Country Profile: Belgium

Belgium is a highly developed and stable democracy with a modern economy. Tourist facilities are widely available. Read the Department of State <u>Background Notes</u> on Belgium for additional information.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Country Name:	Belgium
Continent:	Europe
Capital City:	Brussels
Boundary Countries:	France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands
Recommended Hospitals in Capital:	Centre Hospitalier Johimont-Lobbes (Haine-Saint-Paul) Brugmann University Hospital - Paul Brien, Rene Magritte, Victor Horta (Brussels), Clinique Fond'Roy (Brussels), Clinique La Ramee (Brussels)
Main Cities:	Brussels, Antwerp, Hasselt, Aalst, Mons, Bastogne
Country Size:	30,528 sq km
Population:	10,348,276

COUNTRY GENERAL INFORMATION

Language:	Dutch (official) 60%, French (official) 40%, German (official) less than 1%, legally bilingual (Dutch and French)		
Currency:	Euro (EUR)		
Predominant Religions:	Roman Catholic 75%, Protestant or other 25%		
National Holidays:	21 July (1831), ascension to the Throne of King Leopold I		
Economic Status:	Belgium is a highly developed and stable democracy with a modern economy. This modern, private-enterprise economy has capitalized on its central geographic location, highly developed transport network, and diversified industrial and commercial base. Industry is concentrated mainly in the populous Flemish area in the north.		
Security:	Army, Naval, and Air Operations Commands		
US Presence:	U.S. Embassy Brussels, Belgium 27 Boulevard du Régent (the Consular Section is at 25 Boulevard du Régent) B-1000 Brussels Telephone: 011-32-2-811-4000 Consular Section Fax: 011-32-2-811-4500		
Major Airports:	Airports: 43; Airports with paved runways: 27 Brussels, Int'l Airport, Belgium, The Brussels Airport Company NV/SA, Brussels Airport NT 5, Zaventem, B-1930, BELGIUM Tel: +32 (0)2 753.42.00, +32 (0)2 753.43.23 Fax: +32 (0)2 753.42.50, +32 (0)2 753.41.22 Email: philippe.fierens@brusselairport.be Website: www.brusselsairport.be Customs Tel: +32 (0)2 753.48.50 Fax: +32 (0)2 751.60.19		

Customs Hours:24 hours

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