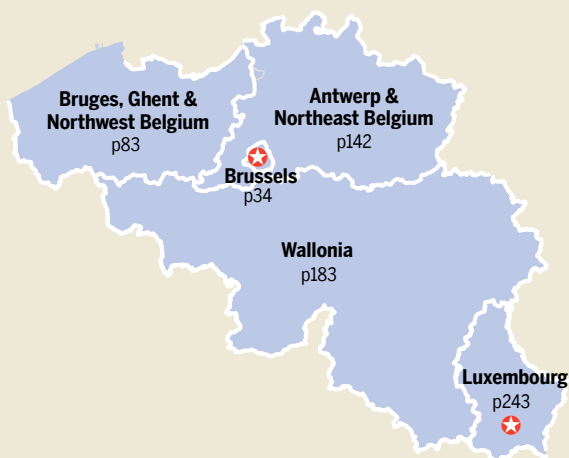




# Belgium & Luxembourg



Mark Elliott, Catherine Le Nevez, Helena Smith,  
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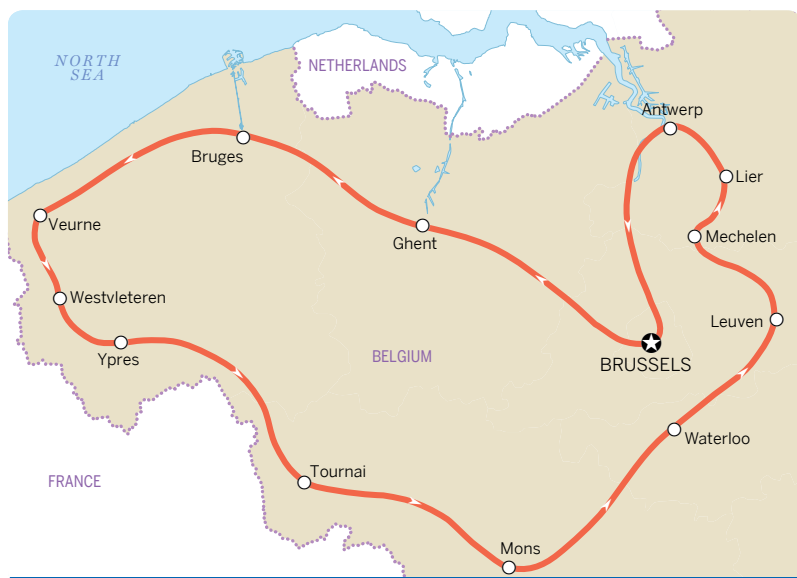
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# Itineraries



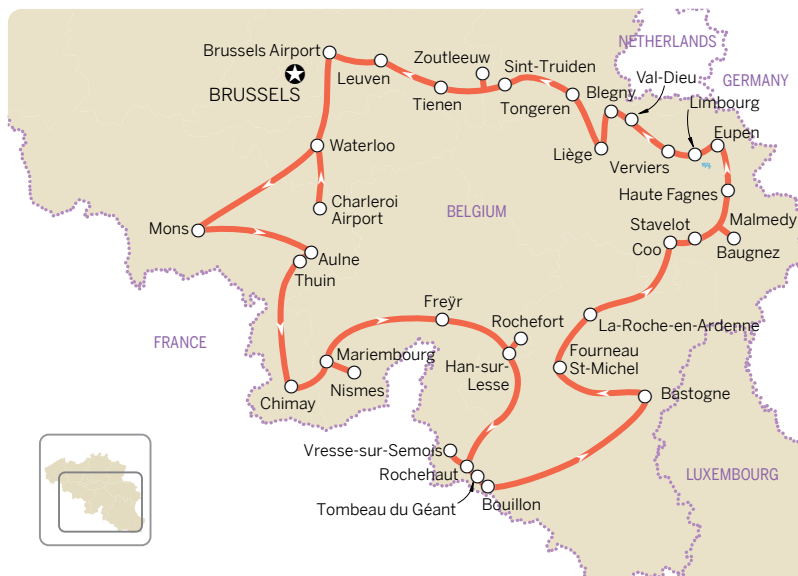
## Belgium's Greatest Hits

Taking in nearly a dozen of Belgium's top destinations in two weeks is likely to be an exhausting but unforgettable experience.

You will of course admire the Grand Place in **Brussels**, explore gloriously multifaceted **Ghent** and visit idyllic, ever-popular **Bruges**. Then add a day in **Ypres** with its magnificent cloth hall and moving WWI history; if you're driving, get there by swinging through lovely **Veurne** and beer-grail **Westvleteren** en route.

**Tournai** is well worth a brief stop to admire its magnificent Romanesque cathedral, then head to historic **Mons** with its excellent portfolio of museums. Looping back towards Brussels, the **Waterloo** battle site is a major draw, if slightly fiddly to reach by public transport. Or keep going northeast to **Leuven** – brew-home of Stella Artois and Leffe – with its splendid town hall and mind-blowing square full of student bars.

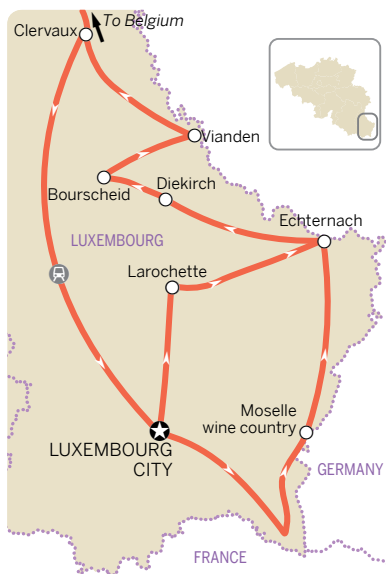
Before giving in to the irresistible pull of amazing **Antwerp**, do stop in underrated **Mechelen**, Belgium's spiritual heart. And don't miss lovely **Lier**, a gem of a town with a loop of canal, an extensive central square, a plethora of old houses, a Unesco-listed *begijnhof* and a remarkable astronomical clock speckled with planets and dials.



## Dawdling on the Back Roads

This driving trip takes in some of Belgium's more off-beat cities and its most charming rural corners. Starting from the airport in either Brussels or Charleroi, pick up a rental car and drive via Napoleon's **Waterloo** to museum-rich **Mons**, which was Europe's cultural capital back in 2015. Continue via **Aulne** abbey ruins and the 'hanging gardens' of **Thuin** to spend two nights in or around the pretty little castle town of **Chimay**, famed for its beer. Tootle on along the pretty lanes to **Mariembourg** and very attractive **Nismes**, possibly taking the steam train. Visit the splendid gardens of **Freyr** and the fabulous caves at **Han-sur-Lesse** or less commercial versions at **Rochefort**, which is home to another Trappist brewery and some fine local accommodation. From Rochefort drive down to **Bouillon** with its looming Crusader castle ruin, and kayak along some of Belgium's loveliest wooded valleys around **Vresse-sur-Semois**. Follow the Semois Valley in both directions enjoying the panoramas at **Rochehaut** and **Tombeau du Géant**.

Head northeast to visit the excellent war museum at **Bastogne**, then cut across through thick forests via St-Hubert and the impressive open-air museum of **Fourneau St-Michel** to **La Roche-en-Ardenne**, with its castle ghost and sad but fascinating WWII history. Famed for its long-nosed carnival characters, attractive **Stavelot** makes a good base for outdoor activities organised at nearby **Coo**. Or sleep in cathedral-town **Malmédy** and visit the WWII museum at **Baugnez** before making a day-hike on the **Hautes Fagnes**. Stop for coffee and pastries in **Eupen**, Belgium's only really Germanic city, or for a beer in delightful little **Limbourg** en route to underrated **Verviers**, a once-grand city with an excellent new chocolate museum. Lovely country lanes lead on to beautiful **Val-Dieu** monastery and nearby **Blegny**, where you can descend into Belgium's last accessible coal mine. After a dose of boistrous, big-city action in sprawling **Liège** comes quieter, appealing **Tongeren**, Belgium's 'oldest' town and then the Roman road to attractive **Sint-Truiden**. Wander the pretty Haspengouw lanes and peruse the remarkable church in **Zoutleeuw** plus more Roman remnants in **Tienen** before spending your last night in the lively student city of **Leuven**.



5 DAYS

## Lovable Luxembourg

Little Luxembourg makes an unexpectedly complete destination. Accommodation prices in Luxembourg City fall dramatically at weekends, while midweek is better for the rural castle villages, with smaller crowds and less traffic on the country lanes.

Arrive in **Luxembourg City** on Friday afternoon to make the most of the city's nightlife, particularly at Rives de Clausen within a former brewery. Buy a Luxembourg Card on Saturday if you're planning to see all of the main museums, or just stroll the city ramparts and gorges. On Monday strike out for **Echternach**, either via **Larochette** or through the **Moselle wine country**. Hike in the Müllerthal micro-canyons then head to **Diekirch** to learn about Luxembourg's WWII history at the country's national military museum. Consider visiting **Bourscheid** to admire one of the Grand Duchy's most impressive medieval castle ruins and its 17th-century neighbour. Head to **Vianden**, whose restored fortress looms above the town, reached by a chairlift. Travel on to pretty **Clervaux**, whose castle contains Edward Steichen's World Heritage-listed photography exhibition *Family of Man*, then continue to Liège in Belgium or return to Luxembourg City.



7 DAYS

## Belgian Beer Tour

You could claim cultural motivations for touring Belgium's monasteries and historic towns, pretending that you're only tasting the local brews out of politeness along the way. But do sign up a patient designated driver – some of these magnificent monster-brews tip the scales at 10% or more.

Start in **Brussels** by paying respects at L'Arbre d'Or, the brewers' guild building on the Grand Place. Learn about lambics at Cantillon brewery, then let beer teach you local history at Het Anker in **Mechelen**.

While exploring the hop-growing region of western Flanders, the ultimate beer pilgrimage is to Sint-Sixtus Abbey at **Westvleteren**, home to the rarest of Trappist brews. Compare it with a St-Bernardus Tripel sipped in nearby **Watou**.

Time your arrival at **Pipaix** to coincide with a visit to the steam brewery. Then continue into the rural Botte du Hainaut area, home to legendary **Chimay** Trappist beer, and the Fagnes brewery at **Mariembourg**.

Belgium's southeast holds a brewery-monastery at **Orval** and **Achouffe**. Heading back to Brussels, visit **Val-Dieu** brew-abbey and try some white beer at **Hoegaarden**.

# Directory A-Z

## Accessible Travel

Progressive tourism management bodies have produced a wealth of information to help those with a disability to plan and enjoy a stay. Naturally, all those cobblestones are a literal pain in the derrière for wheelchair users, but the country is well endowed with kerb cuts, tactile paving, audible signals at pedestrian crossings and wheelchair-accessible taxis. Most major museums are accessible, particularly in Flanders, but the caves and castle ruins of rural Wallonia and Luxembourg are never likely to be.

