

Belgium Profile

Autumn 2005 edition

WTM 2005
Edition



Belgian Tourist Office
Brussels • Wallonia

Brussels goes all trendy in 2006



© MODO Bruxelles

Fashion and design in Brussels will be the focus of attention in 2006 in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the prestigious La Cambre School of Visual Arts which is based in the Belgian capital. The school is famous for having produced some of Belgium's most original designers, counting among its former students designers like Olivier Theyskens, current creator for French fashion house Rochas, Laetitia Crahay now in charge of jewellery and accessories at Chanel and Jose Enrique Ona Selfa, creative director for the exclusive brand Loewe.

To highlight the creative genius of its many designers, the city will be hosting a number of events and exhibitions for the occasion including designer trails, fashion shows, an exhibition on fashion in Brussels, and the creation of a Fashion House.

A brochure entitled "Brussels the fashionable districts", available on our stand EM 450 at WTM, will focus on the hottest and trendiest areas and districts of Brussels, such as the rue Dansaert, with its fashionable shops and designer boutiques, St Gery, with its cool bars and cafes, the Marolles, once one the poorest area of Brussels and now full of design shops and vintage boutiques, or le Sablon with its antique shops, art galleries and hip restaurants. Also on our stand, MODO Bruxelles will be featuring a special "Boutiqk" selling accessories and items by Belgian designers.

For more information contact info@belgiumthelaceto.be or visit www.belgiumthelaceto.be



New website for Belgium the place to be



The Belgian Tourist Office-Brussels and Wallonia has just launched its new website www.belgiumthelaceto.be with more than 300 pages of useful and comprehensive information, facts, recommendations and tips on the French-speaking areas of Brussels and Wallonia.

The new look site provides quick and easy access to key tourist attractions and towns, accommodation options, the best places to eat and shop, a calendar of events, listings of the main tour operators and useful links, and will assist the trade by raising awareness of the destination, whilst providing quality leads to main distributor sites. It also features downloadable brochures and maps, weather information, a distance calculator tool, access to a live European rail booking engine and new press and trade areas with image libraries and newsletters.

www.belgiumthelaceto.be will also serve as an e-zine with continual and regular updates containing the latest and best news on Brussels and Wallonia, and the forthcoming Schnoops community will offer members special deals and entry to competitions.

The site, which was built with the Disability and discrimination Act in mind, is supported by a number of online and offline marketing initiatives and has already been given 5 star ratings by amazon.com customers.

www.belgiumthelaceto.be. It's the site to be.



Fotoseek and ye shall find

The Belgian Tourist Office-Brussels and Wallonia has joined the image library www.fotoseeker.com with a collection of 400 stunning high resolution photographs available for the press and the trade to download for free, making it easier to access quality images of the French speaking parts of Brussels and Wallonia in Southern Belgium.

For ease of reference, images are filed by different themes including Spa, chocolate and beer, Art Nouveau, Brussels city break and Wallonia. First time users simply need to click onto fotoseeker.com and register, then look for the Belgian Tourist Office-Brussels and Wallonia image library.

More on www.fotoseeker.com



© Jean-Marie OIT



New Brussels Radisson to open in January 2006



© Radisson SAS EU Hotel

On 15 January 2006 Brussels will see the addition of the new four-star Radisson SAS EU Hotel in the heart of the capital's European quarter, bringing the total number of Radisson hotels in the city to two.

Emphasis will be on design and first class service, with 144 luxuriously appointed rooms and five suites all equipped with high-quality facilities including Wireless Internet and satellite television.

The hotel will be conveniently located right behind the European Parliament, and within walking distance of all European institutions, only three kilometres away from the historic city centre of Brussels and its many attractions.

Other facilities will include a fully-equipped gym and sauna, a trendy Asian restaurant with open-wok kitchen, and a relaxing hotel bar, as well as six fully-equipped meeting rooms able to accommodate a number of different types of events, from small gatherings to large cocktail receptions.

For more information visit www.brussels.eu.radissonsas.com



Villages and Flavours of Wallonia on the menu in 2006

The Belgian Tourist Office-Brussels and Wallonia will be promoting the villages of Wallonia and their flavours next year with a special booklet entitled "Villages and Flavours 2006" highlighting the many delightful villages of Southern Belgium and their local fare, and giving suggestions and ideas for itineraries, accommodation, and restaurants and providing listings of speciality shops and regional producers.

