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Destination Details – Visiting Brussels



Things to do, places to eat, trips to make when visiting Brussels May 15, 2026

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Brussels Destination Guide for River Cruise Travelers

“Chocolate, Grand Squares & Belgian Charm”

Brussels is one of Europe’s most rewarding pre- or post-cruise cities, especially for travelers sailing through Belgium, the Netherlands, or northern Europe. The city blends grand architecture, chocolate shops, Belgian beer cafés, royal history, Art Nouveau design, comic book culture, museums, markets, and easy rail access to Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Leuven, and other Belgian highlights. For cruise travelers, Brussels works beautifully as a 1- to 3-night extension because the historic center is walkable, the food scene is memorable, and the train network makes day trips simple.

Best Areas to Stay for Hotels & Airbnbs

BRUSSELS BEST AREAS TO STAY

Hotels & Airbnbs Guide

- 1 GRAND PLACE / HISTORIC CENTER**
Best for First-Time Visitors

 - iconic central location
 - Grand Place & chocolate shops
 - walkable to major sights
 - best overall for short stays
- 2 SABLON**
Best for Chocolate & Elegance

 - upscale atmosphere
 - antique shops & cafés
 - near Notre-Dame du Sablon
 - great boutique stays
- 3 SAINTE-CATHERINE / DANSAERT**
Best for Food Lovers

 - restaurants & seafood
 - lively evening scene
 - local feel
 - easy walk to center
- 4 MAROLLES**
Best for Local Character

 - flea market charm
 - vintage shops
 - near Palais de Justice
 - authentic Brussels vibe
- 5 IXELLES / AVENUE LOUISE**
Best for Stylish Local Stays

 - shopping & dining
 - Art Nouveau streets
 - near Ixelles Ponds
 - good for longer stays
- 6 EUROPEAN QUARTER**
Best for Museums & Parks

 - near EU institutions
 - Cinquantenaire access
 - metro-friendly
 - quieter hotel options

MAP HIGHLIGHTS

- Free walking city
- Art Nouveau architecture
- World-famous chocolate
- 1 hour from Bruges
- Great for culture & food

LEGEND

- Stay Area
- Top Attraction
- Train Station
- Metro
- Landmark / Scenic Spot

GETTING AROUND

- Walking**
best in central districts
- Metro / Tram**
easy city connections
- Train**
excellent day-trip access
- Taxi / Ride Share**
helpful for luggage
- Bus**
useful beyond the center

TRAVEL TIPS

- Best for first-time visitors: **1 2**
- Best for food lovers: **2 3**
- Best for local feel: **4 5**
- Best for shopping: **1 5**
- Best for museums: **6 2**

CRUISE GUEST NOTE

Brussels is one of Belgium’s best pre- or post-cruise gateway cities. Staying in the Historic Center, Sablon, or Sainte-Catherine makes sightseeing, dining, and rail day trips easy.

Chocolate, charm, grand squares. Welcome to Brussels!

Grand Place / Historic Center — Best for First-Time Visitors

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

The historic center is the best choice for first-time visitors who want to be close to Grand Place, Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, chocolate shops, restaurants, beer cafés, museums, and the city's most famous sights. This area is very walkable and atmospheric, especially in the evening when Grand Place is beautifully lit.

Best for: first-time visitors, short stays, sightseeing, chocolate shops, restaurants, walkability.

Watch for: crowds, cobblestones, and higher pricing close to Grand Place.

Sablon — Best for Chocolate, Antiques & Elegant Atmosphere

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

Sablon is one of Brussels' most elegant neighborhoods, known for chocolate boutiques, antique shops, galleries, cafés, Notre-Dame du Sablon, and a quieter upscale feel. It is close enough to walk to Grand Place but feels more polished and relaxed.

Best for: chocolate lovers, couples, boutique hotels, galleries, elegant cafés.

Watch for: boutique pricing and fewer large hotel options than the central core.

Sainte-Catherine / Dansaert — Best for Food Lovers

Activity level: Easy

Sainte-Catherine and nearby Dansaert are excellent for travelers who want restaurants, seafood, wine bars, casual cafés, and a more local evening atmosphere. The area has good access to the historic center while offering a livelier dining scene.

Best for: restaurants, seafood, Belgian beer cafés, local nightlife, food-focused stays.

Watch for: busier evenings and a more urban feel.

