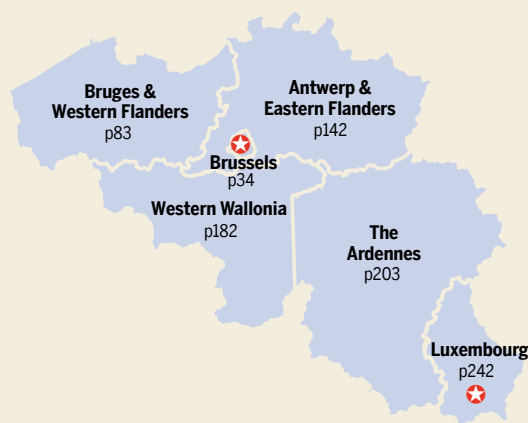




# Belgium & Luxembourg



THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

Helena Smith, Andy Symington, Donna Wheeler

## PLAN YOUR TRIP

Welcome to Belgium & Luxembourg.....	4
Belgium & Luxembourg Map.....	6
Belgium & Luxembourg's Top 15... ..	8
Need to Know.....	16
First Time.....	18
If You Like.....	20
Month by Month.....	22
Itineraries.....	26
Travel with Children....	29
Regions at a Glance....	31

## ON THE ROAD

<b>BRUSSELS.....</b>	<b>34</b>	Antwerp to Ghent.....	164
<b>Around Brussels.....</b>	<b>81</b>	Westmalle.....	164
South of Brussels.....	81	Hoogstraten.....	164
Southwest of Brussels.....	82	Turnhout.....	164
North of Brussels.....	82	Lier.....	166
<b>BRUGES &amp; WESTERN FLANDERS.....</b>	<b>83</b>	Mechelen.....	168
<b>Bruges (Brugge).....</b>	<b>85</b>	Leuven.....	173
Damme.....	105	Leuven to Hasselt.....	177
<b>The Coast.....</b>	<b>106</b>	Hasselt & Around.....	178
Knokke-Heist.....	107	Tienen.....	178
Het Zwin.....	107	Hoegaarden.....	179
De Haan.....	107	Zoutleeuw.....	179
Zeebrugge.....	108	Sint-Truiden.....	180
Lissewege.....	108	Tongeren.....	180
Ostend (Oostende).....	108		
Nieuwpoort.....	114		
Oostduinkerke.....	114		
St-Idesbald.....	115		
De Panne & Adinkerke.....	115		
Veurne.....	115		
Diksmuide.....	117		
<b>Beer Country.....</b>	<b>117</b>		
Westvleteren.....	117		
Woesten.....	117		
Watou.....	117		
Poperinge.....	118		
Ypres (Ieper).....	119		
Ypres Salient.....	123		
Comines.....	124		
Kortrijk.....	125		
Oudenaarde.....	127		
Geraardsbergen.....	128		
Ghent (Gent).....	129		

## WESTERN WALLONIA..... 182

Tournai.....	183
Pipaix.....	188
Aubechies.....	189
Belœil.....	189
Lessines.....	190
Enghien.....	190
Mons.....	190
Waterloo Battlefield.....	194
Nivelles.....	196
Louvain-la-Neuve.....	197
Villers-la-Ville.....	197
Charleroi.....	198
Thuin.....	199
Aulne.....	199
Ragnies.....	199
Botte du Hainaut.....	200
Philippeville.....	200
L'Eau de Heure.....	200
Mariembourg.....	200
Nismes.....	201
Couvin.....	201
Chimay.....	202

## ANTWERP & EASTERN FLANDERS..... 142

<b>Antwerp (Antwerpen).....</b>	<b>144</b>
Antwerp Port.....	163



CHOCOLATE LINE, BRUGES P103



ST-SALVATORSKATHEDRAAL, BRUGES P91

# Contents

## UNDERSTAND

### THE ARDENNES ... 203

Namur .....	205
Crupet .....	210
Dinant.....	211
Han-sur-Lesse.....	212
Rocheftort.....	212
Lavaux-Sainte-Anne.....	214
Redu.....	214
St-Hubert.....	214
Bouillon .....	215
Bouillon to Vresse .....	217
Orval .....	218
La Roche-en-Ardenne ...	218
Hotton .....	220
Durbuy .....	220
Petite Somme .....	222
Huy .....	222
Modave.....	223
Jehay .....	223
Liège (Luik).....	223
Spa .....	231
Verviers .....	233
The Eastern Cantons.....	234
Stavelot .....	237
Coo .....	238
Bastogne.....	239
Arlon.....	241