## Accommodation

Accommodation availability varies markedly by season and area. From May to September occupancy is very high (especially at weekends) along the Belgian coast and in Bruges, with the Ardennes also packed during July and August and on sunny weekends. However, those same weekends you'll find business-centred hotels

cutting prices in cities like Brussels, Luxembourg, Liège and Mechelen. Many options include breakfast. National taxes are invariably included in quoted prices, but several towns add a small additional *stadsbelasting/taxe de séjour* (city tourist tax), which might add a euro or three per head to the tally.

## Camping, Caravan Parks & Hikers' Huts

Camping and caravan facilities are plentiful, especially in the Ardennes. Typical rates are compounded from per-person, per-car and per-site fees. For those with small tents, it is sometimes cheaper to arrive without a reservation, assuming space remains. But for those with a caravan, booking ahead is wise, especially in summer. Many sites close from October to April.

Simple wood-cabin accommodation for walkers is available in much of the region; they're known as *wanderhütten* in Luxembourg and *trekkershutten* ([www.trekkershutten.nl](http://www.trekkershutten.nl)) in Flanders. They're often attached to campgrounds or provin-

cial recreation parks. Most have basic cooking facilities, charge an extra fee for electricity/heating and limit stays to a maximum of four nights.

## Gîtes & Apartments

A great family option, particularly in rural areas, is to rent an apartment or especially a holiday home, with some options on farms or in castles, converted stables or historic buildings. In Flanders such places are often known as *landelijk verblijf*; in Wallonia as *gîtes ruraux*.

Rentals are typically, but not always, by the week and for the whole building, with prices varying by season, number of occupants and house standards. There is often an extra cleaning cost that's charged per stay. Don't confuse a *gîte rural* with a *gîte d'étape*, which in Belgium is essentially a hostel, albeit sometimes limited to group bookings.

Paid homestays and rentals are available through the usual house-sharing services.

## Hostels

Hostels (*jeugdherbergen* in Dutch; *auberges de jeunesse* in French) generally charge from €18 to €28 for a dorm bed, including sheets and basic breakfast. Neither towels nor soap are usually included. Lockers are often included, but you'll frequently need your own padlock to use them. A few of the cheapest private hostels charge

## BOOK YOUR STAY ONLINE

For more accommodation reviews by Lonely Planet authors, check out <http://lonelyplanet.com/hotels/>. You'll find independent reviews, as well as recommendations on the best places to stay. Best of all, you can book online.

extra for sheets. At Hostelling International (HI) affiliated hostels, rates are cheaper for under-30s in Flanders, or for under-26s in Wallonia. HI members also save €2 to €3 per night – so if planning to stay at a few hostels, you can save money by joining your country's HI association before leaving home.

Gîtes d'étape are aimed primarily at school kids and youth groups (typically a minimum of 20 people), but eight of them operate exactly like youth hostels with bunk beds at bargain prices. In lieu of membership there's a €3-per-stay fee in addition to quoted costs.

Hostels are unstaffed at night, have limited check-in times and might close in midwinter (or longer).

## Hotels

Belgium's hotel classification system awards stars for facilities (lifts, room service, dogs allowed etc), so it doesn't necessarily reflect overall quality. Prices for a room (*kamer/chambre* in Dutch/French) often vary to fit demand, sometimes by as much as 300%. Check-in time is rarely before 2pm. Smaller hotels seldom have 24-hour reception, so if you plan to arrive late, be sure to note key-codes or make necessary alternative arrangements.

## Motels

If you're driving and don't mind dreadfully banal locations in outer suburbs, Campanile ([www.campanile.com](http://www.campanile.com)) has simple motels off motorways near Ghent, Liège, Brussels and Brussels Airport. Ibis Budget ([www.accorhotels.com](http://www.accorhotels.com)) has nine simple, low-cost Belgian properties, most of them close to train stations and airports.

## Booking Services

It's worth booking accommodation ahead, especially B&Bs and smaller hotels, which don't always have receptions.

**Hostels** ([www.lesaubergesdejeunesse.be](http://www.lesaubergesdejeunesse.be), [www.youthhostels.be](http://www.youthhostels.be), <https://youthhostels.lu>) Hostelling International-affiliated sites for Wallonia, Flanders and Luxembourg respectively.

**Gîtes d'Étape** ([www.gitesdetape.be](http://www.gitesdetape.be)) Hostel-style accommodation in Belgium.

**Bed&Breakfast BeNeLux** (<http://bedandbreakfast.be>) Official B&B listings.

**Gîtes** ([www.gitesdewallonie.be](http://www.gitesdewallonie.be), [www.gites.lu](http://www.gites.lu)) For rural holiday lettings in Wallonia and Luxembourg respectively.

**Logeren in Vlaanderen** ([www.logereninvlaanderen.be](http://www.logereninvlaanderen.be)) Apartments and holiday homes in rural Flanders.

**Camping.be** (<https://www.camping.be>) Campground finder.

**Camping Wallonia** (<https://campingbelgique.be>) Wallonian campgrounds listed by commune.

**Camping Luxembourg** ([www.camping.lu](http://www.camping.lu)) Campgrounds in the Grand Duchy.

## Activities

Belgium, and to a lesser extent Luxembourg, are delightful for cyclists, an unexpected discovery for long-distance walkers and a charming place for beginner kayakers to put gentle beauty above high-adrenaline white water. Most activities are well set up for families with children.

## Cycling

As the homeland of the world's first cycling superstar, Eddy Merckx, it's no surprise that Belgium is a place that's passionate about cycling whether as a spectator sport, as a functional means of low-impact transport, or as an activity for both fitness and touring.

Belgium has excellent networks of well-signed bicycle paths and minor lanes linked together to maximise the possibilities for cyclists. Keyed maps and booklets are almost always available in local tourist offices.

## SLEEPING PRICE RANGES

Ranges are based on the cost of a double room in high season.

€ less than €60

€€ €60–140

€€€ more than €140

In Flanders consult incredibly extensive [www.fietsroute.org](http://www.fietsroute.org) or buy the multilingual book *Topogids Vlaanderen Fietsroute*, which compiles over 60 detailed 1:50,000 route maps and relevant accommodation options. There are downloadable versions.

Wallonia's networks of cycle paths, RAVeL (Réseau Autonome de Voies Lentes; <http://ravel.wallonie.be>) and Rando-Vélo ([www.randovelo.org](http://www.randovelo.org)) often use canal or river towpaths and former railway tracks rebuilt with hard surfaces. Rando-Vélo sells a range of guide maps.

## CYCLE-PATH SIGNAGE

Flanders, along with the Netherlands, shares a single system of LF cycle routes that are assiduously marked. Most helpfully, the routes use a series of numbered turn points (*knooppunten* – literally 'intersections'; sometimes translated as 'nodes'), reassuring cyclists that they are at the right place on a planned route. A cyclist can then remember a '*knooppuntroute*' as a simple string of two-digit numbers.

Signs are typically green-on-white or white-on-blue, with the number of the specific *knooppunt* plus those others nearby and ringed with arrows to show direction.

In the Germanophone Eastern Cantons, *knooppunten* are known as *knotenpunkten*, and over 180 are marked with VeloTour signage using orange arrows on white backgrounds.

## Golf

To find one of Belgium's numerous golf courses, use the website [www.golfbelgium.be](http://www.golfbelgium.be) and select *Cherchez un club* / *Zoek een golfclub* in the French/Dutch version.

## Hiking

Crossing southern Belgium, you'll find various long-distance footpaths called Sentiers de Grande Randonnée ([www.grsentiers.org](http://www.grsentiers.org)), along with countless shorter trails for afternoon rambles. Most are well signposted and keyed to topographical hiking maps sold by tourist offices, which can offer plenty of advice to walkers. In flat Flanders, hiking routes typically follow countryside bicycle paths where you must be careful to give way to cyclists. Though mostly located in the

Netherlands, some *trekker-shutten* ([www.trekkershutten.nl](http://www.trekkershutten.nl)) are located within Flanders offering simple accommodation to walkers.

## Rock Climbing

BelClimb (<http://en.belclimb.be>) is a superb resource for climbers, offering exhaustive links to climbing guides, a searchable map of Belgium's indoor-climbing practice gyms and details of local competitions.

## Skiing

Belgium might be the last country that springs to mind for skiers, but when the white stuff does fall, the E411 highway road rapidly fills up with wannabe skiers hurrying to the Ardennes area before it all melts again. Most such skiing is cross-country

(*langlaufen*) on woodland tracks, but there are also a handful of modest downhill pistes, notably near Ofivat on the edge of the Haute Fagnes. Dutch-language site Ardennen Sneeuw ([www.ardennen-sneeuw.be](http://www.ardennen-sneeuw.be)) gives snow conditions at all the major Ardennes ski areas.

## Customs Regulations

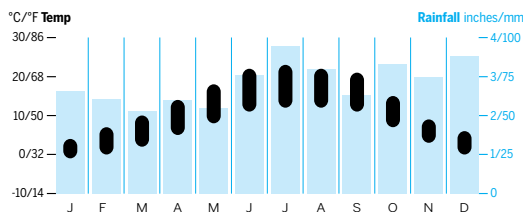
For goods purchased outside the EU, the following duty-free allowances apply:

**Tobacco** 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or 250g of loose tobacco  
**Alcohol** 1L of spirits (more than 22% alcohol by volume) or 2L light liquor (less than 22% abv); 4L of wine; 16L of beer  
**Perfume** 50g of perfume and 0.25L of eau de toilette

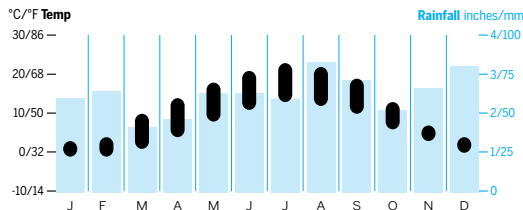
Crossing an EU border, you can carry unlimited quantities as long as it's for personal use: expect questions if you are found to be carrying more than 800 cigarettes, 200 cigars or 1kg of loose tobacco; 10L of spirits, 20L of fortified wine or aperitif, 90L of wine or 110L of beer.

