

# European capital

With vast wealth, exquisite artwork, a rich history, and a smorgasbord of luxurious hotels, Brussels offers some of the world's finest experiences for the travelling businessperson

Its historical significance, robust economy and legislative prominence at the heart of the European Union places Brussels among the most prosperous cities in the world. Prominent figures, such as the Brontë sisters, Victor Hugo, Karl Marx, Charles Baudelaire, Auguste Rodin, Alexandre Dumas, and Paul Verlaine all made their livelihood in this multicultural city, and

**Below: The Grand Place in Brussels, surrounded by the guild houses, the City Hall and the Maison du Roi**

it remains a desirable location for artists today; brimming with history, galleries, festivals, museums and cultural hubs.

Hosting the NATO Summit in June, Brussels welcomed Joe Biden, alongside dozens of heads of state to Brussels' Evere Municipality – with Biden visiting the Royal Palace on his trip.

## HOTELS

The neo-classic Pillows Grand Hotel Place Rouppe is an exclusive and modern boutique hotel, with interiors featuring classic Belgian architecture and captivating original artwork. Along with the lush amenities in its elegant suites and rooms, exotic meals, and fine drinks, the hotel is comfortably located in the city centre, close to theatres, galleries and nightlife.

With luxurious suites and 224 elegant bedrooms, the Hilton Brussels Grand Place

is in the heart of Brussels, with L'Epicerie offering traditional French and Belgian cuisine and Le Bar delightful cocktails. The exceptional conference and banqueting halls make it the perfect hotel for conference or business meetings.

The Rocco Forte Hotel Amigo is an architectural wonder, designed by the world-famous Ogla Polizzi. Most of its lavish suites and bedrooms are designed to present a stunning view of The Grand Place and the hotel itself has a glamorous bar with live music and world-class Italian and Belgian dishes.

**Pillows Grand Hotel Place Rouppe**  
pillowshotels.com  
**Hilton Brussels Grand Place**  
hilton.com  
**Rocco Forte Hotel Amigo**  
roccofortehotels.com

## DRINKS AND DINNER

The Michelin two-star restaurant Bon Bon, owned by the legendary Belgian Chef Christophe Hardiquet, carries the reputation of serving the best food in Brussels. The hotel has a cosy interior and fine outdoor dining where you can enjoy the sumptuous cuisine. One of the delightful secrets is the chef's unique everyday menu based on the fresh produce available at the local market.

With a sophisticated interior, Loui Bar and Restaurant won Europe's best hotel bar in 2010. The beloved bar offers excellent handcrafted cocktails and exquisite wine.

The Perche Rooftop Bar has an industrial-chic interior with an indoor fireplace and an outdoor swimming pool. The bar offers a stunning view of Brussels from its terrace and boasts an expansive drinks menu.

**Bon Bon Restaurant**  
bon-bon.be

+32 2 346 66 15

**Loui Bar & Restaurant**  
conradhotels.com

+32 2 542 48 37

**Perche Rooftop Bar**  
lesorganisateurs.be

+32 2 537 10 05

## SEE

Brussels presents plenty of eye-capturing spots including; the remarkable Atomium, Basilica of the Sacred Heart (Brussels' fifth-biggest church), The Justice Palace (the world's largest court) and the Royal Place of Brussels.

The city's UNESCO-listed World Heritage arcade Galeries Royales Saint-Hubert offers a wide range of shops, cafés, restaurants, theatres, and galleries at the city centre for shopping lovers. It is the oldest arcade in Europe.

The Belgian capital has more than 80 museums, from the Museum of Natural Sciences – which houses the largest dinosaur gallery in Europe, and 37 million

specimens – to the Musical Instruments Museum (MIM), the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, the Musée Magritte Museum, and the Comics Art Museum Brussels and Auto World.

The famous Manneken Pis, 17th-century sculpture, is a treasured art piece in Brussels that depicts the traditional roots of comic strips across the city, including *Tintin* and *The Smurfs*. The sculpture illustrates the vivid flair of Belgian comics. In addition to the spectacular art and architecture, friendly residents, the cuisine on offer makes Brussels a must-visit city.

Whether it is museums, parks, urban comfort, classy and bizarre restaurants or bars, historical structures and artistic wonders, the hyper-diverse Belgian metropolis hosts various cultural festivals across the year. And with more than 800 beer brands, alongside its waffles and chocolates, it's best to loosen the belt after a day of meetings and prepare to indulge.

visit.brussels ■

**Picture: As the seat of the European Union, Belgian city Brussels is known as the 'capital of Europe' for its significance in international governance and business**

