

Brussels Discoveries



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Brussels, the capital city of Belgium and the political and administrative capital of Europe, is a city of surprising richness and diversity.

With a wealth of architectural styles, Brussels is the cradle of art deco with houses by the famed Victor Horta, together with a wealth of Gothic churches, Flemish Renaissance architecture and charming classical buildings such as the Palais des Nations and the Palais Royal.

A many-faceted and cosmopolitan city, Brussels attracts a great number of visitors due to its diversity of attractions. From fascinating museums and antique markets to an impressive selection of restaurants and bars, numerous shopping experiences and a frenetic nightlife, Brussels offers something for everyone.

Brussels Capital region is made up of nineteen communes with a total population of nearly one million. Brussels is a green city and has all the advantages of a major European capital city but without the shortcomings!

The Crowne Plaza Brussels City Centre - Le Palace is perfectly placed for visitors wishing to marvel at Brussels' quirky Comic Strip Museum or search for treasure in the bustling markets of the Sablon and stroll around the attractive shopping district, while the famous Palais Royal and Grand-Place are just 20 minutes' walk away from the hotel.

Enjoy, Discover & Taste Brussels with us!





Grand'Place

Brussels' outstanding set piece. Victor Hugo first described it as 'the most beautiful square in the world', a sentiment still valid today. The Grand'Place has always been the focus for the social and cultural life of the city, whether as a medieval market, a parade ground or a concert venue. Today a pedestrian zone, it changes color and character according to season: flower-strewn in the summer, fairy-lit for Christmas. From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - a 20 minutes walk

Grand Sablon

An agenda item that is not to be missed. The eclectic centre of exquisite antique shops, small independent art galleries sumptuous restaurants and some of Brussels' best chocolate shops. At weekends an antique market adds colour to the foot of the church Notre Dame au Sablon. From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - a 20 minutes walk

Palais Royal

Brussels' Royal Palace is on the Place des Palais facing the Palais de la Nation, home of the Belgian parliament, across from the Parc of Brussels. Each year, during the summer months, the Royal Palace in Brussels opens its doors to the public. From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - a 15 minutes walk

Manneken Pis

An unusual attraction in any city, this statue of a little boy in a somewhat compromising position has become a major part of the Brussels' sightseeing experience. Follow the crowds from the Grand Place, past the lace and tapestry shops into rue de l'Etuve and you come across this famous national symbol. From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - a 25 minutes walk

Atomium

Designed for the 1958 World Fair, the Atomium is a hybrid building, a mixture of sculpture and architecture, that symbolises a crystallised iron molecule and its atoms, enlarged 160 billion times!

Parc du cinquantenaire, 11

From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - a taxi or metro ride away, ask the concierge

Musees Royaux des Beaux-Arts (BOZAR)

Brussels' outstanding and contemporary museum that acts as a showcase for Belgian modern art, as well as welcoming international artists.

3 Rue de la Regence

www.bozar.be

From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - a 25 minutes walk



Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinee

(Belgium Comic Strip Museum)

This fascinating museum set on 3 floors of a beautiful Horta-designed former department store, should not be missed on any visit to Brussels. Tour through the country's rich and vibrant comic-strip culture, from its earliest beginnings to its contemporary favourites.

20 rue des Sables

From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - 10 minutes walk

Parc du Cinquantenaire

The largest, most impressive and well-known of the Brussels city parks with a massive Arc de Triomphe at the centre.

Either side of the central Arc: grand collonnades front wings that house three very different museums.

From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - 45 minutes walk or ask the concierge

Autoworld

One of the most extensive auto museums in Europe. The venue for Belgium's motor show since 1902 (!) with the largest collection of old and new motor vehicles in the world.

11 parc du Cinquantenaire

www.autoworld.be

From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - 45 minutes walk or ask the concierge



Galleries St-Hubert

An impressive, covered shopping gallery with a sublime architecture that dates back to 1847. Aside from the shops and stores, it also houses keynote cultural venues such as Theatre Royal des Galeries with a Magritte fresco on the ceiling and Theatre du Vaudeville which boasts a fine pedigree as a cabaret and concert venue.

From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - 20 minutes walk

Musee Horta

A must-see attraction for the culture-seeking visitor to Brussels, the Musee Horta is the spectacular former residence and workshops of the leading art nouveau architect Victor Horta.

25 rue Americaine

www.hortamuseum.be

From the Crowne Plaza Brussels - a bit too far to walk, ask the concierge

Brussels is also home to many fashion, jewellery and interior designers, to name a few. Sometimes it is difficult to know which way to turn for the number of shopping arcades, elegant boutiques and specialised shops.



Around the Grand'Place

The tourist-focused chocolate, lace and EU merchandise shops.

Rue Neuve

The huge City 2 shopping centre, the landmark department store Inno and high-street names and brands such as Benetton, Esprit, H&M, Zara and Morgan and more. (just across from the Crowne Plaza Brussels)

Rue Antoine Dansaert

Boutiques of established and up-and-coming Belgian designers, trendy street wear, cool gift shops and modern furniture stores.

Place du Grand Sablon

Exquisite antique shops, small independent art galleries and some of Brussels' best chocolate shops. At weekends an antique market. Next to the Sablon you can visit the Rue Blaes, rue Haute and place du Jeu de Balle for more down-market antiques shops and a daily flea market (also on Sunday morning).

