

Belgium Profile

WTM 2010 edition



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

A New Star for the BOZAR

The BOZAR, an art deco masterpiece and one of the leading art venues in Brussels, is to open a new brasserie on 10 December 2010.

Run by David Martin, the famous chef of La Paix, the only brasserie in Belgium to have a Michelin star, BOZAR BRASSERIE will recreate classic Franco-Belgian dishes with an emphasis on fresh and seasonal produce.

"We shall have 6 starters, 6 main dishes, 6 wines by the glass, 6 desserts" says Martin. "That way we can insure that everything is fresh. It will be gastronomic, but with a brasserie atmosphere."



Restored as closely as possible to the original art deco Horta design of 1928, Brasserie BOZAR will have seating for one hundred people and will offer visitors the option of eating before or after performances, as well as during intervals.

It will be open 7 days a week from 12pm to 11pm, and will feature a 22 euro two-course menu.

The BOZAR, or Palais des Beaux-Arts, attracts around one million visitors a year to its programme of exhibitions, musical performances, films, dance and theatre. It is home to the National Orchestra of Belgium and hosts the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Competition every year.

Currently on show there until 23 January 2011 is Jack Freak Pictures, the largest series of works by British duo Gilbert & George.

www.bozar.be



Temporary Museum Closures in Brussels

The Magritte Museum will be closing for maintenance work to its air-conditioning and ventilation units from 3 to 31 January 2011. Redecorating work will also be carried out during its closure.

The Museum of Modern Art meanwhile will close from February until November 2011 (exact dates to be confirmed) for renovation work to its floors, lighting, and security and fire detection systems.

Levels -6 and -8 will also be refurbished to allow for the exhibition of works from the 19th century and of the Gillion Crowet Art Nouveau collection. After the re-opening of the museum, levels -3 and -4 will be destined for temporary exhibitions, and exceptional works of art from the 20th century will be on display in the patio.

Magritte Museum www.musee-magritte-museum.be
Museum of Modern Art www.fine-arts-museum.be



Five Stars for Liège

The Crowne Plaza Hotel Liège, due for completion in autumn 2010, is now scheduled to open in spring 2011.

Incorporating two former palaces from the 16th and 18th centuries belonging to two aristocratic families from Liège, and located within five minutes of the city's historical and cultural centre, the 126 room Crowne Plaza Hotel Liège will be the city's first and only five star property, and is set to be one of Belgium's most glamorous.



Facilities at the Crowne Plaza Hotel Liège will include standard and executive rooms and suites, a library, bar with terrace, gastronomic restaurant, brasserie, ballroom, business centre and conference rooms, as well as a 1200 square metre spa and wellness centre with indoor swimming pool, sauna and fitness room. An underground car park will accommodate 70 parking spaces.

The city of Liège has undergone a major regeneration programme over the last couple of years incorporating the historic centre, the Royal Opera House and the Grand Curtius Museum. Its spectacular new high speed train station designed by Santiago Calatrava opened in September 2009 shortly before Mediacité, a new shopping mall designed by British-based designer Ron Arad.

More information on www.crowneplazaliège.be



A four star classic in the Ardennes



The Quartier Latin, a four-star property situated in the centre of the historic town of Marche-en-Famenne in the heart of the Belgian Ardennes, is offering a new package for classic car enthusiasts.

A two night stay at the hotel, including buffet breakfast, the use of a Triumph TR3 or Triumph Spitfire for a day and a road book of the most pictures parts of the region, starts from 250 euros per room.

Set in a former 18th century Jesuit church, the Quartier Latin is an elegantly furnished hotel with 75 rooms and suites. All rooms have air conditioning, telephone, internet access, mini-bar and hairdryer. Other amenities at the hotel include a brasserie, gourmet restaurant, 24 hour parking and a fitness and well-being centre complete with swimming pool, sauna, hammam and Jacuzzi.

The town of Marche-en-Famenne, lined with beautiful buildings dating from the 16th, 17th and 18th century is located close to the evergreen forests of the Ardennes and in close proximity to some of the best golf courses in the area.

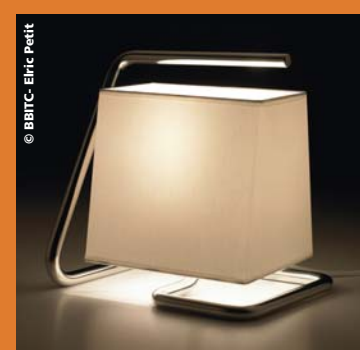
More information on www.quartier-latin.be



Haute Spot for Brussels Designers

A building in the trendy Dansaert designer district of Brussels has now been chosen for the location of a Centre for Fashion and Design in the Belgian capital.

