

**HERITAGE DAYS**  
**17 → 18 SEPT. 2022**  
**TRACES OF COLONISATION**

**HERITAGEDAYS**  
**URBAN**  
**BRUSSELS**

# HOW TO BOOK

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For this year's Heritage Days, tours and places to visit are divided into several categories:

- advance booking not required;
- advance booking required;
- guided tours and by reservation only;
- reservation only required for guided tours and/or activities (but not to access the location).

Please refer to the practical information under each listing.

If advance booking/reservation is required, you will need to book a time slot. Please keep to your time slot or tour time. If you arrive at the site after your time slot has passed or your tour has begun, you will not be admitted. You may need to wait (around 15 minutes) to enter certain sites.

For all visits and tours, make sure to bring your booking confirmation with you. You will be asked to present it at the site. It is recommended that you arrive 10 minutes before the time indicated in your booking confirmation.

Most outdoor activities (walking and bicycle tours, scavenger hunts, bus tours, etc.) require advance booking. You simply need to choose a time.

Bookings can be made online from 1 September 2022 at [heritage-days.urban.brussels](https://heritage-days.urban.brussels).

Please note: Depending on the health situation in September, the arrangements for some tours/sites might change. Check [heritage-days.urban.brussels](https://heritage-days.urban.brussels) for the latest information.

The information provided in this brochure is subject to change.

# INFORMATION

Organised by: Urban – Knowledge & Communication Department  
Arcadia – Mont des Arts/Kunstberg 10-13 – 1000 Brussels

Telephone helpline open from 10: 00 to 17: 00  
on 17 and 18 September 2022: 02 432 83 00  
heritagedays.urban.brussels – jdp-omd@urban.brussels

 Urban.brussels –  urban\_brussels –  @BrusselsUrban

The times listed for buildings are the opening and closing times. The organisers reserve the right to shut the doors early if there are large crowds to ensure that the building can close at the scheduled time.

The sites' managers may put in place special measures for visits.

You must not smoke or eat while visiting any of the sites. Furthermore, some site managers may not allow photographs to be taken. To facilitate access, please don't bring rucksacks or large bags.

Please note that activities, as well as some sites, must be booked in advance. However, even if you don't have a booking, feel free to turn up on the day, as there may be places available due to cancellations or no-shows.

## Accessibility for individuals with reduced mobility

Each site listing includes information about the site's accessibility for individuals with reduced mobility. The accessibility survey was conducted by the non-profit organisation AccessAndGo ASBL on the basis of data provided by site managers, which were then verified by the organisation. Checks have been carried out on the accessibility of all buildings whose listing features an accessibility logo.

Site accessibility, based on the criteria and standards adopted in the Brussels-Capital Region, is indicated using the following logos:

 **Accessible:** the site meets the criteria for users of manual or electric wheelchairs to visit the site independently.

 **Accessible with assistance:** wheelchair users will require the assistance of a third party to visit the site.

 **Not accessible:** the site does not meet the minimum accessibility criteria.






**Access-services:** where listings are marked with an asterisk, this means that additional information for individuals with reduced mobility is available (in French) at [www.access-services.be](http://www.access-services.be).

The accessibility information provided here only relates to visits during the Heritage Days and may not apply at other times.

For further information about the accessibility survey, contact AccessAndGo by emailing [info@accessandgo.be](mailto:info@accessandgo.be).

Check [heritagedays.urban.brussels](http://heritagedays.urban.brussels) for the latest information about the organisation of visits and activities and to view the OFF/HORECA (hospitality) programme.

## Pictogrammes utilisés

-  Hours and dates
-  Addresses of venues and events
-  Places of departure
-  Important information
-  Guided tours in sign language

The information provided in this brochure is subject to change for reasons beyond our control.

This brochure is distributed free of charge.

Dear Brusselers,

The Heritage Days offer us a unique opportunity to delve into our history. Not to judge it, but to understand it better.

Because it is our duty to reflect on our history from time to time and to provide information about it. Because Hôtel van Eetvelde is more than just a name. Because the Lever House says a lot about our country. Because the wood used by Horta often came from Congo. Our society is, rightfully, focused on future and progress. But we must not forget to look back as well. *Respect the past, build the future.*

After Dubai, Brussels is the most cosmopolitan city in the world. A real crossroads of cultures and influences. A place where diplomats from all over the world work and live, often in remarkable buildings. By accepting my proposal to open their doors, these embassies have also accepted to connect with Brussels life. This is such an important step. And there is another first. For the first time, the Heritage Days will not last one, but two weekends. The visits on 23, 24 and 25 September will focus on matrimony, thanks to the excellent cooperation with the non-profit association *L'architecture qui dégenre*, [urban.brussels](http://urban.brussels) and [equal.brussels](http://equal.brussels).

The first OFF version was a great success last year. I am therefore pleased to announce there will be another OFF version this year. Do not hesitate to suggest visits and activities on the website.

I wish you great Heritage Days. Let us be curious, let us look to the future while knowing our past.

Pascal SMET,  
Secretary of State  
of the Brussels-Capital Region,  
responsible for Urbanism  
and Heritage

Since 1989, the Heritage Days have been one of Belgium's most keenly anticipated cultural events, drawing in thousands of visitors from Brussels, Wallonia, Flanders and beyond.

Heritage is a fluctuating concept that develops year by year, not least through cultural activities such as this. Each of us plays our part in this process, and it is undoubtedly true that visiting a series of locations brings out trends and previously unseen affinities, elicits new interpretations of monuments and buildings which we think we know but which are constantly inviting us to question (anew) our beliefs and assumptions. Let's not forget that heritage, as well as underpinning our collective identity, also opens doors that are essential to our development. Heritage is a source of inspiration and, as we know from experience, those countries and cities that are the most aware of their heritage are also often the most forward-looking. For a long time, heritage was the preserve of historians and academics. And while their rigour and analytical approach are vital, heritage is also a process of collective construction in which we are all involved. Your role is essential, which is why the success of these Heritage Days is so important to us.

This year's theme concerns our relationship with colonisation and the direct and indirect links forged with the Congo since the 19th century. This ties in with our commitment to raising awareness and addresses the need to reflect on and provide information about the past in order to better understand the future.

As well as places and activities related to this theme, the Brussels-Capital Region wanted to showcase 'must-see' locations around the city, as well as its museums and their collections.

For the first time in 2022, we have also invited embassies to open their doors to show off their buildings and/or the heritage of their respective countries.

So, thanks to the hard work of my teams and a host of other organisations, we really do have another rich and varied programme to offer you this year. I hope it proves a rewarding experience for you all.

Bety WAKNINE  
Director general of Urban

# heritage and contemporary architecture

erfgoed en  
hedendaagse  
architectuur

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et. 100 / Drukwerk: Drukkerij / Molen, N.V.

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# URBAN CONTACT POINT

During the Heritage Days, you can call in at the Urban Contact Point to find out more about our programme of events and check out our latest publications.

It's worth a visit at other times too, as you'll always find a small exhibition of photographs or architectural models to enjoy.

The Urban Contact Point will also be the starting point for three walking tours:

- Interactive family walking tour: 'Brussels... a world in itself' (see page 21)
- 'Walking tour of Congolese Brussels' (see page 22)
- 'Colonial bank architecture' (see page 22)

**Urban Contact Point**  
**Mont des Arts/Kunstberg 7**  
**1000 Brussels**

# URBAN: PARTNERING WITH THE PEOPLE OF BRUSSELS



Urban supports the creation of high-quality, resilient and innovative architecture.

Under the Sustainable Neighbourhood Contracts scheme (run by Urban), B-architecten upgraded Laeken/Laken railway station – a listed building – to meet the latest accessibility and sustainability requirements. The project was one of the winners of the 2021 Brussels Architecture Prize organised by Urban and the magazine A+.



Urban raises public awareness of contemporary architecture and cultural heritage, and makes this architecture accessible to as many people as possible via a series of events throughout the year (Heritage Days, archiweek, Urban Archaeology Days, Brussels' Favourite Heritage, exhibitions, inventories, publications, etc.).

Organised by Urban in the Brussels-Capital Region each October, archiweek includes guided tours of contemporary buildings, open days at architecture firms, seminars, workshops, conferences and exhibitions, accessible to everyone free of charge. To find out more and register for events, visit archiweek. [urban.brussels](http://urban.brussels)



The exhibition 'Down in the river' (Halles Saint-Géry/Sint-Gorikshallen, 2021/2022) showcased the results of the archaeological excavations carried out by Urban on the site of the former Parking 58 car park.





Urban protects and promotes Brussels' built heritage (iconic buildings, monuments, etc.), as well as our movable heritage (e.g. art collections) and intangible heritage such as folklore, languages, traditions and know-how (Ommegang, kermesse, Flower Carpet, beer culture, speculoos, witloof, etc.).

Urban nominated the Ommegang for inclusion on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and showcased this iconic event – an annual historical procession and festival – at an exhibition held at the Halles Saint-Géry/Sint-Gorikshallen (design by Lhoas & Lhoas).



Urban encourages the creation of artworks in public space (in particular by establishing a regional artworks committee) and compiles a detailed inventory of all existing works.

The inventory of movable heritage includes, for example, the 1997 sculpture by Tapta entitled *Esprit Ouvert – Perspectives et Réflexions* (Open Mind – Perspectives and Reflections), a meeting point in Brussels' Manhattan district, designed in the 1950s.



Urban is co-organising a unique programme of cultural events in Brussels as part of the year of Art Nouveau in 2023.

Thanks to action by Urban, such as supporting the opening of Victor Horta's magnificent Hôtel Solvay to the public, Brussels is living up to its status as the capital of Art Nouveau.

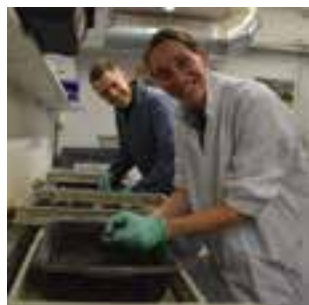
# URBAN: PARTNERING WITH THE PEOPLE OF BRUSSELS

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Urban helps preserve the quality of life of Brussels residents, for example by ensuring that the undeveloped interiors of the city's blocks ('islands') are not built on, and are kept planted with trees.

BruGIS lets you explore the richness and diversity of Brussels' 'island' interiors. Urban examines thousands of planning permits each year and is committed to preserving and sprucing up the city's island interiors.



Urban restores objects found during archaeological digs, preserves them in its collection and showcases them in various ways (such as exhibitions or research carried out by professionals).



Urban supports educational activities in schools so that schoolchildren and students can become responsible citizens of the future who are aware of their region's rich heritage.

The non-profit organisation Palais de Charles Quint/Paleis van Keizer Karel has been tasked with managing Brussels' largest archaeological site, the former Coudenberg Palace, situated under Place Royale/Koningsplein and the surrounding area. It also runs Classes du Patrimoine/Erfgoedklassen (Heritage Classes), which offers free activities for schoolchildren from the Brussels-Capital Region.



Urban seeks to improve buildings' energy performance while respecting their architectural integrity.

At the Kattekasteel villa in Anderlecht, the windows are being fitted with slim, high-performance double glazing, complete with period lattices.



Urban is committed to preserving our built heritage and passing it on to future generations, while also ensuring that is pleasant to live in and energy-efficient. It firmly believes that these two objectives are compatible and proves this on a daily basis!

Subscribe to our newsletter and stay up to date with our many cultural activities: <https://urbanbrusselscrm.be>

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**u**   
**urban.brussels** 



## THEMATIC PLACES AND ACTIVITIES





## LECTURE

### 1 Thoughts on posters and advertisements from the colonial era

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) (duration: 1 hour)

🏠 Place Saint-Géry/  
Sint-Goriksplein 23  
Brussels

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 30 people per tour.

This lecture will uncover the Belgian colonial mindset through posters and advertisements pertaining to the Congo. Certain images in colonial-era language are fixed in our collective memory, such as posters promoting transport and travel (Sabena airline posters for the Belgian Congo and South Africa, for instance). The same goes for guidebooks like the *Travel Guide to Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi*, whose itineraries for exploring the natural environment feature some highly stereotyped and biased representations. The event will also explore other examples, including posters for the Colonial Lottery, and will provide an opportunity to think about and challenge the mindset of the past.

In cooperation with *E-Guides*.

## TO VISIT

### 2 National Archives 2 (Joseph Cuvelier repository)

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00 (last admission at 17:00)

🏠 Rue du Houblon/Hopstraat 28  
Brussels

📅 Advance booking not required

♿ Accessible with assistance

The National Archives 2 (NA 2, Joseph Cuvelier repository) is one of the 19 repositories of the State Archives, which are responsible for collecting and preserving documents produced by Belgium's public bodies. Open to the public since 2011, this repository can accommodate up to 49 linear kilometres of archives. It houses many contemporary archive collections, both public and private.

A team of archivists has been working since 2014 to transfer some 10 linear kilometres of archives produced by the former Ministry of the Colonies (and previously held by the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs) to NA 2, making NA 2 a major repository of the memory of the history of colonisation and decolonisation. NA 2's collections also include the archives of private companies that operated in the Congo: *UMHK*, *Finoutremer*, *Sibéka*

(diamonds), *Traction et Électricité* (rail, hydropower, etc.). The archivists strive not only to preserve these documents in the best possible conditions but, above all, to inventory them and to promote them through research projects as well as by publishing numerous academic articles and a guide to sources for the history of colonisation, providing an indispensable aid to researchers and readers of all kinds.

**Guided tours throughout the day (English, French and Dutch). After a tour of the former paper mill buildings housing the archives (Anciennes Papeteries générales belges – Ed. Haseldonckx & Cie), visitors will get to see various sets of archives and a selection of visual documents charting personal histories (photographs, maps, charts, identity cards, passports) from our extensive collections of public and private archives. Up to 25 people per tour.**



## WALKING TOUR

### 3 Bananas, cocoa and cassava: the African food trade in Brussels

⌚ Sun. at 13:30 (EN), Sat. at 10:30, 13:30 and 16:00 and Sun. at 10:30 (FR) and Sun. at 16:00 (NL) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: in front of Sainte-Catherine/ Sint-Katelijne Church, Place Sainte-Catherine/ Sint-Katelijneplein Brussels

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour.

In the early 20th century, African produce was sold in and around Place Sainte-Catherine/Sint-Katelijneplein and Nouveau Marché aux Grains/Nieuwe Graanmarkt, with bananas, cocoa, cassava and coffee imported – then as now – from the Congo and other African countries. From Van Damme bananas and Jacques cocoa to the chocolate brand Congobar (as Côte d'Or was known for a while), embark on a journey to discover how the colonial-era agri-food trade has left its mark on the architecture of the Quartier des Quais/Kaaienwijk and on Belgium's culinary traditions.

In cooperation with  
*Brussels Chatterguides.*



## WALKING TOUR

### 4 Colors and flavors around the old port of Brussels

⌚ Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) (duration: 2 hours)

📍 Starting point: in front of Sainte-Catherine/ Sint-Katelijne Church, Place Sainte-Catherine/ Sint-Katelijneplein 50 Brussels

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 30 people per tour.

Our public spaces are dotted with reminders of the exploitation of African resources, from street names and statues to commemorative plaques. This tour will focus on buildings and architecture, particularly those linked to the food trade. The consumption of new foodstuffs following Belgium's colonisation of the Congo led to wholesalers' warehouses and stores of various kinds springing up all around the old port, with decorative façades referencing the new trade. A discovery walk with tasting.

In cooperation with *Collectif 5.*



## TO VISIT

## 5 Maison du Roi/ Broodhuis – Museum of the City of Brussels

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 17:00
- 🏠 Grand-Place/Grote Markt  
Brussels
- 📅 Reservation only for guided  
tours
- 🚫 Not accessible

Known as the Maison du Roi/Broodhuis, the building opposite the town hall in Grand-Place/Grote Markt is home to the Museum of the City of Brussels. The aim of this institution, established in 1887 at the instigation of mayor Charles Buls, is to trace the history of Brussels and its crafts in an educational way. Its extensive collections include paintings, sculptures, altarpieces and tapestries. The building's neo-Gothic style is attributable to architect Victor Jamaer, who was com-

missioned to rebuild the old Maison du Roi/Broodhuis from 1875 to 1895.

Belgium greatly benefited from the exploitation of the Congo by King Leopold II who, for a time, owned this vast territory as his personal property. The Museum of the City of Brussels holds a drawing of the opening of the Cinquantenaire Arch, a personal gift of Léopold II financed by his colonial enterprise, as well as a number of artworks made from ivory, which the sovereign was keen to promote at the time. (Listed – 09/03/1936)

**Guided tours contextualising  
works with a colonial past:**

**French**

**Sat.: 11:00, 13:00, 15:00.**

**Sun.: 10:00, 11:30, 13:30.**

**Dutch**

**Sat.: 12:00, 14:00, 16:00.**

**Sun.: 11:00, 12:30, 14:00.**

🗣️ **Guided tours in French  
Belgian Sign Language:  
Sat. at 14:30 & Sun. at 15:00. In  
cooperation with Arts & Culture.**



## TO VISIT

## 6 GardeRobe MannekenPis

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 17:00
- 🏠 Rue du Chêne/Eikstraat 19  
Brussels
- 📅 Reservation only for guided  
tours
- 🚫 Not accessible

In this 17th-century house on the corner of Impasse du Val des Roses/Rozendaal and Rue du Chêne/Eikstraat, the City of Brussels displays a selection of the clothes donated to Manneken Pis over the years. The first references to this diminutive statue of a urinating boy date from the 15th century, but the current figure is a replica of a sculpture commissioned from Jérôme Duquesnoy in 1619. The costume collection now includes more than 1,000 pieces, the oldest of which goes back to the 18th century.

Some of the outfits hail from Belgium's former colony and trust territories, having been donated between 1946 and 1953 to the statue which has become a symbol of Brussels and its inhabitants. They include that of a 2nd-class soldier in the Force Publique of the Belgian Congo, that of an Intore (warrior dancer) presented by the Mwami (king) of what was then Ruanda (now Rwanda), and that of a Murundi dancer from Burundi. Join the tour to learn more about these specific vestiges of Belgium's colonial past!

**Guided tours contextualising  
three Manneken Pis costumes:**

**French**

**Sat. and Sun.: 12:00, 14:00, 16:00.**

**Dutch**

**Sat. and Sun.: 11:00, 13:00, 15:00.**





## WALKING TOUR

## 7 Traces of colonisation in comics

- ⌚ Sat. at 13:30 and Sun. at 16:00 (EN) and Sat. at 10:00 and 16:00 and Sun. at 10:00 and 13:30 (FR) (duration: 2 hours)

📍 Starting point: in front of Notre-Dame de la Chapelle/ Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-ter-Kapelle Church, Place de la Chapelle/Kapellemarkt Brussels

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour.

Colonisation has been a major theme in comics from the 1950s to the present day. Did you know that Francis Blake and Philip Mortimer first met in Shimla, the most British of Indian cities in the colonial era? Or that comics artist Jijé hated the book *Tintin in the Congo* and created the character of Cirage – a highly intelligent African boy – in reaction to it? And why has the Odilon Verjus mural been daubed with the word ‘Decolonise!’ when the woman depicted is none other than legendary dancer, singer and actress Josephine Baker? Join us for this unique wander around the ‘ninth art’ as seen through the prism of colonialism.

In cooperation with  
Brussels Chatterguides.



## EXHIBITION

## 8 Notre Congo/ Onze Congo: Belgian colonial propaganda exposed

- ⌚ Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Les Ateliers des Tanneurs, Rue des Tanneurs/ Huidevettersstraat 58 (at the back of the courtyard on the right), Brussels.

- 📅 Free admission

The exhibition ‘Notre Congo/Onze Congo: Belgian colonial propaganda exposed’ will present a series of visual and audiovisual documents dating from the period of Belgium’s colonisation of the Congo. Géopolis, a photojournalism and education centre established in 2017 by a small team of individuals with a passion for geopolitics based in Les Ateliers des Tanneurs, will use a combination of images and sound to show how different methods of propaganda were once deployed to justify the colonial enterprise. Redundant language and the mindless repetition of slogans fostered a collective unconscious around colonisation. This exhibition will also question the persistence of stereotypes among the public in both Belgium and the Congo.

In cooperation with  
Géopolis and Coopération  
Education Culture (CEC).



## LECTURE

## 9 Belgium and chocolate: a colonial (hi)story?

- ⌚ Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 and 13:30 (FR) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

🏠 Les Ateliers des Tanneurs, Rue des Tanneurs/ Huidevettersstraat 60A, Brussels

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 50 people per lecture.

Nowadays, Belgian chocolate is fêted across the globe, while Brussels has long established itself as the chocolate capital of the world. The mere mention of the word “chocolate” is enough to get taste buds tingling!

For our parents and grandparents, names such as Victoria, Aiglon, Côte d’Or and Jacques (some now consigned to the history books) are laden with nostalgia, conjuring up childhood memories of bygone generations. But how did Belgian chocolate come to be so celebrated and what role did the Congo play in carving out its reputation? In a bid to separate myth from reality, we will take a look back at decades of mouth-watering chocolate history.

In cooperation with  
Once in Brussels.



## LECTURE

## 10 Congolese painting

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 15:30 (FR)  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

🏠 Les Ateliers des Tanneurs,  
Rue des Tanneurs/  
Huidevettersstraat 60A,  
Brussels

📌 Advance booking required.  
Up to 50 people per lecture.

Combining day-to-day life with political messages, Congolese painting is the subject of various preconceptions. This lecture will dispel those and also address the tribal roots of contemporary Congolese art, and all the clichés erroneously associated with it, as well as presenting the different schools of Congolese painting since the 1960s. With Quentin de Brower (speaker) and Jean-Marie Moké (painter).

In cooperation with **Le Tamanoir**.



## GUIDED BICYCLE TOUR

## 11 The Congo in Brussels as seen through architectural details

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) (duration: 3 hours)

➤ Starting point: Les Ateliers des Tanneurs,  
Rue des Ateliers/  
Werkhuizenstraat 62  
(at the back of the courtyard)  
Brussels

📌 Advance booking required.  
Up to 15 people per tour.  
Please note: to take part in this tour, you must be used to city cycling over distances of around 15 km, including some significant gradients.  
Minimum age: 12 years old.  
Bicycle hire is not available.

Could a country as vibrant as the Congo be lurking in the architectural recesses of Brussels? Prepare to be surprised! You'll discover bananas and oranges cascading down the walls of historic buildings in the city centre, colourful, shimmering frescoes, a Norwegian-Congolese chalet, a monumental bronze statue from Katanga and other precious woodwork from the tropics. So get on your bike and join us as we enter Brussels' colonial history through the back door of its architectural details!

In cooperation with  
**Once in Brussels**.



## OUTSIDE VIEW ONLY

## 12 Norwegian Chalet

🏠 Rue Brederode/  
Brederodestraat 10 – Brussels

📌 Please note that the chalet is not open to visitors

This rustic-looking building known as the 'Norwegian Chalet' was commissioned by King Leopold II in 1905 to house the offices of the former headquarters of the Congo Free State. Designed by Norwegian architect Finn Knudsen, it features a rough sandstone ground floor topped by an upper storey of carved timber planks. Between the windows, you can see the five-pointed star that featured on the flag of the Belgian Congo during the colonial period.

Rue Brederode/Brederodestraat, situated a stone's throw from the Royal Palace, was home to several bodies set up under the stewardship of Albert Thys, who entered Leopold's service in 1876. Aimed at administering colonial affairs, they included *Compagnie du Congo pour le Commerce et l'Industrie* and its many subsidiaries, among them *Compagnie Immobilière du Congo*, *Compagnie Sucrière* (dealing with real estate and sugar respectively) and mining enterprise *Compagnie du Katanga*.



## WALKING TOUR

### 13 Brussels and its former colonial administrative district

⌚ Sat. & Sun. at 11:00, 13:30 and 16:00 (FR) and Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 and 13:00 (NL) (duration: 2 hours)

✂ Starting point: Leopold II statue, Place du Trône/Troonplein Brussels

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 20 people per tour.

Belgium's colonisation of the Congo has left its mark on our public space in the form of statues, monuments, street names, and so on – all reminders of a glorious but, at the same time, painful past. The fact that this colonial empire was run and organised from Brussels can still be seen in many parts of the city's public realm. This historical walking tour through the capital's streets will take in little-known locations such as the Norwegian Chalet (housing the offices from which the Congo Free State was administered), the Rubber House, the old headquarters of colonial bank Belgolaise and the former Ministry of the Colonies.

**In cooperation with Arkadia and Quartier des Arts/Kunstwijk.**



## WALKING TOUR

### 14 Journey to the Congo

⌚ Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) and Sat. & Sun. at 9:30 and 13:30 (NL) (duration: 2 hours)

✂ Starting point: in front of Saint-Jacques-sur-Coudenberg/Sint-Jacob-op-de-Koudenberg Church, Place Royale/Koningsplein Brussels

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour.

The lucrative nature of Belgium's colonial enterprise is still apparent today throughout Brussels, although the same cannot be said of the terrible price paid by the Congolese people. This walking tour between Place Royale/Koningsplein and Rue Montoyer/Montoyerstraat will take in some of the buildings from which the former colony was administered.

Companies like *Eterco*, *Les Huileries du Congo* and *Compagnie Sucrière du Congo* will help to contextualise colonisation, while also shedding light on the key role played by figures such as Baron Édouard Empain, Baron Léon Lambert, General Albert Thys and many others. From the 1876 Brussels Geographical Conference which shaped the future of colonisation to the foundation of the Congo Free State in 1885, this journey through time will include a broad sweep of colonial history, right up to the independence of the Congo in 1960.

**In cooperation with E-Guides.**



## WALKING AND BUS TOUR

### 15 Take the Colonial Grand Tour, from the Globe tavern to Place Lumumba/Lumumbaplein

⌚ Sat. at 14:00 (FR) and Sat. at 9:30 (bilingual FR/NL) (duration: 3 hours)

✂ Starting point: in front of Saint-Jacques-sur-Coudenberg/Sint-Jacob-op-de-Koudenberg Church, Place Royale/Koningsplein Brussels

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 50 people per tour.

Brussels is full of monuments, museums, buildings and symbols evoking Belgium's colonial past. That past is particularly evident in its public space, with numerous street names and monuments honouring people, places and events linked to the history of Belgium's former colony, the Congo. But who are these people and what is their story? From the city centre to Forest/Vorst, via Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek and Parc du Cinquanteaire/Jubelpark, take a panoramic bus tour through Belgium's colonial past and the legacy it has left behind.

**In cooperation with Brussels Chatterguides.**



## GUIDED SCAVENGER HUNT

## 16 From Leopold II to Baudouin: a journey through the history of a dynasty

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) (duration: 2 hours)

📍 **Starting point:** in front of Saint-Jacques-sur-Coudenberg/Sint-Jacob-op-de-Koudenberg Church, Place Royale/Koningsplein Brussels

📋 **Advance booking required.** Up to 25 people per tour.

Crowns, crowns, crowns... Armed with a timeline, travel back through Belgium's royal dynasty, immersing yourself in the lives and times of monarchs from Leopold II to Baudouin and discovering the various ways they shaped and affected both Belgium and the Congo.

Expect a few questions and tests along the way!

In cooperation with *Itinéraires, sur les Sentiers de l'Histoire*.

## TO VISIT

## 17 BELvue Museum

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Place des Palais/ Paleizenplein 7 – Brussels

📋 **Advance booking not required**

♿ **Accessible with assistance**

The *Bellevue* hotel was built in 1776 on the first plot of land at Place Royale/Koningsplein to be sold to a private individual. The new owner was wealthy wine merchant and innkeeper Philippe de Proft. He had a hotel for travellers built there, meeting the requirements of Holy Roman Empress Maria Theresa, who wanted a coherent neoclassical design for the whole square. Over the years, the hotel's guests included French novelist Honoré de Balzac, the Austrian Empire's one-time chancellor and foreign minister Prince Klemens Metternich, and Jérôme Bonaparte (Napoleon's youngest brother). The building was purchased in 1902 by the Fondation de la Couronne and subsequently used as a residence by one of King Leopold II's daughters, Princess Clémentine. Soon after her marriage, the future King Leopold III and Queen Astrid redecorated it and moved in there. It was unoccupied from 1934 until 1953 and was loaned to the Red Cross. In

1960, it served as a reception and accommodation centre for Belgian colonials who had left the Congo and as temporary accommodation for civil servants from the former colony. The façade in Place Royale/Koningsplein bears two plaques with the following tribute in French and Dutch: "In honour of the members of the African Administration who served in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. 1908-1960/1962."