## Climate

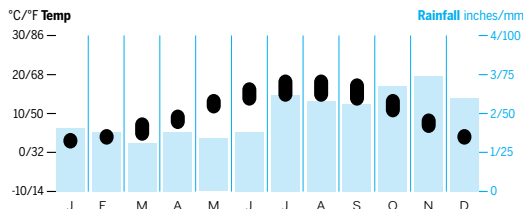
### Brussels



### Luxembourg City



### Ostend



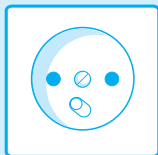
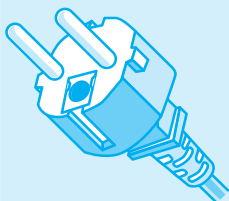
## Discount Cards

Museums and sights typically offer small discounts to seniors (those over 65, sometimes over 60) and often give bigger discounts to those under 26. Accompanied children (typically under 12, sometimes under 18) generally pay even less or go free. Students with an ISIC (International Student Identity Card) might, but won't always, qualify for the 'concession rate' (usually the same as seniors). Bigger Belgian cities offer discounted passes to a selection of municipally owned sights, and many have one day a month when key museums are free.

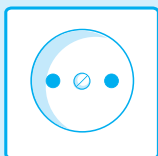
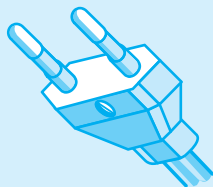
The highly worthwhile Luxembourg Card ([www.visitluxembourg.com](http://www.visitluxembourg.com); 1-/2-/3-day adult €13/20/28, family €28/48/68) gives

free admission to 76 of the country's top attractions, discounts on several others, plus unlimited use of public transport countrywide. Family tickets cover two adults and three children. You'll save money if visiting more than two museums or castles a day. Purchase it online, from tourist offices, museums, campgrounds and hotels.

## Electricity



**Type E**  
220V/50Hz



**Type C**  
220V/50Hz

## Food

For more on food see the Creative Cuisine chapter (p280).

## Health

Travel in Belgium and Luxembourg presents very few health problems. The standard of care is extremely high; English is widely spoken by doctors and medical clinic staff.

## Pharmacies

For minor self-limiting illnesses you might save a doctor's fee by asking advice at a pharmacy (*apothek*/*pharmacie* in Dutch/French). Most are open from about 8.30am to 7pm Monday to Friday, plus Saturday mornings.

At night or on weekends special 'duty' pharmacies charge higher prices. Use these websites to find which one is open when:

**Belgian Pharmacies** ([www.pharmacie.be](http://www.pharmacie.be); search *Apotheek van Wacht* in Dutch or *Pharmacie de Garde* in French)

**Luxembourg Pharmacies** ([www.pharmacie.lu/service\\_de\\_garde](http://www.pharmacie.lu/service_de_garde))

## Insurance

Paying for your airline ticket with a credit card often provides limited travel accident insurance, and you may be able to reclaim the payment if the operator doesn't deliver. However, a fuller travel insurance policy is recommended to cover theft, personal liability, loss and medical problems. Many policies also cover cancellation or delays in travel arrangements; eg, if you fall seriously ill two days before departure. Buy such insurance as early as possible: if you buy it the week before you are due to fly, you might find that you're not covered for delays caused, for example, by strikes that had been

## EATING PRICE RANGES

The following price ranges are based on the cost of a typical main course.

€ less than €15

€€ €15–€25

€€€ more than €25

planned before you took out the insurance.

Browse extensively online to find the best rates, ensuring that all sports and activities are covered and comparing excesses as well as just the premiums. Be sure to check the small print. Multi-trip policies are often good value if you're making more than one annual trip.

Although EU nationals qualify for reciprocal health care in Belgium and Luxembourg, doctors and hospitals generally expect payment up front, so medical cover remains important. Make sure you get a policy that covers you for the worst possible scenario, and check whether your insurance plan will make payments directly to providers or reimburse you later for overseas health expenditures.

Worldwide travel insurance is available at [www.lonelyplanet.com/travel-insurance](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/travel-insurance). You can buy, extend and claim online anytime – even if you're already on the road.

## Internet Access

Wi-fi access is widespread; nearly all hotels, as well as many restaurants, cafes and bars, offer free customer access.

If you've got an unlocked smartphone, you can pick up a local SIM card for a few euros and charge it with a month's worth of data at a decent speed for under €20.

Internet cafes – often doubling as call-shops – do still exist but are increasingly rare; ask at the local tourist office.

## Legal Matters

You are legally required to carry either a passport or a national identity card at all times, though a photocopy should suffice.

Should you be arrested you have the right to ask for your consul to be immediately notified.

For extensive information on the Belgian legal system (in French), see [www.belgium.be/fr/justice](http://www.belgium.be/fr/justice). For Luxembourg, [www.police.public.lu](http://www.police.public.lu) is informative, while website [www.barreau.lu](http://www.barreau.lu) lists lawyers who speak multiple languages.

## LGBT+ Travellers

Attitudes are pretty laid-back. Same-sex couples have been able to wed legally in Belgium since 2003, and since 2006 have had the same rights enjoyed by heterosexual couples, including inheritance and adoption. Luxembourg legalised same-sex marriage in 2015, and prime minister Xavier Bettel soon took advantage to tie the knot himself.

## Money

Credit cards are widely accepted. ATMs are very prevalent but currency-exchange offices are rare.

## Opening Hours

Many sights close on Monday. Restaurants normally close one or two full days per week. Opening hours for shops, bars and cafes vary widely.

**Banks** 8.30am–3.30pm or later Monday to Friday, some also Saturday morning

**Bars** 10am–1am, but hours very flexible

**Restaurants** noon–2pm and 7pm–9.30pm

**Shops** 10am–6.30pm Monday to Saturday, sometimes closed for an hour at lunchtime

## Post

Websites of the postal agencies in Belgium ([www.bpost.be](http://www.bpost.be)) and Luxembourg ([www.post.lu](http://www.post.lu)) list post office locations and postal rates. In Belgium there are small discounts if you buy stamps in multiples of five. Post offices are usually counters within other shops.

## Public Holidays

**New Year's Day** 1 January

**Easter Monday** March/April

**Labour Day** 1 May

**Iris Day** 8 May (Brussels region only)

**Ascension Day** 39 days after Easter Sunday (always a Thursday)

**Pentecost (Whit Monday)** 50 days after Easter Sunday

**Luxembourg National Day** 23 June (Luxembourg)

**Flemish Community Day** 11 July (Flanders only)

**Belgium National Day** 21 July (Belgium)

**Assumption Day** 15 August

**Francophone Community Day** 27 September (Wallonia only)

**All Saints' Day** 1 November

**Armistice Day** 11 November (Belgium)

**Christmas Day** 25 December

## Safe Travel

Belgium's traffic jams, poorly maintained roads and bad driving practices combine to make motoring taxing by European standards.

According to a 2015 EU report, the country is statistically the most dangerous place in Western Europe in terms of road deaths per million citizens.

## Telephone

When calling from abroad, dial the country code (+32 Belgium, +352 Luxembourg) and the full number without an extra area code, dropping the initial 0 for Belgian numbers. The international dial-out code is 00.

## Mobile Phones

There are no roaming charges within the EU. If you're travelling from outside the EU, the cheapest and most practical solution for making calls and using data is usually to purchase a cheaply available local SIM card but check before departure that your home network has unlocked your phone.

## PRACTICALITIES

**Media** Keep up to date with English-language news weekly *The Bulletin* ([www.thebulletin.be](http://www.thebulletin.be)), or bimonthly *The Word* (<http://thewordmagazine.com>), which is especially helpful with arts and culture listings.

**Weights & Measures** Both countries use the metric system. Decimals are indicated with commas, while thousands are separated with dots (full stops).

## Time

Clocks run on Central European Time (GMT/UTC plus one hour), moving forward one hour for daylight-saving time on the last Sunday in March, and reverting on the last Sunday in October. That makes Brussels an

hour ahead of London and (usually) six hours ahead of New York.

The 24-hour clock is used.

## Toilets

Museums and restaurants are well provided for, but cafe toilets sometimes leave a lot to be desired, and stand-alone public toilets can be infuriatingly hard to find. Facilities at train stations and motorway service areas often incur a charge.

## Tourist Information

Marked with an easily identifiable white-on-green 'i' symbol, almost every town and village has its own tourist office known as *dienst voor toerisme*, *toeristische dienst* or simply *toerisme*

in Flanders; and *maison du tourisme*, *office du tourisme* or *syndicat d'initiative* in Wallonia and Luxembourg.

Most give away brochures and accommodation listings, sell detailed walking/cycling maps and local products, and can often arrange guided tours on your behalf.

Useful contacts:

**Visit Brussels** (<https://visit.brussels/en>)

**Visit Flanders** ([www.visitflanders.com](http://www.visitflanders.com))

**Visit Wallonia** (<http://walloniabelgiumtourism.co.uk>)

**Visit Luxembourg** ([www.visitluxembourg.com](http://www.visitluxembourg.com))

## Visas

EU citizens can stay indefinitely; many other nationals can enter visa-free for up to 90 days.

## Work

Foreigners other than EU, EEA and Swiss nationals generally require a permit to work in Belgium or Luxembourg. These are issued by the regional authorities. For more information search [www.werk.be](http://www.werk.be) for Flanders, <http://emploi.wallonie.be> for Wallonia, <http://werk-economie-emploi.brussels> for Brussels and [www.luxembourg.public.lu](http://www.luxembourg.public.lu) for Luxembourg.

Self-employed individuals or employers sending staff on short-term contracts in Belgium need to register through [www.limosabe.be](http://www.limosabe.be).

A high percentage of Luxembourg's workforce is made up of cross-border workers ([www.lesfrontaliers.lu](http://www.lesfrontaliers.lu)) who live in neighbouring countries.

# Transport

## GETTING THERE & AWAY

Belgium and Luxembourg are easily accessed from Europe and beyond. There are direct flights and international buses from numerous destinations and a comprehensive rail network connecting to locations across the continent.

Flights, car hire and tours can be booked online at [lonelyplanet.com/bookings](http://lonelyplanet.com/bookings).

## Entering the Region

As part of the Schengen group of countries, there are no passport checks on any of the nations' land borders. If you fly in or arrive by ferry from the UK, passports (and visas, if required) need to be shown, but there is rarely any great delay if all paperwork is in order.

## Air

Brussels is Belgium's most globally connected airport and the hub for the country's biggest carrier Brussels Airlines ([www.brusselsairlines.com](http://www.brusselsairlines.com)). Charleroi airport, sometimes misleadingly described as Brussels-South, attracts budget airlines. Luxembourg Airport, home to Luxair ([www.luxair.lu](http://www.luxair.lu)), Luxembourg's national carrier, has many connections to major destinations across Europe. Antwerp's small airport offers mostly business shuttle flights to the UK and Germany, while Liège and Ostend airports focus mainly on cargo plus summer charter flights.

For long-haul flights it can be worth comparing costs with flying into neighbouring countries via Frankfurt, Amsterdam or Paris, for example, then continuing on by land.

