



PLAISIRS D'HIVER WINTERPRET



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Editorial

Brussels is a destination for every moment and every season. In winter, it transforms into a magical world filled with the enchantment of the year-end festivities.

Winter Wonders lights the city up and turns it into an enchanting universe where young and old alike can marvel from the centre to the neighbourhoods for five weeks.

For many, it's an opportunity to rediscover the event's must-sees: the majestic Christmas tree and the light and sound show on the historic facades of the Grand Place, the traditional chalets, the Ferris wheel, the carousels, the Heritage in Motion of City Hall, the immersive art installations, and an ice rink open to all skill levels.

Winter Wonders makes Brussels an unmissable destination for city trips and holiday activities. With nearly 4 million visitors last year, this event continues to charm both residents and tourists from Belgium and beyond.

The special guest this year is Le Var. By including this French department in the festivities, we continue our ambition to be a unique cultural, eventful, and tourist crossroads where North meets South, and where Provençal traditions blend with Brussels heritage.

As the Alderwoman of Culture and Tourism, I am proud to ensure that our city welcomes and unites communities from around the world. This diversity enriches our programming and serves as a valuable invitation to discover.

Moreover, it goes without saying that dreams and traditions cannot exist without special attention to respecting people and the environment. Winter Wonders is a sustainable and responsible experience. As every year, a series of actions will be taken to ensure a virtuous event for everyone, including efforts against harassment, reusable tableware, LED lighting, and dry toilets.

I look forward to welcoming you in great numbers to Brussels for this edition, which already promises to be exceptional!

Delphine Houba,
Alderwoman of Culture,
Tourism and Major Events
for the City of Brussels

The 24th Winter Wonders in Brussels

From Friday 29 November to Sunday 5 January 2025, the City of Brussels is hosting the 24th Winter Wonders. Our must-visit event fills the heart of the capital with magic and sparkle, creating a fun, festive and fairytale feel.

Winter Wonders brings comfort and joy to locals and visitors who come to us from around the world, increasing Brussels's attractiveness during Christmas and New Year. This major event generates a significant financial boost for various sectors including hospitality, catering, recreation, travel and retail. In 2022, we estimated that visitors spent nearly 260 million euros in the Winter Wonders area.

Winter Wonders combines tradition and innovation to spark curiosity throughout the five weeks of festivities. The City and the organizers continually renew the event with unique, surprising activities and wonderful collaborations. This blend is what allows the event to appeal to everyone's tastes, making it a unique and family-friendly moment of sharing.

If it's Winter Wonders there must be a Ferris wheel, ice rink, fairground rides, exhibitions, choirs... Not forgetting the wood chalets tempting foodies at every turn and bursting with original gift ideas.

These unmissable attractions are sharing the space with a series of big new additions this year: an immersive programme put together by Le Var region, our guest of honour, the Echinodermus art installation

at Mont des Arts, the Christmas market extended up to Rue de la Madeleine in partnership with local businesses...

Winter Wonders obviously means a giant tree and life-size Nativity scene, both on our beloved Grand-Place, all framed by a sound and light show. The spectacle continues within City Hall, as Heritage in Motion returns this winter and its courtyard moves to the music of Lucia, the French-Canadian art installation that took up residence in the Marolles this summer.

It's that innovative combination of one of Europe's most popular Christmas markets and the variety of activities that makes Winter Wonders an enchanting event with unique flair. That's right: **Winter Wonders** has again been ranked amongst the top Christmas markets by European Best Destinations. The ranking is determined via an online vote from 20 to 27 November. And it was very recently named one of the most beautiful in the world by CNN, a testament to its reputation that extends even beyond European borders.

But that's not all! The dazzling **Brussels by Lights** illuminations still shine bright in the city centre's streets and shopping districts as well as surrounding areas of Brussels to support the local tourism industry and economy.

And for the seventh year, the Winter Pop popup village is taking magical moments to three communities of the City of Brussels over as many consecutive weekends.

In short, a fairytale end to the year awaits visitors to Brussels and Winter Wonders!

The inauguration

Winter Wonders opens its doors at 12:00 on Friday 29 November.

The inauguration takes place on the same day from 6.00 pm, with the first sound and light show on the Grand-Place and the lighting up of the Christmas tree for this 2024 edition.

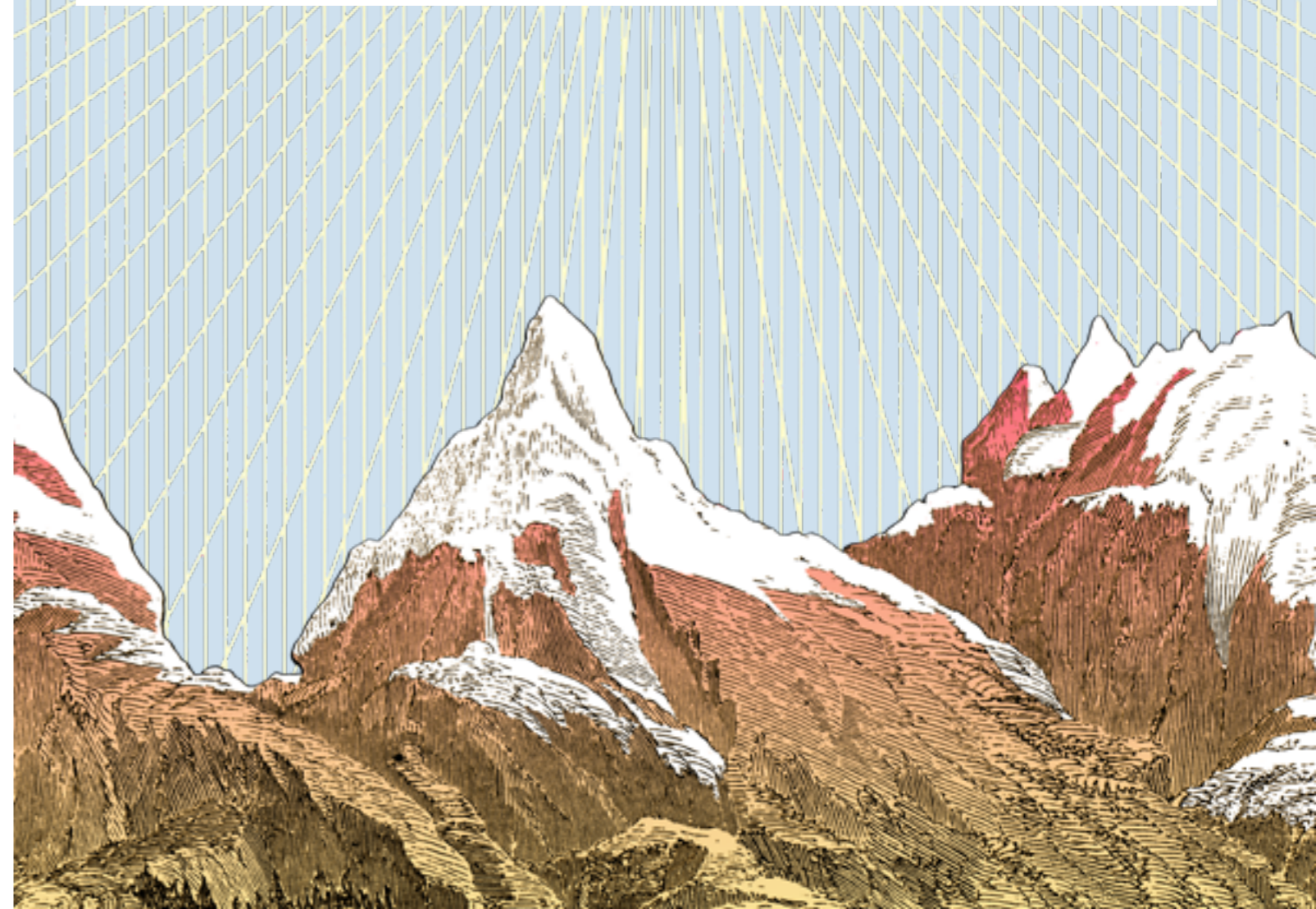
This inaugural event will be punctuated by an enchanting musical performance, thanks to an unprecedented collaboration with the choirs of La Monnaie.