Some of the villages mentioned feature among Wallonia's twenty-two Most Beautiful Villages of Wallonia and are the ideal way to discover the many delights of the destination, which include gems like Crupet, a charming little town on the edge of a wooded valley, or Mélin nestled on the heights of a valley with spectacular views or the picturesque Lompref, situated in the meander of a river.

The A5 brochure will be available at WTM on our stand EM 450, and more information can be obtained from info@belgiumthelaceto.be or www.belgiumthelaceto.be



© PAVIER

Brussels Atomium to reopen in February 2006

The Brussels Atomium, the city's most famous landmark and one of its most popular tourist attractions, will reopen its doors on 18 February 2006 after having been fully restored to its original shiny splendour by over a year's extensive renovation work.



© mpf/issart

The construction, a 335ft-high model of a nine atom molecule magnified 165 billion times, was originally built for the Brussels Universal Exhibition of 1958 as a monument to science. Escalators connect the spheres, most of which contain exhibitions, film screenings, shops and museums, and a high speed elevator leads to an observation gallery in the topmost atom and to the 80-seat "Atomium" restaurant which both offer panoramic views of the city.

The Atomium is located in Heysel close to Mini Europe, the planetarium, the exhibition centre and the King Baudouin stadium.

More information on www.atomium.be



Forgotten Art Nouveau masterpiece opens for conferences, receptions and banquets

Built by Victor Horta in 1894 for a friend and lawyer in the centre of Brussels, the magnificent Hotel Frison, which serves mainly as an art gallery by day, is now available through Sterkmans Events for the organisation of exclusive events, dinners or even workshops. This is an excellent opportunity to let your guests see inside one of the finest houses of the nineteenth century to grace the centre of Brussels, and is ideal for small groups of between 50 to 55 persons.

Sterkmans Events organises themed and business events, as well as sightseeing tours, incentive programmes, teambuilding events and product launches.

More information on www.meetingpointbelgium.be



Team Building in Belgium's own Highlands

Enjoy a taste of the Scottish highlands 50 mins drive away from Brussels in the beautiful hilly area of the Condroz district of Namur, a thousand leagues away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

There in a beautiful domain, groups of between 30 and 120 can dress up in kilt and sporan in the tartan of their clan, join in the fun and take part in highland games Belgian style, to the skirl of the bagpipes and the boom of the drums.

Tossing the caber.... archery at the butts ... hammer throwing ... tug of war ... learning a Scottish jig and riding in dray horse drawn carriagesthere is plenty to keep everyone occupied.

For more information click on www.meetingpointbelgium.be or email info@step-up.be



BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE – BRUSSELS & WALLONIA STAND EM450

A number of Belgian professionals will be on our stand to help you discover the many attractions and products of this interesting and fun-packed destination.

8 Tourist Offices



BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL TOURISM & CONGRESS
Brussels will be yours to discover with the BITC who will be on hand to provide the latest information about the Belgian capital. In 2006 Brussels will see the re-opening of the Atomium, a focus on fashion and design, and a number of special and exciting exhibitions.

Hôtel de Ville, Grand-Place, 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel. : +32 2 513 89 40 Fax : +32 2 513 83 20
E-mail : a.depraetere@brusselsinternational.be
www.brusselsinternational.be
Your contacts at the WTM : Anousjka SCHMIDT – An DEPRAETERE



TOURIST BOARD FOR THE PROVINCE OF HAINAUT
The Tourist Board for the Belgian province of Hainaut offers you the possibility to discover the "green province" in all its diversity: rural wooded landscapes, navigable waterways, historical towns, cultural sites, industrial heritage and chateaux and gardens.

Rue des Clercs, 31, 7000 MONS
Tel. : +32 65 36 04 64 Fax : +32 65 33 57 32
E-mail : patricia.herregods@hainaut.be
www.visitainaut.be
Your contact at the WTM : Patricia HERREGODS



TOURIST BOARD FOR THE PROVINCE OF LIEGE
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. Highlights for 2006 will include the recently opened Source-O-Rama in Chaudfontaine, home to Belgium's only hot spring, and the medicinal gardens of Ortis.

