

BRUSSELS

Often overlooked by visitors to Europe, the capital of the European Union has a lot to offer. The population of Brussels is made up of young professionals from all over the world so the city is geared up to offering something for everyone. It's a true gem that is worth its capital status. And it's famous for its beer too!

Getting there:

- **Dublin:** Direct flights daily with Aer Lingus and Ryanair.

From the airport:

- From **Brussels National Airport**, there is a frequent train service to Brussels Central, Midi and Nord stations. A taxi to the city centre costs about €35.
- From **Charleroi Airport**, take the coach to the city centre. Beware of taxi drivers who promise a good deal as there are lots of scams about. Just take one of the many coach shuttle services.

Where to stay:

- **Centre Vincent Van Gogh** – this place has 210 beds, young friendly staff and is recommended by Lonely Planet. www.chab.be
- **Sleep Well** – A bright, new building in a good location. www.sleepwell.be
- **Hotel George V** – this hotel is located in the Old Town, with the European District within walking distance. www.george5.com

Things to do:

- **Grand Place** – Brussels' beautiful town square has some interesting legends attached to it. For one, apparently the architect who designed the Town Hall threw himself to his death from the top of it because it isn't symmetrical. It's still amazing in our eyes!
- **Manneken Pis Fountain** – A statue of a little boy taking a leak. Again, there are legends attached to this famous fella. Why not ask a local to tell you one?
- **European District** – Have a stroll around this area, and check out the European Commission Building.
- **Centre Belge de Bande Dessinée** – Tintin is Belgium's best know comic creation. Check out him and some others in this area, just 10 minutes from the Grand Place.

Nightlife:

- **Delirium Café** – this place has over 2500 beers. No more needs to be said. www.deliriumcafe.be
- **A la Mort Subite** – A good place to get the Brussels vibe. Rue Montage aux Herbes Potageres.
- **Le Corbeau** – this place is totally nuts – Friday and Saturday are described as 'Nights of Hell'! It's a great place for dancing on tables and has a wide selection of beers. A real student must.

Top Tips:

- Take a day trip to Bruges. It's a small but beautiful city, just 30 minutes away.
- There are wonderful spas all around Brussels. If you feel like pampering yourself, head to one for an afternoon.