Marolles — Best for Local Character & Flea Markets

Activity level: Moderate

Marolles is a characterful neighborhood known for the Place du Jeu de Balle flea market, vintage shops, murals, cafés, and a more local Brussels feel. It is ideal for travelers who enjoy wandering beyond the polished tourist center.

Best for: flea markets, vintage shops, street art, local cafés, independent travelers.

Watch for: hillier walks near the Palace of Justice and a less polished atmosphere.

Ixelles / Avenue Louise — Best for Local Dining & Longer Stays

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

Ixelles and Avenue Louise offer a more residential, stylish side of Brussels with restaurants, cafés, shopping, Art Nouveau architecture, and access to neighborhoods like Flagey and the Ixelles ponds. This is a good choice for guests staying several nights who want more than the historic center.

Best for: longer stays, restaurants, shopping, local neighborhoods, stylish hotels.

Watch for: more transit or taxi use to reach Grand Place.

EU European Quarter — Best for Museums, Parks & Practical Stays

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

The European Quarter is practical, modern, and close to EU institutions, Parc Léopold, Parc du Cinquantaire, museums, and transit. It is less romantic than the historic center but works well for guests who prefer quieter streets, business-class hotels, and easy metro access.

Best for: museums, parks, business hotels, quieter evenings, transit.

Watch for: less old-world atmosphere and fewer late-night tourist restaurants.

Top-Rated Hotels

Hotel Amigo, a Rocco Forte Hotel — Grand Place

A luxury classic just steps from Grand Place. Best for travelers who want a refined, high-end stay in the heart of historic Brussels.

Corinthia Grand Hotel Astoria Brussels — Royal Quarter

A restored luxury hotel option for guests who want grand style, elegant interiors, and a premium pre- or post-cruise experience.

Steigenberger Icon Wiltcher's — Avenue Louise

A polished luxury hotel on one of Brussels' best-known shopping avenues. Good for guests who prefer space, comfort, and easy taxi access.

The Dominican — Historic Center

A stylish central hotel near Grand Place, restaurants, shops, and key sights. Best for guests who want boutique atmosphere with strong walkability.

Warwick Brussels — Grand Place / Central Station

A practical upscale option close to Grand Place and Brussels Central Station. Very useful for travelers taking day trips by train.

Hidden Gem Hotels

Juliana Hotel Brussels — Historic Center

A refined boutique hotel with a quiet luxury feel in a very central location. Good for guests who want elegance without a large-hotel atmosphere.

Made in Louise — Ixelles

A charming boutique hotel in a more residential neighborhood. Best for guests who want local cafés, quieter streets, and a softer Brussels experience.

Harmon House — Saint-Gilles

A stylish boutique-style option near Avenue Louise and Saint-Gilles. Good for travelers who want design, dining, and neighborhood character.

Hotel des Galeries — Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert

A small, atmospheric hotel inside one of Brussels' most beautiful covered arcades. Best for travelers who want charm and a memorable location.

Hygge Hotel — Ixelles / Louise

A comfortable, Scandinavian-inspired hotel that works well for guests who want a relaxed base outside the busiest tourist core.

Best Restaurants

Brussels is a wonderful food city, known for Belgian chocolate, waffles, frites, mussels, seafood, beer cafés, fine dining, brasseries, and multicultural cuisine. The MICHELIN Guide lists a large selection of Brussels restaurants, including starred, Bib Gourmand, and selected dining options, which makes the city especially appealing for travelers who want both casual Belgian classics and high-end dining.

Comme Chez Soi — Fine Dining Heritage

One of Brussels' landmark fine-dining restaurants, known for its long culinary history and polished Belgian-French cooking. Best for a special occasion meal.

Bozar Restaurant — Creative Fine Dining

A two-star MICHELIN restaurant in Brussels serving modern French and creative cuisine. Best for travelers who want a refined culinary experience near the museum and arts district.

La Paix — Anderlecht Fine Dining

A highly regarded destination restaurant outside the immediate tourist center. Best for food-focused guests willing to take a taxi or transit for a memorable meal.

Chez Léon — Classic Belgian Mussels & Frites

A well-known central restaurant for mussels, frites, Belgian beer, and classic comfort food. Best for first-time visitors who want an easy Belgian meal near the historic core.

Aux Armes de Bruxelles — Traditional Belgian Brasserie

A classic Brussels brasserie experience near the historic center. Good for travelers who want traditional dishes, polished service, and old-school atmosphere.