Bldv de la Sauvenière, 77, 4000 LIEGE
Tel. : +32 4 237 95 26 Fax : +32 4 237 95 78
E-mail : ftpl@prov-liege.be
Your contact at the WTM : Myriam PICARD



TOURIST BOARD FOR THE PROVINCE OF LUXEMBURG
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 new archaeology museum in Arlon, with the largest collection of Gallo-Roman sculptures in Belgium, or the new monument between Foy and Bizory dedicated to the men of the 506th Regiment or the newly opened galleries of the famous caves of Hotton.

Quai de l'Ourthe, 9, 6980 LA ROCHE-EN-ARDENNE
Tel. : +32 84 41 10 11 / 32 84 41 02 17 Fax : +32 84 41 24 39
E-mail : info@ftlb.be www.ftlb.be
Your contact at the WTM : Frédéric ROUSSEAU



TOURIST BOARD FOR THE PROVINCE OF NAMUR
The Tourist Board for the Belgian Province of Namur promotes the central region of Wallonia, known for its friendliness and conviviality. Discover the landscapes of the Hesbaye plateau, the gateway to the Ardennes valleys, or city trips to picturesque Dinant or Namur with their imposing citadels and of course, don't forget the famous beers ...

Avenue Reine Astrid, 22, 5000 NAMUR
Tel. : +32 81 74 99 00 Fax : +32 81 74 99 29
E-mail : tourisme@paysdesvallees.be www.ftpn.be
Your contact at the WTM : Carol PETIT



TOURIST BOARD FOR THE PROVINCE OF WALLOON BRABANT
In charge of the promotion of the youngest province of Belgium, the Tourist Board for Walloon Brabant presents a great variety of small museums, discovery parks, castles, golf clubs and, of course the well-known battlefield of Waterloo!

Avenue Einstein, 2, 1300 WAVRE
Tel. : +32 10 23 63 31 Fax : +32 10 23 63 54
E-mail : tourisme@brabantwallon.be www.brabantwallon.be
Your contact at the WTM : Etienne CLAUDE



MONS REGION TOURIST OFFICE
Mons, the capital city of the Hainaut province, 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
Tel. : +32 65 35 34 88 / 32 65 22 84 90
Fax : +32 65 35 63 36
E-mail : michel.vasko@ville.mons.be www.mons.be
Your contact at the WTM : Michel VASKO – Laurence LERINCKX



TOURIST OFFICE OF TOURNAI & CATHEDRALE HOTEL
Tournai is 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 and next year will see the completion of the city's renovated wharfs along the banks of the Escaut river providing a larger pedestrian area complete with restaurants, shops and cafes.

Vieux Marché-aux-Poteries, 14, 7500 TOURNAI
Tel. : +32 69 22 20 45 Fax : +32 69 21 62 21
E-mail : tourisme@tournai.be www.tournai.be
Your contacts at the WTM : Jean-François DUMOULIN – Olivier ROUPIN

7 Hotels of Groups of Hotels



LOGIS OF BELGIUM
The "Logis of Belgium" quality label represents 142 hotels where a warm welcome and authentic gastronomic cuisine are always guaranteed. All hotels are listed by theme, such as hotels for groups, seminars, golfing, family holidays, fitness, horse-riding, bikers, walking, angling etc. The Logis of Belgium also provides accommodation for the disabled.

Rue de l'Eglise, 15, 6980 LA ROCHE EN ARDENNE
Tel. : +32 84 41 27 67 Fax : +32 84 41 11 42
E-mail : info@logis.be www.logis.be
Your contact at the WTM : Dominique LECLERCQ



BEDFORD HOTELS BRUSSELS – LIEGE
Located within 5 mins walk from the Grand'Place, the Bedford Hotel**** & Congress Centre Brussels includes 326 rooms and 18 meeting rooms (2660 m²). Situated in an old convent from the 17th century, the Bedford Hotel**** Liege offers 149 rooms and 6 meeting rooms.

