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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

Element Options to Customize Your Brussels 7 – 14 Day Tour Package

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THE 19 MUNICIPALITIES: THE BEST OF OUR CAPITAL

Brussels, a capital with 19 municipalities.

Explore the exceptional heritage of these municipalities and find out how each of these municipalities developed over time.

COMICS

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF TINTIN; FROM BRUSSELS TO THE TINTIN/HERGÉ MUSEUM IN LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE

Discover Brussels with the assistance of our intrepid reporter and his trusty companion, Snowy, as you walk from bubble to bubble. Listen to the voice of La Castafiore in front of the Royal Monnaie Theatre, see the port of Brussels with Captain Haddock, commemorate the legendary meeting between Tchang and Hergé, and spice up your visit with the fabulous ideas of Professor Calculus and the collaboration of those two famous detectives, Thompson and Thompson... Relive Tintin's adventures on this trail, which puts Brussels and the ninth art in the spotlight, but in a different way. During this tour you will discover more about the life and works of Tintin's father. The visit of Hergé Museum will enrich your knowledge of our national Hero.

In collaboration with the Studios Hergé (tintin.com) and Brussels City Tours.

The price includes the guide, the entrance to the Hergé Museum and the bus.

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INTERACTIVE WALK: BRUSSELS COMIC STRIP

The comic strip trail explores the interaction between artistic expression and an urban backdrop; a walk that will appeal to people of all ages as you are immersed in the amazing universe of comic strips.

Whether you are passionate about comics or not, whether you are a distracted reader or an attentive traveller, this trail conveys the stuff of dreams: a taste from another continent... Do you want to enjoy yourself? Then be quick on the ball (or on the bubble in this case...). We know how to surprise you!

A comic strip and a specialist guide as your host at the start of your walk will make it a memorable visit!

TINTIN AND BRUSSELS

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In collaboration with Studios Hergé (tintin.com).

BRUSSELS SEGWAY: COMIC STRIP

Hop on a Segway and find out more about comic strips in Brussels during your tour.

This fun, environmentally friendly, two-wheeled motor-powered vehicle which is dynamically balanced as you drive around in an upright position is very easy to use. Spend an amazing day with your guide and spot the heroes of our comics on the painted walls as well as historic buildings which were incorporated in comic strips by famous comic strip designers and a number of other key places that contribute to making Brussels the comic strip capital of the world.

Maximum 7 participants per tour. Upon confirmation of your registration by our association, payment by bank transfer before the visit will be required.

Architecture & Home Tours

ALL THE FACETS OF THE COMIC STRIP: KALEIDOSCOPE FROM THE STREETS TO THE BELGIAN COMIC STRIP CENTER

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In collaboration with Brussels City Tours.

The price includes the guide, the entrance to the Belgian Comic Strip Center and the bus.

FROM ART NOUVEAU TO ART DECO: AN AESTHETIC EVOLUTION

From the elegant curves of Belgian Art Nouveau to the sleek lines of Art Deco, Belgian architects carved out a unique niche for themselves in the history of architecture thanks to a complex mix of originality and exchanges. Along the way you will enjoy the front house of Hankar, Ciamberlani, Wielemans Hotel and won't miss our Master Victor Horta's highlights, as: Solvay Hotel, Max Hallet Hotel, Tassel ... This panoramic tour will end with the guided tour of Victor Horta private house, to observe the variation of Art Nouveau interiors. See Brussels architecture through our eyes!

In collaboration with Brussels City Tours.

The price includes the guide, the entrance to the Horta Museum and the bus.

BRUSSELS AND ITS RIVER

We follow the tortuous course of the Senne River, from Place Fontainas to Grand-Place and the Marché aux Poissons, from the port quarter and its quays and customs buildings and we also examine new buildings which refer to the old port installations. We use old illustrations and the few remaining traces of the river's presence in the city to evoke the Senne that runs beneath us, through winding streets, in rounded squares, in "trous de Senne", where the river merges, and where the old city walls used to be.

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A FRENCH MELI-MELO

What is the architectural merit of Franco-Belgian exchanges? The Franco-Belgian period started at a time when Belgium was still under French rule, and when Belgian architects, who trained in Paris, won the Rome Prize.

The Parisian architect Guimard, who designed the ornate entrances to Paris's metro stations, travelled to Brussels where he honed his style as he visited the houses designed by Horta; Antoine Courtens became a master of Art Deco after examining the style of Parisian architects while Henry Lacoste bridged the artistic gap between the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and the Academy of Brussels...