The building became a museum of decorative arts and later a museum of the Belgian royal family (known as the 'Museum of the Dynasty'). Today, it houses a museum devoted to Belgium and its history. Fries, beer, chocolate... surely there's more to Belgium than this? Visitors to the BELvue Museum can learn more about Belgium through the lens of the seven themes explored in the museum's rooms – democracy, prosperity, solidarity, pluralism, migration, language and Europe. Each theme is fleshed out by modern-day takes on these areas and then examined through history, offering a contemporary and original way to better understand the Belgium of today. (Listed – 22/12/1951)

### Self-guided tour.

**Walking tours: 'Dialogue and memory', 'Brussels and the Congo' and 'Brussels, an amnesiac metropolis' (see next page).**





## WALKING TOUR

## 18 Dialogue and memory

- ⌚ Sat. at 11:00 and Sun. at 14:00 (FR) and Sat. at 14:00 and Sun. at 11:00 (NL) (duration: 2 hours)

✂ Starting point: in front of the BELvue Museum, Place des Palais/ Paleizenplein 7 Brussels

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour.

Led by a guide from heritage organisation CAP Patrimoine and another of African descent, this tour will take you around the Royal Quarter, where there are many reminders of Belgium's colonial past, including the statue of Leopold II on Place du Trône/Troonplein and the Federal Parliament building, where MPs voted to make the Congo into a Belgian colony. Also on the itinerary will be the BELvue Museum where, among other things, you will learn about the links between the Congo and the former Bellevue hotel.

In cooperation with **BELvue** and **CAP Patrimoine**.



## WALKING TOUR

## 19 Brussels and the Congo

- ⌚ Sun. at 13:00 (EN), Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 16:00 (FR) and Sat. at 13:00 (NL) (duration: 2 hours)

✂ Starting point: in front of the BELvue Museum, Place des Palais/ Paleizenplein 7 Brussels

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour.

This tour will provide an opportunity to explore Belgium's colonial past, the traces left in Brussels by colonisation of the Congo, and the ties between the two countries. Among those making an appearance will be King Leopold II, Henry Morton Stanley, Adolphe Stoclet and Baron Lambert, as well as scientists, missionaries and entrepreneurs. The walk will end in Matongé/Matonge, Brussels' Belgian-African quarter.

In cooperation with **Brussels Chatterguides**.



## TOUR

## 20 Brussels, an amnesiac metropolis

- ⌚ Sat. at 14:00 and 16:30 (FR) (duration: 1 hour 45 minutes)

✂ Starting point: in front of the BELvue Museum, Place des Palais/ Paleizenplein 7 Brussels

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 15 people per tour.

Join the 'man next door' (Gaspard Giersé) and immerse yourself in the amnesiac colonial metropolis that is Brussels, a city where some very shady characters get to live forever thanks to copper from Katanga. This tour will take an unflinching look at Brussels' public space, unravel the colonial myth and highlight the issues involved in coming to terms with the memory of Belgium's past in the Congo.

In cooperation with **Les Visites de Mon Voisin**.



## TOUR

## 21 Brussels Centre for Fine Arts: architecture and history – a decolonial perspective

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 11:00, 14:00 and 16:00 (FR) and Sat. & Sun. at 11:00, 14:00 and 16:00 (NL) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: Bozar, in front of the infodesk, Rue Ravenstein/ Ravensteinstraat 23 Brussels

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 15 people per tour.

In 1913, the government decided to build “a temple devoted to music and the arts”. Construction work on the Art Deco building, designed by Belgian architect Victor Horta, started after the First World War.

The architecturally monumental yet discreet Brussels Centre for Fine Arts (Bozar), located on the Coudenberg hill, is now a high temple of culture in Belgium.

During these tours, guides will explain the complex history of the building and the institution, tying it in with Belgium's colonial past.

**In cooperation with Bozar.**



## INTERACTIVE WALKING TOUR

## 22 Brussels... a world in itself!

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 and 14:00 (NL) (duration: 2 hours)

📍 Starting point: Urban Contact Point, Monts des Arts/Kunstberg 7 Brussels

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 20 people per tour.

Brussels today is the epitome of an international city, with people from all over the world living side by side. But what was it like in the past? Of course, there had been contacts between Brussels and the rest of the world for centuries: the city stands at a crossroads between North and South, East and West. Colonisation too was a key influencing factor.

However, in some respects things have changed considerably. Nowadays, technology connects us to the whole world and travel is something many of us take for granted, but in times past how did the people of Brussels come into contact with other cultures and other countries? And what role did colonial ties play in this process? Can we identify historical traces of these contacts in today's city? Where are they, why are they there, and when do they date from?

Together, you will set off in search of the answers, comparing what you find with your present-day lives in contemporary Brussels.

**In cooperation with Korei Guided Tours.**





## WALKING TOUR

### 23 Brussels at the time of the Belgian Congo

- ① Sat. at 13:30 and 16:30 (FR),  
Sat. at 13:00 and 16:00 (NL)  
(duration: 2 hours)

✕ Starting point:  
Urban Contact Point,  
Monts des Arts/Kunstberg 7  
Brussels

- i Advance booking required.  
Up to 25 people per tour.

In the area around Bruxelles-Central/Brussel-Centraal station and behind the Royal Palace, there are many surviving buildings and other remnants of the colonial period. They include the Banque Belgo-Congolaise and the Air Terminus of former Belgian airline Sabena next to the station, the Ministry of the Colonies and the Cercle Royal Africain/Koninklijke Afrikaanse Kring in Place Royale/Koningsplein, the equestrian statue of Leopold II in Place du Trône/Troonplein and the bust of General Storms in Square de Meeûs/De Meeûsquare. What should be our attitude to this weighty legacy?

This tour will end at Square Patrice Lumumba/Patrice Lumumbasquare, near Porte de Namur/Naamsepoort. Afterwards, participants will be free to explore the Matongé/Matonge neighbourhood by themselves.

**In cooperation with  
Brukselbinnenstebuiten.**



## WALKING TOUR

### 24 Colonial bank architecture

- ① Sat. & Sun. at 10:00, 13:00  
and 15:00 (FR)  
(duration: 1 hour)

✕ Starting point:  
Urban Contact Point,  
Monts des Arts/Kunstberg 7  
Brussels

- i Advance booking required.  
Up to 20 people per tour.

Colonialism has always served economic interests, whether openly or otherwise, and Belgium is no exception. From this source, a stream of wealth flowed into Belgium from the late 19th to the first half of the 20th century. As the country's capital, Brussels reaped the rewards of these copious funds, with buildings being put up for civil servants, financiers, businesspeople and engineers.

The legacy of colonialism is also evident in its buildings, whose appearance reflects this very specific chapter in our history. Take a walk through the centre of Brussels and cast a critical eye over these many vestiges of that history.

**In cooperation with  
Once in Brussels.**

## WALKING TOUR

## 25 From the Sabena building to the former colonial administrative district

⌚ Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) and Sat. & Sun. at 9:30 and 13:30 (NL) (duration: 2 hours)

✖ Starting point: in front of the Wings Tavern on the corner of Rue Cardinal Mercier/Kardinaal Mercierstraat and Putterie/Putterij Brussels

ⓘ Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour.

Starting from the *Wings Tavern*, in the building formerly occupied by Belgium's one-time national carrier *Sabena* and a gathering place for colonials in Brussels, this tour will immerse you in Belgium's colonial history. It will proceed to Place de la Liberté/Vrijheidsplein – once home to *Banque Industrielle Belge*, the bank founded by Baron Empain, whose role in the colonisation process will be discussed – and pass in front of *Lever House*, the former headquarters of palm-oil company *Huileries du Congo Belge*. You will then pass by the statue of Henri-Alexis Brialmont, colonial advisor to King Leopold II, before heading to Parc de Bruxelles/Warandepark, near to which many colonial headquarters were located.

Throughout the tour, you will learn about the history of the Congo and how Leopold II, with the help of various companies, plundered the former colony.



In cooperation with E-Guides.

## BUS TOUR

## 26 Exhibitions and expositions

⌚ Sat. at 9:00 and 13:00 (FR) and Sat. at 11:00 and 15:00 (NL) (duration: 2 hours)

✖ Starting point: in front of the National Bank of Belgium, Boulevard de Berlaimont/de Berlaimontlaan 14 Brussels.

ⓘ Advance booking required. Up to 45 people per tour.

Brussels in 1897, 1910 and 1958, Liège in 1905, Charleroi in 1911 and Ghent in 1913 – on various occasions over the years, Belgium and its capital have hosted representatives from around the world to showcase science and knowledge, arts and culture, technology and discoveries.

This led to many influences being absorbed from other countries, evidence of which can still be seen today, for example in the Chinese Pavilion and Japanese Tower in Laeken/Laken, or the exotic green motifs on Brussels' Art Nouveau and Art Deco façades. Needless to say, the Congo has been a source of inspiration throughout its shared history with Belgium.

This guided bus tour will take in a range of locations associated with international exhibitions/expositions.

In cooperation with *Itinéraires, sur les Sentiers de l'Histoire*.



## TO VISIT

## 27 Lever House (HE2B-ISIB)

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 16:00
- 🏠 Rue Royale/  
Koningsstraat 150 – Brussels
- 📄 Reservation only for guided  
tours and activity
- 🚫 Not accessible



the rooms that Lever fitted out as a cinema and museum. The building was intended both as a showcase for Lever's flourishing business and as an education and propaganda hub, with the museum and cinema serving to promote colonial ideas. (Listed – 05/02/2021)

### Guided tours:

#### English

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00.

#### French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30, 14:00, 14:30, 15:00.

#### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30.

In collaboration with *Le Tanager*.

👤 Guided tours in French  
Belgian Sign Language:  
Sat. & Sun. at 11:00.  
In cooperation with  
Arts & Culture.

Activity: 'A look at colonial  
cinema' (see opposite).

The changes made in 1919 and 1921 are still in place. Covered by a large skylight and bordered by a metal corridor with balustrades, the bank's ticket office retains its 1920 design. Visitors are still received in the magnificent marble-clad hall, reminiscent of the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Tervuren. The side walls of this hall host two bronze statues of Congolese, illustrating the colonial stereotypes of the time. Another unusual feature of the building are

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## ACTIVITY

## 28 A look at colonial cinema

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00, 12:00 and 14:00 (FR)  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)
- 🏠 Lever House (HE2B-ISIB),  
Rue Royale/Koningsstraat 150  
Brussels
- 📄 Advance booking required.  
Up to 20 people per tour.

Over the years, a number of films were produced on the Belgian Congo, particularly in the 1950s. Some of these sought to justify Belgium's presence in the Congo, and to highlight the beneficial aspects of big business, the Church and the Belgian State in the country. Their discourse was paternalistic and tended to glorify the 'civilising' mission initiated by Leopold II. In this activity, the viewing of propaganda films will be followed by a discussion, with the aim of getting participants to think about how this discourse was constructed and the films' contemporary resonances.

In cooperation with  
*Brussels Chatterguides*.

## TO VISIT

## 29 Hôtel de Knuyt de Vosmaer

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue du Congrès/  
Congresstraat 33-33a  
Brussels

📖 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

🚫 Not accessible

Standing proudly on the corner of Rue du Congrès/Congresstraat and Rue de la Presse/Drukpersstraat, Hôtel de Knuyt de Vosmaer is a remarkable building. Built by architect Joseph Naert in 1878-79 in a heavily Renaissance-inspired eclectic style, it boasts three ornate façades of blue limestone linked by corner turrets.

The opulent interior decor was designed for Hector de Knuyt, the landowner's son who commissioned the building, and for Édouard Empain, who purchased it in 1881. Empain set up a bank there, turning the upper floors into a private apartment for himself. A businessman specialising in transport, he invested significant capital in the

Congo. In 1902, he was appointed by Leopold II to build a vast rail network linking the main settlements in the country, leading him to establish *Compagnie Chemins de Fer du Congo Supérieur aux Grands Lacs Africains* (Upper Congo/African Great Lakes Railway Company). In return, he was granted substantial land and mining rights.

Having been carefully restored, Hôtel de Knuyt de Vosmaer now houses prestigious rental offices. (Listed – 04/10/1983)

### Guided tours:

#### French

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

#### Dutch

Sat.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 15:30, 16:30.

In collaboration with  
*Brussels Chatterguides*.

🗣️ Guided tours in French  
Belgian Sign Language:  
Sat. at 14:00 & Sun. at 14:30. In  
cooperation with *Arts & Culture*.



## WALKING TOUR

## 30 Notre-Dame-aux-Neiges/Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-ter-Sneeuw and colonial industry in Africa

🕒 Sat. at 16:00 (EN),  
Sat. at 10:00 and 13:00 and  
Sun. at 13:00 and 16:00 (FR)  
and Sun. at 10:00 (NL)  
(duration: 2 hours)

📍 Starting point:  
in front of Hôtel de Knuyt de  
Vosmaer, Place de la Liberté/  
Vrijheidsplein, Brussels

📖 Advance booking required.  
Up to 25 people per tour.

Hôtel de Knuyt de Vosmaer, Lever House, the former Wolfers store, the neoclassical buildings on Rue Royale/Koningsstraat... these iconic buildings give the Notre-Dame-aux-Neiges/Onze-Lieve-Vrouw-ter-Sneeuw neighbourhood its distinctive identity to this day. All of them have links to the colonial industries that exploited raw materials from the Congo and had their headquarters in Brussels. From diamonds mined by Forminière to metals recycled by Umicore, palm oil produced by Lever Brothers to ivory used by the Wolfers brothers in their *objets d'art*, this tour will revisit our colonial past as seen through the forced Congolese exports that proved so very lucrative for Belgian industry.

In cooperation with  
*Brussels Chatterguides*.





### WALKING TOUR

#### 31 Belgian institutions and colonisation

⌚ Sat. & Sun. at 9:30 and 11:30 (EN) and Sat. & Sun. at 9:30, 11:30 and 14:00 (FR) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

✂ Starting point: in front of the Palace of the Nation, Place de la Nation/ Natieplein 2 Brussels

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 20 people per tour.

What part did Belgian institutions play during the colonial period? What were the roles of Parliament, government and the Belgian monarchy? This walking tour will shed light on the institutional history of colonisation. You will also learn about the present-day relationship between Belgian and Congolese institutions and the role that the Belgian justice system can play in reparation.

**In cooperation with Le Tamanoir.**



### WALKING TOUR

#### 32 A perspective on Congo-related colonial heritage

⌚ Sat. & Sun. at 10:30, 11:30, 13:30 and 14:30 (FR), Sat. at 11:00, 13:00 and 15:00 and Sun. at 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00 and 15:00 (NL), Sun. at 14:30 (EN) (duration: 2 hours)

✂ Starting point: statue of industrialist John Cockerill, Place du Luxembourg/ Luxemburgplein, Brussels (tour ends at Place Royale/ Koningsplein)

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 18 people per tour.

There are many traces of the colonisation of Congo to be found in Brussels. Indeed, this material heritage (particularly linked to King Leopold II) is so plentiful in Belgium's capital that it would take days to explore it all on foot: street names, statues, commemorative plaques, artworks from the 19th century and later, buildings, institutions and clubs, all having a connection with the Belgian Congo. This tour will take you through the Luxembourg/Luxemburg neighbourhood, part of the Matongé/Matonge district and the Royal Quarter in the Upper Town. Along the way, you will come across civil servants of Leopold II, soldiers, industrialists, lawyers, bankers, missionaries, critical politicians and journalists, and learn more about the Royal Trust and the problematic nature of certain monuments and statues.

**In cooperation with Culturama.**



## TO VISIT

### 33 House of European History

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Parc Léopold/Leopoldspark  
Rue Belliard/  
Belliardstraat 135  
Brussels-Extensions

📅 Reservation only  
for guided tours

♿ Accessible with assistance

George Eastman (1854-1932) was a US industrialist who founded Kodak and invented the Kodak camera. In 1933, he commissioned Swiss architect Michel Polak to build a dental clinic, making Brussels the latest in a string of cities (after Rochester, London, Rome, Paris and Stockholm) to have such an Eastman-funded facility. Polak, an adherent of modernism who was also behind the nearby Résidence Palace, designed an imposing building with a restrained façade and a flat roof. Inside, a large entrance

hall featuring attractive marble finishings afforded access to the offices and the children's waiting room. The latter was decorated with frescoes based on La Fontaine's *Fables*, painted by one of Polak's friends, Camille Barthélémy. In 2011, a modern extension was added to the building that would later host the House of European History. Opened in 2017, the museum aims to enhance understanding of Europeans' shared past.

The permanent exhibition addresses the issue of Europe's colonial history. The collection includes many items related to the colonial powers, as well as artworks like the sculpture by Niyi Olagunju, expressing the sense of alienation caused by the trauma of colonialism.

#### Guided tours:

##### English

Sat. & Sun.: 12:00, 14:00, 16:00.

##### French

Sat. & Sun.: 11:00, 13:00, 15:00.

##### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 11:00, 13:00, 15:00.



🗣️ Guided tours in French  
Belgian Sign Language:  
Sat. & Sun. at 15:00. In  
cooperation with Arts & Culture.

## TO VISIT

### 34 Former Hôtel van Eetvelde

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Avenue Palmerston/  
Palmerstonlaan 4  
Brussels-Extensions

📅 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Not accessible

Started in 1895, when Art Nouveau was still in its infancy, Hôtel van Eetvelde can be considered one of Victor Horta's finest architectural achievements. Its interior testifies to his flair for arranging spaces, diffusing natural light and using coloured materials.

The house was built for Edmond van Eetvelde, a diplomat and advisor to King Leopold II. Van Eetvelde was appointed General Administrator of Foreign Affairs of the Congo Free State in 1885, and was responsible for negotiating with France, Britain

and Portugal to fix the colony's borders. In 1897, he oversaw the colonial exhibition at Tervuren and was given the title of baron by the king. For the building's interior, Horta used materials from the Congo as well as motifs alluding to the colony. Mosaics criss-crossed by creepers welcome visitors into the hallway, while graceful columns stretch upwards like plant stems, supporting the ribbed canopy whose stained glass, featuring stylised leaves and flower stalks, attractively tints the natural light. The dining room, with a decorative design of ornamental shrubs, still retains its original embossed tapestry wall coverings, showing plants, elephants and starfish in shades of ochre, green and brown. (Listed – 18/11/1976)

#### Guided tours:

##### English

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30.

##### French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.



Dutch  
Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30.  
In cooperation with *Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaines (ARAU)* and *Korei Guided Tours*.

🗣️ Guided tours in French  
Belgian Sign Language:  
Sunday at 11:00. In cooperation  
with Arts & Culture.



## WALKING TOUR

### 35 Art Nouveau and 'Congo style'

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR)  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: at the corner of Square Marie-Louise/Maria-Louizasquare and Rue Ortélius/Ortéliusstraat Etterbeek

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 25 people per tour.

For the Brussels International Exhibition in 1897, a number of Art Nouveau architects were tasked with showcasing the riches of the Congo, in the very specific context of colonial propaganda. The colonial section was characterised by a unity of style and materials that closely associated the 'Congo style' with Art Nouveau. Hôtel van Eetvelde – designed by Victor Horta for the Secretary General of the Congo Free State – reminds us of this history, as do the handful of outstanding Art Nouveau buildings in the Squares district, whose curves, as well as some of the materials used in their construction, are inextricably linked to Belgium's colonial past.

In cooperation with *Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaines (ARAU)*.

## TO VISIT

### 36 Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark

🏠 Avenue de la Renaissance/  
Renaissancelaan /  
Avenue des Nerviens/  
Nerviërsiaan /  
Avenue de l'Yser/IJzerlaan /  
Avenue de la Joyeuse Entrée/  
Blijde Inkomstlaan  
Brussels-Extensions

Now covering some 30 hectares, Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark was created as part of large-scale plans to expand and gentrify Brussels, overseen by Victor Besme under the direction of King Leopold II. It is home to many vestiges of colonial history, including two easily identifiable monuments. The first, located outside the park perimeter on the Berlaymont side, was erected to honour General Albert Thys, a close collaborator of Leopold II in his Congolese 'project'. It consists of a central plinth embossed with a bronze profile of Thys, with a balustrade extending out on both sides. On top of the plinth are two female figures, one of whom symbolises the riches of Africa. Not far from the mosque, originally built for the 1897 International Exhibition, another monument commemorates the explorers, missionaries and soldiers who helped to colonise the

Congo. Sculptor Thomas Vinçotte was commissioned to execute this in 1911, but it was not completed until 1921. However, the park has an anti-colonial aspect to its history too (albeit one that is no longer visible), as it was one of the venues for the second Pan-African Congress in 1921. (Listed – 18/11/1976)

**Activity: 'Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark, one drawing at a time'; fun adventure and family scavenger hunt: 'What would Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark be like without its colonial history?'; walking tours: 'From Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark to Avenue de l'Exposition coloniale', 'Leopold II and Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark', 'The Congo on display in Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark'; guided bicycle tour: 'The Congo seen through the lens of world's fairs'; and scavenger hunt: 'Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark: a repository of colonial memory' (see opposite and following pages).**

**Cinquanteenaire Outdoor Lab/ CO-creation Session (see page 57).**

## ACTIVITY

### 37 Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark, one drawing at a time

🕒 Sat., 10:30 to 17:00

📍 Starting point: under the Cinquantenaire Arcade, Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark Brussels-Extensions

**i** Activity in English, French and Dutch. More information is available from the Urban Sketchers Belgium Facebook group or by emailing [info@urbansketchersbelgium.be](mailto:info@urbansketchersbelgium.be)

Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark bears witness in its own way to Belgium's colonisation of the Congo and the wealth it generated. For

this year's Heritage Days, *Urban Sketchers Belgium* invite you to rediscover the park from this specific perspective. In keeping with the movement's motto 'Showing the world, one drawing at a time', they would like you to convey your personal response to the park and the version of history that it presents, through the sketches that you make while there.

At the meeting point, you'll be given a map of the park showing a number of locations with links to colonialism and the Congo. You will then be free to wander wherever you like and draw what takes your fancy.

At the end of the day, if you wish, you'll have the chance to share these drawings with the group.

**In cooperation with *Urban Sketchers Belgium*.**



## FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT

### 38 What would Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark be like without its colonial history?

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00, 13:00 and 15:30 (FR) and Sun. at 10:00, 13:00 and 15:30 (NL) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: entrance to Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark (Merode/Merode side), Avenue de l'Yser/IJzerlaan, Brussels-Extensions

**i** Advance booking required. Up to 4 groups of 6 people (adults and children) per scavenger hunt.

The culminating point of the new Avenue de Tervueren/Tervurenlaan, Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark and its ceremonial buildings were laid out on a remnant of the Sonian Forest known as the Linthout plateau, formerly used for manoeuvres by the Civil Guard. At last, Brussels would have a site fit for a proper national exhibition! Over the years, the park acquired a variety of decorative monuments, some evoking Belgium's presence in the Congo in no uncertain terms. But what would the park have looked like without the former Belgian colony? With a notebook in one hand and a pencil in the other, get set to explore Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark through the prism of colonial history.

**In cooperation with *Once in Brussels*.**



## WALKING TOUR

39

## From Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark to Avenue de l'Exposition coloniale

⌚ Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) (duration: 2 hours)

✂ Starting point: entrance to Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark on Avenue de la Joyeuse Entrée/Blijde Inkomstlaan Etterbeek

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour.

Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark is home to various monuments built during the colonial era, recalling Belgium's former colony of the Congo, the personal property of King

Leopold II, and glorifying the leading figures in its creation. On this walking tour, you will cross the park and head towards Avenue de Tervueren/Tervurenlaan. Once known as Avenue de l'Exposition coloniale, it was built to connect the two main areas of the Colonial Exhibition: Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark and Parc de Tervuren/Tervurenpark, where a palace dedicated to the Congo Free State was erected. You will learn about the thinking behind the Colonial Exhibition, the objectives of Leopold II, and the desire of Western countries at that time to showcase the benefits of colonisation. You will notice that some of the street names you encounter allude to characters or events from the colonial period. Art Nouveau, which featured in the exhibition, and its exponents (Henry van de Velde, Gustave Serrurier-Bovy, Paul Hankar) will also be discussed.

**In cooperation with E-Guides.**



## WALKING TOUR

40

## Leopold II and Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark

⌚ Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 and 14:30 (EN), 10:30 and 14:30 (FR) and 10:30 and 14:30 (NL) (duration: 1 hour)

✂ Starting point: outside the entrance to the Art and History Museum, Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark 10, Brussels-Extensions

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 15 people per tour.

This tour of the Art and History Museum and Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark will provide an opportunity

to reflect on the colonial past of the young Belgian state. The museum, for example, houses a plaster copy of the monumental equestrian statue of Leopold II. The tour will examine the history of this work as well as that of the museum itself and the ivories in its Art Nouveau collection. Both the museum and the park are home to statues and monuments with a direct or indirect link to the Congo. State-sponsored artist Thomas Vinçotte played a key role in the creation of these works. The tour will highlight the part played by such individuals in Belgium's past and address the repercussions of their actions from a contemporary perspective.

**In cooperation with the Royal Museums of Art and History.**



## GUIDED BICYCLE TOUR

## 41 The Congo seen through the lens of world's fairs

① Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 (FR)  
and Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 (NL)  
(duration: 4 hours 30 minutes)

✂ Starting point: under the Cinquantenaire Arcade, Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark Brussels-Extensions

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 18 people per tour.  
The tour will end at the AfricaMuseum in Tervuren, rather than returning to the starting point. The guide will either show you the route back or help you return to Brussels by tram, along with your bike. Bicycle hire is not available.

The world's fairs of 1897 and 1910 were opportunities for Leopold II and Belgium to showcase and justify their colonial enterprise in the Congo to the Belgian people and the rest of the world. From Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark to Parc de Tervuren/Park van Tervuren, revisit the key locations of these exhibitions by bike while taking a critical and contextualised look at the events themselves and the heritage they left behind.

In cooperation with **Pro Velo**.



## WALKING TOUR

## 42 The Congo on display in Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark

① Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 (EN),  
Sat. & Sun. at 13:30 (NL)  
(duration: 2 hours)

✂ Starting point:  
Mérode/Merode metro station, entrance at the corner of Avenue de Tervueren/Tervurenlaan and Avenue des Celtes/Keltenlaan, Etterbeek

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 20 people per tour.

In 1897, Belgium inaugurated an International Exhibition with pavilions built at two locations: Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark and Parc de Tervuren/Tervurenpark.

The event celebrated the 'civilising mission' of Leopold II, who had been sovereign of the Congo Free State since 1885. The newly built Avenue de Tervueren/Tervurenlaan connected the two sites. After the death of Leopold II, sculptor Thomas Vinçotte was commissioned to create a monument in Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark honouring the first Belgian colonisers. It depicts grateful Congolese alongside Belgian missionary and military values, while the Congo River meanders quietly and symbolically at the base of the monument. There is no reference to colonial abuses. In recent years, the work has been repeatedly daubed with red paint – proof, if it were needed, that in 2022 Belgium's colonisation of the Congo is no longer viewed as it was at the start of the 20th century.

In cooperation with **Klare Lijn**.







## FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT

### 43 Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark: a repository of colonial memory

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

✂️ Starting point: under the Cinquanteenaire Arcade, Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark Brussels-Extensions

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour.

Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark is an iconic location in the context of Belgium's colonial history. It provided the setting for the 1897 International Exhibition, whose colonial section in Tervuren was accessed via a broad avenue built at the behest of King Leopold II. In the park itself, the Congo monument, the statue of Albert Thys and other items of heritage provide an opportunity to consider and recontextualise people and issues with a direct link to the Congo. Meanwhile, the Cinquanteenaire Arcade is particularly illustrative of the urban design vision of the 'Builder King', funded in part by his Congolese 'project'. This guided scavenger hunt for families will take a fun and interactive approach to a piece of our rich and complex history, addressing a few traditional misconceptions along the way.

In cooperation with *Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaines (ARAU)*.



## WALKING TOUR

### 44 From Palais du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelparkpaleis to Palais des Colonies/Koloniënpaleis: by tram to Tervuren!

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) (duration: 2 hours)

✂️ Starting point: exit of Mérode/Merode metro station, at the corner of Avenue de Tervueren/Tervurenlaan and Avenue des Gaulois/Galliërslaan Etterbeek

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 15 people per tour. Please make sure you have a valid tram ticket/pass.

This guided tour, on foot and by tram, will follow the route taken by visitors to the Brussels International Exhibition in 1897, from the main exhibition site in Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark to the colonial section in Tervuren. While on the tram, on your headsets you will hear the guide explain and recontextualise what you are seeing outside, from urban panoramas and rich architectural heritage to parks and forest. The tour will end in the delightful Parc de Tervuren/Park van Tervuren.

In cooperation with *Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaines (ARAU)*.



## WALKING TOUR

## 45 Etterbeek and decolonisation. How should we deal with dissonant heritage?

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 and 14:00 (NL) (duration: 2 hours)

📍 Starting point:  
Louis Schmidt memorial,  
Place du Roi-Vainqueur/  
Koning Overwinnaarsplein  
Etterbeek

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 20 people per tour.

A walking tour taking in memories of Belgian colonial history in

the urban landscape of Brussels' Barracks Quarter.