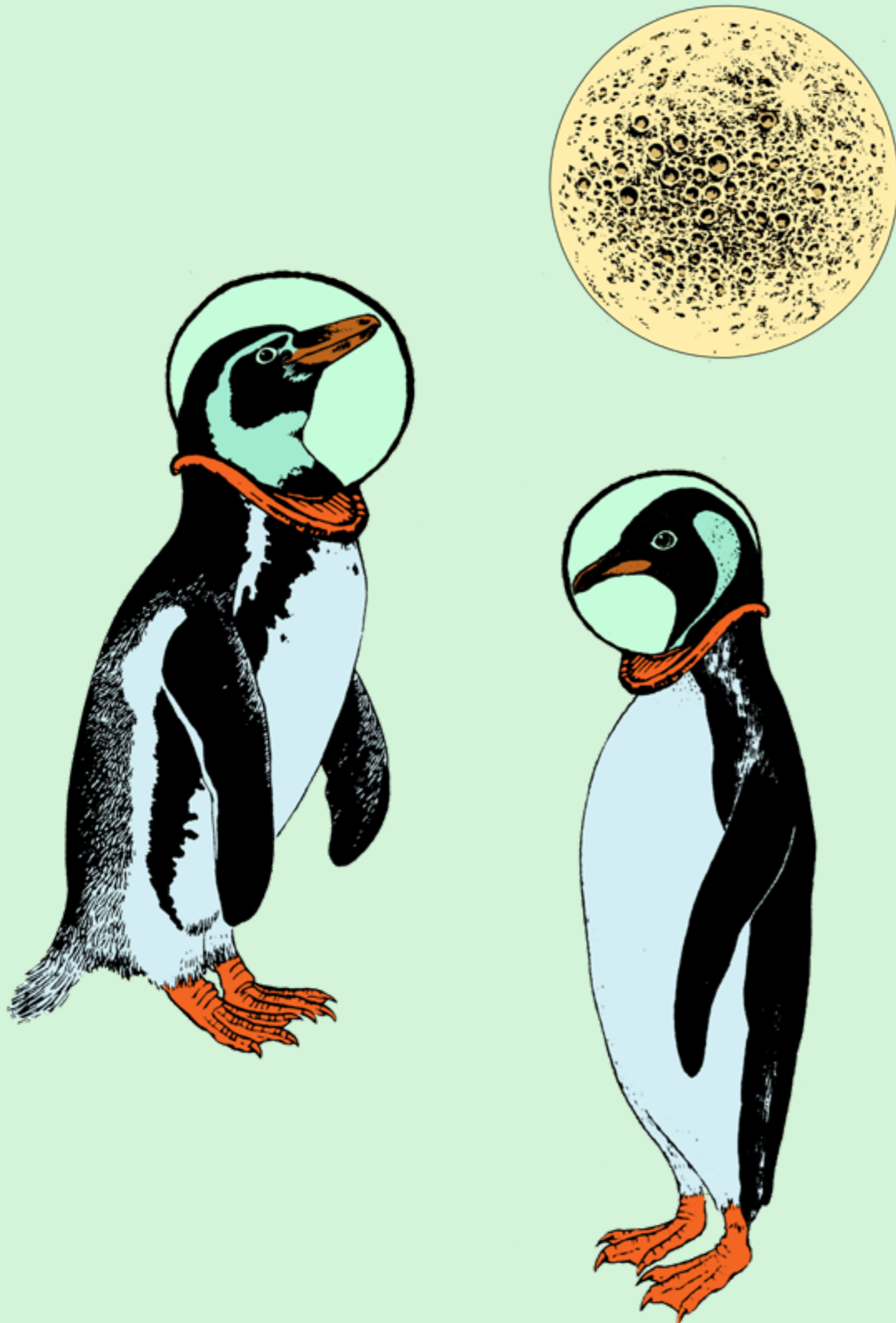
It's also an opportunity to showcase the new features.

The Winter Wonders poster

For the second consecutive year, the Winter Wonders poster is enriched by the unique visual world of renowned Brussels artist Elzo Durt. Born in 1980, this graphic designer-illustrator stands out for his bold and colourful style, blending surrealism and pop art into vibrant and unexpected compositions. Inspired by engravings, drawings, and vintage textures he discovers during his explorations, Durt scans, deconstructs, and reassembles each element to bring intense and dynamic works to life.

This year, the poster immerses us in an airy, dreamlike world filled with clouds, planets, flying saucers, and even penguins and seals transformed into cosmonauts. This space voyage invites us to explore a new planet, where time seems suspended, and scenes are continuously reimagined. Fantastic characters, both familiar and surprising, embody the festive and warm spirit of this winter event, forming a joyful and timeless "family." This immersive visual invites us to unleash our collective imagination, redefining Winter Wonders as a true journey into the heart of wonder.





The guest of honour: Le Var

The City of Brussels is shining a spotlight on Le Var region during Winter Wonders.

Welcoming this part of France to the Belgian capital presents a unique opportunity to strengthen our economic, tourist and cultural ties. It also promotes Brussels and Winter Wonders in Europe and serves as a fantastic showcase for the Var region as a travel destination.

Le Var, “France’s favourite destination”

Le Var captures the very essence of Provence and the French Riviera. With its secret coves, fine sandy beaches, lush forests, crystal-clear waters and hilltop villages, this beautiful region is filled with picture-postcard scenery.

Whether you’re a lounge lizard, thrill seeker, culture vulture, nature lover, fine foodie or wine buff, Var awaits you on Place de la Bourse with its partners so that you can find out absolutely everything about this beautiful destination!

A typical Var village, at the Place de la Bourse

A traditional Nativity scene

Throughout the event, enjoy the authentic Provencal Nativity, its much-loved figurines and all the carefully curated details recreating scenes from traditional local life.

Le Var arts and crafts in Brussels

Artisans, producers from Le Var region perpetuate a unique and typical know-how from their area and await you on Auguste Orts street with products more tempting and appetizing than the others...

DETAILS

- 📍 Place de la Bourse
- 📅 Daily from 29/11/2024 to 05/01/2025, with themed activities from Friday to Sunday

CONTACT

Var Tourism contact

Deputy Manager and Marketing Director
of Var Tourism

📧 a.matteuzzi@vartourisme.org,

☎ +33 (0)6 11 81 00 29

The Christmas market

For five weeks, some 260 stallholders serve up a feast for the eyes of smart shoppers and the stomachs of festive foodies. You can try specialities from around the world and pick up a gift to treat a loved one — or yourself.

An interactive map is again available on the Winter Wonders website. Our fun and user-friendly dynamic map provides an aerial view of the event and the city with loads of information on key locations like the Christmas market chalets, art installations, attractions, iconic buildings, arts and crafts, and accessible areas.

map.plaisirsdhiver.be



New: the Christmas market extended up to Rue de la Madeleine

On Rue de la Madeleine, artisans from Galerie Bortier, neighbouring shopping streets and a Ukrainian NGO are filling the Winter Wonders chalets to present a range of products.

Reopening of Galerie Bortier: a new home for heritage and culture

Galerie Bortier, an architectural jewel and iconic passageway in Brussels, is reopening on 22 November following a meticulous renovation carried out in close collaboration with the Belgian Buildings Agency. Since launching in 1848, this historic arcade has retained its unique literary heritage, gaining a reputation for over a century as a booklover's paradise. Today, it's entering a new phase with cultural and food services that combine authenticity with modernity.

Arts and crafts at Winter Wonders

The City has always wanted to share the business showcase provided by Winter Wonders with artisans from Brussels and further afield. Some thirty chalets display the 'master craftsmen' distinction. They must meet specific quality criteria to be awarded this Winter Wonders accreditation, such as the origin of their products.

As well as the 32 artisans who already offer 'handmade' wares, Winter Wonders partners experienced operators that develop and represent arts and crafts throughout the year.

For its fourth edition, the Creators Factory is coming to Galerie Bortier for three weekends in collaboration with hub.brussels. An authentic craft fair guided by ethics and sustainability, its makers' market is more committed than ever to community-led development and (environmental) responsibility both today and tomorrow. The newly reopened Galerie Bortier is hosting this year's initiative.

DETAILS

- 📍 Creators Factory
- 🕒 three weekends in December, 12:00 to 20:00
- 📅 7 & 8/12
14 & 15/12
21 & 22/12

Covered terraces

Protected, furnished and lit covered terraces provide meeting points along the Winter Wonders route and give visitors the chance to relax in a welcoming environment.



The Stella Artois tent, the must-visit of the christmas market

In the very heart of Winter Wonders, the Stella Artois Tent at Vismet promises a warm welcome for visitors who want to take some time out to enjoy our quintessentially Belgian beer at this unmissable stop-off.

Daily programming on the Christmas market

Monday: Québec en Chanson @Black Tower, 18:00 to 21:30

Simon Goldin comes from Montreal in Quebec but has lived in France for years. Embracing modern music whilst staying true to his influences, like call and response, he invites you to join him singing, dancing and tapping your feet.

Bonus: Cassandra Choirs & Brass Quintet @La Monnaie, 20:00 (2 > 16/12)

This year, the stairs of the Théâtre de la Monnaie will become an open-air stage. Every Monday in December at 8pm, outdoor concerts will add a magical touch to the evenings in Brussels.

On Saturday 7 December at 3.30pm, a children's choir will delight passers-by with a 10-minute mini-concert. The Cassandra choir and a brass ensemble will alternate performances, creating a warm and festive atmosphere.

Tuesday: World Music @Place de Brouckère, 18:00 to 20:00

Every Tuesday, musicians entertain the crowds on Place de Brouckère. There's something for everyone, with brass bands playing different musical styles each week.

Wednesday: Afterschool @Black Tower, 15:00 to 19:00

Wednesday is half-day and children's playtime with our Afterschool! Storytelling, puppetry, street art and so much more await you on stage and in Santa's Workshop.

Inside Santa's Workshop near the Black Tower (behind St Catherine's Church), kids are filled with wonder and excitement when performances and other delights happen in the fairytale setting of this double chalet.

Thursday: Acoustic Thursdays @Black Tower, 18:00 to 20:00

Acoustic Thursdays are a new addition to Winter Wonders, designed to bring intimate, heartwarming performances to the Black Tower. Every Thursday night, small acoustic music groups come to create a relaxed, friendly atmosphere in the heart of the Christmas market.