ORNAMENTAL FACADES: CERAMICS AND SGRAFFITO : FROM MAISON LES HIBOUX (THE HOUSE WITH THE OWLS) TO THE CIAMBERLANI HOUSE

Sgraffito became popular once again at the end of the nineteenth century in this region, and was frequently used to embellish façades. This walk at the higher end of the Saint-Gilles neighbourhood and through Ixelles focuses on sgraffito techniques, on its use and its symbols. The emphasis is primarily on Art Nouveau façades by such architects as Paul Hankar, Edouard Pelseneer and Albert Roosenboom.

ORNAMENTAL FACADES: CERAMICS AND SGRAFFITO, THE NEIGHBOURHOOD AROUND THE IXELLES PONDS

Itinéraires would like to raise public awareness about arts and crafts and thus invites you to take a walk which focuses on these aspects of built heritage in Brussels. Join us as we analyse two well-known techniques used to decorate façades: ceramics and sgraffito. Find out more about their specificities, their uses, study the application techniques, their restoration ...

A new way of appreciating the real value of Brussels's ornamental façades.

ORNAMENTAL FACADES: CERAMICS AND SGRAFFITO, THE SQUARES NEIGHBOURHOOD

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THE WHO'S WHO OF EUROPEANS IN BRUSSELS

Brussels, the most beautiful gateway to Europe: We will twist and turn our way around the European Parliament as we examine the history of the Berlaymont building and its successive moves, as we discover some architectural gems or the relics of some of the megalomaniac road works of the Sixties...

During a walk from the Leopold neighbourhood, through the European district, to Place Jourdan, we will show you how Europe really holds centre stage in our capital, and how it has an impact on housing and on the neighbourhood in general.

Find out all about Europe in Brussels. Finally! Who does what, where and how?

ART DECO: THE COGHEN NEIGHBOURHOOD IN UCCLE AND FOREST, FROM THE CHURCH IN ALTITUDE CENT SQUARE TO THE DOTREMONT HOUSE

Cécile Dubois, author of the book, Art Deco Walks in Brussels, will be your guide on this walk which covers a number of lesser known architectural gems of Brussels. From Coghen Square to rue de l'Echevinage, discover the work of such architects as Leon Sneyers, Raphaël Delville and Louis Herman De Koninck, probably one of the greatest Belgian Modernists, who designed the home of the Belgian collector, Dotremont.

ART DECO IN MOLENBEEK

Molenbeek was largely abandoned after Belgium's industrial decline. And yet this Brussels neighbourhood has some pockets which are of outstanding visual quality because of the picturesque Art Nouveau and Art Deco buildings built here.

There is no need to dwell on the importance of the Church of St. John the Baptist, which is self-explanatory, but which of these buildings with their multiple apartments, or the single family homes of bourgeois or working-class families which were built in the 1930s, or of these social housing estates were able to retain a pure Art Deco and Modernist style?

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ABC OF MILITARY ARCHITECTURE

Brussels was a stronghold as early as the Middle Ages. Initially Brussels was a bastion, after which it became a capital.

From the end of the twelfth century a first stone wall was built around the city, which probably replaced the older wooden palisades.

A second enclosure which was more suited to the progress made in terms of sieges replaced the first. From the sixteenth century onwards artillery developments meant that this second wall had to be protected with land defences, which disappeared at the end of the eighteenth century when Brussels no longer played a defensive role. Join us on a special walk, through the mists of time, as we explore the remains of our past fortifications.

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE IN BRUSSELS

Although Brussels initially exercised caution when it came to contemporary architecture, largely as a result of the modernist scars left after the World Expo of 1958, Brussels now prides itself on some stunning projects, which highlight the talent of contemporary architects.

Some of the designs are still rather cautious but they are proof of a desire to move forward. With major urban and utopian projects and the rebuilding of land that was left fallow, Brussels is embellishing itself again.

BRUSSELS AND ITS PERSONALITIES: BLEROT AND THE PONDS OF IXLLES

Ernest Blérot was a leading architect during the Art Nouveau period and spent a lot of his time designing homes for his rich clientele in the neighbourhood near the ponds of Ixelles. Discover Blérot's architectural style, its motifs, its curves and its typical façades.

CULINARY & WINE OPTIONS

DINE AROUND

An original, friendly and unique way to live Brussels by night! Each place has its own atmosphere, its own specialities, its own specific character....