The names of 10% of Etterbeek's streets and squares refer directly to Belgium's military history in its African colonies. This public heritage is located in two historic areas of the municipality: the Quartier des Casernes/Kazernewijk (Barracks Quarter) and Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark. As you walk around the Barracks Quarter, street names and monuments will give you pause to think about and question the Belgian colonial era that is inextricably linked to the military history of Etterbeek and Belgium. Later on, you will hear the story of Leopold II and Parc du Cinquantenaire/Jubelpark and learn about the meaning of the term 'dissonant heritage'.



In cooperation with  
Korei Guided Tours.

## WALKING TOUR

## 46 Exploring historic lifts/elevators

🕒 Sat. a Sun. at 10:00, 14:00 and 16:00 (FR) and Sat. a Sun. at 11:00 (NL) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point:  
Square Maréchal  
Montgomery/Maarschalk  
Montgomeryplein (at  
the corner of Avenue de  
Tervuren/Tervurenlaan  
and Avenue de l'Armée/  
Legerlaan), Woluwe-Saint-  
Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe  
and Etterbeek

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 15 people per tour.

Take a guided walking tour around Avenue de Tervuren/Tervurenlaan and discover the little-known heritage of historic lifts/elevators, an inventory of which is currently being compiled by Homegrade, with the support of Urban's Cultural Heritage Department. Some of the most remarkable examples in Brussels will be on display, as buildings not normally accessible to the public throw open their doors. Many of these lifts testify to Belgium's exploitation of African resources – something which is particularly evident in their cabins made from Congolese wood. The tour will reveal the different types of timber used and try to trace their origins and the background to their exploitation, while also showcasing the technical and aesthetic development of lifts and the challenges involved in modernising them.



In cooperation with Homegrade.



## TO VISIT

## 47 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/ Sint-Pieters-Woluwe Town Hall

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 14:00 to 18:00

🏠 Avenue Charles Thielemans/  
Charles Thielemanslaan 93  
Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/  
Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Accessible

Architects Guillaume Vermeiren and Joseph-Paul Nicaise co-designed the new Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe Town Hall, erected between 1961 and 1965. The building, which is clearly inspired by the Flemish neo-Renaissance style, is dominated by an impressive bell tower that is visible from all the main thoroughfares running through the area. In 2000, the former ballroom (known as Bal 300) was completely refurbished to accommodate theatrical performances, receptions and exhibitions.

It opened with an exhibition dedicated to painter Émile Fabry (1865-1966), after whom the new room was subsequently named. This Belgian symbolist artist had his studio in Rue du Collège Saint-Michel/Sint-Michielskollegestraat in Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe. To mark his 100th birthday, the municipal council purchased four of his monumental compositions. One of these, entitled *L'Effort* (The Effort) or *L'Expansion coloniale* (Colonial Expansion), restored in 2001, was among the works intended for the Liège International Exhibition in 1905 – part of a trend of promoting the colonial exhibitions which were regularly staged in the early 20th century to glorify the Western powers. It is also representative of the tradition of *grands décors* (large-scale decorative painting).

**The guided tours will trace the architectural history of the building and offer a reinterpretation of Fabry's work.**

**English**

**Sat. & Sun.: 14:30 and 16:30.**

**French**

**Sat. & Sun.: 14:00, 15:00, 16:00 and 17:00.**

**Dutch**

**Sat. & Sun.: 15:30 and 17:30.**

**In cooperation with Brussels Chatterguides and the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe.**



### WORKSHOP

#### 48 Banafro: Africa workshop – dancing, singing, rhythm

🕒 Sat. at 10:30 and Sun. at 16:30 (FR)  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

🏠 W:Halll, Avenue Charles Thielemans/Charles Thielemanslaan 93, Woluwe – Saint-Pierre/ Sint-Pieters-Woluwe (Saturday in the 'W:Halll Station' room and Sunday in the 'Passerelle' room)

📌 Advance booking required.  
Up to 30 people per workshop.

Banafro is short for *bana ya Africa*, which means 'children of Africa' in the Lingala language. A fixture of the Brussels cultural landscape for two decades, Banafro teaches African culture through its dance, rhythms, songs, games and stories.

This workshop will introduce children (accompanied by their parents) to the world of African song and dance, its meanings, unique characteristics and special sounds. In addition, it will develop their creativity and open their minds to other cultures through playful engagement with rhythm.

**In cooperation with the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe and Banafro asbl.**



### BRUNCH TALK

#### 49 Traces of colonialism in our thinking

🕒 Sun. at 12:00  
(trilingual FR/NL/EN)  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

🏠 W:Halll ('Passerelle' room), Avenue Charles Thielemans/ Charles Thielemanslaan 93, Woluwe – Saint-Pierre/ Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

📌 Advance booking required.  
Up to 30 people.

Georgine Dibua, a member of the expert group on the decolonisation of public space in the Brussels-Capital Region and a coordinator at the non-profit organisation Bakushinta, which works to promote a decolonial approach to the history of the Congolese community in Belgium, will lead a discussion on issues related to the transmission of memory and the work of decolonising public space and heritage. She will be joined for the debate by other representatives of the Congolese diaspora, mainly from the artistic field. The aim is to compare different perspectives on this issue based on individual experiences and to see how those experiences fit with the wider context.

**In cooperation with the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe.**



### LECTURE

#### 50 Management and restitution of colonial-era cultural heritage in Belgium and Europe

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 14:30 (FR)  
(duration: 1 hour)

🏠 W:Halll (Capart Room), Avenue Charles Thielemans/ Charles Thielemanslaan 93, Woluwe – Saint-Pierre/ Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

📌 Advance booking required.  
Up to 60 people per lecture.

Yasmina Zian, author of a report on the future of non-European collections held by Belgium's French Community, commissioned by the French Community from the Royal Academy of Belgium, will discuss the management of colonial-era cultural heritage and the debate around restitution of these items.

**In cooperation with the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe.**

## EXHIBITION

## 51 Contrasting perspectives: The 20th-century Africanists and the work of Rhode Makoumbou

🕒 Sat. & Sun. from 12:00 to 18:00

📍 W:Hall (Forum Room), Avenue Charles Thielemans/ Charles Thielemanslaan 93, Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/ Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

📅 Advance booking not required

The collections of the Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe heritage fund include a number of artworks from the 'Africanist' school of the first half of the 20th century. Arthur Dupagne, Marcel Pire, Ferdinand

Pire Ferdinand and Francine Somers went out to the Congo and depicted scenes from everyday life during the colonial period.

This exhibition will juxtapose their artworks with a contemporary take by an artist from the African diaspora. Rhode Makoumbou is an artist who records the social and cultural memory of Africa in general, and Congo in particular. Her multi-award-winning work highlights themes such as the social activities of African women and the value of vanishing ways of life. In a figurative style inspired by traditional statuary art, realism, cubism and expressionism, her paintings and sculptures place the Congolese people front and centre.

**In cooperation with the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe.**



## EXHIBITION

## 52 Comic strips by artists from North Kivu

🕒 Sat., 10:00 to 13:00

📍 Venue:

Bibliothèque du Centre, Avenue Charles Thielemans/ Charles Thielemanslaan 93, Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

A total of 53 comic strips by young Kivutian artists on the theme of Congolese independence, viewed in terms of civil identity, will be on

display in the libraries and multimedia library of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe. The result of a competition organised by the Brussels municipality in North Kivu's capital Goma in 2021, the works will showcase the vitality and variety of cartoonists playing their trade in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The exhibition will be accompanied by a selection of books, music and films on the theme of colonisation, available in the municipality's libraries and its multimedia library.

**In cooperation with the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe and Réseau des Bibliothèques de Woluwe-Saint-Pierre.**





## WALKING TOUR

### 53 Decolonial guided tour of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

⌚ Sat. at 14:00 (EN), Sun. at 14:00 (FR) (duration: 2 hours)

➤ Starting point: Leopold II tram stop, Square Léopold II/Leopold II Plein – Avenue de Tervueren/Tervurenlaan 236, Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

📌 Advance booking required. Up to 30 people per tour.

Led by Collectif Mémoire Coloniale et Lutte contre les Discriminations, this guided tour of the streets, statues and monuments of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe will focus on 'collective memory', reflecting on the history of (de) colonisation and recontextualising its legacy in the public space. It will take in Avenue de Tervueren/Tervurenlaan, Avenue Général Baron Empain/Generaal Baron Empainlaan and the Madoux tram stop, ending up at the Rwandan Embassy. The aim will be to learn more about the history that binds Belgium to Africa and to further the development of a shared collective memory.

**In cooperation with the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe and Collectif Mémoire Coloniale et Lutte contre les Discriminations.**

## TO VISIT

### 54 Wittockiana

⌚ Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue du Bemel/Bemelstraat 23 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

📌 Reservation only for guided tours and combined tours and lectures

🚫 Not accessible\*

The Wittockiana – built between 1981 and 1983 – was designed by architect Emmanuel de Callatay, who was commissioned by Michel Wittock to create a modern-day shrine to books. Somewhat uniquely, the resulting building, which won the Belgian Architecture Award in 1988, is partly sunk below ground level. Ivy now entwines its ribbed cast-concrete shell, enabling it to blend in seamlessly with its natural surroundings. Many artists were involved in the library's creation: Émile Veranneman designed the furniture in the section for rare and antique books, its red lacquer reminiscent of the morocco leather used in book bindings, while Jacqueline Guillermain and Denmark (the artistic name of Marc Robbroeckx) created a number of book-related contemporary artworks for the building. In 1996, another storey was added to the complex: a light metal-and-glass structure devised by architect Charly Wittock, the youngest son of the library's founder. Today, the building and its contents are owned by the King Baudouin Foundation, which ensures their long-term preservation.

Among the several thousand items in the collection are the *Treaty of Cession* and the *Draft Treaty of Cession of the Congo Free State to Belgium*. This fascinating document attests to the debates going on in this period while shedding a unique light on the years between 1890 and 1908 in the Congo, which was then the personal property of King Leopold II.



**Guided tours of the museum and its collections:**

**French**

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00.

**Dutch:**

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30.

In cooperation with E-Guides.

**Combined tours and lectures focusing on two exceptional documents in the library's collections: the Draft Treaty of Cession and the Treaty of Cession of the Congo Free State to Belgium. The Wittockiana team will discuss a range of topics, including the historical and political background to the Treaty, a material history of the document, its decorative Art Nouveau bindings and the library's collection of Art Nouveau books.**

**English**

Sat. & Sun.: 16:00.

**French**

Sat. & Sun.: 14:00.

**Dutch**

Sat. & Sun.: 15:00.

**Exhibition. The King Baudouin Foundation presents 'Travels/Landscapes. Christian Dotremont', a poetic exploration of places dear to the poet through photographs by Georges A. Bertrand, also featuring books, sculptures and 'logograms' (word pictures).**



## WALKING TOUR

## 55 Remembering the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi and their associates

- 🕒 Sat. at 13:00 and Sun. at 9:00 (EN), Sat. at 9:00 and 15:00 and Sun. at 11:00 and 13:00 (FR), and Sat. at 11:00 and Sun. at 15:00 (NL)  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

✳️ Starting point: memorial to the Tutsi genocide in Rwanda, at the roundabout between Avenue Roger Vandendriessche/Roger Vandendriesschelaan and Avenue Jules César/Julius Caesarlaan, Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 20 people per tour.

This tour will take in places of remembrance linked to the Tutsi genocide and focal points for support initiatives that resulted in the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Starting from the memorial to the genocide, it will follow the route of the annual commemorative torchlight procession and end at Galerie Bortier/Bortiergalerij, where the Artemys bookshop hosted the first meetings of Tutsi women survivors.

Belgian colonists stoked disputes between Hutu and Tutsi and thus exacerbated recurring tensions, culminating in the 1994 genocide of the Tutsi and the killings of moderate Hutu and of European and Belgian partners. This post-colonial legacy remains a largely invisible part of Belgian history. Some of the tours will include meetings with eyewitnesses.

In cooperation with L-Tour.



## TO VISIT

## 56 Jean Massart Botanical Garden (Brussels Environment and ULB)

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 8:00 to 19:30

📍 Chaussée de Wavre/  
Waversesteenweg 1850  
Auderghem/Oudergem

Established in 1922 by Jean Massart (1865-1925), professor of botany at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), the eponymous garden celebrates its centenary this year. The original part, designed by landscape architect Jules Buyssens, contains the Ethological Garden where Massart aimed to create a kind of botanical Belgium in miniature, featuring vegetation from the country's main natural habits: beach, wet meadow, marshland, pond edges, areas of limestone and sandstone rock, heathland, and sunny and shady hillsides. From the 1960s onwards, nature was allowed to take over, and most of the plants gradually gave way to flora typical of the Brabant marshes. Today, this living

museum on the edge of the Sonian Forest includes nearly 2,000 species from all over the world, including many plants which were brought back to Europe by naturalists criss-crossing the European colonies. They are presented in thematic collections: medicinal and aromatic plants, an arboretum of exotic tree species, a garden showing the evolution of flowering plants, cultivated plants and an orchard. There is also a wetland nature reserve forming part of the Natura 2000 network. (Listed - 29/05/1997)

**Tours of the Jean Massart Ethological Garden, Sunday at 14:00 and 16:00 (FR) (duration: 1 hour). Advance booking required. Up to 15 people per tour. In cooperation with CIVA.**

**Walking tour: 'The centenary of the Massart Garden', Sunday at 14:00 and 15:00 (FR) (duration: 1 hour). Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour. In cooperation with Brussels Environment.**

**Show: 'Pollinizzaction', Sat. & Sun. at 13:00 and 15:00 (FR) (duration: 30 minutes). Starring insect puppets and two**



**female actors, this blooming brilliant show will entertain and enlighten as it explains the reasons why insects visit flowers. Part science, part performing arts, the 30-minute production is aimed primarily at children aged 6 to 12, but is sure to appeal to young and old alike. Advance booking required. Up to 30 people per performance.**

**In cooperation with the Jean Massart Experimental Garden (Brussels Environment and ULB).**

**Walking tour: 'Travelling plants' (see opposite).**





### WALKING TOUR

#### 57 Travelling plants

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 14:00 (FR) and Sun. at 14:00 (NL)  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: main entrance to the Massart Garden, Chaussée de Wavre/Waversesteenweg 1850 Auderghem/Oudergem

- 📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 25 people per tour.

If you think that plants stay in one place, prepare to think again! Plants travel – sometimes spreading gradually, sometimes crossing entire oceans. On this tour, you'll discover how they've been able to make these journeys, while also admiring the plants in the Massart Garden's collections, some of which were brought back by naturalists from expeditions to former European colonies.

*In cooperation with the education and science outreach team at the Jean Massart Botanical Garden (Brussels Environment and ULB).*



### TO VISIT

#### 58 Pépite Blues bookshop

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 11:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue Anoul/Anoulstraat 30 Ixelles/Elsene

- 📅 Advance booking not required

🚫 Not accessible

In April 2021, a general bookshop took over the commercial ground-floor premises of the neoclassical-style building on the corner of Rue Longue Vie/Lang-Levenstraat. The building dates from the late 19th century and still retains its original joinery. While not specialising exclusively in Afro-literature, the shop celebrates this genre around the world, including works written by African, Afro-European, Afro-American and Afro-Caribbean authors. Situated in the heart of the Matongé/Matonge neighbourhood, this new destination aims to become a hub for multicultural exchange and interaction by hosting author events, exhibitions, workshops and artistic activities, while keeping the bookshop centre-stage.

*Meet Brussels author to discuss his/her book.*



### GUIDED BICYCLE TOUR

#### 59 Brussels decolonised

- 🕒 Sat. at 13:15 and Sun. at 13:45 (FR) and Sat. at 14:15 and Sun. at 10:00 (NL)  
(duration: 3 hours)

📍 Starting point: Pro Velo, Rue de Dublin/Dublinstraat 19 Ixelles/Elsene

- 📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 18 people per tour.  
Bicycle hire available  
(€12.50 – book in advance by calling +32 (0)2 502 73 55 or emailing [info@provelo.org](mailto:info@provelo.org)).

Confront the face of the past with the gaze of the present and see Brussels in a whole new light! General Jacques, Major Pétillon, the Monument to the Belgian Pioneers in Congo... more than just street names and monuments, these places are above all reminders of Belgium's colonial rule in the Congo. Amid ongoing debate about the need to re-contextualise history and issues surrounding the decolonisation of public space, these Brussels landmarks tell a story that is all too often overlooked. Grab your bike, sharpen your critical thinking... and take a cycle ride back in time!

*In cooperation with Pro Velo.*



## GUIDED BICYCLE TOUR

### 60 Cycling with the artist

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 9:30 (bilingual FR/NL) (duration: 2 hours 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: Pro Velo, Rue de Dublin/Dublinstraat 19 Ixelles/Elsene

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 18 people per tour. Bicycle hire available (€12.50 – book in advance by calling +32 (0)2 502 73 55 or emailing [info@provelo.org](mailto:info@provelo.org)).

For this guided bicycle tour, an artist who is of Congolese origin, has devised a route through the city that takes in aspects of his artistic practice and personal experience. Along the way, he will share his views and experience of the traces of colonialism in Brussels. Developed with the assistance of a Pro Velo guide, the route is guaranteed to be bike-friendly!

*In cooperation with Pro Velo.*



## GUIDED BICYCLE TOUR

### 61 On the trail of the Congo Free State

🕒 Sat. at 13:45 and Sun. at 13:15 (FR) and Sun. at 10:30 (NL) (duration: 3 hours)

📍 Starting point: Pro Velo, Rue de Dublin/Dublinstraat 19 Ixelles/Elsene

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 18 people per tour. Bicycle hire available (€12.50 – book in advance by calling +32 (0)2 502 73 55 or emailing [info@provelo.org](mailto:info@provelo.org)).

Aside from street names and statues, Brussels bears many other traces of the Congo in its heritage. On this guided tour, you will explore this unique heritage offering an insight into the history of colonisation, from Brussels' commercial and port areas shaped by food imports such as cocoa and bananas, to the headquarters of the companies that thrived off the back of the former colony, as well as the precious materials incorporated into some of the city's houses and the buildings of the bodies that underpinned the Congo Free State.

*In cooperation with Pro Velo.*



## CONCERT

### 62 Kuumba Outspoken

🕒 Sat. from 19:30 to 22:00

📍 Kuumba – Flemish-African House, Chaussée de Wavre/Waversesteenweg 78 Ixelles/Elsene

Kuumba Outspoken is an evening jam-packed with poetry, spoken word, slam performances and more. Anyone with a love for language is welcome to attend! The theme for the evening will be 'Decolonisation: one way to break down barriers'. The show will start at 20:00, and afterwards the stage will be open to anyone who feels inspired and wants to show off their literary talents.

*In cooperation with Kuumba – Flemish-African House.*



## EXHIBITION

### 63 Don't tell us who we are

Stereotypes about African women are plentiful and persistent. We want to dispel this image by showing new faces and profiles that cast African women in a fresh light. The exhibition will be held at multiple locations:

- Pianofabriek Community Centre, Rue du Fort/Fortstraat 35, Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis (from 9 to 30 September 2022, preview on 9 September at 18:30)
- Elzenhof Community Centre, Avenue de la Couronne/Kroonlaan 12, Ixelles/Elsene (from 16 to 30 September 2022, preview on 16 September at 18:30)
- Kuumba – Flemish-African House, Chaussée de Wavre/Waversesteenweg 78, Ixelles/Elsene (from 17 September to 15 October 2022, preview on 17 September at 18:30)

**In cooperation with Kuumba – Flemish-African House.**

## WALKING TOUR

### 64 Code Mémoire – Roots of Matongé/Matonge

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 11:00 and 15:00 (bilingual FR/EN) and Sat. & Sun. at 11:00 and 15:00 (bilingual NL/EN) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

➤✂ Starting point: Kuumba/ Flemish-African House, Chaussée de Wavre/Waversesteenweg 78 Ixelles/Elsene

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 9 people per tour.

Code Mémoire is the name of a free app available on Google Play and App Store in which users can geolocate and scan QR codes located on buildings in the Matongé/Matonge neighbourhood and listen to stories – combining reality and fiction – about residents of the area.

It is also an artistic project aimed at promoting the identity, cultural diversity and intangible heritage of the Matongé/Matonge district.

On these tours, you will discover the work of the man behind the project, Helder Wasterlain, and explore the Matongé/Matonge neighbourhood as a living monument and a witness to Congo's influence on the Brussels-Capital Region.

**In cooperation with Code Mémoire, the Brussels-Capital Region (as part of the Athénée/Atheneum Sustainable Neighbourhood Contract), the French Community and Kuumba/ Flemish-African House.**



## TOUR

### 65 Exploring the traces of colonialism in CIVA's collections

- 🕒 Sat. at 15:00 (FR) and Sat. at 15:30 (NL) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

🏠 CIVA, Rue de l'Ermitage/ Kluysstraat 55, Ixelles/Elsene

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 15 people per tour.

Colonialism was an integral part of the history of Belgian architecture in the 19th and 20th centuries. Many architects, landscape architects and contractors designed and built structures in the former colonies, including Henry Lacoste, Eugène Palumbo, Groupe Structures, René Pechère and Blaton, all of whose archives are kept by CIVA. The legacy of colonialism can also be seen in Brussels' heritage.

CIVA helps to chart the history of colonial construction by giving researchers and experts access to these resources. As part of this year's Heritage Days, you will have a chance to learn about some of their discoveries on unique guided tours of the collections.

**In cooperation with CIVA.**



## WALKING TOUR

### 66 Decolonisation: a path to connection

- 🕒 Sat. at 14:00 (EN), Sat. at 11:00 (FR) and Sat. at 10:30, 13:30 and 15:30 (NL) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: Elzenhof Community Centre, Avenue de la Couronne/Kroonlaan 12 Ixelles/Elsene

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 15 people per tour.

This walk through the African heart of Brussels will tell the story of the African diaspora and the inextricable links between Africa and Belgium. Guides from Kuumba – themselves members of the African diaspora – will take you on a tour of monuments and artworks in the Matongé/Matonge neighbourhood, revealing the area's colourful and unique character.

**In cooperation with Kuumba – Flemish-African House and Elzenhof.**



## WALKING TOUR

### 67 Life stories in the colonial era

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (FR) (duration: 2 hours)

📍 Starting point: entrance to Ixelles/Elsene Cemetery, Chaussée de Boondael/Boondaalse Steenweg 478 Ixelles/Elsene

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per tour.

The Congo experience was a complex and varied one. As well as politicians, industrialists and soldiers, the colonial years were shaped by many other players.

Brussels is dotted with plaques and statues commemorating explorers, engineers, artists, poets, musicians, scientists, missionaries, medics and adventurers who left their mark on the history of the Congo and of Belgium. As only men were somehow glorified at that time, join us on this tour to find out more about them.

**In cooperation with Itinéraires, sur les Sentiers de l'Histoire.**



## FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT

### 68 Memories in enamel and stone

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00, 10:30, 11:00, 11:30, 12:00, 14:00, 14:30, 15:00, 15:30 and 16:00 (FR) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: at the corner of Avenue Adolphe Buyl/Adolphe Buyllaan and Rue Émile Banning/Émile Banningstraat, Ixelles/Elsene (ending at Legrand tram stop, Avenue Louise/Louizalaan)

- 📅 Advance booking required. Maximum 8 people of one family per scavenger hunt.

If we take the trouble to read them, our street names and commemorative monuments tell us a lot about historical facts and individuals involved in colonial propaganda. In this fun family activity, explorers young and old will embark on a semi-guided scavenger hunt between Avenue Adolphe Buyl/Adolphe Buyllaan and Avenue Louise/Louizalaan to seek out many traces of the colonial period, including enamel plaques and monuments. Roadbook in hand and assisted by two guides stationed along the route, you'll uncover a chapter of Belgian history at your own pace while making your way around various parts of the city: Solbosch/Solbos, Abbaye de la Cambre/Abdij Ter Kameren, Jardin du Roi/Koningstuin and Avenue Louise/Louizalaan.

In cooperation with E-Guides.



## EXHIBITION/TOURS

### 69 Return to source: ULB museums question the origin of their collections

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 16:45 (EN), Sat. & Sun. at 14:00 and 15:00 (FR) and Sat. & Sun. at 16:00 (NL) (duration: 30 minutes)

🏠 Maison des Arts (1st floor, reception room), Avenue Jeanne/Johannalaan 56 Ixelles/Elsene

- 📅 Advance booking required. Up to 15 people per tour.

This exhibition presents research into the origin of certain items as part of an international workshop on decolonisation and restitution held at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in July 2022, ahead of the Universeum (European Academic Heritage Network) annual conference. The research explored the provenance of a number of specimens (botanical, zoological and mineralogical), archives and objects from ULB's collections. Such provenance research has become a priority for museums around the world and is among the recommendations of the publication *Ethical Principles for the Management and Restitution of Colonial Collections in Belgium* (restitutionbelgium.be). These challenging questions underpin key areas of operation of university museums and the way we manage and engage with collections.

To accompany the exhibition, a podcast by Collectif Mémoire Coloniale, in collaboration with the university's NGO ULB-Coopération, offers a decolonial guided tour of ULB (1 hour 30 minutes, in French, visiting nine significant locations on the Solbosch Campus). It is available free of charge online on Spotify, iTunes, SoundCloud and YouTube (<https://www.ulb-cooperation.org/fr/projets/visite-guideee-decoloniale-audio-du-campus-du-solbosch-a-lulb/>).

An exhibition from the ULB Museums Network.





## WALKING TOUR

## 70 Decolonial walking tour in Uccle/Ukkel

⌚ Sat. & Sun., 10:00 (FR)  
(duration: 2 hours)

✂ Starting point: at the Gossart tram stop (tram 7) Uccle/Ukkel

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 21 people per tour.

This walk will address the painful reality of the link between slavery and colonisation. While slavery has often been addressed from the perspective of colonial propaganda, this tour will delve more deeply into the issue, taking you back to the American Civil War and the slave trade in order to better understand the different factors involved.

*In cooperation with the Municipality of Uccle/Ukkel, Collectif Mémoire Coloniale et Lutte contre les Discriminations and Les Amis du Collectif.*



## EXHIBITION

## 71 Tango Ya Bakoko: a sound and photographic journey into Belgian-Congolese history

⌚ Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 17:00  
(duration: 30 to 45 minutes per episode)

🏠 La Ferme Rose,  
Avenue De Fré/De Frélaan 44  
Uccle/Ukkel

Providing a mix of personal accounts and collective memory, Mansuela Nguizani's podcast *Tango Ya Bakoko* will take you on a journey in sound and music back to the colonial era and the historic turning point in the 1960s when many African nations gained their independence. Drawing on the memories of the elders (Bakoko), it immerses the listener in unique methods of cultural transmission...

To enhance the experience, photographer Leila Lahbi M will be exhibiting her portraits of the elders who inspired and/or contributed to the podcast.

*In cooperation with the Municipality of Uccle/Ukkel.*



## WALKING TOUR

## 72 Uccle/Ukkel artists and their links to colonial-era Africa

⌚ Sun. at 11:00 (FR) and  
14:30 (NL) (duration:  
1 hour 30 minutes)

✂ Starting point:  
Parc de Wolvendael/  
Wolvendaelpark  
(Dieweg entrance),  
Dieweg 174  
Uccle/Ukkel

This walking tour will take you to a part of Uccle/Ukkel where artists have been, and remain, a formative presence, including Parc de Wolvendael/ Wolvendaelpark, Chemin du Crabbegat/Crabbegatweg and Avenue Kamerdelles/Kamerdelleslaan (an area once dubbed the 'Uccle/Ukkel Montmartre').

Along the way, the picturesque locations that attracted these artists will elicit a discussion of their life and work. The focus will be on those whose artistic careers may have some link to Central Africa (mainly the former Belgian Congo), including painters Albert Dasnoy, Claude Lyr and Jean-Marie Strebelle and architects Paul Hankar and Claude Strebelle.

*In cooperation with Cercle d'histoire, d'archéologie et de folklore d'Uccle et environs/ Geschied- en Heemkundige Kring van Ukkel en omgeving.*





## TOUR

### 73 Meet the artist Bers Grandsinge

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 11:00, 13:00 and 15:00 (duration: 1 hour)

🏠 Bers Grandsinge's studio, Chaussée de Saint-Job/ Sint-Jobsesteenweg 576 Uccle/Ukkel

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 12 people per tour.

Come and discover the world of Bers Grandsinge at his new studio in Uccle/Ukkel. Born Jean-Pierre Bers Mbalaka in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1955, the artist moved to Belgium around the age of 30, in part to promote contemporary Congolese art. He was given the nickname Bers Grandsinge by fellow artist Jean-Michel Basquiat. Featuring two voices, this tour in the artist's company will help you to understand his work, inspirations, artistic vision and world view.

In cooperation with **Arkadia**.

