
“Servas International is an international, non-profit, non-governmental federation of national Servas groups, encompassing an international network of hosts and travellers. The purpose of the network is to help build world peace, goodwill and understanding by providing opportunities for personal contacts among people of different cultures, backgrounds and nationalities”

Dear Servas traveller,

Welcome to Belgium and Luxemburg.
We hope your visit in our countries will be a pleasant experience.

We are situated in the middle of Europe.
Brussels is not only the capital of Belgium but also of Europe.
Belgium is a kingdom, has a relatively complicated federal system and is divided into 10 provinces.

There are three national languages: Dutch, French and German.
The currency is the euro (EUR).
Belgium has a number of well preserved museums and sights in different cities.
Belgian gastronomy is very famous. You'll never forget the taste of Belgian beer, fries and chocolate !

So, come over to visit us in the spirit of Servas and we are sure you will enjoy your stay. Many Servas members all over the country are waiting to give you a warm welcome.

With love,

Rita Dessauvage,

National Secretary.



Tourist information

In Belgium there are 3 regions.

Flanders in the north, flat and with many canals, is proud of its art cities, Antwerp, Bruges and Ghent. To the south, in Wallonia, you will find the rolling hills of the Ardennes, numerous castles and the cities of Liege, Namur, Tournai.

Brussels is a great cosmopolitan and multicultural city. <http://www.visitbelgium.com>.

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a small and beautiful country <http://www.luxembourg.co.uk>.

In the Belgium Tourist Offices abroad (or the embassies) you can get useful information about our country: maps, an event calendar, exhibitions...

In Belgium each town has a tourist information centre.

In Brussels : rue du Marché-aux-Herbes 63, tel. +32 (0)2 5040390.

Belgium : http://www.living-in-belgium.com/livin_art_touricat.htm

Brussels & Ardennes : <http://www.belgique-tourisme.net>

Brussels & Flanders : <http://www.visitflanders.com>, <http://www.flanders.be>, <http://www.flazoek.be/en>

In Luxemburg: ONT, B.P.1001 L-1010 Luxemburg : <http://www.luxembourg-city.lu/touristinfo> ,
<http://www.ont.lu>

Budget accommodation in the centre of Bruges (B1) :

Bauhaus, Langestraat 135, 8000 Bruges tel .+32 (0)50 341093, fax +32 334180.

Passage, Dweersstraat 26, 8000 Bruges tel.+32 (0)50 340232, fax +32 (0)50340140

'Gentse Feesten' 19-28 July 2003, one of the biggest popular festivities of Europe in Ghent (B2)

Antwerp (B3): <http://www.vistitantwerpen.be>

Brussels Monthly Servas Meeting: Host and travellers are welcome every last thursday of the month, 6-8pm in café Cirio, rue de la Bourse, 18 (centre of Brussels), Contact [Mary Verduft](#) (host 161) or [Olivier Zilli](#) (host 187) or check the website : <http://www.servas.org/belgium>

Brussels Capital Region

Brussels is more than 1000 years old. The heart of Brussels and the place to start getting to know the city is the Grand Place /Grote Markt. This historic market square with its splendid guild houses and the impressive Gothic beauty of the Town Hall, is widely considered to be one of the most beautiful town squares in Europe.

Close to the Heysel site you will find the famous Atomium, the Chinese House and the Japanese Tower. (metro Heysel). Nearby ,the King's palace can sometimes be visited, the other palace is in the centre of the city.

In 2003 it will be 25 years since the passing of Jacques Brel, the famous singer whose voice still resonates today in the heart of Brussels. <http://www.brel-2003.be>.

Brussels tourist office: Town Hall, Grand Place/Grote Markt 1, 1000 Brussels, tel. + 32 (0)2 5138940, fax + 32 (0)2 5144538, <http://www.tib.be>.

"The Tourist Passport" offers discount for more than 30 top sites.

"The "Must of Brussels" is a booklet consisting of 9 vouchers. It allows you to discover several Brussels attractions or museums.

A historic tramway makes a 3 hours trip with guide giving historic and architectural comment. Departure at 10 am from the tram-museum in Woluwe to the Heysel site and back at 1 pm. (every Sunday from April until September) 12 EUR; tel. 02/5153108 (<http://www.mtub.yucom.be>) Reservation obligatory.

'Jump ticket' for travelling within Brussels Capital Region on all public transport (valid 1 hour) for 1-5-10 journeys or a day ticket for (1.40 EUR - 4.60 EUR)



Use of phones

Telephone calls are cheaper between 7 pm and 8 am on weekdays and during the weekend. Local calls are not free, neither the use of internet. In Belgium always dial the area code starting with zero (prefix)

You can get telephone cards in railway stations, post offices, bookstores, supermarkets and tele-boutiques/boetieks

'XL-Card' prepaid card for international calls : 5,10,20 EUR. <http://www.xl-call.com>

'Telecard' prepaid card for public phones 5,10 EUR.