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We invite you to get into the atmosphere of some of these very typical places of our Capital by tasting a beer, followed by a Belgian meal and of course ending with the dessert.

It is basically an extraordinary guided tour that offers you a unique chance to discover or rediscover the typical ingredients of our

“cuisine” as well as wander along the streets between the restaurants to learn a little bit more about the history of Brussels.

This original way to marry a tasting and cultural tour while changing table neighbour at each stage was developed more than 20 years ago already!

Possibility of organizing this option for a lunch or breakfast as well.

DINE AROUND

A fun, original and unique way of experiencing Brussels by night! Each neighbourhood has its own ambiance, its own atmosphere, its own individual character and its specialties... So check out some typical neighbourhoods throughout the city, over a beer, a meal and a dessert. A guided walk that offers a unique opportunity to discover or even rediscover the traditional delicacies of our region, as well as exploring the history of Brussels, together with one of our guides/lecturers... Enjoy your visit and bon appétit!

BEST OF BRUSSELS: HOP ON FOR A TASTE OF BRUSSELS

An interactive and fun bus tour around the capital of Europe and its main attractions. Explore the arches of the Cinquantenaire and Magritte's surrealism, the majestic Art Nouveau curves of the city's façades and the text bubbles of comic books... Immerse yourself in the kaleidoscope that is Brussels. Enjoy a tasting (of typical Brussels beer and cheese) on board. The tour includes two stops (at the triumphal arches of the Cinquantenaire and the Atomium). An original way of exploring Brussels together! An excellent opportunity to invite your friends!

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TASTING ON BOARD



By coach, train, tramway, helicopter, limousine, etc... Liven up your discovery tour with a breakfast, a tea time, an aperitive: champagne & zakuskis/beer & cheese/chocolate and greediness of our regions.

THE CHOCOLATE ROUTE

A 400-year chocolate tradition: From the Aztecs to modern times! Take a gourmet trip exploring the history, the expertise and the manufacturing techniques as well as the benefits of this noble delicacy, which is such an important part of Belgium's food heritage...

Discover the tricks of this delicious trade! Feel, touch, and, of course, taste pralines and hot chocolate, and enjoy the chocolate of your dreams, whether white, milk or dark. A taste from another continent... In collaboration with the Maison des Maîtres Chocolatiers Belges (The House of Belgian Master Chocolate Makers) in Grand Place in Brussels.

A GOURMET WALK AROUND BRUSSELS

For centuries Brussels has been associated with fine dining. During Brueghelian fairs, during the so-called “Joyous Entries”, during the lavish banquets of the Belle Epoque, or even in today's restaurants, in a pleasant setting with a varied menu: visitors have always associated Brussels with the art of fine dining, for which is so reputed.

A tour for people who enjoy fine dining and love art.

Discover the gastronomy of Brussels from a sensual, artistic and economic viewpoint and share a moment of pleasure.

BRUSSELS BEHIND THE SCENES: THE CHAMPAGNOTHÈQUE

In the Royal Saint-Hubert Galleries, you can stroll through the gallery, visit the shops, dance or have a drink, take in a museum or a cultural event... but there is also an old

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mint. We invite you, however, to discover it in its current guise: It is now a champagnothèque!

CITY TOURS TO ADD TO YOUR TRIP

MANNEKEN PIS, THE OMMEGANG, THE MEYBOOM TREE...BRUSSELS TRADITIONS AND FESTIVITIES

So you like Brussels? But are you actually familiar with its many traditions and festivities? Because every year the city relives more than one thousand years of history, through memories of the past which are faithfully handed down from one generation to the next, thanks to tradition and folklore ...

TRENDY DANSART

Too cool, trendy, dynamic, bustling and on the ball : Dansart, one of Brussels's most eye-catching districts! It is in this district that a handful of designers burst on the scene fifteen years ago, generating a wave of what is internationally recognised as 'avant-garde fashion' in Brussels. Your guide will point you towards the best fashion, design, jewellery, etc., boutiques...

On the occasion of Brussels Art Week and Art Brussels.

HERCULE POIROT IN BRUSSELS

The neighbourhood around the Amigo, a scream, a tray of chocolate brown cups, muffled sounds in the corridors... Can you feel the thrill? Is that a shiver running down your spine? We will take you on a murderous escapade through Brussels, in search of the past, hot on the trail of police enquiries, architectural history, and tell you more about old and new laws.

