

Belgium Profile

WTM 2006 edition



Belgian Tourist Office
Brussels • Wallonia

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

Chez LEON Brussels restaurant produces own brand beer



Famous Brussels eatery CHEZ LEON is now offering its customers a new beer, the Bière LEON, only served at CHEZ LEON restaurants. The unique brew, developed by master brewer Jean PAGURA, is a generous blond beer made with pale malts, spring and winter barley, and a special blend of rare hops, some of which come from the UK.

The Bière LEON is brewed in the South of Belgium at Jumet (Province of Hainaut) in the ultra-modern installation of the ancestral Brasserie de l'Union, specialists in the production of high fermentation beers.

Served in its own specially designed balloon glass, the Bière LEON is the perfect drink to accompany the Belgian and Brussels's cuisine that has been served for over a century at CHEZ LEON.

CHEZ LEON, which reopened in July 2005, following a month long renovation, features 420 seats located in 9 historical houses and is Belgium's largest restaurant. Its banqueting rooms situated on the 1st floor have a seating capacity of 18 up to 232 people.

Located within a stone's throw from the Brussels' Grand-Place on rue des Bouchers, CHEZ LEON is open 7 days a week from 11:30 am until 11:00 pm except Fridays & Saturdays when it stays open until 11:30pm.

More information on www.chezleon.be



Brussels is Europe in a nutshell in 2007



Brussels will be celebrating all things European in 2007 with a year long programme of events and festivities dedicated to the theme of Europe and the 50th anniversary of the 1957 Treaty of Rome, one of the foundation stones of the European Community.

Apart from being the capital of Europe, Brussels it is a multicultural multilingual cosmopolitan city, with great shopping, hundreds of museums of all kinds, trendy bars, restaurants and eateries galore, a remarkable diversity of musical festivals, a great nightlife, and a laid-back atmosphere very far from the dull bureaucratic city that it is often perceived to be. The 2007 celebrations will be a reflection of exactly that.

Festivities will include an open air evening concert on 24 March, with stars from all over Europe, a European Film Festival in early July with new films by young European directors, Jazz in Europe now, a day of European jazz featuring the best jazzmen from 27 European countries and a European Circus Festival in November.

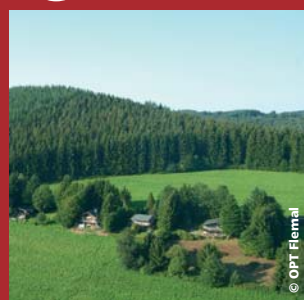
A number of exhibitions are also being organised across the Belgian capital. Eurovisions (March-July) will be look at the ten newest nations to have joined the European Community through the lenses of famous photographers from the Magnum agency, Europalia.europa, a European cultural festival, will run from October 2007 to February 2008, and the Art Nouveau Biennale during weekends in October will highlight the European influences on the style. Europe seen through Football will contain rare artifacts from Europe's top sports museums.

More information on www.belgiumthelaceto.be



South of Belgium goes Greener in 2007

If southern Belgium is justifiably famous for its beautiful hilly landscapes and lush forests, not least the Ardennes Forest, setting of the infamous Battle of the Bulge, what is less know is the fact that eighty percent of Belgium's forests now lie in the South of Belgium and cover more than thirty percent of the Belgian territory.



The South of Belgium also has nine protected natural reserves and a large number of natural parcs, all offering visitors a wonderful chance to enjoy miles of walking, riding and cycling along established paths in the beautiful southern Belgian countryside.

The south of Belgium will be highlighting its magnificent forests, parcs and natural reserves in 2007 with the publication of special tourist maps featuring the many trails and walks available, including gastronomy and brewery trails.

For more information visit www.belgiumthelaceto.be



2007 Centennial for the creator of Tintin



Belgium will be marking the centenary of the birth of Tintin creator Hergé (1907 – 1983) aka Georges Remi or "RG", with a large programme of events centering on the author and his 55-year long professional career.

On January 10 (official 'birth' date of Tintin and snowy, in 1929) a gigantic Tintin fresco will be unveiled inside Brussels Gare du Midi station, based on an image taken from one of the many adventures of the intrepid boy reporter. It will be located in the Midi Gallery, the new part of the station which opened in 2004.