Expected to open in 2012, the 2.759 m2 centre will serve as an international showcase for fashion and design from Brussels and contribute to their development in Brussels. It will feature workshops for designers, as well as exhibitions and other design-related events and a specialised bookshop.



It will also house the non-profit making associations "Modo Brussels" and "Designed in Brussels" which promote fashion and design from Brussels.

Ever since Belgium took London Fashion Week by storm in the late eighties, it hasn't stopped producing some of the most original designers in the world.

Many hail from Brussels, some working for international couture or design houses in Europe and the US.

www.modobrussels.be
www.designedinbrussels.be





New Cosmic attractions at the Euro Space Centre

The Euro Space Centre in Redu in the province of Hainaut has just added two new exhibits to its Space Odyssey trail.

The first, on loan from the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, are the fragments of one of two goodwill moon rocks offered by President Nixon to King Baudoin as a gift to the Belgian people.

The second is the metallic life-size model of satellite Planck, in space since 2009 to research ancient cosmic light, that was used for the extreme temperature tests (-273 °C) carried out before the satellite launch at the Liege Space Centre.

Other attractions at the Euro Space Centre, which relates the story of the first astronauts, include a life-size model of the space shuttle Columbus, sections of the European rocket Ariane, and the Russian space station Mir.

The Euro Space Centre aims to educate children about space, the planets and the stars, and runs special programmes for schools.

www.eurospacecenter.be



The Smurfs and Tintin Hit the Big Screen in 2011

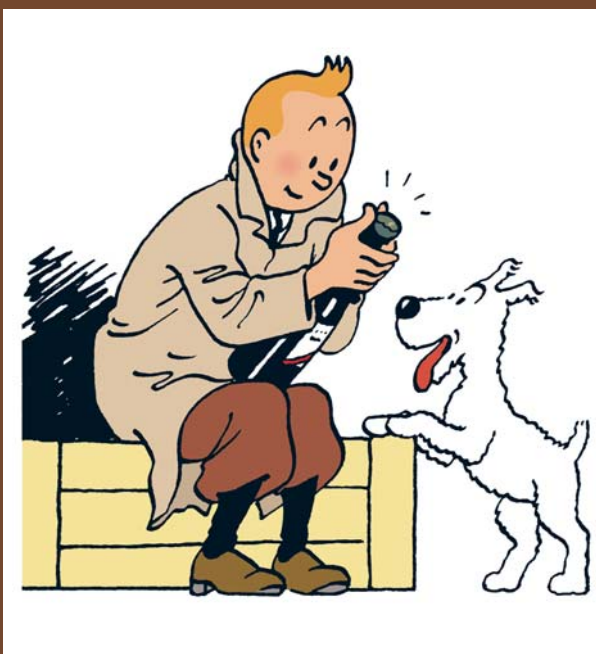
Two of Belgium's most iconic cartoon strips will be hitting the big screens when The Smurfs Movie and The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn are released in 2011.

The Smurfs Movie for which filming began in New York in early 2010 is currently scheduled for release on 3 August 2011. It follows the struggle by the popular diminutive blue characters as they attempt to return home from New York, having tumbled into Central park after having been chased from their tiny village by their arch enemy, evil sorcerer Gargamel. Hank Azaria of Simpson's fame will be playing Gargamel, and the film will also feature the voices of Katy Perry as Smurfette and Alan Cumming as Gutsy Smurf.

www.smurfhappens.com

Directed by Steven Spielberg and co-produced by Peter Jackson, The Adventures of Tintin: The Secret of the Unicorn is based on three of Hergé's Tintin books. It follows the boy reporter through his first encounter with Captain Haddock and their quest to find the treasure of his ancestor Sir Francis Haddock. The motion capture 3D film stars Jamie Bell as Tintin, Daniel Craig as Red Rakhim, and Simon Pegg and Nick Frost as Thompson and Thomson respectively. It is scheduled for release in late 2011.

www.tintin.com



© Hergé-Moulinsart 2010



A Floating Hotel for Brussels

The port of Brussels is to get its first floating hotel in 2011.