Wolf Food Market — Casual Food Hall

A good casual option for groups or travelers who want variety without committing to one formal restaurant. Useful for lunch, families, or an easy evening meal.

Hidden Gem Restaurants & Food Experiences

Sablon Chocolate Walk

Sablon is one of the best areas in Brussels for chocolate tasting. Visit several chocolate boutiques, compare pralines, and enjoy a café stop near Place du Grand Sablon.

Frites Stop with Belgian Sauce Tasting

A cone of Belgian frites is a simple but essential Brussels food experience. Try classic mayonnaise, andouille-style sauces, or other local favorites.

Traditional Beer Café Evening

Brussels is one of the world's great beer cities. A traditional beer café evening is ideal for tasting lambic, gueuze, saison, abbey-style ales, and Belgian blonde beers.

Waffle Tasting Break

Try both Brussels-style waffles, which are lighter and crispier, and Liège-style waffles, which are denser, sweeter, and caramelized. This is an easy afternoon treat between sightseeing stops.

Sainte-Catherine Seafood Dinner

The Sainte-Catherine area is a great evening choice for seafood, brasseries, wine bars, and a more local dining atmosphere.

🍷 Food Tours in Brussels — Best 3–4 Hour Experiences

BRUSSELS

CLASSIC BRUSSELS CHOCOLATE, WAFFLES & GRAND PLACE WALK

A 3–4 Hour Cruise Guest Favorite
Historic Center, Galeries Royales, Sablon & Sweet Stops

TOUR AT A GLANCE

🕒 Duration: ~3–4 hours
 📏 Distance: ~1.5–2.5 miles (2.5–4 km)
 🏠 Difficulty: Easy to Moderate
 🌞 Best Time: Late Morning to Early Evening

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Perfect for first-time Brussels visitors
- ★ Great for pre- or post-cruise exploring
- ★ Belgian chocolate, waffles & elegant squares
- ★ Easy mix of sightseeing and sweet tasting
- ★ Historic streets, arcades & café stops

TIPS FOR YOUR TOUR

- Come hungry—tastings add up
- Wear comfortable walking shoes
- Expect cobblestones in the historic core
- Reserve specialty tastings when possible
- Bring a light jacket for cool weather

LEGEND

- 👉 Walking Route (Recommended)
- 🍷 Food Stop
- 📷 Photo Spot
- 🚊 Train / Metro Connection
- 🏠 Restroom

AT A GLANCE

- 1 Grand Place / Market Start
- 2 Galeries Royales Chocolate Stop
- 3 Belgian Waffle Café Stop
- 4 Manneken Pis Photo Stop
- 5 Sablon Chocolate Boutique
- 6 Notre-Dame du Sablon Pause
- 7 Praline & Speculoos Sweet Stop
- 8 Mont des Arts View / Café
- 9 Belgian Beer or Coffee Break
- 10 Grand Place Evening Finish

NEARBY ADD-ONS

- 🎩 Magritte Museum — art lovers
- 🍺 Belgian Beer World — easy central add-on
- 🏛️ Royal Museums — cultural detour
- 🌳 Mont des Arts — scenic viewpoint
- 🏰 Sainte-Catherine — great dinner finish

CRUISE GUEST NOTE

This route is perfect for a pre- or post-cruise stay because it combines Brussels' top central sights with iconic Belgian treats in a relaxed, easy walking format.

GRAND PLACE

GALERIES ROYALES

SABLON CHARM

BELGIAN CHOCOLATE

CRUISE GUEST FAVORITE

Taste sweetly. Wander happily. Savor Brussels. Welcome to Brussels!

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

A Brussels walking food tour is one of the best ways for cruise travelers to experience the city's personality in a relaxed and memorable way. In 3 to 4 hours, guests can combine Grand Place, chocolate shops, waffles, frites, beer cafés, food markets, and historic streets.

📍 Classic Brussels Chocolate, Waffles & Grand Place Walk

Best for: first-time visitors

Typical length: 3–4 hours

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

This is the best all-around food tour style for cruise guests. It usually combines the historic center, Grand Place, Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, Sablon, and several tastings.

What you may taste: pralines, truffles, waffles, frites, Belgian beer, biscuits, pastries, and local sweets.

