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PRESS KIT





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Editorial

Winter Wonders 2025: Weaving winter, sharing warmth

Every year, with Winter Wonders, the City of Brussels comes together and creates the conditions for a much-anticipated moment: **a time to get together, warm up and marvel – together.**

In 2025, the magic takes the form of solidarity. This 24th edition pays tribute to those who bring the city to life on a daily basis: volunteers, associations, artisans, artists, shopkeepers and families. Together, they weave the fabric of a winter of solidarity, joy and profound humanity.

Celebration and culture play an essential role here: they bring people together, open up and give meaning to community life. The City of Brussels fully embraces its public service mission by offering everyone the opportunity to experience a moment of beauty and sharing. Accessibility, diversity and inclusion remain at the heart of our actions.

Winter Wonders also supports the local ecosystem: it provides work for creators, boosts trade and highlights the wealth of initiatives in Brussels. It is a celebration, but also a social, cultural and economic driver – an event that showcases what is most precious about Brussels: its humanity.

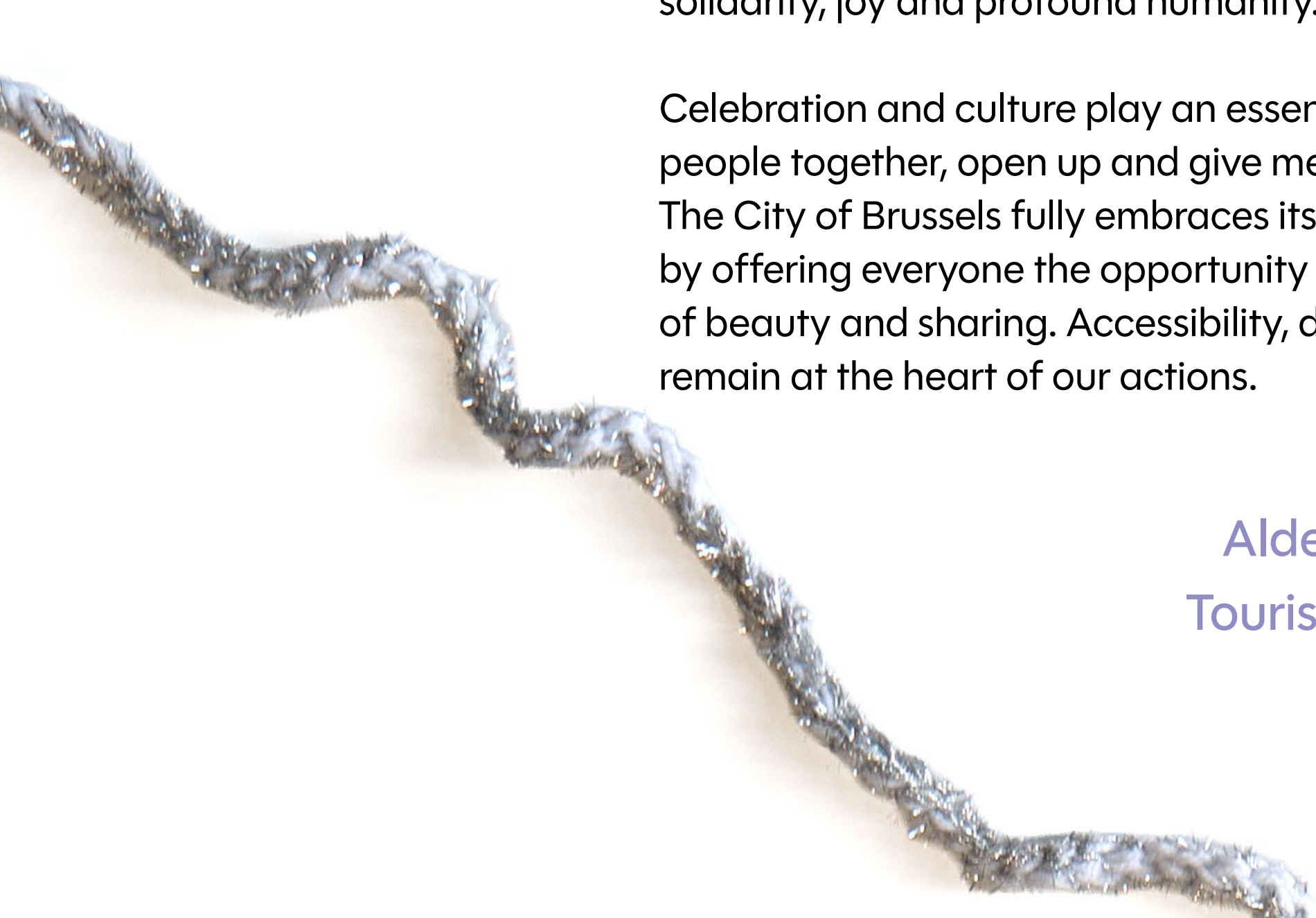
This year, through the theme **'Weaving Winter'**, the City reaffirms its belief that everything is connected: culture, solidarity, creation and encounters. From the Grand-Place to the Bourse, from participatory workshops to illuminations, every gesture and every smile contributes to this great collective work: **Winter Wonders weaves connections.**

I invite you to come and share in this warmth – the warmth of lights, voices, laughter and gestures that bring people together.

Brussels welcomes you, creative, supportive and more alive than ever.

Delphine Houba

Alderwoman of Housing Equal Opportunities,
Tourism and Major Events for the City of Brussels



What's new in the 2025 edition

Each new feature of this year's edition reflects a shared commitment to strengthening dialogue between celebration, the city, and all those who breathe life into it: residents, artists, shopkeepers, and partners.

Details of each new feature can be found in the relevant section of this press kit.

01 A solidarity tree designed by a Brussels designer

A symbol of sharing and creativity, this year it will be lit up under the direction of designer Jean-Paul Lespagnard.

02 A new nativity scene enchants the Grand-Place

A luminous tribute to revisited traditions, combining craftsmanship and contemporary poetry.

03 The Town Hall Courtyard transformed by Morphosis

An immersive art installation inviting visitors to contemplate nature at the heart of the city's heritage.

04 View Tower Experience: an ascent between the sky and light

A sensory and panoramic ascent for a stunning 360° view of the beauty of Brussels.

