

Belgium Profile

WTM 2007 edition



Belgian Tourist Office
Brussels • Wallonia

The South of Belgium
BRUSSELS & WALLONIA
Latin Europe in a nutshell

Grand plans to spruce up the Square

Some of the most ancient buildings surrounding Brussels' most-visited tourist sight – the Grand Place – are to be given a facelift.

Restoration work is due to get underway before the end of the year on five listed buildings on the southern side of the square which is renowned as being one of the most beautiful public spaces in the world.

Its focal point is the immense Hotel de Ville (Town Hall) – the sole survivor of how the square might have looked in medieval times. All the other buildings were completely destroyed in 1695 after a three-day bombardment by French troops. It was rebuilt as a collection of guildhouses representing various trades and professions including archers, boatmen, tailors and haberdashers.

Among the buildings to benefit from this latest phase of renovation work is No.9 Grand Place which was formerly the headquarters of the Butchers' Guild. It also holds the distinction of being the place where Karl Marx and Frederick Engels wrote the Communist Manifesto. Today it houses a renowned restaurant, La Maison du Cygne (The Swan's House).

Also being given a facelift is the smallest house on the square, L'Etoile at number 8 which was destroyed in 1852 to allow access for a tramway. More than 40 years later, on the instructions of the then Mayor of Brussels, Charles Buls, it was rebuilt as an exact replica of the original.

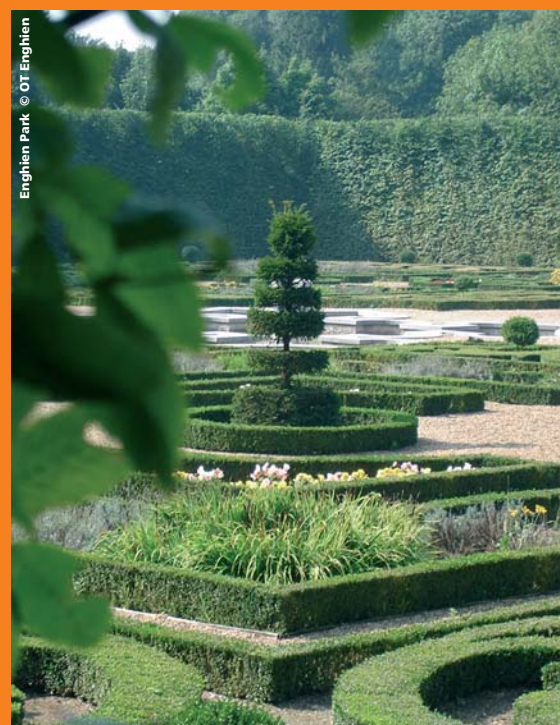
No 10 Grand Place is the Belgium Brewers Museum which is still owned by the Union of Belgian Brewers, one of the oldest professional associations in the world.

No 11 is a typical if modest, Flemish-style bourgeois house – now the White Rose Inn; while No 12 is a jeweller's shop.

The latest restoration work is being funded by the City of Brussels and the Government of the Brussels-Capital region.



© Brussels International



waterjets, 20 ornamental pools – and a 400-metre Grand Canal. Currently run by the tenth generation of the Montpellier family which first established the gardens in 1696, some of its trees are more than 200 years old.

The park at Mariemont in Hainaut province, 10kms west of Charleroi, combines the charm of a classic landscaped garden with a stunning arboretum containing examples of some of the largest and rarest trees in Belgium.

The sprawling Enghien Park 35kms southwest of Brussels is renowned for its seasonal rose garden containing 800 different varieties. It also offers several nature trails.

Herba Sana (The Health Garden) at Elsenborn in Liège province displays more than 200 different types of medicinal plants as well as flora from the Hautes-Fagnes region.

Tourists are actively encouraged to use the many trails and walks through Wallonia's forests which cover more than 30% of the region's total land mass.

There are now nine nature parks which are officially defined as areas of geographic and biological interest extending over more than 5,000 hectares. Among these is the Parc Naturel des Deux Ourthes which is centred on the River Ourthe and the country town of Houffalize in the heart of the Ardennes.



