



Tour Information



Brussels Art Nouveau





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel. EU, Andorra, Liechtenstein, Monaco, San Marino or Switzerland valid national identification cards are also acceptable for travel to Belgium.

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#).

Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

Belgian embassy: 17 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EE. Tel: (0)20 7470 3700.

London@diplobel.fed.be

For visa information: Tel: 0871 376 0023, or visit www.vfs-be-uk.com

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200.



Tickets

You will be issued with return train tickets.

Please take care not to lose your tickets and please check that the details on your tickets are accurate. Your ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.

Standard Premier on Eurostar tickets is indicated by an asterisk in the class type section in the top right hand corner. A light meal will be served to passengers travelling Standard Premier on Eurostar. Standard class Eurostar tickets do not include any food or drink on board, although there is a buffet car serving drinks and snacks.

TGV tickets do not include any food or drink on board, although a buffet car is available.

Train Seats

On all legs of the journey you have reserved seat and carriage numbers which are shown clearly on your ticket.



Baggage

As with most trains, passengers are responsible for carrying baggage onto and off the train. Baggage can be stored on overhead shelves or at the entrance to the carriages. Trolleys are available at St Pancras and Lille, but bags do need to be carried on to the platform. Porters are sometimes but not always available at St Pancras.

Travel Editions recommends a luggage delivery service called **thebaggageman**, where your suitcase can be picked up from your home before departure and delivered straight to your hotel; therefore removing the worry about carrying your cases onto and off the trains.

For further information:

<http://www.thebaggageman.com>

Labels

Please use the luggage labels provided. It is useful to have your home address located inside your suitcase should the label go astray.

Transfers

On arrival in Brussels and transfer by coach to check in for three-nights at the four-star Marivaux Hotel in the city centre.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Accommodation

Marivaux Hotel, Brussels

Located about 500 metres from the historic Grand Place on elegant Blvd Adolphe Max, the four-star Marivaux Hotel is converted from an old cinema and is the perfect base for this tour. This comfortable hotel offers a restaurant, bar and stylishly and elegantly decorated bedrooms with private bathroom, hairdryer, minibar, TV, telephone, wi-fi, safe, and coffee/tea making facilities.

For more information visit the hotel's website:

<http://www.hotelmарivaux.com/>



Food

Belgium's food specialities extend far beyond just beer, chocolate, chips and waffles. This small country has rich local resources with fish and mussels harvested from the North Sea, pheasant, rabbit and venison from the forested hills of the Ardennes, and excellent beef and lamb from the Flemish polders.

Traditional dishes include *moules frites*, *stoemp* (mashed potato with leeks and carrots), *witloof en oven* (endives wrapped in ham and covered in cheese sauce), *waterzooi* (fish or chicken and vegetable broth), *paling in't groen* (eel cooked in a sauce of spinach, herbs and white wine), *lapin aux pruneaux* (rabbit cooked with prunes and beer), *Faison à la brabançonne* (pheasant cooked in butter with Brussel sprouts and endives), and *filet américain* (or *steak tartare*, raw mincemeat mixed with egg, onion and capers).

You will find plenty of places to enjoy a meal or snack, ranging from the Michelin-Starred to the humble *fritkot* (chip stand).

Watch out for restaurants offering a lunchtime special set menu – *dagschotel* or *plat du jour* – they offer great value for money. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required, although if service is considered excellent, it is customary to round up the bill.



Drink

Over 400 beers are brewed in Belgium – ranging from the mass-produced lagers like Stella Artois to the local, artisanal microbreweries. You will find everything from brown ales, amber ales, white beers, Flemish reds, Indian pale ales, to stouts and Lambic beers. *Trappist* beers, such as *Chimay*, *Achel*, *Orval*, *Rochefort*, *Westmalle* and *Westyleteren*, are brewed in Trappist monasteries, with monks taking an active part in the production process and the profits supporting the monastery. *Bières d'Abbaye*, the best known being *Leffe* and *Grimbergen*, however, are commercially brewed, just using the name and recipe of former monastic breweries. Try a *Hoegaarden* for a white beer, *Lambics* and *Guezes* for oak-aged beers, a *Duvel* for a blonde ale, a local *Cantillon* (microbrewed in Brussels), or if you prefer something sweeter, the cherry-flavoured *Kriek*.

The local spirit is *Jenever*, similar to gin, originally flavoured with juniper berries.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner is included on two nights, once at the hotel and once at Restaurant Vincent.



Destination

At the turn of the 20th century Brussels was an expanding, wealthy, and receptive city, willing to embrace and finance new ideas and philosophies. Art Nouveau was one of them. About 1000 buildings sprung up throughout the city designed by a new breed of architects, including Victor Horta, who used materials traditionally associated with industry – cast iron, brick and glass. Around 500 of these homes, restaurants and shops remain today, clustered in attractive suburbs and it is a selection of these lovely architectural gems that you will explore on this tour.

Details of places of interest included in your tour:

Brussels

Europe's administrative capital and easily reached in just over 2 hours from London, Brussels is an attractive city for a short break, with excellent restaurants, bars and cafés and a wealth of sights, including a remarkable Art Nouveau heritage explored on this tour. Between 1870 and 1910 the population of Brussels more than tripled from 250,000 to 800,000 which saw the city expand into the suburbs, thanks to the electrification of the tramways. This expansion allowed opportunities for a new breed of architects including Victor Horta to break with tradition to develop a new form of architecture and design. This was Art Nouveau, a Pan-European phenomenon that embraced art and architecture, with Brussels particularly well represented.