Best neighborhoods: Grand Place, Sablon, Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, Sainte-Catherine.

Cruise traveler tip: this works well on arrival day because it combines sightseeing, orientation, and food.

Belgian Beer Café & Food Pairing Walk

Best for: beer lovers and evening touring

Typical length: 3 hours

Activity level: Easy

This experience focuses on Belgian beer styles, historic cafés, and small food pairings. It is ideal for travelers staying overnight before or after a cruise.

What to try: lambic, gueuze, tripel, dubbel, saison, Belgian blonde ale, cheese, charcuterie, frites, and light brasserie snacks.

Cruise traveler tip: choose a guided tasting if you are unfamiliar with Belgian beer styles.

Waffles, Frites & Street Food Walk

Best for: casual travelers and families

Typical length: 2.5–3 hours

Activity level: Easy

A lighter, more casual route that focuses on classic Belgian comfort foods rather than formal dining.

What to try: Brussels waffles, Liège waffles, frites, chocolate, biscuits, and casual market bites.

Cruise traveler tip: excellent for guests who prefer a flexible, lower-commitment food experience.

Sainte-Catherine Seafood & Local Dining Evening

Best for: travelers who want a local dinner district

Suggested length: 3–4 hours

Activity level: Easy

This style focuses on seafood, brasseries, wine bars, and cafés around Sainte-Catherine and Dansaert.

What to try: mussels, shrimp croquettes, seafood platters, frites, Belgian beer, and dessert nearby.

Watch for: popular restaurants may require reservations.

Food Tour Booking Tips

Choose a small-group or private tour when possible, especially for cruise guests who prefer a slower pace. Confirm walking distance, stairs, dietary restrictions, number of tastings, whether alcohol is included, and whether the tour ends near your hotel, Grand Place, Central Station, or a taxi-friendly location.

Top Sights to See

Grand Place

Activity level: Easy

Grand Place is Brussels' most famous landmark and one of Europe's most beautiful historic squares. It is the essential first stop for most visitors and is especially magical in the evening.

Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert

Activity level: Easy

A beautiful 19th-century covered arcade filled with chocolate shops, boutiques, cafés, and elegant architecture. Ideal for a relaxed stroll, especially on a rainy day.

Manneken Pis

Activity level: Easy

A small but famous Brussels icon near the historic center. Best visited as a quick photo stop while walking between Grand Place and nearby chocolate shops.

Royal Museums of Fine Arts / Magritte Museum

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

The Royal Museums of Fine Arts include several important collections, including the Magritte Museum, which celebrates Belgium's famous surrealist artist René Magritte.

Cathedral of St. Michael and St. Gudula

Activity level: Easy

A major Gothic cathedral located between the historic center and the royal district. It is a strong stop for architecture, history, and a quieter break from the busy center.

Royal Palace & Brussels Park

Activity level: Easy

The Royal Palace area is ideal for guests who enjoy grand boulevards, gardens, museums, and royal architecture. Pair it with the nearby museum district.

Atomium

Activity level: Moderate

The Atomium is Brussels' famous retro-futuristic landmark from Expo 58. It is outside the central core, so plan for metro, tram, taxi, or a guided tour.

EU European Quarter & Parc du Cinquanteaire

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

The European Quarter offers EU institutions, wide avenues, museums, and green spaces. Parc du Cinquanteaire is especially worthwhile for architecture and a scenic walk.

Belgian Comic Strip Center

Activity level: Easy

A fun museum celebrating Belgium's comic book heritage, including Tintin and other famous characters. Good for travelers looking for something lighter and uniquely Belgian.

Belgian Beer World

Activity level: Easy

A modern beer-focused attraction that works well for guests interested in Belgian brewing culture and the story behind the country's famous beer traditions.

Hidden Gem Sights Most Visitors Miss

Place du Jeu de Balle Flea Market — Marolles

Activity level: Moderate

A classic Brussels flea market experience with antiques, vintage items, quirky finds, and local character. Best in the morning.

Comic Strip Murals

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

Brussels has murals throughout the city celebrating comic book culture. They make a fun walking theme for guests who enjoy photography and street art.

Saint-Gilles Art Nouveau Streets

Activity level: Moderate

Saint-Gilles is excellent for travelers interested in Art Nouveau architecture, local cafés, and neighborhoods beyond the tourist center.