## TO VISIT

### 74 Wetsi Art Gallery and Café Congo

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 14:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue de la Petite Île/ Klein Eilandstraat 1A Anderlecht

📅 Reservation only for workshops

♿ Not accessible

Formerly a textile factory before being acquired by Citydev in 2015, Studio CityGate is now a social and cultural hub promoting artistic creativity across a range of disciplines. Opened in 2018, it is home to artists, artisans and entrepreneurs as well as a public skate park and climbing gym. The site is currently managed by Entrakt, which oversees the temporary occupancy and ensures sustainable biodiversity, but in a few years it is set to be completely redeveloped into a complex including homes, a school, shops and workshops.

One of the current occupants is the Wetsi Art Gallery. Founded in 2019, it aims to promote the work of African and Belgian-African artists and to build bridges between cultures. The space can also be used for exhibitions, discussions and talks.

Not far from the gallery, Café Congo is an artistic venue offering 'radical hospitality' with a focus on resistance, solidarity and creation. It fosters the development of ideas, perspectives and projects without the requirement to produce content and without any political pressure. Café Congo also hosts events, including slams, panel discussions, concerts, talks, film screenings and exhibitions.

**Exhibition of contemporary African art.**

**Fun workshop exploring the world of African mathematics, Sat. & Sun. at 15:00 (FR) (duration: 1 hour 15 minutes).**



## TOUR

## 75 Meet the artist Aimé Mpané

🕒 Sun. at 13:00, 13:00 and 15:00 (duration: 1 hour)

📍 Atelier d'van Aimé Mpané's, rue de Sébastopol 24 / Sebastopolstraat 24 Anderlecht

📅 Advance booking required. Up to 10 people per tour.

Aimé Mpané is one of Brussels' leading painters, sculptors and multidisciplinary artists. Combining painting and sculpture, he carves into triplex panels in order to reveal their successive coloured layers. Sculpting wood in the traditional way with an adze, he creates avant-garde work that does not shy away from deconstructing and questioning the past in line with contemporary reality. His work questions his own background and addresses the legacy and traces of colonialism. This tour provides a wonderful opportunity to talk and spend time with the artist.

In cooperation with **Arkadia**.

## TO VISIT

## 76 MMM – Migratie- MuseumMigration

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 12:00 to 17:00

📍 Rue des Ateliers / Werkhuizenstraat 17 Molenbeek-Saint-Jean / Sint-Jans-Molenbeek

📅 Reservation only for guided tours

♿ Accessible

The *MigratieMuseumMigration* opened on 12 October 2019 in a late-19th-century building in Rue des Ateliers/Werkhuizenstraat, in the centre of Molenbeek-Saint-Jean/Sint-Jans-Molenbeek. The municipality experienced significant industrialisation from the end of the 19th century onwards and has been substantially shaped by a long history of migration. Today, Brussels is home to a vibrant mix of 180 nationalities. The museum aims to reflect this cosmopolitan character, mirroring an ever-shifting dynamism. By telling the story of the first generation of guest workers as well as that of expats, war refugees and also Europeans who have chosen to settle in Brussels, the museum invites visitors to discover each other's experiences through testimonies and memories, and also to initiate a dialogue, a conversation.

The fully accessible garden, complete with its authentic Italian wood-burning oven, is a great place to meet. It adjoins seven works by contemporary artists on the theme of migration, which are exhibited between the street and the garden itself.

**Guided tours who will shed light on the general history of migration in Brussels and, more specifically, that of the Congolese diaspora in the capital. Questions addressed will include: Why and when did Congolese come to Belgium and Brussels? How has their story played out in the city? What is the experience of younger generations? After the tour, this history will be vividly brought to life by members of the diaspora, who will recount their own personal experiences – a great opportunity for participants to share and discuss their thoughts.**

**French**

**Sat. & Sun.: 13:00**

**Dutch**

**Sat. & Sun.: 14:00**

**In cooperation with**

**Korei Guided Tours.**

**Projection of two videos on the colonisation of the Congo seen through the eyes of children at "The palace of normality and strangeness". Go to Rue des Ateliers/Werkhuizenstraat 40 after your visit to the *MigratieMuseumMigration*.**



## FAMILY WALKING TOUR

### 77 Superdiversity

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 14:00 (NL)  
(duration: 2 hours)

📍 Starting point:  
De Vaartkapoen statue,  
Place Saintelette/  
Sainteletteplein,  
Molenbeek-Saint-Jean/  
Sint-Jans-Molenbeek

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 20 people per tour.  
Suitable for children aged 8  
and over.

Brussels boasts some 184 nationalities, making it the second most cosmopolitan city in the world. When people settle in a new country, they bring their own culture and customs with them. So what are the main features of Brussels' multiculturalism?

On this walking tour, you will discover the meaning of this multiculturalism and how it manifests itself, taking in a mosque and the House of Compassion in the Béguinage/ Begijnhof Church along the way. This tour is specially designed for children, accompanied by their families.

**In cooperation with  
Brukselbinnenste buiten/  
Stapstad.**

## TO VISIT

### 78 Belgian Chocolate Village

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue De Neck/  
De Neckstraat 20  
Koekelberg

📅 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Accessible

In 2014, the Belgian Chocolate Village took up residence in the former administrative premises of the *Victoria* biscuit and chocolate factory, one of Belgium's biggest chocolate manufacturers until the late 1960s.

In 1908, the firm set up a chocolate-making unit that used cocoa beans from the highly lucrative cacao plantations established in the Congo from 1895 onwards.

In 1955, a few years before Congolese independence, a company called *Victoria-Aiglon-Parein* was founded in the Congo. Its factory in Élisabethville/ Elisabethstad (now Lubumbashi) was fitted out with equipment from the Belgian town of Verviers.

The Belgian Chocolate Village is a shrine to the craft of chocolate-making. On this tour, visitors will learn the fascinating history of this precious commodity, from its first discovery in South America and its arrival in Africa through to the modern techniques used to create so many delicious treats which tickle the taste buds of young and old alike! The elegant Salon Belle-Époque will also be open to the public.

**Guided tours:**

**English**

**Sat. & Sun.: 14:00, 17:00.**

**French**

**Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30.**

**Dutch**

**Sat. & Sun.: 11:00, 12:00, 15:00, 16:00.**

**In cooperation with E-Guides.**

👤 **Guided tours for families in French Belgian Sign Language: Sat. & Sun. at 10:00.**

**In cooperation with Arts & Culture.**

## EXHIBITION

79

## Aboriginal land claims – Aboriginal art from Australia

🕒 Sat. from 10:00 to 19:00 and  
Sun. from 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Aboriginal Signature  
Estrangin Gallery,  
Rue Jules Besme/  
Jules Besmestraat 101  
Koekelberg

📖 Guided tours (FR), Sat. &  
Sun. at 12:00, 15:00 and  
17:00 (duration: 50 minutes).  
Advance booking required.  
Up to 25 people per tour.

For nearly 200 years, the advance of colonisation deprived Australia's First Nations peoples of rights to their own lands. The exhibition 'Aboriginal land claims' will honour

the efforts made by the Indigenous peoples of Australia since 1976 to recover these ancestral lands. Featuring 30 paintings by those involved in the restitution process, it will range from the demands of Aboriginal leader Djambawa Marawili in 1997, and of Martu and Yulparija artists in 2002 and 2017, to the painters of the Spinifex Arts Project in 2000.

This approach, unique to Australia, uses art to prove continuous Aboriginal occupation of the land by revealing the laws and stories rooted within it. The resulting legal and political impact has enabled the Indigenous peoples of Australia to recover vast swathes of territory, 55 times the size of Belgium.

**In cooperation with the  
Aboriginal Signature Estrangin  
Gallery, Spinifex Arts Project  
and Buku Arts in Australia.**



## TO VISIT

80

## Jardin Colonial/ Koloniale Tuin

📍 Avenue Jean Sobieski/  
Jan Sobieskilaan – Avenue  
des Ébeniers/Ebbebomenlaan  
Brussels-Laeken/  
Brussels-Laken

In 1905, King Leopold II acquired three hectares of land which he added to his estate in Laeken/Laken in order to create a tropical garden. He had greenhouses built there to provide a home for the tropical plant collections of botanist Émile Laurent, a professor at the Gembloux Agronomic Institute. Laurent had brought them back from the Congo and planted them in a hothouse in Gembloux, before bringing them to Tervuren in 1897 for the International Exhibition. He was a member of *Horticulture Coloniale*, the company tasked with collecting any plants in the Congo that could be useful for manufac-

turing or decorative purposes. Some of these plants were presented at the 1900 Paris Exposition, which led to the idea of creating a colonial garden in Laeken/Laken. Initially, the collection was kept in the Stuyvenberg greenhouses, before being transferred to others, built around 1902, in the gardens of the Villa Van der Borgh. During the First World War, the greenhouses in the Jardin Colonial/Koloniale Tuin were no longer heated, and many of the plants died. Those that survived were eventually transferred to the Meise Botanic Garden in 1951. In the early 1960s, the greenhouses were demolished and the park turned into a permanent public space. The Norman-style timber-framed villa was built for Leopold II by the architect Haneau.

**Walking tours: 'From Jardin  
Colonial/Koloniale Tuin to  
Palace 5: traces of colonialism on  
the Heysel Plateau' and 'Gardens  
and Congolese plants – pencils at  
the ready!' (see opposite).**





### FAMILY WALKING TOUR

#### 81 Gardens and Congolese plants – pencils at the ready!

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 11:00, 13:30 and 16:00 (FR) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: main entrance to the Jardin Colonial/Koloniale Tuin, Avenue des Ébéniers/Ebbebomenlaan 41 Brussels-Laeken/Brussels-Laken

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 20 people per tour.

In the early 20th century, King Leopold II had an ‘acclimatisation garden’, the Jardin Colonial/Koloniale Tuin, laid out for plants imported from the Congo. Besides this, two other areas were developed at the same time, all adjacent to the Stuyvenbergh Estate: the current Parc Sobieski/Sobieskipark (which grew the royal family’s fruit trees), and what are now the Florist’s Gardens (Jardins du Fleuriste/Tuinen van de Bloemist), so called because they were used to cultivate ornamental flowers for the royal residences. Now redesigned and opened to the public, these gardens are a pleasant place to wander around, offering a range of atmospheres as well as some amazingly-scented plants. This guided tour, complete with roadbook, is a perfect opportunity for individuals and families to explore the different varieties of plants imported in the past and to soak up the vibrant colours on display.

In cooperation with *Arkadia*.



### WALKING TOUR

#### 82 From Jardin Colonial/Koloniale Tuin to Palace 5: traces of colonialism on the Heysel Plateau

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:30 and 14:30 (FR) and Sat. & Sun. at 10:00 and 14:00 (NL) (duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point: Place Saint-Lambert/Sint-Lambertusplein (at the tram stop in front of the church) Brussels-Laeken/Brussels-Laken

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 20 people per tour.

Traces of Belgium’s colonial past – some of them still visible, others erased by time and human activity – can also be found on the Heysel Plateau. These will be revealed on a guided walk taking you to locations abounding with memories: from Jardin Colonial/Koloniale Tuin on Avenue Jean Sobieski/Jan Sobieskilaan to the now-demolished colonial pavilions from the 1935 and 1958 World’s Fairs.

In cooperation with *Laeken Découverte/Laken Onthuld*.



## EXHIBITION / SCREENING

### 83 Ernest Salu III films the Congo

🕒 Sat. & Sun, 10:00 to 18:00 (continuous screenings – duration: 45 minutes). Guided tours of the workshop, Sat. & Sun. at 11:30, 14:30 and 16:30 (FR) and Sat. & Sun. at 10:30, 13:30 and 15:30 (NL)

🏠 Salu Workshop, Parvis Notre-Dame/Onze-Lieve-Vrouwvoorplein 16, Brussels-Laeken/Brussels-Laken

Ernest Salu was the name of three Brussels sculptors of funerary monuments. All three – grandfather, father and son – also took a keen interest in photography, an activity that complemented their artistic work.

Ernest Salu III took this one step further by expressing his creativity through the medium of cinema. His most celebrated achievement is a documentary on the construction of the Atomium. Less well known, but just as important, is his contri-

bution to a number of films shot in the Congo. Salu was a crew member for the filmmaker André Cauvin, best known for the films he made in the then colony.

The first of these, *Bongolo*, was filmed in 1951 and released in cinemas two years later. This was the first movie to use Congolese actors, meaning that it was seen as 'progressive' at the time. It focused on the contrast between Congolese traditions and 'modern' Congo, the Congo of the *évolués*. Cauvin's second and much better known Congolese work is *Bwana Kitoko*, documenting the young King Baudouin's trip to the colony in 1955. Both films now form part of the CINEMATEK collection.

This previously undocumented aspect of the Salus' artistic output will be the subject of an exhibition held in the sculptors' former family home.

**In cooperation with Epitaaf, 'CINEMATEK – Cinémathèque Royale de Belgique/Koninklijk Belgisch Filmarchief', the VRT archives team and CEGESOMA.**





## SCREENING

### 84 *s/t/r/a/t/e/s*

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun, 10:00 to 18:00  
(film screened continuously all day)

📍 Queens Brussels, Avenue de la Reine/Koninginnelaan 266  
Brussels-Laeken/  
Brussels-Laken

The ARTONOV Festival invites you to discover the work of choreographer Bintou Dembélé, who brings decolonialism into the world of dance. Her film *s/t/r/a/t/e/s* will be playing non-stop in an exhibition room at Queens Brussels, the former home of Émile Bockstael, mayor of Laeken/Laken and a close friend of Leopold II.

In this film, Dembélé, a pioneer of the hip-hop movement in France, explores the theme of memory: a fragmented memory in which everyone's stories pile up, unconnected, like layers or strata (*strates* in French) that embed themselves within us. In *s/t/r/a/t/e/s*, Dembélé confronts her own history and asks questions about racial hierarchies. The body moves between past and present to fill in the gaps, the silences and the things left unsaid, like a living memory that continues to burn and resonate.

**In cooperation in Artonov and Queens Brussels.**

## WALKING TOUR

### 85 Colonial ideology: utopia, art and technology

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00, 13:30 and 15:30 (FR) and Sat. & Sun. at 10:00, 13:30 and 15:30 (NL)  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes)

📍 Starting point:  
Docks Brussel/Bruxsel Docks tram stop, Quai des Usines/  
Werkhuizenkaai 112  
Brussels

- 📌 Advance booking required.  
Up to 20 people per tour.

The traces of colonialism are many and varied. Colonialism was underpinned by very specific theories and ideas that led thousands of Europeans to leave their home countries. Colonial history is also a story of philosophy. It was, in part, based on philosophical arguments that Western society imposed itself on the world, with all the ethical issues this brought with it.

On this tour, we will consider various philosophical aspects of colonialism through the heritage of Brussels, and of Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek in particular. You will learn how the arts were permeated by the colonial imagination, how leading writers took a stance on the colonial enterprise, and how technological advances were driven by ideals as much as by steam power. You will also discover the role played by the Belgian Congo in what were not only major global conflicts but also ideological battles.

Last but not least, you will see how the colonial philosophy has influenced our writing of history and even what we eat.

**In cooperation with Le Tamanoir.**

## GUIDED BICYCLE TOUR

## 86 The role of the Haren-Evere airfield and the airline Sabena in the colonisation of the Congo

- ① Sat. at 9:30 (French) (from Saint-Vincent/Sint-Vincentius Church to the town hall, duration: 3 hours 30 minutes) and at 14:00 (French) (from the town hall to Place De Paduwa/De Paduwaplein and back, duration: 3 hours 30 minutes)

✂ Starting points:  
9:30: in front of Saint-Vincent/Sint-Vincentius Church, Place Saint-Vincent/Sint-Vincentiusplein 2, Evere (morning);  
14:00: in front of the town hall, Square Servaes Hoedemaekers/Servaas Hoedemaekerssquare 10, Evere (afternoon)

- ① Advance booking required. Up to 20 people per tour. Registration for two parts of the walk done separately, but think to register for both if you want to know the entire story.

The first part of this guided bicycle tour (in the morning) will take you from Evere's origins to its current centre, passing through a series of iconic locations in the municipality. The guide will also draw on stories, photographs and old documents.

The second part (starting at 14:00) will take you from the town hall to other locations in the centre and upper part of the municipality, including the former Haren-Evere airfield, cradle of Belgium's military and civil aviation. The site was chosen by the Germans due to the presence of a railway line, built to transport the large quantities of chicory grown in this part of Brussels in the early 20th century. The guide will also discuss the role of the national airfield, aviation pioneer Edmond Thieffry and Belgium's former national airline Sabena in the colonisation of the Congo.

**In cooperation with GRACQ – Les Cyclistes quotidiens Evere.**



## WALKING TOUR

## 87 From Saïo and Tabora to Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek: a highly significant colonial monument

- ① Sat. at 10:00 (FR) and Sat. at 14:00 (NL) (duration: 2 hours)

✂ Starting point: at the fountains, Place Princesse Elisabeth/Prinses Elisabethplein Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek.

- ① Advance booking required. Up to 20 people per tour.

The *Monument to the Troops of the African Campaigns* has stood in Avenue Huart Hamoir/Huart Hamoirlaan since 1970. Erected on the initiative of colonial associations, it commemorates the Force Publique that operated in the Congo Free State and later in the Belgian Congo. A colonial army made up of black soldiers commanded by white officers, the Force Publique was responsible for taking possession of Congolese territories in the name of Leopold II, enforcing the collection of rubber with brute force, and keeping law and order in the country. During the world wars, the Force Publique took part in major military campaigns outside the Congo, which led to Rwanda and Burundi being placed under Belgian rule after the First World War. The silhouettes of a white officer and a black soldier shake hands on what is the only statue in Brussels to honour



the tens of thousands of Congolese soldiers who fought and died for Belgium. That is why, for many years now, the Congolese community has held a commemoration ceremony here every 11 November.

**In cooperation with Klare Lijn.**



## VR SCREENING

### 88 **Kinshasa Now by Marc-Henri Wajnberg**

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00 and 17:00 (in Lingala with EN/FR/NL subtitles) (duration: 30 minutes)

🏠 VirtualPalace, Rue Royale/ Koningsstraat 290, Saint-Josse-ten-Noode/ Sint-Joost-ten-Node

📌 Advance booking required. Up to 25 people per screening.

Virtual reality film *Kinshasa Now* follows the story of 14-year-old Mika. Accused of witchcraft and thrown out of his home, Mika has to learn the street codes if he is to survive.

Using 360° VR headsets, the audience is immersed in the streets of Kinshasa and the day-to-day reality of life as a street child.

In cooperation with **VirtualPalace**.

## TO VISIT

### 89 **Charlier Museum**

🕒 Sun. only, 10:00 to 17:00

🏠 Avenue des Arts/ Kunstlaan 16 Saint-Josse-ten-Noode/ Sint-Joost-ten-Node

📌 Advance booking not required

🚫 Not accessible

In 1890, art lover and collector Henri Van Cutsem inherited a building looking out onto the street that is now called Avenue des Arts/ Kunstlaan. Built in the neoclassical style, it had four bays and dated from 1844. He then bought the adjacent building and had it demolished and rebuilt to create a unified whole. At his request, Victor Horta designed two long glass-roofed galleries at the rear. Inside, windows attributed to Horta serve as partitions, most notably between the smoking room, the small drawing room and the painting gallery. During his lifetime, Van Cutsem would invite artists and writers to the house, and was a generous patron to many of them. Those in his circle included Édouard Agneessens, Théodore Baron, James Ensor, Joseph Stevens and Willy Finch. When he died, he left the house to sculptor Guillaume Charlier, some of whose works are kept in the current museum. (Listed – 15/07/1993)

The Charlier Museum wants to consider ways to decolonise its presentation. Prior to this process, it is discussing, questioning and reviewing the items in its collection and the information provided about them. One of the most remarkable pieces, a bust of the young Paul Panda Farnana (whose reformist and pacifist writings and speeches would later mark the beginnings of Congolese nationalism), sculpted by Guillaume Charlier, is currently on loan to the MAS museum in Antwerp until October for its exhibition *Listen*.

As part of a wider debate on Art Nouveau and decolonisation, Georgine Dibua from the organisation Bakushinta will lead a discussion forum, starting at 15:00 on Sunday (FR).

## WALKING TOUR

## 90 Commemorative walk in Tervuren

🕒 Sat. & Sun. at 13:00 (FR)  
and Sat. & Sun. at 13:30 (NL)  
(duration: 2 hours)

📍 Starting point: outside  
the main entrance to  
the AfricaMuseum,  
Leuvensesteenweg 13  
Tervuren

📅 Advance booking required.  
Up to 20 people per tour.

The Brussels International Exhibition, instigated by King Leopold II, was held near the current AfricaMuseum in 1897. Here, Congolese men and women were put on display in a disgraceful spectacle that has justly been described as a human zoo.

Now, 125 years later, the AfricaMuseum is organising guided tours on this subject. During this tour, you will visit 10 significant locations around the museum.

The tour is a collaboration with Georgine Dibua. Her association Bakushinta, organizes guided walks and commemorative events in Brussels.

*In cooperation with the  
AfricaMuseum.*





## GUIDED TOURS IN SIGN LANGUAGE

For a number of years now, Urban has been working with Arts & Culture to provide guided tours in French Belgian Sign Language for deaf and hard-of-hearing visitors.

This year, such tours will be available for 11 sites:


### **78 Belgian Chocolate Village** page 47

 Sat. & Sun. at 10:00  
(family tours)

### **48 Brussels Museum of the Mill and Food** page 87

 Sat. at 16:00

### **34 Former Hôtel van Eetvelde** page 27

 Sun. at 11:00


### **2 Grand Hospice** page 59

 Sat. & Sun. at 15:00

### **1 Halles Saint-Géry/ Sint-Gorikshallen** page 59

 Sat. & Sun. at 13:00

### **29 Hôtel de Knuyt de Vosmaer** page 25

 Sat. at 14:00  
and Sun. at 14:30

### **33 House of European History** page 27

 Sat. & Sun. at 15:00

### **5 Lever House (HE2B-ISIB)** page 24

 Sat. & Sun. at 11:00

### **27 Maison du Roi/Broodhuis – Museum of the City of Brussels** page 15

 Sat. at 14:30 and Sun. at 15:00

### **18 Saints-Michel-et-Gudule/ Sint-Michiël en Sint-Goedele Cathedral** page 69

 Sat. & Sun. at 13:00

### **27 Windmill in Woluwe-Saint- Lambert/Sint-Lambrechts- Woluwe** page 74

 Sat. & Sun. at 13:00

## Exhibition

# TAKING THE COUNTRY'S SIDE. AGRICULTURE AND ARCHITECTURE



Sébastien MAROT

Given the environmental problems facing our world today, this exhibition aims to foster reflection (both retrospective and forward-looking) about the close link between the twin disciplines of agriculture and architecture, and their growing divergence since the Industrial Revolution. It seeks to learn lessons from agronomists, activists and designers who have consistently explored the hypothesis of a future of energy descent and its consequences for the redesign and maintenance of living landscapes.

Free exhibition running from 12 September to 20 November, open from 10:00 to 18:00 every day at the Halles Saint-Géry/ Sint-Gorikshallen (Place Saint-Géry/Sint-Goriksplein 1, Brussels).

**Organised by: Urban**





Wim ROBBERECHTS@urban.brussels

# CINQUANTENAIRE/ JUBELPARK OUTDOOR LAB CO-CREATION SESSION

Non-profit organisation Horizon 50/200 wants to get fully involved in this year's Heritage Days on 'Traces of Colonisation' by holding a co-creation session involving an outdoor lab in the north-west corner of Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark.

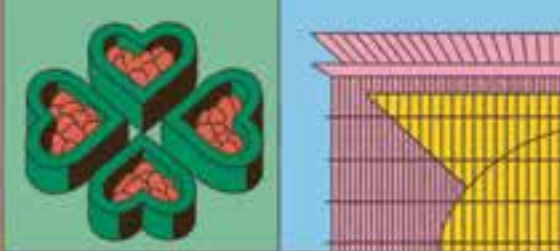
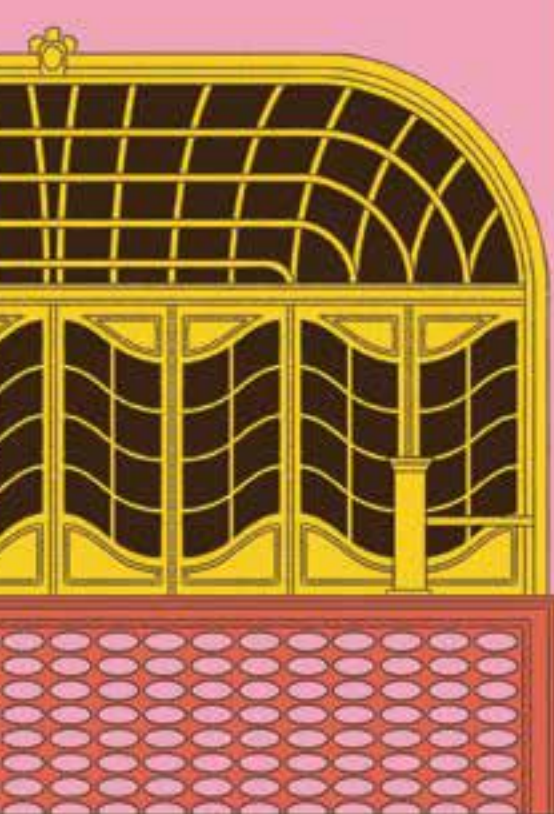
This part of the park is teeming with diverse groups, some heading for the sports fields, mosque or playground, others enjoying a picnic on the grass in front of the Horta-Lambeaux Pavilion. During the co-creation session, we will envisage a future outdoor lab while also taking account of the history of the Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark site. We will draw

on recent discussions about colonial symbols in Brussels' public space, including the recommendation to make this site a place of reflection on Belgium's colonial past, as well as considering the fascinating history of the Mundaneum, a forerunner of the internet and search engines.

More information:

<https://cinquanteenaire.brussels/en/>

**The 50/200 project aims to redevelop and upgrade Parc du Cinquanteenaire/Jubelpark as a cultural and recreational space in time for Belgium's bicentenary in 2030.**



## ESSENTIALS



## TO VISIT

## 1 Halles Saint-Géry/ Sint-Gorikshallen

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Place Saint-Géry/  
Sint-Goriksplein 1 – Brussels

📄 Reservation only for guided  
tours in French Belgian Sign  
Language

♿ Accessible with assistance

For centuries, the outline of a church towered above the working-class neighbourhood of Saint-Géry/Sint-Gorik. In 1798 it was destroyed, and a square was built in its place. A fountain with an obelisk from Grimbergen Abbey was erected in this location. In 1881, architect Adolphe Vanderheggen, who had already designed the covered market in Chaussée d'Etterbeek/ Etterbeeksesteenweg, was commis-

sioned to build a similar structure here. He decided to incorporate the fountain into a neo-Renaissance-style building topped with a lightweight structure made of iron and glass. Inside, a network of slender octagonal columns supports the metal frame, whose roof trusses form a three-centre arch. Flat iron circles decorate the spandrels on the arches. As was the custom at the time in covered galleries, a large glass roof lit the building. Market gardeners sold their produce here until 1973.

Nowadays, the *Halles Saint-Géry/Sint-Gorikshallen* are a centre for exhibitions and events linked to cultural heritage (architecture, town planning, urban cultures), under the aegis of the Brussels-Capital Region. With exhibitions, meetings, conferences/talks, performances, concerts and other major events, the *Halles/Hallen* showcase Brussels' characteristic hospitality on a daily basis. (Listed 26/01/1987)



🗣 Guided tours in French  
Belgian Sign Language: Sat. &  
Sun. at 13:00. In cooperation  
with Arts & Culture.

Exhibition: 'Taking the  
Country's Side. Agriculture and  
Architecture' (see page 56).

## TO VISIT

## 2 Grand Hospice

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue du Grand Hospice/  
Grootgodshuisstraat 7  
Brussels

📄 Reservation only for guided  
tours

♿ Accessible

Brussels' Grand Hospice/Groot Godshuis was built very much in line with the ideals of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic period, although its construction took place at a time when Belgium was part of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands. It reflects a profound upheaval in the social history of 19th-century Brussels. Whereas previously the task of assisting the poorest in society fell mainly on Christian religious communities, most notably the Beguines, it now became the prerogative of the city authorities and of the state. This fully-fledged *public* assistance laid the foundations of the modern welfare state.

The plans were drawn up by architect Henri Partoes, who designed a huge quadrangle measuring 138 m long by 94 m wide. Construction took place between 1824 and 1827. From 1890, the Grand Hospice/Groot Godshuis housed the Fondation Pacheco/Pachecostichting, later renamed Institut Pacheco/Instituut Pacheco, with which it was often confused.

Pending extensive renovation work to develop housing units and communal services, the Brussels Public Welfare Centre (CPAS/OCMW) decided to make this site available for a temporary occupation scheme. *pali pali*, an accelerator of cultural, social and solidarity projects, was selected to organise the occupation until the end of 2023. The resulting programme allows the site, and in particular the gardens, to be opened to the public. It includes around a hundred social and cultural projects, many of them led by local organisations, which fosters a real sense of community. (Listed – 03/07/1997)

Guided tours:  
[English/French](#)  
Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00,  
14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.