05 A hand-sewn poster by Stephan Glodrajch

A thread of art and solidarity connects every colour, face, and story in Brussels.

06 Le Vismet, redesigned to provide more space and greater fluidity

The heart of the market has been redesigned to offer a more harmonious and airy experience.

07 La Monnaie joins in with the festivities

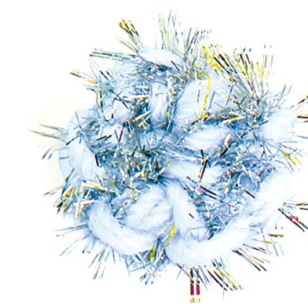
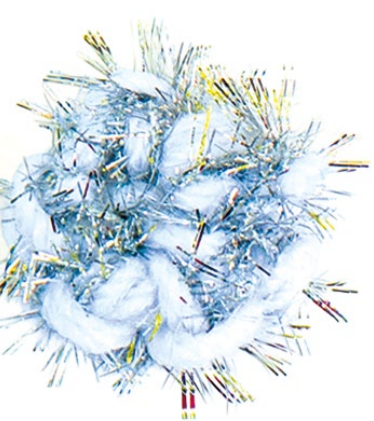
Place de la Monnaie becomes an open-air studio where art, sharing, and the imagination of Brussels come together.

08 A miniature Christmas village on Place Poelaert

Between panoramic views and sharing, a new haven for solidarity and magic is abuzz on the city's summit.

09 Compostable tableware: one step closer to sustainability

Brussels takes another step towards a more sustainable event with the use of compostable materials.





Winter Wonders 2025: Brussels weaves its solidarity and creative connections



From 28 November 2025 to 1 January 2026, the City of Brussels is celebrating the 24th edition of Winter Wonders (continuing on Place De Brouckère until 4 January 2026).

Every winter, Brussels lights up to celebrate the Christmas season and the magic of the holidays. With its blend of revisited traditions, contemporary creations and friendly atmosphere, Winter Wonders reflects the spirit of a united, warm and inventive capital city. The event forges links between artisans, associations and residents, while showcasing Brussels' heritage, culture and expertise.

Winter Wonders, a cultural, economic, and community event all at once, is a genuine driving force for the capital. With over 4 million visitors in 2024 and an estimated economic impact of €260 million for the hospitality, catering, retail, entertainment, and transport sectors, it serves as a catalyst for local development and an excellent showcase for Brussels. With its charming wooden chalets, emblematic attractions, and constantly updated entertainment programme, it promotes social connections while also supporting the city's craft, tourism, and cultural fabric.

The 2025 edition promises to be dazzling, generous, and resolutely Brussels in spirit. The market is adopting a new layout designed to ensure greater comfort for visitors, while new artistic and cultural collaborations further underline the presence of the city's stakeholders: from the artist Stephan Goldrajch, creator of the 2025 visual identity, to the designer Jean-Paul Lespagnard, for the Christmas tree on Grand-Place.

At all the sites, Winter Wonders celebrates the power of community and local cohesion. Its collaborations and partnerships with cultural institutions, associations, and local partners — from the Royal Theatre of La Monnaie to Food Banks, including **Imaginaires Publics**, **STIB**, and **Maisons de quartier** (community centres) — embody this shared energy powering the capital's beating heart.

Rooted in the city and aimed at all audiences, Winter Wonders 2025 invites you to rediscover Brussels in a bright and human light: a creative, festive and lively capital.

Brussels Major Events: promoting Brussels in a sustainable way

For more than twenty years, BME has been designing sustainable urban events that combine cultural ambition, innovation and positive economic benefits. A veritable laboratory for social cohesion and creativity, BME promotes Brussels by combining conviviality, sustainability and artistic excellence, in the service of an increasingly open and inspiring capital city.

brusselsmajorevents.be

"This year, we have chosen to strengthen the link between Winter Wonders and the people of Brussels. This edition celebrates our neighbourhoods, our residents, our artists and our artisans. Our Christmas market will be as popular as ever and even more deeply rooted in the life of the city."

Philippe Close
Mayor of the City of Brussels

Key figures

238

stallholders

35

craft workers
with the Quality
Label

35

days
of festivities

6

attractions

8

sites for the
Christmas
market

65

stallholders are
working with the
new compostable
tableware system

35

days of free
entertainment

The 2025 posters: when Brussels knits its winter ties...

Through **Stephan Goldrajch's** poster, Brussels reveals itself as a living network of colours, textures and faces – a metaphor for the social ties and collective creativity that animate each edition of Winter Wonders.

By entrusting the creation of the visual to this Brussels artist, the City of Brussels and Brussels Major Events are affirming their desire to explore new media and celebrate the diversity of local talent. Far from traditional graphic approaches, this edition asserts a poetic, artisanal and deeply human sensibility.

Stephan Goldrajch's work combines crochet, weaving, embroidery and sewing, transforming these gestures into a collective language. His work invites us to knit links, bring differences together and build shared forms of beauty.

Wool – a symbol of warmth, transmission and gathering – thus becomes the common thread of Winter Wonders 2025. It embodies the very spirit of the event: creating connections in the heart of the city, bringing residents and visitors together in a spirit of conviviality, creation and sharing.



Visual by Stephan Goldrajch for Winter Wonders 2025

The Christmas market

For five weeks, **238 craftworkers and traders** present treats for the eyes of the curious and titillate the taste buds of food lovers. Visitors can savour world cuisine, discover **original creations**, and unearth **the perfect gift** to give or keep.

The 2025 edition of Winter Wonders follows in the footsteps of the work undertaken in recent years to revise the layout. Led by Brussels Major Events, this project aims to improve **the fluidity of movement, the coherence of the route, and the comfort of residents and stallholders**.

At the same time, **new partnerships** have been formed and others renewed to strengthen ties with those who contribute year-round to **Brussels' cultural and economic vitality**. It is only fitting that they are part of an event that celebrates **local creativity, conviviality, and sharing**.

Redesigned to ensure **fluid circulation and harmonious cohabitation**, the market perfectly embodies the ambition to create dialogue between festive energy and daily life — while showcasing the diversity of craftsmanship and the spirit of openness that define the capital.