In March 2007 the Musée des Beaux-Arts will be holding an exhibition entitled "Hergé and Art" featuring the author's collection of contemporary art and some of his own original boards, while the Belgian Post will be issuing no fewer than 25 unique commemorative postage stamps of a value of 0.46 each. These stamps will be officially unveiled on 17 November at the World Youth Philately Exhibition Belgica 2006 in Brussels and will be on advance sale in Brussels on 19 May and for general sale on May 22, Hergé's birthday.

A Tintin flea market is also scheduled to take place in July at Brussels' famous Place du Jeu de Balle market.

In the South of Belgium, the City of Tournai is redeveloping the former printing works of Casterman, located in the Rue des Soeurs Noires and a new square, Place Hergé, will be created on the site and inaugurated in 2007. Work will also be starting on a new Hergé museum in Louvain-la-Neuve which is scheduled to open in 2009.

During the centenary year, some of Tintin's adventures, which have been translated from the original French into no fewer than 72 languages, will be released within Belgium in Charleroi Walloon and in Brussels French.

More information on www.tintin.com



Walking in the South of Belgium with Russell Hafter Holidays



Leading tour operator for relaxing walking holidays Russell Hafter Holidays are offering independent flexible walking holidays in the Belgian Ardennes, an area of hills and forests, rivers and streams, meadows and grasslands that covers much of the South of Belgium and is well known for its dramatic valleys, wildlife, nature reserves and breweries.

The Four Valleys Walking Tour is a six night holiday through totally unspoilt country that takes in a variety of landscapes including charming valleys where you walk to the sound of water

rushing down the streams and rivers, while the Crossing of the Central Ardennes is a fairly demanding seven day walking tour with many ascents, known locally as the Transardennaise, running mainly through beech and oak forests, with significant stretches through open country too. The towns and villages along the route are noted for their castles and chateaus, basilicas and churches, as well as the idyllic rivers running through them.

Prices start at £447.00 for the Four Valleys Walking Tour and at £540.00 for the Transardennaise including dinners and bed & Breakfast accommodation in charming guest houses and typical Inns, mostly members of the Logis de Belgique.

Russell Hafter Holidays will be adding a new six night walking/cycling holiday in the historical town of Bouillon next year, with accommodation at the 4 star Hotel Panorama, a delightful establishment that offers spectacular views of the picturesque town.

More information on www.walking-in-belgium.co.uk



New Look for a Unique Venue in Brussels

AUTOWORLD, a unique museum in Brussels dedicated to the automobile, has just celebrated its 20th anniversary with a facelift, including a new layout and itinerary for visitors.

The museum, originally built in the 19th century as a hangar for the army, contains over 300 vintage vehicles illustrating the main stages of the history of the motorcar until the 1970's, with an extraordinary automobile collection including Belgian makes such as Minerva, Impéria, and Excelsior, a carriage used by Napoleon III, special models which belonged to the Belgian royal family and to US presidents Franklin Roosevelt and J.F. Kennedy, and even a vehicle ordered by the Shah of Iran but never delivered to him.

The Autoworld museum, which is part of the museums of the Cinquantenaire and welcomes over 50,000 delegates a year to various events, also features a restaurant overlooking the collections, a brasserie, a boutique and meeting facilities.

Guided visits of the museum are available in French, English, Italian, and other languages, on demand.

More information on www.autoworld.be



Dolce la Hulpe Conference Resort to open near Brussels



Global hospitality company Dolce International is opening the company's first property in Belgium at the beginning of February 2007. The full-service hotel and conference destination Dolce La Hulpe Brussels will be located southeast of Brussels City Centre, in the heart of the Soignes forest surrounded by 178 acres of forest, and only 15 kms from Brussels international airport and from the Midi train station and its Thalys and Eurostar connections.

Facilities at the resort will include 264 generously-sized guest rooms and suites with an ultra-modern design allowing natural light to flow through the bedroom area into the bathroom, 40 meeting rooms including 4 auditoriums with up to 484

seats, 4 multifunctional rooms, a restaurant for up to 306 guests, an a la carte restaurant for up to 60 guests, 2 bars and private dining and banqueting rooms.