[Dutch](#)  
Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30,  
12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

🗣 Guided tours in French  
Belgian Sign Language: Sat. &  
Sun. at 15:00. In cooperation  
with Arts & Culture.

Boris Lehman's 1978  
documentary *Magnum  
Begynasium Bruxellense*, about  
the Béguinage/Begijnhof  
neighbourhood, will be screened  
continuously on both days.



## TO VISIT

### 3 Masonic temples

🕒 Sun. only, 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue de Laeken/  
Lakensestraat 79 – Brussels

📄 Advance booking not required. 15 people admitted at a time

♿ Not accessible

The 1832 neoclassical façade of no. 79 Rue de Laeken/Lakensestraat gives no hint of the astonishing sight that lies beyond: three Egyptian-style temples occupying the rear part of the building. Designed by architect Paul Bonduelle, they were built between 1909 and 1910 for the Masonic lodge Les Vrais Amis de l'Union et du Progrès Réunis (The True Friends of Union and Progress Reunited).

In 1956, Les Amis Philanthropes (The Philanthropic Friends) – another Brussels lodge, founded in 1879 – left the temple it had built in Rue du Persil/Peterseliestraat in 1879 to be part of the expansion of the Rue de Laeken/Lakensestraat temples.

The entrance hall features portraits of several Venerable Masters of Les Amis Philanthropes painted by Freemason artists from the same studio. They include engineer Jean-Baptiste Charbo (by Edmond Lambrichs), lawyers Optat Scailquin (by Georges Génisson) and Eugène Robert (by Isidore Verheyden), ULB professor of history and literature Jules Tarlier (by Georges Génisson) and teacher Alexis Sluys (by Eugène Broerman). Further on, the English Small Temple, the Pierre Van Humbeek Middle Temple and the Henri La Fontaine Grand Temple (the largest in Europe) share the same polychrome decor of large concave moulded cornices, pilasters with Hathoric capitals, rearing cobras, winged solar discs, double-headed eagles and Masonic instruments. While the Small Temple has an intimate feel, with its fabric-covered walls and ceiling depicting the heavens, the two larger temples impress the onlooker with their papyriform columns and grand scale. Below the ceiling, the architrave is punctuated by a frieze of rams. Stucco, woodwork and marble complete the decoration, which illustrates the

tremendous appeal that Egypt held for the Masonic lodge. This trend influenced funerary art as well as various official buildings that were adorned with sphinxes and obelisks. Finally, the Blue Temple, designed by architect Frans De Brucq, will delight anyone with a taste for bright and fantastical decor. This includes a gigantic expressionist mural depicting the tumult of the passions. (Listed – 08/08/1988)

**Guided tours will take place when there are enough people to form a group.**



## TO VISIT

## 4 Tour & Taxis and Gare Maritime

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue Picard/Picardstraat 7-11 Brussels

📅 Reservation only for guided tours

♿ Accessible with assistance

The Tour & Taxis (T&T) site was created when the port of Brussels was expanded in the late 19th century. Inspired by Flemish Renaissance architecture, the buildings were designed by architects Constant Bosmans, Henri Vandeveld and Henri Van Humbeek, along with engineer Frédéric Bruneel. The warehouses, which still exist today, were built on former marshland between 1903 and 1907, exploiting the full potential of cast iron, reinforced concrete, steel and glass. As customs practices changed over time, the facilities became obsolete, and in 2001 the complex was bought by *Project T&T*, who over-

saw its restoration. The fully renovated Royal Depot (*Entrepôt Royal/Koninklijk Pakhuis*) is now home to many companies, as well as shops and restaurants that tempt the 1,200 people who work on the site to meet and mingle along the building's indoor street. The 17,000-m<sup>2</sup> Sheds host major cultural events and international trade fairs. In addition, the T&T site is the venue for lively music festivals, bringing together a diverse audience. Covering an area of 4 hectares, the former railway station *Gare Maritime* has also been restored, to a design by Neutelings Riedijk Architects. Since 2020, the workspaces adjacent to the shops have been organised around the large central hall. This 280-metre-long space, complete with gardens, is set to host events of all kinds in the future. Thanks to all this, T&T has become Brussels' hottest destination for living, working, shopping, experiencing new things and connecting with others.



### Guided tours:

#### English

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30, 17:30.

#### French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

#### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30, 17:30.

Meeting point for tours: at the reception in the Royal Depot.

In cooperation with  
*Korei Guided Tours*.

## TO VISIT

## 5 Masonic temple of the Cercle des Amis Philanthropes

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue du Persil/Peterseliestraat 8 – Brussels

📅 Advance booking not required

♿ Accessible with assistance

Once home to the studio of King Leopold II's official court photographer Louis Ghémar, the building was converted in 1877 into the base for the *Cercle des Amis Philanthropes* (literally the 'Circle of Philanthropic Friends'). Its side façade, while more richly ornamented, blends in seamlessly with the rest of Place des Martyrs/Martelaarsplein. The interior, however, is full of surprises, as architect Adolphe Samyn, who had already designed another Masonic lodge, the *Loge du Travail* in Verviers, came up

with two Egyptian-style temples for the *Amis Philanthropes*. The decor was designed by Gustave Janlet, who produced the decorative paintings, Alban Chambon, who took care of the sculpted ornaments, and Louis Delbeke, who painted the historical and symbolic scenes under the supervision of Jan Verhas. Drawing direct inspiration from Ancient Egypt, the Great Temple is lined with columns featuring campaniform and Hathoric capitals, against the backdrop of rearing cobras (*uraei*) and winged solar discs. This temple was completely restored in 2015. In the Middle Temple, papyrus columns separated panels painted with Masonic scenes or compositions depicting plants. This truly iconic site hosts meetings of members of lodges derived from the *Amis Philanthropes*, which was founded in 1798, making it one of the oldest Masonic lodges in Brussels, and forms part of the Grand Orient of Belgium as well as many different lodges of obedience. Its members pursue various ideals by means of a well-organised network. (Listed – 22/10/1998)



### Guided tours:

#### French

Sat. & Sun.: 11:00, 16:00.

#### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 14:30.

A number of newer temples will also be open for tours during the Heritage Days.

## TO VISIT

## 6 Brussels Stock Exchange (Bourse/Beurs)

- 🕒 Sun. only, 10:00 to 16:00
- 🏠 Boulevard Anspach/Anspachlaan – Brussels
- 📅 Advance booking required
- ♿ Not accessible

The Brussels Stock Exchange opened in 1873, replacing a number of older premises scattered across the city. The building was part of a large-scale project to redevelop the city centre, including alterations to the surrounding streets and construction of the central boulevards, of which the Stock Exchange was to be a key focal point. Work began in 1868, led by architect Léon Suys. Suys designed a building with a basilical ground plan in neo-Renaissance style which clearly shows the

influence of Palladio in the dome with pendentive, the pediment and the arcade façade. A monumental staircase flanked by sculpted lions leads to a peristyle bounded by six columns with Corinthian capitals supporting a triangular pediment with a carved tympanum. The side façades have a very dynamic quality thanks to the presence of a central bay topped by an archivolt, which was modified at the turn of the 20th century by architect Jules Brunfaut. Inside, four monumental supports fronted by Corinthian columns compartmentalise the magnificent, richly ornamented space, where remarkable stucco decoration covers the central dome, arches and vaults with a network of floral garlands, foliage and stylised motifs. A major restoration project is under way. Scheduled for completion in 2023, it will transform the Bourse/Beurs into a cultural and tourist destination – with a skybar, restaurant and brasserie, access to the ‘Bruxella 1238’ archaeological site



and the permanent visitor experience Belgian Beer World – as well as a central meeting point for tourists and locals alike. (Listed – 19/11/1986)

**Guided tours:**  
[French](#)  
 Sun.: 10:00, 11:00.

## TO VISIT

## 7 Brussels Town Hall

- 🕒 Sun. only, 10:00 to 17:00
- 🏠 Grand-Place/Grote Markt Brussels
- 📅 Guided tours and by reservation only
- ♿ Not accessible\*

Without doubt the most beautiful edifice in Grand-Place/Grote Markt, Brussels Town Hall was heavily damaged by Marshal Villeroy's bombardment in 1695. It was quickly rebuilt, with a wing being added at the rear. In the 19th century, it was adorned with 290 statues during a round of restoration initiated by architects Tilman-François Suys and Victor Jamaer. Jamaer also overhauled the interior decor, which wonderfully illustrates the history of Brussels, starting in the first-floor vestibule, whose walls are covered with portraits including Holy Roman Empress Maria Theresa, Napoleon Bonaparte, King William I of the Netherlands and King Leopold I (by Franz-Xaver Winterhalter) – all of whom ruled

over this part of the world. A succession of aldermen's offices contain numerous portraits depicting the mayors of Brussels. The municipal council chamber, where the States of Brabant would meet, has retained its 18th-century decor and continues to be used for work meetings. The Gothic Room was where the Dukes of Brabant would, in the past, swear to respect the city's laws and privileges, while the Wedding Room has been the setting for many unions, including those of King Albert II's children. One last thing to note is that foreign heads of state visiting Brussels are often honoured on the balcony, which offers a unique perspective from which to admire Grand-Place/Grote Markt. (Listed – 09/03/1936)

**Guided tours:**  
[English](#)  
 Sun.: 10:00.  
[French](#)  
 Sun.: 10:00, 12:00, 14:00.  
[Dutch](#)  
 Sunday: 11:00, 16:00.  
 In cooperation with [visit.brussels](#).





## TO VISIT

## 8 Brussels Parliament

🕒 Sun. only, 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue du Lombard/  
Lombardstraat 69 – Brussels

📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Accessible with assistance

The home of the Parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region once housed the Provincial Council of Brabant and its administrative staff. The main entrance to the complex is in the *Beaux-Arts* wing, designed by architect Georges Hano. This part of the building features a large original Mirror Hall, which has been carefully restored and is now used for parliamentary and cultural functions. Other imposing reception rooms are located to the rear of the building. These date back to the original structure, erected in 1696, which was called the *Hôtel de Limminghe* and served as the residence of the British envoy and the

apostolic vicar or nuncio in Brussels. A 1995 extension on the roof of the original building holds the parliamentary chamber, where debates and votes take place. It is designed as a glass window open to the city, reflecting a desire for transparency. The building is also used for parliamentary meetings of the Brussels institutions. In 2013, the Parliament building was extended to incorporate number 77, Rue du Lombard/Lombardstraat, its contemporary design showcasing a commitment to sustainable development. The former post office building La Couronne d'Espagne in Place de la Vieille-Halle-aux-Blés/Oud Korenhuis, which is thought to date from the time of the bombardment of Brussels by the French in 1695, has also just undergone restoration (inaugurated on 26 April 2022). The building has a multipurpose hall on the ground floor, which is connected to the Parliament's historic reception rooms. The two upper floors provide office space for the Parliament's administrative services. (Listed – 09/02/1995)



### Guided tours:

#### English

Sun.: 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30.

#### French

Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

#### Dutch

Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30

In cooperation with  
*Itinéraires, sur les Sentiers  
de l'Histoire and Klare Lijn.*

## TO VISIT

## 9 Les Ateliers des Tanneurs

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue des Tanneurs/  
Huidvettersstraat 60 A –  
Brussels

📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Accessible

This vast site comprises two closely interconnected complexes: the Belle Époque-style *Merchie-Pède* department stores and an industrial building that has been integrated seamlessly into its urban environment (the *Palais du Vin/Wijnpaleis*). Architect Fernand Symons began construction work on the *Palais du Vin/Wijnpaleis* in 1909, opting for an Art Nouveau style, which is reflected in the complex's plant-inspired decor and its many-hued façade combining glazed bricks, wrought iron, blue limestone, white stone, and sgraffito elements produced by Géo Ponchon. Behind the façade are the bottling rooms and

the barrel-vaulted halls used to store the wine casks. For hygiene reasons, the walls in the work areas were covered with white, light-blue and burgundy tiles. This magnificent site has belonged to the CPAS/OCMW social welfare centre since 1996. It was renovated between 1998 and 2006 and now houses *Les Ateliers des Tanneurs*, an 8,000-m² space serving as a hub for economic development. It acts both as a business centre and base for various companies and as an events venue, and also has an organic market and a restaurant. (Listed – 29/03/2001)

### Guided tours:

#### French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

#### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

In cooperation with  
*Once in Brussels.*

Lectures: 'Belgium and  
chocolate: a colonial (hi)story?'  
and 'Congolese painting'  
(see pages 16 and 17).



Exhibition: 'Notre Congo/  
Onze Congo: Belgian  
colonial propaganda  
exposed' (see page 16).

Starting point for the  
guided bicycle tour 'The  
Congo in Brussels as seen  
through architectural  
details' (see page 17).

## TO VISIT

10 **Art et Marges museum**

🕒 Sat. &amp; Sun., 11:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue Haute/Hoogstraat 312-314 Brussels

📄 Reservation only for guided tours

♿ Accessible with assistance

Brussels' *Art et Marges* museum, set up in 2009, aims to promote 'outsider artists', i.e. artists from outside the mainstream. The permanent collection was built up among self-taught artists and in artistic workshops for people with mental disabilities or workshops in mental-health settings from the mid-1980s onwards. Today, it includes more than 4,000 works by artists from Belgium and abroad.

As a meeting place and a museum on a human scale, it aims to decompartmentalise the creative process and serve as a sounding board for artists. In the 10 years of its existence, the museum has asserted its identity within the Brussels cultural landscape and has become a key point of reference for outsider art in Belgium and other countries.

**Guided tours (maximum****20 people per start)****[French](#)****Sat.: 14:00.****[Dutch](#)****Sat.: 16:00.**

**Exhibition: Smile. I Love It!, based on the works of Ariane Bergrichter who criss-crossed Brussels city centre making impromptu sketches of café scenes, eye-catching individuals and workers, to build up a raw, unvarnished chronicle of everyday life.**



## TO VISIT

11 **Palace of Justice**

🕒 Sat. only, 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Place Poelaert/Poelaertplein Brussels

📄 Guided tours and by reservation only. Please arrive 15 minutes before your reservation and make sure you do not have any sharp objects on you.

♿ Not accessible

The largest building in Europe when it opened in 1883, Brussels' Palace of Justice – designed by architect Joseph Poelaert – is an edifice of truly vast proportions. Measuring 150 by 160 metres, the rectangular complex covers an area of 26,000 m² and rests on mighty stone foundations, designed to offset a drop of nearly 20 metres. Its outline provides a majestic backdrop at the end of Rue de la Régence/Regentschapsstraat. Construction work began in 1866, with whole swathes of the Marolles/Marollen neighbourhood demolished to make way for it. Poelaert's

work is a showcase for eclectic architecture and was described as Assyro-Babylonian by poet Paul Verlaine, although in fact the building owes more to Pericles's Greece and Hadrian's Rome. The originality of the design and expansive use of space testifies to Poelaert's talent. The dome, 17 metres in diameter with a structure made up of metal arches, towers over the complex. Inside, looking up from the marble floor of the lobby into the dome, the dizzying perspective is a paean to emptiness. While part of the building is still used by the courts, the Palace of Justice has yet to find a new use worthy of its monumental scale. The lobby sometimes plays host to theatrical performances, and visitors curious to see inside can take guided tours of the labyrinthine interior.

**Guided tours:****[English](#)****Sat.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30.****[French](#)****Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.****[Dutch](#)****Sat.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30.**

**In cooperation with Arkadia and Korei Guided Tours.**



## TO VISIT

### 12 Jewish Museum of Belgium

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00
- 🏠 Rue des Minimes/  
Miniemenstraat 21 – Brussels
- 📅 Advance booking not  
required
- ♿ Not accessible

The building that currently houses the Jewish Museum of Belgium was inaugurated in 1902. Until the First World War, it was home to a German-language school, the *Deutscher Schule*. The building was designed by architect Octave Flanneau, who adopted a neoclassically-inspired eclectic style for the monumental façade. After serving for many years as a repository for the state archives, the building was repurposed in 2005 to become the Jewish Museum of Belgium. The museum aims to present the life and history of Jewish people in this part of the world from the 18th century onwards, through a large collection of artefacts built

up over the years. The collection comprises donations, acquisitions and deposits, such as those from the Jewish Central Consistory of Belgium, the Stelman-Topiol Foundation, the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Wiener collection. The museum also has archives, a photo library and a conventional library. In addition to its permanent collection, the museum runs an average of five temporary exhibitions a year. It also organises a plethora of activities such as talks, concerts, workshops and literary evenings, all of which are opportunities to bring together visitors from different cultures.

**A brochure explaining the history of the building will be available.**

**Exhibition: 'Arié Mandelbaum – 16.09.22-05.03.23'. This newly created exhibition is the first retrospective devoted to Arié Mandelbaum (born in Brussels in 1939), a unique voice in Belgian painting who engages with questions about his own private life and the world around him.**

**Exhibition: 'Why do you stand at the door? Nikolay Karabinovych – 16.06–23.10.2022'. 'Why do you stand at the door?' is the result of research carried out in 2021 and 2022 by Ukrainian artist Nikolay Karabinovych (born in Odesa in 1988) at the Jewish Museum of Belgium. The artist offers a reflection on the process of migration, through the medium of Yiddish, that quintessential diaspora language. The exhibition has particular resonance in view of recent tragic events.**

## TO VISIT

13 **Egmont Palace**

🕒 Sat. &amp; Sun., 10:00 to 17:00

📍 Place du Petit Sablon/  
Kleine Zavel 8 – Brussels

📖 Reservation only for guided tours. Exhibition "Around the world" in free entrance.

♿ Not accessible

The majestic Egmont Palace is a temple of diplomacy, welcoming numerous heads of state and government from around the world each year. It is also a little-known jewel of the city's heritage and a place steeped in history, having been owned in turn by the Counts of Egmont, the Dukes of Arenberg, the City of Brussels and the federal government. The oldest parts of the site, in Renaissance style, date back to the 1560s. The Egmont Palace owes its current form to interventions by the architects Giovanni Niccolò Servandoni in the 18th century, Tilman-François Suys

in the 19th and Octave Fanneau in the 20th. Over the years it has per] formed a wide range of functions, including as a residence, a wartime field hospital, and accommodation for scout troops. It has also seen the signing of various pacts and treaties, among them the Treaty of Accession of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark to the European Economic Community, and the Egmont Pact in 1977. From 2013 to 2019, the site hosted summer exhibitions. (Listed – 18/09/2003)

**Guided tours:****English**

Sat. &amp; Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30.

**French**

Sat. &amp; Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00.

**Dutch**

Sat. &amp; Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30.

In cooperation with *Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaines (ARAU)*, *Arkadia* and *Klare Lijn*.

Having taken part in the 2014 Heritage Days, the Egmont Palace is once again opening its doors to the public with an exhibition tantalisingly entitled *Around the world... Curious?* Then make sure you climb the marble staircase to find out what lies behind these inscrutable walls!

## TO VISIT

14 **Church of Our Lady of Victories at the Sablon**

🕒 Sat. &amp; Sun., 9:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue des Sablons/ Zavelstraat  
Brussels

📖 Advance booking not required

♿ accessible with assistance

The modest chapel, built in 1304 by the Guild of Crossbowmen, was the first known religious building on the site of the current church. Home to a miraculous statue of the Virgin, it quickly became a place of pilgrimage. Over the course of the 15th century, the site was expanded considerably. From the 19th century, the exterior was extensively restored by, among others, architects A. Schoy, J.-J. Van Ysendijck and M. Van Ysendijck. Inside, the pure lines of the original immense three-part nave have been retained. Two Baroque chapels were

built on either side of the choir in 1651 by architect Lucas Fayd'herbe. The left chapel, dedicated to Saint Ursula, contains the tombs of Prince Lamoral II of Thurn und Taxis and his wife Anne-Françoise de Hornes as well as many other family members. Other funerary monuments of interest include that of the French poet Jean-Baptiste Rousseau, to the left of the door of the south transept. The same transept also features a stained glass window depicting King Albert I and Queen Elisabeth, accompanied by their patron saints, Saint Albert of Louvain and Saint Elisabeth of Hungary, with the ruins of Nieupoort and Ypres behind them, sad reminders of the hardship of the First World War. A plaque on one of the nave's columns recalls that Paul Claudel used to often come to pray here. The Church of Our Lady of Victories at the Sablon is also the setting for feasts, anniversaries and commemorations for various fraternities and is the starting point for the famous historical *Ommegang* procession. (Listed – 05/03/1936)

**Guided tours:****French**

Sat.: 10:00, 14:00.

Sun.: 14:00.

**Dutch**

Sat.: 10:00, 14:00.

Sun.: 14:00.

In cooperation with *Church and Tourism Brussels*.



## TO VISIT

**15 Saint-Jacques-sur-Coudenberg/  
Sint-Jacob-op-de-Koudenberg Church  
(royal parish,  
cathedral of the  
Military Ordinariate  
of Belgium)**

🕒 Sat., 13:00 to 17:45,  
and Sun., 13:00 to 15:45

🏠 Place Royale/Koningsplein  
Brussels

📄 Advance booking not  
required

♿ Not accessible\*

Saint-Jacques-sur-Coudenberg/  
Sint-Jacob-op-de-Koudenberg  
Church provides an attractive focal  
point at the end of Rue Montagne de  
la Cour/Hofberg while also blend-

ing well with the neoclassical grandeur of Place Royale/Koningsplein. French architect Barnabé Guimard was responsible for the building's construction, while the interior was designed by Louis Montoyer. The church is fronted by an imposing peristyle with Corinthian columns, including a monumental fresco on the pediment painted by Jean-François Portaels between 1843 and 1845. Mighty columns with Corinthian capitals divide up the interior which, with its light grey stucco walls and distinctly neoclassical decorative scheme, forms a highly unified ensemble. Regency-style oak stalls, a Louis-XIV wrought-iron grille, paintings by Jean-François Portaels, Caspar de Crayer and Jean Geefs, sculptures by Laurent Delvaux and Gilles-Lambert Godecharle, and a Pierre Schyven organ dating from 1884 are among the decorative features of the church's interior. (Listed – 02/12/1959)

**Guided tours:****French**

Sat.: 14:30, 16:30.

Sun.: 13:30.

**Dutch**

Sat.: 14:00, 15:30.

Sun.: 14:00.

*In cooperation with Church  
and Tourism Brussels.*

**Walking tour:** 'Journey to the  
Congo'; **walking/bus tour:**  
'Take the Colonial Grand Tour,  
from the Globe tavern to Place  
Lumumba/Lumumbaplein';  
**and guided scavenger hunt:**  
'From Leopold II to Baudouin:  
a journey through the history  
of a dynasty' (see page 19).



## TO VISIT

**16 BNP Paribas Fortis**

🕒 Sat. only, 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue Royale/Koningsstraat 20 Brussels

🗺️ Guided tours and by reservation only

♿ Accessible with assistance

On its establishment in 1822, the *Algemeene Nederlandsche Maatschappij ter Begunstiging van de Volkswijlt* (General Company of the Netherlands for the Promotion of Trade and Industry) set up its head office in Rue Montagne du Parc/Warandeborg, thereby choosing from the outset a prestigious neighbourhood, not far as it would turn out from Belgium's official institutions when the country gained its independence some years later. In 1904, the bank – which by this time was named *Société Générale de Belgique/Generale Maatschappij van België* and which would later become today's *BNP Paribas Fortis* – purchased its first building in Rue Royale/Koningsstraat, followed by several adjacent ones in 1922. When the complex was completely redesigned in 1972, the restoration was carried out in accordance with the

town-planning and architectural rules laid down in the 18th century by Holy Roman Empress Maria Theresa. Inside the building, a number of sumptuous reception rooms evoke the ambiance of that period. Beyond the Kings' Room, lined with portraits of Belgian monarchs, the Lorraine Room has two tapestries featuring the coats of arms of Holy Roman Emperor Francis I (born Francis of Lorraine) and his wife, Holy Roman Empress Maria Theresa. The Tapestry Gallery is hung with a set of tapestries, woven between 1742 and 1763 in the workshop of the Van der Borcht brothers and depicting scenes from the life of Moses. Steeped in history, these spaces provide unique meeting rooms for the bank's clients and staff.

Guided tours giving visitors the chance to discover, among other things, various works by the artist Costa Lefkochir, including *L'Afrique Piétinée* (Downtrodden Africa):

[English](#)

Sat.: 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30.

[French](#)

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

[Dutch](#)

Sat.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

In cooperation with *Itinéraires, sur les Sentiers de l'Histoire* and *Klare Lijn*.

As part of the Heritage Days, the Faculty of Architecture at UCLouvain in Brussels is organising an exhibition entitled 'Institutions & the City: the Role of Architecture'. The exhibition will examine the relationship between architecture and the institutions that sprang up along the *tracé royal* (the route linking the Royal Palace of Brussels to the Palace of Laeken/Laken). Graphic work by students will trace the history of this route and explore the vital role played by architecture in identifying and perpetuating legal, political, cultural, financial and other institutions. Young visitors are welcome; wooden play equipment will be available, allowing them to build a new *tracé royal* of their own!

Meet in the 'Espace collectif' of the BNP Paribas Fortis Head Office. Entrance via Rue des Douze Apôtres/Twaalfapostelenstraat 3, 1000 Brussels. Free admission. Saturday 17 September, 10:00 to 18:00.



## TO VISIT

## 17 Parliament of the French Community

🕒 Sat. only 10:00 to 17:00

📍 Rue Royale/Koningsstraat 72 Brussels

📋 Guided tours and by reservation only

♿ Accessible

Attributed to architect Barnabé Guimard, this neoclassical-style building with a centred triangular pediment was built around 1777 for Charles François, Comte de Lannoy, as a symmetrical counterbalance to the other building at the corner of Rue des Colonies/Koloniënstraat. The building is part of a vast complex centred around Parc de Bruxelles/Warandepark (mainly in Rue Royale/Koningsstraat and Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat). In 1834, it was acquired by Eugène, Prince of Ligne, who

gave it the name *Hôtel de Ligne*, which it retains to this day. It was bought in 1897 by Brussels' tram operator *Tramways Bruxellois*, before becoming home to a bank in 1900. In 2001, the building, following a complete renovation, was repurposed to become the seat of the Parliament of the French Community. However, in a number of richly decorated historic rooms which were preserved, visitors can admire elegant original stucco ceilings reminiscent of the neo-classical style (or 'Louis XVI style', as it is sometimes known). Forming the backdrop to the political activities of the French Community, the *Hôtel de Ligne* has many committee rooms and a parliamentary chamber – forums for exchange, debate and decision-making that are integral to the parliamentary work taking place here, at the heart of the democratic process.



### Guided tours:

[French](#)

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00.

[Dutch](#)

Sat.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30.

In cooperation with *Itinéraires, sur les Sentiers de l'Histoire* and *Klare Lijn*.

## TO VISIT

## 18 Saints-Michel-et-Gudule/Sint-Michiël en Sint-Goedele Cathedral

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Parvis Sainte-Gudule/Sint-Goedelevoorplein Brussels

📋 Reservation only for guided tours in French Belgian Sign Language

♿ Accessible with assistance

The history of the cathedral stretches back to the 11th century. At that time, there was already a Romanesque church on the site. An outline of that building is now marked on the current floor of the cathedral, following its most recent restoration in the late 20th century. The cathedral we see today was built between the 12th and 15th centuries and charts in detail the development of Brabantine Gothic architecture. The building's importance is clear from the fact that the vast choir

could accommodate 22 canons. While the church was only elevated to cathedral status in 1961, it has always played a leading role in the history of Brussels. It was the main church of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, who had made Brussels the capital of his empire, and governors of the territory containing the city subsequently attended thanksgiving masses here. Napoleon, on passing through Brussels, also paid it a visit, as did King William I of the Netherlands on his coronation day. Indeed, in a similar tradition that has continued down the centuries, Belgium's monarchs come here on the day of their swearing-in ceremony. With its stained-glass windows and sculptures, the cathedral remains the backdrop for royal weddings and events such as official funerals, as well as the *Te Deum* held on Belgian National Day, 21 July, each year. Tourists and worshippers happily mingle day in, day out in this unique location so steeped in history. (Listed – 05/03/1936)



### Guided tours:

[French](#)

Sat.: 11:00, 13:00, 15:00.  
Sun.: 14:00, 16:00.

[Dutch](#)

Sat.: 11:00, 13:00, 15:00.  
Sun.: 14:00, 16:00.

In cooperation with *Church and Tourism Brussels*.

📋 Guided tours in French Belgian Sign Language: Sat. & Sun. at 13:00. In cooperation with *Arts & Culture*.