For more information about Brussels, please visit:
<http://visitbrussels.be/>

Horta House & Studio Museum

The house and studio where architect Victor Horta lived and worked have been beautifully preserved – their elegant mosaics, stained glass windows and mural paintings. The buildings, built between 1898 and 1901, are typical of Art Nouveau at its height.

For more information about Horta Museum, please visit:
<http://www.hortamuseum.be/>

Hotels Solvay, Max Hallet & Tassel

These buildings, built by Horta, are magnificent examples of Art Nouveau design.

Hôtel Solvay

Horta enjoyed unrestricted funding and freedom of creation to design every feature and detail of the town house built for Armand *Solvay* in 1894.

Hôtel Max Hallet

Built in 1904 for lawyer and politician Max *Hallet*, this simple yet elegant house was renovated in 2008.

Hotel Ciamberlani

Built by architect Paul Hankar in 1897 for painter Albert Ciamberlani, who designed the sgraffiti adorning the stunning façade, the Hotel Ciamberlani is a beautiful example of an Art Nouveau town house.

Cauchie House

Built in 1905 by the architect Paul Cauchie as a showcase for his work, it is a piece of joint work – illustrated by the words *par nous, pour nous* (by us, for us) at the very centre of the remarkable sgraffito façade. Cauchie and his wife, Caroline Voet, designed furniture, decoration, paintings, working together to achieve the idea of “total art”.

For more information about Cauchie house, please visit:
<http://www.cauchie.be/cauchie-house>

Royal Museum of Art & History

This museum houses an excellent collection of the major stylistic trends in decorative arts between 1890 and 1940, including sculpture, glassware, ceramics, table silver and furniture.

Note the recently-renovated Pavilion designed by Horta, which is home to a stunning marble relief by sculptor Jef Lambeaux.

For more information about the Royal Museum of Art & History, please visit:
<http://www.kmkg-mrah.be/>

Foundation Frison-Horta

The foundation Frison Horta sits in the middle of Rue Lebeau and was built by Victor Horta in 1894 for Georges Frison, a renowned lawyer. It is a house of nature and light with murals and frescoes of flora and fauna that engulf the whole house. Foundation Frison Horta is a cultural institution and centre for art. It acts as a cultural bridge between east and west that fosters greater understanding and

appreciation of the rich cultural traditions of India in Europe and vice versa.

For more information about the Foundation, please visit:
<https://www.foundation-frison-horta.be/>

Autrique House

Autrique House was built in 1893 and is as such a major part of Brussels' architectural heritage. The house marks an essential stage in the development of the greatest of Belgian architects and provides a better understanding of the birth of Art Nouveau. The scenography designed by Schuiten and Peeters makes this residence - as it once was - an outstanding house, simultaneously a tribute to the private architecture of Brussels and a gateway to an imaginary world.

For more information about the house, please visit:
<https://www.brusselmuseums.be/en/museums/autrique-house>

Fine Arts Museum, Musée Fin-de-Siècle

This multidisciplinary museum houses an excellent collection of works created by Belgian and international artists between 1868 and 1914. Outstanding is the Gillion Crowet collection, formed of 230 works from Belgian Art Nouveau artists, such as Majorelle, Horta, Gallé, Mucha, Wolfers and Cros.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.fin-de-siecle-museum.be/>

Rene Magritte Museum

The Magritte Museum in Brussels, Belgium, is dedicated to the work of the Belgian surrealist artist, René Magritte. It is one of the constituent museums of the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.magrittemuseum.be/index.php/en/>

Your lecturer / guide

This tour will be led by Dr Scott Anderson.

Dr. Scott Anderson. Scott is a University Senior Lecturer in the History of Art and Design and is an Honorary Fellow of the National Association of Valuers and Auctioneers. He is a specialist in Victorian and Edwardian art, architecture and antiques and is a consultant expert for the BBC2 *Flog It!* programme.

Scott is a Art Society lecturer and has lectured extensively to various societies, special interest groups and educational groups throughout Britain. He has extensive tour guiding experience in Britain, European locations such as Nancy, Paris, Berlin, Vienna and New York.

There will be two lectures during your trip:

Brussels and the Birth of Art Nouveau
Art Nouveau: art for the people

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

The Basics

Climate – The weather in Brussels at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower – Brussels actually receives more rain than London! Our best advice is to come prepared.

Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – French & Flemish.

Religion – Roman Catholic.

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Ascension day; Whit Sunday; Whit Monday; Independence day (21 Jul); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Armistice day (11 Nov); Christmas day (25 Dec); Boxing day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops and museums – Shops are open Mon-Sat 1000-1800/1900. Department stores often remain

open longer, up to 2100 on Friday. Outside main areas, some shops may close at lunchtime.

Please note that most museums are closed on Mondays.

Clothes & shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and also telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date.

Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you're travelling to an EU country.

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

For further information about the GHIC please visit: <https://www.ehic.org.uk>

Border Control

You may have to show your return ticket and money.

At border control, you may need to:

- show a return or onward ticket.
- show you have enough money for your stay.
- use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queueing.



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British consulate Brussels

Avenue des Nerviens 9-31

1040 Brussels

Belgium

Tel: +32 2 287 62 11

consularsection.brussels@fco.gov.uk

Open by appointment only. Consular emergency service is in operation every day, 24/7, on +32 2 287 62 11.

Travel Editions

3 Youngs Buildings, London, EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: tours@traveleditions.co.uk www.traveleditions.co.uk

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