### LUXEMBOURG .... 242

<b>Luxembourg City</b> .....	<b>244</b>
<b>Moselle Valley</b> .....	<b>255</b>
Schengen & Remerschen .....	255
Remich.....	256
Wormeldange .....	256
Grevenmacher .....	256
<b>Müllerthal</b> .....	<b>256</b>
Bourglinster .....	256
Larochette.....	257
Echternach .....	257
Beaufort.....	259
<b>Northern Luxembourg</b> .....	<b>260</b>
Ettelbrück .....	260
Château de Bourscheid .....	260
Diekirch .....	260
Vianden .....	261
Esch-sur-Sûre .....	263
Wiltz .....	264
Clervaux.....	264

### Belgium

#### & Luxembourg

Today .....	266
History .....	268
The Belgian People ...	278
Creative Cuisine .....	280
Belgian Beer .....	283
Arts & Architecture ...	286

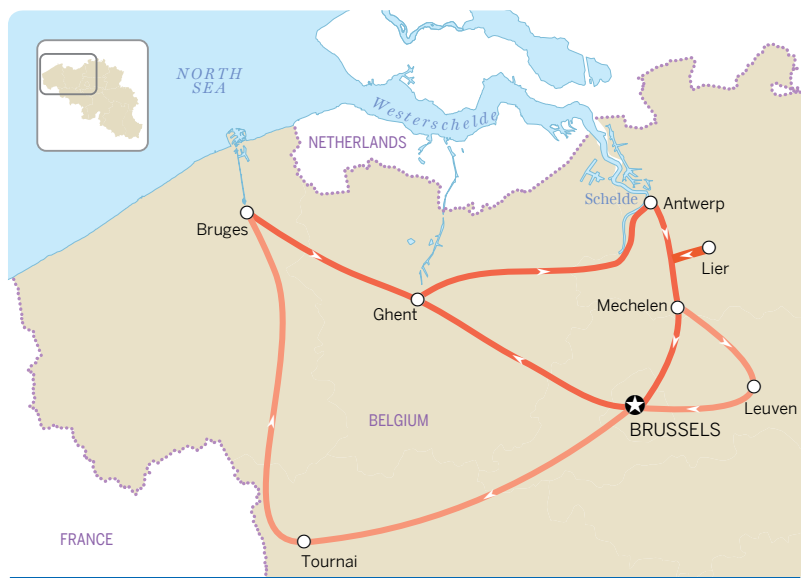
## SURVIVAL GUIDE

Directory A-Z.....	292
Transport .....	298
Language .....	303
Index.....	315
Map Legend.....	319

## SPECIAL FEATURES

Month by Month.....	22
Creative Cuisine.....	280
Belgian Beer .....	283
Art & Architecture ...	286

# Itineraries



## Historic Cities

Four of northern Europe's most memorable historic cities are so handily close together that an hour's train ride is enough to get between any of them. So you *could* just about glimpse them all in a long weekend. However, even one week wouldn't really do them full justice. Take as long as you can. To save on midrange accommodation costs, arrange your trip to sleep in Brussels at the weekend and Bruges midweek.

EU capital, **Brussels**, has a Grand Place that's one of the world's most beautiful squares. Explore seductive chocolate shops, wonderful *cafés*, great galleries, fine museums and art nouveau buildings. And don't miss the unique 1958 Atomium.

Medieval architecture and endless canalside charm make beautiful **Bruges** one of Europe's most romantic getaways. Less tourist-oriented, grittier yet somehow more satisfying, is magical **Ghent**, whose intimate medieval core is complemented by a lively student vibe and some wonderful museums. Larger **Antwerp** is an eclectic port city whose historical credentials are balanced by its vibrant nightlife, *café* culture and cutting-edge designer fashions. If time allows, there are numerous appealing add-on options: **Leuven**, **Lier**, **Tournai**, or **Mechelen**.