Horta Museum

Activity level: Moderate

A beautiful Art Nouveau house museum dedicated to architect Victor Horta. Best for architecture lovers and guests who want a deeper Brussels experience.

Ixelles Ponds

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

A peaceful local area for a relaxed walk, cafés, and a break from the historic center.

Palace of Justice Viewpoint

Activity level: Moderate

The area around the Palace of Justice offers broad city views and connects well with the Marolles neighborhood via elevator access.

Maison Dandoy Tea Room

Activity level: Easy

A charming stop for Belgian biscuits, waffles, and coffee. Good for guests who want a polished but relaxed treat near the historic center.

Best Ways to Get Tickets

For popular museums, food tours, chocolate workshops, beer tastings, Atomium visits, and fine-dining experiences, book ahead during busy travel periods. Many central sights can be visited casually, but timed tickets are helpful for museums and major attractions.

Best ticket priorities:

Grand Place: no ticket needed

Atomium: book ahead for timed entry

Magritte Museum / Royal Museums of Fine Arts: book ahead during busy periods

Chocolate workshop: book in advance

Beer tasting tour: book in advance

Food tour: book in advance

Fine dining: reserve well ahead

Day trips by train: buy rail tickets in advance for convenience

Best Ways to Get Around Brussels

Walking

Best for: Grand Place, Sablon, Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, Sainte-Catherine, Marolles

Central Brussels is very walkable, though cobblestones and gentle hills can make some routes more tiring.

Metro

Best for: Atomium, European Quarter, longer city hops

The metro is useful for reaching sights outside the historic center. STIB/MIVB operates Brussels' metro, tram, and bus network.

Tram

Best for: Avenue Louise, Ixelles, museums, residential districts

Trams are useful for reaching areas outside the central tourist core.

Bus

Best for: short local connections

Buses help fill in gaps between metro and tram routes.

Contactless Payment

Best for: visitors who want easy transit use

Brussels public transport allows payment with a contactless bank card, smartphone, or smartwatch on STIB buses, trams, and metro stations.

Taxi / Ride Service

Best for: luggage, cruise transfers, mobility needs, late evenings

Taxis and ride services are useful for airport transfers, hotel moves, and travelers who want to avoid cobblestones or hills.

Train

Best for: Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Leuven, airport transfers, regional travel

Brussels is one of Belgium's best rail hubs, making day trips simple from Brussels Central, Brussels Midi/Zuid, and Brussels Nord stations.

Best Day Trips from Brussels

Bruges

Activity level: Moderate

Best by: train or guided tour

One of Belgium's most popular day trips, known for canals, medieval streets, market squares, chocolate shops, and romantic scenery. Best for first-time visitors who want a postcard-perfect Belgian town.

Ghent

Activity level: Moderate

Best by: train

A lively historic city with canals, castles, churches, cafés, and a strong local feel. Ghent is often less crowded than Bruges and is excellent for travelers who like history with energy.

Antwerp

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

Best by: train

Known for fashion, diamonds, art, architecture, shopping, and the impressive Antwerp Central Station. Best for travelers who want a more cosmopolitan Belgian city.

Leuven

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

Best by: train

A charming university city with a beautiful town hall, cafés, beer culture, and a relaxed atmosphere. Good for a shorter, easier day trip.

Mechelen

Activity level: Easy to Moderate

Best by: train

A smaller historic city between Brussels and Antwerp, good for travelers who want fewer crowds and a pleasant Belgian town experience.

Waterloo

Activity level: Moderate

Best by: guided tour, train plus taxi, or private driver

A strong choice for history lovers interested in the Battle of Waterloo and Napoleonic history.

Dinant

Activity level: Moderate

Best by: train or guided tour

A scenic river town with cliffs, a citadel, saxophone history, and beautiful views along the Meuse River.

Suggested 3-Day Brussels Itinerary for River Cruise

Guests

Day 1 — Classic Brussels Old Town

Start at Grand Place, walk through Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, visit chocolate shops, see Manneken Pis, and enjoy lunch near the historic center. In the afternoon, explore Sablon and the Royal Palace area. End with a traditional Belgian dinner or beer café evening.

Day 2 — Museums, Chocolate & Local Neighborhoods

Visit the Magritte Museum or Royal Museums of Fine Arts, then explore Sablon chocolate shops and cafés. In the afternoon, continue to Marolles, the flea market area, or Saint-Gilles for Art Nouveau atmosphere. End with dinner in Sainte-Catherine or Dansaert.