Keen to be green is Wallonia's theme

Southern Belgium will be focusing on promoting its parks, gardens and natural attractions during 2008.

Expanding on the green initiative it launched at the start of this year, Tourism Wallonia is producing special maps guiding visitors to its greenest places. It is also introducing a dedicated website – www.wallonie2008.be

The region has a host of attractive parks and gardens including the Gardens of Annevoie near Namur which features more than 50 fountains, cascades and

All the fun of the fair as Atomium celebrates 50th birthday

Belgium will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of one of its most famous landmarks in 2008 – the Atomium. It



was built to celebrate Brussels' hosting of the 1958 World International Exhibition - Expo 58 – the first world fair to be held since the end of the Second World War.

It was an extraordinary event: drawing more than 41 million visitors over a six-month period including a record 715,000 on a single day. Presidents Eisenhower and De Gaulle, Princess Margaret, Walt Disney, Sophia Loren and Audrey Hepburn all dropped by for a visit; while many Belgian newlyweds spent their honeymoon at the Expo. Temporary lodging houses and motel complexes with thousands of beds were specially built for those visitors who suddenly found that a single day at the Fair was simply not enough.

More than 50 countries participated in Expo 58 which was staged on a massive site in the Heysel area of Brussels, north of the city centre. Divided into seven sections, there were 150 pavilions catering for almost every conceivable interest - from energy and electronics to the food industry, fine arts and fashion.

In a bid to recapture the spirit of 50 years ago, a rather smaller-sized exhibition, "From Utopia to Reality" is being held at the Atomium from April 19-October 20, 2008 – almost exactly mirroring the duration of Expo 58. It will feature photographs, posters and archive film footage as well as countless collectibles bearing the Expo 58 logo.

The Atomium, which was completely renovated in 2005, was based on the model of a metal crystalline molecule enlarged 165 billion times.

www.brussels-expo58.be



Don't be surprised to find plenty of kids pestering their parents to be taken to Brussels for a weekend break.

It follows the reopening of the largest dinosaur gallery in Europe after an extensive three-year restoration programme.

Spread over an entire wing at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, the Dinosaur Gallery includes a unique collection of iguanodon skeletons which date from around 120 million years ago.

Iguanodon were a genus of plant-eating dinosaurs noted for their bird-like feet and large thumb spikes which were probably used as a defence against predators.

Eleven of the dinosaurs are displayed as standing mounts so that visitors can see what they would have looked like when fully upright. The remains of 20 others are shown very much as they looked when unearthed 130 years ago from a coal mine at Bernissant in Hainaut province, 20 kms west of Mons.

There are lots of child-friendly interactive exhibits including virtual 3D images which opens up a captivating – if sometimes scary – pre-historic world. It's one that is filled with tyrannosaurus, triceratops and diplodocuses – a strange-looking, long-necked creature with nostrils at the top of its head and a 45-foot tail.

It's also worth visitors looking at other parts of the museum such as the impressive insect collection comprising more than 15 million specimens. There is also a minerals collection started in 1828 which includes crystals, gems, meteorites and precious bits of moon rock; and a hall devoted to whales and other marine animals.

Admission to the museum is €7 for adults and €4.50 for children aged between six and 14.

www.naturalsciences.be



Museum revival speeds dinosaurs back to the future



© Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences



Belgian baker butters up the British

One of Belgium's most popular bakeries is opening more UK branches.

Each outlet of Le Pain Quotidien (meaning "daily bread") combines the ambience of a traditional baker's shop with an attractive eating area specialising in light meals including soups, salads and tartines (open sandwiches).

A new branch has recently opened in London's South Kensington while another will start trading on November 14 within the new St Pancras International rail terminal.

The date coincides with Eurostar switching its services from London Waterloo from where it has operated for the last 13 years; and the introduction of faster services cutting the journey time from London to Brussels to just 1 hour 51 minutes.

Le Pain Quotidien's St Pancras branch will increase the company's UK presence to eight outlets – currently all of them in London. A ninth branch is due to open at London's Canary Wharf during 2008.