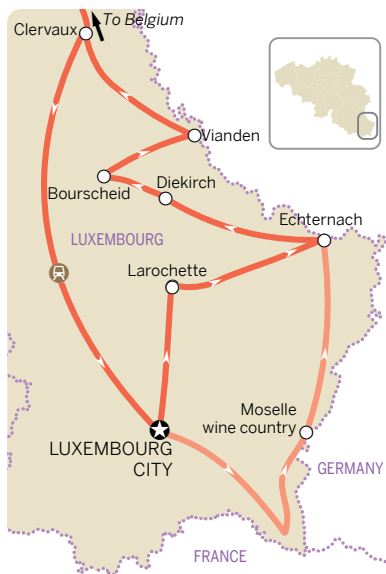


2  
WEEKS

## Dawdling the Back Roads

If you want to drive around some of Belgium's more off-beat and rural corners, try this trip. It starts and ends in Brussels or Charleroi Airport, where you can pick up a rental car. It takes in some of the most charming countryside of the Ardennes and eastern Flanders.

Head first to **Mons**, which now has a serious portfolio of excellent museums thanks to its year as Capital of Culture. Then drive down to beer-famed **Chimay** for two nights, taking in **Aulne** abbey ruins and **Thuin** on the way. Tootle along the pretty lanes to **Mariembourg** and **Nismes**, possibly taking the steam train. Visit the splendid gardens of **Freyÿr** and the fabulous caves at **Han-sur-Lesse** or less commercial **Rochefort**, which has some fine local accommodation. From there drive down to **Bouillon** with its Crusader castle, and kayak along some of Belgium's prettiest stretches of wooded valley around **Vresse-sur-Semois**. Follow the lovely Semois Valley in both directions enjoying the panoramas at **Rochehaut** and **Tombeau du Géant**. Visit the golden stone ruins of **Orval's** monastery and its modern brewery *café* to taste the monks' legendary beer. Head northeast to visit the excellent war museum at **Bastogne**, then cut across through thick forests via **St-Hubert** to **La Roche-en-Ardenne**. Famed for its carnival, attractive **Stavelot** makes a good base for a few nights and a range of outdoor activities (organised at nearby **Coö**), and a day hike on the **Haute Fagnes**. Stop for coffee and pastries in **Eupen**, Belgium's only really Germanic city, and explore the attractive country lanes, not missing delightful little **Limbourg**. Nip up the motorway to visit **Blegny**, descending into Belgium's last accessible coal mine, then, for a dose of big-city action, drop by **Liège** with its lively riverside vibe, top eating scene and boisterous nightlife. Next, it's a quieter visit to appealing **Tongeren**, Belgium's 'oldest' town, then drive the Roman road to underrated **St-Truiden** with random wanders off into the pretty Haspengouw area. Don't miss the remarkable church in **Zoutleeuw** and drop into **Tienen** to see the sugar museum. Spend your last night in lively student city **Leuven**.

5-7  
DAYS

## Loveable Luxembourg

Little Luxembourg makes an unexpectedly complete destination. Accommodation prices in Luxembourg City fall dramatically at weekends. Midweek is better for the rural castle villages with fewer Dutch bikers on the country lanes.

Arrive in **Luxembourg City** on Friday afternoon, making the most of the city's decent range of nightlife options and free weekend on-street parking. On Saturday buy a two-day Luxembourg Card if you're planning to see all of the main museums, or just stroll the remarkable city ramparts and gorges. On Monday head for **Echternach**, perhaps going via **Larochette** or through **Moselle wine country**. Hike in the attractive Müllerthal micro-canyons then head to **Diekirch** for the best Ardennes battle museum around. By bus it's a bit of a fiddle, but consider visiting **Bourscheid** to admire the Grand Duchy's impressive castle ruin. Head to charming **Vianden**, the most convenient rural getaway, whose restored fortress looms above the charming little town. Take the bus to pretty **Clervaux** and continue by train to Coo or Liege in Belgium or return to Luxembourg City.

5-7  
DAYS

## Belgian Beer Tour

In Belgium you can be a complete boozehound but look very cultured as you tour medieval monasteries and historic towns, trying a drop of the local brew out of politeness along the way.

Start your pilgrimage in **Brussels**, where you can pay your respects at L'Arbre d'Or, the venerable brewers' guild on the Grand Place, before learning about lambics at Cantillon Brewery. Next head north to **Mechelen's** legendary Het Anker.

Then head to western Flanders, Belgium's hop-growing country, stopping at **Diksmuide** to sip an Oerbier, then tasting the fabled **Westvleteren** 12 Trappist at Abdij Sint-Sixtus and a St-Bernardus Tripel in **Watou**.