Day 3 — Day Trip or Atomium & European Quarter

Choose a full-day trip to Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, or Leuven. If staying in Brussels, visit the Atomium, Parc du Cinquantenaire, the European Quarter, or the Belgian Comic Strip Center.

Recommended Brussels Experiences by Length of Stay

If You Have 1 Day in Brussels

Best for: cruise guests arriving or departing the same day

Pace: Moderate

Focus on the essential sights: Grand Place, Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, Manneken Pis, Sablon, chocolate shops, and a traditional Belgian meal.

Recommended 1-Day Plan:

Morning: Grand Place, Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, Manneken Pis

Midday: Belgian lunch or chocolate tasting

Afternoon: Sablon, Royal Palace area, Magritte Museum or cathedral

Evening: Belgian beer café or mussels and frites dinner

Best add-on: chocolate tasting or short beer café stop.

Best food option: waffles, frites, pralines, and a classic brasserie meal.

If You Have 2 Days in Brussels

Best for: guests who want food, museums, and neighborhoods

Pace: Moderate

Day 1 — Historic Core & Sablon

Explore Grand Place, Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, Manneken Pis, Sablon, chocolate shops, and the Royal Palace area.

Day 2 — Museums & Local Brussels

Visit the Magritte Museum, Marolles, Saint-Gilles, or Sainte-Catherine. Add a chocolate workshop, beer tasting, or food tour.

Best add-on: Belgian beer tasting or chocolate workshop.

Best food option: Sainte-Catherine seafood dinner or guided food tour.

If You Have 3 Days in Brussels

Best for: a relaxed Belgium cruise extension with one day trip

Pace: Moderate, with optional active elements

Day 1 — Classic Brussels

Grand Place, Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert, Sablon, chocolate, and Belgian dinner.

Day 2 — Culture & Neighborhoods

Magritte Museum, Royal Palace area, Marolles, Saint-Gilles, or European Quarter.

Day 3 — Day Trip

Choose Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, Leuven, Mechelen, Waterloo, or Dinant.

Best day trip: Bruges for romance, Ghent for history and energy, Antwerp for art and shopping.

Best cultural experience: Magritte Museum or Horta Museum.

Best relaxed option: Sablon cafés, chocolate shops, and Grand Place at night.

River Cruise Traveler Tips

Brussels is an excellent pre- or post-cruise base because it combines famous sights, memorable food, strong hotel options, and easy train access to many of Belgium's best cities. For most travelers, the best areas to stay are Grand Place/Historic Center, Sablon, Sainte-Catherine, or near Brussels Central Station.

Allow one full day for Brussels' essential sights, two days if you want museums and food experiences, and three days if you want to add Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, or another Belgian day trip. For guests with mobility concerns, choose a hotel close to Grand Place or Central Station, use taxis when carrying luggage, and plan around cobblestones in the historic center.

Best Overall Recommendations

Best area for first-timers: Grand Place / Historic Center

Best area for chocolate lovers: Sablon

Best area for food lovers: Sainte-Catherine / Dansaert

Best area for local feel: Marolles or Ixelles

Best practical area for trains: Brussels Central Station / Grand Place edge

Best must-see sight: Grand Place

Best food experience: Chocolate, Waffles & Grand Place Walk

Best casual food stop: frites, waffles, and Belgian beer café

Best hidden gem: Horta Museum or Marolles flea market

Best museum: Magritte Museum / Royal Museums of Fine Arts

Best day trip: Bruges or Ghent

Best stay length: 2 nights for a relaxed Brussels cruise extension; 3 nights if adding a day trip