Friday: Le Var @Place de la Bourse, 19:00 to 22:00

Every Friday, Winter Wonders' guest of honour launches a themed weekend.

Weekends: Winter Vox, choirs in the heart of the city @Black Tower, 16:00 to 20:00 @Bourse, 18:00 to 19:00

Winter Vox is back every weekend, with six ensembles of professionals or amateurs performing recitals — three on Saturday and three on Sunday — that showcase Christmas carols, gospel, hymns or a more contemporary pop repertoire.

Every Saturday, choirs also perform on the Bourse stairs from 18:00 to 19:00.

Weekends in the school holidays: Creative workshops @Black Tower, 14:00 to 18:00

Every Sunday, as well as Saturdays and Sundays on the two weekends after Christmas, the Black Tower hosts creative workshops in Santa's chalet. Aimed at children and families, the workshops are a great opportunity for you to try out different manual activities and explore your creativity in a festive atmosphere.

The most beautiful square in the world goes all out

The Christmas tree

The majestic Christmas tree on the Grand-Place, an undeniable symbol of winter wonder, will be at the centre of a dazzling sound and light show. It will be cut down on the morning of Wednesday 20 November and erected from 6 a.m. on Thursday 21 November, ready to embody the spirit of the festive season.

A wish-granting tree

This year, the tree will be lit with a unique touch of solidarity, thanks to an extraordinary partnership with Make-A-Wish, the charity that makes the dreams of children with serious illnesses come true.

The tree will be adorned with elephants, reminiscent of the Côte d'Or brand, which supports this charity event. Some of these decorations, signed by Belgian celebrities, will then be auctioned off, with all proceeds going to Make-A-Wish to help grant the wishes of children with serious illnesses.

Make-A-Wish works every day to provide moments of escape and joy for seriously ill children, thanks to the funds raised through such initiatives.

This partnership with Brussels' iconic Christmas tree allows visitors to join in the cause and celebrate the spirit of generosity and hope that characterises the festive season.

The tree will be brought to life for the first time on Friday 29 November, with an inauguration ceremony starting at 6 pm.

And to prolong the magic, the Polyfolies Choir, with its twenty singers loyal to Winter Wonders, will give a concert at the foot of the tree on Saturday 7 December at 2pm, adding a musical touch to this luminous celebration of solidarity.

Get ready for an extraordinary moment when, thanks to Make-A-Wish and Côte d'Or the Grand-Place will be lit up in an atmosphere of generosity and winter cheer, full of light, warmth and hope.

The courtyard of the City Hall takes on a new look

Lucia, a public art installation

From 29 November 2024 to 5 January 2025, the spellbinding story of Lucia is being brought to life in the City Hall courtyard, combining storytelling, orchestral music and multimedia staging.

In welcoming *Lucia*, the City of Brussels is continuing to invest in the cultural and creative sectors. *Lucia* also symbolizes light and the rhythm of life.

The production is one in a series of interactive tales entitled *In Bocca al Lupo* from French-Canadian artist Anne Lagacé and the Montreal studio Mirari. It tells the story of Lucia, a ballerina originally from Ravenna

in Italy whose dreams are shattered by an accident then revived thanks to the ingenuity of a lamplighter and the contributions of passersby.

This original creation, the fruit of four and a half years of hard work, is redefining multimedia by harnessing the power of storytelling to captivate young and old.

Watch Lucia's journey through a unique structure that helps the ballerina dance again. The interactive piece draws in onlookers, transforming the public space into a magical stage where art, music, technology and strangers collide.

The immersive experience offers:

- An interactive poetic narrative that makes the audience part of the story
- Original music compositions that are shaped by the interactions
- An interactive light structure that reacts to the crowd

DETAILS

📅 29/11/2024 to 05/01/2025, every day according to the opening hours of the porch of the City Hall.

📍 City Hall courtyard

Sizes: the installation is surrounded by six four-metre streetlights with 1.5-m bases, positioned in a 6-m radius

Composer: Maxime Goulet

Performer: OSM and Dina Gilbert

Production: La Pastèque

Illustrator and director: Fanie Thuot

Sculptor: Yann Guillon

The sound and light show on the Grand-Place

The sound and light show on the Grand-Place, which is renewed every year to transport visitors to another universe, is the creation of Camille Gross and Olivier Magermans.

"Echoes of Colors" is a five-minute video mapping show projected onto the tower of the City Hall, in an intense celebration of colour.

In this dreamlike universe, colours are central to the experience, transforming the tower into a playground, challenging and reinventing its structure. Bathed in vibrant hues, the building seems at times to float, shatter into glass or reveal a skeleton illuminated by phosphorescent vegetation. The projection ends with an explosion of infinite colours that emphasise the verticality of the tower, all accompanied by a synchronised soundtrack to complete the experience.

CREDITS

Direction: Camille Gross and Olivier Magermans

Cinematography: Camille Gross

Animation: Olivier Magermans

Production: Electroson Studio

Music by:

- TV Dinner - Just for Kicks
- Primavera - Tomas Novoa
- Elegant Disaster - Peaks & Valleys
- Wonder About You - Itai Argaman
- The Phoenix - Tom Meira Arm

DETAILS

📅 from 29/11/2024 to 05/01/2025, Grand-Place, Brussels.

i Opening:
Friday 29/11 from 18.00

🕒 5-minute sound and light show:
from 17.00 to 22.00, every 30 minutes

⚠️ No show on Tuesday 24 and 31 December

Unmissable attractions



THE ICE RINK @Place de Brouckère

The sportiest Winter Wonders attraction is again coming to Place de Brouckère until Sunday 5 January.


A 112-sq. m. space is available to the very young for a risk-free introduction to the ice. Straps that can be placed over shoes are provided.


Bookings aren't necessary except for schools (see below). And the rink is of course accessible to wheelchair users and carers, both on and off the ice.

DETAILS

-  29/11/2024 to 05/01/2025, Place de Brouckère
-  Daily from 12:00 to 22:00 (last admission at 21:00)

24 and 31/12: 12:00 to 18:00 (last admission at 17:00)

25/12 and 01/01: 12:00 to 22:00 (last admission at 21:00)
-  **Price (including skate hire):** adults (over 16s): €10 / under 16s: €5 / schools: €4 / pupils / family (2 adults + 2 children): €25

Free for carers.
-  Not recommended for children under 6.






The organizers recommend avoiding busy times and instead visiting from 12:00 to 17:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Bookings for schools only between 12:00 and 17:00: info@bmeo.be, 02/318 6470.

CURLING by Galeries Anspach & The Mint Brussels @Place de Brouckère

Want to recreate that winter sports feel in the very heart of Brussels? Three curling sheets are available next to the De Brouckère rink's ice track.



DETAILS

-  29/11/2024 to 05/01/2025,
-  Place de Brouckère..
-  Daily, 12:00 to 22:00
-  **Price:** adults (over 16s): €8 / under 16s: €4
-  Thirty-minute slots, equipment provided on presentation of ID.

THE LOTTO FERRIS WHEEL... PLACE YOUR BETS! @Vismet

Another of Winter Wonders' unmissable attractions, the 55-m Ferris wheel offers spectacular views of Brussels and the city centre at their Christmas best! It has 42 capsules, including one specially equipped for disabled visitors.

DETAILS

-  Vismet
-  **Price:** adults €10 / under 12s €6

ANDREA'S MERRY-GO-ROUND @Place Sainte-Catherine

The merry-go-round with fantastical characters handmade in the Jules Verne style is another classic must-visit for some timeless fun.