Which sentences were pronounced, who was sentenced, why and how?

CATS AND DOGS IN BRUSSELS

Statues, walls, advertisements and façades reveal the important role that pets play in this city and their significance for its population in the ten centuries of its history. Stroll through the old city centre, past monuments that may look familiar to you, but take a closer look at them, from the perspective of a trusty canine. Brussels, its people and their pets: a very special relationship...

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BRUSSELS, A CITY OF LOVERS

This walk fleshes out the history of this city's centre, while focusing on the famous lovers (Arthur Rimbaud, Paul Verlaine, Charlotte Brontë, etc.) who lived, loved and sometimes also suffered here in Brussels.

GAY BRUSSELS

Why not meet this community, whose presence has left an indelible mark on the centre of the city? And find out more about the many marks left by gay artists in this city: Rimbaud and Verlaine, Marguerite Yourcenar, Maurice Béjart, Sappho, and many others.

More will be revealed during the tour. This tour is an excellent opportunity to ask any questions you have always wanted to ask... In collaboration with the association Tels Quels.

SEX AND THE CITY OF LOVE: BRUSSELS

Welcome to the Brussels jungle! Like Carrie, in the popular TV series, "Sex and the City", we will dissect the relationships between men and women. We will visit galleries and trendy places like Charlotte, unravel the secrets of the business world in Miranda's footsteps and find out the latest gossip about the beautiful people and their favourite shops, much like Samantha.

We will discuss love and famous lovers, like Rimbaud, Verlaine, Charlotte Brontë... A heady blend of lovers, gossip, discoveries, unusual stores and anecdotes about the beautiful people!

WINDOW SHOPPING FOR LOVE

Through the looking glass. They watch us walk by when we don't look up. And yet they change their outfits, their make-up and hair to please us and to catch our eye. And while we're on the subject, what a variety of women populate the windows these days.

From medieval times to the present, the ladies of the night have changed considerably. So let's be tempted and look...

THE KETJES OF BRUSSELS

Most people have never even heard of some of the street on this tour... The walk will take you from the majestic Law Courts to the colourful streets of the Marolles neighbourhood that resonate with echoes of a turbulent past. Poelaert and his courthouse, which he was unable to complete before he died, the Friars Minor and their Minimes Church, the Samaritaine neighbourhood, which often rose up against the powers that be, the plaque commemorating Vesalius and his "hangmen", Brueghel's

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neighbourhood, the houses and schools that were built by Horta, the Phalansterian Reine Astrid social housing estate, the Chapelle church...

This neighbourhood which is all too often ignored is where the heart of Brussels's history really beats.

BLIND ALLEYS IN BRUSSELS

Dead ends or blind alleys go by many names in Brussels: there is an impasse des Cadeaux, du Chapelet, du Cheval, des Groseilles, du Gril, des Huîtres, de la Fidélité, etc. referring to gifts, horses, oysters and what more. They often give out onto streets, small streets, courtyards, gardens. There were several hundreds of them in the past, now there are only... 28!

So join us on a historic walk, focussing on the rural and social nature of these streets, of this typical feature of Brussels's urban development.

BRUSSELS SEGWAY: THE HISTORIC HEART OF THE CITY

Take a Segway and discover the historic heart of Brussels. This fun, environmentally friendly, two-wheeled motor-powered vehicle which is dynamically balanced as you drive around in an upright position is very easy to use. Spend an amazing day crisscrossing the city with your guide on the main roads but also in narrow streets and immerse yourself in the city and its history, as you drive past important buildings and remarkable façades.

Have a good trip, enjoy your discoveries and above all, have fun! In collaboration with Belgium Segway tour. Maximum 7 participants per tour. Upon confirmation of your registration by our association, payment by bank transfer before the visit will be required.

1000 BRUSSELS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: PLACE SAINTE-CATHERINE

The square, which was built in 1870, extends in front of and behind the eponymous church.

The names of the surrounding streets, however, such as Quai au Sel (salt pier), Quai aux Semences (seed quay) and Quai aux Briques (Brick pier) all refer to the economic activities of the old port. Its large dock was filled in in 1853 but although the other structures were destroyed one still "remains", known as the Tour Noire (Black Tower). Explore the past of the lower part of the city: explore place Sainte-Catherine.