## TO VISIT

## 19 Flemish Parliament

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 16:00

📍 Rue de la Croix de Fer/  
IJzerenkruisstraat 99  
(visitor's centre) – Brussels

📅 Advance booking not  
required

♿ Accessible with assistance

The Flemish Parliament (*Vlaams Parlement*) takes up two buildings, linked by a tunnel. Since March 1996, all official meetings and receptions have taken place in the former *Hôtel des Postes et de la Marine*, built in 1905 to a design by Joseph Benoit. It was acquired by the Flemish Council (the forerunner of the Flemish Parliament) in 1987 and underwent a radical transformation.

The House of the Flemish Representatives (*Huis van de Vlaamse Volksvertegenwoordigers*) has been

the Flemish Parliament's administrative centre since 11 July 2002. In what was formerly the *Postcheque* building, the impressive counter hall (*De Loketten*) serves as a visitor's centre with a reception, bistro and interactive digital exhibition on the functioning and history of the Flemish Parliament. In the *Postcheque* era, this counter hall was also used as a reception area for visitors. The design by Victor Bourgeois is a fine example of the new pragmatism of the 1930s and 1940s. For this reason, the building features in the Brussels-Capital Region's list of protected buildings and sites.

Both buildings, the corridors, reception rooms, committee rooms and offices are decorated with works by renowned artists such as Guillaume Bijl, Fred Eerdekens, Jozef Legrand, Panamarenko, Dirk Braekman, Luc Tuymans, Roger Raveel, Liliane Vertessen, Pjeroo Roobjee, Berlinde De Bruyckere and many more. (Safeguarding – 02/04/1998)



## TO VISIT

## 20 Cercle Royal Gaulois Artistique et Littéraire

🕒 Sat., 10:00 to 18:00  
and Sun., 11:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue de la Loi/Wetstraat 5  
Brussels

📅 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Not accessible

In 1782, architect Louis Montoyer drew up plans for a Louis XVI-style complex made up of a circular theatre and a rectangular building, featuring a ballroom and a reception room. In 1820, this 'Vauxhall' complex, as it became known, was taken over by the City of Brussels, which decided to rent out each of the buildings separately. The *Société du Concert Noble* thus leased the Vauxhall café and a few ancillary rooms and was given permission to build a majestic ballroom based on the plans of architect Charles Van der Straeten. In 1871, the

complex was let out to the *Cercle Artistique et Littéraire*, which was joined in 1947 by the *Cercle Royal Gaulois* to form the *Cercle Royal Gaulois Artistique et Littéraire*. The club's premises include the Blue Salon, the Royal Salon, the Caryatids Ballroom, which has survived the passage of time with the four caryatids created by sculptor François Rude giving it its name, and the Lorraine Ballroom, which dates from 1783 and forms part of the original building. Committed to promoting the arts and culture, the *Cercle* is very much a place of exchange, hosting numerous receptions, conferences and meetings. The goal of its members is "the pursuit of excellence among those they count as friends and unwavering respect for others, the ever-present quest for the Beautiful, the Good and the True". (Listed 09/03/1995)

## Guided tours:

## English

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00,  
15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

Sun.: 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00,  
16:00, 17:00.



## French

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00,  
15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

Sun.: 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00,  
16:00, 17:00.

## Dutch

Sat.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30,  
15:30, 16:30.

Sun.: 11:30, 12:30,  
14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

As part of the tours, visitors will be able to take in the exhibition 'Pierre Paulus (Baron Pierre Paulus de Châtelet) 1881-1959 – Belgian painter', showcasing a number of the artist's works.

## TO VISIT

## 21 Palace of the Academies

🕒 Sat., 10:00 to 18:00  
and Sun., 10:00 to 13:00

📍 Rue Ducale/Hertogsstraat 1  
Brussels

📅 Reservation only for guided  
tours

♿ Accessible

The Palace of the Academies was originally built between 1823 and 1825 for the Prince of Orange, who resided there until Belgium's independence in 1830. Architect Charles Vander Straeten was tasked with designing the structure and drew inspiration from the theories of French architect Jean-Nicolas-Louis Durand, who extolled the use of a very simple neoclassical style. Indeed, the building's strict symmetry, the understated relief of its façade, the regularity of its design and the elegant three-coloured tones of its materials all help to make it a perfect example of this purist style. After 12 years of sequestration, the palace came into the possession

of the state, which decided to offer it, in 1853, to the future King Leopold II, who however ended up never living there. In 1862, the palace was renovated to turn it into a museum of modern art. Eventually, the Royal Academy of Science and Arts and the Royal Academy of Medicine took up residence in the building in 1876, followed by the Royal Academy of French Language and Literature of Belgium founded in 1920, the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts and the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium, both established in 1938. The palace was decorated and fitted out to a design by Tilman-François Suys between 1825 and 1828. To this day it still has some delightful reception rooms with precious inlaid parquet floors as well as a grand reception hall. (Listed – 10/10/2001)

### Guided tours:

#### English

Sat.: 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30.

Sun.: 10:30, 12:30.

#### French

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00,  
15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00.



### Dutch

Sat.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30,  
15:30, 16:30.

Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30.  
In cooperation with *Arkadia*  
and *Korei Guided Tours*.

**Exhibition: 'Women and the Academy'.** Using archive documents and explanatory panels, this exhibition will place the Royal Academy of Belgium in the context of other European academies in terms of the inclusion of women, focusing in particular on the first women elected to the Academy.

## TO VISIT

## 22 Marcel Hastir's former workshop

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 12:00  
and 14:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue du Commerce/  
Handelsstraat 51  
Brussels-Extensions

📅 Advance booking not  
required

♿ not accessible

When the town house in question was built in 1860, the Leopold Quarter was growing rapidly and Bruxelles-Luxembourg/Brussel-Luxemburg station had recently opened. In around 1900, the building acquired a rear annexe where the upper classes engaged in dancing, fencing and gymnastics. In 1927, the Belgian Theosophical Society acquired the building and made it its home. The painter Marcel Hastir,

who had just joined the Society, moved into the second floor of the house in 1935 and soon started doing his artwork there. During the Second World War, he was quick to provide refuge for Resistance fighters in what was ostensibly a drawing and painting school, authorising the printing of anti-Nazi leaflets and forging papers to save people's lives. Later, Hastir undertook a range of activities (encompassing music, theatre and philosophy), organising lectures by guest speakers such as Nobel Peace Prize winner Georges Pire (also known as Dominique Pire), explorer Alexandra David-Néel and philosopher Lanza del Vasto, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi, as well as recitals by singers Charles Trenet, Jacques Brel and Barbara, concerts by violinist Lola Bobesco and shows by dancer Maurice Béjart. Saved from demolition at the last minute and preserved intact since the artist's death in 2011, the studio continues to thrive, under the aegis



of a foundation bearing Hastir's name, thanks to a range of concerts, films and lectures perfectly suited to the intimacy of this location. (Listed – 23/03/2006)

**Guided tours focusing on the building's history and the painter's works, when there are enough people to form a group.**

## TO VISIT

23 **Concert Noble/  
Edificio**

🕒 Sat. &amp; Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue d'Arlon/Aarlenstraat 84  
Brussels-Extensions📖 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Accessible

The name *Concert Noble* dates back to 1785, when Archduchess Maria Christina of Austria and her husband, Prince Albert of Saxony, Duke of Teschen, established a company to organise exclusive events in the *Parc de Bruxelles/Warandepark* for members of the nobility. In 1873, at the instigation of King Leopold II, the *Société du Concert Noble* decided to build the ballroom and reception rooms we know today in the Leopold Quarter, Brussels' new fashionable neighbourhood. The man entrusted

with the task was architect Henri Beyaert, who designed a suite of sumptuous rooms decorated in Louis XVI style, gradually increasing in size and culminating in the 400-m<sup>2</sup> ballroom with its 15-metre-high ceiling. Very quickly, *Concert Noble* became a hotspot for the capital's high society. Visitors over the years have included Belgium's King Baudouin, the Shah of Iran, British statesman Lord Mountbatten, US President George W. Bush and the Dalai Lama. The listed building was restored by insurance company *ABB*, which acquired it in 1982. It is now owned by *Edificio*, whose work is entirely focused on preserving exceptional heritage properties in order to pass them on to future generations. *Edificio*'s mission is to give a future to the heritage of the past by ensuring that it has a purpose in the present. It does this by using these properties to host a wide range of events, from the cultural to the corporate and institutional. Thanks to *Edificio*, *Concert Noble* is now buzz-



ing with life as the backdrop for prestige gatherings. (Listed – 27/10/1983)

**Guided tours:****French**

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00,  
14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

**Dutch**

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30,  
14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

In cooperation with *Once in  
Brussels and Klare Lijn*.

## TO VISIT

24 **European  
Parliament**

🕒 Sat. &amp; Sun., 10:00 to 17:00

📍 Rue Wiertz/Wiertzstraat 60  
(visitors' entrance)  
Brussels-Extensions

📖 Advance booking required  
([https://brussels-hemicycle.  
booking.europarl.europa.eu/](https://brussels-hemicycle.booking.europarl.europa.eu/))  
Please bring proof of identity.

♿ Accessible with assistance

The huge glass structure housing the European Parliament stands in the Leopold Quarter, behind the old Luxembourg/Luxemburg station building. It consists of two main parts. The domed building in the centre is the Paul-Henri Spaak Building (also known as the *Caprice des Dieux* (Caprice of the Gods), in an allusion to the shape of the French cheese of this name). This houses the parliamentary chamber (hemicycle), a symbol of European democracy and parliamentary debate, with its 857 seats, of which 705 are reserved for MEPs. There are also 500 seats

for the public in the chamber's galleries, from where citizens can follow plenary sessions or presentations to learn more about how the Parliament works. The second main structure is the Altiero Spinelli Building, which was erected between 1991 and 1998 to hold the offices of MEPs and political groups, among other things. It covers 286,000 m<sup>2</sup> and is split into two 15-storey wings. In 2004, when the EU was enlarged to include 10 new countries, another two buildings – named after former Hungarian Prime Minister József Antall and former German Chancellor Willy Brandt – were put up either side of the old station building in Rue de Trèves/Trierstraat. A premier arena for debate and decision-making, the European Parliament remains close to the citizens it represents, who are encouraged to learn about how it works and to attend certain meetings.

**This bastion of democracy and parliamentary debate will be opening its doors for the Heritage Days. Through interactive talks every hour in English, French and Dutch (and other languages, depending on availability and**



**demand), you'll learn how the Parliament operates at the intersection of European cultures.**

**Tours of the chamber with a multimedia guide, available in the EU's 24 official languages:  
Sat. & Sun. from 10:00 to 17:00  
(last admission at 16:00).**



## TO VISIT

### 25 Solvay Library

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Parc Léopold/Leopoldspark,  
Rue Belliard/  
Belliardstraat 137  
Brussels-Extensions

📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Not accessible

Inaugurated in 1902, the Solvay Library was designed by architects Constant Bosmans and Henri Vandeveld. The building originally housed a sociology institute, which was intended to become part of a science park, as doctor Paul Héger and industrialist Ernest Solvay had been planning to create such a complex in that part of Parc Léopold/Leopoldspark for around a decade. When the sociology institute moved to the edge of the Solbosch university campus in 1967, the building was taken over by the publishing house of the *Université Libre de Bruxelles* (ULB), *Les Éditions de l'Université*, which occupied the premises until 1981. As no new occupant came forward at that point, the building was purchased by the Brussels-Capital Region and

painstakingly restored. The Solvay Library reopened on 27 May 1994 under the management of a company called Edificio, and has since served as an elegant backdrop for many events. The entrance hall, with its mosaic floor, affords access to a huge reading room decorated in the eclectic style, itself surrounded by individual study rooms with padded doors. As was often the case at the time of the Library's construction, the decor is very much inspired by the natural world. The predominantly red wall frescoes attributed to Adolphe Crespín are adorned with leafy garlands, while plant motifs are heavily featured in the building's many stained-glass windows and celadon-green wrought-iron rails line the balustrade, alternating with the wooden balusters. (Listed – 08/08/1988)

**Guided tours including access to the anniversary exhibition and culminating in the screening of a film about the restoration work in the 1990s:**

#### French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 14:00  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes).

#### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 12:00, 16:00  
(duration: 1 hour 30 minutes).

In cooperation with *Pro Velo*.

**To mark the 120th anniversary of the Solvay Library and the centenary of Ernest Solvay's death, various activities will be taking place in this historic location: guided tours, an exhibition of rarely seen items relating to Ernest Solvay and the Solvay Library, an exhibition of photographic works by Françoise Plissart on the Solvay Library, and the screening of a talk by Francis Metzger, the architect who led the renovations, giving a brief history of the restoration. These activities will continue over the weekends of 24-25 September and 1-2 October for those unable to attend during the Heritage Days.**



## TO VISIT

## 26 Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe Town Hall

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 17:30

📍 Avenue Paul Hymans/  
Paul Hymanslaan 2  
Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/  
Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe

📖 Guided tours and by reservation only

🚫 Not accessible

Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe's town hall, at the heart of the municipality, is a meeting place for all local residents. Designed in a modernist style by Joseph Diongre and inaugurated in 1939, the building marries *Petit Granit* (Belgian blue limestone) with yellow bricks from the town of Boom, and boasts a 30-metre-high polygo-

nal bell tower. The interior revolves around the lobby, whose hushed yet monumental space provides an ideal place for people to congregate. The entrance to the building offers an overview of both the counters and the upper floor, thanks to the passageway encircling the rotunda, with all the space being naturally lit by the openwork dome. Some of the rooms feature parquet floors and panelling, while the stairwells are adorned with marble. As one would expect in a town hall, many citizens visit the building each day to obtain documents and/or information. (Listed -13/04/1995)

**Guided tours including visits to the mayoral-college and council chambers:**

**French**

Sat.: 12:00, 14:00, 16:00.

Sun.: 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00.

**French/Dutch**

Sat.: 10:00.

**In cooperation with**

**Promotion du Patrimoine de la Commune de Woluwe-Saint-Lambert and Arkadia.**



## TO VISIT

## 27 Windmill

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Avenue Emmanuel Mounier/  
Emmanuel Mounierlaan 8  
Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/  
Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe

📖 Guided tours and by reservation only

🚫 Not accessible

Positioned on a hillock in the meadow adjoining Hof ter Musschen farm, the wooden windmill has survived many misadventures and changes of location. Its blades originally turned in Esplechin, close to Tournai, where it was erected in 1767. Abandoned due to competition from the flour mills, it was saved at the last minute by Dr Duthoit, who acquired it and had it transported to Arc-Ainières, in the province of Hainaut, in the 1930s. After his death, his widow offered it to the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe, which transferred it to its territory in 1964. After being seriously damaged by a fire in

the early 1980s, it was rebuilt on the Hof ter Musschen site in 1988. The windmill was painstakingly restored between 2015 and 2016 and today constitutes a handsome reminder of rural life in Brussels, a city that was once home to many windmills. (Listed - 09/04/1943)

**Guided tours:**

**French**

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00.

Sun.: 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

**Dutch**

Sat.: 14:00.

**Retour aux sources (Return to Source)**, a show telling the story of Marie, Oscar and the mill with warmth and simplicity, Sat. at 16:00 and Sun. at 10:00. Advance booking required. Up to 50 people per performance.

**In cooperation with the Heritage Promotion Department of the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe and the non-profit organisation Luizenmolen-Anderlecht.**



🗣️ **Guided tours in French**  
**Belgian Sign Language:**  
Sat. & Sun. at 13:00. In cooperation with Arts & Culture.





## TO VISIT

## 28 Château Malou/ Maloukasteel

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 17:30

🏠 Allée Pierre Levie/Pierre  
Leviepad 2 (access via  
Chaussée de Stockel/  
Stokkelsesteenweg 45)  
Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/  
Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe

📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Accessible with assistance

Château Malou/Maloukasteel is one of the last remaining 18th century manor estates in Brussels. Owned by the municipality since 1950, Château Malou/Maloukasteel has recently undergone extensive renovation work, specifically so that it can be used as a wedding venue. Inside, the major challenge was to combine modern-day facilities with the constraints of an 18th-century building. The premises have been converted into reception and seminar rooms, multipurpose spaces and mechanical rooms, allowing visitors and guests to enjoy an elegant, rural setting unparalleled in the Brussels-Capital Region. (Listed – 07/10/1993)

### Guided tours:

#### French

Sat.: 10:00, 12:00, 14:00, 16:00.

Sun.: 10:00 (bilingual FR/NL),  
12:00, 14:00, 16:00.

#### Dutch

Sun.: 10:00 (bilingual FR/NL).

In cooperation with the *Heritage Promotion Department of the Municipality of Woluwe-Saint-Lambert/Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe and Arkadia.*



## TO VISIT

## 29 Val Duchesse/ Hertoginnedal

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Avenue Valduchesse/  
Hertoginnedallaan 1  
Auderghem/Oudergem

📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Accessible with assistance

In recent decades, the *Val Duchesse/Hertoginnedal* estate has become known for the conclaves and international meetings held on this site. However, its history goes back to the 13th century, when a Dominican priory was established here. The estate has been remodelled many times since then. When Baron Charles Dietrich acquired it in 1903, only one wing of the castle, part of the surrounding wall and a few rural buildings were still standing. The new owner commissioned architect Albert Roosenboom to restore and extend the complex from 1915 onwards. The current priory, a semi-circular brick building, was the result of the rebuilding of the agricultural outbuildings. The Belgian Council of Ministers held meetings here in the 1990s. Some distance away stood the Orangery, overlooking the park. With a terrace in front, enclosed by a double staircase at either end, the neoclassical pavilion consisted of a single, mezzanine level and a succession of seven bays. It was used as a greenhouse to house the orange trees during the winter. The castle itself is a mix of various styles, the oldest part being the Louis-XV-style

south wing, which is believed to date from 1780. Inside, the well-preserved rooms reflect the interior decor in vogue at different times, including the office in Flemish neo-Renaissance style, the Louis-XVI-style Golden Room, the Gothic Room and the Delft Room, whose walls are lined with ceramic tiles from the Dutch city of that name. In 1930, Charles Dietrich bequeathed the estate to the Belgian Royal Trust, with a view to turning it into a prestigious meeting venue. Since then, it has been the setting for some truly historic gatherings. Between June 1956 and March 1957, for example, it hosted the Intergovernmental Conference on the Common Market and Euratom, paving the way for the creation of the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community. Today, Belgium's Prime Minister and federal government continue to hold meetings and formal receptions here. (Listed – 05/12/2002 and 23/10/2003)

### Guided tours:

#### English

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30,  
14:30, 15:30 and 16:30.

#### French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00,  
14:00, 15:00, 16:00 and 17:00

#### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30,  
14:30, 15:30 and 16:30.

In cooperation with  
*Itinéraires, sur les Sentiers  
de l'Histoire and Klare Lijn.*

The *Val Duchesse/Hertoginnedal* estate is open to the public by kind permission of its occupant, the Chancellor of the Prime Minister.



## TO VISIT

### 30 Prior's House and Rouge-Cloître/Rood Klooster site

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue du Rouge-Cloître/  
Rood Kloosterstraat 4  
Auderghem/Oudergem

📅 Advance booking not  
required

♿ Accessible with assistance

The priory of *Rouge-Cloître/Rood Klooster* (Red Cloister) was founded by hermits, who settled in the Sonian Forest and built cells and a consecrated chapel there in 1369. The Dukes of Brabant gave a generous endowment to this first foundation, which adopted the Rule of Saint Augustine in 1373. The Burgundian princes and their successors ensured the prosperity of the priory, which carried on expanding until it was secularised in 1784. The charm of the place continued to attract the public, so much so that a café was set up in the Miller's House in 1884 and a restaurant opened in 1902 in what had once been the prior's quarters. The whole site was purchased

by the Belgian state in 1910. All that remains of the old cloister is the Prior's House, which once housed the chapter room, the canons' bed-chambers and the prior's quarters. Attached to the church, which no longer exists, the building was considerably altered in the 18th century, giving the main façade a classical look, although the rear has retained a number of ogival bays. The magnificent 14th-century frame is still in place and is now home to a bat colony. Unoccupied since 1998, the Prior's House is undergoing restoration as part of a programme that began in April 2019. The ground floor is set to host a restaurant, with the first floor becoming a multipurpose socio-cultural centre, so expanding the artistic purpose of a site that is geared towards hospitality, meeting and exchange. (Listed – 16/11/1965)

**Exhibition: 'Listen, the city speaks', in the cloister gallery. From 2016 to 2017, Théâtre de la Parole occupied public space of all kinds as a way of asking: What elements of culture are visible in the public space and what kind of impact do we see them having? Four photographers, three sound designers, an architect, a spoken word artist, a dancer and two**

**musicians gradually appropriated various locations around the city through the medium of their respective disciplines. The resulting material gave rise to this exhibition, which showcases 50 photographs (selected from the hundreds collected over the two years) on 10 cubes specially designed for the project.**

**Storytelling performance: 'Motionless journeys', Sat. & Sun. at 15:00 (in French). Thirty-minute tales of motionless journeys, told by artists in out-of-the-way locations around the site... Visitors young and old will be all ears...**

**For this year's Heritage Days, Rouge-Cloître/Rood Klooster's on-site artists' studios will open their doors and offer a range of activities and demonstrations.**

## TO VISIT

### 31 Villa Empain/ Boghossian Foundation

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 16:00

📍 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt/  
Franklin Rooseveltlaan 67  
Brussels-Extensions

🗺️ Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Accessible with assistance

In 1930, Baron Louis Empain commissioned Swiss architect Michel Polak to design a mansion in the prestigious neighbourhood of Avenue des Nations/Natiënlaan (now Avenue Franklin Roosevelt/Franklin Rooseveltlaan). He suggested that Polak create something in the style of Otto Wagner, Adolphe Loos and Joseph Hoffmann. The result is a true Art Deco gem, featuring stained glass, mosaics

and beautifully crafted ironwork. In keeping with Palladian principles, Polak arranged the villa around a central hallway. Among the materials he used were Baveno granite, Escalette and Boisjordan marbles, burr Bubinga, marbled Palu wood from the East Indies, manikara from Venezuela and burr walnut.

Villa Empain is now home to the Boghossian Foundation, a centre for art and dialogue between cultures of the East and West. It runs a rich and varied programme of performances, exhibitions, talks, social events and international meetings. Guided tours and activities for children are organised throughout the year. (Listed – 12/07/2001 and 29/03/2007)

#### Guided tours:

##### English

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30,  
13:30, 14:30, 15:30.

##### French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00,  
13:00, 14:00, 15:00.



#### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30,  
13:30, 14:30, 15:30.

In collaboration with the  
Boghossian Foundation,  
Arkadia and Klare Lijn.

## TO VISIT

### 32 Abbey church and cloister of Notre-Dame de La Cambre/ Onze-Lieve-Vrouw Ter Kameren

🕒 Sat., 09:00 to 17:00  
and Sun., 13:00 to 18:00

📍 Abbaye de La Cambre/  
Abdij Ter Kameren 10  
Ixelles/Elsene /  
Brussels-Extensions

♿ Accessible with assistance

Nestled among fish ponds on what was once the outskirts of Brussels, the Cistercian abbey of La Cambre/Ter Kameren has had a turbulent history. In the early 13th century, Henry I, Duke of Brabant, helped to establish a women's abbey affiliated with the Order of Cistercians. Numerous donations allowed the site and the abbey buildings to steadily expand, with 41 abbesses passing through over a period of nearly

600 years. The church dates back to the 14th century. Following the French Revolution, the abbey had a sudden change of fortune and in 1796 was sold as a national asset to a man named Simon, who planned to conserve only the abbess's palace and to demolish the rest. Subsequently, it housed a boarding school for girls in 1802, then a cotton factory, a sugar refinery, a refuge for the sick and infirm and finally, from 1810 to 1870, a *dépôt de mendicité* (workhouse for beggars). From 1871 to 1909, the whole complex – including the 18th-century abbey buildings and church – was taken up by the Military Academy, which even installed a gymnasium and games room in the nave. The church was given back to worship and to the faithful in 1907. During the First World War, the site was occupied by the Germans, who stayed for many months and left it in ruins. Major restoration works were undertaken from 1921 to 1935, starting with the cloister, the presbytery and the chapter wing, which were restored in 1921. Since then, Mass has been celebrated regularly in the church, which also hosts baptisms, weddings and funerals. The clois-



ter was completely rebuilt between 1932 and 1934 and its bays filled with emblazoned stained-glass windows featuring references to the abbesses. The church houses the reliquary of St Boniface. Since 1935, it has been decked out with splendid stained-glass windows designed by Anto Carte and a superb organ, which benefits from the remarkable acoustics. (Listed 30/06/1953 and 06/05/1993)

Guided tours are available (in English, French and Dutch) by scanning QR codes at various locations around the site.

## TO VISIT

33 **Flagey**

🕒 Sat., 10:00 to 17:00

📍 Place Sainte-Croix/  
Heilig-Kruisplein  
Ixelles/Elsene📖 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Accessible with assistance

Joseph Diongre won the competition to design the new home of the National Institute for Radio Broadcasting (*Institut National de Radiodiffusion/Nationaal Instituut voor de Radio-omroep*, or *INR/NIR*) in 1933, and worked with various engineers to ensure that the future structure would meet the technical requirements. Modernist in influence, the building was also inspired by the architecture of the Netherlands, most notably in its use of yellow brick, as well as evoking *Art Deco* style with its *paquebot* ('ocean liner') or *Streamline Moderne* outline and its interior decoration. It

combined remarkable acoustic qualities with a sophisticated decor finished to an exceptionally high standard. Building work started in 1933 and was completed in 1939. After 50 years of intense activity and top-class recordings, the complex was put up for sale by its owners, public-service broadcasters *RTBF* and *VRT*. Bought by the public limited company *Maison de la Radio Flagey/Omroepgebouw Flagey* in 1998 and completely restored, the building has, since autumn 2001, housed an audiovisual centre unrivalled in Brussels, combining studios, concert halls and cinemas with offices and shops. Today, it hosts the qualifying rounds for the Queen Elisabeth Competition, as well as concerts, festivals and cinema screenings.

Flagey ASBL/VZW, a major player on Belgium's cultural scene, puts on a varied programme of classical music, jazz and cinema as well as festivals such as the Flagey Piano Days and the Brussels Jazz Festival. It also hires out the building's plethora of spaces, which are ideal for cocktail parties, meetings, conferences and private



receptions, all of which makes Flagey one of Brussels' premier gathering places. (Listed – 28/04/1994)

**Guided tours:****French**

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00,  
15:00, 16:00.

**Dutch**

Sat.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30,  
15:30, 16:30.

In cooperation with *Arkadia*  
and *Korei Guided Tours*

Exhibition: 'WeArtXL'.

## TO VISIT

34 **La Loge**

🕒 Sat. &amp; Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue de l'Ermitage/  
Kluisstraat 86 – Ixelles/Elsene📖 Reservation only for guided  
tours

♿ Not accessible

Painstakingly designed by architects Fernand Bodson and Louis Van Hooveld, this lodge for the Masonic order *Le Droit Humain* was built in 1934. The austere porch, which seems to recede into the brick façade, perfectly sets the tone of a building whose design makes rather an unusual use of space. The architects' virtuosity is also evident inside the building in the ingenious way they dealt with the uneven terrain and in their use of cutaway corners and oblique perspectives. The limited financial resources available for the project also demanded exemplary economy of form. Similarly, the materials used lend the rooms a simplicity that borders on refinement, breaking with the style of other Masonic lodges at the

time. The terrazzo floor is decorated with black mosaics featuring patterns rich in symbolism. From 1984, the former lodge hosted an archive and study centre and then a museum, the *Musée des Archives d'Architecture Moderne*. Following a series of alterations, the building was completely restored in 2001-2002 by architect Elie Levy and Brussels-based *Ekla Architects & Designers*. In 2012, *La Loge* was converted into a space dedicated to architecture, contemporary art and theory. It focuses on issues surrounding space, housing and the use of architecture, and through its events seeks to foster dialogue between audiences and speakers, whether they be architects, artists or thinkers.

The venue is currently hosting an installation by the artist Mathieu Kleyebe Abonnenc, originally from French Guiana, inspired by the work of the highly original 20th-century Caribbean novelist and essayist Wilson Harris. Harris's text *The Music of Living Landscapes* serves as the basis for, among other things, a sound installation. Abonnenc engages with questions of colonialism and the phenomena of syncretism, appropriation



and cultural domination. His practice often involves collaboration between artists from various disciplines and incorporates the production of drawings, sculptures, videos, slideshows and discursive devices addressing the violence of historical processes linked to exploitation.

**Guided tours on the history  
of La Loge:****English**

Sat. & Sun.: 12:00.

**French**

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00.

**Dutch**

Sat. & Sun.: 11:00.

