms together with the items you purchased at your final departure from the European Union. Don’t pack the purchased items in your checked luggage. The customs authorities will stamp your documents and you can then claim the refund through the store’s affiliate. These companies have their offices at the airport, so you can get your money back immediately.

**Prices**

- Meal, inexpensive restaurant – 10-15 €
- Meal for 2, mid-range restaurant, three-course – 60 €
- Big Mac combo meal – 8 €
- Bottle of water at supermarket – 1.10 € (1.5 litres)
- Domestic beer (0.5 liter, draught) – 4 €
- Gasoline (1 liter) – 1.60 €
- Hostels (average price/night) – 10-30 €
- 4* hotel (average price/night) – 100-200 €
- Car-hire (medium-sized car/day) – 105 €

**Tipping**

Tipping is not customary in Belgium as the bills already include a service charge. If you feel the service you received was outstanding, round your bill up to the next euro or two – anything more shows you off as a tourist. This applies to both restaurants and taxis. Leave tips on the table or tell the waiter you don’t want your change back. If you want to tip, make sure the staff actually receive your tip and that you’re not just paying extra to the owner / manager.
Electricity
The standard electricity supply in Belgium is 220 volt – 50 Hz AC. The plugs have two round pins. Remember to bring an adapter or converter if you need it.

Languages
Brussels is bilingual – French and Dutch are the official languages here, so the streets have names in both languages, but French is used more widely than Dutch. English is well-understood, but perhaps not as widely as you’d expect from a city that markets itself as the capital of Europe. However chances are that if you approach a younger person, they will understand your question and reply in English.

Mobile Phones
The whole country is covered by the GSM 900/1800/GPRS/HSPDA network. European mobile phones should work fine, though visitors from the US and Asia might need to check compatibility. There are three operators in total running the network – Proximus, Mobistar and BASE.

If you’d like to stay in touch while visiting Brussels, you might consider renting a phone at the airport or getting yourself a local SIM card for much better rates. The international access code for Belgium is +32 and the area code for Brussels is 2.

Internet
Brussels is a well-connected city. Most hotels and hostels offer their own Wi-Fi connection for guests; you should always check if it’s additionally charged or included in the room. Alternatively, you can visit an internet café (which are abundant) or take your own device to one of the restaurants or cafés offering free Wi-Fi (even though this is not always advertised on the door). The official website of the city features a map of the Wi-Fi hotspots (www.brussels.be) Internet is also available at the airport.

Internet Resources
- Official tourist website of the city (visitbrussels.be)
- Official website of the city (www.brussels.be)
- Belgian tourist office (www.belgiumtheplace.to.be)
- A listing of Brussels events at eventful.com (eventful.com)

HOLIDAYS
- New Year’s Day – 1 January
- Easter Sunday & Monday
- Labor Day – 1 May
- Ascension – 39 days after Easter
- Pentecost & Pentecost Monday – 49 days after Easter
- National Holiday – July 21
- Assumption of Our Lady – 15 August
- All Saints – November 1
- Armistice Day – November 11
- Christmas – 25 December

Opening Hours
The shops are usually open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Many shops close on Sundays and some also on Mondays. Department stores and shops in the city center, however, stay open until 9 p.m. most days and open on Sundays. There are also night shops that are open until very late (around 3 a.m.), but are also expensive. Markets open early in the morning around 7 a.m..

Banks are open from 9 a.m. to 4/5 p.m. Monday to Friday, but some of them close for lunch. Shops and banks close for the public holidays.

Museums and other sights are generally open from 10 a.m. to 5-6 p.m., however many stay open later on particular nights. Most museums are closed on Mondays, but some may close on other days. Always check the museum’s website, as opening times are specific for each one.
**Public Transportation**

Most public transport in Brussels is organized by STIB (www.stib.be). Therefore, the system is integrated. One ride costs 1.80 € and you are allowed to transfer. Alternatively, you can buy the JUMP ticket for 2 € which can be used even in the DE Lijn, TEC and SNCB networks – these go outside of the city and use both buses and rail.