## Land

Trains are generally faster but more expensive than buses, though price depends greatly on how early you book. If driving from the southeast, fill your petrol tank in Luxembourg for low prices. Only in exceptional circumstances are there border controls at crossings between neighbouring countries.

## Bus

### LONG DISTANCE

Long-distance international buses almost always require advance booking. Book as far ahead as possible for the best fares, which can be remarkable bargains. The two biggest players are Eurolines ([www.eurolines.eu](http://www.eurolines.eu)) and Flixbus ([www.flixbus.be](http://www.flixbus.be)), both with wide networks from Brussels and other cities, including links to Amsterdam (via Antwerp), Berlin, Paris and London (via Bruges and/or Ghent). Ecolines ([www](http://www)).

## CLIMATE CHANGE & TRAVEL

Every form of transport that relies on carbon-based fuel generates CO<sub>2</sub>, the main cause of human-induced climate change. Modern travel is dependent on aeroplanes, which might use less fuel per kilometre per person than most cars but travel much greater distances. The altitude at which aircraft emit gases (including CO<sub>2</sub>) and particles also contributes to their climate change impact. Many websites offer 'carbon calculators' that allow people to estimate the carbon emissions generated by their journey and, for those who wish to do so, to offset the impact of the greenhouse gases emitted with contributions to portfolios of climate-friendly initiatives throughout the world. Lonely Planet offsets the carbon footprint of all staff and author travel.

ecolines.net) specialises in mostly Baltic and Eastern European destinations. IC Bus ([www.bahn.com](http://www.bahn.com)) has a two-hour Liège–Maastricht–Düsseldorf service. Flibco ([www.flibco.com](http://www.flibco.com)) runs long-distance airport shuttles between Charleroi and Luxembourg airports with handy stops in Namur, Bastogne and Arlon.

## REGIONAL

A few local and city bus companies operate cross-border services, such as De Panne/Adinkerke–Dunkerque and Tilburg–Turnhout. Used mostly by locals, these are rarely well publicised to visitors.

## Car & Motorcycle

- ➔ Northern Europe is one vast web of motorways, so Belgium is easily accessed from anywhere.
- ➔ There's no problem bringing foreign vehicles into Belgium, provided you have registration papers and valid insurance ('Green Card').
- ➔ Most car-hire companies in other EU nations won't have a problem with you taking their car into Belgium, but check rental conditions before you do so.
- ➔ Be aware that, as in France, the *priorité à droite* rule gives right of way to vehicles emerging from the right even from a small side lane, unless otherwise indicated.
- ➔ City centres in most larger Flemish cities are increasingly pedestrianised and can be awkward if not inaccessible for motorists. Ideally park outside and shuttle in.

## Train

Useful resources include the following:

**[www.b-europe.com](http://www.b-europe.com)** Belgian Railways' international site.

**[www.cfl.lu](http://www.cfl.lu)** Luxembourg's joint railway-bus network.

**[www.seat61.com](http://www.seat61.com)** An invaluable compendium of advice when planning European train trips.

**[www.loco2.com](http://www.loco2.com)** A useful website for comparing routes and times and buying tickets.

## HIGH-SPEED TRAINS

High-speed trains offer fast, easy connections between Brussels and London, and to the broader French, Dutch and German networks, but such trains require seat reservations and can prove expensive if demand is high. Advance-purchase discounts can be massive, though you'll usually forfeit the right to changes.

## ORDINARY TRAINS

Less-publicised ordinary IC trains do still run, most usefully on routes Antwerp–Amsterdam, Antwerp–Roosendaal, Kortrijk/Tournai–Lille, Spa–Aachen and Liège–Maastricht. Using these routes combined with domestic tickets is slower but usually far cheaper than high-speed services for last-minute journeys. There are no assigned seats, but if purchasing ex-Belgium, it's still worth booking online and printing your own ticket (or using the e-ticket app when available) to save the cheeky €6 in-station international ticketing fee.

## Sea

At the time of research, there was only one ferry service operating from Belgium: the twice-weekly P&O ([www.po-ferries.com](http://www.po-ferries.com)) Zeebrugge–Hull service (14 hours, overnight).

Quicker ways to reach the UK use the French Channel ports. From Calais, around an hour's drive west of Ostend, the drive-on tunnel trains of Eurotunnel ([www.eurotunnel.com](http://www.eurotunnel.com)) take 35 minutes to Folkestone, departing about twice an hour. Usually less expensive but taking around 90 minutes are the ferry services to Dover run by P&O and DFDS ([www.dfdsseaway.co.uk](http://www.dfdsseaway.co.uk)). DFDS also sails to Dover from Dunkerque (two hours), but though

Dunkerque is nearer Belgium, the port is awkwardly located, so going via Calais can prove faster overall.

Tips:

- ➔ Same-day returns, sometimes valid for one night and two days, can be vastly cheaper than one-way tickets. However, you MUST use the return section as planned or else you become liable for a hefty supplement that gets charged to your credit card.
- ➔ Fares can vary enormously but usually include up to five passengers per car.
- ➔ The cheapest ferry deals insist on you sticking to a specific sailing time.
- ➔ Arrive around an hour before your booked departure to allow time for security clearance.

## GETTING AROUND

In Belgium, most trains are run by a single national company NMBS/SNCB ([www.b-rail.be](http://www.b-rail.be)) but buses have three regional operators plus a few long distance private companies. Luxembourg has a single one-price domestic ticket system: wherever you go by public transport within the country, the price is the same – €2 for up to two hours or €4 for the day. Mobilitééit ([www.mobiliteit.lu](http://www.mobiliteit.lu)) has a handy Luxembourg journey planner.

## Air

Speedy trains and short distances mean that there are no domestic scheduled flights.

## Bicycle

**Bicycle on train** In Belgium pay €5/8 for one journey/whole day. In Luxembourg bikes travel free if space permits.

## MOBIB

The MOBIB card is an electronic purse akin to the OysterCard in London or the OV-Chipkaart in the Netherlands, allowing contactless payment for public transport. There are two types:

- ➔ A personalised MOBIB is valid on all three of Belgium's bus-tram networks and on Belgian trains. Soon all season tickets will require one.
- ➔ Anonymous MOBIB Basic cards (€5, valid five years) are worth buying if you'll make more than 10 rides on STIB transport (in Brussels) or TEC buses (Wallonia).

**Bike helmets** Not a legal requirement for cyclists and generally not worn by adults.

**Rental** City bikes and electric bikes can easily be hired in many cities: for Belgium, [www.fietspunten.be](http://www.fietspunten.be) gives many useful contacts.

## Belgium's Blue Bikes

While some train stations rent bicycles 'manually', around 50 in Belgium (plus some park-and-ride car parks) use the good-value, members-only Blue Bike scheme ([www.blue-bike.be](http://www.blue-bike.be)). Online membership costs €12 per year and you should ideally sign up well in advance, though if you can't, it's possible to join at around 20 major station outlets during working hours for €18.30. As a member you can make 24-hour hires for €1.15 at most outlets, or €3.15 in a few bigger city stations (two bicycles per member is possible). Return the bike(s) to the same station.

## Short-Hop Bicycle Hire

Several cities including Brussels, Luxembourg and Antwerp operate bike-hop schemes. Grab a bicycle from the nearest automated stand, ride towards your destination then drop it off at the nearest empty stand. As long as you return it within 30 minutes, hire charges are minimal or nil, but if you keep the bike longer, fees accrue rapidly on your credit card: so keep changing bikes if you

want to ride around town all day.

➔ To start, use a credit card to buy a membership or day pass, usually online.

➔ You'll receive a swipe card or PIN code that releases a bike when you need one.

➔ When returning a bike, double-check that the return has been registered to avoid charges. If there is a hitch when returning, phone the helpline immediately.

➔ Download the app, which gives real-time info as to which stands are full or empty.

➔ If you arrive at a full stand and so can't drop off the bike (not uncommon on Saturday nights in popular nightlife areas), enter your code and you should get an extra five minutes to find an alternative.

In Hasselt, Mechelen and Kortrijk, **Mobit** ([www.mobit.eu](http://www.mobit.eu); 1/2/3/4hr hires €1.35/3.30/5.70/8.70) short-hop bikes use a QR-coded key-release system activated by smartphone using the app. Your account is debited per 20 minutes of usage.

## Boat

Antwerp, Namur and Liège have short-hop passenger services on limited stretches of river. Other boat trips, like the Bruges–Damme run, tend to be taken as a tour rather than as transport.

## Bus

Longer-distance bus journeys tend to be slow and circuitous. Where bus and train options link the same two cities, the bus is usually cheaper but far slower. In Belgium a single ticket is valid for transfers for up to an hour after the ticket's validation (or 90 minutes for TEC Horizon), plus however long the final leg of your ride takes. In some rural areas buses are on-demand only, so you must phone ahead (details vary).

Bus frequency is highest on school days. Fewer operate on Saturday, while Sunday services can be scant or nonexistent. Some rural buses don't operate at all during school holidays (including the whole of July and August).

## Flanders

Bus and tram networks are operated by **De Lijn** (high toll 070-220200; [www.delijn.be/en](http://www.delijn.be/en)). When purchased aboard, virtually any single ticket costs €3 (notes of €20 or above are not accepted; express buses 68, 178 and 179 cost more). Tickets are cheaper if purchased by smartphone: €1.80 using the De Lijn app or €2.15 by texting 'DL' to 4884 (from a Belgian SIM card).

Passes offering unlimited bus and tram travel anywhere in Flanders cost €6/12/17 for one/three/five calendar days. The one-day pass can be purchased on board (adult/child €8/4), or you can get a 24-hour M-Pass by smartphone: €6 through the app, or €6.15 by texting DLD to 4884.

## Wallonia

**TEC** ([www.infotec.be](http://www.infotec.be)) buses have three basic single-ticket types:

**Next** (€2.50) allows travel within a two-zone area (<https://tinyurl.com/TEC-Zone>), allowing transfers within 60 minutes.

**Horizon** (€3.50) allows transfers within 90 minutes on the whole TEC network, except for express buses.

**Horizon+** (€5.50) is for express buses. You'll save €0.50 per ticket if you use a MOBIB Card (p300), payable online through <https://eshop.infotec.be>.

One-day go-anywhere passes cost €10/8 without/with MOBIB. Three-day passes cost €16 for MOBIB-holders.

## Car & Motorcycle

For visiting rural Belgium, especially in the hills of Wallonia, having your own wheels will transform your experience, as many attractions are awkward to reach by public transport. However, in Bruges, Ghent, Brussels and Antwerp (which requires LEZ registration (p164)), a car will generally prove an encumbrance: you'll spend more time finding parking than actually driving anywhere.

While Belgium's motorway system is extensive and toll-free, traffic often grinds to a halt, especially on the ring roads around Brussels and Antwerp (at rush hour, September to June), on the Brussels–Ghent–Ostend highway (sunny weekends) and on the Ardennes-bound E411 (holidays and snowy weekends). Seemingly interminable repairs also result in frequent diversions and long traffic jams.