The original Le Pain Quotidien store was opened in Brussels in 1990 and based on the idea of producing the perfect loaf of bread using just three ingredients: organically stone-ground flour, salt and water. Even today the bakery only uses the finest raw ingredients but offers a much wider range of breads and pastries. It also sells other organic products including tea, coffee and honey.

Each of its restaurant areas is based around the idea of a centrally-positioned communal table although there are also individual tables for customers who want more privacy.

www.lepainquotidien.co.uk



The art of making a hotel really Bloom!

Young art students from all over Europe are making sure they leave a permanent reminder of their stay at a Brussels hotel.

Each has been invited to paint original works of art direct on to the walls of newly-refurbished bedrooms at the Hotel Bloom! situated adjacent to Brussels' botanical gardens.

It's part of a major refurbishment programme due for completion in May 2008 which is being undertaken by the new owners following their purchase of the former Royal Crown Hotel.

The art students were invited to submit ideas on the theme of "blooming". Those selected are being provided with free travel from their art college or university and up to a week's free accommodation at the hotel while producing their artwork.

The artists (who are also being paid a fee) are due to have brought a personal touch to 170 of the hotel's 306 rooms by the end of this year with the remainder scheduled for completion during the spring. This will coincide with the opening of a top-floor fitness centre and spacious open-plan lounge area which is being marketed under the brand name, Moods.

It aims to provide an innovative and relaxing meeting point for both hotel guests and the local community.

Hotel Bloom! also offers a choice of 12 meeting rooms – all with high-speed Internet access and LCD projector screen included in the day hire rate.

Already refurbished are the hotel lobby and main restaurant which have been transformed into light, airy, elegantly-functional areas.

www.hotelbloom.com



Celebrity chefs help crown chocolate celebrations

The renowned Belgian chocolatier, Neuhaus, has marked its 150th anniversary by opening a store in London.

The Neuhaus Salon Chocolate Café situated on the chic Duke of York Square in Chelsea combines a delectable, sweet-smelling retail shop with a café specialising in chocolaty drinks.

The shop offers a range of over 80 different pralines - a bite-sized filled chocolate which was originally invented by Neuhaus. Also available are chocolate hampers and chocolate cooking products.

Drinks in the café include a lusciously-thick hot chocolate; and Chocolate Caribe – hot chocolate flavoured with rum and hazelnut liqueur. There is also a selection of flavoured lattes with all drinks accompanied with a complimentary praline.

The new store also provided the setting for the launch of "The Rain of Stars collection" – a gift box featuring chocolates created by nine of the world's top chefs. They include Belgium's Peter Goossens who used gingerbread, coffee and Morello cherries for his soft, creamy filling. Fellow Belgian Pierre Wynants also used Morello cherries as his base ingredient while Raymond Blanc produced a cranberry, vodka and lemon ganache.

The history of Neuhaus dates back to 1857 when Jean Neuhaus, a Swiss pharmacist opened premises at the Galerie de la Reine in Brussels and used the cellar of his shop to start producing chocolate. It was not until 1912 that his grandson introduced the first pralines.

The Neuhaus group is now a leading manufacturer of pralines, chocolate and quality biscuits.

www.neuhaus.co.uk



Artistic feast for followers of Folon

A series of exhibitions are to be held in different parts of Belgium during 2008 celebrating the work of the artist Jean Michel Folon.

Dates and venues are still being finalised but one of the highlights will be an exhibition of 40 outdoor sculptures to be held at Solvay Park, immediately south of Brussels, which will run from April 25 to September 28.

Nearby there is a permanent exhibition of Folon's at the Fondation Folon located in an ancient farmhouse at Chaussée de la Hulpe.

His work encompassed watercolours, stained glass, screen prints, etchings and mosaics. He designed numerous posters and stamps and created front cover drawings for Time and the New Yorker magazines. He also produced illustrations to complement the work of great authors including Franz Kafka and Albert Camus.

Born in Brussels in 1934, Folon studied architecture before moving to the outskirts of Paris in 1955 where for the next five years he drew morning, noon and night. His first major exhibition of watercolours was in New York in 1969. This was followed by shows in many other major cities including Brussels, London, Paris, Milan, Lisbon and Sao Paulo and, just before his death in 2005, in Florence.

www.fondationfolon.be



Decadent Dominican is designed to please

Brussels has just seen the opening of what is likely to become one of the city's most distinctive hotels.