Situated along the Béco Basin, the four-star Atlantis Hotel is part of a project to revitalise the port of Brussels, the second inland port of Belgium. Built on a 110 metre barge it will be made of wood, concrete and glass and will adhere to the principles of passive housing to minimise energy consumption and carbon emissions.

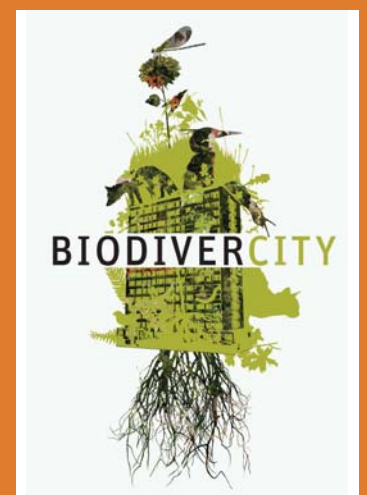
The Atlantis Hotel will provide accommodation over two floors, with 58 rooms and 4 suites overlooking the canal. Facilities will also include a restaurant and breakfast room for 120 people and a terrace that will open to the general public. It will be moored alongside the Actor's Boat, a floating cinema, also scheduled to open in 2011.

Béco Basin is the setting every summer for the month-long Brussels Beach and of the biennial "port festival" which every two years attracts over 30,000 people.

www.portdebruxelles.irisnet.be



Exploration of Urban BiodiverCity at the Museum of Natural Sciences of Brussels



The Museum of Natural Sciences of Brussels will open a permanent exhibition on urban biodiversity in the form of a city adventure for families and groups.

Organised in 2 parts, BiodiverCity will give the visitor the opportunity to understand what biodiversity in the city actually means, and encourage him or her to act in a way to better preserve and enhance it.

Observing Biodiversity, an urban space of 310 m2, will look at biodiversity in our cities today using the example of a western European city. Seven zones will highlight seven different facets of biodiversity and will include specimens, photos, films and interactive activities to help explain what biodiversity in the city entails and what is at stake: the quality of the habitat, the balance between species, and the effect of tending parks and gardens and the benefits offered by biodiversity.

In Acting for Biodiversity interactive tables will challenge visitors to make decisions to enhance biodiversity in the city through a series of practical games asking them for example to increase green spaces in the city, or to insure the return of birds to the city.

BiodiverCity opens in December 2010. It will be suitable for children aged 8 and above.

www.naturalsciences.be



Brussels Museums Talk

MuseumTalks, a series of alternative mp3 guides to works of art in museums across Brussels, has added a deluxe version which now includes guides to 20 works of art that are considered masterpieces that every serious art buff in Belgium should know about.

Launched two years ago, MuseumTalks guides have been recorded in 25 languages by artists, musicians, media personalities as well as anonymous visitors, with original commentaries lasting around two minutes.

The new edition contains comments in English on The Fall of the Rebel Angels by Pieter Bruegel the Elder (from the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium), an early 18th century Chinese plate with kingfisher (Museums of the Far East) and abstract furniture designed by Magritte from the artist's former house, now a museum in Jette.

Mp3s can be downloaded for free from www.museumtalks.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

Belgian Tourist Office – Brussels & Wallonia Stand EM1220

Come and meet some of our Belgian partners who will help you discover more about the destination and the many attractions and products that Brussels and the South of Belgium have to offer.

TOURIST OFFICES



ARDENNE ATTRACTIONS

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

Place du Marché, 15 6980 LA ROCHE-EN-ARDENNE
Tel: +32 8 436 77 36 Fax: +32 8 436 78 36
E-mail: olivier.lefevre@la-roche-tourisme.com
Internet: www.ardenne-attractions.be
Your contact at WTM: Mr Olivier LEFÈVRE



BELGIAN ARDENNES TOURIST BOARD

Our tourist board promotes the Belgian Ardennes and its towns and villages as holiday destinations to the foreign press and tour operators. It is a paradise for nature and sports lovers. Its hilly courses offer hikers pleasant challenges, and vestiges of the Battle of the Bulge await historians at heart.

Quai de l'Ourthe, 9 6980 LA ROCHE-EN-ARDENNE
Tel: +32 8 441 10 11 Fax: +32 8 441 24 39
E-mail: f.rousseau@ftlb.be Internet: www.luxembourg-tourisme.be
Your contact at WTM: Mr Frédéric ROUSSEAU



BRUSSELS GUIDED TOURS

Brussels guided tours organise themed tours including Art Nouveau (Modern Style), cultural heritage, folklore, strip cartoons, gastronomy, open spaces and more. The tours are available in many languages and are proposed by bus, bike or on foot. Every other year the public is invited to discover the Art Nouveau architectural heritage of Brussels.