## Hitching & Ride Sharing

Hitching can be a good way of meeting locals but is never entirely safe, and Lonely Planet does not recommend it. Travellers who hitch should understand that they are taking a small but potentially serious risk.

Long-distance ride sharing is widespread in Northern Europe: Blablacar ([www.blablacar.com](http://www.blablacar.com)) is probably the most popular app/web-site for posting and searching for rides.

## Local Transport

Major cities have efficient public transport – mostly buses but also metro and trams in Brussels and Antwerp. Services don't run all night.

## Train

Belgium's trains are run by NMBS/SNCB ([www.belgianrail.be](http://www.belgianrail.be)), and Luxembourg's by **CFL** ([www.cfl.lu](http://www.cfl.lu)).

## Ticket Tips

◆ Tickets should be pre-purchased at ticket offices or ticket machines, or online (website or app). Buying once aboard will incur a €7 surcharge.

➔ Check online first for advance-purchase specials.

➔ Single tickets are priced by kilometre, but there's a higher fee for Thalys trains, which must be pre-reserved.

➔ For under-26s, a Go-Pass 1 costs €6.40 and allows any one-way trip within Belgium. Pay €52 for 10 tickets or €8.20 for one that adds Roosendaal or Maastricht in the Netherlands. Return tickets are normally twice the price of singles except:

➔ on weekends from 7pm Friday, when a return ticket getting back by Sunday night costs 75% of the price of two singles or less.

➔ for seniors (over 65), who pay just €6 for a return

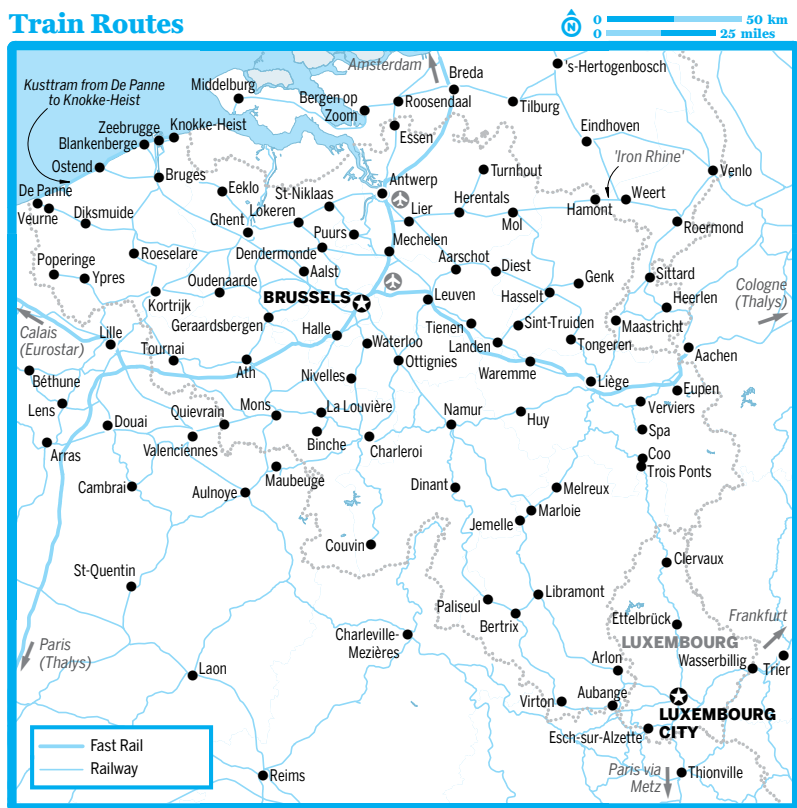
## PLACE NAMES

Frequently, road signs in Belgium give only the Dutch or French rendering of town names. This can be very confusing for foreigners. Some key ones to be aware of:

ENGLISH OR OTHER	DUTCH	FRENCH
Aachen* (G)	Aken	Aix-la-Chapelle
Antwerp	Antwerpen*	Anvers
Bruges	Brugge*	Bruges
Brussels	Brussel*	Bruxelles*
Courtrai	Kortrijk*	Courtrai
Jodoigne	Geldenaken	Jodoigne*
Köln*/Cologne (G)	Keulen	Cologne
Leuven/Louvain	Leuven*	Louvain
Lille* (F)	Rijsel	Lille
Mechelen/Mechlin	Mechelen*	Malines
Namur	Namen	Namur*
Nivelles	Nijvel	Nivelles*
Mons	Bergen	Mons*
Paris* (F)	Parijs	Paris
Roeselare	Roeselare*	Roulers
The Hague (N)	Den Haag*	La Haye
Tournai	Doornik	Tournai*
Trier* (G)	Trier	Trèves
Veurne	Veurne*	Furnes
Ypres	Ieper*	Ypres

\* Name as used locally; (F) place is in France; (G) place is in Germany; (N) place is in the Netherlands

## Train Routes



2nd-class day trip anywhere in Belgium. Valid for travel after 9am weekdays or any weekend except mid-July to mid-August.

### CHILDREN & YOUTH FARES

In Luxembourg, anyone under 20 travels free. In Belgium, children under 12 travel free when accompanied by an adult. Families travelling with three kids or more pay half price for over-12s (including adults) too. For student fare passes in Belgium you'll generally need a MOBIB card (p300).

### Train Passes

Various passes, notably InterRail ([www.interrail.eu](http://www.interrail.eu)) for Europeans and Eurail ([www.eurail.com](http://www.eurail.com)) for non-Europeans

have options including Benelux (Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands), but you'll still need to pay supplements and reservation costs for high-speed services. Just to visit Belgium, the Go Pass and Rail Pass options are generally a much better deal, while in school holidays Go Unlimited is an utter bargain for the under-26s.

### GO PASS & RAIL PASS

**Rail Pass** Ten one-way trips anywhere in Belgium (except to/from border stations) for those over 26 years cost €118/77 for 1st/2nd class. Transfers en route are permitted, but not stopovers (ie you're supposed to take the first feasible connection). Before

getting aboard you must write into the space provided the start and end stations plus the date. Valid for one year, the pass is not limited to one person, so you could, for example, write in the same details four times over and use the ticket for a group of four people.

**Go Pass 10** Essentially the same as the Rail Pass but for under-26s and costing just €52. Or buy single-day one-way **Go Pass 1** tickets for €6.40 if 10 journeys are too many.

**Go Unlimited** For those under 26, during school holidays a week's unlimited travel costs just €15, or get a whole month in July or August for €25. You'll need either a MOBIB card or a Facebook Messenger account to sign up.

# Language

Belgium's population is split between Dutch-speaking Flanders in the north, French-speaking Wallonia in the south, and the small German-speaking region, known as the Eastern Cantons, based around the towns of Eupen and St Vith in the east. Brussels is officially bilingual though French has long been the city's dominant language.

The Dutch spoken in Belgium is also called 'Flemish', underlining the cultural identity of the Flemish people. The grammar and spelling rules of Dutch in Belgium and in the Netherlands are the same, and 'Flemish' (*Vlaams*) is not a separate language in itself.

Visitors' attempts to speak French in Flanders are generally considered culturally insensitive and ill-informed, especially in less tourist-oriented cities such as Leuven and Hasselt. English, on the other hand, is considered neutral and quite acceptable – many Flemish speak English fluently.

Luxembourg has three official languages: French, German and Letzeburgesch. Most people are fluent in all three as well as in English, which is widely spoken in the capital and by younger people around the countryside.

Letzeburgesch is most closely related to German and was proclaimed the national tongue in 1984. Luxembourgers speak Letzeburgesch to each other but generally switch to French when talking to foreigners. A couple of Letzeburgesch words often overheard are *moien* (good morning/hello), *addi* (goodbye) and *wann ech gelifft* (please). Like French speakers, Luxembourgers say *merci* for 'thank you'. A phrase that might come in useful is *Schwatz dir Englesch?* (pronounced

'schwetz dear anglisch') meaning 'Do you speak English?'

## DUTCH

The pronunciation of Dutch is fairly straightforward. The language does distinguish between long and short vowels, which can affect the meaning of words; for example, *man* (man) and *maan* (moon). Also note that *aw* is pronounced as in 'law', *eu* as the 'u' in 'nurse', *ew* as the 'ee' in 'see' (with rounded lips), *oh* as the 'o' in 'note', *öy* as the 'er y' (without the 'r') in 'her year', and *uh* as in 'ago'.

The consonants are pretty simple to pronounce too. Note that *kh* is a throaty sound, similar to the 'ch' in the Scottish loch, *r* is trilled – both may require a bit of practice – and *zh* is pronounced as the 's' in 'pleasure'.

If you read our coloured pronunciation guides as if they were English, you'll be understood just fine. The stressed syllables are indicated with italics.

Where relevant, both polite and informal options in Dutch are included, indicated with 'pol' and 'inf' respectively.

## Basics

<b>Hello.</b>	<i>Dag./Hallo.</i>	<i>dakh/ha-loh</i>
<b>Goodbye.</b>	<i>Dag.</i>	<i>dakh</i>
<b>Yes.</b>	<i>Ja.</i>	<i>yaa</i>
<b>No.</b>	<i>Nee.</i>	<i>ney</i>
<b>Please.</b>	<i>Alstublieft. (pol)</i> <i>Alsjeblieft. (inf)</i>	<i>al-stew-bleeft</i> <i>a-shuh-bleeft</i>
<b>Thank you.</b>	<i>Dank u/je. (pol/inf)</i>	<i>dangk ew/yuh</i>
<b>You're welcome.</b>	<i>Graag gedaan.</i>	<i>khraakh</i> <i>khuh-daan</i>
<b>Excuse me.</b>	<i>Excuseer mij.</i>	<i>eks-kew-zeyr mey</i>
<b>How are you?</b>		
<i>Hoe gaat het</i>		<i>hoo khaat huht</i>
<i>met u/jou? (pol/inf)</i>		<i>met ew/yaw</i>

### WANT MORE?

For in-depth language information and handy phrases, check out Lonely Planet's *Western Europe Phrasebook*. You'll find it at [shop.lonelyplanet.com](http://shop.lonelyplanet.com), or you can buy Lonely Planet's Fast Talk app at the Apple App Store.

**Fine. And you?**

Goed.

En met u/jou? (pol/inf)

khoot

en met ew/yaw

**What's your name?**

Hoe heet u/je? (pol/inf)

hoo heyt ew/yuh

**My name is ...**

Ik heet ...

ik heyt ...

**Do you speak English?**

Spreekt u Engels?

spreykt ew eng-uhls

**I don't understand.**

Ik begriep het niet.

ik buh-khreyph huht neet

**Accommodation****Do you have a ... room?**

Heeft u een ...?

heyft ew uhn ...