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INTERACTIVE TOUR OPTIONS

TIME IS MONEY

Along with glittering promises money has always been the bearer of symbols. From the exchanges in medieval markets to bills of exchange, from the National Bank to the Royal Mint, from the Medals Room in the Albertine Library to the shops in rue du Midi: Your guide will introduce you to the history of money and tell you all there is to know about an expertise that may possibly become extinct as bank cards take over... Your guide will also invite you to take part in a historic and cultural scavenger hunt, across Brussels, in a race against time, as you search for sundials, unusual watches, the watches of Belgian personalities, etc. Time, time, what is time!

INTERACTIVE SCAVENGER HUNT: USING ALL YOUR SENSES

A different take on the historic city centre of Brussels! Use all your senses to discover every aspect of the history of our capital!

During this walk follow in the footsteps of comic book heroes and masterchefs, of writers and singers, of lords and craftsmen.

Interactivity, exclusivity, entertainment, a quiz ... All the elements of a good scavenger hunt for a true experience of Brussels as a way of life.

TRENDY CHÂTELAIN

A hip, chic neighbourhood: Châtelain is moving on up! But what do those gorgeous façades conceal? We will evoke the Baroque, Art Nouveau, the attractive window displays of rue du Bailli, the author Marguerite Yourcenar, the architect Antoine Pompe with several anecdotes... For a fun experience! On the occasion of Brussels Art Week and Art Brussels.

CAR RALLY IN THE STREETS OF BRUSSELS

It's your turn! You register with your car, after which you will receive a road book so you can embark on a playful exploration of the capital of Europe punctuated with some fine dining stops and arresting views, together with our guides and coordinators.

A unique way of exploring Brussels. We can also organise this tour with vintage cars. In collaboration with Trajectoire.

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HISTORICAL TOUR OPTIONS

THE CONVENTS OF BRUSSELS

In the eighteenth century there were thirty different religious communities in Brussels. The Bridgettines, the Friars Minor, the Rich Clares, the Hermits of St. Augustine, the sisters Maricolles, the Carthusian monks, the Brethren of the Common Life and an order of nuns with a pretty name, i.e., the White Ladies of the Rose of Jericho... So many different interpretations of spiritual life in Brussels.

This year the tour will cover the area around Place Sainte-Catherine.

SECRETS AND SYMBOLS, FREEMASONS IN BRUSSELS

In 1723 the Scottish minister, James Anderson, wrote the Constitutions of the Free-Masons. This mysterious organisation and its secret rituals soon gave rise to a variety of fantastic tales. Even today people think that there are hidden Masonic symbols in some sculptures or in the plans drawn up for parks or cities.

We will use the built heritage of Brussels to lift a part of the veil on this secret organisation and its fascinating ideals. An encounter with the Free-Masons, which sidesteps the pseudo-mysteries.

THE ORDER OF THE GOLDEN FLEECE: A SHARED IDEAL

The Order of the Golden Fleece is one of the few orders that were founded during the fifteenth century and which is still active today.

At the end of the Middle Ages, when nobility no longer held a monopoly on power and on wealth, noble families prided themselves on their honour and their panache. It was also a way of distinguishing themselves from wealthy merchants, bankers and condottieri. We invite you to share some moments in the life of these knights and of this strange brotherhood, which harks back to the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and to European projects well before these were even being considered.

PURVEYORS TO THE ROYAL COURT

Since 1833, the title of Royal Warrant Holder of the Royal Court of Belgium aims to reward certain suppliers for their quality and consistency. Such a royal warrant is more than a privilege; it also represents a commitment. Upon receipt of such a warrant, the craftsman, the company or the merchant must demonstrate that he is worthy, "that he can maintain a level of excellence that justifies the privilege that was bestowed upon him."

The purveyors to the royal court include some of the most ancient trades as well as companies offering goods or services in more innovative areas of expertise.

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As we make our way from one supplier to the other your guide will reveal some insider knowledge about this privilege. One should not take a Royal Warrant lightly!

MEDIEVAL BRUSSELS

Brussels was founded at the end of the tenth century. Gradually, the population increased, small industries developed and merchants settled here. In this growing city wooden houses and sumptuous stone buildings, including our Cathedral, were built. Today, many medieval sites and monuments of Brussels have been subjected to extensive excavations and restoration.