Situated behind La Monnaie, the famous theatre and opera house, The Dominican has set its heart on recapturing the spirit of old European decadence.

Built on the site of a 15th century abbey, the 150-room deluxe property is the first Belgian hotel to become a member of the design hotels™ marketing consortium which represents more than 140 properties noted for their distinctive and individual character and progressive design. The location was also once the home of the French painter Jacques-Louis David.

Its ground floor bar which combines the ambience of a contemporary café and stylish lounge area is expected to quickly become a favourite meeting place where guests can enjoy a wide range of food and drinks from early morning until late at night. More formal meals are served in the Grand Lounge; while other facilities include a health and fitness centre.

www.thedominican.be



Go to www.belgiumthelaceto.be for continuous updates on what's happening in Brussels and Wallonia. Belgian Tourist Office – Brussels & Wallonia, 217 Marsh Wall, London E14 9FJ. Tel: 020 7531 0390. Fax: 020 7531 0393. Press: 020 7531 0392. Email: info@belgiumthelaceto.be

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Belgian Tourist Office – Brussels & Wallonia Stand EM450

A number of Belgian professionals will be on our stand to help you discover more about the many attractions and products that Brussels and the South of Belgium have to offer.

TOURIST OFFICES



ARDENNE ATTRACTIONS

Ardenne Attractions proposes day-trips packages and tips to discover the Belgian Green Ardennes. Discover with your family, your friends or your colleagues our tourist sites, castles, museums. From small towns to deep forest, from nature to the Euro Space Center. One single contact point to discover the south of Belgium.

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Tel : +32 8 436 77 36 Fax : +32 8 436 78 36
E-mail : olivier.lefevre@la-roche-tourisme.com
Internet : www.la-roche-tourisme.com
Your contact at WTM : Mr. Olivier LEFÈVRE



LIEGE REGION TOURIST BOARD

The province of Liège offers a wide range of opportunities for group excursions on a variety of themes such as cultural and industrial heritage, nature discovery, gastronomy, and much more.

Place Saint-Lambert 32-35 Blvd de la Sauvenière, 77-4000 LIEGE-BELGIUM
Tel : +32 4 237 95 26 Fax : +32 4 237 95 78
E-mail : info@prov-liege.be Internet : www.prov-liege.be/tourisme
Your contact at WTM : Mrs Myriam PICARD



TOURIST BOARD FOR THE BELGIAN ARDENNES

The Belgian Province of Luxembourg is a paradise for nature and sports lovers with hilly courses offering golfers pleasant challenges and vestiges of the Battle of the Bulge dotted all over the province. Find out about the archaeology museum in Arlon, with the largest collection of Gallo-Roman sculptures in Belgium, or the monument between Foy and Bizory dedicated to the men of the 506th Regiment or the new galleries of the famous caves of Hotton.

Quai de l'Ourthe, 9 - 6980 LA ROCHE-EN-ARDENNE -BELGIUM
Tel : +32 8 441 10 11 Fax : +32 8 441 24 39
E-mail : info@ftlb.be Internet : www.ftlb.be
Your contacts at WTM : Mr. Frédéric ROUSSEAU – Mr. Michael BAERT



TOURIST BOARD FOR THE PROVINCE OF WATERLOO REGION

In charge of the promotion of the youngest province of Belgium, the Tourist Board for the Walloon Brabant presents a great variety of small museums, discovery parks, castles, golf clubs and the well-known battlefield of Waterloo.

Avenue Einstein, 2 - 1300 WAVRE - BELGIUM
Tel : +32 1 023 62 17 Fax : +32 1 023 63 54
E-mail : tourisme@brabantwallon.be Internet : www.brabantwallon.be
Your contact at WTM : Mr. Georges VAN HEDDEGEM



MONS REGION TOURIST OFFICE

Mons, the capital city of the Hainaut province and the setting of the first skirmishes between British and German troops during WWI, presents a rich mixture of history and culture, folklore and gastronomy. Its past covers many centuries which have endowed it with a distinctive charm due the twists and turns of its ancient streets, filled with architectural treasures.

