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BELGIUM

Belgium is famous for mediæval cities, gothic cathedrals, castles, diamonds, good design, waffles, chocolates, and frites (fries). The northern Flemish speak Dutch, the southern Walloons speak French and a small pocket of citizens speak German. Brussels is officially bilingual but mostly French-speaking.

Ten million Belgians live in an area approximately half the size of Tasmania. From outer space, Belgium actually shines at night. NASA astronauts call this phenomenon the 'Belgian Window'.

Brussels, one of Europe's great cities, is the capital of the European community, the centre of the European parliament and headquarters for NATO.

The cosmopolitan nature of Brussels has created a tolerant and welcoming attitude towards foreigners.

Train services are fast and efficient and whisk passengers to towns such as Antwerp, Bruges and Gent. Antwerp is the diamond centre of the world and the fashion capital of Belgium. Bruges, listed as a World Heritage Site in 2000, is noted for its mediæval architecture, chocolate and lace stores, canals and cobblestone streets.

The school system is the equal of France. In fact, French students learn their native language thanks to grammar books and standards designed by a famous Belgian, Maurice Grevisse, in 1979. The Belgian school day is shorter than in France. As in France, the study of arts is undertaken outside school hours. Generally, Belgian schools organise excellent inter-country excursions and trips.



Chocolate
Architecture
Flemish Masters
Tintin
Smurfs



Belgium, where Europe comes together, is a compact country nestled between Germany, France, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and the North Sea.

