

SAS CITY PORTRAITS

# Brussels

SAS



Historical Museum (Kings House) in the Market Place (Grand' Place)



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## One Hour's Walk Around Brussels


Start at the Air Terminal and walk alongside the Gare Centrale until the next crosspoint (place de l'Albertine) where the "Albertine" (complex of Museums and National Library) is being erected. Then turn into rue St. Jean, walk down rue de Lombard, turn into rue de l'Etuve where you will find the Manneken Pis Fountain (11) — walk back to rue du Lombard cross it and continue straight ahead until you reach the Grand Place (1) where you can admire the City Hall and its unique frame of ancient houses. Then take one of the narrow streets alongside the Maison du Roi (opposite the City Hall) and turn right into Marche aux Herbes. At the end of the street, at the left hand side, you will see a covered shopping center called "Galerie de la Reine" and further "Galerie du Roi" which you walk through to reach rue d'Arenberg and so arrive at Cathedral Ste Gudule (3). Another five minutes walk on the Boulevard de l'Imperatrice brings you back to the Air Terminal.

### Key to the Map:

1. Grand' Place.
2. Théâtre Royal de la Monnai.
3. Ste. Gudule (Cathedral).
4. Colonne du Congrès.
5. Théâtre Royal du Parc.
6. Parc de Bruxelles.
7. Musée des Beaux Arts.
8. Notre Dames des Victoires.
9. Palais de Justice.
10. Porte de Hal.
11. Manneken-Pis.

 **SAS Ticket Office:** Shell Building, 54 Rue Ravenstein.  
Tel. 11 80 75.

 **Air Terminal:** 35 Rue Cardinal Mercier.  
Tel. 11 90 60.

 **Tourist Information Office:** Hôtel de Ville, Grand' Place.  
Tel. 11 48 40.

### Your First Hour in Brussels

After leaving your SAS plane at Melsbroek Airport, you will be directed to the Security Counter for passport, medical and currency control. Personal messages are announced on a board inside the Security room. Your luggage is inspected in the Customs Hall. Tell the porters to take your baggage to the airport bus, train or taxi. Spare baggage may be left at the airport free of charge.

You will find a bank, post and telegraph office in the Arrival Hall. Trains and buses depart from just outside the Arrival Hall and tickets are sold on the spot. Buses and trains leave alternately every quarter of an hour and arrive at the Town Terminal 20 minutes later. Price is B.frs 20. Taxis are available just outside the airport building. The cost of a taxi to the center of town is B.frs 180 plus a 15% tip. The trip into town takes about 15 minutes. Information in general and assistance regarding hotel reservations, car hire, etc. are given at the Information Desk, which is located in the Departure Hall. If you have ordered a car from SAS Car Hire Service, the driver will meet you at the Information Desk.

The Town Terminal is located near the Central Station, about 5 minutes from the center of town.

Monetary unit is the Belgian franc (B.frs = 100 cents) — one US dollar is approximately B.frs 50.25 and one £ Sterling about B.frs 138.50.

Ask the SAS personnel for any help you may need—they will be glad to assist you.



# BRUSSELS

Brussels is Belgium's largest city, the seat of government and the focus of industry and culture. Its origin dates back to the 7th century when St. Gery, Bishop of Cambrai, erected a little chapel on a small island in the river Senne. The Roman road from Cologne to the sea passed nearby and a camp was built on this spot. The little village soon became an important center of trade and the small square where merchants met to exchange their goods later became the "Grand' Place", the most celebrated in Brussels today. During the 12th century the Counts of Louvain made the city their residence and a city wall was constructed to protect the town against its enemies. The "Tour Noire" still remains today. By the 15th century Brussels had become a prosperous manufacturing center of luxury articles such as lace, tapestries, jewelry, ornamental leather goods and fine gloves. Some of the remaining fine buildings of this period tell the tale of the city's prosperity—the Hôtel de Ville (Town Hall), La Maison du Roi (The King's House), the Guild Houses framing the Grand' Place and the Cathedral of St. Michel and Ste Gudule.

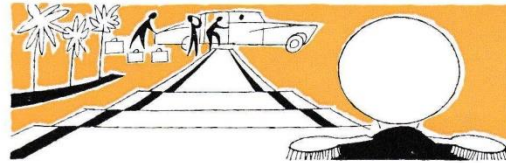
Like so many other European cities, Brussels has encountered hardships. Fires and the plague brought disaster and misery in their wake, and Brussels was deeply involved in two recent wars. In this city of contrasts, the great monuments of the past lend a most impressive background to the towers of the 20th century.

Although Flemish is the mother tongue, everybody in fact speaks French and most city people have a good knowledge of English and German.