DETAILS

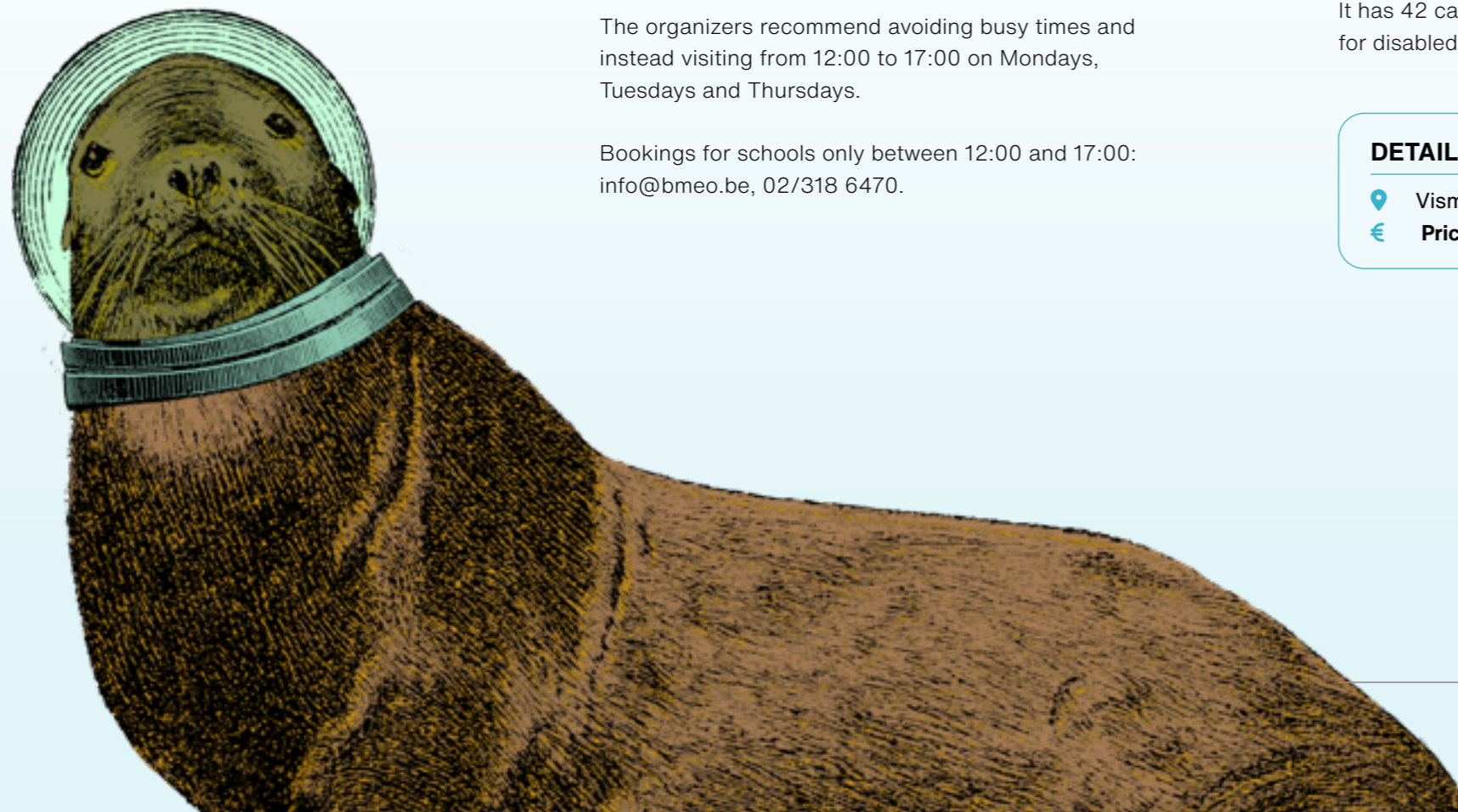
-  Place Sainte-Catherine
-  **Price:** €3 (2-11 years)

ICE MONSTER @Place d'Espagne

There are only seven of these 45-m dinosaurs designed by the US company behind Lord of the Rings and Harry Potter in the world. Can you guess where the only one in Europe is? At Winter Wonders, ladies and gentlemen! It has a ferocious appetite and will gobble you up, taking you on a journey featuring terrifying special effects.

DETAILS

-  Place d'Espagne
-  **Price:** €5/person - family tickets: €12/3 people - €15/4 people



DREAM SPACE @Place de Brouckère

Comfortably seated in immersive motion chairs, Dream Space visitors enjoy incredible virtual reality experiences: meeting mommies or dragons, visiting a haunted house, walking in space, riding on a Christmas sleigh... Larger-than-life experiences for all tastes and ages.

DETAILS

- Place de Brouckère
- Price: € 7

SANTA'S REINDEER @Place de Brouckère

This Father Christmas can carry up to 32 people in his reindeer- and sleigh-shaped pods. They soar to a peak ten metres, taking passengers up to four metres in the air for safe views over the marketplace.

DETAILS

- Place de Brouckère
- Price: € 5

Spotlight on culture and heritage

INTERACTIVE TOUR OF CITY HALL WITH VIDEO GUIDES @Grand-Place

Delve into the heart of Brussels City Hall and be transported through the ages thanks to an interactive experience. As soon as you arrive on Grand-Place, you will be captivated by the imposing sight of this iconic building, a real jewel of Flamboyant Gothic architecture.

In 23 stages, via a grand staircase, display cabinet or function room familiar to the people of Brussels, this trail will take you from one era to another, retracing nearly six centuries of history. You have the option to explore City Hall at your own pace with the help of your video guide.

Whether you are a history enthusiast, an art lover, or a family in search of adventure, a visit to the Brussels City Hall will enchant and inspire you.

DETAILS

- City Hall, Grand-Place
- Monday: 11:00–17:00
Wednesday: 11:00–17:00
Sunday: 11:00–17:00
No panoramic tours from 23/11 to 05/01.
- Full price: €15
Concession: €6 (child aged 7–18 / student / City of Brussels resident / City employee / CPAS / senior)
Article 27 ticket: €1.25
Family ticket: €40 (2 adults + 2 children)
Free: Children under 7

VIEW TOWER EXPERIENCE @Grand-Place

Climb the City Hall Tower to enjoy panoramic 360-degree views of Brussels.

You will be treated to stunning views over Brussels and the spectacular Christmas tree on Grand-Place!

Important: To access the panorama, you will need to climb a 200-step spiral staircase from the City Hall courtyard and be physically fit.

DETAILS

- City Hall, Grand-Place
- 30 November to 21 December, open on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays
23 December to 4 January, open 7/7
- Closed on 24 and 31 December**
- Times: 17:00 to 21:00
- Full price: €12
Concession: €8 (child aged 7–18 / student / City of Brussels resident / City employee / CPAS / senior)
Article 27 ticket: €1.25
Free: Children under 7
- Book online at <https://city-hall-vte.ticketlive.be>



HERITAGE IN MOTION @Grand-Place

The City Hall, a spectacular building standing in the heart of Winter Wonders and hosting hidden treasures! 'Heritage in Motion' shows you its splendour in unique style. The office of the mayor, the famous Wedding Hall... are hosts to the stunts of acrobatic troupe Back Pocket! An hour-long show combining history, heritage and contemporary circus. The ideal stop-off during your visit to Winter Wonders with friends or family.

DETAILS

- 📅 Fridays and Saturdays, 30 November to 4 January
- 📍 City Hall, Grand-Place
- 👉 Book at <https://feverup.com/m/258425>
- ℹ️ The show is accessible to people of all ages and wheelchair users.

ECHINODERMUS @Mont des Arts

As part of Winter Wonders, a spectacular artistic installation takes place on the esplanade of Mont des Arts, in collaboration with Plein Publiek BXL. This artwork, inspired by the imposing silhouette of the echinocactus, will rise 11 meters high, displaying a shimmering and vibrant canopy that will captivate visitors as night falls.

This giant light structure evokes a dreamlike, almost fantastical tree, with disjointed branches that seem to dance in a silent motion. Each luminous "fruit," like a floating lantern, sways gently in the wind, adding a touch of poetry and mystery to the whole. This emotional and immersive scene invites visitors to a sensory journey, blending nature and dreams in a play of shadows and light.

Both a vegetal firework and a luminous totem, this installation is an ode to collective imagination, transforming Mont des Arts into a space of contemplation and wonder. It reminds us that winter, at the heart of Brussels, can be as warm as it is luminous, offering everyone a moment suspended between reality and dream.

DETAILS

- 📍 Mont des Arts
- 📅 every day, from 1:00 pm to 1:00 am

PLANET HAPPINESS & WINTER BAR @Plein Publiek BXL

Fasten your seat belts and get ready to take off towards Planet Happiness! This immersive exhibition, offered by Plein Publiek BXL, where curiosity knows no limits and the boundaries of your imagination are pushed to infinity and beyond.

Embark on an exploration of happiness and unleash the astronaut within you in a cosmic adventure featuring AI, augmented reality, and a 360° experience. An astronomical fusion of science and art, where the wonders of space become the canvas for your wildest imagination.

And to warm up... discover the winter landscape at the Winter Bar of Plein Publiek BXL — a cozy haven where you can enjoy a steaming mulled wine or taste the traditional jenever. Treat yourself to classic Belgian waffles or a hearty hot dog while soaking in the festive atmosphere. Perfect for gathering with friends or simply enjoying a winter moment. The Winter Bar is a warm refuge with delicious seasonal treats.

WINTER BAR

- 📅 From 29/11/2024 to 05/01/2025
- 🕒 Tuesday to Sunday, from 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm

PLANET HAPPINESS

- 🕒 Tuesday to Thursday, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
Friday to Sunday, from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
Special openings on Mondays during school holidays

BRUXELLA 1238 @Bourse | Belgian Beer World

All legends existed one day...

What if Snow White was buried under the Bourse? La Compagnie des Rêveurs is taking over Bruxella 1238 this festive season from 29 November to 5 January! In the heart of the thirteenth-century Brussels ruins, join an immersive adventure that bridges fact and fiction!

*Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is the fairest of them all?*

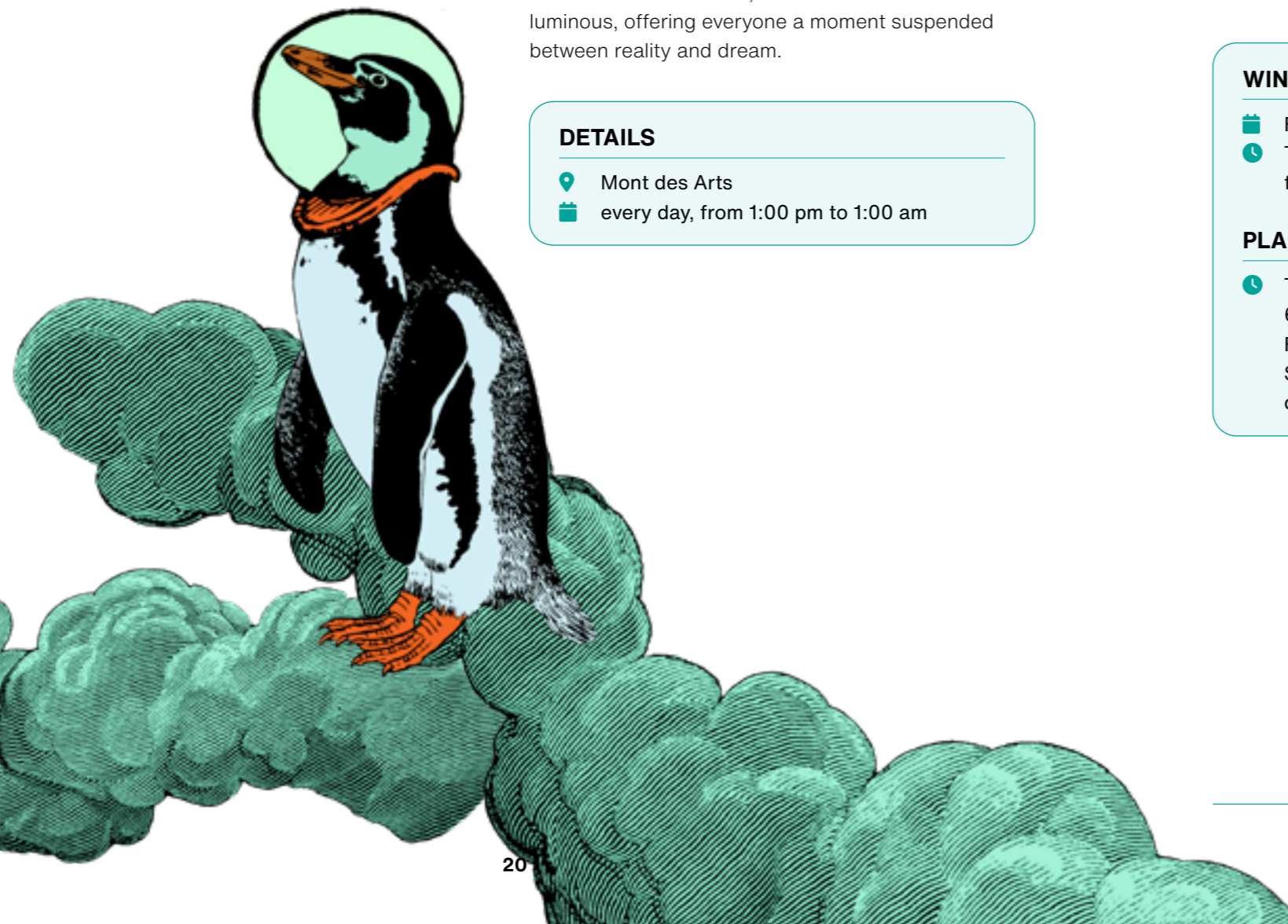
Creation: Fabien Franchitti
Co-production: La Compagnie des Rêveurs vzw
Production Manager: Jérôme Dubois

DETAILS

- 📅 29/11/2024 to 05/01/2025,
- 📍 Bruxella 1238 museum at the Brussels Bourse
- 🕒 Tuesday to Sunday, 10:00 to 22:00.
- ℹ️ 30- to 45-min immersive trail with the Bruxella 1238 museum.

The Agora, the Bourse space for selfies, a boutique and a cultural venue, is open on Wednesday afternoons for children, as well as Friday nights, Saturday afternoons and nights and Sunday afternoons and nights. Copyright-free films (FR-EN) are screened the rest of the time.

More information online in mid-November:
www.lacompagniedesreveurs.com



ELLIOTT ERWITT. RETROSPECTIVE @Grand-Place

Alongside other photographers like Steve McCurry or Ralph Gibson, Elliott Er Witt (1928–2023) marked the second half of the twentieth century with elegance and talent. The retrospective - with 300,000 visitors in Paris and Lyon - presented on the Grand-Place is truly exceptional because it is organized around about ten themes defined by the artist himself, enough to enable a family audience to discover Er Witt's unique sensibility and unflinching sideways look at the world.

Elliott Er Witt. Retrospective, the last one designed in the artist's lifetime, retraces through 215 black and white and colour photos a coherent and moving body of work in the form of a unique personal journey from 1949 to the 2000s, giving the ultimate feelgood exhibition!

DETAILS

- 📅 07/06/2024 to 05/01/2025,
- 📍 Grand-Place 5, 1000 Brussels
- 🕒 Wednesday to Monday, 10:00 to 18:30 (last admission at 17:00) | Open on Tuesdays in the school holidays
- 📖 Length: 90 minutes
- 👉 www.expo-elliottewitt.com
Reduction on the adult online price with the code XMAS

MÉCANIQUES DISCURSIVES LIGHT FRESCO @Boulevard Anspach

Somewhere between mythology and technology, the Mécaniques Discursives fresco weaves a visual web across the Boulevard Anspach. The result of a collaboration between engraver Fred Penelle and visual artist Yannick Jacquet, this four-handed work plays with our perceptions, blending the roughness of woodcuts with the fluidity of digital projections. As in a video game with no rules, the spectator is free to explore this universe where human, animal and mechanical figures cohabit in a perpetual dance.

DETAILS

- 🕒 every day from 5pm to 11pm
- 📍 Boulevard Anspach 21

CREDITS

Artists: Fred Penelle (engraver) en Yannick Jacquet (visual artist).
Representation: Nicolas Boritch.
Production: Interval.ooo
Initiative: Beliris for the embellishment of pedestrian areas with art and light

CENTRALE for contemporary art @Ste-Catherine

Gladys Sauvage built her lace loom specifically for La Centrale | vitrine. Designing and building her work tool is a way for the artist to reappropriate this know-how. She became one with her lace loom, like an extension of her hands. Through this old-fashioned, slow-gesture technique, Gladys Sauvage questions the concept of mass production and profitability.

DETAILS

- 👉 <https://centrale.brussels>

MANNEKEN-PIS GARDE-ROBE @Rue du Chêne

A stone's throw from the fountain, this unique museum presents almost 150 exceptional costumes by the most famous Brussels artist. They come from all over the world and represent trades, personalities, civic or sporting associations, not to mention carnival and folklore. Every year, more than twenty new costumes are donated to enrich the collection, which now numbers more than 1,100! Young and old can also test their skills by dressing up the Ketje! It's not easy, it's a real job!

More information: www.mannekenpis.brussels/

CITY OF BRUSSELS MUSEUM – THE KING'S HOUSE @Grand-Place

Standing in a real architectural jewel on the world's most beautiful square, Brussels City Museum presents our capital's history through its extensive collections... paintings, tapestries, ceramics, engravings, models, maps and plans, all made in Brussels. On the first floor, the Espace Parenthèse invites you to discover capsule exhibitions that open up the archives.

On the top floor, one room reveals the development, transformation and secrets of Grand-Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1998. And to break up your visit, don't forget to admire the original Manneken-Pis statue!

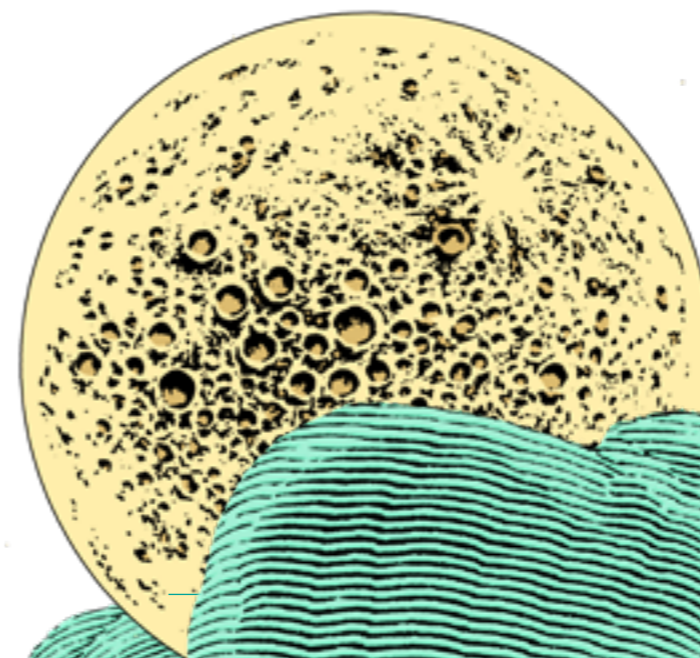
Details: www.museedelavilledebruxelles.brussels

CINEMAMED

The Cinemamed - Brussels Mediterranean Film Festival returns from 28 November to 6 December at the Palace, Aventure and Galeries cinemas, the Espace Magh, the W:Hall, the Tricoterie and various cultural centres in the Brussels Region. A festive atmosphere is guaranteed, with screenings, guests, concerts and unforgettable evenings.

For over 30 years, the Cinemamed has been bringing the best of Mediterranean cinema to Brussels! On the programme: two international competitions, never-before-seen films and themed screenings exploring possible futures, not forgetting a documentary and short film section to get you thinking and travelling.