**double**

tweepersoons-kamer met een dubbel bed

twey-puhr-sohns-kaa-muhr met uhn du-buhl bet

**single**

éénpersoons-kamer

eyn-puhr-sohns-kaa-muhr

**twinn**

tweepersoons-kamer met lits jumeaux

twey-puhr-sohns-kaa-muhr met lee zheuw-moh

**How much is it per ...?**

Hoeveel kost het per ...?

hoo-vey/ kost huht puhr ...

**night**

nacht

nakht

**person**

persoon

puhr-sohn

**Is breakfast included?**

Is het ontbijt inbegrepen?

is huht ont-beyt in-buh-khrey-puhn

**bathroom**

badkamer

bat-kaa-muhr

**bed and breakfast**

gasten-kamer

khas-tuhn-kaa-muhr

**campsite**

camping

kem-ping

**guesthouse**

pension

pen-syon

**hotel**

hotel

hoh-tel

**window**

raam

raam

**youth hostel**

jeugdherberg

yeukht-her-berkh

**Directions****Where's the ...?**

Waar is ...?

waar is ...

**How far is it?**

Hoe ver is het?

hoo ver is huht

**What's the address?**

Wat is het adres?

wat is huht a-dres

**Can you please write it down?**

Kunt u dat alstublieft opschrijven?

kunt ew dat al-stew-bleeft op-skhrey-vuhn

**Can you show me (on the map)?**

Kunt u het mij

tonen (op de kaart)?

kunt ew huht mey

toh-nuhn (op duh kaart)

**Eating & Drinking****What would you recommend?**

Wat kan u

aanbevelen?

wat kan ew

aan-buh-vey-luhn

**What's in that dish?**

Wat zit er in dat

gerecht?

wat zit uhr in dat

khuh-rekht

**I'd like the menu, please.**

Ik wil graag een menu.

ik wil khraakh uhn me-new

**Delicious!**

Heerlijk!/Lekker!

heyr-luhk/le-kuhr

**Cheers!**

Proost!

prohst

**Please bring the bill.**

Mag ik de rekening alstublieft?

makh ik duh rey-kuh-ning al-stew-bleeft

**I'd like to reserve a table for ...**

Ik wil graag een tafel voor ... reserveren.

ik wil khraakh uhn taa-fuhl vohr ... rey-ser-vey-ruhn (akht) ewr

**(eight) o'clock**

(acht) uur

**(two) people**

(twee) personen

(twey) puhr-soh-nuhn

**I don't eat ...**

Ik eet geen ...

ik eyt kheyn ...

**eggs**

eieren

ey-yuh-ruhn

**fish**

vis

vis

**(red) meat**

(rood) vlees

(roht) vleys

**nuts**

noten

noh-tuhn

**bar**

bar

bar

**beer**

bier

beer

**bottle**

fles

fles

**bread**

brood

broht

**breakfast**

ontbijt

ont-beyt

**cafe**

café

ka-fey

**cheese**

kaas

kaas

**Question Words – Dutch****How?**

Hoe?

hoo

**What?**

Wat?

wat

**When?**

Wanneer?

wa-neyr

**Where?**

Waar?

waar

**Who?**

Wie?

wee

**Why?**

Waarom?

waa-rom

## Numbers – Dutch

1	één	eyn
2	twee	twey
3	drie	dree
4	vier	veer
5	vijf	veyf
6	zes	zes
7	zeven	zey-vuhn
8	acht	akht
9	negen	ney-khuhn
10	tien	teen
20	twintig	twin-tikh
30	dertig	der-tikh
40	veertig	feyr-tikh
50	vijftig	feyf-tikh
60	zestig	ses-tikh
70	zeventig	sey-vuhn-tikh
80	tachtig	takh-tikh
90	negentig	ney-khuhn-tikh
100	honderd	hon-duhrt
1000	duizend	döy-zuhnt

coffee	koffie	ko-fee
cold	koud	kawt
dinner	avondmaal	aa-vont-maal
drink list	drankkaart	drang-kaart
eggs	eieren	ey-yuh-ruhn
fish	vis	vis
fork	vork	vork
fruit	fruit	fröyt
glass	glas	khlas
grocery store	kruidenier	kröy-duh-neer
hot	heet	heytt
juice	sap	sap
knife	mes	mes
lunch	middagmaal	mi-dakh-maal
market	markt	markt
meat	vlees	vleys
menu	menu	me-new
milk	melk	melk
plate	bord	bort
pub	kroeg	krookh
restaurant	restaurant	res-toh-rant
rice	rijst	reyst
salt	zout	zawt
spicy	pikant	pee-kant
spoon	lepel	ley-puhl

sugar	suiker	söy-kuhr
tea	thee	tey
vegetables	groenten	khroon-tuhn
vegetarian	vegetarisch	vey-khey-taa-ris
water	water	waa-tuhr
wine	wijn	weyn
with	met	met
without	zonder	zon-duhr

## Emergencies

<b>Help!</b>	
Help!	help
<b>Leave me alone!</b>	
Laat me met rust!	laat muh met rust
<b>I'm lost.</b>	
Ik ben verdwaald.	ik ben vuhr-dwaalt
<b>There's been an accident.</b>	
Er is een ongeluk gebeurd.	uhr is uhn on-khuh-luk khuh-beurt
<b>Call a doctor!</b>	
Bel een dokter!	bel uhn dok-tuhr
<b>Call the police!</b>	
Bel de politie!	bel duh poh-leet-see
<b>I'm sick.</b>	
Ik ben ziek.	ik ben zeek
<b>Where are the toilets?</b>	
Waar zijn de toiletten?	waar zeyn duh twa-le-tuhn
<b>I'm allergic to (antibiotics).</b>	
Ik ben allergisch voor (antibiotica).	ik ben a-ler-khees vohr (an-tee-bee-yoh-tee-ka)

## Shopping &amp; Services

<b>I'd like to buy ...</b>	
Ik wil graag ... kopen.	ik wil khraakh ... koh-puhn
<b>I'm just looking.</b>	
Ik kijk alleen maar.	ik keyk a-leyn maar
<b>Can I look at it?</b>	
Kan ik het even zien?	kan ik huht ey-vuhn zeen
<b>Do you have any others?</b>	
Heeft u nog andere?	heyyt ew nokh an-duh-ruh
<b>How much is it?</b>	
Hoeveel kost het?	hoo-veyl kost huht
<b>That's too expensive.</b>	
Dat is te duur.	dat is tuh dewr
<b>Can you lower the price?</b>	
Kunt u wat van de prijs afdoen?	kunt ew wat van duh preys af-doon
<b>There's a mistake in the bill.</b>	
Er zit een fout in de rekening.	uhr zit uhn fawt in duh rey-kuh-ning

ATM	pin-automaat	pin-aw-toh-maat
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foreign exchange	wisselkantoor	wi-suhl-kan-tohr
post office	postkantoor	post-kan-tohr
shopping centre	winkel-centrum	wing-kuhl-sen-trum
tourist office	VVV	vey-vey-vey

## Time & Dates

### What time is it?

Hoe laat is het? hoo laat is huht

### It's (10) o'clock.

Het is (tien) uur. huht is (teen) ewr

### Half past (10).

Half (elf). (lit: half eleven) half (elf)

am (morning)	's ochtends	sokh-tuhns
pm (afternoon)	's middags	smi-dakhs
pm (evening)	's avonds	saa-vonts
yesterday	gisteren	khis-tuh-ruhn
today	vandaag	van-daakh
tomorrow	morgen	mor-khuhn

Monday	maandag	maan-dakh
Tuesday	dinsdag	dins-dakh
Wednesday	woensdag	woons-dakh
Thursday	donderdag	don-duhr-dakh
Friday	vrijdag	vrey-dakh
Saturday	zaterdag	zaa-tuhr-dakh
Sunday	zondag	zon-dakh

## Transport

Is this the ... to (the left bank)? Is dit de ... naar (de linker-oever)? is dit duh ... naar (duh ling-kuhr-oo-vuhr)

ferry	veerboot	veyr-boht
metro	metro	mey-troh
tram	tram	trem

platform	perron	pe-ron
timetable	dienst-regeling	deenst-rey-khuh-ling

When's the ... (bus)? Hoe laat gaat de ... (bus)? hoo laat khaat duh ... (bus)

first	eerste	eyr-stuh
last	laatste	laaf-stuh
next	volgende	vol-khun-duh

### A ticket to ..., please.

Een kaartje naar ... graag. uhn kaar-chuh naar ... khraakh

## Signs – Dutch

Dames	Women
Gesloten	Closed
Heren	Men
Ingang	Entrance
Inlichtingen	Information
Open	Open
Toiletten	Toilets
Uitgang	Exit
Verboden	Prohibited

### What time does it leave?

Hoe laat vertrekt het? hoo laat vuhr-treht huht

### Does it stop at ...?

Stopt het in ...? stopt huht in ...

### What's the next stop?

Welk is de volgende halte? welk is duh vol-khuhn-duh hal-tuh

### I'd like to get off at ...

Ik wil graag in ... uitstappen. ik wil khraak in ... öyt-sta-puhn

### Is this taxi available?

Is deze taxi vrij? is dey-zuh tak-see vrey

### Please take me to ...

Breng me alstublieft naar ... breng muh al-stew-bleeft naar ...

I'd like ...	Ik wil graag ...	ik wil khraakh ...
my bicycle repaired	mijn fiets laten herstellen	meyn feets laa-tuhn her-ste-luhn
to hire a bicycle	een fiets huren	uhn feets hew-ruhn

I'd like to hire a ... Ik wil graag een ... huren. ik wil khraakh uhn ... hew-ruhn

basket	mandje	man-chuh
child seat	kinderzitje	kin-duhr-zi-chuh
helmet	helm	helm

### Do you have bicycle parking?

Heeft u parking voor fietsen? heyft ew par-king vohr feets-suhn

### Can we get there by bike?

Kunnen we er met de fiets heen? ku-nuhn wuh uhr met duh feets heyn

### I have a puncture.

Ik heb een lekke band. ik heb uhn le-kuh bant

bicycle path	fietspad	feets-pat
bicycle repairman	fietsen-maker	feet-suhn-maa-kuhr
bicycle stand	fietsenrek	feet-suhn-rek

## FRENCH

The sounds used in spoken French can almost all be found in English. There are a couple of exceptions: nasal vowels (represented in our pronunciation guides by o or u followed by an almost inaudible nasal consonant sound m, n or ng), the 'funny' u (ew in our guides) and the deep-in-the-throat r. Bearing these few points in mind and reading our pronunciation guides below as if they were English, you won't have problems being understood. Note that syllables are for the most part equally stressed in French.