The Dolce Vital Spa will include an indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna and treatment rooms and a fully-equipped fitness center, while onsite sports facilities will consist of 3 tennis courts, an indoor squash court, a beach volleyball field and fully laid-out jogging trails.

The Soignes Forest is the biggest green area in Brussels, with a grove of giant beech trees unique in Europe and five nature reserves. It provides ample opportunities for long relaxing walks and cycling along the network of paths and trails, as well as for horse riding, and is in close proximity to several golf courses, including the prestigious Royal Golf Club de Waterloo.

More information on www.dolce.com.



New Boutique Hotel opens in Brussels



WORLDHOTELS has recently opened a stylish boutique hotel in the centre of Brussels. The 4-star Progress Hotel, which belongs to the "First Class" category of the Worldhotels group, is based near the Place Rogier, right in the city center and close to many restaurants, its main shopping areas and major attractions.

The property features 57 spacious and elegant guest rooms set over 5 floors, including 14 single rooms, 28 double rooms, 12 twin rooms and 3 suites, and also offers meeting and conference facilities, a bar and a fitness center.

The Worldhotels group already has a number of hotels in the Belgian capital, including the Bristol Stephanie on Avenue Louise which has some of the largest bedrooms and junior suites in the city, and the 5 star Plaza Hotel which has recently seen the launch of the Institute of Director's first ever centre in Brussels which is located at the hotel.

More information on www.worldhotels.com



New 5 Star Hotel to Open in Historic Heart of Liege



A new Crowne Plaza hotel will open in the city of Liege in Belgium in 2008. The Royal Selys Crown Plaza Hotel, on which work has already started, will incorporate two of Wallonia's finest buildings, the Hôtel de Sélys-Longchamps and the Hôtel des Comtes de Méan, which both belonged to aristocratic families from Liege.

The 120 room hotel will be located five minutes from the heart of the historical and cultural centre of the city and within easy reach of the main rail terminal providing access to Brussels in less than one hour.

Facilities will include standard and executive rooms as well as suites, a library, a spacious lobby of 2,000 square feet, a bar with its own terrace, a top-of-the-range restaurant to seat 75 and three other dining rooms. The ballroom will take 400 people, while a second bar will have room for 100. There will also be a business centre, six conference rooms, an 800 square metre spa and wellness centre with indoor swimming pool and sauna, a fitness room, and an underground car park with 80 parking spaces.

The city of liege has recently undergone a major regeneration programme incorporating the historic centre and the Royal Opera House, and a high speed train station is set to open in 2007.

Crowne Plaza already have 5 hotels in Belgium, including two in downtown Brussels and one at Brussels airport.

More information on www.royal-selys.com



New 5 Star Manor Hotel in Spa

Superbly located near the town of Spa in the magnificent surroundings of the forests of the Ardennes, and only one and a half hour's drive from Brussels, the beautifully restored 100 year old Manoir de Lebioles has been renovated into a stylish 5 star luxury hotel.



After more than a year's refurbishment, the chateau, known as the "little Versailles of the Ardennes", now offers 16 individually designed suites, each up to 750 sq ft. in size, a gourmet restaurant for more than 50 guests where head chef Olivier Tucki, formerly of the Radisson SAS Balmoral in Spa, creates dishes that are regional, natural and light in nature, a library, bar and a board room capable of accommodating up to 40 people.

Other facilities include tennis and beauty treatments, and a spa center is due to open at the beginning of 2007.

The Manoir de Lebioles makes an ideal base for exploring the original water town of Spa and its many attractions, such as shopping in its boutiques or at the Sunday flea market, playing golf on the excellent course of the Royal Golf des Fagnes, or for long walks and excursions in the forests and marshes of the Belgian Ardennes where many of the natural springs can be visited. Not forgetting of course the prestigious Belgian F1 Grand Prix which takes place on one of the world's most exciting racing tracks at Spa-Francorchamps.

More information on www.manoirdelebioles.com



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. Brochure line: 0800 9545 245. Email: info@belgiumthelaceto.be

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



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.