There are also five and ten journey tickets (for 7.50 € and 11.80 €) that can also be used outside of the city on the regional networks mentioned above and also by multiple persons. However, the 24h / 48h / 72h tickets are less expensive and more convenient if you plan to stay in the city. These cost 6 € / 10 € / 13 €. The airport line has its own special ticket that costs 3.50 €. You can buy all of the tickets in kiosks, on the buses and in metro and railway stations, the tourist offices and other places.

**Metro** – there are six lines in total that join the western and eastern parts of the city. One line also loops around the city center. Runs from around 6 a.m. to midnight.

**Tram** – the tram network has been extended recently and connects to or overlaps with the metro lines in many places. Keep in mind that you must signal to the driver if you want them to stop.

**Bus** – connects to the more distant parts of the city. Also serves the city during weekend nights until around 3 a.m. Keep in mind that you must signal to the driver if you want them to stop.

**Taxis**

Taxis are fairly expensive in Brussels. However, if you need one, just head to the nearest taxi rank, hail a taxi on the street or call one of the taxi companies. The cabs all have triangular stands on their roofs.

The fixed charge is €2.40 (€4.40 at night). The price for one kilometer is €1.66 in the city and €2.70 outside of the city. As always, check that the meter is running when you start your journey and that the taxi is licensed. Not all cabs accept credit or debit cards.

- **Taxis Autolux** (www.taxisautolux.be) – +32 2 411 41 42
- **Taxis Bleus** (www.taxis-bleus.com) – +32 2 268 00 00
- **Taxis Orange** (www.orangetaxis.com.au) – +32 2 349 43 43
- **Taxis Verts** (www.taxisverts.be) – +32 2 349 49 49

**Regional Transportation**

Brussels Airport is the main hub for flights in and out of the city. The public transport network covers the airport with a bus line. You can also use the taxi – just watch out for rip-offs. A taxi ride to/from the airport should cost around 40 €.

Brussels South Charleroi Airport which is 46 kilometers (29 miles) south of central Brussels is used by low-cost airlines. Various shuttle bus routes and a train service link with this airport, or you can take a taxi for the fixed price of 90 €.

As for trains, there are five main stations (all connected), with trains going from Brussels to other Belgian cities, Germany, France and the Netherlands. The Eurostar train line (www.eurostar.com) that connects continental Europe with London also passes through here.

The buses are used mainly for travelling around Belgium and visiting other cities – check the Delijn (www.delijn.be) and TEC (www.infotec.be) transport companies. However, the Eurolines buses (www.eurolines.be) also stop in Brussels and can take you beyond the Belgian borders.

**Driving**

- **Speed limits in cities** – 50 km/h (31 mph)
- **Outside the cities** – 90 km/h (55 mph)
- **Interstates** – 120 km/h (74 mph)
- **Blood alcohol limit** – 0.05 BAC
- **Children under 12 years** need to be seated in a proper restraint. Children under 3 years cannot travel in the front seat.
- **Touching the cell phone** while driving is illegal – use a hands-free or a mounter and do not text.
- **Trams have priority**, as do the passengers when getting on and off the vehicle.
- **Pedestrians have priority** at crossings without traffic lights.
- **Drive on the right.**

Driving in Brussels is not recommended. You can get to all the sights by foot or the public transport, so you don’t really need a car unless you plan to venture out of town. However, Belgian drivers have quite a reputation for reckless driving, and accidents happen daily as traffic rules are often disrespected. In addition, it is hard to navigate around Brussels and parking around the city center could be a problem. The bottom line is: if do not need to drive, don’t. Use public transport instead.

To drive a car in Belgium, you need to be over 18 years old and have an international or a European driving license. However, you can only rent a car only if you’re over 21.