In this chapter both masculine and feminine forms are provided where necessary, separated by a slash and indicated with 'm/f'.

### Basics

<b>Hello.</b>	<i>Bonjour.</i>	bon-zhoor
<b>Goodbye.</b>	<i>Au revoir.</i>	o-rer-vwa
<b>Excuse me.</b>	<i>Excusez-moi.</i>	ek-skew-zay-mwa
<b>Sorry.</b>	<i>Pardon.</i>	par-don
<b>Yes.</b>	<i>Oui.</i>	wee
<b>No.</b>	<i>Non.</i>	non
<b>Please.</b>	<i>S'il vous plaît.</i>	seel voo play
<b>Thank you.</b>	<i>Merci.</i>	mair-see
<b>You're welcome.</b>	<i>De rien.</i>	der ree-en

<b>How are you?</b>	
<i>Comment allez-vous?</i>	ko-mon ta-lay-voo
<b>Fine, and you?</b>	
<i>Bien, merci. Et vous?</i>	byun mair-see ay voo
<b>You're welcome.</b>	
<i>De rien.</i>	der ree-en

<b>My name is ...</b>	
<i>Je m'appelle ...</i>	zher ma-pel ...

<b>What's your name?</b>	
<i>Comment vous appelez-vous?</i>	ko-mon voo-zay-play voo

<b>Do you speak English?</b>	
<i>Parlez-vous anglais?</i>	par-lay-voo ong-glay

### Question Words – French

<b>How?</b>	<i>Comment?</i>	ko-mon
<b>What?</b>	<i>Quoi?</i>	kwa
<b>When?</b>	<i>Quand?</i>	kon
<b>Where?</b>	<i>Où?</i>	oo
<b>Who?</b>	<i>Qui?</i>	kee
<b>Why?</b>	<i>Pourquoi?</i>	poor-kwa

**I don't understand.**

*Je ne comprends pas.* zher ner kom-pron pa

## Accommodation

**Do you have any rooms available?**

*Est-ce que vous avez des chambres libres?* es-ker voo za-vay day shom-brer lee-brer

**How much is it per night/person?**

*Quel est le prix par nuit/personne?* kel ay ler pree par nwee/per-son

**Is breakfast included?**

*Est-ce que le petit déjeuner est inclus?* es-ker ler per-tee day-zher-nay ayt en-klew

<b>campsite</b>	<i>camping</i>	kom-peeng
<b>dorm</b>	<i>dortoir</i>	dor-twar
<b>guesthouse</b>	<i>pension</i>	pon-syon
<b>hotel</b>	<i>hôtel</i>	o-tel
<b>youth hostel</b>	<i>auberge de jeunesse</i>	o-berzh der zher-nes

<b>a ... room</b>	<i>une chambre ...</i>	ewn shom-brer ...
<b>double</b>	<i>avec un grand lit</i>	a-vek un gron lee
<b>single</b>	<i>à un lit</i>	a un lee
<b>twin</b>	<i>avec des lits jumeaux</i>	a-vek day lee zhe-w-mo

<b>with (a)...</b>	<i>avec ...</i>	a-vek ...
<b>air-con</b>	<i>climatiser</i>	kle-ma-tee-zer
<b>bathroom</b>	<i>une salle de bains</i>	ewn sal der bun
<b>window</b>	<i>fenêtre</i>	fer-nay-trer

## Directions

**Where's ...?**

*Où est ...?* oo ay ...

**What's the address?**

*Quelle est l'adresse?* kel ay la-dres

**Could you write the address, please?**

*Est-ce que vous pourriez écrire l'adresse, s'il vous plaît?* es-ker voo poo-ryay ay-kree-la-dres seel voo play

**Can you show me (on the map)?**

*Pouvez-vous m'indiquer (sur la carte)?* poo-vay-voo mun-dee-kay (sewr la kart)

## Eating & Drinking

**What would you recommend?**

*Qu'est-ce que vous conseillez?* kes-ker voo kon-say-yay

0 skoor

<b>I'm lost.</b> <i>Je suis perdu/ perdue. (m/f)</i>	<i>zhe swee-pair-dew</i>
<b>Leave me alone!</b> <i>Fichez-moi la paix!</i>	<i>fee-shay-mwa la pay</i>
<b>There's been an accident.</b> <i>Il y a eu un accident.</i>	<i>eel ya ew un ak-see-don</i>
<b>Call a doctor.</b> <i>Appelez un médecin.</i>	<i>a-play un mayd-sun</i>
<b>Call the police.</b> <i>Appelez la police.</i>	<i>a-play la po-lees</i>
<b>I'm ill.</b> <i>Je suis malade.</i>	<i>zher swee ma-lad</i>
<b>It hurts here.</b> <i>J'ai une douleur ici.</i>	<i>zhay ewn doo-ler ee-see</i>
<b>I'm allergic to ...</b> <i>Je suis allergique à ...</i>	<i>zher swee za-lair-zheek a ...</i>

## Shopping & Services

<b>I'd like to buy ...</b> <i>Je voudrais acheter ...</i>	<i>zher voo-dray ash-tay ...</i>
<b>May I look at it?</b> <i>Est-ce que je peux le voir?</i>	<i>es-ker zher per ler vvar</i>
<b>I'm just looking.</b> <i>Je regarde.</i>	<i>zher rer-gard</i>
<b>I don't like it.</b> <i>Cela ne me plaît pas.</i>	<i>ser-la ner mer play pa</i>
<b>How much is it?</b> <i>C'est combien?</i>	<i>say kom-byun</i>
<b>It's too expensive.</b> <i>C'est trop cher.</i>	<i>say tro shair</i>
<b>Can you lower the price?</b> <i>Vous pouvez baisser le prix?</i>	<i>voo poo-vay bay-say ler pree</i>
<b>There's a mistake in the bill.</b> <i>Il y a une erreur dans la note.</i>	<i>eel ya ewn ay-rer don la not</i>

<b>ATM</b>	<i>guichet automatique de banque</i>	<i>gee-shay o-to-ma-teek der bonk</i>
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### Signs – French

<b>Entrée</b>	Entrance
<b>Femmes</b>	Women
<b>Fermé</b>	Closed
<b>Hommes</b>	Men
<b>Interdit</b>	Prohibited
<b>Ouvert</b>	Open
<b>Renseignements</b>	Information
<b>Sortie</b>	Exit
<b>Toilettes/WC</b>	Toilets

<b>credit card</b>	<i>carte de crédit</i>	<i>kart der kray-dee</i>
<b>internet cafe</b>	<i>cybercafé</i>	<i>see-bair-ka-fay</i>
<b>post office</b>	<i>bureau de poste</i>	<i>bew-ro der post</i>
<b>tourist office</b>	<i>office de tourisme</i>	<i>o-fees der too-rees-mer</i>

## Time & Dates

<b>What time is it?</b> <i>Quelle heure est-il?</i>	<i>kel er ay til</i>
<b>It's (eight) o'clock.</b> <i>Il est (huit) heures.</i>	<i>il ay (weet) er</i>
<b>It's half past (10).</b> <i>Il est (dix) heures et demie.</i>	<i>il ay (deez) er ay day-mee</i>

<b>morning</b>	<i>matin</i>	<i>ma-tun</i>
<b>afternoon</b>	<i>après-midi</i>	<i>a-pray-mee-dee</i>
<b>evening</b>	<i>soir</i>	<i>swar</i>
<b>yesterday</b>	<i>hier</i>	<i>yair</i>
<b>today</b>	<i>aujourd'hui</i>	<i>o-zhoor-dwee</i>
<b>tomorrow</b>	<i>demain</i>	<i>der-mun</i>

<b>Monday</b>	<i>lundi</i>	<i>lun-dee</i>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<i>mardi</i>	<i>mar-dee</i>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<i>mercredi</i>	<i>mair-krer-dee</i>
<b>Thursday</b>	<i>jeudi</i>	<i>zher-dee</i>
<b>Friday</b>	<i>vendredi</i>	<i>von-drer-dee</i>
<b>Saturday</b>	<i>samedi</i>	<i>sam-dee</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<i>dimanche</i>	<i>dee-monsh</i>

## Transport

<b>boat</b>	<i>bateau</i>	<i>ba-to</i>
<b>bus</b>	<i>bus</i>	<i>bews</i>
<b>plane</b>	<i>avion</i>	<i>a-vyon</i>
<b>train</b>	<i>train</i>	<i>trun</i>

<b>I want to go to ...</b> <i>Je voudrais aller à ...</i>	<i>zher voo-dray a-lay a ...</i>
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<b>Does it stop at ...?</b> <i>Est-ce qu'il s'arrête à ...?</i>	<i>es-kil sa-ret a ...</i>
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<b>At what time does it leave/arrive?</b> <i>À quelle heure est-ce qu'il part/arrive?</i>	<i>a kel er es kil par/a-reev</i>
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<b>Can you tell me when we get to ...?</b> <i>Pouvez-vous me dire quand nous arrivons à ...?</i>	<i>poo-vay-voo mer deer kon noo za-ree-von a ...</i>
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<b>I want to get off here.</b> <i>Je veux descendre ici.</i>	<i>zher ver day-son-drer ee-see</i>
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<b>first</b>	<i>premier</i>	<i>prer-myay</i>
<b>last</b>	<i>dernier</i>	<i>dair-nyay</i>
<b>next</b>	<i>prochain</i>	<i>pro-shun</i>
<b>a ... ticket</b>	<i>un billet ...</i>	<i>un bee-yay ...</i>
<b>1st-class</b>	<i>de première classe</i>	<i>der prem-yair klas</i>
<b>2nd-class</b>	<i>de deuxième classe</i>	<i>der der-zyem las</i>
<b>one-way</b>	<i>simple</i>	<i>sum-pler</i>
<b>return</b>	<i>aller et retour</i>	<i>a-lay ay rer-toor</i>
<b>aisle seat</b>	<i>côté couloir</i>	<i>ko-tay kool-war</i>
<b>cancelled</b>	<i>annulé</i>	<i>a-new-lay</i>
<b>delayed</b>	<i>en retard</i>	<i>on rer-tar</i>
<b>platform</b>	<i>quai</i>	<i>kay</i>
<b>ticket office</b>	<i>guichet</i>	<i>gee-shay</i>
<b>timetable</b>	<i>horaire</i>	<i>o-rair</i>
<b>train station</b>	<i>gare</i>	<i>gar</i>
<b>window seat</b>	<i>côté fenêtre</i>	<i>ko-tay fe-ne-trer</i>
<b>I'd like to hire a ...</b>	<i>Je voudrais louer ...</i>	<i>zher voo-dray loo-way ...</i>
<b>4WD</b>	<i>un quatre-quatre</i>	<i>un kat-kat</i>
<b>bicycle</b>	<i>un vélo</i>	<i>un vay-lo</i>