Place de la Monnaie

This year, Place de la Monnaie will be lit up with an increased number of chalets offering food, gifts and entertainment for all visitors.

As an extension of this festive site, a monumental upcycled structure, designed in collaboration with the Théâtre Royal de La Monnaie, will host nine Christmas trees made from recycled materials, each representing a craft workshop and reflecting expertise in scenography and reuse. The trees are decorated during participatory workshops, open to the general public and schoolchildren, and a glass container recreates a La Monnaie workshop, offering a glimpse into the process of making sets, costumes and props.

On one hand, visitors will be able to **explore behind the scenes** of the opera through the temporary exhibition of the Ateliers de la Monnaie, discovering how sets, costumes and props are made.

From 28/11 to 01/01, from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.,
Place de la Monnaie

On the other hand, **contribute to the creation of a huge Christmas tree**, by participating in the opera house's craft trades: carpentry, sewing, tapestry or ironwork.

From 8/12 to 13/12, from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Place de la Monnaie

Also, they will **discover local heritage and creativity** by exploring the theatre and temporary exhibition spaces, where history, art and craftsmanship come together.

13/12, place de La Monnaie

Fish Market (Vismet)

The Vismet or Fish Market, the lively heart of the Christmas market, is undergoing a significant redevelopment this year. The aim is to relieve congestion in this area between the Quai aux Briques and the Quai au Bois à Brûler, in order to improve traffic flow for the public.

Here you will find chalets offering savoury and sweet treats, as well as original gifts. Between purchases, you can enjoy a variety of entertainment, such as the Ferris wheel, which offers a breathtaking view of the market.

In the heart of Winter Wonders, the Stella Artois Pavilion continues to welcome visitors in a friendly atmosphere, inviting them to savour this local beer during what has become an unmissable event.

Place De Brouckère

The ice rink and curling rinks remain in Place De Brouckère, with no major changes. The area in front of the administrative building will host an attraction previously located at Vismet: ball fishing, which will complement the site's other fun activities.





The Bourse's site also illustrates Winter Wonders' desire to forge links through solidarity and creative initiatives, in collaboration with committed Brussels stakeholders.

Among these is the Bar à Tricot, located in the Agora space of the Bourse and run by the non-profit organisation Waka-Up. This participatory and friendly place invites the public to knit, crochet, chat over a cup of fair trade coffee or tea, and discover handcrafted creations.

Two fair trade chalets also take turns hosting Brussels associations working to promote solidarity and social cohesion, while a photo exhibition by Kevin Laloux highlights those who drive this great fabric of connections.

From 28/11 to 01/01, Thursday to Monday
From 12:00 to 19:00
In the Agora of the Bourse,
entrance via Rue de la Bourse

Place de la Bourse

During the weekend of 13 and 14 December, the Bourse will become a hub of local creativity with the fourth edition of Creators Factory. More than fifty creators will take over the majestic nave of the Bourse, an ideal historical setting to showcase talent, innovation and sustainability.

For the first time over two days, the nave will also host the **Entrepreneures Winter Market**, which brings together around twenty Belgian female entrepreneurs. The two events coexist and collaborate to offer visitors a rich and varied experience. Among the activities at the Entrepreneures Winter Market, a **Solidarity Tombola** will be organised, with the proceeds going to a local association.

Together, these markets transform the Bourse into a hub of creativity, craftsmanship and innovation, offering a unique opportunity to discover and support Brussels talent.

13 and 14/12

From 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Nef de la Bourse, access via Rue de la Bourse

Also worth discovering:

Espace Vanderborght (Rue de l'Étuve) hosts its Creators Market from 28 November to 14 December, Thursday to Sunday, with activities such as Art Truc Troc and Fashion Days, highlighting the vitality and ingenuity of Brussels creators.

Le Continental hosts its Winter Market from 12 to 14 December, a welcoming space that prolongs the festive experience, enabling visitors to discover new talent in an accessible setting.

Plaisirs d'Hiver artisan quality label

The City of Brussels offers local and foreign craft specialists a real commercial showcase through Winter Wonders.

Thirty-five chalets display the Quality Label, a distinctive mark guaranteeing the quality and origin of the products.

Each of these markets has its own specific personality, but together they form a weekend of discoveries, responsible purchases, and encounters with local creativity. In this way, **Place de la Bourse reaffirms its role as an economic and cultural crossroads, where gastronomy, crafts, and innovation converge in the heart of Brussels.**

Place Sainte-Catherine

Place Sainte-Catherine maintains its traditional offering with its unmissable Andrea's Merry-Go-Round and gastronomic chalets.

Tour Noire

Behind **Sainte-Catherine Church**, the **Tour Noire site** reaffirms its identity as a key destination for parents and children.

This year, a "**Candy Cane**" design will turn the area into a magical, recognisable setting. This new scenography will offer a **new visual identity**, turning it into an authentic **family village** at the heart of Winter Wonders.

Madeleine

The square in front of the Madeleine Chapel will host chalets run by Ukrainian associations, offering culinary specialities and souvenirs from the region.



«As Deputy Mayor for Trade, I am delighted with the strengthened collaboration between the city's traders and the shared desire to think about the future, diversifying the locations of activities so that other neighbourhoods can also benefit from the economic dynamism of Winter Wonders.»

Didier Wauters

Alderman for Economic Affairs, Employment, Trade and Municipal Facilities for the City of Brussels



A free daily programme

Every day, local artists offer performances and free activities at the heart of the Winter Wonders Christmas market.
The full programme can be found plaisirsdhiver.be.