This walk lasts one hour and a half and is followed by a half-hour guided visit to the Museum of Ancient Art, which focuses on paintings related to the theme of this tour.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JACQUES BREL, WHEN BRUXELLES BRUSSELLED

The starting point of this tour is a song by Jacques Brel, about Brussels. This is a rather unusual tour during which poetry gives an unexpected, luminous and, at times, tragic perspective of the city, its inhabitants, its development, its elegant and popular neighbourhoods...

Join us on a walk, marked by the contrasts and harmonies of poetry and music, through the neighbourhood where Brel grew up and went to school, from the walk to the theatre with a stop at the Brel Foundation and at the cafés where Brel and his mates met. Singer included in the price.

BRUSSELS DURING THE RENAISSANCE AND UNDER CHARLES V

A period marked by the invention of printing and perspective, by the works of Rabelais and by Du Bellay's poetry, by the art of Raphael, Leonardo da Vinci or Dürer, but also by the discovery of a new world beyond the Atlantic by Christopher Columbus.

Even though the Renaissance started later in France as a result of the Hundred Years' War, the artistic renaissance process started from the fifteenth century onwards in various regions across Europe.

We invite you to discover the Renaissance period in our region and especially in Brussels under the gaze of an emperor in whose empire "the sun never sets".

THE SAINTS OF BRUSSELS

Belgium was evangelised rather early, at the end of the first century. Eventually, after the dark ages marked by persecution and by several invasions, Christian doctrine established a strong presence in our regions, culminating in the "century of saints", in the seventh century.

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In addition to Saint Michael, Saint Nicholas, Saint Boniface and Saint Damien, your guide will tell you about holy evangelists, holy bishops, virgin martyrs, and well-known saints or saints who are now largely unknown.

You will see their representations in Brussels, you will learn what we know of their lives, the date on which they are celebrated, why they were invoked, of which social classes they are the patron saints and which prayers were addressed to them ...

A walk focussing on a heightened perception!

THE FIRST FORTIFICATIONS OF BRUSSELS

The first city wall around Brussels, which was 4 km long, was built around the first development of the city, the Ile Saint-Gery and the original port on the banks of the River Senne. It also encompassed the Treurenberg hills and the first Roman collegiate church of Saint Michael and St Gudula as well as Coudenberg and the Palace of Brussels.

There are still plenty of plans, old documents and ramparts which bear testimony to the existence of these fortifications which date from the early thirteenth century, and which were built under Henry I of Brabant.

The scale model of the Maison du Roi or King's House will enable us to understand the challenges of its building process.

SYMBOLISM IN BRUSSELS

Join us in identifying the various trends of the last great art movement of the nineteenth century.

Your guide will give an overview of the Symbolist movement at the end of that century while painting a picture of a society in disarray.

The highly specific – somewhat incongruous and decadent - atmosphere of Brussels left an indelible impression on poets, painters, and other artists, which they expressed in their work. The art of suggestion, of a notion, of mystery...

Symbolism surfaced in various artistic disciplines: on the stage, in painting, in poetry, in architecture, in the applied arts ...

CONVERSIONS RECONVERSIONS

Conversions Reconversions or the profanification of the witnesses of religious life.

Brussels, through the ages, was home to several religious orders. Although some of them have left an architectural mark on the city, others now are only known because of street names or because of well-known or relatively unknown anecdotes.

From rue des Dominicains (Dominican Street) to rue des Moineaux, from the couvent des Récollets (the convent of a Franciscan order) to that of the Madelonette Sisters and of the Frères Sachets (Friars of the Sack), you will be able to take a closer look at some

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buildings that resemble lofts as your guide shares some of the secrets of these orders with you.

ANCIENT BRUSSELS

Brussels is full of inscriptions, sculptures and architectural elements borrowed from classical antiquity. Join us as we identify historical and mythological elements on our built heritage through the presence of ancient sculptures, reliefs and medallions. Spot the use of decorative and architectural elements that are specific to ancient times, which have been incorporated by architects in the style of their era. Beyond the architectural vocabulary and the iconography, your guide will also elaborate on how a certain art of living, a world view, and the sense of community of Antiquity have survived in our twenty-first century capital...

BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE OMMEGANG, PART 1

Leg armour, slashed sleeves, dresses, bustles ...

The seamstresses of the Royal Society of the Ommegang go about their business creating costumes. Giants, flags, weapons are all stored in the society's warehouses. Travel back in time to 1549 with us and see how this amazing spectacle is organised. Take a look behind the scenes of the Ommegang as the preparations of this spectacle which is held on the first Thursday of July and the Tuesday of the preceding week unfold....