Rue du Midi, 135, 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel. : +32 2 507 00 00 Fax : +32 2 507 00 10
E-mail : info@hotelbedford.be www.hotelbedford.be
Your contact at the WTM : Elsa DE SA RODRIGUES



METROPOLE HOTEL BRUSSELS
Combining modern facilities with supreme elegance, the Metropole will capture your imagination. Situated in the historical centre of Brussels, this superbly renovated hotel is a beautifully preserved world of grandeur and opulence. The capital's only remaining 19th century hotel will set the tone for a delightful stay in Brussels.

Place De Brouckère, 31, 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel. : +32 2 214 23 00 Fax : +32 2 218 02 20
E-mail : sales.mgr@metropolehotel.be www.metropolehotel.be
Your contact at the WTM : Sara DEBERGH



BELHOTEL GROUP / BRUSSELS-WALLONIA
Belhotel is a private Belgian Hotel Group, with two hotels in the city centre of Brussels, and one resort hotel situated just 20 kms outside of Brussels. Conference facilities, golf and wellness packages are available at some of the hotels and you will find a dynamic and welcoming team ready to offer customers an attentive and individual service.

c/o Hôtel Vendôme, Bld. Adolphe Max, 98, 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel. : +32 2 227 03 00 Fax : +32 2 218 06 83
E-mail : sales@hotel-vendome.be www.belhotel.com
Your contact at the WTM: Ulrike TEWES



ACCOR HOTELS BELGIUM & LUXEMBURG
Accor Hotels Belgium are representing Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure and Ibis in Belgium, where they have a large choice of 3 and 4 star hotels in the main cities including Brussels, Dinant, Liège, Mons, Wavre, Namur, Waterloo and Spa

Av. Hermann Debroux, 54, 1160 BRUSSELS
Tel. : +32 2 718 07 22 Fax : +32 2 718 07 55
E-mail : Verhoest_Michel@accor-hotels.com www.accorhotels.com
Your contact at the WTM : Michel VERHOEST



INTERCONTINENTAL HOTELS GROUP
InterContinental hotels Group has more than 3500 hotels worldwide including 31 hotels in the Benelux region. Express by Holiday Inn, Holiday Inn, Crowne Plaza and InterContinental Hotels are some of the brands represented. For more information visit our website.

Neerveldstraat, 101-103, 1200 BRUSSELS
Tel. : +32 2 777 55 04 Fax : +32 2 777 58 52
E-mail : eline.dejong@ichotelsgroup.com
www.benelux.ichotelsgroup.com
Your contact at the WTM : Eline DE JONG & Mariëlle SIERTSEMA



STARWOOD HOTELS BRUSSELS
Sheraton Brussels Hotel and the Four Points, both centrally located hotels, offer you a favourable mix of 4 & 5 star properties in Brussels. Both offer excellent wellness and fitness facilities as well as the largest guest rooms in town - both hotels within 10 minute walking distance to Grand Place.

Place Rogier, 3, 1210 BRUSSELS
Tel. : +32 2 224 30 06 Fax : +32 2 224 34 56
Email : kerstin.pace@starwoodhotels.com www.starwood.com/brussels
Your contact at the WTM : Kerstin PACE

5 Major Tourist Attractions



VILLAGES & FLAVOURS 2006
"2006, Villages and Flavours in Wallonia" was created to promote the art of good living so typical of Southern Belgium and to bring attention to the many pleasures and flavours that are part of our region. Next year will highlight the particular charm of Walloon villages and their local flavours, so look out for the special booklet "Villages and Flavours 2006".

Tourist Board for Wallonia & Brussels
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E-mail: philippe.bernard@opt.be www.wallonie2006.be
Your contact at the WTM: Philippe BERNARD



SITE OF GRAND-HORNU
Situating in the Mons area, Grand-Hornu is a former colliery typical of the 19th century industry. The mining complex has now integrated the Museum of Contemporary Arts which holds a number of important exhibitions such as labeldesign.be, a major exhibition on Belgian creativity in the field of design which runs until February 2006.

Rue Sainte Louise, 82, 7301 HORNU
Tel.: +32 65 65 21 21 Fax: +32 65 61 38 97
E-mail: info.ghi@grand-hornu.be www.grand-hornu.be
Your contact at the WTM: Dominique MAILLEUX



EURO SPACE CENTER
The Euro Space Center is a discovery centre about space, offering a multi-sensorial exhibition and guided tours. In addition, the centre gives groups of children and/or adults the possibility to attend astronaut training and space-classes. There is also a possibility for Family Space Weekends.