Grand-Place, 22 - 7000 MONS - BELGIUM
Tel : +32 6 522 84 90 Fax : +32 6 535 63 36
E-mail : michel.vasko@ville.mons.be Internet : www.monsregion.be
Your contacts at WTM : Mr. Michel VASKO- Ms Laurence LERINCKX



TOURIST OFFICE OF TOURNAI

Organises guided visits, city breaks, themed programmes for groups and individuals in Tournai, the oldest city of Belgium and the only one to have ever come under English rule under Henri VIII. Its stunning cathedral and Belfry are both UNESCO world heritage sites The renovated wharfs along the banks of the Escaut river provide a large pedestrian area complete with restaurants, shops and cafes.

Vieux Marché-aux-Poteries, 14 - 7500 TOURNAI - BELGIUM
Tel : +32 6 922 20 45 Fax : +32 6 921 62 21
E-mail : tourisme@tournai.be Internet : www.tournai.be
Your contacts at WTM : Mr. Olivier ROUPIN – Mr. Jean-François DUMOULIN

HOTELS AND ACCOMMODATION



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Tel : +32 2 718 07 22 Fax : +32 2 718 07 55
E-mail : michel.verhoest@accor.com Internet : www.accorhotels.com
Your contact at WTM : Mr Michel Verhoest



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Located within 5 mins walk from the Grand'Place, the 4 star Bedford Hotel & Congress Centre Brussels includes 326 rooms and 18 meeting rooms (2660 m²), while the 4 star Bedford Hotel Liège, situated in an old convent from the 17th century, offers 149 rooms and 6 meeting rooms.

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Internet : www.vendome-marivaux.be
Your contact at WTM : Mrs. Laurence Peters



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The Brussels and Wallonia Youth Hostels offer comfort and quality at friendly prices in Brussels, Liège, Namur, Mons, Tournai, Malmedy, Bouillon, Champlon, and Tiff, as well as a large selection of fun activity programmes ranging from city breaks to paragliding. All hostels observe a non smoking policy.

Rue de la Sablonnière, 28 - 1000 Brussels - BELGIUM
Tel : +32 2 219 56 76 Fax : +32 2 219 14 51
E-mail : cra@laj.be Internet : www.laj.be
Your contacts at WTM: Ms. Caroline RAEDEMAERKER

MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



BRUPARCK / MINI-EUROPE BRUSSELS

BRUPARCK is the leisure centre of Brussels located at the foot of the Atomium. It contains four theme parks: Mini-Europe, the only park where you can have a whistle-stop tour around Europe in a few short hours with 300 models of unequalled craftsmanship.; Océade, a subtropical aqua paradise (indoor & outdoor); - Kinopolis: an ultra-modern equipped movie theatre (24 theatres); The Village: with bars, restaurants and a playground.

Boulevard du Centenaire, 20 - 1020 BRUSSELS - BELGIUM
Tel : +32 2 474 83 83 Fax : +32 2 474 83 96
E-mail : info@bruparck.com Internet : www.bruparck.com
Your contacts at WTM: Ms Emily DEGLAS – Mr. Kristof VAN VAERENBERGH



EURO SPACE CENTER

The Euro Space Center offers a multi-sensorial exhibition and guided tours on everything to do with the fascinating world of space. It offers groups of children and/or adults the possibility to attend astronaut training and space-classes as well as Family Space Weekends and multi-media exhibitions. Full board accommodation is also available with half day space activities and half day tourist visits in the area.

Rue Devant les Hêtres, 1- 6890 TRANSINNE - BELGIUM
Tel : +32 6 165 64 65 Fax : +32 6 165 64 61
E-mail : btob@eurospacecenter.be Internet : www.eurospacecenter.be
Your contact at WTM: Mr. Thomas VANDER STEENE



FOLON FOUNDATION

Located in the ancient farmhouse of the Château de La Hulpe, The Folon Foundation is dedicated to Jean-Michel Folon, whose works encompassed watercolors, screen prints, sculptures, engravings, stained glass and numerous posters and stamps. Many of his drawings appeared in a number of magazines including Time, Fortune and The New Yorker. In 2008 several major exhibitions throughout the country will highlight the works of the artist who died in September 2005, including special exhibitions and outdoor sculpture displays.