Bldv de la Sauvenière, 77 4000 LIEGE
Tel : +32 4 237 95 26 Fax : +32 4 237 95 78
E-mail : myriam.picard@prov-liege.be Internet : www.ftpl.be
Your contact at WTM : 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
Tel : +32 84 41 10 11 / 32 84 41 02 17 Fax : +32 84 41 24 39
E-mail : f.rousseau@ftlb.be Internet : www.ftlb.be
Your contacts at WTM : Frédéric ROUSSEAU – 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
Tel : +32 10 23 63 31 Fax : +32 10 23 63 54
E-mail : regine.roy@brabantwallon.be Internet : www.brabantwallon.be
Your contact at WTM : Georges VAN HEDEGEM



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 to 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 Internet : www.mons.be
Your contacts at 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 the city has recently seen the completion of its 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 : jf.dumoulin@tournai.be Internet : www.tournai.be
Your contacts at WTM : Jean-François DUMOULIN – Alexandrine LETOT

HOTELS AND ACCOMMODATION



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 : logis@hotel-orange.be Internet : www.logis.be
Your contact at 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 : pina@hotelbedford.be Internet : www.hotelbedford.be
Your contact at WTM : Pina MARATTA



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 04 00 Fax : +32 2 218 06 83
E-mail : sales@hotel-vendome.be Internet : www.belhotel.com
Your contact at WTM: Ulrike TEWES



IBIS HOTELS BELGIUM

Ibis hotels offer excellent service and quality at the best possible prices: comfortable rooms with bathrooms, a 24-hour reception desk, a cosy bar area, snack service at any time day or night and a varied choice of restaurants. Ibis hotels stand out in their category by their strong concentration in city centers and easy access. Its 15 hotels across Belgium include properties in Brussels, Dinant, Charleroi and Louvain la Neuve.

Rempart d'albeau, 16 5500 DINANT
Tel : +32 8 221 15 00 Fax : +32 8 221 15 79
E-mail : H3150@accor.com Internet : www.accorhotels.com
Your contact at WTM: Denis MARCHAL



HOTEL SILKEN BERLAYMONT HOTEL

Located in the heart of the European district, only a few steps away from the EU institutions and in close proximity to the city centre and the Palais des Congres, this 4 star property combines a continental ambience with exceptional artistic style. Facilities include 212 modern luxurious rooms, apartments and suites, an up to date fitness centre with sauna, Turkish bath and steam room, a business centre and conference facilities.

Boulevard Charlemagne, 11-19 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel : +32 2 231 09 09 Fax : +32 2 230 33 71
E-mail : sales2.berlaymont@hoteles-silken.com
Internet : www.hoteles-silken.com
Your contact at WTM: Sophie PRIEELS



YOUTH HOSTELS BRUSSELS & WALLONIA

The Brussels and Wallonia Youth Hostels offer comfort and quality at friendly prices in Brussels, Liège, Namur, Mons, Tournai, Malmedy, Bouillon, Champlon, and Tilff, 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, 30 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel : +32 2 218 01 87 Fax : +32 2 217 20 05
E-mail : jml@laj.be - cra@laj.be Internet : www.laj.be
Your contacts at WTM: Jean-Marc LESNE - Caroline RAEDEMAEKER

MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



BOZAR

Brussels' Centre for Fine Arts offers a total artistic experience showcasing some of the most innovative and surprising art exhibitions in Brussels as well as music, dance, architecture, literature, theatre and cinema. In the lead-up to Christmas the Centre for Fine Arts will come to resemble Bombay, with the installation of a real bazaar.

Rue Ravenstein, 23 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel : +32 2 507 84 45
E-mail : catherine.mussely@bozar.be Internet : www.bozar.be
Your contact at WTM: Catherine MUSSELY



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 which has seen the addition of Vilnius university this year; Océade, a subtropical aqua paradise (indoor & outdoor); - Kinopolis: an ultra-modern equipped movie theatre (24 theatres); The Village: with bars, restaurants and a playground.

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



EURO SPACE CENTER

A new 13 metre high model of an Ariane 4 rocket has recently joined the Euro Space Center which offers a multi-sensorial exhibition and guided tours on everything to do with the fascinating world of space. The centre gives groups of children and/or adults the possibility to attend astronaut training and space-classes, and 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@euospacecenter.be Internet : www.euospacecenter.be
Your contact at WTM: Thomas VANDER STEENE



SITE OF GRAND-HORNU

Situated 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.