Rue Devant les Hêtres, 1, 6890 TRANSSINNE
Tel. : +32 61 65 64 65/32 61 65 01 33 Fax : +32 61 65 64 61
E-mail : BtoB@eurospacecenter.be www.eurospacecenter.be
Your contact at the WTM : Thomas VANDER STEENE



MODO BRUXELLAE
Modo Bruxellae promotes fashion from Brussels to the general public, the media and the fashion professionals and organises events, exhibitions and projects such as the Fashion Designers' Trail on the last weekend of October every other year. Fashion in Brussels and its extraordinary and unique landscape will be promoted across the capital in 2006.

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BRUPARCK / MINI-EUROPE BRUSSELS
BRUPARCK is the leisure centre of Brussels located near the Atomium. It contains four theme parks: Mini Europe, one of the most astonishing monuments of Europe in miniature; Océade, a subtropical aqua paradise (indoor & outdoor); - Kinopolis : an ultra-modern equipped movie theatre (24 theatres); The Village: with bars, restaurants and playground.

Bd. du Centenaire, 20, 1020 BRUSSELS
Tel. : +32 2 474 83 83 Fax : +32 2 474 83 96
E-mail : info@bruparck.com www.bruparck.com
Your contacts at the WTM : Emily DEGLAS & Kristof VAN VAERENBERGH

3 Incoming Agencies



DE BOECK INCOMING & EVENTS
With more than 20 years experience, De Boeck Incoming is your best partner for services in Belgium: * Accommodation * Transports & transfers * Guides services and excursions * Incentive tours * Conferences * Tailor-made programs * Special evening entertainment * Team Building

Harenssesteenweg, 295, 1800 VILVOORDE
Tel. : +32 2 274 23 80 Fax : +32 2 201 05 76
E-mail : info@deboeck-incoming.com www.deboeck-incoming.com
Your contact at the WTM : Myriam FERRON



TELLUS INCOMING BELGIUM
Looking for excellence in Destination Management? Make Tellus your first port of call. Whether groups or individual traveller, tourist or MICE, our consultants will take care of every aspect of your stay and come up with customized and innovative solutions.

Avenue de la Basilique, 353, 1081 BRUSSELS
Tel.: + 32 2 414 64 03 Fax: +32 2 414 56 86
E-mail : info@tellus.be www.tellus.be
Your contact at the WTM : Nicola SASSU



INTERNATIONAL HAINAUT TOURISM
International Hainaut Tourism is a dynamic Incoming Tour Operator specialized in cultural travel for groups in Belgium and Europe. Our professional team offers a large choice of services: all kinds of transfers and shuttles; hotels and restaurants; entertainment; luxurious motor coaches; multilingual guided tours and tailor-made programs.

Quai de Brabant, 20, 6000 CHARLEROI
Tel. : +32 71 64 10 40 Fax : +32 71 64 10 49
E-mail : nmiramontes@ihtourisme.be
Your contacts at the WTM : David BRICOLTO – Norma MIRAMONTES

...and you will meet us too!

BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE BRUSSELS-WALLONIA 217 Marsh Wall, London E14 9FJ Tel.: 020 7531 0390 Fax: 020 7531 0393
E-mail: info@belgiumthelaceto.be www.belgiumthelaceto.be Your contacts at the WTM : F. SCHEEPERS – Ph. MAREE – S. BOUALLEGUE – G. CIRALOLO

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.

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Calendar of events for the first six months of 2006



Sporting Events

On your bikes... mostly!