Ferme du Château de La Hulpe, Dreve de la Ramee, 6a
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E-mail : s.angelroth@fondationfolon.be
Internet : www.fondationfolon.be
Your contact at WTM : Mrs Bart Maras



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INCOMING AGENCIES



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INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTERS



BRUSSELS AIRLINES

The Belgian Airline offers flights to Brussels Zaventem, Belgium's main international gateway, from six UK airports: Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol & Newcastle. It also operates to nearly 50 destinations in continental Europe; and has flights from Brussels to New York, Chicago, Nairobi and Dubai.

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...AND YOU WILL MEET US TOO!



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Belgian Tourist Office
Brussels • Wallonia

Calendar of events for the first six months of 2008

The South of Belgium
BRUSSELS & WALLONIA
Latin Europe in a nutshell

Sporting Events

On your bikes!

- 19-20 April *7th ING Ardennes Bleu Classic car rally, Spa (Province of Liège)* Drivers and spectators alike enjoy a charming tour all over the Ardennes and the Hautes Fagnes.
- 23 April *La Flèche Wallonne, Wallonia* Major professional bicycle race, the first of the two Belgian Ardennes classics, starting at Charleroi, in the Province of Hainaut, and ending in Huy, in the Province of Liege. Both the men's' (199.5km) and the women's' (97 km) races finish atop the notorious Mur de Huy.
- 27 April *Liège-Bastogne-Liège International bicycle race* The infamous L-B-L, the doyen of bicycle races, is the second of the two Belgian Ardennes Classics and the oldest Classic on the cycling calendar and attracts a star-studded line-up every year.
- 28 May *Imperial laps at Waterloo* Different laps with various degrees in difficulty take you through the battle field. Classical bicycle touring on the road, sports and family mountain biking, orientation bike. Several thousands of participants of all ages, professionals and amateur cyclists take part every year.
- 22 June *44th Flèche Ardennaise* 170 Km bicycle race in the Ardennes, taking in the same roads as the Liège-Bastogne-Liège classic.

Music Festivals and Cultural Events

From Horror movies to love films, classical music to jazz and much more

- 1-9 February *ANIMA 2008, Festival of cartoons and of animated films, Brussels* 27th edition of this international animation film festival which features more than 100 international films, shorts, 2D, 3D, children's films and student films. Also includes a national and an international competition.
- 8-15 February *24th International Festival of Love Films of Mons (Province of Hainaut)* FIFA is a yearly festival that takes place around Valentine's Day, with screenings of the latest films on the theme of love and relationships.
- 27 March-8 April *26th edition of the Brussels International Festival of Fantastic Film* Over 50 films celebrating horror movies, thrillers and science fiction.
- 23-25 May (TBC) *Brussels Jazz Marathon, Brussels* 13th edition of this weekend of international jazz. Over 100 concerts and 450 musicians at various venues across Brussels, including the Grand Place
- 25-26 May *Liège Jazz Festival (Province of Liège)* 18th edition of the prestigious annual gathering of the greats of jazz in the heart of the Belgian Ardennes
- 19-22 June *24th edition of la Fete de la Musique, Brussels* The annual summer Fete de la Musique takes over the heart of Brussels with pop, jazz, hip hop, chanson française, funk etc... throughout the city. This year's theme will be "unusual places".
- 27-29 June *Couleur Café, Tour & Taxi, Brussels* A highly atmospheric, world music festival set in the magnificent Tour & Taxis site complete with Global Village with craft stalls and stands selling foods from different cultures.

Street Parties, Carnival & Folklore

Belgium is well known for its colourful carnivals and street parades, most of which are based on ancient festivals. Fun for all involved!