## Climate and Clothing

You will find the climate never extreme in Brussels. The average temperature in summer is 60°F (16°C) and in winter about 41°F (5°C). Snow is rarely seen, except perhaps in the Ardennes Forest; the spring and summer months are lovely. Your raincoat will always come in handy, but make it a warm one in late fall and winter. Dress is conventional but not formal. Be correct and comfortable and you will be happiest! Laundry and dry cleaning facilities are available throughout the city. Service is good and delivery quick. Your hotel porter will arrange this for you.



## Hotels

Although it is advisable to book hotel reservations in advance, there are many hotels here and with the exception of July and August and during the International Fairs, you will probably not have much difficulty even without advance bookings.

Hotels in Brussels are clean, and service is efficient. The hotels of various classes listed below should meet your requirements.

The Palace Hotel (13 Place Rogier) belongs to a chain of first class hotels and is indeed justly well known. Recently redecorated throughout, each room has a private bath. The food is excellent and the bar is a favorite meeting place.

The Metropole Hotel (31 Place de Broukère), equally first rate, has an attractive sidewalk café. Atlanta (7 Boulevard Adolphe Max) and Plaza (118—125 Boulevard Adolphe Max) have air-conditioned restaurants and good cuisine. Hotel Amigo (Rue de l'Amigo) with all room equipped with bath and shower is located just

behind the City Hall. Price for a single room with bath, including breakfast, will range from B.frs. 285 to 400 at these first class hotels.

Albert I (10 Place Rogier) and Cosmopolite (5—6 Place Rogier) are second class hotels where the average price for single rooms with bath is B.frs 200.

In the same class and price range are Splendid (14 Rue des Croisades), the Grand Hotel (132 Boulevard Adolphe Max) and Hotel des Colonies (8—10 Rue des Croisades).

Remember that voltage for electrical appliances in Brussels is 220 V and in some districts 110 V.

## Restaurants

Belgian cooking is rightfully famous, for it is perfectly marvelous! You will have a continental breakfast of coffee or tea, rolls, butter and marmalade or jam for B.frs 20—40, depending on the class of restaurant. This is often included in your hotel room charge. Lunch or dinner prices vary from B.frs 50-150, the average being about B.frs 75. Most restaurants are open from 12 noon to 11 PM, and some have 24-hour service.

The food is strongly influenced by French cuisine. Look forward to beautifully prepared and deliciously flavored meat in nearly every restaurant. Try the Châteaubriant (grilled steak) and Tournedo (fillet steak); and, if you like it, ox tripe in madeira. Chicken is the best liked poultry; eel is the favorite fish, stewed or fried. Ardennes Ham is an outstanding delicacy when smoked and served with vegetables of the season. Also from the Ardennes comes Black Pudding, eaten with moist sugar and apple sauce, an interesting variation on the conventional bill of fare. If you have not already found out, you will soon learn that Belgian pastry is outstanding. Try Brusseler waffles and Liège rice cakes. The large variety of fruit and cheese tarts make the coffee or tea table not only festive but mouthwatering!

Le Savoy (47 Boulevard de Waterloo) and Le Carlton (28 Boulevard de Waterloo) are two leading restaurants with the highest standards of food and service. Au Grand Château (9 Rue de la Tête d'Or, Grand' Place), is famous for good food, as is La Couronne (28 Grand Place), facing the Hôtel de Ville. Marius en Provence



(1 Place Petit Sablon) is first rate, and if you feel like getting away from downtown crowds, try Villa Lorraine (28 Chaussée de la Hulpe) at the border of Bois de la Cambre.

For sea food, try L'Huitrière (2 Quai aux Briques) or perhaps Aux Armes de Bruxelles (13 Rue des Bouchers). Les Six-Jeunes-Hommes (14 rue des Six-Jeunes-Hommes) occupies an attractive 16th century house from which it derives an interesting atmosphere. The Rôtisserie Ardennaise (146-148 Boulevard Adolphe Max), is reasonably priced. Asti (58 Avenue de la Toison d'Or) and Peppino (46 Rue de Marais) specialize in Italian food. The former actually comprises three restaurants: Trettoria, Pirreria and Hosteria.

If you are hunting for the unusual, eat at l'Epaule de Mouton (16 Rue des Harengs), one of the best restaurants anywhere. It's very small—only 9 tables—so make your reservations in advance! Each dish on the lengthy menu from appetizers through desserts, is magnificent.