**Walkability**

The city center of Brussels is fairly small, but most of the sights are situated there, so you can easily walk around if you do not mind the cobblestone streets – remember your comfortable shoes. Watch out for the rain or snow which could make the pavements slippery. The city center is also closed to cars, adding to the walkable experience. If you want to go further afield, the public transport covers the rest of the city quite well.

The city is accessible, but the cobblestone streets might pose problems to wheelchair users. The most important metro stops are equipped with lifts. There are also special taxis for wheelchair users. The official city website has more information on accessibility in this guide (www.brussels.be)
FOOD

- Poulet à la Bruxelles – chicken steak stuffed with sprouts and cheese, then fried in beer and butter.
- Lapin à la gueuze – rabbit meat cooked in sour beer and served with croquettes.
- Tasting Belgian chocolate is a must while you’re here.
- Dame Blanche – vanilla ice cream with chocolate.
- Brussels waffles are a great street snack.
- Fries served with various sauces can also be bought on the street.

Belgian beer is world-famous and must be tasted. The bars often list a separate menu just for the dozens of kinds of beers they serve. The kriek beer is specific to the Brussels area.

Legal Age

You need to be at least 16 years old to drink beer and wine and 18 years old to drink spirits in Belgium. There is no official closing time for bars and pubs and some of them stay open all night.

Smoking is banned in public spaces, except for designated places where no food and drinks are served.

EVENTS DURING THE YEAR

January
- Brussels Antiques and Fine Art Fair (www.brafa.be)

February
- Chocolate Passion Fair – held on Valentine weekend on the Petit-Sablon-Caserne Prince Albert
- International Animation Film Festival of Brussels (www.animatv.be)

April
- Brussels Short Film Festival (www.bsff.be)
- Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival (www.festivalfantastique.org)

May
- Brussels Jazz Marathon (www.brusselsjazzmarathon.be)
- Zinneke Parade (zinneke.org) – a parade held every two years on a certain topic
- Iris Day (www.fetedeliris.be) – celebrates the city through street performances
- Queen Elisabeth Music Competition (www.concours-reine-elisabeth.be)
- Les Nuits (www.botanique.be) – a music festival

June
- Brussels Film Festival (www.brff.be)

July
- Ommegang (www.ommegang.be) – a historical re-enactment of Louis V’s visit to Brussels
- Foire du Midi (www.foiredumidi.be) – a month-long fair

August
- Meyboom Celebration – a traditional folk celebration at the corners of rue du Marais and rue des Sables

September
- Designer’s Weekend (www.dwe.be) – design exhibits scattered all over Brussels for one weekend

November
- Innova Fair (www.brussels-innova.com) – fair with the newest exhibits from science and technology
- Be Film Festival (www.befilmfestival.be) – a showcase of Belgian movies
- Christmas Market (visitbrussels.be)
Free Things To Do

- Stop by at the Manneken Pis, the city’s landmark.
- The spectacular Grand-Place is a must for its atmosphere and looks.
- Stop by at the lustrous Palais Coudenberg and its gardens.
- Visit Brussels’ marvelous churches.
- Look out for the days when the museums are open for free.
- Tour the European Parliament.
- Climb up the Atomium for amazing views.
- The Le Botanique complex is not just beautiful, but also a centre of the city’s cultural life.
- Visit Europe’s first shopping mall – the Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert – and do some window-shopping.
- The Comic Strip Route is a must for those who enjoy them.

Shopping

The first thing that comes to mind when you think about Belgium is chocolate and pralines – a great gift to take home. An alternative is one of the many kinds of beers. As far as crafts go, Brussels’ lace is world famous and definitely a worthy souvenir. Adults and children alike can appreciate a good comic book – and these are very popular in Belgium, especially among collectors.

DOS AND DO NOTS

- DO try to avoid comparing the French and Dutch-speaking parts of the country.
- DO taste the local beer and chocolate.
- DO try to visit the nearby cities if you can.
- DO watch out for taxi scams when traveling from and to the airport.
- DO NOT rent a car unless you absolutely need to.
- DO NOT feel obliged to tip if the service wasn’t good.
- DO NOT hesitate to explore the city centre on your own.