Rue Royale, 2-4 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel: +32 2 563 61 51 Fax: +32 2 563 61 61
E-mail: info@voiretdirebruxelles.be
Internet: www.voiretdirebruxelles.be
Your contacts at WTM: Ms Isabelle PAELINCK - Ms Nastassia SELLENS



BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL - TOURISM & CONGRESS

Brussels today, cosmopolitan and passionate about good food, reflects the art of enjoying life that varies with the passing of the seasons: springtime is populated with comic strip heroes; summertime comes in the form of music; autumn is devoted to Art Nouveau and "winter wonders" includes an entertaining gourmet trail.

Rue Royale, 2-4 1000 BRUSSELS
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E-mail: a.schmidt@brusselsinternational.be
Internet: www.brusselsinternational.be
Your contacts at WTM: Ms Anousjka SCHMIDT - Ms Patricia VERGARA



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 to the twists and turns of its ancient streets, filled with architectural treasures.

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



TOURIST OFFICE OF TOURNAI

Organises guided visits, city breaks, themed programmes for schools, groups and individuals to Tournai, the oldest city of Belgium and the only Belgian town to have ever been held by the British, and is proud to possess two buildings listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list: The cathedral and the Belfry.

Vieux Marché-aux-Poteries, 14 7500 TOURNAI
Tel: +32 6 922 20 45 Fax: +32 6 959 08 29
E-mail: tourisme@tournai.be Internet: www.tournai.be
Your contacts at WTM: Mr Olivier ROUPIN - Mr Jean-François DUMOULIN

HOTELS AND ACCOMMODATION



ACCOR HOTELS BELUX

Accor Hotels Benelux are representing Sofitel Hotels, Novotel, Mercure and Ibis in Belgium, where they have a large choice of 3 and 4 star hotels in the main cities and towns including Brussels, Liège, Mons, Namur, Waterloo, Tournai, Charleroi, Wavre and Dinant.

Avenue Herrmann Debroux, 54 1060 BRUSSELS
Tel: +32 2 514 33 33 Fax: +32 2 511 77 23
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Internet: www.accorhotels.com
Your contacts at WTM: Mr Michel VERHOEST - Ms Katelijne HAELTERS



HOTELS IN BRUSSELS

Much More than a bed! Hostels In Brussels is 1000 beds in Brussels, in association with 5 youth hostels. We help young people to travel easily in Brussels! We also welcome big groups (school or other).

Rue Traversière, 8 1210 BRUSSELS
Tel: +32 2 612 72 46
E-mail: info@logerjeune.be Internet: www.logerjeune.be
Your contact at WTM: Ms Vinciane MALCOTTE



IBIS HOTELS BELGIUM

Accor's leading economy hotel brand offers competitive accommodation options in a number of Belgian cities and towns including Brussels, Namur, Tournai, Ciney, Dinant, Mons, Charleroi, Liège, Waterloo, Wavre and Seraing.

Avenue Mermoz, 33 6220 HEPPIGNIES
Tel: +32 3 231 31 41
E-mail: vanex@scarlet.be Internet: www.etaphotel.com
Your contacts at WTM: Mr Patrick VANEX - Mr Chris JOOSTEN



SOFITEL BRUSSELS HOTELS

The Sofitel Brussels Le Louise is located on the exclusive Louise area, a shopper's paradise in Brussels in close proximity to The Sablon and the Grand' Place, while the Sofitel Brussels Europe is an elegant hotel located in the European quarter just a short walk from lovely parks and gardens.

Place Jourdan, 1 1040 BRUSSELS
Tel: +32 2 235 51 00 Fax: +32 2 235 51 01
E-mail: olivier.tombeur@sofitel.com Internet: www.sofitel.com
Your contact at WTM: Mr Olivier TOMBEUR



YOUTH HOSTELS BRUSSELS & WALLONIA

Youth Hostels Brussels-Wallonia are:
■ 8 Youth Hostels in Wallonia (Bouillon, Champlon, Liège, Malmedy, Mons, Namur, Tilff, Tournai), and 2 in Brussels
■ Comfortable accommodation for groups and individuals
■ Equipment and services of quality
■ Activities and events in or out, adventure and city-break packages and school programmes.