BEHIND THE SCENES OF OMMEGANG, PART 2

Two hours before the Ommegang starts, visit the cellars under Coudenberg, where the changing rooms of the court of Charles V are exceptionally set up for the occasion. Enjoy and be part of the last preparations of this commemorative parade.

ART & CULTURAL TOUR OPTIONS

DISCOVERING METROPOLITAN ART

A forced stop at Parc, Bourse, Louise, Arts-Loi, Yser, Rogier, Veeweyde, Beekkant, Anneessens... Because today the Brussels metro has turned into a living museum ! For several years now, works have been commissioned from several artists to decorate the metro stations of Brussels: Alechinsky and Dotremont, Pol Bury, Octave Landuyt, Jean-Michel Folon, Jo Delahaut, Roger Raveel...

Even the newer stations have now been embellished with new works. Today a veritable history of modern Belgian painting unfolds in the maze that is the Brussels metro...

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THE SABLON ANTIQUES DEALERS AND THE BARGAIN HUNTERS OF THE MAROLLES

So close and yet so different, the Sablon and the Marolles neighbourhoods are a real gold mine for art lovers, for collectors or for bargain hunters. The infectious joie de vivre is also typical of these neighbourhoods.

AROUND THE SABLON: THE NOBLE DISTRICT OF BRUSSELS

After the Dukes of Burgundy settled in Brussels, the nobility of Brabant, followed by that of several provinces of the Burgundian Netherlands, gradually started building urban dwellings near the duke's palace, at the expense of Brussels's old Jewish quarter and part of the popular neighbourhood of la Putterie.

At the end of the Middle Ages, when the marriage of Maximilian of Habsburg to the last descendant of the Dukes of Burgundy turned Brussels into one of the main centres of imperial power, several European noble families moved here. They took advantage of the city's expansion to create a new noble neighbourhood: the Sablon.

TRENDY SABLON

The Sablon district is continuously changing, with new dealers setting up shop next to the neighbourhood's renowned antiques dealers. These include BRUNEAF which showcases African art and non-European art, Bergé auctioneers, or galleries that highlight the work of new artists, in several disciplines including food, the arts or even architecture...

So join us on this walk which focuses on shared pleasures.
On the occasion of Brussels Art Week and Art Brussels.

THIS IS NOT A REALIST ITINERARY: MAGRITTE, DELVAUX AND THE OTHERS, SURREALISM IN BRUSSELS

To be or not be, that is the question... So what did Magritte really mean when he painted the famous words, Ceci n'est pas une pipe, on his canvas ? In an attempt to better understand Belgian surrealism, we will explore the places that the Belgian surrealists frequented, painted, lived in... We will also tell you why our capital is considered surreal! Is it strange to be an angel?

ABC: HOW THE FLEMISH PRIMITIVES CREATED A PAINTING

A wood panel, a punch block, eggshell, oil, pigments ... how about looking at a painting in a different way?

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How about examining how they were created. You will never look at a painting in the same way again after reviewing the work of the Early Flemish masters and after learning all there is to know about their techniques.

ABC: BUILDING A CHURCH

Foundations, stones, flying buttresses, quoins, transepts, choirs, buttresses ... although the style of churches changed over time, the building principles remained the same. Discover the different stages of the building process of a church.

BRUSSELS BEHIND THE SCENES: THE THEATRES OF BRUSSELS

Behind the curtain lies the stage, on the other side of the curtain sits the expectant audience. And for once, breaking with habit, you too will be able to roam behind the scenes, to experience the backstage bustle and the stress, which are so admirably hidden once the curtain opens. How have the theatre and its sets changed? From the mechanics of yesteryear to today's sound technicians, from the playwright or the composer to the artists, from the costume designers to the sewing department... look beyond the appearances.

SHOEMAKERS OF THE PAST

Poulaines, leg armour, boots, sandals ... every shoe has its style and its era. We look at the statues in our city to see how shoes have changed over time and to understand why they have changed. But what about the men and women who create these shoes, why did they do this and how, using cloth, leather, and laces? We visit the cellars of a former shoemaker's workshop to find out more about the lives of those who made yesterday's shoes with tomorrow's fashion in mind.

GARDENS, PARKS & WALKING TRAILS

GREEN TRAIL: A WALK NEAR LA CAMBRE ABBEY

The garden of La Cambre Abbey is a veritable oasis of tranquillity in the bustling city centre and a charming historic site.