Safety

Brussels in general is a safe destination. As with all big cities, the biggest problem is pickpockets. Use all the common precautions – always know where your belongings are and do not let yourself be distracted. Try to blend in and not show off the fact that you’re a tourist. Leave your valuables in the hotel safe. Be especially careful on the metro and trams and in crowded touristic areas.

Most neighborhoods are safe, but you might want to avoid rue de Brabant and the Gare du Nord stations at night, since the red light district can encompass these areas. The metro is also a little dangerous at night, so your best bet is to travel in a group or to take trams to your hotel.

The tap water in Brussels is safe to drink.
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- Discover more with on-the-go visual trip guide.
- Find nearby sights and attractions, wherever you are.
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DOS AND DO NOTS

ACTIVITIES

**Grand-Place**
This world-famous square is a true heart of Brussels. Encompassed with guildhalls and the City Hall, it’s also known for the flower carpet.
1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84670, E4.35256

**Manneken Pis**
Installed in this very spot in 1618-9, this world famous statue is a major landmark of Brussels. Its dresses are changed many times a week.
Rue de l’Etuve 46, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84501, E4.34997

www.tripomatic.com/iphone
www.tripomatic.com/android
**St. Michael and St. Gudula Cathedral / Cathedrale St. Michel et Ste. Gudule**

One of the most spectacular cathedrals in Belgium with a stunning exterior and a 49-bell carillon. A couple of falcons lives on the top!

Place Sainte-Gudule, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84781, E4.35928

**Phone:** +32 02 217 83 45

**Opening hours:**
- Cathedral: Mon–Fri: 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sat: 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., Sun: 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Romanesque remains: Daily: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Romanesque crypt open on request only.
- The Cathedral Treasure: Mon–Fri: 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., Sat: 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., Sun: 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

**Admission:**
- The admission to the cathedral is free.
- Romanesque remains: €1
- Romanesque crypt: €2.50
- The Cathedral Treasure: Adults: €1, Children: free

**Atomium**

This bizarre structure in the shape of an atom is one of the most important landmarks in Brussels. It was constructed for the 1958 EXPO.

Square Atomium, 1020 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.89498, E4.34139

**Phone:** +32 02 475 47 75

**Opening hours:**
- Daily: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- The ticket office closes at 5:30 p.m., the restaurant is open until 11 p.m.

**Admission:**
- Atomium: Adults: €11, Seniors (65+), Students, Teenagers (12-16): €8, Children (6-11): €6, Under 6: free

**Peeing Girl Statue / Jeanneke Pis**

The little sister of Manneken Pis was made by the sculptor Denis Adrien DeBouvrie and installed in 1985. Look at the cute girl taking a wee-wee.

Impasse de la Fidélité 12, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84856, E4.35411

**Brussels Palace of Justice / Palais de Justice**

This incredibly huge building was constructed in the 19th century and serves as Law Courts of Brussels. It has 27 court rooms!

Poelaertplein 1, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.83701, E4.35211

**Admission:**
- The palace is a public building and is possible to enter when it is open.
Brussels Town Hall / Hôtel de Ville
The major landmark of the Grand Place is a Brabantine Gothic style jewel. Marvel at the facade decorated with countless statuettes.
Grand-Place 8, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84661, E4.35190
Opening hours:
Tours:
Wed: 1 p.m. (Dutch), 2 p.m. (French), 3 p.m. (English)
Sun: 11 a.m., 4 p.m. (Dutch), noon, 3 p.m. (French), 10 a.m., 2 p.m. (English)
You need to register 15 minutes prior to the tour.
Admission:
General admission: €5
Seniors, students, children (6-12): €3
Children under 6: free

Butcher's Street / Rue des Bouchers
Romantic cobbled street lined with plenty of restaurants, bars and cafés. Lively atmosphere accompanied with music from street musicians.
1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84748, E4.35555