22-23 April	<i>ING Ardennes Bleu Classic car rally, Spa (Province of Liège)</i> Drivers and spectators alike enjoy a charming tour all over the Ardennes and the Hautes Fagnes.
26 April	<i>La Flèche Wallonne, Wallonia</i> 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 Liège. Both the men's (199.5km) and the women's (97 km) races finish atop the notorious Mur de Huy.
30 April	<i>Liège-Bastogne-Liège International bicycle race</i> 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.
6 May	<i>Start of the 2006 Giro d'Italia in Wallonia</i> The Giro is coming to Wallonia for the third time in 2006 with the start of the first stage of the 6.2 km long prologue taking place in the city of Seraing. The following stages will include a 208 kilometre course from Mons to Charleroi, a 196 kilometre course from Perwez to Namur, with the riders leaving the Belgian territory on the 4th day.
16 May	<i>Imperial laps at Waterloo</i> 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.
18 June	<i>40th Flèche Ardennaise</i> 170 Km bicycle race in the Ardennes, taking in the same roads as the Liège-Bastogne-Liège classic.

Music Festivals & Cultural Events

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

24 Feb-5 March	<i>ANIMA 2006, Cartoon and Animated Film Festival, Brussels</i> Increasingly international festival with guests from Europe, the United States, Canada and Asia. Highlight is the Golden Cartoon awards.
10-17 February	<i>22nd International Festival of Love Films of Mons (Province of Hainaut)</i> 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.
10-25 March	<i>23rd edition of the Brussels International Festival of Fantastic Film</i> Over 50 films celebrating horror movies, thrillers and science fiction.
19-21 May	<i>Brussels Jazz Marathon, Brussels</i> 11th edition of this weekend of international jazz. Over 100 concerts and 450 musicians at various venues across Brussels, including the Grand Place
9-10 June	<i>Liège Jazz Festival (Province of Liège)</i> 16th edition of the prestigious annual gathering of the greats of jazz in the heart of the Belgian Ardennes

Markets & Fairs

Something for everyone in various markets old and new

Dec 2005- 8 Jan2006	Xmas markets in Brussels and across Wallonia with stalls selling all sorts of goodies and unusual ideas for presents, illuminations, ice rinks and special festivities
20-29 January	<i>51st Belgium Antiques Fair, Brussels</i> One of the top antique fairs in Europe with 90 exhibitors attracting over 20,000 international dealers and collectors
15-19 February	<i>Brussels Book Fair, Tour & Taxis, Brussels</i> 36th edition with over 1100 publishers. More than 700 authors took part last year and a number of debates, conferences and workshops also feature
16-23 March	<i>Eurantica, Brussels</i> Over 200 antique dealers from all over Europe will be present once again to show their rarest items to an ever-growing number of antique lovers.
14 April	<i>Grand Marché aux Fleurs, Tournai.</i> Dating back to 1825, this traditional market sees the participation every year of over one hundred horticulturalists

Military Tourism

From military marches to reconstructions of the battle of Waterloo

29 April	<i>Militaria Military Fair, Ciney (Province of Namur)</i> 400 stands of exhibitions of collectors and sports weapons, parts, decorations, uniforms and books. Amateurs can find parts for old military vehicles as well as ancient weapons and detection devices.
20-22 May	<i>352nd Military March at Saint Roch, Thuin (Province of Hainaut)</i> One of the oldest between l'Entre Sambre et Meuse with around 2,000 marchers in uniforms from the 17th to the 19th century. Festivities start at 21:00 on the 20th and finish with a mass on the 22nd at 09:15
4-5 June	<i>Saint Rolende March, Gerpinnes (Province of Hainaut)</i> 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.
18 June	<i>Bivouac at Waterloo (Province of Walloon Brabant)</i> 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
21-24 June	<i>European March of Memory and Friendship</i> 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.

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!

3-8 February	<i>Shrovetide celebrations in the Eastern Cantons</i> Complete with the Carnival Prince and his entourage culminating with a grand procession on the "Monday of the Roses" (7 February).
26-28 February	<i>Carnaval de Binche (Province of Hainaut)</i> 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.
4-5 March	<i>Grand Feu de Bouge (Province of Namur)</i> The country's most spectacular bonfire takes place on the first Sunday of Lent in a celebration that dates back 1000 years. Fireworks on the 5th at 7:30 pm
26 March	<i>Carnaval du Laetare, Stavelot (Province of Liège)</i> 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 1:30 pm
26 March	<i>Carnaval of the Bears, Andenne (Province of Namur)</i> 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
17 April	<i>130th Cavalcade in Herve (Province of Liège)</i> Yearly on Easter Monday. One of the most sumptuous processions of the province (departs at 12:30 pm) with fireworks
6 May	<i>Belgium Gay Pride, Brussels</i> With walks through Brussels, music, parties and festivities
13 May	<i>Zinneke Parade, Brussels</i> Colourful biennial street parade held on the anniversary of the liberation of Brussels in which 4,000 participants take part
20-21 May	<i>Maitrank Festival in Arlon (Province of Luxembourg)</i> 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.
24 May	<i>The Ducasse, Mons (Province of Hainaut)</i> The 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
25-28 May	<i>International Festival of Fairground Entertainment, Namur</i> 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
5 June	<i>Matrimonial High Tea, Ecaussines (Province of Hainaut)</i> 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.
10-11 June	<i>Days of the 4 processions, Tournai (Province of Hainaut)</i> Folklore and carnival during these 2 days of procession, one carried out to military music