Rue de la Sablonnière, 28 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel: +32 2 219 56 76 Fax: +32 2 219 14 51
E-mail: info@laj.be Internet: www.laj.be
Your contact at WTM: Ms Caroline RAEDEMAEKER

MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS



ATOMIUM & MINI EUROPE

Mini-Europe is a miniature park where you can walk along more than 350 European monuments reconstructed on a scale of 1/25th. The park is situated right next to the Atomium, a huge sculpture-monument, symbol of Brussels and Belgium. Inside you can visit exhibitions and enjoy the unique panoramic view of Brussels.

Bruparck 1020 BRUSSELS
Tel: +32 2 474 13 13 Fax: +32 2 478 26 75
E-mail: kristof.vanvaerenbergh@minieurope.eu
Internet: www.minieurope.eu
Your contacts at WTM: Mr Kristof VAN VAERENBERGH - Ms Julie ALMAU GONZALES



EURO SPACE CENTER

The Euro Space Center is a discovery centre about space UNIQUE IN EUROPE- Multimedia exhibition for day visitors - Astronaut trainings from 1 up to 7 days- Educational tours: Space classes for schools - Corporate events. Full board accommodation possibility with half day touristic visits in the area.

Rue Devant les Hêtres, 1 6890 TRANSINNE
Tel: +32 6 165 01 33 Fax: +32 6 165 64 61
E-mail: btob@eurospacecenter.be
Internet: www.eurospacecenter.be
Your contact at WTM: Ms Catherine VUIDAR



MUSEE MAGRITTE MUSEUM

The Musée Magritte Museum is situated in Brussels. This multidisciplinary collection of the Belgian surrealist artist, René Magritte, is the richest and most varied in the world. This new museum was renovated thanks to the French and Belgian GDF SUEZ subsidiary companies and with the support of the Magritte Foundation.

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Internet: www.fine-arts-museum.be
Your contact at WTM: Ms Anne GOFFART



ROYAL MUSEUMS OF ART AND HISTORY

The Royal Museums of Art and History regroup the Musée de la Porte de Hal, the Cinquantenaire Museum, The Museum of Musical Instruments, and the Museum of the Far-East in Laeken.

Parc du Cinquantenaire, 10 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel: +32 2 741 72 11 Fax: +32 2 733 77 35
E-mail: info@mrah.be Internet: www.mrah.be
Your contact at WTM: Mr Denis PERIN



ROYAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES

No doubt this museum is amongst the most fascinating in Brussels. Visit the biggest Dinosaur Gallery in Europe (Belgian Tourism Award 2007, nomination BGTW Awards 2008), the Gallery of Evolution, BiodiverCITY (opening December 10) and many other halls. To be seen at least once in a life time!

Rue Vautier, 29 1000 BRUSSELS
Tel: +32 2 627 42 34 Fax: +32 2 627 41 13
E-mail: kareen.goldfeder@naturalsciences.be
Internet: www.naturalsciences.be
Your contact at WTM: Ms Kareen GOLDFEDER

INCOMING AGENCIES



PROVINCE OF LIEGE - WAL'INCOMING

Liège Province (Belgium) offers a wide range of opportunities of the most different kinds to its visitors, including groups. Its museums, cathedrals and castles, its gastronomy and spas, its preserved nature deserve an overnight stay in boutique hotel or charming accommodation. We organise transport, accommodation, visits and guided tours for you!

Boulevard de la Sauvenière 77 4000 LIEGE
Tel: +32 4 237 95 26 Fax: +32 4 237 95 78
E-mail: c.polain@walincom.be Internet: www.liegetourisme.be
Your contact at WTM: Mr Marc BAELE

...AND YOU WILL MEET US TOO!