Day	Activity
On Monday	Quebec Music
On Tuesday	World Music
On Wednesday	After School
On Thursday	Acoustic Thursday
On Friday	Candle light
On Saturday	Winter Vox
On Sunday	Winter Vox / Creative workshops

A mini Christmas village at Place Poelaert

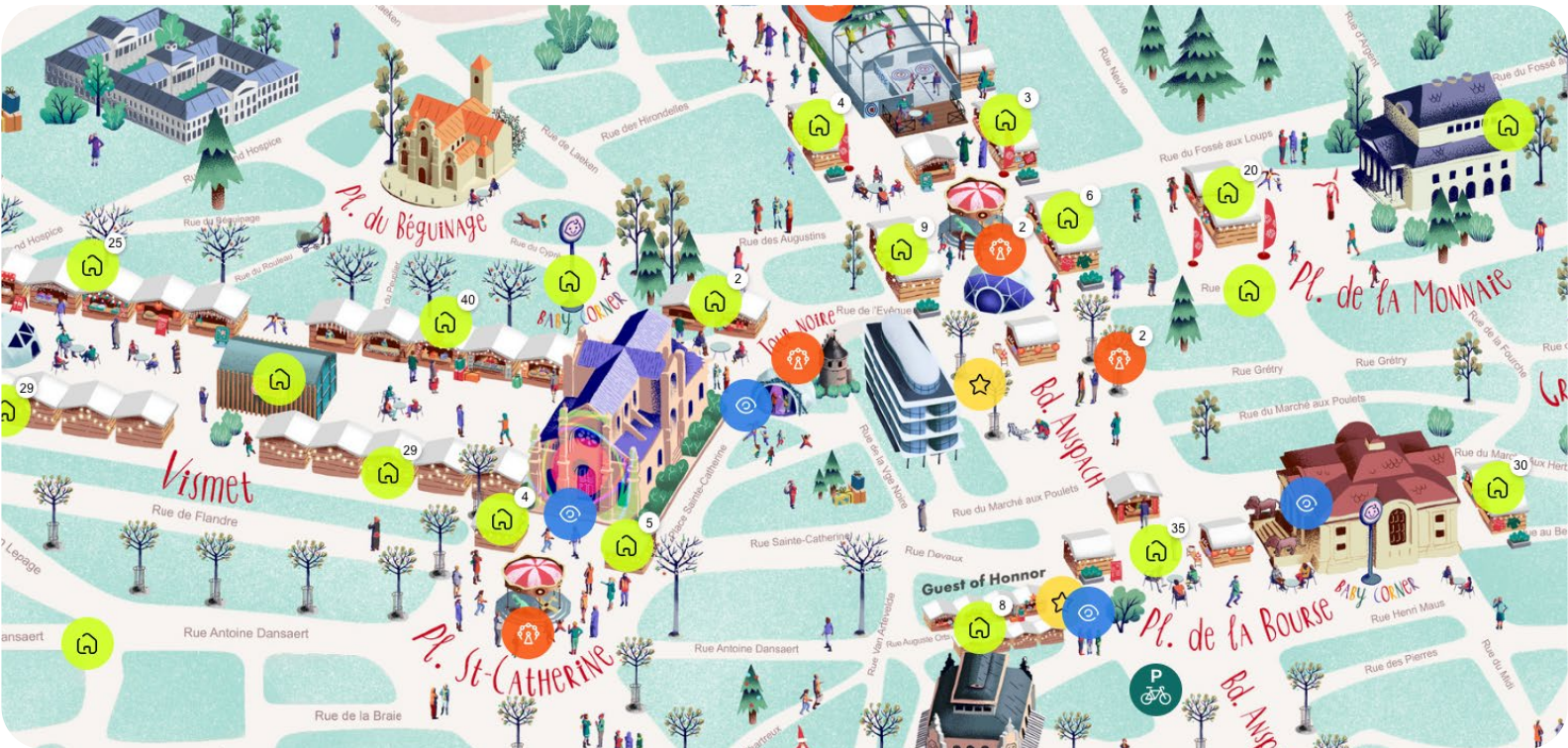
Nestled at the foot of the Ferris wheel, Place Poelaert is hosting a mini Christmas village with a new twist this year. This new space invites visitors to take a gourmet break in a warm atmosphere, enjoying sweet treats, comforting drinks and an exceptional view of Brussels.
Designed as a place for sharing and solidarity, the site also houses a toy collection area for sick or disadvantaged children, which will be redistributed by Brussels associations.

This festive and generous project has been made possible thanks to the support of Carrefour, through its unique concept "The Box", a temporary pop-up combining a tasting area and civic engagement.



An interactive map for easy navigation

An interactive map is available on the Winter Wonders website.
Easy to use, this fun and powerful map offers a bird's eye view of the event, with a wealth of practical information on key locations: Christmas market chalets, art installations, attractions, iconic buildings, crafts and accessibility.
map.winterwonders.be



Grand-Place in all its splendour



Inauguration: Friday 28/11 from 6 p.m.

This opening night will transform the heart of the capital into an open-air stage where light, music and shared emotions will come together in a warm and distinctly Brussels atmosphere. With magical scenery, artistic performances and moments of conviviality, this celebration will mark the start of an edition dedicated to creativity, heritage and collective magic.

On the Grand-Place, the show will begin in darkness. Silence precedes wonder: huge luminous birds rise, carried by a laser ballet and monumental mapping that dresses the tower of the Town Hall and its facades with colourful graphic animations. The highlight of the evening will be the lighting of the large Christmas tree and the new nativity scene, designed by Brussels artists.

A choir will then set the tone for the evening and accompany the audience from one iconic location to another, weaving a thread of sound between the different event sites.

In the courtyard of the Town Hall, the immersive installation Morphosis will complete this sensory experience, inviting visitors to contemplate nature at the heart of heritage.

The Grand-Place, the symbolic heart of Winter Wonders, is reinventing itself this year with two creations that bring heritage and innovation together.

Alongside the majestic Christmas tree, designed under the direction of designer Jean-Paul Lespagnard, a new poetic and contemporary nativity scene by Victoria-Maria, an interior designer based in Brussels, is unveiled.

A Christmas tree designed by a Brussels-based creator

An essential symbol of Winter Wonders, the majestic Christmas tree stands in the heart of Brussels' Grand Place. Every year, it attracts millions of visitors who come to admire its splendour and festive atmosphere.

Under the artistic direction of Jean-Paul Lespagnard, the tree has been reinvented this year, becoming a link between tradition, creativity and civic engagement. Its carefully designed decorations celebrate the diversity and conviviality of the capital, while highlighting local solidarity.

After the festive season, the tree will be recycled and its decorations auctioned off to raise money for food banks. This initiative allows everyone to make a concrete contribution to supporting people in need and combating food waste, while promoting craftsmanship and civic engagement.