Exhibitions & Special Events

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

Until 31 Dec 2005	<i>Art Nouveau & Design, 1830-1958</i> Royal Museums of Art and History, Brussels Organised as part of the celebrations for the 175th anniversary of Belgium's independence, this exhibition presents an overview of the evolution of decorative art in the 19th and 20th century and of the creativity of Belgian artists in the field of interior decoration.
10-22 January	<i>84th European Motor Show, Brussels</i> One of the most important international motor shows in Europe, with around 300 exhibitors displaying everything from passenger cars to parts and accessories via publications, associations and services. Attracts around 750,000 visitors every year
Until 5 February	<i>"Picasso en or et en argent", Chateau de Senefve (Province du Hainaut)</i> Exhibition featuring some examples of Picasso's decorative works in precious metals, with many objects from overseas museums, private collections and the workshops of Francois Hugo, whom Picasso commissioned throughout the 1950's and 1960's to reproduce his designs in gold and in silver. Some pieces are on show for the first time.
17 February - 28 May	<i>"Yearning for Beauty- The Wiener Werkstätte and the Stoclet House"</i> Palais des Beaux Arts, Brussels The finest example of a total work of art produced by the Wiener Werkstätte is unquestionably the Palais Stoclet in Brussels, the most remarkable collective work of international art nouveau, with interior decorations by Gustav Klimt. The exhibition offers an in-depth analysis of the designs and solutions put forward by the Wiener Werkstätte in response to the needs of early 20th-century society.
Until 21 February	<i>Europalia Russia, at various venues across Brussels and Wallonia</i> This year's Europalia will be devoted to Russia, with more than 20 exhibitions, some 250 concerts and a number of stage performances, ballets and film screenings, in one the largest displays of Russian culture ever to be organised outside Russia. With the participation of many of Russia's foremost art institutions including the Hermitage Museum, the Russian Museum of St Petersburg, The Ekaterinburg Museum of Fine Arts, The Tretyakov Gallery and the Bolshoi Ballet.
Until 26 February	<i>Made in Belgium, Dexia Art Centre, Brussels</i> To celebrate the country's 175th anniversary in 2005, this is the largest exhibition ever about Belgium, highlighting the countries achievements through twelve very Belgian themes, including music, plastic arts, literature, leisure and folklore, cartoons and technology.
1 April	<i>Feast of the Orange Trees Frejir Castle (Province of Namur)</i> Discover and take part in this exhibition on three-hundred-year-old orange trees and sale of exotic, special, rare and strange plants such as orchids, coffee trees, banana trees, carnivorous plants and more
22 April - 15 May	<i>Opening of the Royal Greenhouses of Laeken, Brussels</i> 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
15 Dec 05 - 1 May 06	<i>A Different Look- Einstein, Tour & Taxis, Brussels</i> Organised to coincide with the centenary of the publication of Albert Einstein's four most important scientific papers, this entertaining and interactive exhibition dedicated to the famous eccentric scholar shows us how Einstein turned our vision of the world and our daily lives upside down through his theories about relativity and the nature of light.
Until 30 July	<i>Simply Mussels, Natural Science Museum, Brussels</i> An amusing and intriguing interactive exhibition where you will learn everything you ever wanted to know about mussels in Brussels!



All dates subject to change.
For further information please contact the Belgian Tourist Office – Brussels & Wallonia on 020 7531 0390, info@belgiumtheplaceto.be