- 3-5 February *Carnaval de Binche (Province of Hainaut)* The most famous and the best of Wallonia's carnival, with some 900 men in glorious costumes throwing oranges at the crowd. Recognised in 2003 by UNESCO as a masterpiece of the oral and immaterial patrimony of humanity.
- 10 February *51st Grand Feu de Bouge (Province of Namur)* The country's most spectacular bonfire takes place on the first Sunday of Lent in a celebration that dates back 1000 years. Fireworks at 7:30 pm.
- 1-3 March *506th Carnaval du Laetare, Stavelot (Province of Liège)* Mid-Lent Carnival with hundreds of "Blanc Moussis" (White Brethren) clad in white masks with long red noses, confetti firing canons and a grand procession at 14H00 pm
- 2 March *54th Carnaval of the Bears, Andenne (Province of Namur)* A carnival celebrating the victory of local man Charles Martel over a bear that once terrorised the town. Throwing of stuffed teddy bears from the balcony of the Town Hall at the end of the day
- 24 March *132nd Cavalcade in Herve (Province of Liège)* Yearly on Easter Monday. One of the most sumptuous processions of the province (departs at 14:30 pm) with fireworks
- 1-4 May *International Festival of Fairground Entertainment, Namur* Gathering of more than 300 entertainers from different corners of the world with their own theatrical and contemporary interpretations of fairground entertainment in the province of Namur
- 10-12 May *Matrimonial High Tea, Ecaussines (Province of Hainaut)* This event has been held since 1903 in the splendid grounds of the chateau. From 10 am any unmarried person can register their requirements as to the type of person they would like to meet. All done in good fun.
- 17 May *13th Belgium Lesbian & Gay Pride, Brussels* Almost 20,000 participants now take part in BLGP. With walks through Brussels, music, parties and festivities galore
- 18 May *The Ducasse, Mons (Province of Hainaut)* Procession of the Golden Carriage and the "Lumecon" Battle in Mons, a re-enactment of the Slaying of the dragon by St Georges in one of the oldest festivals of Wallonia
- 24-25 May *Maitrank Festival in Arlon (Province of Luxembourg)* The most southern town of Belgium celebrates the Maitrank, an aperitif made with dry white wine laced with oranges and fine liqueurs with tastings and various festivities.
- 31 May *Zinneke Parade, Brussels* Colourful biennial street parade held on the anniversary of the liberation of Brussels in which 4,000 participants take part
- 7-8 June *Days of the 4 processions, Tournai (Province of Hainaut)* Folklore and carnival during these 2 days of procession, one carried out to military music
- 1-3 July *Ommegang Pageant, Brussels* Historical evocation of the festival held in 1549 for Charles the Fifth, his son Don Philip, infant of Spain and Duke of Brabant, and his sisters, Eleanor of Austria, Queen of France and Mary of Hungary.

Military Tourism

From military marches to reconstructions of the Battle of Waterloo

- 17-19 May *Military March at Saint Roch, Thuin (Province of Hainaut)* One of the oldest between l'Entre Sambre et Meuse with around 2,000 marchers in uniforms from the 17th to the 19th century.
- 11-13 May *Saint Rolende March, Gerpinnes (Province of Hainaut)* One of the most important military marches of the region. Starts as early at 2 am to the sounds of fifes and drumming and lasts till the evening.
- 14-15 June *10th Bivouac at Waterloo (Province of Walloon Brabant)* Yearly Reconstruction of a Napoleonic bivouac and of the battle of Plancenoit with over 1,000 participants in uniform from Germany France the UK, Italy, Holland, Russia the Czech republic and Belgium
- 25-28 June *42nd European March of Memory and Friendship* Military personnel and civilians of all nationalities can take part in this 4 day yearly march at the end of June in the beautiful region of the Belgian Ardennes. Seventeen nations now participate and each march covers around 30kms. Alternatively the mini-MESA covers 13 kms.

Markets and Fairs

Something old, something new

- 18-27 January *53rd Belgium Antiques Fair, Brussels* One of the top antique fairs in Europe with 90 exhibitors attracting over 20,000 international dealers and collectors
- 5-9 March *Brussels Book Fair, Tour & Taxis, Brussels* With over 1100 publishers and the participation of more than 700 authors. Also features a number of debates, conferences and workshops.
- 21 March *Grand Marché aux Fleurs, Tournai.* Dating back to 1825, this traditional market sees the participation every year of over one hundred horticulturalists
- 16-19 May *27th edition of Eurantica, Brussels* Over 200 antique dealers from all over Europe will be present in Brussels to show their rarest items to an ever-growing number of antique lovers.