Rue Sainte Louise, 82 7301 HORNU
Tél : +32 65 65 21 21 Fax : +32 65 61 38 97
E-mail : dominique.mailloux@hainaut.be
Internet : www.grand-hornu.be
Your contact at WTM: Dominique MAILLEUX

INCOMING AGENCIES



BRUSSELS GUIDED TOURS

Voir et Dire Bruxelles is made up of 5 different associations that offer individuals and groups over 300 guided visits on 80 different themes as varied as fashion, cartoons, gastronomy or Art Nouveau. Tours are available in English, and are conducted on foot, by coach or even bicycle. A highlight in 2007 will be the 4th edition of the Biennale of Art Nouveau in October.

Rue de l'Hôtel des Monnaies, 120 1060 BRUSSELS
Tel : +32 2 534 68 00 Fax : +32 2 537 67 77
E-mail : voiretdirebruxelles@belgacom.net
Internet : www.voiretdirebruxelles.be
Your contact at WTM: Isabelle PAELINCK



DE BOECK INCOMING & EVENTS

With more than 20 years experience, De Boeck Incoming is one of your best partners 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
Internet : www.deboeck-incoming.com
Your contact at WTM: Sophie VAN DER STRATEN



INTERNATIONAL HAINAUT TOURISM

International Hainaut Tourism is a dynamic Incoming Tour Operator that specialises 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
Internet : www.ihtourisme.be
Your contact at WTM: Norma MIRAMONTES

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTERS



INTERNATIONAL RAIL LTD

International Rail Ltd's recently launched website www.belgianrailtickets.com allows for online real time booking of any pass or rail journey within Belgium and also provides the practicality of online timetables, maps and journey planners. www.belgianrailtickets.com is backed by International Rail's UK based call and after sales support centre, and travel agents and tour operators can earn attractive levels of commission on tickets at dedicated website www.railagent.co.uk.

Chase House, Gilbert Street, Ropley, Hampshire SO24 0BY UK
Tel: 08700 84 14 10 Fax: 0870 751 5005
E-mail: ogolshan@internationalrail.com
Internet: www.belgianrailtickets.com
Your contact at WTM: Omid GOLSHAN

...AND YOU WILL MEET US TOO!



BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE BRUSSELS-WALLONIA

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Your contacts at WTM : F. SCHEEPERS – Ph. MAREE – S. BOUALLEGUE – G. CIRAOLO



Chez LEON

Sponsor of the Belgian Bar at WTM



Belgian Tourist Office
Brussels • Wallonia

Calendar of events for the first six months of 2007

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

Sporting Events

On your bikes... mostly!

- 21-22 April *6th 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.
- 25 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 Liège. Both the men's' (199.5km) and the women's' (97 km) races finish atop the notorious Mur de Huy.
- 29 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 of 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.
- 24 June *43rd 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

- 16-25 February *ANIMA 2007, Cartoon and Animated Film Festival, Brussels* 26th edition of this international animation film festival which features films, shorts, shorts for children and student films and also a national and an international competition.
- 9-16 February *23rd 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.
- 5-17 April *25th edition of the Brussels International Festival of Fantastic Film* Over 50 films celebrating horror movies, thrillers and science fiction.
- 4-5 May *Liège Jazz Festival (Province of Liège)* 17th edition of the prestigious annual gathering of the greats of jazz in the heart of the Belgian Ardennes.
- 18-20 May *Brussels Jazz Marathon, Brussels* 12th edition of this weekend of international jazz with over 100 concerts and 450 musicians at various venues across Brussels, including the Grand Place.

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!