The project is supported by Delacre, a historic Brussels biscuit manufacturer, which supports this approach of generosity and sustainability. The true heart of Winter Wonders, the tree transforms the Grand-Place into a place of shared wonder, where light, art and solidarity come together to remind us of what is most precious about the festive season: the pleasure of being together.



Les Étoffes de la Nativité come to life in a new nativity scene

The Grand Place welcomes a new creation for the Winter Wonders nativity scene: Les Étoffes de la Nativité, a poetic installation by Victoria-Maria, a Brussels-based interior designer acclaimed by the international press for her refined and daring style.

Housed in a translucent greenhouse measuring 6.5 metres long, 3.5 metres wide and 4 metres high, inspired by the Royal Greenhouses of Laeken, this light structure acts as a bell of light and softness, a cross between nomadic tents and the starry sky.

In the centre, life-size rag dolls, dressed in colourful, folkloric fabrics – linen, satin and velvet from end-of-line stocks or recycled materials – embody a handcrafted and accessible Nativity scene, paying homage to Belgian textile expertise.

Designed with Span Tech (structure and fabric) and L'Atelier by Souveraine (textile manufacturing and characters), the installation combines lightness, sustainability and technical ingenuity.

Morphosis, an immersive installation in the courtyard of the Town Hall

For several years now, Brussels Major Events has been supporting the development of local cultural and creative industries and regularly contributes to the emergence of innovative projects such as Morphosis.

The courtyard of the Town Hall hosts a monumental installation that explores transformation and metamorphosis. Hybrid figures, moving avatars, changing identities: the work questions our relationship with the body, animals, plants, simulacra and algorithms, where the real and the virtual merge. During the day, it offers a sound and visual experience and comes to life at nightfall.

Designed for public spaces, Morphosis is based on a giant zoetrope, a circular device that creates the illusion of movement through a succession of animated images. Artist Rocío Álvarez, invited by the Interval.ooo studio, unfolds

a colourful and poetic universe, combining illustration, animation and fragmented narration, inviting visitors to wander and contemplate.

This hybrid work offers a sensory and immersive experience where the intimate meets the collective, where contemporary art dialogues with the transformations of society. It is part of the Imaginaires Publics call for projects, funded by the Government of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation and operated by ST'ART, in collaboration with Wallonia-Brussels International (WBI).

Echoes of Colours, a ballet of light and colour on the Grand- Place

Every winter, Brussels' Grand-Place is illuminated by a visual and sound show that has become emblematic of the Plaisirs d'Hiver winter festival. For the 2025 edition, the City of Brussels is presenting a creation by Camille Gross, Olivier Magermans and Sébastien Riquelme, produced by Electroson Studio and presented with the support of Proximus.

The show opens with a unique two-minute laser sequence, specially designed for the Grand Place: a ballet of beams, volumes and rhythms of light that envelops the audience in a vibrant atmosphere.

This is followed by the video mapping Echoes of Colours, a five-minute projection on the tower of the Town Hall. In this dreamlike universe, colour becomes matter and light: the façade fragments, becomes fluid, is covered with phosphorescent vegetation before exploding in a final symphony of colours and sounds.

Combining art, storytelling and technology, this double show renews the Grand-Place experience by celebrating the evocative power of light and contemporary creation.

By supporting this initiative, Proximus invites the public to disconnect and fully enjoy all the magical moments of the end of the year.





Visits of the City Hall

An unmissable site in Brussels, the Town Hall invites you on a journey to the very heart of the capital's heritage and history. As soon as you set eyes on the flamboyant Gothic silhouette from Grand-Place, you are drawn into an interactive exploration of six centuries of architecture, art, and traditions.

In 23 stages, up monumental staircases, through ornate chambers and iconic halls, every corner reveals a new aspect of the city's history. Armed with your video guide, explore the route at your own pace, whether you are a history enthusiast, an art lover, or a family looking for adventure.

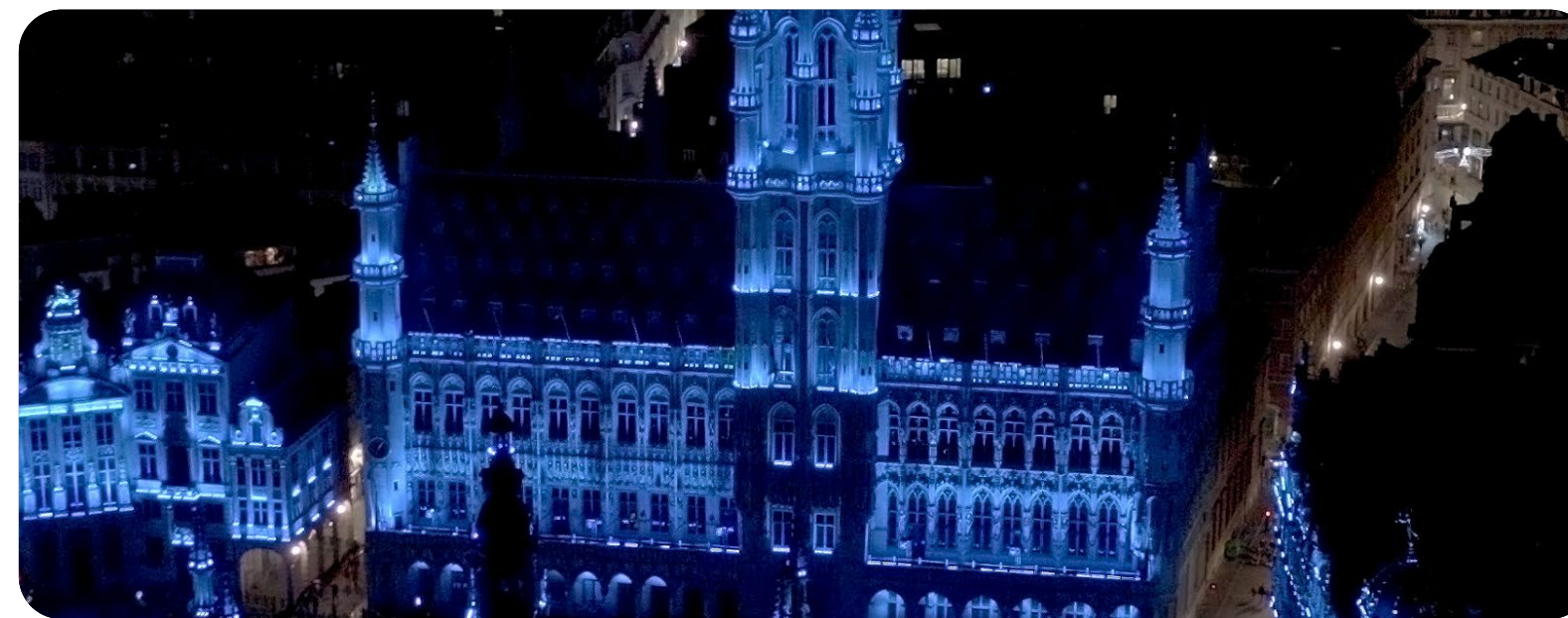
This visit transforms a historic landmark into a living, poetic experience, in which the past and present of Brussels come together in a fascinating dialogue accessible to all.