Exhibitions and Special Events

Must-dos, unique exhibitions and events in Brussels and Wallonia

- Until 20 Jan *Le Grand Atelier, part of the Europalia.Europa Festival, Brussels* The exhibition will illustrate, with many remarkable and often spectacular works, several particularly eloquent aspects of the artistic circulation in Europe and the various forms it took over a long period in the history of art (between the 5th and 18th centuries). It will include about 350 works, coming from over 100 European collections.
- Until 27 Jan 2008 *Rubens, A Genius At Work, Brussels* A real blockbuster exhibition at Belgium's Fine Arts Museums displaying a unique collection of some 50 original works from the studio of Rubens, as well as paintings produced with contemporaries such as Brueghel the Elder, Van Dyck and De Vos. The aim of the exhibition is to demonstrate the creative process behind the paintings and give visitors a better understanding of the way Rubens and his team prepared their masterpieces.
- Until 3 Feb 2008 *Europalia Europe, Brussels* One of the major cultural events of the year, combining visual arts, music, theatre and dance, with the participation of the European Union's 27 member states. It will show what binds the European culture, as well as what makes every country unique. The theme is 2007, year of Europe in Brussels.
- Until 8 February *Formatting Europe- Mapping a Continent, part of Europalia.Europa Festival, Brussels* The European cartographers depicted Europe throughout the centuries in several ways sometimes taking liberties with reality. This exhibition displays maps dating from the Middle Ages till the 20th century which show the fascinating evolution of the continent and of its cartography.
- Until 17 Feb *Brilliant Europe, part of the Europalia.Europa Festival, Brussels* In the courts of Europe, where dynasties were tightly interwoven for centuries, jewellery was a sign of status, wealth and power. This exhibition evokes over 800 years of European jewellery history, featuring some 200 pieces not only of spectacular quality but also of significant historical importance.
- Until 15 March *Leonardo Da Vinci, The European Genius, Brussels* Unique exhibition at the Koekelberg Basilica covering an area of 3000 m² with original documents, scale models, notebooks as well as several of Leonardo's inventions and some works on show for the first time. It will be structured around five themes: Leonardo's life, his paintings, his writings, his machines and Europe's achievements in the footsteps of the great master.
- 18 Apr-19 Oct *Expo 58 at the Atomium, Brussels* In 2008, the Universal Exhibition of 1958 will be celebrating its 50 anniversary with a special event, Expo 58 Between Utopia & Reality. Visit the Atomium to discover or relive the magic of this event which is still so present in the collective memory and showcased a united Belgium.
- 16 April- 4 May *Opening of the Royal Greenhouses of Laeken, Brussels* The royal greenhouses open once yearly for public viewing for a blooming extravaganza of 5,000 plants including giant ferns and exotic trees, some 250 years old. The visit also includes the Queen Elisabeth's workshop and the stables.
- Until 20 April *China under One roof, Ancient architectural models from the Henan Museum.* Boasting a unique collection of Chinese funerary furniture, the Museum of Henan in Zhengzhou will for the first time allow around one hundred pieces of a period stretching from the 2nd century BC until the 17th century AD to leave the country. The public will be able to admire small-scale models of houses, summerhouses, towers, theatres and Buddhist temples all representing the surroundings and status enjoyed by the deceased person in his lifetime.
- 21-22 April *Bouillon Beer Festival (Province of Luxembourg)* Shopkeepers in the town of Bouillon put up product stands including local producers of special beers with tasting sessions.
- 8-24 May *Queen Elisabeth International Music Competition, Brussels* Prestigious international competition for violinists, pianists, composers and vocalists. The 2008 competition will be devoted to singing.



Belgian Tourist Office
Brussels • Wallonia

All dates subject to change.
For further information please contact the Belgian Tourist Office –
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