Avenue Louise and Boulevard de Waterloo

Boutiques of big names like MaxMara, Yves St Laurent, Chanel, Gucci, Hermes, Bulgari can be found on these two wide tree-lined boulevards. On the southern side of the boulevard de Waterloo, called Avenue de la Toison d'Or, houses a little more mid-range shops. The 3 galleries that run off the avenue are all linked to each other and host a mix of high-street and designer labels shops.



Brussels has 2,000 restaurants from tiny café-cum-snack bars to Michelin star winners.

It has restaurants from around the globe and choice can be bewildering. We have listed the Crowne Plaza Brussels' team's favorite restaurants!

Nouveau Taste

Crowne Plaza Brussels' restaurant

'Innovative and just that little different' is what we could call the presentation of the different dishes, the main aim being to offer you a moment of enjoyment, discovery and taste.

Belga Queen

32 rue du Fosse aux Loups

T : +32 (0)2 217 21 87

The restaurant sits in a vast bank building with original pillars and a massive stained-glass skylight, giving an air of loftiness and space. Renowned for its oyster bar, seafood platters and... unisex toilets with transparent doors!

La Roue d'Or

26 rue des Chapeliers

T : +32 (0)2 514 25 54

Belgian dining. No nonsense ingredients, fine presentation and flavours ensuring that the restaurant remains a favorite with locals.

Vismet

23 place Ste-Catherine

T: +32 (0)2 218 85 45

Vismet brings a young, modern approach to the fish market area. An open kitchen allows you to see the work at hand; what comes out of it is modern, fresh fish prepared stylishly.

Flamant - The Kitchen

Grand du Grand Sablon 36

T: +32 (0)2 514 47 17

Dine in the kitchen of Belgium's renowned interior design shopping gallery.

Chez Léon

18 rue des Bouchers

T: +32 (0)2 5111 14 15

This is the temple to mussels and other Belgian classis, such as rabbit in sour cherry beer. Léon is good for families; kids under 12 get a free set menu as long as there are two paying adults.

La Quincaillerie

45 rue du Page

T: +32 (0)2 538 25 53

The name means ironmonger, the fine interior is largely untouched, its tables set with the original wooden drawers for holding nails, screws and widgets. The seafood bar is thought one of the best in Brussels.

Au Stekerlaplatte

4 rue des Prêtres

T: +32 (0)2 512 86 81

A late-night restaurant for traditional no-nonsense food at no-nonsense prices. A friendly place despite its darkness and offbeat location.



Deco Verre

Crowne Plaza Brussels' bar

Deco Verre plays the Belgian card and offers you a wide selection of Belgian Beers: more than 35 different beers and even its own 'Deco Verre' beer! Deco Verre also serves cocktails, other (non) alcoholic beverages and 'tapatizers' including typical Belgian tapas and small but original preparations.

A la Bécasse

11 rue de Tabora

T: +32 (0)2 511 00 06

An ancient tavern where customers sit at long tables and have their beer, including draught Lambic, poured from jugs by aproned waiters.

A La Morte Subite

7 rue des Montagnes aux Herbes Potagers

T: +32 (0)2 513 13 18

Narrow, wood-and-mirror bar, steeped in history and rife with bar tales. Named after a card game and a variety of fruit beer whose hangovers easily assume the mantle of sudden death..

Belga

Place Flagey

T: +32 (0)2 640 35 08

Huge and very popular, next door to the Flagey cultural centre (concert and film theatres).

Khnopff

1 rue St-Bernard

T: +32 (0)2 524 20 04

Lounge bar/resto with expertly mixed music and cocktails, as fine as any in Brussels.

The Guru Bar

Chaussee de Bondael 8

T: +32 (0)2 644 54 34

At the end of the evening, the lounge music in this 'fusion' restaurant becomes more upbeat, to party around the central bar, and to sip the house special cocktails.

L'Archiduc

Rue A. Dansaert 6

T: +32 (0)2 512 06 52

Jazz, art-deco and late closing every night of the week since 1930!

Tipping & VAT

Service and VAT are included in hotel and restaurant prices, though a few extra euros are given if the service has been exceptional. Tips are also included in taxi fares, although a taxi driver expects extra tips..

Walking

Luckily Brussels is a fairly small city, and it is possible to walk to the majority of sights. The centre of town has many traffic-free streets around the Grand'Place.

Public transport

Brussels' public transport system is made up of metro, rail, buses and trams with tickets valid for an hour. Tickets are sold at metro and rail stations, on buses and trams, at STIB info centres and at newsagents.

Taxis

Taxis take up to four people and the tip is included in the meter fare. Watch the meter as Brussels taxi drivers can be shifty...

Driving

Brussels has a comprehensive tunnel system linking the major points of the city.

The inner ring is a pentagon of boulevards; the outer ring is divided into an east and west motorway ring.

The speed limit in the city is 50 km and on the motorways 120 km.

Climate

Winters are cold, damp and windy, without much snow, summers are warm. Rain can fall all year around.

Public Holidays

New Year's Day	1 January
Easter Sunday & Monday	
Labour Day	1 May
Ascension Day	6th Thursday after Easter
Pentecostal Whit Monday	7th Monday after Easter
Belgian National Day	21 July
Assumption	15 August
All Saints' Day	1 November
Armistice Day	11 November
King's Day	15 November (not an official holiday)
Christmas Day	25 December

The Crowne Plaza Brussels has special holiday breaks rates. Check whilst making your reservation on www.crowneplazabrussels.com



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Whatever you need assistance with during your stay with us, the concierge can help you. From theatre tickets, sightseeing tours, transfers and getting a good restaurant table in town, to the more unusual requests.