King's House / Maison du Roi
One of the main attractions in the Grand Place is this remarkable mansion. It used to be a bread-house and now it houses a museum.
Grand-Place, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84700, E4.35267
Opening hours:
Tue–Sun: 10 a.m. –5 p.m. (–8 p.m. Thu)
Closed on 1 January, 1 May, 1 November, 15 November, 25 December
Free guided tours available on every first Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m., booking is not necessary.
Admission:
Adults: €4
Seniors, Students: €3
Children: €2
Children under 6 years: free
Under 18 years: free entrance on weekends
No entrance fee on the first Sunday of the month.

Church of Our Lady of Sablon / Église Notre Dame du Sablon
Splendid Late Gothic architectural gem with a marvelous white facade that reflects light. Admire the Baroque chapels and the organ.
GPS: N50.84040, E4.35626
Phone:
+32 2 279 30 10
Opening hours:
Mon – Fri: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat – Sun: 10 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Masses: Daily at 6 p.m., Sun on noon too.
Admission:
Admission to the church is free.
Museum of the City of Brussels / Musée de La Ville de Bruxelles
The museum is located in a UNESCO-enlisted building called Maison du Roi. It presents the history of Brussels and also focuses on folklore.
Maison du Roi, Grand-Place, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84692, E4.35275
Phone: +32 02 279 43 50
Opening hours: Tue – Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (– 8 p.m. Thu)
Closed on 1 January, 1 May, 1 November, 15 November and 25 December.
Free guided tours available on every first Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m., booking is not necessary.
Admission:
Adults: €4
Seniors, Students: €3
Children: €2
Children under 6 years: free
Under 18 years: free entrance on weekends
No entrance fee on the first Sunday of the month.

Pierre Marcolini
One of the most famous chocolatiers in Belgium. Fabulous pralines, bonbons and other sweets made from the finest chocolate.
Rue des Minimes 1, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84127, E4.35363

Brussels Stock Exchange / Bourse de Bruxelles
This grand Neo-Renaissance building was built in the 1870s and has housed the stock exchange ever since. Notice its decorated facade.
Rue de la Bourse, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84793, E4.35047
Opening hours: Open according to the exhibitions.
Admission:
Prices of tickets to exhibitions vary.

Brussels Park / Parc de Bruxelles
Brussels' largest park is not only a nice place to spread a blanket and relax but also a site full of historical monuments. Come and see.
1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84423, E4.36348
Opening hours: Apr 1 – Sep 30: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.
Oct 1 – Mar 31: 7 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Admission:
Admission to the park is free. Some attractions may require extra fees.

St. Hubert Gallery / Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert
An amazing 19th-century covered arcade which boasts more than 70 luxury boutiques. A beautiful attraction worth walking through.
1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84775, E4.35499
Opening hours: Most of the shops open around 10 a.m. and close around 6 p.m., the restaurants usually stay open until midnight.
Mini-Europe Brussels
Spend a fun-filled afternoon in this park which contains miniature iconic landmarks of all European Union member countries. Great fun!
Voetballaan 1, 1020 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.89422, E4.33821
Phone: +32 02 478 05 50
Opening hours:
The park opens daily, usually between 9:30 a.m. or 10 a.m. and closes around 6 p.m. or 8 p.m. Last admission one hour before closing.
The opening times vary by season – check the website before going.
Closed January – March.
Admission:
Mini-Europe tickets:
Adults & Seniors (60+): €14.30
Children under 12 years: €10.70
Children under 120 cm: free
There are many combined tickets with Atomium, Océade, Planetarium and Hop on-Hop off to choose from – check the website.

