



# Crowne Plaza Brussels - Le Palace Ginestestraat 3 Rue Gineste 1210 Brussels

## 10 things to know about Brussels

## **About Brussels Airport**

Download the Brussels Airport mobile app. It can help you find your luggage, map out your route to the exit and find food and drink discounts. You can use the app to check live security wait times, track your flight and find out about gate

## Technology needs

Some public spaces are starting to offer free Wi-Fi, and certain cafés provide it to customers. In our hotel however you can connect up to three devices, completely free of charge. If you value regular connectivity outside the hotel, look into buying a local SIM card with mobile data included.

## **Getting around in Brussels**

Getting around Brussels is easy, with several transit options available for visitors. Avoid having to get a ticket for every trip with a twenty-four-hour travel pass (known as a Jump ticket). It costs €7.50 and gives you unlimited use of trams, buses and the metro. You can buy them from machines at most transit stops or from kiosks at the bigger interchanges. Simply swipe it on the red box every time you get on a bus or tram, or at the gates to underground stations.

Alternately, try Villo!, the Brussels bike sharing system, to get an up-close view of the city as you travel. Simply rent a bike from one of 180 stations, ride it to your destination and return it to a nearby station.

## Learning the languages

Belgium is multilingual - but that doesn't mean you have to be. In the north of Belgium, they speak Dutch; in the south, it's French. There's even a pocket where the official language is German. And in Brussels, they speak a bit of everything.

Though the city is predominantly French-speaking, you'll get by just fine in English. A French phrasebook is handy, but the city's international flavour means you won't struggle to find someone who speaks your language at hotels, tourist offices, bigger restaurants and stations.

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### **Discount attractions**

To get the most out of your Brussels experience without breaking your travel budget, consider investing in a Brussels Card, which can be valid for twenty-four, forty-eight or seventy-two hours. Armed with this, you'll get free entry to attractions, including the underground Coudenberg palace, the Musical Instruments Museum (head to the rooftop terrace for a drink with a view) and the Magritte Museum. The Brussels Card even entitles you to discounts at selected shops, restaurants and bars.

## **Puckering up**

Visitors are sometimes startled to see the amount of kissing going on in Brussels cafés, bars and streets. The Belgians greet each other with cheek kisses that vary according to the occasion. A simple "hello" is worth one; a birthday or other celebration merits three. You'll see everyone from surly teenage boys to elderly ladies doing it. As a visitor, there's no pressure on you to pucker up, but there's also no need to stare.

## Souvenir secrets

Sure, beer and chocolate are the obvious Belgium choices, but don't stop there. Try dropping into one of the ubiquitous pharmacies - look out for the green cross signs - for some interesting souvenir options. These seemingly ordinary shops are a treasure trove of top European skincare and cosmetics brands that make perfect take-home gifts.

## **Proper tipping**

Tipping isn't expected in bars, cafés or taxis in Brussels. In restaurants, you might round up the bill by a couple of euros to be polite, but service charges are already included.

However, in the bathrooms of a bar, fast-food joint or concert hall, you might find yourself facing the formidable Madame Pipi. You'll need to hand over fifty cents before you can use her facilities.

### **Timing excursions**

When planning your trip and itinerary, keep an eye on the calendar. With a few exceptions, museums are closed on Mondays, as are many restaurants. On the other hand, most shops, other than souvenir outlets and mini-markets, close on Sundays.

More tips on Brussels on the reverse side of this map

## FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD

Linger over a beer or international cuisine at our Nouveau Taste Restaurant or at our Brasserie Deco Verre. If you want to eat out, we can recommend the following restaurants:

**Beaucoup Fish -** Rue Van Gaver Straat 2, 1000 Brussels Open Monday to Friday for lunch and dinner.

**Le Selecto** - Vlaamsesteenweg 95/97 Rue de Fladre, 1000 Brussels -Open Tuesday until Saturday for lunch and dinner.

**Viva M'Boma** - Vlaamsesteenweg 17 Rue de Fladre, 1000 Brussels - Open every day for lunch and dinner.

Ask for more restaurant tips at the recention



## Useful adresses

## Pharmacy

Vooruitganstraat 27 Rue du Progrè

#### Hospital

Kliniek Sint-Jan / Clinique Saint Jean Kruidtuinlaan 32 Boulevard Botanique +32 2 221 91 11

#### Police

+32 2 279 87 10

Don't hesitate to contact the reception if you are looking for a particular address.



# Things to visit when in Brussels

#### The Atomium

Unavoidable icon of Brussels and Belgium, important place for international tourism, unique creation in the history of architecture and emblematic vestige of the World fair in Brussels (Expo 58), the Atomium is today the most popular tourist attraction of Europe's Capital.

#### The Parlamentarius

How do you go about explaining how the European Parliament works, in a simple and sexy way? The Parlamentarium takes on the challenge with interactive tools such as a 360° digital film, role playing for school children and an interactive floor map.

## Magritte Museum

In the building of Belgium's Royal Museums of Fine Arts, visitors can explore the 2,500 m2 of the Magritte Museum. This museum stands right in the centre of Brussels, on Place Royale, and exhibits for public viewing the surrealist artist's creations belonging to Belgium's Royal Museums of Fine Arts.

## The Belgian Comic Strip Center

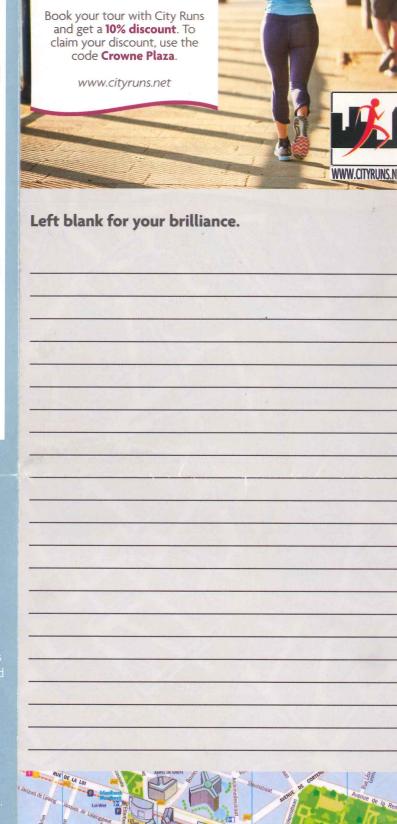
An accomplished attraction located in the heart of Brussel the Belgian Comic Strip Center has been honouring the creators and heroes of the 9th Art for more than 25 years.

#### Horta museur

The Horta Museum is established in the private house and studio of the famous architect, Victor Horta (1861 - 1947).

Built between 1898 and 1901, the two buildings are characteristic of Art Nouveau at its peak.

For more tips, go to http://visit.brus



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