

BRUSSELS

THERE'S MUCH MORE TO BRUSSELS THAN BEER AND FRITES,
WRITES HEIDI MORTLOCK.



SEE

GRAND PLACE

With a reputation as one of the most beautiful squares in Europe, Grand Place is located in the centre of Brussels and represents the city's most significant landmark. A group of buildings from various eras including the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall) and La Maison du Roi (City Museum) line the rectangular courtyard, which is also home to a string of trendy eateries. The square is always buzzing with tourists, mostly due to the blend of colourful flowers sold in the centre and its incredible architectural backdrop. However, perhaps one of its main attractions is the giant flower carpet laid every two years, which uses around one million begonias to cover the entire square. The inauguration concert is a must-see, transforming Grand Place into a magical space of acoustics and vibrations.

WHERE ■ Grand Place, 1000 Brussels

PHONE ■ +32 2 513 8940

ONLINE ■ visitbrussels.be

SHOP

GALERIES ROYALES SAINT HUBERT

Designed to resemble a city within a city, the Galeries Royales Saint Hubert is a lavish shopping oasis once recognised as a meeting place for the city's artistic and literary circles. True to the maxim on its façade, *Omnibus omnia*, this shopping precinct really does have everything for everyone. Beneath the round, glazed, neoclassical-style dome you'll discover 54 high-end boutiques selling apparel, accessories, leather, homewares and books. If it's luxury costume jewellery you're after you can't go past French favourite, Les Néréides, and if you're looking for fine leather goods then Longchamp never disappoints. Gastronomically speaking, there's a plethora of restaurants and tearooms to try out, along with a theatre, a library and a cinema to keep you well entertained. And whilst it's easy to find a new home for your hard-earned Euros at the Galeries, it's also a marvellous place to window shop, people watch and while away a day in the Belgian capital.

WHERE ■ Galerie du Roi 5, 1000 Brussels

PHONE ■ +32 2 545 0990

ONLINE ■ galeries-saint-hubert.com

STAY

HOTEL AMIGO

A far cry from the building's original incarnation as a prison, Hotel Amigo officially opened its doors as part of the Rocco Forte Hotel group in 2000, taking the crown as Brussels' leading luxury digs. Character and charm abound at Hotel Amigo, all 174 rooms (designed by Sir Rocco Forte's sister, Olga Polizzi) retaining a distinctive Belgian feel while still reflecting the subtle and modern style now synonymous with the Rocco Forte brand. You can expect all your usual trimmings in terms of facilities and technology, with a fabulous fitness centre to boot. And whilst the cobblestone streets surrounding are lined with a plethora of charming restaurants to choose from, you'll probably still be lured back to Hotel Amigo's much-lauded Italian restaurant, Bocconi.

WHERE ■ Rue de l'Amigo, 1000 Brussels

PHONE ■ +32 2 547 4747

ONLINE ■ hotelamigo.com



SAVOUR

BELGA QUEEN

The moment you walk through the entrance hall of Belga Queen the meaning of pure opulence becomes apparent. More than just a mere dining establishment, Belga also serves up an oyster bar, a beer bar and a club lounge for cigar aficionados. The stunning interior further heightens the sense of unadulterated bliss, with its lavish stained-glass cornice and decadent leather club chairs. Now down to the serious business of food. Start your evening with an entrée of duck liver with crunchy Belgian chocolate leaves and grilled brioche, before moving on to the turbot with skin baked on a hot plate, mousseline sauce, broccoli flowerets and boiled potatoes. For those with a sweet tooth, the Brussels waffle, whipped cream, homemade vanilla ice cream goes down a treat with a coffee made from locally roasted beans. Delicious.

WHERE ■ Rue Fossé aux Loups 32, 1000 Brussels

PHONE ■ +32 2 217 2187

ONLINE ■ belgaqueen.be