Details: www.cinemamed.be





So much happening

AIDS Prevention platform

For over forty years, Belgium and the world have been mobilized against HIV, a virus that has radically changed our lives and society. On this occasion, the AIDS Prevention platform brings you a major exhibition retracing our fight against the virus, ignorance and stigmatization with media archives, poignant testimonials, a giant timeline, portrait photos and collectables that have shaped the history of HIV/AIDS in our country.

This event is a lively tribute to everyone who has been directly or indirectly affected by the disease. It celebrates the progress made whilst highlighting the challenges still to be overcome.

“Archives in the City” is a free exhibition that travels across the city to present unique archives, period photography, old visuals and moving memories. This edition is dedicated to forty years of action against HIV/AIDS in Brussels and Belgium.

Details: It's visible from the exterior, Rue de la Bourse, and is part of the “Vi(H)VRE, histoire d'une lutte” exhibition by the AIDS Prevention platform in Brussels Bourse from 28 November to 8 December 2024 (free).

RTBF / Viva For Life Tour

The Viva for Life Tour wants to go out to meet its audience in the heart of Winter Wonders.

This tour's ambassador Sara De Paduwa, presenter of 6-8 and The Dancer, will be onsite with an airstream to maximize support for Viva for Life, which for twelve years has funded charities that assist disadvantaged children. The tour's new ambassador will welcome the challenge organizers who have come to add their cheque to the total. Sara will be live on radio, social media and daily TV. A challenge will also be organized onsite in agreement with the venue and slot allocated nearer the time.

DETAILS

📍 Vismet
📅 18/12/2024

Manneken-Pis Corrida

The Manneken-Pis Corrida, a winter wonder to end the year in style!

The 13th edition of the Manneken-Pis corrida will take place on Thursday, December 26, in the unique, illuminated setting of Winter Wonders.

The route connects some of the capital's most remarkable sites such as Place des Martyrs, Galerie de la Reine, Rue Neuve and Grand-Place, before taking runners to greet the Manneken-Pis, specially dressed in sportswear for the occasion! Two extras have been added since 2023: crossing the City Hall and brand spanking new Bourse courtyard after its recent renovation. An important change in 2024: the start and finish line have moved between Place de la Monnaie and Rue Léopold this year.

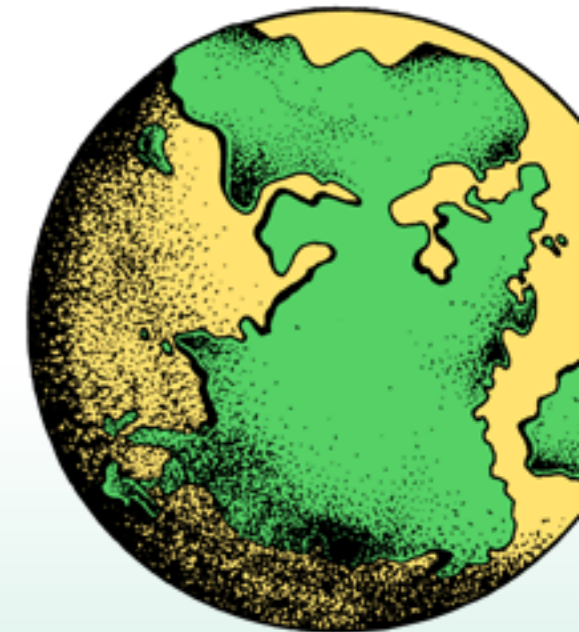
Warm drinks will be provided to runners on arrival (tea, mulled wine) in collaboration with Solidarité Grands Froids ASBL, which is supported by the event. A mini race village (high-protein milkshakes, snacks, etc.) is also planned at the start and finish line.

A marvellous way to end the year with family or friends.

The most beautiful corrida van of wereld, non peut-être!?

DETAILS

📍 start and finish Place d'Espagne
📅 26/12/2024,
🔗 <https://www.zatopekmagazine.com/manneken-pis-corrida/>
📄 Registration: includes entry, hot/cold refreshments, a Santa hat (optional t-shirt and checkroom)
⚠️ Limited to 3,000 participants



Other wonders

Brussels by Lights

From the city centre to Neder-Over-Heembeek via Haren and Laeken, the capital shines bright with multiple illuminations in the streets and shopping districts. Every year, Brussels hosts a spectacle of light creations of every kind: snowflakes, geometric jellyfish, snowmen...

The City of Brussels had one of its brightest ideas in 2013 when it decided to illuminate, literally and figuratively, more and more of the capital's streets and shopping districts. For the twelfth edition, there will be 171 this year.

That extension reflects our ongoing ambition to support the business activities of the city's districts, which are also involved in decisions about the illuminations in their areas. The decorations are chosen by each one's trade associations.

The Marolles district has also become the playground for a unique artistic experience, Marollescence, combining digital and physical art, and is welcoming an interactive mapping show on Place du Jeu de Balle.

DETAILS

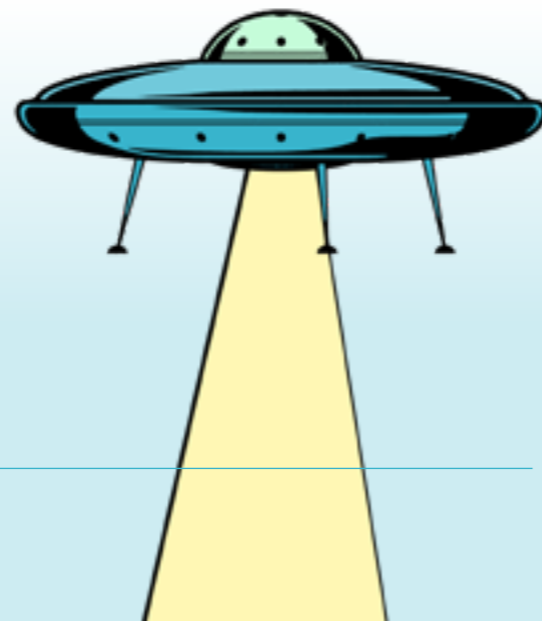
- 🕒 every day from 1pm till 1am
- 📅 from 27/11/2024 till 05/01/2025
- 📍 Launch Place du Jeu de Balle, 27/11 at 18:00
- 👉 www.brusselsbylights.be

Winter Tunes

Enjoy an exhilarating experience in or outside Saints Michel and Gudule Cathedral. Winter Wonders is staging a dozen secular music concerts for visitors looking for calm in the heart of the capital's churches. On the programme: the organ, string instruments, bellringing and choirs..

DETAILS

- 📍 **Saints Michel and Gudule Cathedral**
- 🕒 Sunday 01/12 at 14:00
- 🕒 Sunday 8/12 at 14:00
- 🕒 Sunday 15/12 at 14:00
- 🕒 Sunday 22/12 at 14:00
- 🕒 Tuesday 24/12 at 14:00
- 🕒 Sunday 29/12 at 14:00
- 🕒 Tuesday 31/12 at 14:00



WINTER POP: a popup village to share the christmas joy

With Winter Pop and Summer Pop, the City of Brussels has been working to delocalize its events and give people from other areas the chance to join the party. Winter Pop's cute caravans share the Christmas joy, bringing it to the widest possible audience.

And since its debut in 2017, the popup village has been a big hit.

For this seventh edition, Place de la Chapelle, Square Ambiorix and Place Emile Bockstael will welcome the Winter Pop caravan in turn on three successive weekends.

Thanks to close collaborations with local groups, a whole host of fun and creative activities for all audiences are available: concerts, brass bands, dances, choirs, short film screenings, demonstrations, plays, fire performances, festive parades, facepainting, charity stands... There's something for everyone! Not forgetting the food trucks and firepits for some winter warmth amidst the brightly coloured garlands.

DETAILS

- 📅 6 to 08/12 on Place de la Chapelle: Friday and Saturday from 15:00 to 21:00 and Sunday from 14:00 to 19:00.
- 📅 13 to 15/12 on Square Ambiorix, Quartier Ambiorix in Brussels: Friday and Saturday from 15:00 to 21:00 and Sunday from 14:00 to 19:00.
- 📅 18 to 20/12 on Place Bockstael in Laeken: Wednesday from 14:00 to 21:00, Thursday and Friday from 15:00 to 21:00.

The façade of the Viage Casino enhanced by Luc Deschamps

For Winter Wonders, the façade of the Viage Casino is adorned with an exceptional floral decoration, designed by floral artist Luc Deschamps. An heir to a long family tradition, immersed in the art of flowers since always, he has transcended classic conventions to elevate plant design to a new level: that of the eventful and the spectacular.

This floral installation promises to surprise and enchant, combining finesse and opulence in a winter tableau of great poetry. Visitors are greeted by cascades of carefully selected petals and foliage, intertwining to form a vegetal landscape that is both vibrant and delicate. Luc Deschamps envisioned a setting for this façade where flowers, as true stars, are adorned with subtle hues and refined textures, sometimes evoking the gentleness of winter nights, sometimes the warm glow of the holidays.

Through this homage to plants dressed for celebration, Luc Deschamps once again demonstrates his unique talent: transforming every space into a living scene where nature and art meet to celebrate the moment. Prepare for a floral wonder that will light up the Grand-Place and invites everyone to a sensory and enchanting journey in the heart of the city.

Located along the Winter Wonders route between the Stock Exchange and Place De Brouckère, VIAGE CHILL is an ideal stop to warm up and enjoy a good coffee or a rich hot chocolate.