BELGIAN TOURIST OFFICE BRUSSELS-WALLONIA

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Calendar of events for the first six months of 2011

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

Music Festivals and Cultural Events

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

- 3-12 February *Brussels Gay & Lesbian Film Festival* 25th edition for this cultural festival featuring film, music, painting photography and sculpture.
- 18-25 February *27th 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.
- 26 February *Museum Night Fever, Brussels* Discover another side of some of Brussels' museums and their collections in an unusual evening of music, fashion, guided visits workshops and a huge after-show party until 3 am.
- 4-13 March *ANIMA 2011 Festival of cartoons and of animated films, Brussels* 30th edition of this international animation film festival which features over 100 international films, shorts, ads, 2Ds, 3Ds, children's films and student films. Also includes a national and an international competition, workshops and round tables. Attracts around 30,000 spectators.
- 7-19 April *29th edition of the Brussels International Festival of Fantastic Film* Over 150 horror movies, thrillers and science fiction films at the leading European and international event of all that is strange. Includes the now famous body-painting competition, and the "pitiless vampire" ball.
- 13-14 May *Liège Jazz Festival, Palais de Congres Liège (Province of Liège)* 21st edition of this prestigious annual gathering of the greats of jazz in the heart of the Belgian Ardennes. The 2010 line-up included Courtney Pine & his band and the Reinhardt-Gresset Trio.
- 14-15 May (Dates TBC) *Django Festival in Liberchies (Province of Hainaut)* Two days of Gypsy culture, jazz and guitar in a celebration of the great Django Reinhardt and his music in his birthplace village of Liberchies.
- 27-29 May *Brussels Jazz Marathon* 16th edition of this free weekend of international jazz. Over 100 concerts and 450 musicians at various venues across Brussels, including in the Grand Place.
- 18-19 June (TBC) *27th edition of the Fete de la Musique, Brussels and Wallonia* Hundreds of free concerts in Brussels and Wallonia to celebrate the summer solstice. A very varied programme includes pop, jazz, hip hop, chanson française, funk and a great evening party on Saturday on the Place des Palais in Brussels.
- 19 June *The Ducasse, Mons (Province of Hainaut)* The Procession of the Golden Carriage and the "Lumecon" Battle in Mons, a re-enactment of the Slaying of the dragon by St Georges, is one of the oldest festivals of Wallonia. It is inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- 22-29 June *Brussels European Film Festival, Flagey* Oriented exclusively towards the first and second European works, a mix of all kinds of genres. The European Film Festival is undoubtedly the springboard for young film-makers from 45 countries of the European Council.
- 24-26 June *22nd edition of 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.
- 5-7 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.

Markets and Fairs

Something for everyone in various markets old and new

- 21-30 January *56th BRAFA (Brussels Antiques & Fine Arts Fair), Tour & Taxis* One of the top antique fairs in Europe, BRAFA attracts over 20,000 international dealers and collectors.
- 17-21 February *41st Brussels Book Fair, Tour & Taxis, Brussels* With over 1100 publishers and more than 700 authors. A number of debates, conferences and workshops also feature.
- 25 March-3 April *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.
- 22 April *Grand Marché aux Fleurs, Tournai (Province of Hainaut)* Dating back to 1825, this traditional market sees the participation every year of over one hundred horticulturalists.
- 22-25 April *Ciney flea market and Antique fair (Province of Namur)* One of the largest antique fairs of Wallonia with over 100 exhibitors and 1,000 visitors.

Exhibitions and Special Events

Must-do's and unique exhibitions and events in Brussels and Wallonia

- 8 April-4 Sept *Art Deco Glass in Belgium, Royal Museum of Mariemont (Province of Hainaut)* Exhibition featuring works by Belgian artists taught under Charles Catteau in Belgium, including glass produced at the prestigious Cristalleries du Val Saint Lambert. Most of the exhibits were shown at the Paris exhibitions of 1925 and 1937.
- 15 April-9 May (Dates TBC) *Opening of the Royal Greenhouses of Laeken, Brussels* The Royal Greenhouses open once a year to the public 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.
- 25 April *Spring at the Abbey, Villers-la-Ville (Province of Walloon Brabant)* On Easter Monday, the Cistercian abbey of Villers-la-Ville invites you to its traditional "Spring at the Abbey" during which you can discover its interesting history by means of testimonials and anecdotes on the daily life of past inhabitants.
- 28 April-1 May *ArtBrussels, Brussels Expo, Brussels* First launched as a biennale in 1968, this now yearly contemporary art fair for established names and young talent attracts over 30,000 art enthusiasts, including a considerable number of art collectors, critics, journalists and curators.
- 1 May *Feast of the Orange Trees Freyr Castle (Province of Namur)* 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.
- 5-21 May *Queen Elisabeth Competition, Bozar, Brussels* Prestigious international competition for violinists, pianists, composers and vocalists. The 2011 competition is devoted to the voice and is open to singers who have completed their training and are ready to embark upon an international career.
- 1-5 June (Dates TBC) *Euroferia Andaluza, the Atomium (Brussels)* This four-day fiesta is one of the biggest Ferias in Europe. It attracts around 200,000 visitors who come to enjoy its food and drink, musical, song and dance performances and Spanish horse shows.