<b>car</b>	<i>une voiture</i>	<i>ewn vwa-tewr</i>
<b>motorcycle</b>	<i>une moto</i>	<i>ewn mo-to</i>
<b>child seat</b>	<i>siège-enfant</i>	<i>syezh-on-fon</i>
<b>diesel</b>	<i>diesel</i>	<i>dyay-zel</i>
<b>helmet</b>	<i>casque</i>	<i>kask</i>
<b>mechanic</b>	<i>mécanicien</i>	<i>may-ka-nee-syun</i>
<b>petrol</b>	<i>essence</i>	<i>ay-sons</i>
<b>service station</b>	<i>station-service</i>	<i>sta-syon-ser-vees</i>

**Is this the road to ...?**

*C'est la route pour ...?* *say la root poor ...*

**(How long) Can I park here?**

*(Combien de temps)* *(kom-byun der tom)*  
*Est-ce que je peux stationner ici?* *es-ker zher per sta-syo-nay ee-see*

**The car/motorbike has broken down (at ...).**

*La voiture/moto est tombée en panne (à ...).* *la vwa-tewr/mo-to ay tom-bay on pan (a ...)*

**I have a flat tyre.**

*Mon pneu est à plat.* *mom pner ay ta pla*

**I've run out of petrol.**

*Je suis en panne d'essence.* *zher swee zon pan day-sons*

**I've lost my car keys.**

*J'ai perdu les clés de ma voiture.* *zhay per-dew lay klay der ma vwa-tewr*

## GLOSSARY

*NI/Fr after a term signifies Dutch/French.*

**abdij/abbaye** (NI/Fr) – abbey  
**apotheek** (NI) – pharmacy  
**ARAU** (Fr) – Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaine (Urban Research & Action Group)  
**auberge de jeunesse** (Fr) – youth hostel  
  
**bakker/bakkerij** (NI) – baker/bakery  
**balle-pelotte** – Belgian ball game  
**begijn/béguine** (NI/Fr) – inhabitant of a *begijnhof*  
**begijnhof/béguinage** (NI/Fr) – community of *begijnen/béguines*; cluster of cottages, often around a central garden  
**Belasting Toegevoegde Waarde (BTW)** (NI) – value-added tax, VAT  
**Belgische Spoorwegen** (NI) – Belgian Railways  
**Benelux** – Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg  
**benzine** (NI) – petrol  
**betalend parkeren** (NI) – paid street parking  
**biljart/billard** (NI/Fr) – billiards  
**billet** (Fr) – ticket  
**boulangerie** (Fr) – bakery  
**BP (boite postale)** (Fr) – post office box  
**brasserie** (Fr) – brewery; café/restaurant often serving food all day  
**brocante** (Fr) – bric-a-brac  
**brouwerij** (NI) – brewery  
**brown café** – small, old-fashioned pub with wooden-panelled interior  
**bruine kroeg** (NI) – *brown café*  
**Brusselaar** (NI) – inhabitant of Brussels  
**Bruxellois** (Fr) – inhabitant of Brussels; name of the city's old dialect  
**bureau d'échange** (Fr) – foreign-exchange bureau  
  
**café** – pub, bar  
**carte** (Fr) – menu

**centrum** (NI) – centre  
**chambre** (Fr) – room  
**chambre d'hôte** (Fr) – B&B guesthouse  
**Charles Quint** – Holy Roman Emperor Charles V  
**château** (Fr) – castle, country mansion  
**chocolatier** (Fr) – chocolate-maker  
**commune** (Fr) – municipality  
**couvent** (Fr) – convent  
**cui-stax** – see *kwistax*  
  
**dagschotel** (NI) – dish of the day  
**demi-pension** (Fr) – half board (ie accommodation, breakfast and dinner)  
**dentelle** (Fr) – lace  
**dienst voor toerisme** (NI) – tourist office  
  
**église** (Fr) – church  
**entrée** (Fr) – entry  
**estaminet** (Fr) – tavern  
**étang** (Fr) – pond  
**EU** – European Union  
**Eurocrat** – EU administrative official  
**Europese Instellingen** (NI) – EU Institutions  
  
**fiets** (NI) – bicycle  
**frieten/frites** (NI/Fr) – chips or fries  
**frituur/friture/friterie** (NI/Fr) – chip shop  
  
**galerij/galerie** (NI/Fr) – covered shopping centre/arcade  
**gare** (Fr) – train station  
**gastenkamer** (NI) – B&B/guesthouse  
**gaufres** (Fr) – waffles  
**gemeente** (NI) – municipality  
**Gille** (Fr) – folkloric character typical of the Binche carnival  
**gîtes d'étapes** (Fr) – rural group accommodation, sometimes also a hostel  
**gîtes ruraux** (Fr) – countryside guesthouses  
**godshuis** (NI) – almshouse

**GR** (Fr) – long-distance footpaths  
**grand café** (Fr) – opulent historic café  
**gratis/gratuit** (NI/Fr) – free  
**grotte** (Fr) – cave, grotto  
  
**hallen/halles** (NI/Fr) – covered market  
**herberg** (NI) – old-style Flemish pub  
**hof** (NI) – garden  
**holebi** – LGBT (homosexual-lesbian-bisexual)  
**Holy Roman Empire** – Germanic empire (962–1806) that was confusingly neither theocratic nor predominantly Italian/Roman for most of its history  
**hôpital** (Fr) – hospital  
**horeca** (Fr/NI) – the hospitality (hotel-restaurant-café) industry  
**hôtel** (Fr) – hotel, historic town house  
**hôtel de ville** (Fr) – town hall  
  
**Institutions Européennes** (Fr) – EU Institutions  
**ISIC** – International Student Identity Card  
  
**jardin** (Fr) – garden  
**jenever** – (NI) Flemish/Dutch gin  
**jeu-de-balle** (F) – see *balle-pelotte*  
**jeugdherberg** (NI) – youth hostel  
  
**kaartje** (NI) – ticket  
**kamer** (NI) – room  
**kant** (NI) – lace  
**kasteel** (NI) – castle  
**kerk** (NI) – church  
**kwistax** – pedal-carts popular on Belgian beaches  
  
**magasin de nuit** (Fr) – 24-hour shop  
**marché aux puces** (Fr) – flea market  
**markt/marché** (NI/Fr) – market  
**menu** (NI & Fr) – fixed-price meal with two or more courses (what is called the menu in English is the *kaart/la carte*)

**menu du jour** (Fr) – fixed-price, multicourse meal of the day

**molen/moulin** (NI/Fr) – windmill

**Mosan** – from the Meuse River valley

**musée** (Fr) – museum

**nachtwinkel** (NI) – 24-hour shop

**NATO** – North Atlantic Treaty Organisation military alliance headquartered in Brussels (NAVO/OTAN in Dutch/French)

**NMBS** (NI) – Belgian National Railways

**office de tourisme** (Fr) – tourist office

**oude** (NI) – old

**OV (originele versie)** (NI) – nondubbed (ie movie shown in its original language)

**pâtisserie** (Fr) – cakes and pastries; shop selling them

**pékèt** – Walloon for *jenever*

**pension complète** (Fr) – full board

**pharmacie** (Fr) – pharmacy

**pitas** (Fr) – stuffed pitta bread

**place** (Fr) – square

**plat du jour** (Fr) – dish of the day

**plein** (NI) – square

**poort/porte** (NI/Fr) – gate in city wall

**premetro** – trams that go underground for part of their journey (found in Brussels and Antwerp)

**prior[itaire]** (Fr) – priority mail

**priorité à droite** (Fr) – priority-to-the-right traffic rule

**RACB** (Fr) – Royal Automobile Club de Belgique

**routier** (Fr) – trucker (also truckers' restaurant)

**SHAPE** – NATO's 'Supreme HQ Allied Powers Europe' near Mons

**slijterij** (NI) – shop selling strong alcohol

**SNCB** (Fr) – Belgian National Railways

**sortie** (Fr) – exit

**stad** (NI) – town

**stadhuis** (NI) – town hall

**stadsbelasting** (NI) – city tax

**stationnement payant** (Fr) – paid parking

**STIB** (Fr) – Société des Transports Intercommunaux

de Bruxelles (Brussels Public Transport Company)

**syndicat d'initiative** (Fr) – tourist office

**taxe de séjour** (Fr) – visitors' tax

**terreinfiets** (NI) – mountain bike

**toeristische dienst** (NI) – tourist office

**toneel/théâtre** (NI/Fr) – theatre

**toren/tour** (NI/Fr) – tower

**trekkershut** (NI) – hikers' hut

**tuin** (NI) – garden

**TVA** (Fr) – value-added tax, VAT

**vélo** (Fr) – bicycle

**VO (version originale)** (Fr) – nondubbed film

**voorrang van rechts** (NI) – priority-to-the-right traffic rule

**VTT (vélo tout-terrain)** (Fr) – mountain bike

**wassalon** (NI) – laundrette

**weekend gastronomique** (Fr) – accommodation plus breakfast and some meals

**ziekenhuis** (NI) – hospital

# Behind the Scenes

## SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

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# 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
- Hut/Shelter

## 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/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, Dublin, 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



### Mark Elliott

As a small child, Mark was dragged up a conical hill to meet a giant lion (at Waterloo) then let loose inside an enormous chemistry set (the Atomium). To a baby Brit, Belgium already looked pretty weird. But that was just the start. Having been based there for half of the last three decades, he has long since discovered that the country's surrealism runs even deeper – from art to countless crazy carnivals. He is the (co)writer of more than 60 travel books and guides.



### Catherine Le Nevez

Catherine's wanderlust kicked in when she roadtripped across Europe from her Parisian base aged four, and she's been hitting the road at every opportunity since, travelling to around 60 countries and completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and postgrad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way. Over the past dozen-plus years she's written scores of Lonely Planet guides and articles covering Paris, France, Europe and far beyond.



### Helena Smith

Helena is an award-winning writer and photographer covering travel, outdoors and food – she has written guidebooks on destinations from Fiji to northern Norway. Helena is from Scotland but was partly brought up in Malawi, so Africa always feels like home.



### Regis St Louis

Regis grew up in a small town in the American Midwest – the kind of place that fuels big dreams of travel – and he developed an early fascination with foreign dialects and world cultures. He spent his formative years learning Russian and a handful of Romance languages, which served him well on journeys across much of the globe. Regis has contributed to more than 50 Lonely Planet titles, covering destinations across six continents.



### Benedict Walker

A beach baby from Newcastle (Australia), Benedict turned 40 in 2017 and decided to start a new life in Leipzig (Germany). Writing for Lonely Planet was a childhood dream for him. He's thrilled to have covered big chunks of Australia, Canada, Germany, Japan, USA (including Las Vegas), Switzerland, Sweden and Japan.

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