Palace of Coudenberg / Palais Coudenberg
What used to be a stunning palace complex for 700 hundred years is now just a set of ruins. Visit the archaeological museum and learn more.
Place des Palais, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84266, E4.36052
Phone: +32 070 22 04 92
Opening hours:
Tue – Fri: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sat, Sun: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Closed: 1 January, 25 December.
24 and 31 December: the palace closes at 2 p.m.
Admission:
General admission:
Adults: €5
Seniors: €4
Youth (18-25): €3
Under 18: free
Combined ticket with BELvue:
Adults: €8
Seniors: €6
Youth (18-25): €5
Under 18: free

Brewery Museum / Musée des Brasseurs Belges
The rich tradition of Belgian beer is not only kept alive in pubs, but also in this museum. Located in an 18th-century artisanal brewery.
Grand-Place 10, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.84623, E4.35259
Phone: +32 (0)2 511 4987
Opening hours:
Mon – Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Admission:
Enter: €5
Broussaille Painting / Broussaille
This life-sized painting represents a young couple exploring the city of Brussels. It was created by Frank Pé in 1991.  
Rue du Marché au Charbon, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium  
GPS: N50.84623, E4.34865

Place du Petit Sablon
The square is actually a marvelous little garden with 48 bronze statuettes. It's not far from the city center and yet quiet.  
1000 City of Brussels, Belgium  
GPS: N50.83953, E4.35662

Parliamentarium
This visitor center has multi-media interactive exhibitions focused on the EU, its institutions and members. Exhibits are in 24 languages.  
Willy Brandt Building, Rue Wiertz 60/ Wiertzstraat 60, B-1047 Brussels, Belgium  
GPS: N50.83857, E4.37561  
Opening hours:  
Mon: 1 p.m. – 6 p.m.  
Tue – Fri: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Sat – Sun: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Last entry 30 minutes before closing time.  
The centre is closed on the following dates: 1 January, 1 May, 1 November, December 24, 25 & 31.  
Admission:  
The admission to the Parliamentarium is free, you only need to go through the security checks.

Museum of Cacao and Chocolate / Musée du Cacao et du Chocolat
This museum casts a clever eye on the journey of cocoa from its lands of origin to Europe. Take a tour and end it by sampling Belgian pralines.  
Guldenhoofdstraat 9-11, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium  
GPS: N50.84682, E4.35149  
Phone: +32 02 514 20 48  
Opening hours:  
Tue – Sun: 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Admission:  
Adults: €5.50  
Seniors, Students, Children (over 12): €4.50  
Children (6-12): €3.50

Halle Gate / Porte de Hal
The picturesque gate used to be the entrance to the city in the Middle Ages. It was rebuilt in the 19th century and now houses a museum.  
GPS: N50.83304, E4.34485  
Phone: +32 25 34 15 18  
Opening hours:  
Tue – Fri: 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Sat & Sun, holidays: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Closed on Mondays, 1 January, 1 May, 1 and 11 November, and 25 December.  
The ticket office closes at 4 p.m.  
Admission:  
Adults: €5  
Seniors: €4  
Children, Youth (6-25), Disabled: €1.50  
No entrance fee on the first Wed of the month from 1 p.m.
**Saint Catherine Market** / Place Sainte-Catherine
Not only is this square encompassed with fine buildings, but it is also lined with great seafood restaurants. Markets from Wed till Sat.

1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.85102, E4.34860

**Opening hours:**
Market with mussels and oysters: Thu, Fri, Sat: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Organic food market: Wed: 7:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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**European Parliament** / Parlement européen
The main of the three seats of the EP is located in Espace Léopold. Extra part-sessions and committee meetings take place here.

Espace Léopold, 1047 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.83897, E4.37625

**Opening hours:**
The chamber tours have been temporary cancelled for technical reasons – check the website for more information.
There's only a briefing on European parliament available – book on the website.

**Admission:**
No entrance fee.

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**Saint John the Baptist at the Béguinage** / Église du-Béguinage
Brussels
This church is a prime example of Italian-influenced Flemish Baroque style.
The decorated facade is especially worthy of attention.

Begijnhof, 1000 City of Brussels, Belgium
GPS: N50.85278, E4.35054

**Phone:**
+32 02 217 87 42

**Admission:**
No entrance fee.