Sporting Events

On your bikes... mostly!

- 19 February *Legend Boucles de Spa (Province of Liege)* The top event of the winter season, this major classic car rally is one not to be missed.
- 20 April *La Flèche Wallonne, Wallonia* The first of the two Belgian Ardennes classics, starts at Charleroi, in the Province of Hainaut and ends 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.
- 24 April *Liège-Bastogne-Liège International bicycle race, Wallonia* The "best one-day race in cycling", the L-B-L is the second of the two Belgian Ardennes Classics and the oldest Classic on the cycling calendar. Attracts a star-studded line-up every year.
- 30 April-1 May *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.
- 13 June *Imperial Laps at Waterloo (Province of Walloon Brabant)* Several thousand professional and amateur cyclists take part every year in this classical bicycle race. Different laps with various degrees in difficulty take you through the battlefield.
- 19 June *46th Flèche Ardennaise, Wallonia* 170 Km bicycle race in the Ardennes, taking in the same roads as the Liège-Bastogne-Liège classic.

Military Tourism

From military marches to reconstructions of the battle of Waterloo

- 1 May *Militaria Fair, Ciney (Province of Namur)* One of the largest military fairs in Europe with 400 stands stretching over 3 km. The wide range of quality militaria on offer includes parts for old military vehicles, detection devices, collector and sports weapons, medals, uniforms and books.
- 14-16 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.
- 13 June *Sainte Rolende March, Gerpennes (Province of Hainaut)* One of the most important military marches of the region in honour of Ste Rolende, whose remains are carried through neighbouring villages along a 35km itinerary. Starts at 2 am to the sounds of fifes and drumming and lasts until the evening.
- 18-20 June *13th Bivouac at Waterloo and commemoration of the Battle (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.
- 21-24 June *45th European March of Memory and Friendship, Houffalize (Province of Luxembourg)* 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 km.

Street Parties, Carnivals & 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 March *Shrovetide celebrations in the German-speaking Eastern Cantons* Complete with the Carnival Prince and his entourage culminating with a grand procession on the "Monday of the Roses".
- 6-8 March *Carnaval of Binche (Province of Hainaut)* The most famous and one of 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.
- 13 March *Grand Feu de Bouge (Province of Namur)* The country's most spectacular bonfire (14ms high) takes place on the first Sunday of Lent in a celebration that dates back 1000 years. Fireworks at 7:30 pm.
- 2-4 April *Carnaval du Laetare, Stavelot (Province of Liège)* Mid-Lent Carnival with hundreds of "Blanc Mousis" (White Brethren) clad in white masks with long red noses, confetti firing canons and a grand procession at 2pm.
- 3 April *57th Carnival of the Bears, Andenne (Province of Namur)* A carnival celebrating the victory of Charles "The Hammer" Martel at the age of 9 over a bear that once terrorised the town. Celebrations end with the throwing of stuffed teddy bears from the balcony of the Town Hall by the king and queen of the carnival.
- 25 April *134th 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.
- 13-14 May *Belgian Lesbian & Gay Pride, Brussels* Starting off with a parade through Brussels, the event also includes a street party with stalls and music, the Pride show and concert, the Pride Party as well as a Gay and Lesbian Village and city tours. (Parade on 14 May).
- 28-29 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.
- 2-5 June *International Festival of Fairground Entertainment (Province of 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 town of Namur
- 11-12 June *Days of the 4 processions, Tournai (Province of Hainaut)* Folklore and carnival during 2 days of processions, one carried out to military music.
- 12 June *Matrimonial High Tea, Ecaussines (Province of Hainaut)* This event has been held since 1903 in the splendid grounds of the chateau. From 10am any unmarried person can register their requirements as to the type of person they would like to meet.
- June-Sept (Dates TBC) *Roller Parade in Brussels & Wallonia* Free 20 km roller parades throughout the streets of Namur (Thursdays), Brussels (Fridays) and Mons (Saturdays).
- 25-26 June *Beltaine Fires Gallic Celebration, Aubechies (Province of Hainaut)* Held on the famous Aubechies archeosite this yearly event celebrates the summer solstice with traditional and Celtic music, beer tastings, arts and crafts and fireworks.


Belgian Tourist Office
Brussels • Wallonia

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