## Sports

Football (soccer) and hockey matches take place at l'Union, St. Gilloise, the R.S.C. d'Anderlecht, the Royal Racing Club and the Royal Daring R.C. Brussels has several race courses and there are also ample opportunities within the city for tennis and golf. Players may contact the Royal Leopold Golf Club de Belgique (67 Avenue Leo Errera) or the Royal Golf Club de Belgique at Tervueren. You may ride in the Bois de la Cambre or elsewhere, if you make arrangements with the Manège de la Cambre (1103 Chaussée de Waterloo) or other riding establishments. Should you care to attend a wrestling or boxing match, go to the Palais de Sports or to the Cirque Royal. Your hotel porter will show you how to get there.

## Entertainment and Night Life

The theater season runs from the end of September to the 1st of July, though the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie sometimes offers operettas during the summer. This is Brussels' Opera and Ballet Theater, located at the Place de la Monnaie, opposite the Central Post Office. Popular plays are also presented at the Théâtre Royal du Parc





(3 Rue de la Loi) and Théâtre des Galeries at the Galeries St. Hubert. Concerts are presented in the Palais des Beaux-Arts (23 Rue Ravenstein) and at the Conservatoire Royal de Musique (30 Rue de la Régence) during the regular theatrical season.

For light entertainment try the Cirque Royal (Rue de l'Enseignement) or the Ancienne Belgique (Rue des Pierres). The latter two are closed during the summer. Brussels has several gay night clubs. Most famous is the Boeuf sur le Toit (3 Rue du Bastion). The floor show is lavish and the prices high, but it's worth seeing. The Enfants Terribles (Avenue de la Toison d'Or), Moulin Rouge (Place de Brouckère) and Parisiana (66 Rue du Pont-Neuf) all have floor shows. The Nouvelle Equipe (16 Rue Pepin) has no floor show, but excellent music. It is operated as a club but your passport will open the door!

You'll find the largest cinemas around the Place de Brouckère, along the Boulevard Adolphe Max, Boulevard Anspach, Rue Neuve and Porte de Namur. The city has over 100 cinemas, so you are sure to find a film to your liking. Movies are shown in their original languages with French or Flemish subtitles.

## Sights

Guided sightseeing tours are operated each morning and afternoon. Bookings can be made through any travel agency. Departure points are the offices of Agence Havas Belge (13-17 Boulevard Adolphe Max) and Wagons-Lits/Cook (17 Place de Brouckère). Prices range from B.frns 100 to 150. Even if your stay in Brussels is brief, try not to miss the sights listed below. The numbers refer to the map:

- (1) *Grand' Place* (the Market place) is the medieval jewel of Brussels, dominated by the beautiful Hôtel de Ville (City Hall), a Gothic edifice built in 1402. There is a marvelous view from the tower. Opposite stands the Maison du Roi (King's House) originally built during the 13th century and reconstructed in 1873-93. It now houses the Brussels Historical Museum. Framing the square are the picturesque Maisons des Corporations (Guild Houses).
- (2) *Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie* (See Entertainment).

- (3) The Gothic cathedral *Ste Gudule* is one of the most impressive Gothic churches in Europe. Begun in 1225, it took centuries to complete the huge building.
- (4) *The Colonne du Congrès* (Congress Column) commemorates Belgium's independence following the revolution of 1830. At its top is a statue of King Leopold I, and at the foot the grave of the Unknown Warrior.
- (5) *Théâtre Royal du Parc* (See Entertainment).
- (6) *Parc de Bruxelles* (Brussels Park). Here, in 1830, Belgian patriots fought against the Dutch troops. On one side of the park is the Palais de la Nation (Palace of the Nation) built in 1779, seat of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Opposite is the Palais du Roi (Royal Palace) built in the 19th century.
- (7) *The Musée des Beaux Arts* (Royal Museum of Art), houses outstanding collections of ancient paintings and sculpture, and a famous collection of works of Flemish and Dutch artists. Admission daily (except Mondays) from 10 AM to 5 PM. Nearby is the Musée Royal, with collections of modern paintings, and the Bibliothèque Royale (Royal Library). Founded by Philip the Good in the 15th century, the library has an impressive collection of ancient manuscripts.
- (8) *The Church of Notre Dame des Victoires* (or "du Sablon"). Founded in 1304 and rebuilt in the 15th century, the church is a late Gothic masterpiece.
- (9) *The Palais de Justice* (Law Courts)—the largest building constructed in Brussels during the 19th century. The Dôme, destroyed in 1944, again rises to 339 feet (103 m), and there is a wonderful view of the city from the balustrade.
- (10) *Porte de Hal* (The Hal Gate). This museum, with large collections of weapons and armour from the 15th to 18th centuries, is open daily (except Fridays) from 10 AM to 5 PM.
- (11) *The Manneken-Pis Fountain* is said to represent the oldest burgher in the city and certainly the most popular one! Legends of all kind are attached to the little figure, and the Manneken-Pis is on special occasions dressed in gala uniforms.