- 18-20 February *Shrovetide celebrations in the Eastern Cantons* Complete with the Carnival Prince and his entourage culminating with a grand procession on the "Monday of the Roses".
- 18-20 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.
- 25 February *50th 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.
- 17-19 March *505th 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.
- 18 March *53rd 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.
- 16 April *131st Cavalcade of Herve (Province of Liège)* Yearly on Easter Monday. One of the most sumptuous processions of the province (departs at 14:30 pm) with fireworks.
- May (Exact date TBC) *12th Belgian Lesbian & Gay Pride, Brussels* Almost 20,000 participants now take part in BLGP walking through the streets of Brussels. Music, parties and festivities galore!
- 26-27 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.
- 17-20 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.
- 28 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.
- 3 June *The Ducasse, Mons (Province of Hainaut)* June 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.
- 9-10 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.
- 3 & 5 July *Ommegang Pageant, Brussels* Historical evocation of the festival held in 1549 for Charles the Fifth, his son Don Phillip, 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

- 19-21 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.
- 5 June *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.
- 16-17 June *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 gathering in the same orchard the Imperial Guard descended on in June 1815. With a variety of military exercises and different demonstrations.
- 20-23 June *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 for everyone in various markets old and new

- 19-28 January *52nd Belgium Antiques Fair, Brussels* One of the top antique fairs in Europe, with 90 exhibitors attracting over 20,000 international dealers and collectors.
- 28 Feb-4 March *Brussels Book Fair, Tour & Taxis, Brussels* With over 1100 publishers, and more than 700 authors. A number of debates, conferences and workshops also feature.
- 23 March - 1 April *26th edition of Eurantica, Brussels* 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.
- 13 April *Grand Marché aux Fleurs, Tournai.* Dating back to 1825, this traditional market sees the participation every year of over one hundred horticulturalists.

Exhibitions and Special Events

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

- 19 Oct 06 - 25 February 07 *Sphinx: The Guardians of Egypt, Brussels* Some 150 works trace the stylistic evolution and the myth of the sphinx in Ancient Egypt. Sculptures, fragments of walls, sarcophagi, jewellery and everyday items from Ancient Egypt give the visitor an accurate idea of the various hidden meanings of these mysterious creatures. Exhibits include pieces from the Louvre, the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of New York and the Museums of Archaeology of Turin, Berlin and Leipzig.
- 7 October 06 - 28 Jan 07 *India Festival, Brussels* A celebration of India and the richness of its culture in a four month festival showcasing over 100 events, including an exhibition of contemporary Indian art, several photographic exhibitions, numerous concerts, dance performances, a film festival, conferences, literary events, cookery workshops, talks, theatre productions and folk arts.
- 29 November - 14 Jan 2007 *Alfons Mucha & Art Nouveau, MAMAC, Liege (Province of Liege)* Part of a European tour of the works of the acclaimed Czech artist, this exhibition presents some 189 works, including large lithographs, aquarelles, jewellery, rare photographs, paintings and pastels, some of which have been rarely exhibited to the public.
- Throughout 2007 *HERGE 007, Brussels* Brussels will be celebrating the centenary of the birth of Tintin's creator, Hergé, with many special tributes to the artist including exhibitions, the issue of a unique stamp collection and a Tintin flea market.
- 1 March - 1 July *Eurovisions, Brussels* A look at the ten newest nations to have joined the European Community through the lenses of famous photographers from the Magnum agency.
- Until 29 April *The Masters of Pre-Columbian Art, Brussels* The Janssen collection is world-famous, with a wealth of more than 350 outstanding works from the American continent telling the story of over 3000 years of pre-Columbian history. On show at the Royal Museums of Art and History in Brussels it will also include fifty key pre-Columbian pieces from the museum's own collection.
- End April - Beg May (TBC) *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.
- 5 May *Festival of Europe, Brussels* European institutions will be opening their doors while a wide range of activities including guided visits, entertainment, concerts and exhibitions will raise the curtain on the internal workings of the EU.
- 3 May - 2 June *Queen Elisabeth Competition for Piano, Brussels* Prestigious international competition for violinists, pianists, composers and vocalists. The 2007 competition will be devoted to the piano.
- 21 - 24 June *22nd edition of the Festival of Music, Brussels* The annual summer festival of music takes over the heart of Brussels with pop, jazz, hip hop, chanson française, funk and more.
- 29 June - July *Couleur Café, Tour & Taxi, Brussels* A highly atmospheric, multicultural music festival set in the magnificent Tour & Taxis site and a Global Village with craft stalls and stands selling foods from different cultures.



Belgian Tourist Office
Brussels • Wallonia

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