We enter the garden through the Louis XIV-style entrance with its rusticated pillars and volutes. We will take a closer look at the various buildings (the fourteenth-century church, the eighteenth-century French-style buildings, the chapel of St. Boniface...) and the abbey's interaction with the gardens which consist of five successive terraces.

GREEN TRAIL: A WALK AROUND BRUSSELS'S CENTRAL PARK

Brussels's main park is actually a former hunting estate, which is surrounded by the Royal Palace, rue Ducale, the Palace of the Nation and rue Royale. But this park is full

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of treasures if you care to find them. A wonderful place for music lovers, with concerts regularly scheduled, a marvel for children with its shows and its fountains... Time to join us and explore the assets of our "Royal" Park.

GREEN TRAIL: A WALK THROUGH LEOPOLD PARK

During the Burgundian period, this park was known as the Eggevoort estate. But Leopold Park is first and foremost associated with the creation in 1837 of the first district outside the fortified city of Brussels. Initially this park was supposed to house the city's zoo, but it was subsequently expanded by annexing several properties including that of the Redemptorist nuns.

The park also has a variety of botanical and horticultural plantations. The bankruptcy of the zoo in 1877 prompted the city to relinquish part of the site to the State, which opened the museum of natural history here. The remaining land became an extensive public park.

GREEN TRAIL: A WALK IN JOSAPHAT PARK

The park is said to owe its name to a pilgrim, who upon his return from Palestine in 1574, was struck by the similarity between the valley of Jehoshaphat, in the Holy Land, and that of Roodebeek. In 1900, the municipality acquired the estate at the instigation of Leopold II, who wanted the municipality to have its own public park. The landscape architect Edmund Galoppin wanted to preserve the site as it was with its Fountain of Love, the brook, the old path, the ponds and the original trees.

Together we will explore some of the charming corners of this twenty-acre park: the picturesque hilly English walk, as well as the playgrounds and sports fields, including the expansive archery lawn.

GREEN TRAIL: A WALK THROUGH LA CAMBRE FOREST

The Bois de la Cambre, as it is commonly known, was created around 1865 by the City of Brussels in accordance with the plans of the landscape architect, Edouard Keilig. It covers a surface area of 122 hectares. Part of the Soignes forest was turned into a public park, creating another green lung at the top of Avenue Louise. Keilig created an English landscape garden with sweeping views.

GREEN TRAIL: A WALK AROUND THE ROUGE-CLOÎTRE GARDENS

The Rouge-Cloître or Red Monastery, which is located in the Soignes Forest, is first and foremost synonymous with Brussels's history: the fortifications, the priory of the eighteenth-century abbey, the old priory farm and the outbuildings with their horse stables, the miller's house have all been preserved...

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At the same time this site is also a favourite with botanists because of the experimental Massart Garden. It also is home to a rather original and bustling arts centre. Invite your family or friends to accompany us on a guided tour of this beautiful park.

ESPECIALLY FOR THE NIGHT

BRUSSELS BY NIGHT, THE MYSTERY OF THE NIGHT

At night all differences disappear. And yet, night-time is also a time of contemplation and of decisions. Night, that mysterious, pale and silent universe, a perfect time for revelry, has been celebrated by many a painter, poet or philosopher. It intrigues, accentuates our desires, turns our fears into terrors. Night-time is also a time of hard labour, of intrigue, it is thrilling.

At night, criminals and thieves come out of their holes. We will try to feel, perceive, listen to the people of the night with your complicity. If a play was played in full daylight would it be the same? The people who walk the streets at night, the shadows of the street remind us of the words of Henri Michaux: night moves. A city at night is so much prettier.

EUROPALIA BRAZIL: DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF THE FRENZIED RHYTHMS OF LATIN AMERICAN MUSIC!

Europalia Brazil: Salsa, Bossa nova, Samba, Chorinho ... All these frenzied rhythms refer to a dance and a musical genre, but also to a family of Latino musical genres! Did you know that a salsa dancer is called a salsero? Choro (meaning "weeping"), better known by the name of Chorinho, is a popular music genre that developed in the second half of the nineteenth century in Rio de Janeiro. Despite its name, choro has an upbeat and joyful rhythm. Let's discover the origin and specific rhythms of the Brazilian style while finding out more about the history of music and dance through the colours and ambience of the Latino community in Brussels.

Do you feel like dancing?

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!

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