There are, of course, many more things to see in Brussels, such as the Parc du Cinquantaire with the permanent museum of Art and History. There are also many interesting sights in the surroundings of the city such as Tervueren with its lovely park and chateau, now housing the Belgian Congo Museum (Tram No. 40 or 45). Uccle, with its pleasant parc de Wolvendael is a painter's paradise, as is Bois de la Cambre, known to most as just Le Bois. This is a lovely natural park with a small lake (canoes for hire) and typical small restaurants. Take trams No. 1, 2, 3 or 4.





## Excursions

*Laeken* is another very pleasant excursion target (suburban tram line from Place Rogier). Here you will see the Chinese and Japanese Pagodas near the Royal Residence. In the Parc Public there is a hill with a statue of King Leopold I. Inside the crypt of The Church of Notre Dame are royal tombs. In the churchyard stand the choir stalls of the original Notre Dame Church, built in the 13th century. Surely you will want to visit *Waterloo* where Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington fought their famous battle in 1815, bringing an end to Napoleon's career. If you go by private car your itinerary should include the lovely Bois de la Cambre and Forêt de Soignes. Before climbing the Butte du Lion (Lion's Hill), visit the "Panorama", a circular building in which you will see a replica of the battle and its events, presented in a very realistic way.

Art and architecture lovers should not miss a trip to the lovely old towns of Bruges and Ghent.

Any travel agent will be pleased to make arrangements for coach excursions to these places. You can go independently by train or in an SAS drive yourself car. Distances in Belgium are not great, and you will be amazed at how much you can include in your sightseeing program on a short visit.

## Shopping

The shopping districts of Brussels are on and near the Boulevard Adolphe Max, Boulevard Anspach, Rue Neuve, the Place de Brouckère and Place de la Bourse. Take care when crossing the street, as Belgian traffic is heavy and moves fast.

Huge cinemas and restaurants, an abundance of inviting shops and large department stores impress upon one the greatness of the city. You will probably want to buy some of the wonderful handmade lace and Dinanderie, carved brass and copper plates. Tapestry, porcelain and crystal products are very well known, and are items that many visitors are eager to buy. Most shops are open from 9 AM to 6 PM and some shops until 10 PM. Try Maria Loix (18 Ste Gudule) for lace, De Backer Van Camp (Rue Royale), and Ritzen (Rue de Loxum 22) for porcelain. And for crystal, trot over to the Val St. Lambert showroom on the Place Ste Catherine. The Flea Market (Marché aux Puces), is lots of fun.

Brussels department stores include Bon Marché, L'Innovation and Galeries Anspach.



## Public Holidays and Special Events

Shops and offices are closed on the following days:

January 1, Easter Monday, May 1, Ascension Day, Whit-Monday, July 21 (The Nation's Day), August 15, November 1, 11 and 15 and December 25.

The Belgians preserve their old traditions and visitors almost always have a chance to see a holiday procession or national festival with participants wearing authentic costumes. Check with your travel agency or the SAS office for a detailed list.

The Manneken-Pis will be dressed in some of his many different costumes on April 6 and 30; on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of September, and on October 27 and November 20.

A pilgrimage of cab drivers to St. Guidon at Anderlecht, takes place on June 7. On or around July 17, the animated Brussels Kermesse begins. Since 1311 it has been traditional to plant the so called Mayboom (Maytree) on August 9, while the Duivelskermis begins on August 22.

## Tipping

Local custom calls for a 12 % tip in cafés, 15 % in restaurants and hotels, and 15-20 % for taxis. In theaters and cinemas it is customary to tip the attendant a small amount.

## Transportation

Brussels has extensive trolley and bus services and special trolleys serve the suburbs and the neighboring towns. Taxis are modern and fares not expensive but you will pay extra for baggage. Since this picturesque country is a drive-yourself paradise, check the SAS office at the Shell Building (54 Rue Ravenstein), for information on the rates.

If you are flying on from Brussels by SAS, one of the first things to do after your arrival is to confirm your onward reservation by informing SAS of the reservation you hold and your intention to use the space previously reserved for you. You might do this at the SAS counter at the airport or by dropping in at the SAS town office before starting out on your sightseeing.



*In the Air . . . on the Ground . . .  
at Every City on SAS Routes . . .*

# SAS

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This City Portrait, for instance, is a perfect indication of the SAS desire to serve you. All the research has been done by SAS travel experts. All the information is from official sources. And the folder itself has been designed for fast, convenient use. So—plan with it. Refer to it. Carry it with you. Be sure you see *all* the sights and delights that will make your stay an unforgettable memory.

Now . . . is there anything else we can do to add to your travel pleasure? Please do *us* the service of allowing us to be *your* service.