

# DOWNLOAD PDF LONELY PLANET BRUSSELS, BRUGES ANTWERP (LONELY PLANET BRUSSELS, BRUGES AND ANTWERP)

## Chapter 1 : Lonely Planet Pocket Bruges & Brussels by Helena Smith

*Get to the heart of Bruges with one of Lonely Planet's in-depth, award-winning guidebooks. Ghent and Bruges Full-Day Tour from Brussels. Brussels with Antwerp.*

Lonely Planet May 10, The region was an early crucible of European painting and has remained remarkably creative ever since. Artistic strengths encompass everything from the classic Flemish Primitives through the voluptuousness of Rubens and the sinuous curves of Art Nouveau to 20th-century surrealism and some boundary-pushing 21st-century mind-benders. The historic "art" cities of Dutch-speaking Flanders northern Belgium seduce visitors with medieval belfries and step-gabled houses overlooking pretty urban canals, all interspersed with superb museums and art galleries. Many attractions in French-speaking Wallonia southern Belgium are contrastingly rural: Luxembourg falls somewhere between the two, its awesome castles and pretty rural hill-villages enjoying good roads, short distances and regular buses. Jumbo wine-soaked mussels are served up with crispy, twice-fried frites chips. Brewing is an almost mystical art in Belgium where some of the finest ales are still created in working monasteries to age-old recipes. Meanwhile, Luxembourg keeps in a celebratory mood with its ever-flowing supply of local Moselle bubbly. Safe and convenient, historic and tasty, gently humorous and decidedly multilingual, these compact little countries are packed with attractions that continue to surprise and delight. Bruges Laced with canals and full of step-gabled houses, Bruges is the archetype of a picture-postcard tourist destination. The Groeningemuseum is hard to beat, offering a potted history of Belgian art, with outstanding works by the Flemish Primitives. It is ringed by gold-trimmed, gabled guildhouses and flanked by the 15th-century Gothic town hall. The cobblestones were laid in the 12th century, when it was used as a marketplace; the names of the surrounding lanes still evoke herbs, cheese and poultry. Indeed, the square still hosts a flower market, as well as hosting Christmas stalls, concerts and, every two years, a dazzlingly colourful "carpet" of flower petals. Come on a summer weekend when accommodation prices drop, the streets are often full of music and inexpensive local bubbly flows. Flemish Primitives The whole of Western representational art was transformed in the 15th century by a group of Bruges-based painters whose mastery of oil paints allowed them to simulate reality and paint faces that expressed apparently real emotions. Simultaneously, the burgeoning economy of Flanders meant rich sponsors were prepared to commission secular works. Or religious works full of hidden messages. Belgian beer Ordering in a Belgian beer pub requires you to trawl through a menu that might have choices. Incredibly, each brew comes in its own special, occasionally outlandish, glass. Exports of Hoegaarden, Leffe and Stella Artois have introduced Belgian brewing into bars worldwide, but what really excites are the abbey-brewed Trappists, locally crafted dark ales, crisp golden triples, and more. Go easy - many are more than 8 per cent alcohol. But beware that the cheapest high-speed train tickets are unchangeable, a headache if your plane arrives late. Published this month, RRP:

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