DETAILS

- 📍 Boulevard Anspach 30
- 🕒 open 7/7 from 9 am to 11 pm
- 👉 www.viage.be

Christmas Fairies The Secret Kingdom

Beautifully decorated rooms take you on an enchanting journey to the Land of Father Christmas, symbolizing a deeper dive into the magic of Christmas.

Every step of the visit represents part of the way, with specific settings and atmospheres heightening the impression of leaving the ordinary world to enter a fairytale universe.

Christmas Fairies isn't just a festive trail, it's also a magical place where you can sip a drink whilst enjoying the most beautiful views over Brussels's Grand-Place. Be transported into a fairytale world, ideal for immortalizing your moment with Father Christmas and creating an unforgettable experience.

DETAILS

- 📍 Roy d'Espagne
(entrance: 45 Rue au Beurre)
- 📅 29/11/2024 to 05/01/2025
- 👉 <https://www.christmasfairiesbxl.com>

Christmas Tour by Tootbus

Discover Brussels in all its finery this festive season. Embrace the magic of Christmas, which turns the city into a real-life fairytale. During your hour-long tour in a 100% electric panoramic bus, you can soak up the very essence of Christmas in Brussels, with the opportunity to visit one of Europe's most famous Christmas markets. After this enchanting bus experience, continue your discovery by exploring Winter Wonders on foot thanks to our Christmas Tootwalk. It's the ideal opportunity to delve into the city's history and culture. Don't miss your chance to share the magic of the season in Brussels with your loved ones!

DETAILS

- 📅 Every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 17.00, from 29/11/24 until 05/01/2025
- 🕒 Duration: 1h
- 👉 Reservations on: <https://www.tootbus.com/fr/brussels/produit/9e79125c-2f1c-4cc6-a7d5-6bfe55388ebc>

Visit Wallonia

Surround yourself with the Walloon Region's homegrown talents and authentic flavours during events for Wallonia producers! Discover the richness and variety of Walloon terroir through tastings and meetings with enthusiastic artisans on three festive Saturdays. With beers, chocolates, biscuits and more, you can treat yourself and the ones you love this festive season!

DETAILS

- 📍 Rue du Marché aux Herbes 25/27,
1000 Brussels
- 🕒 07/12/2024: 11:00-18:00
14/12/2024: 11:00-18:00
21/12/2024: 11:00-18:00

Brussels Card & Art Nouveau Pass

Come and find out more about the Brussels Card and Art Nouveau Pass.

The Brussels Card is the city pass that gives you free access to 48 Brussels museums! Enjoy a hassle-free stay whilst saving money thanks to the very many reductions and options offered by the Brussels Card.

The Art Nouveau Pass opens the doors to nine legendary locations of Art Nouveau Brussels. The pass is valid for 9 months and lets you discover the jewels of our architectural heritage.

DETAILS

- 📅 Sundays from 30/11/2024 to 04/01/2025
- 👉 <https://www.brusselsmuseums.be>

Chalet Palmer & Co

For this edition of Winter Wonders, The Dominican is honoured to welcome you to the Chalet Palmer & Co, created in partnership with one of the most prestigious Champagne houses, Palmer & Co. This ephemeral venue will combine luxury and refinement, offering a unique gastronomic experience centred around the finest Palmer & Co champagnes, accompanied by fresh oysters.

Since 1947, Palmer & Co has elevated the terroirs of the Montagne de Reims with exceptional vintages. Each glass of champagne reveals the richness of the Grands Crus, with flavours of rare elegance, carried by the purity of Chardonnay and the strength of Pinot Noir. This tasting will be enhanced by the freshness and finesse of the oysters, creating a perfect harmony between land and sea.

Come and enjoy a timeless break at the Chalet Palmer & Co, where the art of champagne meets the delicacy of oysters, in a festive and warm ambiance..

INFO

- 📍 The Dominican



The City of Brussels and sustainability

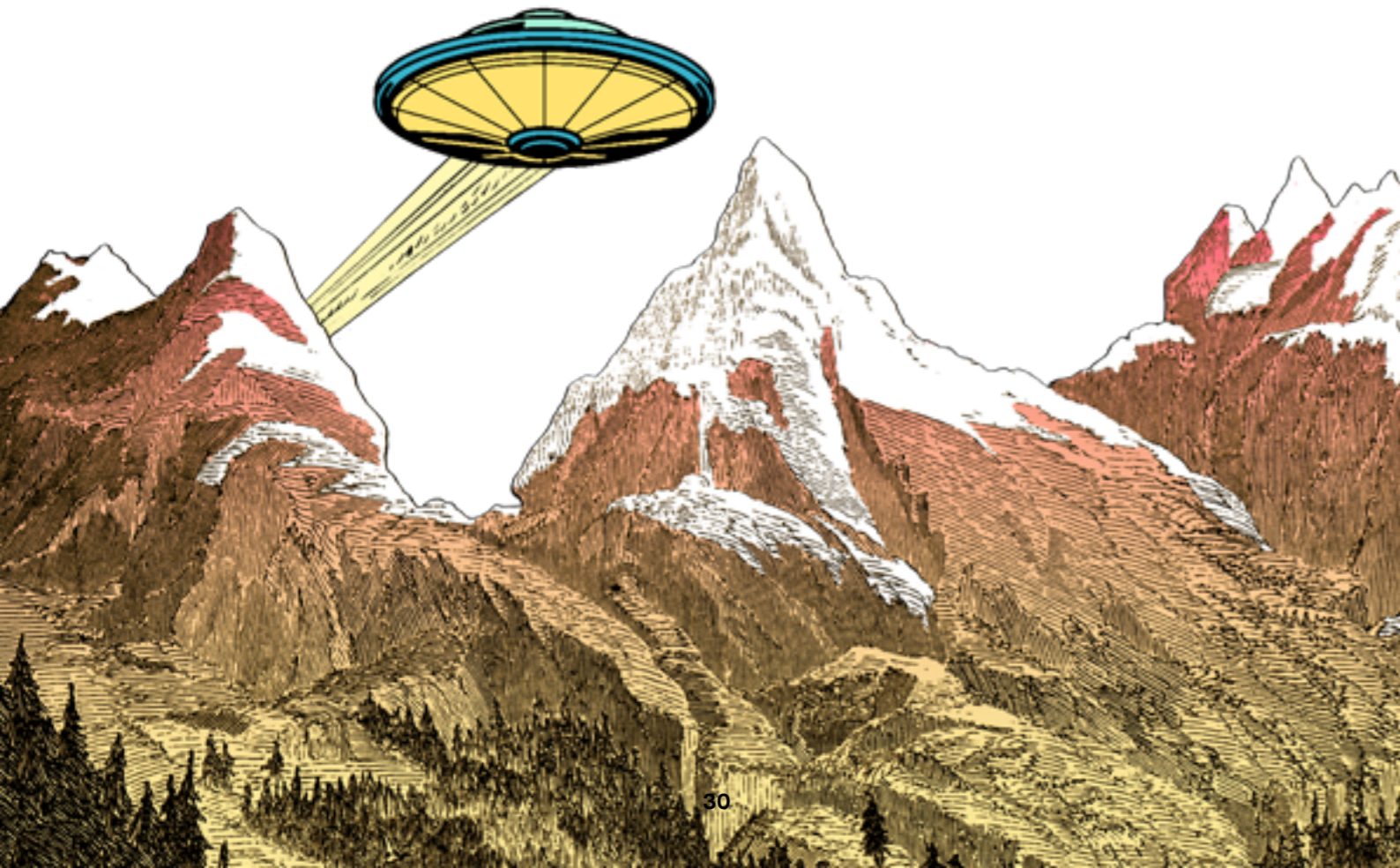
The City of Brussels has made clear its commitment to sustainability.

Sustainability is central to our vision and approach to event creation. The City of Brussels has a duty to be exemplary in environmental, social and economic sustainability. As a nonprofit, Brussels Major Events (BME) applies these principles and implements the measures in its sustainable action plan.

Numerous steps are already being taken to move in that direction, some for years, others for the very first time:

- ✔ Use of LED bulbs for the Winter Wonders illuminations;
- ✔ Since 2016, use of reusable cups throughout the market;
- ✔ For years, recycling the Christmas tree (given to the Fine Art Academy for transformation into an artwork, benches and tables by a Belgian artisan, trophies for the BXL TOUR and decorations by Brussels artists);
- ✔ Stallholders educated on reducing energy consumption. For years, the use of electrical heating within the chalets for example has been limited;
- ✔ Since 2021, heaters withdrawn from outdoor seating areas;
- ✔ Since 2022, use of reusable tableware for food containers on Place de Brouckère and scheme extended to Place de la Monnaie and Bourse in 2023. The City of Brussels then developed its own reusable tableware scheme and supplied outlets on Place de Brouckère, Monnaie and Bourse (excluding specific formats);
- ✔ Launch of a system to reuse, redistribute and redevelop surplus food from the market;
- ✔ Waste sorting for retailers;
- ✔ Recyclable waste sorting increased and improved for the public;
- ✔ Promotion of accreditation for artisans participating in the Christmas market;
- ✔ Reviewing and strengthening a mobility plan specific to the event period;
- ✔ Specific adaptations for disabled people;
- ✔ Since 2022, launch of a family-friendly facility, the Baby Corner;
- ✔ Since 2022, so-called dry toilet technology on Place de Brouckère;
- ✔ Collaborations with more and more artists, associations, Brussels or Belgian organizations;
- ✔ Supporting and promoting campaigns against street harassment;
- ✔ Staff training in first aid and the 5D method (to be better prepared to react when witnessing harassment);
- ✔ Reinforcement of the cleaning teams of the City of Brussels and Brussels Major Events ;
- ✔ Creation of a Happy Team that keeps the infrastructures of the event site as clean as possible (toilets, tables, bars...).