From 28/11 to 04/01, Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Last admission at 4 p.m.

Prices and reservations: brussels.be/city-hall



View Tower Experience

Climb the 200 spiral steps of the City Hall's tower and watch as Brussels unfolds beneath your feet. Along the way, take a break in an intimate area, turned into a magical passageway that poetically transports visitors to the very heart of Brussels' heritage, accompanied by an original musical creation.

As you ascend, light and sound combine subtly to awaken the senses and invite wonder, before reaching the 360° panoramic view, offering a unique view of the Grand Place, the large Christmas tree and the entire illuminated city.

Available by reservation only, this unique experience combines heritage, poetry and innovation, offering a new and memorable perspective on the Town Hall and the capital.

From 29/11 to 20/12, Thursday to Saturday

From 22/12 to 04/01, every day

From 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Prices and reservations: brussels.be/city-hall



Winter Wonders x Candlelight

Brussels Town Hall hosts an exclusive series of Candlelight concerts. Each ticket also offers the chance to purchase a discounted ticket to visit the Town Hall (€10 for an adult), so you can prolong the experience and explore this architectural gem during the festive period.

05/12 at 7 p.m. – Tribute to Adèle

05/12 at 9 p.m. – Tribute to Charles Aznavour

12/12 at 7 p.m. – Tribute to Hans Zimmer

12/12 at 9 p.m. – Tribute to Ludovico Einaudi

Concert duration: approximately 60 minutes.

Reservations: feverup.com

Unmissable attractions

The ice rink

(Place De Brouckère)

The Winter Wonders ice rink is back on Place De Brouckère and will remain open until Sunday 4 January.

A special area has been set up for toddlers, allowing them to discover the ice in complete safety. Skates that attach to shoes are available to help them learn. The ice rink is fully accessible to wheelchair users and their companions, both on and off the ice.

Curling (Place De Brouckère)

To relive the spirit of winter sports in the heart of Brussels, three curling rinks have been set up in front of the ice rink on Place de Brouckère, offering visitors the opportunity to try their hand at this friendly game that is accessible to all.

The Lotto Ferris Wheel... place your bets! (Vismet)

From atop the 55 metres of one of the most spectacular attractions of Winter Wonders, the view of Brussels and its festive city centre is out of this world. The 42-cabin Ferris wheel also provides persons with reduced mobility with a cabin specially adapted to their needs.

Andrea's carousel (Place Sainte-Catherine)

On Place Sainte-Catherine, Andrea's Carousel, populated by fantastical characters handcrafted in the poetic universe of Jules Verne, offers visitors a moment suspended in time.

The Virtual Reality Dome (Boulevard Anspach)

Comfortably seated in enveloping chairs mounted on jacks, visitors to the VR Dome are immersed in virtual reality adventures: encounters with mummies or dragons, exploration of a haunted house, space travel or a Christmas sleigh ride... Spectacular experiences accessible to all ages.

Santa's reindeer

(Boulevard Anspach)

This **Giant Santa Claus** can carry up to 32 people in its reindeer- and sleigh-shaped gondolas. Reaching a maximum height of 10 m, it allows you to soar four metres into the air and enjoy a safe, breathtaking aerial view of the market.



Moments to be shared all around the city

In Brussels, the magic of Winter Wonders weaves connections far beyond its Christmas market.

It connects **neighbourhoods, institutions, artists, and residents**, setting the entire city aglow with the rhythm of **encounters, creativity, and sharing**.

Thanks to **co-creation with cultural, institutional, and private partners**, the event presents a programme packed with **unique experiences, exhibitions, concerts, and original initiatives** that turn the spotlight on those who keep the spirit of Brussels alive all year round.

From the **wonder of a candlelit concert** to the **discovery of luminous artworks** or **exceptional heritage sites**, each activity is a new way to **rediscover the capital** during the festive season — an invitation to **explore, wonder, and come together**.

With over four million visitors each year, **Winter Wonders connects Brussels' residents with visitors from around the world**, showcasing the wealth of local initiatives that go far beyond mulled wine and traditional chalets.

All the partners and entertainment along the route or in the city can be found on www.plaisirsdhiver.be

Festive lighting of the shopping districts

From the city centre to Neder-Over-Heembeek, and through to Haren and Laeken, every winter, Brussels becomes a web of light. The shopping streets and avenues abound with original and surprising creations, uniting residents, visitors, and traders in a shared, festive experience.

Since 2013, this tradition has helped to promote the city and support local businesses: the decorations are designed and selected in collaboration with trade associations, actively involving the neighbourhoods in illuminating their surroundings.

To explore this urban enchantment, themed walking routes by neighbourhood invite visitors to stroll around Brussels By Lights. Every step becomes an encounter with art, creativity, and conviviality, revealing the capital in a light that is both magical and full of life.

172 lit up streets starting from 26/11 to 04/01.
From 01 p.m. to 01 a.m.

Winter @ NOH

In Neder-Over-Heembeek, Place Peter Benoit becomes a **local Christmas village**, where local craftworkers and traders invite residents to share a convivial moment all together. Among wooden chalets, winter treats, and a merry-go-round for the very youngest, a warm and authentic atmosphere is guaranteed.