Map of Area Attractions

BRUSSELS ATTRACTIONS MAP

— TOP SIGHTS & HIDDEN GEMS —

MUST-SEE ATTRACTIONS

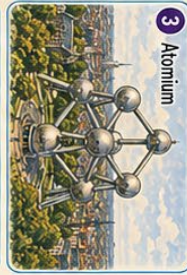
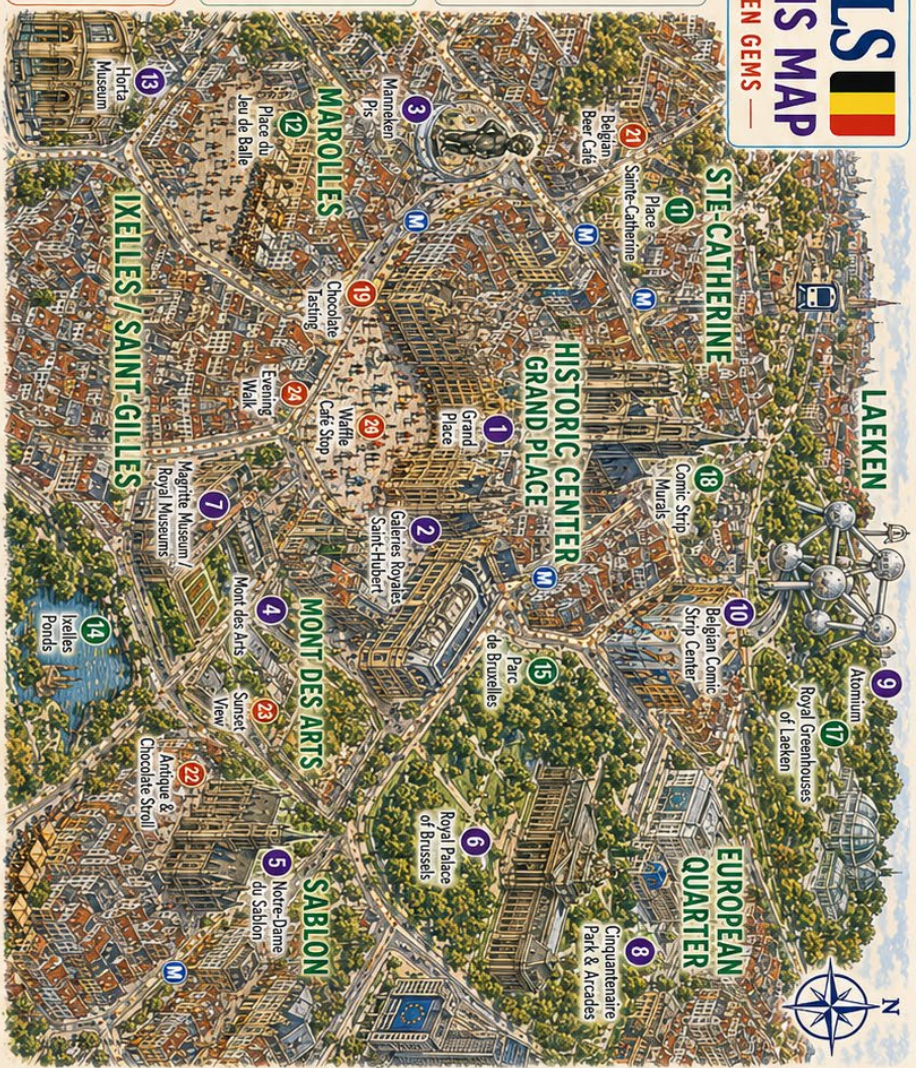
- 1 Grand Place
- 2 Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert
- 3 Marmekén Pis
- 4 Mont des Arts
- 5 Notre-Dame du Sablon
- 6 Royal Palace of Brussels
- 7 Magritte Museum / Royal Museums
- 8 Cinquantenaire Park & Arcades
- 9 Atomium
- 10 Belgian Comic Strip Center

HIDDEN GEMS

- 11 Place Sainte-Catherine
- 12 Marolles / Place du Jeu de Balle
- 13 Horta Museum
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- 15 Parc de Bruxelles
- 16 St. Michael & St. Gudula Cathedral
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- 19 Belgian Chocolate Tasting
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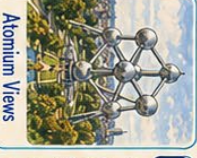
FOR CRUISE GUESTS

Brussels is an excellent pre- or post-cruise city. Easy to navigate for sightseeing and dining, with fast trains to Bruges, Ghent, Antwerp, and Leuven—perfect for unforgettable day trips.



HELPFUL TIPS & DISTANCES

- Historic Center is best explored on foot
- Metro makes longer hops easy
- Grand Place, Sablon, and Mont des Arts link well together
- Atomium is best reached by metro or taxi
- Great for 1-3 night pre- or post-cruise stays



Grand squares. Sweet treats. Belgian charm. Welcome to Brussels!

LEGEND

- Metro / Station
- Train Station
- Landmark
- Scenic Viewpoint
- Walking District