Customer service in English: 0800 55147 (free)

Transport

Distances are short and the public transport is good. The railway system is the densest in the world. Trains are frequent (from the Airport to Brussels: 4 trains per hour).

With a standard ticket you may not interrupt your journey. If you want to do so ask for a VIA-ticket. Return tickets are not cheaper than two singles.

'Go Pass' for only 40 EUR Go Pass entitles young people (under 26) 10 single journeys between two Belgian stations. Limitation: from Monday through Friday as of 9.01am.

'Rail Pass' everybody can get a Rail Pass: 10 rides for 60 EUR.

Elder people (65 +) can get a return ticket to any destination for 2,50 EUR only.

'Ticket réseau' in Luxemburg, a day pass gives free access to all trains & buses: 4,6 EUR

http://www.b-rail.be	timetables trains Belgium
http://www.cfl.lu	timetables Luxemburg
http://bahn.hafas.de	all railways in Europe
http://www.thalys.com	Thalys takes you in no time from Brussels to Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Köln, Paris or even the Alps (Brussels-Paris: 1h 25)
http://www.eurostar.com	Eurostar takes you from Brussels to the heart of London in only 2h 40
http://www.eurolines.com	European bus link
http://www.superfast.com	Boat link: Zeebrugge - Scotland

Low cost flights

http://www.brusselairport.be	All flights from Brussels National Airport
http://www.virgin-express.be	from Brussels National Airport
http://www.ryanair.com	from Brussels South Airport Charleroi

Cycling in Belgium & Luxemburg

In the countryside you find well indicated long-distance routes (yellow-blue marked or metal plates).

The northern part of Belgium, Flanders, is quite flat. The routes are numbered from LF1 to LF50.

The southern part, Walloon, is hilly. Three routes are actually marked: RV2, RV7 and RV60. Ravel 1, 2, 3, 4 (3: from Brussels to Erquelinnes at the French border). It's a network of flat roads on old rail roads and along canals. Visit <http://www.ravel.wallonie.be> with hyperlinks to know more about the region.

In Luxemburg a network of 900 km is developed: <http://www.ont.lu/bicycle.htm> on old railroads & rivers.

For further information contact Servas member jo.verwimp@agalev.be (B5-host 139)



Basic rules for travellers

1. Show your original Letter of Introduction to your host when you arrive.
2. Do not stay more than two nights unless you are invited to do so.
3. If you use your host's telephone, be sure to find out the charges and pay for the call.
4. Try to plan at least some of your stays in advance.
5. Contact your hosts if your plans change or if you will arrive later.
5. Helpfulness in and around the house will be appreciated.
6. Don't expect luxury accommodation. Be satisfied with what the host has to offer.

Key to Servas Host List

Column 1

140	Number Host
GENT	Nearest town
2p	number of persons that can be hosted
f / m	female / male
c	couple
fam	family, children welcome
DH	Day Host : no overnight stay
2d	Number of days notice required
wr / ph	Write / phone
npr	no prior notice required
NS	no smoke
veg	host is vegetarian
slbag	sleeping bag necessary
camp	camping possible
longer	longer stay possible.
Dis:	disabled welcome
H	hearing
W	wheelchair
V	vision
T	limited transport available
WMT	want more travellers
YPE	Young people exchange
HE	Home exchange

Column 2

Host's name
Address
phone h :home, w :work, m :mobile, f :fax
Electronic mail, URL
Directions for reaching home:
st :railway station, dir :direction, C :central
pfpu : phone for pick-up.

Column 3

Knowledge of languages
EN fluent English, en limited English

Most used abbreviations:

AR	Arabic
DN	Danish
DU:	Dutch
EN	English
ES	Esperanto
FR	French
GE	German
GK	Greek
IT	Italian
SC	Serbo-Croat

JP	Japanese
NW	Norwegian
PL	Polish
PR	Portuguese
RS	Russian
RU	Rumanian
SP	Spanish
SW	Swedish
JP	Japanese
TR	Turkish

Column 4

Details	M / F, year of birth, profession
Children	Name, M / F, year of birth
Tr:	countries travelled in
In:	fields of interests
Lv:	countries lived in
Org:	member of (peace) organisations
AI	Amnesty International
GP	Greenpeace
R:	Useful remarks

belgium@servas.org

<http://www.servas.org/belgium>

The Host List including addresses should be asked in the country where one is registered as member.