

BRUSSELS

Brussels is the capital of Belgium and the administrative center of the European Union. This has earned the city the title of the Capital of Europe. Brussels has been given its character by the coexistence of French and Flemish culture, and is nowadays home to nationalities from around the world, adding a cosmopolitan flavor to its atmosphere. The vibrant atmosphere of Brussels is further enhanced by medieval streets, lively squares, impressive monuments, spacious parks, cozy cafés, and an active cultural life.



TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation is the best way to get around the city. Brussels has a well-organized system of airport trains, Métro, trams, and buses, so you won't need a car.

BANKS AND CURRENCY

Banks are open Monday through Friday, 9:00am - 4:00pm. Some banks close for an hour during lunch. The currency of Brussels is the Euro. Coins are in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 cents and 1 & 2 Euros. Bank notes of 5, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200, and 500 Euros are legal tender.



SHOPPING

Chain stores dominate along the Rue Neuve, but more interesting fare can be found in the area between the Rue de Midi and the Grand Place. Standard shopping hours are 10am to 8 or 9pm but the Grand-Place area stays open until approximately 10pm. Sales tax is 21% and can be refunded to non-EU citizens by any of the shops affiliated to *GlobalRefundBelgium*.



CLIMATE

Belgium is seldom too hot or too cold. Summer temperatures average 54F - 72F and winter averages from 32F - 43F.



EATING

The standard of food in Brussels is high and is said to rival that of Paris, with excellent service, a high standard of presentation and plenty of fresh produce, although portions are usually a lot bigger. There are plenty of eateries to choose from ranging from Belgian fare to a variety of international and ethnic places.



MUSEUMS

The Brussels-Capital Region is home to some 80 museums. They cover areas such as art, technology, industry, science, folklore, literature, history and many other subjects, each presenting a different face of Brussels. They are astounding in the wealth of their collections and the new perspective they offer of cultures from all over the world.



GENERAL INFO

Ambulance, Fire, Police dial 112
US Embassy (+32) (0)2 508 2196
Post Office M-F 9am-noon & 2pm to 5pm
Brussels Tourist Information 1-(212) 758-8130