This village reflects a wish to strengthen connections **between the neighbourhoods and the city centre**, extending the magic of Winter Wonders beyond the historic heart of Brussels. It is a means to celebrate local creativity and community spirit in a magical, inclusive atmosphere.

From 12/12 to 21/12

Sunday to Thursday from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Place Peter Benoit

plaisirs d'hiver

Gudula 26 to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Cathedral of Saints Michael and Gudula

For three months, the Cathedral of Saints Michael and Gudula will host Luminiscence, an immersive sound and light show. After captivating more than a million spectators, the show is coming to this Gothic gem in Brabant to celebrate the cathedral's 800th anniversary as part of Gudula 2026, supported by the City of Brussels and Brussels Major Events.

Thanks to 3D projection and precise modelling of every architectural detail, Luminiscence transforms the stone, stained glass windows and columns into a veritable theatre of light and sound. This bilingual experience allows visitors to rediscover eight centuries of history in a unique artistic and immersive journey, welcoming up to 700 spectators per performance.

From 11/12/2025 to 21/03/2026, Wednesday to Saturday
In the Cathedral of Saints Michael and Gudula

The façade of Le Viage by Luc Deschamps

For Winter Wonders, the façade of Le Viage is adorned with a spectacular floral installation by Luc Deschamps. Cascades of flowers, refined textures and winter colours create a poetic and lively setting, inviting visitors on a sensory journey in the heart of the city. The VIAGE CHILL, along the route between the Bourse and Place De Brouckère, also offers a gourmet break with hot drinks and sweet treats.



Chalet d'Altitude at the Viage

The rooftop of the Viage takes on a mountain feel during the festive season. Transformed into a real mountain chalet, the space invites you to savour Savoyard-inspired dishes while enjoying a panoramic view of the city.

From 30/10 to 31/12/2025
From 5 p.m. to 1 a.m.
30 Anspach Boulevard, 1000 Brussels

Christmas Fairies

Christmas Fairies immerse Grand-Place in an enchanting universe with glimmering decorations and an encounter with Santa Claus. A magical and fun experience to be enjoyed at the Roy d'Espagne, for young and old alike.

From 28/11/2025 to 03/01/2026
From 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. or 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Roy d'Espagne, Grand-Place



Brussels Christmas Tour by Tootbus

Throughout Winter Wonders, **Tootbus** offers a novel, nighttime tour to (re)discover the dazzling lights of Brussels.

Aboard a **100% electric panoramic bus**, visitors are invited to visit the capital's roads and landmarks bedecked with festive decorations.

This "**Christmas Lights Tour**" offers a new perspective on the festive city, before continuing your exploration on foot with the **Christmas Tootwalk**, a guided itinerary connecting the many highlights of Winter Wonders with the history and culture of Brussels.

From 4 to 28 December, Thursday to Saturday
Departures at 7:00 p.m.
Rue Antoine Dansaert 90, 1000 Brussels

Alpine A390 – The electric sports car

Alpine, the iconic French sports car manufacturer, brings its legendary spirit of performance into the electric era with the A390 fastback. Bold design and exceptional driving await you.

From 28/11 to 04/01
Place Sainte-Catherine

Brussels Card

A genuine cultural passport, the **Brussels Card** grants access to 48 museums across the capital, along with numerous discounts at partner attractions, restaurants, and shops.

It's a simple and rewarding way to explore Brussels during Winter Wonders and to prolong the experience beyond the city centre and its festive lights.

VISITWallonia

The VISITWallonia info.shop welcomes visitors for a gourmet and festive discovery of Wallonia. With free tastings of Belgian sparkling wines offered by Domaine du Chant d'Éole, an exhibition of local products and regional souvenirs, this showcase offers an authentic experience to enjoy and share.

13/12

From 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Make-A-Wish

On the Grand-Place, meet the volunteers from Make-A-Wish Belgium South and discover the wishes that have been granted to seriously ill children.

Cuberdons, soft toys and charity items are on sale to support their mission, and everyone can hang their dream on the big Christmas tree, thus participating in a shared chain of hope.

20/12

From 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Grand-Place

AIDS prevention platform

From 28 November to 1 December, the AIDS Prevention Platform will be taking over Place de l'Albertine to mark World AIDS Day.

The programme includes activities, quizzes, a prejudice hunt, distribution of prevention materials and a symbolic highlight – a flash mob forming a giant red ribbon.

This initiative aims to raise awareness and encourage civic engagement, bringing the people of Brussels together around a message of solidarity.

To mark World AIDS Day, the AIDS Prevention Platform is offering four days of activities to learn, exchange and take action: quizzes, entertainment, a prejudice hunt, condom distribution and, as a highlight, a flash mob in the form of a giant red ribbon on Place de l'Albertine.

Viva for Life

The charity broadcast **Viva for Life** returns for its 13th edition, once again uniting the people of Brussels around a shared cause: the fight against child poverty.

The highlights in the capital include:

29/11: Affaire for Life, special edition of "Affaire conclure" at the Town Hall.

30/11: Speculoos sale with Tipik.

18/12: Launch of the Viva for Life Tour with Sarah De Paduwa.

A host of opportunities to take part in a nationwide chain of generosity.

Manneken-Pis Corrida

On 26 December 2025, the Manneken-Pis Corrida returns for its 14th festive and colourful edition. This year, the race will start at the Mont des Arts and cover a 6 km route through the historic centre: from the Place des Martyrs to the Galerie de la Reine, via the Rue Neuve, the Bourse and the Grand-Place. A sporting and convivial event at the heart of Winter Wonders, where the energy of the runners combines with the magic of the illuminations.

An iconic event that combines sport, heritage and festive spirit.

26/12

Start at Mont des Arts

A long-term commitment to sustainable development

Winter Wonders continues its transformation, faithful to a philosophy of experimentation and continuous progress. Each edition allows us to refine concrete actions that combine conviviality, inclusion and environmental responsibility.

For several years now, the event has been moving forward in small but steady steps: reusable cups, LED lighting, reduced electric heating, improved waste sorting and the promotion of Brussels artisans have become sustainable reflexes.

The Christmas tree in the Grand-Place, recycled each year into street furniture, trophies and, this year, barriers, embodies this desire to extend the life of materials and give meaning to every action.