## TO VISIT

### 35 David and Alice van Buuren Museum and Gardens

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 13:00

📍 Avenue Léo Errera/  
Léo Erreralaan 41  
Uccle/Ukkel

📖 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

🚫 Not accessible

Construction work on the house of David van Buuren and his wife Alice began in 1928. It was overseen by Brussels architects Léon Govaerts and Alexis van Vaerenbergh, who dreamed up a residence that would masterfully showcase the modern style in vogue at the time, Art Deco, on both the inside and the outside. The van Buurens were keen collectors and patrons of the arts and decorated their home with taste and

elegance, adorning its reception rooms with paintings by the great masters, along with sculptures and rare objects. The woodwork, furniture, rugs and artworks all make for a refined, harmonious setting featuring a spectrum of shimmering colours, complemented by the stained-glass windows with non-figurative motifs, crafted by Dutch designer Jaap Gidding, that illuminate the spacious hallway and the study. The couple soon decided to preserve their exceptional home by turning it into a museum. Entrusted with designing the garden, landscape architect Jules Buyssens transformed the steeply sloping, somewhat cramped space into a 'picturesque garden' comprising a bower, a herbaceous border, ponds, a flowered wall, rock gardens and clumps of heather and conifers around a central lawn. In 1968, René Pechère was commissioned to create a labyrinth of yews in the garden, choosing the Song of Solomon as his theme. Pechère was also responsible



for replacing the tennis court with a rose garden and laying out the Heart Garden, one of the site's main attractions. (Listed – 17/04/1997)

#### Guided tours:

##### [French](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00.

##### [Dutch](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30.

In collaboration with  
[Brussels Chatterguides](#).

## TO VISIT

### 36 Former Aegidium entertainment venue

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Parvis de Saint-Gilles/  
Sint-Gillisvoorplein 18  
Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis

📖 Guided tours and by  
reservation only. Subject to  
the start of restoration work

🚫 Not accessible

The complex we know today as the *Aegidium* was built in 1905 by architect Guillaume Segers. Originally named the *Diamond Palace*, it included a large room hosting shows and festivities. When it later became a dance hall, it changed its name to *Panthéon-Palace*. It did not become the *Aegidium* until 1929, when a priest called Gaspar Simons bought it and placed it under the protection of St Giles. It was then used to host parish activities and receptions. In 1933, it underwent a complete renovation overseen by architect Léon

Denis, and a cinema was established on the site. The place has retained its exuberant decor from this period. Its façade, designed in a neoclassical-inspired eclectic style, may look fairly unassuming, but a real surprise is in store for those venturing inside: the complex's interior is sumptuously decorated, containing well-preserved spaces where *Art Nouveau* and *Art Deco* features rub shoulders with elements drawn from the Louis XVI decorative style, such as floral garlands, putti and medallions. Breathtaking as these rooms may be, the star of the show is undoubtedly the Moorish hall, whose oriental look is like something out of the Arabian Nights and is unparalleled anywhere else in Brussels. In its day, this venue was at the heart of the city's nightlife. Now, a regeneration project led by investment fund *Alphastone* and Brussels start-up *Cohabs* will see the site turned into a cultural complex open to the public. (Safeguarding – 15/05/1997)

#### Guided tours:

##### [English](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 12:30, 14:30,  
16:30.



##### [French](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00,  
14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

##### [Dutch](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30,  
14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

In cooperation with [Arkadia](#)  
and [Korei Guided Tours](#).



## TO VISIT



## Saint-Gilles/ Sint-Gillis Town Hall

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00
- 📍 Place M. Van Meenen/  
Maurice Van Meenenplein 39  
Saint-Gilles/Sint-Gillis
- 📅 Advance booking not  
required
- ♿ Accessible with assistance



### Guided tours:

*A masterpiece of a town hall, by  
Brussels Chatterguides*  
[French](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 13:30, 17:00.

[Dutch](#)

Sat.: 15:00.

[Audiodescription \(FR\)](#)

Sun.: 15:00.

*The town hall's murals, by art  
historian Jacqueline Guisset*  
[French](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 14:00, 16:00.

*Treasures of the town hall's  
collections, by art historian  
Alain Jacobs, Association du  
Patrimoine Artistique:*  
[French](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 14:30, 16:30.

*The statues on the town  
hall's façade: heralds of a  
political programme, by Pierre  
Dejemeppe:*  
[French](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 15:30

For more information  
(in French), see [https://  
hoteldeville.stgilles.brussels/fr](https://hoteldeville.stgilles.brussels/fr)

Advance booking not required.

Architect Albert Dumont was responsible for the design of the new structure, built on the site of a sandpit between 1896 and 1904. He designed a building of 4,267 m², with two wings in a semicircle, as if welcoming citizens. A keen Francophile, he adopted the opulent French neo-Renaissance style, playing with pink Vosges granite, Euville and Savonnières stone, brick and blue limestone. For the designers of the time, art and beauty were “essential for the triumph of light and civilisation”, which is why they commissioned numerous artists to “give shape” to this veritable museum. Some 20 artists, including Julien Dillens, Paul Dubois, Victor Rousseau and Jef Lambeaux, worked on the ornate sculpted decoration of the façades and entrance courtyard, while inside the building, architects Alfred Cluysenaar and his son Andrées, Jacques de Lalaing and Albert Ciamberlani joined forces to create the Great Hall, a room that still contains busts of former mayors of the municipality. Eugène Broerman decorated the municipal council chamber, Fernand Khnopff together with Isidore and Hélène de Rudder oversaw the Wedding Hall, and Omer Dierickx was responsible for the Europe Room. Émile Fabry painted *Les quatre saisons* (The Four Seasons) in the two vestibules bordering the central staircase. The Cérés Room, with its majestic fireplace topped by a statue of the goddess Ceres by Égide Rombaux, is a small *début-de-siècle* museum featuring works by Léopold Speeckaert, André Massonet and Alfred Cluysenaar. Here and there, you will encounter the ghosts of Auguste Rodin, Henry de Groux and Nicolas de Staël. (Listed – 08/08/1988)



## TO VISIT



## WIELS

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 11:00 to 18:00
- 📍 Avenue Van Volxem/  
Van Volxemlaan 354  
Forest/Vorst
- 📅 Reservation only for guided  
tours
- ♿ Accessible

At the corner of Avenue Van Volxem/ Van Volxemlaan and Avenue du Pont de Luttre/Luttrebruglaan stand the buildings of the former Wielemans brewery, fine examples of Brussels's industrial heritage. “Wielemans Tower” was designed in 1930 by architect Adrien Blomme. After lying empty for many years, a restoration, in keeping with the original, carried out between 2005 and 2008, returned the site to how it once looked. Today, the former brewery site is a model example of the repurposing of industrial heritage: Adrien Blomme's building is now home to WIELS, a world-renowned centre for contemporary art. In this place of creation and dialogue, art and architecture form the basis for a discussion on topical issues, via temporary exhibitions by new and established national and international artists. (Listed – 20/07/1993)

### Guided tours:

[English](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 16:00

[French](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 14:00, 16:00

[Dutch](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 14:00

Exhibitions (paid entry).



## TO VISIT

### 39 Museum of Medicine

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Route de Lennik/  
Lenniksebaan 808  
Anderlecht

📄 Activity by reservation only

🚫 Not accessible

In 1977, the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) decided to build a huge university hospital complex on the far side of the ring road, in the municipality of Anderlecht. The complex also included a school of public health, a nursing school, a centre for the development of new technologies, a library and accommodation for students, followed in 1995 by a building to house the Museum of Medicine.

Whereas most such museums exhibit historical items from their respective universities and hospitals, primarily old instruments, medical devices, portraits of celebrated physicians, and so on, the one here in Brussels

focuses on the theme of medicine in art and history, which guides and enhances the visitor experience. The museum brings together an original collection consisting mainly of *objets d'art* and archaeological artefacts. Its eight exhibition rooms showcase medical practices and give an insight into how the art of healing developed over time, from a magical/religious practice initially, to a rational one in the Graeco-Roman period, then a scientific one as Renaissance doctors and artists became interested in anatomy and as experimental medicine took off in the 19th century. The museum also features over 300 Spitzner anatomical waxes representing diseases and surgical techniques of the 19th century, as well as a highly original collection of terracotta statuettes showing clinical signs (deformities of the face, malformations of the spine, skin lesions, etc.), which were used by the ancients to 'transfer' or 'protect themselves' against a series of diseases. Others illustrate shamanic practices.



Europeans radically changed the way colonised peoples understood life, death, illness and healing, as reflected in their mythological stories and popular tales. Come and listen to a selection of these on Saturday and Sunday at 10:30, 13:30 and 16:00 (FR).

## TO VISIT

### 40 Saints-Pierre-et-Guidon/ Sint-Pieter-en-Sint-Guido Collegiate Church

🕒 Sat., 10:00 to 17:00  
& Sun., 13:00 to 16:00

📍 Place de la Vaillance/  
Dapperheidsplein  
Anderlecht

📄 Advance booking not required

♿ Accessible

Built between the second half of the 14th century and the mid-16th century, Saints-Pierre-et-Guidon/Sint-Pieter-en-Sint-Guido Collegiate Church is one of the most remarkable Brabantine Gothic churches in the Brussels region. It is the work of a number of renowned master crafts-

men: the choir was designed by Jean Van Ruysbroeck, who was also responsible for creating the tower of Brussels Town Hall; the porch was created by Louis Van Boghem, the architect behind the *Royal Monastery of Brou*; and the porch tower and the chapel dedicated to St Guy were constructed by Mathieu III Keldermans. The church was restored by Jules-Jacques Van Ysendyck from 1874 to 1898; he also built the spire at the top of the square tower.

Built in the centre of what was once the village of Anderlecht, the church was intended for gatherings much bigger than just the parish community, hence its large size. For centuries, it was a major place of pilgrimage where, every year at Pentecost, thousands of people from the surrounding countryside converged to worship the relics of St Guy. Under the *Ancien Régime*, a horse race was even organised around the building. (Listed – 25/10/1938)



Talk about the restoration of the statue of St Peter by conservator Delphine Mesmaeker, and inaugural concert on the Collon organ by Benoît Mernier, organ teacher at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles, Saturday from 14:30 to 17:00.



## TO VISIT

## 41 Academie Beeldende Kunsten Anderlecht

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 17:00

📍 Place de la Vaillance/  
Dapperheidsplein  
Anderlecht

📅 Advance booking not  
required

♿ Accessible

Although its façade claims the date of 1563, the 'Flemish House' was actually erected in 1890 on the site of an older structure. It was commissioned by Jules Vandenpeereboom (1843-1917), a lawyer, politician and long-time Minister for Railways, Postal Services and the Telegraph System who was later appointed an honorary Minister of State, and designed by architect François Malfait (1872-1955). This means that the building is a pastiche in the truest eclectic tradition, blending neo-Gothic and neo-Renaissance

elements while recreating the character of a 16th-century dwelling, just as Vandenpeereboom wishes as he intended his house to be a museum of sorts designed as a showcase for his collections of furniture, antiques and old books. Special care was taken over the house's ornamental features, which include a wealth of older items recovered from historic residences, such as monumental stone fireplaces, carved panelling and stained glass. When Vandenpeereboom died in 1917, it passed to the Belgian State. Since 1979, it has been home to the Academie voor Beeldende Kunsten art school (recently renamed Academie Beeldende Kunsten Anderlecht), which expanded to occupy the industrial buildings of the former print shop next door. The academy has a number of studios for disciplines including colour restoration, stained glass, textiles, woodwork, drawing, sculpture and ironwork. (Listed – 28/02/2002)

**For the Heritage Days, several studios will be opening their doors and organising activities:**

**Woodwork and Painting studios:** open day

**Stained Glass studio:** making a pendant, assembled using copper sheet

**Stonework studio:** making a clay mask

**Textiles studio:** making mud-based paint

**Colour Restoration studio:** showcasing the restoration of a piggy bank in the shape of an African boy who nods his head when a coin is inserted. Made from moulded and painted plaster, it dates from the first half of the 20th century and was used to raise funds for the Catholic Mission.

**Ironwork studio:** nail making, Sat. & Sun. at 13:00 and 15:00 (duration: 2 hours). Advance booking required (peter.de.beus@academieanderlecht.be). Up to 4 people per group. Please bring cotton workwear and sturdy (work) shoes.



## TO VISIT

### 42 Old Anderlecht Beguinage

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue du Chapelain/  
Kapelaanstraat 8  
Anderlecht

📄 Reservation only for guided  
tours and performances

♿ Not accessible

The Anderlecht Beguinage is the smallest in Belgium. Together with the Erasmus House and the Gothic-style Saints-Pierre-et-Guidon/Sint-Pieter-en-Sint-Guido Collegiate Church, it is part of a remarkable cluster of historic listed buildings in the heart of the municipality.

The beguinage consists of two wings, built in the 15th, 16th and 18th centuries, either side of an enclosed garden with a well. Until the French Revolution it was home to eight beguines (lay nuns). It then served as a hospice and home for indigent women, before closing in 1928 and reopening in 1930 as a local history and folk museum.

The museum was dismantled and cleared out in 2021 to allow for extensive restoration. Now fully restored, this exceptional piece of architectural heritage, unique in Europe, is just waiting to be discovered.

#### Guided tours: 'The Anderlecht Beguinage after restoration'

##### French

Sat.: 11:30, 14:00, 14:30, 16:30.

Sun.: 11:30, 14:00, 14:30.

##### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 11:30, 14:30.

Performances by internationally renowned artists **Coraline Guilbeau** (Nantes/Brussels) and **Jivan van der Ende** (Netherlands), specially tailored to the location, its history and architecture. **Concert by violinist Clara Levy: 13 Visions**, a project inspired by **Hildegard von Bingen** and **Pauline Oliveros**, Sunday from 15:00 to 18:00.



## TO VISIT

## 43 Erasmus House

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue de Formanoir/  
De Formanoirstraat 31  
Anderlecht

📄 Reservation only for guided tours and workshops

♿ Not accessible

The Erasmus House, constructed between 1450 and 1515 and regarded as one of the oldest surviving private houses in Brussels, owes its name and fame to humanist Desiderius Erasmus, also known as Erasmus of Rotterdam, who spent time here in 1521. It was restored in 1932 by architect Charles Van Elst, who took an unabashedly historical approach to his work, and then became a museum dedicated to the Renaissance giant. The exhibition chronicles Erasmus's life and the intellectual world of the Renaissance through a collection of artworks. A triptych from Hieronymus Bosch's studio complements engravings and paintings by Albrecht Dürer, Hans Holbein the Younger, Cornelis Metsys and Joos van Clève as well as murals from the 17th century. A rich collection of precious 16th-century books and original editions of Erasmus's works charts the thinking of this great mind. With its reconstructed period interior, the

museum illustrates the history of the Renaissance. At the back are a *garden of simples*, a garden of medicinal plants that was created by René Pechère in 1987, and a *philosophical garden*, designed by Benoît Fondu in 2000 and featuring installations by contemporary artists. The Erasmus House and its gardens serve as a venue for conferences, concerts, workshops and exhibitions, making them a major cultural hub for the municipality. (Listed – 25/10/1938)

**Guided tours: 'The Erasmus House and its philosophical garden' (duration: 45 minutes):**

**French**  
Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 13:00, 13:30, 15:30.

**Dutch**  
Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 13:30.

**Latin, a dead language? It isn't spoken much nowadays *per se*, but our young teachers, Marion and Nicholas, speak it almost *ad nauseam*. As a bare minimum, they'll teach you how to introduce yourself in Latin and how to make sense of the *Adagia* (adages) that Erasmus was so fond of, including the famous *festina lente*. What's more, they won't expect any *quid pro quo* (it's free, in other words!). So *carpe diem*! Workshop: 'Latin as a living language', Sat. & Sun. at 14:30 and 16:30 (bilingual French/Dutch). Duration: 45 minutes.**



## TO VISIT

## 44 MoMuse

🕒 Sun. only, 13:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue Mommaerts/  
Mommaertsstraat 2A  
Molenbeek-Saint-Jean/  
Sint-Jans-Molenbeek

📄 Advance booking not required

♿ accessible with assistance

The Molenbeek History Museum (MoMuse) is housed in the large eclectic-style building constructed between 1878 and 1880 by architect Joachim Benoît to host the Academy of Drawing. Launched in 2017, the museum's mission is to showcase objects acquired or received by the municipal council, all of which have a close connection with the history of Molenbeek. In so doing, it aims to give residents a better understanding of how their municipality has developed over time. The collections already include around a thousand items, which are currently being inventoried, as well as 2,000 postcards and 1,500 photographs. The museum also has a documentation centre featuring 1,500 publications that can be accessed by researchers, journalists and others. The MoMuse aspires to become a tool for social cohesion and a place of openness where everyone feels represented. (Listed – 18/07/1996)



## TO VISIT

### 45 National Basilica of the Sacred Heart

🕒 Sun. only, 13:00 to 18:00

🏠 Parvis de la Basilique/  
Basiliekvoorplein 1  
Koekelberg

📄 Advance booking not  
required

♿ accessible with assistance

A trip to the National Basilica in Koekelberg – a monument dedicated to the peace that was restored following the Great War – is an experience like no other. The fifth largest church in the world, it is one of the most fascinating and imposing Art Deco buildings in western Europe and is the pièce de résistance of its creator, Ghent architect Albert van Huffel. Its magnificent copper dome, which is visible for many miles around, rises to a height of 90 metres above the ground and weighs no less than 43,000 tonnes, almost five times the total weight of the Eiffel Tower in Paris! The

basilica is every bit as magnificent on the inside too: terracotta bricks, stained glass and the ever-changing interplay of light and shade bring the vast space alive in a blaze of colour and make for a rather enigmatic atmosphere. The monumental Art Deco staircase is both an attractive complement to the rest of the building and a sublime achievement in decorative architecture. No-one can fail to be impressed by the artworks lining the basilica and housed in the complex's two museums; these include pieces by George Minne, Joan Miró and Constant Permeke. The basilica is also home to a permanent exhibition of the works of South Korean artist Kim En Joong, whose abstract, richly coloured creations further enhance the beauty of this unique space. The panoramic viewpoint, perched 52.8 metres above the ground, gives visitors a stunning bird's-eye view of Brussels and the surrounding area. In fact, on a clear day, it is even possible to make out Mechelen Cathedral and the sloping boat lift at Ronquière in the distance!

## Guided tours:

[French](#)

Sun.: 13:30, 14:30, 15:30.

[Dutch](#)

Sun.: 13:00, 14:00, 15:00.



## TO VISIT

## 46 Queen Elisabeth Medical Foundation/ CHU Brugmann

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 17:30

📍 Avenue Jean Joseph Crocq/  
Jean Joseph Crocq/laan 3  
Brussels-Laelen/  
Brussels-Laken

📋 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

🚫 Not accessible

At a time when clinical biology was still in its infancy, the City of Brussels had a building erected on the CHU Brugmann (Brugmann University Hospital) site to house various laboratories. The plans were drawn up by Henry Lacoste, an architect with a passion for archaeology, who oversaw construction between 1927 and 1933. As a head of mission, Lacoste travelled regularly to Delphi – and to Apamea in Syria – to direct excavations there. This love of antiquity is reflected in many details of the interior decor, in particular the use

of glass tiles (Marbrite) to create geometric patterns reminiscent of multicoloured Roman mosaics and Egyptian cloisonné. In the hallway, the green, blue and white attractively complement the many-hued marble flooring. The decorative effect continues up the staircase, with its stained-glass windows bearing non-figurative designs, while flowers frame the library door, which is edged in coloured tiles.

The Queen Elisabeth Medical Foundation is still active, supporting 16 university teams across the country. (Listed – 13/12/2012)

### Guided tours:

#### French:

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 13:00,  
14:00, 15:00, 16:00.

#### Dutch:

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 13:30,  
14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

In cooperation with *Laeken  
Découverte/Laken Onthuld*.



## TO VISIT

## 47 Queens Brussels

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Avenue de la Reine/  
Koninginnelaan 266  
Brussels-Laelen/  
Brussels-Laken

📋 Reservation only  
for guided tours

🚫 Not accessible

This neoclassical town house was built in 1876 and extended upwards in 1887 when it became the home of Émile Bockstael, Mayor of Laeken/Laken, who lived here until 1920. A series of paintings inspired by the art of Ancient Egypt adorns the hall and stairwell, but whether they were commissioned by Bockstael – a member of the *Cercle des Amis Philanthropes* (Circle of Philanthropic Friends), whose temple marked the high point of Egyptomania – or the next owner

remains a mystery. Experts have worked out that the artist based the works on tombs at the necropolises of Beni Hasan and Dra' Abu el-Naga'. With an Empire-style office on the first floor, a Louis-XVI drawing room, a dining room lined with tapestries on rustic themes (known as *Ténières*) and a veranda decorated in Art Nouveau floral style, the building seems to be a compendium of the history of art. *Queens* now plans to hold exhibitions here and to make the reception rooms available for chamber-music concerts.

### Guided tours:

#### French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00,  
14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

#### Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30,  
14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

In cooperation with *Atelier de  
Recherche et d'Action Urbaines  
(ARAU) and Korei Guided Tours*.

### Screening of the film

*s/t/r/a/t/e/s* (see page 51)





## TO VISIT

## 48 Brussels Mill and Food Museum

- 🕒 Sat. only, 13:00 to 17:30
- 🏠 Rue du Moulin à Vent/  
Windmolenstraat 21 – Evere
- 📄 Reservation only  
for guided tours
- 🚫 Not accessible

Built in 1841, the Evere windmill enabled farmers in the surrounding area to mill their grain. The conical brick building has undergone a number of changes and has been used for different purposes over the years. In 1853, a steam machine was installed so that milling could continue even when weather conditions were not suitable. The wooden blades ended up being removed as they had become obsolete. Two new structures were added to the windmill, in 1887 and 1904 respectively, to cater for cylinder mills and provide storage space. Unable to

compete with the huge flour mills in Willebroek, the windmill shut its doors in 1911 and was subsequently home to various small local industries, becoming, for a time, a thermosiphon factory, a tannery, a manufacturer of small wooden machines and even a gut-processing factory supplying butchers. In the 1930s, Oscar Tausig set up his spice factory in the building, remaining there until 1983. Abandoned, the Evere windmill, as well as the garden and paved road situated in the park, became listed structures in 1990 and were acquired by the Municipality of Evere in 1998. Since 2008, the restored building has been home to the Brussels Mill and Food Museum. The ground floor still contains the milling machines (that were used to process the spices), washers, cylinder mills and screeners: an ideal way of introducing the exhibition on the history of milling, from the prehistoric toothed wheel to the continuous circular movement, which runs in the permanent exhibition area. (Listed – 20/12/1990)

## Guided tours:

[French](#)  
Sat.: 14:00, 15:30.  
[Dutch](#)  
Sat.: 15:00.

👤 Guided tours in French Belgian Sign Language: Sat. at 16:00. In cooperation with Arts & Culture.

**Exhibition: 'Food and the City. Feeding our cities, then and now'. Every day, more than 7.5 billion people on the planet need to be fed, and since 2006 the majority of the world's population has been living in urban areas. Meanwhile, the number of producers is steadily declining. So how are we going to feed our ever-expanding cities if fewer and fewer people are producing food? 'Food and the City' charts the historical development of food supply and takes a look at the current food challenges faced by cities.**

## TO VISIT

49 **Maison/Huis Devalck**

🕒 Sat. &amp; Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Rue André Van Hasselt/  
André Van Hasseltstraat 32  
Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek📖 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Not accessible

Architect Gaspard Devalck designed this elegant Art Nouveau residence for his mother in 1900. He took a great deal of care over it and would later set up his studio in the house. The house's façade features white stone interspersed with bands of blue limestone that are edged with fine red-brick borders, echoing the similar bands on the neighbouring house's façade. While the elegant fan-shaped grille over the cellar window, the attractive plant-motif sgraffito panel over the front door and the conspicuous brackets supporting the

eaves all catch the eye, the *Maison/Huis Devalck* is most notable for its ornate stained-glass windows, the work of master glassmaker Raphaël Evaldre. The stained glass in the main ground-floor window shows a heron in a reed bed surrounded by winding plant-like scrolls, while the side windows feature stylised palm leaves and the first-floor bow window depicts a radiant sun shining on a bird in flight, irises and intertwining plants that seem to be reaching up from the ground floor. It would certainly be true to say that very few private residences can boast a collection of stained glass that is as sumptuous and well-preserved as this one. (Listed – 04/06/2009)

**Guided tours****English**

Sat. &amp; Sun.: 11:30, 13:30, 16:30.

**French**Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00,  
14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.**Dutch**Sat. & Sun.: 10:30,  
12:30, 15:30, 17:30.

## TO VISIT

50 **Schaerbeek/  
Schaarbeek  
Town Hall**

🕒 Sat. &amp; Sun., 13:30 to 18:00

📍 Place Colignon/Colignonplein  
Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek📖 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ accessible

Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek's first town hall was built by architect Jules-Jacques Van Ysendyck and officially opened on 21 July 1887. Following a devastating fire in 1911, it was rebuilt by the original architect's son, Maurice Van Ysendyck, and the resulting Flemish neo-Renaissance edifice was officially opened by King Albert I in 1919. While the new town hall reused the façade of the original building, it was almost twice its size, as its sides were lengthened from 43 to 71 metres. The town hall's central tower is reminiscent of the belfries seen in Belgium's historic cities, while the building materials

were selected with special care as a nod to the dominant architectural style of one of the region's golden ages. Euville white stone lends structure to the composition and sets off both the windows and walls with their glazed red and black brick facing, producing an exemplary multicoloured façade. The decor inside the building is no less spectacular. The Italianate counter hall, with its floor laid with many-hued marble slabs, is particularly attractive, as is the monumental staircase lit by an array of magnificent stained-glass windows. Different styles of stained glass can be seen in the splendid rooms on the first floor, such as the aldermen's offices. Other decorative features of note include coffered ceilings, carved fireplaces and wooden panels bearing Renaissance motifs. (Listed – 13/04/1995)

**Guided tours:****English**

Sat. &amp; Sun.: 14:30, 16:30.

**French**Sat. & Sun.: 14:00, 15:00, 16:00,  
17:00.**Dutch**

Sat. &amp; Sun.: 13:30, 15:30.



## TO VISIT

## 51 **Maison des Arts/ Kunsthuis**

⌚ Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 13:00  
and 14:00 to 18:00

🏠 Chaussée de Haecht/  
Haachtsesteenweg 147  
Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek

📄 Reservation only for guided  
tours. Exhibition "Color &  
Light" in free entrance

🚫 Not accessible

From the street, there is nothing to suggest the surprise that awaits you beyond the driveway: an opulent bourgeois residence set in its own gardens. It was built in 1826 for a wealthy linen merchant named Charles-Louis Eenens, with two wings added a generation later. The building then passed to Viscount and Viscountess Terlinden, from whose heirs it was later purchased

by the Municipality of Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek. It was subsequently converted into the *Maison des Arts/Kunsthuis*, now a centre for contemporary art. The interior has been painstakingly restored, with stratigraphic analyses used to identify the original colour schemes. For instance, the library, once green, is now black again. The suite of reception rooms illustrates the varying interpretations of the eclectic style, while in the dining room, a mantelpiece decorated with Delftware manganese tiles produced in Ghent makes a big impression on visitors. Since the 1950s, the *Maison des Arts/Kunsthuis* has hosted a diverse cultural programme of exhibitions, conferences/talks, film screenings, meetings and debates with the aim of making contemporary art accessible to all. Artists are regularly invited to take over the space and engage with its decor and history. (Listed – 28/05/2015)



### Guided tours:

[English](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 11:30, 15:30.

[French](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00,  
14:00, 15:00 16:00, 17:00.

[Dutch](#)

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30,  
12:30, 14:30, 16:30.

## TO VISIT

## 52 **Royal Church of Sainte-Marie/ Sint-Maria**

⌚ Sat., 10:00 to 18:00  
and Sun., 14:00 to 18:00

🏠 Place de la Reine/  
Koninginneplein  
Schaerbeek/Schaarbeek

📄 Advance booking not  
required

🚫 Not accessible

In 1844, Louis Van Overstraeten won the architectural competition that had been organised with a view to building a royal church on the route between the royal palaces in central Brussels and Laeken/Laken. The young Ghent architect – who died at the age of 31 before the work was finished – devised a building in the Romanesque-Byzantine Revival style, based on a central octagon surrounded by apsidal chapels. A magnificent dome, which rests on pendentives and is supported by clustered pillars, tops the building

off. Using metals and light roofing materials reduced the weight of the dome, which the architect punctuated with oculi at the base of the lantern and around the tambour. The latter is topped with a cornice supported by Lombard bands and modillions and ringed by a series of large windows. Even so, Van Overstraeten chose to add Gothic-style flying buttresses, purely as a decorative feature. Construction work began in 1845 and the church was opened on 15 August 1853 and dedicated to Queen Louise-Marie, who had died three years before. Inside, the decor and the original fittings combine to create a piece of Byzantine art of extraordinary unity. This setting was the backdrop for the funeral of Italian composer Giacomo Puccini, who died in Brussels on 29 November 1924. The church contains works by De Maertelaere, Willemotte and Delporte, which are worth seeing in their own right, as well as a fine set of stained-glass windows by Jean-Baptiste Capronnier and a romantic organ by Jean-Emile Kerkhoff. It attracts both worshippers and tourists, keen to explore this place and its eclectic architecture. (Listed – 09/11/1976)



### Guided tours:

[French](#)

Sat.: 10:00, 14:00.