Investigation and analysis have remained ongoing over the years to continue our research and ensure the progressive launch of new measures.



Accessibility, a crucial issue during Winter Wonders

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Brussels Central Station is strategically located in the city centre. Therefore, we strongly recommend travelling to the event by public transport. In addition, to avoid the major works ongoing in Brussels and surrounding areas in this busy Christmas and New Year period, public transport is a simple and comfortable way to get to Winter Wonders.

At the weekend, single and return train journeys (Friday at 19:00 to Sunday) are half price. Train users can also access station car parks at a reduced rate. More details on www.belgiantrain.be

The numerous public transport options serving Winter Wonders represent a major asset in terms of accessibility. The STIB stations Gare Centrale, Bourse, De Brouckère, and Sainte-Catherine allow visitors to reach the heart of the event via metro lines 1 and 5, trams 3 and 4, as well as numerous bus lines. These metro stations are equipped with elevators, making it accessible for people with reduced mobility to reach the heart of the event. More information at www.stib-mivb.be.

Bicycles and scooters

Cycling remains an easy and flexible way of getting around. Bike shelters are available in and around Winter Wonders throughout the event. Shared bike hire is also possible via Villo! and the many shared mobility applications. Over 800 underground parking places accessible 24/24 via an elevator or staircase are available in the Bourse and De Brouckère stations. Access to secure places is via a €30/year subscription connected to the Mobib

carte. Nonsecure places are also accessible for occasional use.

More information on <https://mobilite-mobiliteit.brussels/fr/se-deplacer/mobilite-partagee#APPS>

Shared cycles and scooters can't be parked on the event route. Drop zones are in place. The use of scooters is prohibited at Vismet during the five weeks of the event.

Cars

If there's no other alternative, the event remains accessible by car. To avoid any inconvenience, we strongly recommend using Waze or Google Maps to find a park & ride (Ceria or Crainhem), which cost €3 or are free if you have a STIB transport pass. From there, the heart of Winter Wonders is just twenty minutes away by metro.

It is strongly recommended to follow the signage indicating available parking spaces and to park your vehicle in an Interparking lot located outside the pentagon area, namely: Rogier, Poelaert, Entre 2 Portes, Loi. (special price of €6 from 19:00, up to 5 hours – or €5.40 for Pcard holders) and Passage 44 (€10/24 hours or €9 for Pcard holders, and €6 between 19:00 and 5:00 – or €5.40 for Pcard holders). More details at www.parkandride.brussels – www.parking.brussels – brussels.pcard.be

The area around Vismet is becoming a restricted-access zone during peak times: Friday to Saturday from 16:00 to 23:00 and Sunday from 16:00 to 22:00. Two traffic filters ensure that it is only accessible to badge holders and disabled people.

A Kiss and Ride area remains accessible at all times via Rue du Rouleau. This area is for use as a drop-off and pick-up point for users of local businesses or visitors. Drivers are then asked to park off-street.

The Ecuyer, Monnaie, Brucity and De Brouckère Interparking have adapted parking spaces and elevators.

Parking spaces are also reserved for disabled people throughout the city and in the off-street car parks.

The various points mentioned above are included in the Winter Wonders dynamic map. For more information: www.plaisirsdhiver.be/mobilite

Toilets along the event route are accessible to disabled people with specially designed ramps.

The same applies for the rink and big wheel, which has a wheelchair-accessible capsule.

The floors and cables are adapted so that everyone can cross them.

BABY CORNER @Black Tower

This small cocoon is available at the Office of Early Childhood of the City of Brussels. It allows families to change the baby and warm up a bottle or a meal in complete tranquillity.

DETAILS

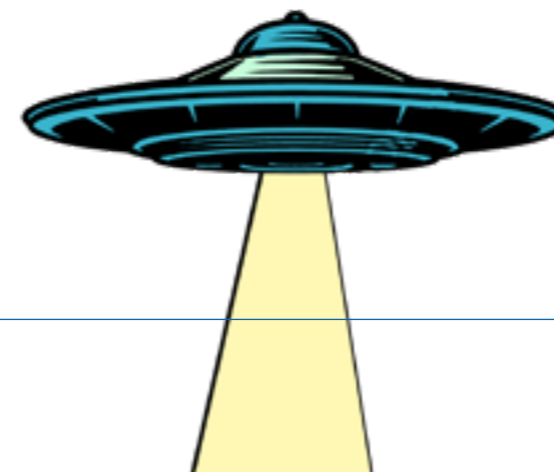
- Office of Early Childhood, entry via n°19 Place Sainte-Catherine
- Every day, from 12pm till 10pm

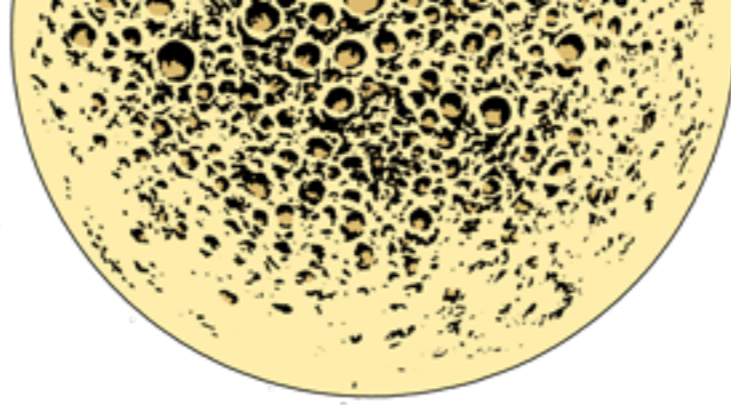
KEEPING BRUSSELS TIDY, an important issue

Sorting for vendors is arranged on each site. Brussels Major Events (BME), responsible for organizing the event, has arranged teams with small electric vehicles to transport waste from the vendors' stalls to a specially designated area and then to the appropriate recycling channels. The collection of used oils is now mandatory for vendors, in collaboration with a partner of their choice. This helps to avoid residual waste and allows for the recycling of used oil.

Nearly 150 sorting islands are deployed across the various Winter Wonders sites. The City Cleaning Service and BME teams are reinforced during this period to offer the public the best possible image of the event. The route is first cleaned daily by mechanized teams. The areas Grand-Place, Bourse, Monnaie, De Brouckère, and Vismet are cleaned simultaneously from 6:30 am.

Once the stalls are open, foot teams take over to maintain the site and empty public bins. During the week, staff is on site until the Christmas market closes.





Where to stay ?

Practical details

Winter Wonders is a 360° experience: the Christmas market, the ice rink, the Giant Ferris Wheel, a trail of illuminated streets... What better way to spend a few magical days in Brussels!

There are a thousand and one accommodation options to suit all tastes and budgets. The organisers recommend two partner hotels in or near the heart of one of the most beautiful Christmas markets in Europe.

AppartHôtel Citadines Sainte-Catherine

Winter Wonders' longstanding partner is ideally located in the very heart of Vismet, a few metres from the big wheel and five minutes from Grand-Place.

INFO

Book via www.discoverasr.com/en/citadines/

The Dominican

The premier Belgian member of Design Hotels™, The Dominican provide 150 elegantly decorated guestrooms and versatile meeting spaces, covering a total 180 sq. m.

Their cutting-edge technology, comprising modulable rooms with retractable partitions, can accommodate up to 120 people, making it the ideal place for both intimate gatherings and major events.

From the sophisticated feel of their contemporary guestrooms and chic lobby to the refined culinary experience of the Grand Lounge restaurant and Lounge Bar, each detail has been meticulously designed to convey timeless luxury.

INFO

Booking with an exclusive 15% discount by booking directly via this link: https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=19023&Chain=5154&config=SBE_Dominican_V1&theme=SBE_Dominican_V1&promo=PLAISIR15

Friday 29/11/2024 to Sunday 05/01/2024.

HOURS

Daily from 12:00 to 22:00, except the 24th, 31/12/2024 and 05/01/2025 from 12:00 to 18:00.

HOW TO GET HERE:

<https://www.plaisirsdhiver.be/en/mobility/>

Organization:

→ Adelaïde de Patoul, spokesperson of Brussels Major Events asbls, a.depatoul@bmeo.be, +32 (0) 496 87 88 86

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- François Descamps, Office of the Alderman of Climate and Sport and of the Alderman of Mobility, [@francois.descamps@brucity.be](mailto:francois.descamps@brucity.be), [+32 \(0\) 474 90 28 39](tel:+3220474902839)
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Partners

The City of Brussels and the organizers are delighted to be able to count on the support of our enthusiastic partners. Big thanks to them all!

Thanks to these multiple partnerships, creative and fun activities are organized to make visitors feel even more special.