In 2025, a new step will be taken with the arrival of 100% compostable tableware made from sugar cane pulp. Its ease of use, supported by a dedicated collection system, will make it easier for exhibitors and visitors to adopt a more responsible approach.

Sustainable development also has a social dimension. Training for Winter Wonders staff, prevention protocols and awareness campaigns along the route reinforce a culture of respect and kindness. With more bins, over a hundred sorting points and daily collection and cleaning by City and BME teams, Winter Wonders once again demonstrates the importance it attaches to public cleanliness, in the interests of residents, visitors and traders.

This is not a fixed model, but a living laboratory of sustainable practices, faithful to the spirit of Brussels – inventive, collective and always on the move.

"Winter Wonders should not only be the largest and most convivial Christmas market in the country, but also the cleanest. We are translating this ambition into very concrete actions: our Public Cleanliness department will carry out a thorough cleaning of the entire site every morning, we are introducing an additional evening collection, i.e. a third collection, of public bins in the city centre on the busiest days, and our ticketing unit will work closely with BME to penalise visitors who do not comply with our cleanliness rules. Cleanliness is everyone's business, including during Winter Wonders.

Anas Ben Abdelmoumen

Alderman of Finance and Public Cleanliness of the City of Brussels

"For this edition of Winter Wonders, we are doing everything we can to make the event as sustainable as possible. Reusable cups are back, but this year they will be collected even more efficiently and washed locally at a washing station on the Heysel site. For plates and bowls, we are switching to a compostable material ('bagasse'), which, like the orange bag from Net Brussels, will be converted into green energy or fertiliser. The reusable tableware trial at the Place de la Bourse has been temporarily suspended, but will be replaced in future by a viable alternative for the whole of Winter Wonders. Our ambition remains to make this winter festival a completely waste-free event in the long term."

Frederik Ceulemans

Alderman for Urban Renewal, Climate, Citizen Participation and Dutch-speaking Affairs



Accessibility, a crucial priority during Winter Wonders

To fully enjoy Winter Wonders, active mobility and public transport are preferred, allowing visitors to reach the heart of the event while limiting disruption caused by traffic and end-of-year construction work.

Brussels Central Station, a strategic access point to the city centre, offers a direct connection to the route. SNCB passengers benefit from a 50% discount on return train tickets during the weekend (from Friday 7 p.m. to Sunday), as well as advantageous rates for station car parks. The nearby STIB Central Station also provides access to the market by metro, tram or bus, with lifts ensuring accessibility for all.

Secure bicycle parking is available nearby, particularly at the Bourse and De Brouckère stations. Parking shared scooters and bicycles is prohibited along the route, but dedicated areas are provided nearby.

For those travelling by car, Interparking car parks within walking distance (Rogier, Poelaert, Entre 2 portes,

Loi) are a convenient solution, with attractive evening rates. The Vismet area has limited access during peak hours, with a 'Kiss & Ride' zone for drop-offs. The Park & Ride facilities on the outskirts of the city also offer an alternative, with direct metro links to the city centre.

Accessibility and comfort

The entire route is designed to be accessible to all: adapted toilets, access ramps, secure flooring and cable passages. The ice rink and Ferris wheel have PRM cabins. Families can enjoy a 'Baby Corner' at the Bourse, a comfortable space for changing children and preparing meals or bottles.

All practical information (transport, parking, accessibility) is available on the official website: plaisirsdhiver.be/accessibilite

«Winter Wonders is a festive and friendly event that must remain accessible to everyone: visitors, of course, but also residents of the city centre. That is why we have worked with all stakeholders to put in place a mobility plan that guarantees access while avoiding congestion in the centre as much as possible. We want to emphasise to visitors that sustainable modes of transport and multimodality are preferable. Come by train, metro or bicycle. If you are travelling to the event by car, park in the public car parks at discounted rates and follow the indicated routes.»

Anaïs Maes

Alderwoman for Urban Planning, Public Space, Road Works, Mobility and Dutch-language Education for the City of Brussels



Practical information

From Friday 28/11/2025 to Thursday 01/01/2026
(prolonged on Place De Brouckère until Sunday 04/01/2026).

Open every day from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m.

except on Wednesday 24 and 31/12/2025 and Sunday 4/01/2026 from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Where to stay?

Winter Wonders is a 360° experience: Christmas market, skating rink, Ferris Wheel, illuminated streets, and more—plenty to make the most of the magic of Brussels during the festive season.

The capital offers **a multitude of accommodation options** for all tastes and all budgets.

Two **partner hotels** are particularly recommended to enjoy the event from close quarters.

- **Appart'Hôtel Citadines Sainte-Catherine:** Historic partner of Winter Wonders, the Citadines Sainte-Catherine offers an exceptional location in the heart of Le Vismet, a stone's throw from the Ferris Wheel and five minutes from Grand-Place.
- **The Dominican:** First Belgian member of the **Design Hotels™** network, The Dominican combines contemporary elegance and premium comfort. Its 150 meticulously designed rooms, modular meeting spaces, and Grand Lounge restaurant make it a sought-after address for a refined and welcoming stay. **Le Chalet Palmer & Co, opposite The Dominican Hotel, also offers a heated terrace where you can enjoy hot drinks and Champagne served with oysters, all in a festive atmosphere in Brussels.**

Press information and contacts

plaisirsdhiver.be/medias

Adelaïde de Patoul

Spokesperson for Brussels Major Events asbl
a.depatoul@bmeo.be

+32 (0) 496 87 88 86

Partners

The City of Brussels and Brussels Major Events would like to warmly thank all their partners for their commitment and contribution.

These collaborations go far beyond simple support: they enable the design and implementation of creative activities, artistic works, entertainment and solidarity initiatives that enrich the visitor experience.

Each partner contributes to the overall project. Together, they transform Winter Wonders into a collective project where commitment, creativity and influence come together to connect residents, artists and the entire city.





PLAISIRS D'HIVER WINTERPRET

BRUXELLES 28.11.25 > 01.01.26* BRUSSEL

* Prolongation / verlenging > 04.01 @ PLACE DE BROUCKERE

plaisirsdhiver.be / winterpret.be

PRESS KIT