Sun.: 14:00.

[Dutch](#)

Sat.: 10:00, 14:00.

Sun.: 14:00.

In cooperation with [Church  
and Tourism Brussels](#).

### Permanent exhibition:

'Ecumenism in Brussels'.



## TO VISIT

**53 Hôtel Boël**

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue Royale/  
Koningsstraat 288  
Saint-Josse-ten-Noode/  
Sint-Joost-ten-Node

📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

🚫 Not accessible

This remarkable *Beaux-Arts* town house was built for Georges Boël in 1913. Boël, who had made a fortune in the steel industry, called on the services of Michel Heininx, an architect for the royal palaces. Heininx designed a three-storey building with a mansard roof, made of white stone and imitation stone, with banded rustication on the ground floor. Curiously, the glazed-brick rear façade has affinities with the Flemish neo-Renaissance style, a

nod to the many decorative features inside the house but above all to the splendid portico of the entrance hall and the huge second-floor hall with its richly carved doors, paneling and fireplaces, all topped off with a timber roof frame. The town house has retained harmonious interior proportions, particularly in the suite of reception rooms, whose successful neo-rococo decor combines carved panelling with painted ceilings and marble fireplaces. In a sign of the eclecticism of the period, the *Hôtel Boël* also features a neo-Gothic octagonal room. The building offers a valuable insight into bourgeois 19th-century life, with its reception rooms that once hummed to the sounds of parties and grand dinners. Having been home to Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for the past 50 years, it has recently been used as a filming location for, among others, Netflix and Arte. (Listed 04/04/2019)

## Guided tours:

English

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 12:30, 14:30, 16:30.

French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00.

Dutch

Sat. & Sun.: 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 14:30, 15:30, 16:30.

In cooperation with *Atelier de Recherche et d'Action Urbaines (ARAU)* and *Korei Guided Tours*.



## Heritage and Food

# DISCOVER BRUSSELS' CULINARY HERITAGE



During this year's Heritage Days, Wicked Pigeon (a Brussels non-profit association supporting the cultural, events, creative and hospitality sectors), hospitality collective Collectif RestoBar Bruxelles and the Brussels hospitality federation (Fédération Horeca Bruxelles/Federatie Horeca Brussel) will be joining forces once again to pay tribute to the art of dining, Brussels-style.

Beyond their obvious architectural interest, the participating restaurants and bars work with high-quality local produce, making them true ambassadors of Brussels' gastronomic and culinary heritage.

On 17 and 18 September, join us for tours of these establishments and discover the city's culinary legacy in the form of 'Heritage' menus, competitions and other activities.

The full programme of activities will be posted on the following websites: [www.heritagedays.brussels](http://www.heritagedays.brussels), under OFF/HORECA, and <https://fb.me/e/2eblqK5Xc>

More information:  
Wicked Pigeon ASBL  
[hello@wickedpigeon.be](mailto:hello@wickedpigeon.be)



34<sup>e</sup> édition des Journées européennes  
du Patrimoine en Wallonie

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**10-11**  
septembre  
**2022**

Zondag  
11 sept. 2022

# Open Monumenten- dag

20  
22

DUUR ZAAAM  
DUUR ZAAAM



[openmonumentendag.be](https://openmonumentendag.be)

volg ons op  en  #openmonumentendag



een initiatief van



in samenwerking met



Vlaanderen  
in erfgoed

Agentschap  
Onroerend  
Erfgoed





## EMBASSIES



## TO VISIT

## 1 Liszt Institute – Hungarian Cultural Centre Brussels

- 🕒 Sat. only, 14:00 to 18:00
- 🏠 Treurenberg 10 – Brussels
- 📅 Reservation only for dance workshops
- ♿ Not accessible

The Liszt Institute Brussels is based at number 10 Treurenberg, where significant remains of Brussels' first encircling wall have been preserved, both inside and behind the current building.

Visitors will be able to view 'Micro-world', an exhibition of photographs by the Hungarian artist Zsuzsa Hullán, whose lens captures the world in all its microscopic beauty. Some of her photos have also been published by *National Geographic*. In addition to nature photos, her work includes photography of every-

day life, street scenes and society, capturing exceptional moments that reflect an original and unique vision.

For this year's Heritage Days, the Institute will also be hosting Táncház, a workshop introducing children and adults to traditional Hungarian dance. The Táncház method and the tradition it preserves have been recognised as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. This model of teaching folk dance and music combines traditional forms of learning with modern educational methods and recent research into folklore. There will be four 30-minute sessions, starting each hour from 14:00 to 18:00.



## TO VISIT

## 2 Korean Cultural Center

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 20:00
- 🏠 Rue de la Régence/ Regentschapsstraat 4 Brussels
- 📅 Advance booking required.
- ♿ Accessible with assistance

Housed in a building constructed in 1972 as a collaboration between architects Jacques Wybauw and André Van Meulecom, the Korean Cultural Center is organising the 9th Belgian-Korean Comics Exhibition. The event will showcase five comics, two from Belgium and three from Korea: *Living in FranDisco* by Thierry Van Hasselt and Marcel Schmitz, *Paysage après la bataille* (Landscape After the Battle) by Eric Lambé and Philippe de Pierpont,

*Transparent Man* by Daesup Shim, *Things I Want to Draw* by Gaheezy, and *Jaein* by Kyutae Lee.

The unique worlds of these artists will be brought to life in various ways, with original strips, models, videos, sketches and more. Visitors will also have a rare chance to see artist Thierry Van Hasselt at work in the artist's studio set up on site especially for the occasion.

This is a great opportunity to explore two different but interconnected worlds within the comic book universe.

**During the visit to the exhibition, various Korean cultural activities will be offered.**  
**Information: <https://brussels.korean-culture.org/fr>**





## TO VISIT

### 3 Residence of the Ambassador of the United Kingdom

🕒 Sat. only, 10:00 to 16:00

🏠 Rue Ducale/Hertogsstraat 17  
Brussels

📄 Guided tours and by reservation only

♿ accessible with assistance

This impressive mansion in the Royal Quarter had a varied past and several owners until it was leased to the UK Government in 1944. The British Embassy bought the mansion in 1947 and refurbished it in 2012.

The present interior reflects the taste of the previous owner Baroness Becker-Remy. She was an art collector who bought the house with her husband in 1926. She worked with Stephane Boudin, the famous French interior designer to complete the interiors, deliberately using antique interiors in a relatively modern building.

Highlights of the property include the Library which has panelling made c1772 for the French Embassy in Vienna and three tapestries produced by Jean-Baptiste Monnoyer between 1690 and 1730 in the Dining Room. Art works include an 1817 portrait of Princess Charlotte Augusta of Wales by George Dawe and works by early 20th Century British artist Walter Sickert.



In recent years, the house has welcomed the British and Belgian Royal families, numerous heads of state and countless politicians from across the globe. Today this mansion is used for official purposes by the UK Diplomatic missions in Belgium, for example to host the Queen's Platinum Jubilee receptions.

#### Guided tours with presentation of the British Government art collection:

##### English

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00

##### French

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00

##### Dutch

Sat.: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00

## TO VISIT

## 4 Residence of the Swiss Ambassador to Belgium and NATO

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 16:00
- 🏠 Rue Ducale/Hertogsstraat 15 Brussels
- 📄 Guided tours and by reservation only
- ♿ Not accessible

Built to plans drawn up in 1911 by Armand Delalieux, the architect of various Art Deco buildings in Brussels, this attractive double-fronted mansion replaced two semi-detached houses dating from the last quarter of the 18th cen-

tury. In this instance, a neoclassical style was chosen to match the surrounding buildings around Parc de Bruxelles/Warandepark. Completed in 1912, the building was made available to Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs Paul Hymans, before being bought by the Swiss Confederation in 1971. It now houses the Residence of the Ambassador of Switzerland to Belgium and to NATO. Refurbishment work carried out in 2020-2021 included improvements to energy efficiency and insulation.

### Guided tours

#### English

Sat. & Sun.: 11:00, 15:00.

#### French

Sat. & Sun.: 10:00, 14:00.



## TO VISIT

## 5 South African Embassy

- 🕒 Sat. only, 10:00 to 15:00
- 🏠 Rue Montoyer/Montoyerstraat 17 Brussels-Extensions
- 📄 Advance booking not required. Up to 15 people.
- ♿ Accessible with assistance

Located in Brussels' Leopold Quarter, the South African Embassy occupies a building in a very contemporary architectural style, including an all-glass façade. It is hosting an exhibition on the theme *Heritage Month*, an initiative that aims to foster greater social cohesion, nation building and a shared national identity while creating a conducive environment for all South African people to embrace and celebrate their heritage.

"When our first democratically-elected government decided to make Heritage Day one of our national days, we did so because we knew that our rich and varied cultural heritage has a profound power to help build our new nation. We did so knowing that the struggles against the injustice and inequities of the past are part of our national identity; they are part of our culture. We knew that, if indeed our nation has to rise like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes of division and conflict, we had to acknowledge those whose selfless efforts and talents were dedicated to this goal of non-racial democracy."

Nelson Mandela,  
23 September 1996,  
Uitenhage, South Africa



## TO VISIT

## 6 Spanish Ambassador's Residence

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 14:00

🏠 Rue Montoyer/  
Montoyerstraat 26  
Brussels-Extensions

📄 By reservation only. Please bring proof of identity.

🚫 Not accessible

This neoclassical-style town house – the only remaining original building designed for this block by architect Tilman-François Suys, the mastermind behind the Leopold Quarter, in 1840 – underwent various major alterations in 1909. The building was bought on 7 November 1919 by Rodrigo de Saavedra y Vinent, Marqués de Villalobar, on behalf of the Spanish government,

which he represented as Minister Plenipotentiary to Belgium. It was intended for the Spanish Legation in Brussels. Today, it houses the Spanish Ambassador to Belgium's official residence. The interior has retained an elegant decorative scheme as well as some artworks from the Marqués de Villalobar's collection. The entrance hall's grisaille painting depicting the Santa Cruz Palace in Madrid and also the bronze sconces illuminating the magnificent banister, as well as a reproduction – executed by a Belgian artist and located in the stairwell – of the coat of arms of Toledo adorning that Spanish city's *Puerta de Bisagra Nueva* (New Bisagra Gate) all date from this period.

Visitors will be able to enjoy 'Rule of Silence', a performance piece by Spanish artist Miguel Peñaranda. (Listed 04/04/1996)



## TO VISIT

## 7 Embassy of the Republic of Armenia

🕒 Sat. only, 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Rue Montoyer/  
Montoyerstraat 28  
Brussels-Extensions

📄 Advance booking not required

🚫 Not accessible

This narrow town house adjoining a large mansion illustrates the mix of architecture that was a deliberate feature of the new Leopold Quarter when first laid out. The building that is now home to the Armenian Embassy was expanded considerably between 1907 and 1908, and an extra floor was added later. The ground-floor façade was remodelled in Beaux-Arts style, while the interior was given a sumptuous makeover.



As part of the tour, visitors can enjoy an exhibition of Armenian carpets as well as a selection of food and drink from the country. (Listed 04/04/1996)

## TO VISIT

## 8 Chancellery of the Spanish Embassy

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 14:00

🏠 Rue de la Science/  
Wetenschapstraat 19  
Brussels-Extensions

📄 By reservation only. Please  
bring proof of identity.

♿ Accessible with assistance

The neoclassical town house that is now home to the Chancellery of the Spanish Embassy belonged originally to Count Philippe de Brouchoven de Bergeyck. It was purchased on 23 May 1929 by the then ambassador, Francisco José Gutiérrez de Agüera y Bayo, on behalf of the Spanish state. The building was acquired thanks to a generous donation from Catalan industrialist Manuel Pereña. At the time, the building was intended to house the Maison d'Espagne, the

idea being to combine embassy, consulate, cultural institution and official Spanish chamber of commerce in Belgium all under one roof. The building has also housed the Belgium-Spain Cervantes Association, the Hispanic-Belgian Union, the Hispanic-Belgian-American Circle, the Spanish Charity Society, the Tourist Office, the Chamber of Commerce and the Hispanic-Belgian Scientific Cooperation.

Since 2017 the Chancellery has had a cultural space, the Spain Arts and Science LAB in Belgium ('the LAB'). This opens onto the inner courtyard, where visitors can view the public art mural 'Butterfly Effect' by artists Esther Pizarro (former student of the Royal Spanish Academy in Rome) and Olimpia Velasco, who won the international open call for public art 'We are nature. A wall against climate change', part of the City of Brussels' Parours Street Art.



The LAB welcomes innovative art and science projects all year round, and is currently hosting two exhibitions of contemporary art: 'Inversion Intention' by Bernard Villers and Guillermo Mora, and 'Black Iron' by Spanish-born Belgian artist Mikael Lallemand, a tribute to the victims of the 2021 floods in Wallonia.

## TO VISIT

## 9 Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the European Union

🕒 Sat. only, 10:00 to 17:00

🏠 Rue Belliard/  
Belliardstraat 41-43  
Brussels-Extensions

📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

♿ Not accessible

Occupied by the Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU, these two buildings, which form a matching pair, were probably

built to a design by Tilman-François Suys, the architect and town planner responsible for the layout of the Leopold Quarter. They are among the few sets of original buildings left in Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat, dating from its creation in around 1855. The balance and proportion of the Renaissance-inspired elevations are quite remarkable. Some changes were made in 1861 to No. 43, which also had a balustrade added in 1937.

Visitors will be able to enjoy an exhibition of abstract and contemporary paintings during the tour. Also, during a guided tour, they will be able to visit spaces that are currently used for diplomatic official functions and see a short presentation of a formal dinner protocol.





## TO VISIT

### 10 Prague House – Delegation of Prague to the European Union

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

🏠 Avenue Palmerston/  
Palmerstonlaan 16  
Brussels-Extensions

📄 Advance booking  
not required

♿ Not accessible

Dating from 1897, this imposing, neoclassical-inspired building, co-designed by architects Constant Bosmans and Henri Vandeveld, is currently home to the Delegation of Prague to the European Union. Its white-stone façade rests on a base of blue limestone with smooth-faced rustication. The main entrance, complete with canopy, leads into a vestibule that has retained its original decoration comprising painted garlands of foliage imitating mosaic. Visitors will be able to marvel at the ground-floor drawing room, whose elaborate decorative scheme includes grisaille paintings of putti representing the four seasons. This room will also house an exhibition organised as part of Brussels Design September.



## TO VISIT

### 11 Embassy of Ghana

🕒 Sat. only, 10:00 to 16:00

🏠 Avenue de Tervueren/  
Tervurenlaan 391  
Woluwe-Saint-Pierre/  
Sint-Pieters-Woluwe

📄 By reservation only.

♿ Not accessible

Stretching for 10 km, Avenue de Tervueren/Tervurenlaan is undoubtedly one of the grandest thoroughfares in the Belgian capital. Planted with numerous trees and bordered by imposing residences in a variety of styles, it is home to a number of diplomatic representations, including that of Ghana. The embassy occupies a four-sided villa, set in an attractive garden. Visitors will be able to enjoy videos about Ghana as well as music, typical products and traditional Ghanaian dishes.





## TO VISIT

## 12 Embassy of Pakistan

🕒 Sun. only, 12:00 to 18:00

🏠 Avenue Delleur/  
Delleurlaan 57  
Watermael-Boitsfort/  
Watermaal-Bosvoorde

📄 Advance booking  
not required

🚫 Not accessible

The Pakistani Embassy is housed in an opulent yellow-brick residence with a mansard roof, characteristic of the residential appearance of this plush part of Watermael-Boitsfort/Watermaal-Bosvoorde. Built in eclectic-like style, it is believed to date from the 1920s or 1930s.

The documentaries being screened and the photographs on display will give visitors the chance to discover Pakistan's incredible cultural antiquity and diversity as well as its amazing landscapes, culture and tourist sites. Precious books providing an overview of Pakistani literature will be available to browse, to the accompaniment of traditional music. You will also have the opportunity to witness how food is pre-

pared and to taste selected Pakistani dishes. These typical recipes with their aromatic and spicy flavours will help you learn more about the country. Embodying age-old knowledge and expertise, traditional ceramics, pottery, engravings and outfits will open your eyes to an ancestral craft tradition that has been preserved from ancient times as Pakistan has evolved into a modern 21st-century state. Finally, photo booths will be set up allowing you to pose in front of some famous Pakistani monuments or to wield a cricket bat and pose as one of the country's legendary players on a recreated pitch. Henna tattoos will also be available.



## TO VISIT

## 13 Embassy of the United Arab Emirates

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 14:00 to 18:00

🏠 Avenue des Phalènes/  
Nachtvlinderslaan 24  
Brussels-Extensions

📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only

🚫 Not accessible

The embassy of the United Arab Emirates occupies the well-known Maison Delune/Huis Delune, purchased in 2012 and subsequently renovated by architects MA², as well as a much more contemporary pair of buildings housing flexible workspaces and collaborative areas. Each of the Maison Delune/Huis Delune's windows is topped by carved Arabic-style decoration. Throughout the weekend, visitors will be able to enjoy a mix of typical dishes, Arabic coffee and traditional artistic performances.

**Guided tours:**  
**English**  
**Sat. & Sun.: 14:00,  
15:00, 16:00, 17:00.**

## TO VISIT

## 14 Embassy of Kazakhstan

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 18:00

📍 Avenue Van Bever/  
Van Beverlaan 30  
Uccle/Ukkel

📅 Advance booking required

🚫 Not accessible

On the corner of Drève de Lorraine/Lorrainedreef and Avenue Van Bever/Van Beverlaan stands a grand residence in the picturesque style, now occupied by the Kazakh Embassy. This architecturally striking building featuring yellow brick and blue limestone, with red-brick stringcourses, includes two bow windows at the front, either side of a grand canopied entrance. Half-timbering adorns the gables and the many dormer windows. The property is surrounded by a huge park.

The Embassy will be hosting an exhibition entitled 'Kazakhstan – Land of the Great Steppe' showcasing traditional Kazakh clothing, a nomadic yurt, photographs of Kazakhstan and its modern architecture, people, nature and landscapes. You will also be able to view a unique book about the country with maps of the Central Asian region dating from the 16th to 19th centuries. This will give visitors a real insight into the historical and cultural heritage of Kazakhstan, Land of the Great Steppe.



## TO VISIT

## 15 Embassy of the Republic of Nicaragua

🕒 Sat. only, 9:00 to 18:00

📍 Avenue Wolvendael/  
Wolvendaellaan 55  
Uccle/Ukkel

📅 Advance booking  
not required

🚫 Not accessible

Avenue Wolvendael/Wolvendaellaan was built by brothers Jean and Pierre Carsoel in 1911, cutting through the old Klipveld neighbourhood. Various attractive houses in a range of fashionable styles sprang up along the thoroughfare. The three-sided residence now occupied by the Nicaraguan Embassy looks rather like a large country cottage.

The embassy is hosting a photographic exhibition illustrating the tradition of El Güegüense (inscribed on the Representative List of the

Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity), as well as other aspects of the country (Nicaraguan tourism, history, economy and society). There will also be a screening of *Lubaraum*, a short ethnographic film with elements of a road movie, about the ancestral Garifuna culture (also an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity). Filmed on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua and Honduras, the film features endearing characters revealing the world view of the Garifuna nation: a journey taking us on a voyage of discovery of their roots, an encounter with their ancestors, a story of a family in resistance, united by the same sea.

**Guided tours (duration: 30 to 40 minutes). Up to 20 people per tour.**

**English/French**

**Saturday: 9:20, 10:20, 13:30, 14:20, 16:20.**

**Film screenings (subtitled in French): Sat. at 11:00 and 15:00 (duration: 65 minutes). Up to 20 people per screening.**



## TO VISIT

## 16 Bulgarian Embassy

🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 16:00

🏠 Avenue Moscicki/  
Moscickilaan 7  
Uccle/Ukkel

📅 Advance booking not required. Up to 60 people per session.

♿ Not accessible

Lined with imposing residences, including the Bulgarian Embassy at number 7, this elegant street in the upmarket Langeveld neighbourhood is named after Ignacy Mościcki, a Polish chemist who served as president of his country between 1926 and 1939.

For this year's Heritage Days, the Bulgarian Embassy will be showcasing the horò, a traditional Bulgarian group dance forming part of family and social events and festivities. In

this introduction to the dance, participants will gather in a circle and learn the relatively simple steps. The Bulgarian dance group Na Horoto v Bruksel, with over a dozen active members, has been giving lessons for seasoned dancers and novices alike for over a decade. Weather permitting, two large horòs will be organised in the embassy gardens. The size of the horò can vary depending on the size of the venue and the number of participants. In this particular case, there could be up to 20 or 30 people in each dance group, so 40 to 60 dancers in total.



## TO VISIT

## 17 Embassy of Kenya

🕒 Sat. only, 10:00 to 17:00

🏠 Avenue Winston Churchill/  
Winston Churchilllaan 208  
Uccle/Ukkel

📅 Advance booking not required. Up to 80 people per hour.

♿ Not accessible

The Kenyan Embassy occupies an elegant white-stone neoclassical building dating back to when Avenue Winston Churchill/Winston Churchilllaan was known as Avenue Longchamp/Langeveldlaan.

Tea and coffee drinking is a big part of Kenyan culture, and can be enjoyed at any time of day. Produced from rich red volcanic soils in Kenya's lush and green highlands, Kenyan tea is rich in mineral content. It comes directly from Kenyan farms and is not blended with other teas from around the world. Grown, harvested and dried by the country's farmers, Kenyan tea has a distinct and characteristic taste which you'll be able to enjoy during your visit, in addition to coffee.





## TO VISIT

### 18 Hungarian Ambassador's Residence

- 🕒 Sun. only, 14:00 to 18:00
- 🏠 Rue Mignot Delstanche/  
Mignot Delstanchestraat 57  
Ixelles/Elsene
- 📄 Guided tours and by  
reservation only.
- 🚫 Not accessible

The elegant Beaux-Arts-style mansion housing the official residence of the Hungarian Ambassador was built in 1926 by architects Dufas-Martin.

Before the Hungarian state bought it in 1975, it belonged to the owner of the newspaper *Le Soir*. Until the early 1990s, it served as a trade delegation and the commercial department of the Hungarian Embassy. The building was used as the Hungarian Embassy for two months in 1995, before becoming the ambassador's official residence in 2003. Find out more about the building and its history on one of the guided tours given by embassy staff.



## TO VISIT

### 19 Albanian Embassy

- 🕒 Sat. & Sun., 10:00 to 14:00
- 🏠 Rue de Tenbosch/  
Tenbosstraat 30  
Ixelles/Elsene
- 📄 Advance booking not  
required. Up to 50 people  
per hour.
- 🚫 Not accessible

While the architect's identity remains a mystery, we do know that the charming bourgeois residence now housing the Albanian Embassy was built in 1906. The building with its white-stone façade is illustrative of the Beaux-Arts style, with a bow window occupying the first-floor central bay. Accompanied by a member of the embassy staff, you will explore various parts of this characteristically Belgian building, which has been owned by the Albanian state since 2000.

On these two open days, a group of young dancers in traditional Albanian costume, members of the Albanian association *Vatra* in Brussels, will perform a programme of characteristic Albanian dances, and visitors will also be able to sample traditional Albanian food and drink.

Organised by the Albanian Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the 'Colours of Albania' exhibition brings together thousands of artistic photos celebrating the beauties of Albania as seen through the camera lenses of ordinary people playing the role of 'digital diplomats'. The photographs capture the soul of Albania with its cultural heritage, urban architecture and rich centuries-old history, as well as the everyday lives of its people. Showcasing virgin landscapes, unspoilt nature and lovingly-preserved cultural heritage, this extraordinary virtual exhibition reveals a country that moves to the rhythm of modern life while blending the traditional with the contemporary.

**Guided tours in English  
between 10:00 and 14:00.  
Up to 20 people per tour.**



## ART NOUVEAU BRUSSELS 2023

2023 will be the year of Art Nouveau in Brussels! Join Urban and visit. brussels to celebrate the city's status as the global capital of Art Nouveau, 130 years after the opening of Victor Horta's Hôtel Tassel, one of the very first significant buildings in this style. The varied programme for 2023 includes numerous initiatives across the Brussels-Capital Region, supported by a host of cultural partners: architectural masterpieces open to the public, site visits, exhibitions, conferences and lectures, publications, workshops, craft promotion activities, guided tours in the city, and much, much more. There really will be something for everyone!

Full details of the programme will be available very soon on the [artnouveau.urban.brussels](https://artnouveau.urban.brussels)!



# CAR-FREE SUNDAY



From 16 to 22 September each year, the Brussels-Capital Region runs a Mobility Week aimed at encouraging all Brussels residents, businesses and schools to try out a different form of mobility. The theme of this year's Mobility Week is walking and how to combine it with other modes of transport, and there will be various challenges and active events along these lines.

On 18 September, this year's *Car-Free Sunday*, a wide range of fun activities will be organised throughout the city highlighting all the different means of transport we can use, from buses, metros, trams and trains to bicycles, roller skates, or even using our own feet!

## Find out more

If you want to learn more, head over to [mobility-week.brussels](https://mobility-week.brussels), where you will find all the practical information you need plus full details of all the events.

## Practical information

*Car-Free Sunday* is a day for everyone to leave their cars at home. The only vehicles still allowed on the roads are public transport, taxis, coaches and vehicles used to provide emergency or public services. The Brussels-Capital Region is closed to traffic from 9:30 to 19:00. Any vehicles still allowed on the roads must keep to a city-wide speed limit of 30 km/h.

Note that the highway code still applies. Remember that there will still be some cars and other vehicles on the roads on *Car-Free Sunday*. Please be considerate to other road users.

# Directory of sites and activities by municipality

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- 39** **Museum of Medicine** ..... **A11**  
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- 40** **Saints-Pierre-et-Guidon/  
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- 75** **Tour: 'Meet the artist  
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- 20** **Cercle Royal Gaulois Artistique  
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- 14** **Church of Our Lady  
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- 2** **Grand Hospice** ..... **M2**  
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- 2** **Korean Cultural Center** ..... **N4**  
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- 1** **Liszt Institute Brussels –  
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- 5** **Maison du Roi/Broodhuis –  
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- 3** **Masonic temples** ..... **M2**  
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- 5** **Masonic temple of the Cercle  
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- 2** **National Archives 2 – Joseph  
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- 11** **Palace of Justice** ..... **M4**  
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- 21** **Palace of the Academies**..... **O4**  
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- 17** **Parliament of the French  
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- 3** **Residence of the Ambassador of  
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- 4** **Residence of the Swiss  
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- 26** **Bus tour: 'Exhibitions and  
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- 15** **Bus tour: 'Take the Colonial  
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- 8** **Exhibition: 'Notre Congo/  
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- 22** **Interactive family walking tour:  
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- 10** **Lecture: 'Contemporary  
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- 21** **Tour: 'Brussels Centre for Fine  
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- 29** **Val Duchesse/  
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## BRUSSELS

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- 17** **BELvue Museum** ..... **N4**  
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- 16** **BNP Paribas Fortis** ..... **N3**  
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- 8** **Brussels Parliament** ..... **M3**  
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- 6** **Brussels Stock Exchange  
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- 3** Walking tour: 'Bananas, cocoa and cassava: the African food trade in Brussels' ..... **M 2**
- 31** Walking tour: 'Belgian institutions and colonisation' **O 3**
- 13** Walking tour: 'Brussels and its former colonial administrative district' ..... **O 4**
- 19** Walking tour: 'Brussels and the Congo' .... **N 4**
- 23** Walking tour 'Brussels at the time of the Belgian Congo' ..... **N 3**
- 24** Walking tour: 'Colonial bank architecture' ..... **N 3**
- 4** Walking tour: Colors and flavors around the old port of Brussels ..... **M 2**
- 18** Walking tour: 'Dialogue and memory' ..... **N 4**
- 25** Walking tour: 'From the Sabena building to the former colonial administrative district' ..... **N 3**
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- 13** Embassy of the United Arab Emirates ..... **J 12**  
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- 24** European Parliament ..... **I 9**  
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# ARTHUR BONIFAY

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For almost a decade, Arthur Bonifay has worked as both an illustrator and graphic designer. Now largely focused on illustration, he handles everything from editorial illustrations to cross sections of planned urban design projects.

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Arthur is used to working closely with different urban stakeholders, and as such understands the challenges of complex subjects, endeavouring to produce images that are accessible and readable for all. By being attentive to signs in the world around him, he is able to create familiar images that directly engage the viewer, attesting to a generosity of spirit that reflects his love of playing and sharing.

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# Colophon

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