Head southeast to Dubuisson at **Pipaix** and visit the charming nearby steam brewery. The enticingly rural Botte du Hainaut is home to the legendary **Chimay** Trappist beer, and the Fagnes brewery at **Mariembourg** is a good lunch stop.

Belgium's deep southeast holds lovely **Orval's** brewery-monastery. On your way back north, drop by the rural hamlet of **Achouffe** for La Chouffe's magnificent offerings. Heading back to Brussels, stop for a glass of **Hoegaarden's** famous white beer.

# Map Legend

## Sights

- Beach
- Bird Sanctuary
- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian
- Hindu
- Islamic
- Jain
- Jewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Ruin
- Shinto
- Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard
- Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

## Activities, Courses & Tours

- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

## Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

## Eating

- Eating

## Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

## Entertainment

- Entertainment

## Shopping

- Shopping

## Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

## Geographic

- Beach
- Gate
- Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
- Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

## Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

## Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- Parking
- Petrol station
- S-Bahn/S-train/Subway station
- Taxi
- T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- Train station/Railway
- Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

## Routes

- Tollway
- Freeway
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- Unsealed road
- Road under construction
- Plaza/Mall
- Steps
- Tunnel
- Pedestrian overpass
- Walking Tour
- Walking Tour detour
- Path/Walking Trail

## Boundaries

- International
- State/Province
- Disputed
- Regional/Suburb
- Marine Park
- Cliff
- Wall

## Hydrography

- River, Creek
- Intermittent River
- Canal
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

## Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



## OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

## OUR WRITERS



### Helena Smith

**Brussels, Bruges & Western Flanders** Helena fell for Brussels on a drunken/architecture weekend with a great friend; she goes back for the live music, the chocolate and the vampires. A travel writer and photographer, Helena blogs about food and community at [eathackney.com](http://eathackney.com).



### Andy Symington

**Western Wallonia, The Ardennes, Luxembourg** Andy first visited Belgium and Luxembourg as a backpacking youngster and was immediately impressed by this under-the-radar destination's historic towns and marvellous beer. Having returned several times over the years, he relished this opportunity to get to know the south in more depth and was blown away by the springtime beauty of the Ardennes' rivers. Based in Spain, Andy is an experienced travel writer who has

authored and co-authored numerous Lonely Planet and other guidebooks. Andy also wrote *Need to Know*, *First Time*, *Itineraries*, *History*, *Belgian People* and the *Survival Guide*.

Read more about Andy at: [https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/andy\\_symington](https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/andy_symington)



### Donna Wheeler

**Antwerp & Eastern Flanders** Fuelled by a love of Flemish painting and the Antwerp Six, Donna had a crush on Belgium long before first venturing there over a decade ago. Since then, the country's quiet culturedness and relaxed charm has made it one of her favourite destinations. Her writing on art, architecture, history and food appears on LP.com, BBC.com Travel, National Geographic Traveler and My Art Guides, she's authored guidebooks to Italy, France, Tunisia, Algeria and

Norway and is the creative director of travel magazine *She Came to Stay*. Donna also wrote *Welcome to*, *Top 15*, *If You Like*, *Month by Month*, *Travel with Children*, *Belgium & Luxembourg Today*, *Creative Cuisine*, *Belgian Beer*, and *Art & Architecture*.

Read more about Donna at: <https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/donnawheeler>

### Published by Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd

ABN 36 005 607 983

6th edition – April 2016

ISBN 978 1 74321 391 9

© Lonely Planet 2016 Photographs © as indicated 2016

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, except brief extracts for the purpose of review, and no part of this publication may be sold or hired, without the written permission of the publisher. Lonely Planet and the Lonely Planet logo are trademarks of Lonely Planet and are registered in the US Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. Lonely Planet does not allow its name or logo to be appropriated by commercial establishments, such as retailers, restaurants or hotels. Please let us know of any misuses: [lonelyplanet.com/ip](http://lonelyplanet.com/ip).

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.



© Lonely Planet Publications Pty Ltd. To make it easier for you to use, access to this chapter is not digitally restricted. In return, we think it's fair to ask you to use it for personal, non-commercial purposes only. In other words, please don't upload this chapter to a peer-to-peer site, mass email it to everyone you know, or resell it. See the terms and conditions on our site for a longer way of saying the above - 'Do the right thing with our content.'