



Tour Information



The Battle of Waterloo





Travel

Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

Visas

You do not need a visa for short trips to Belgium. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Belgian Embassy: 17 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EE. Tel: (0)20 7470 3700. London@diplobel.fed.be

For visa information: Tel: 0871 376 0023, or visit www.vfs-be-uk.com.

Open Mon-Fri 0900-1200.



Tickets

The tour manager will distribute Eurostar tickets on the morning of departure after the visit to Apsley House.

Train Seats

On all legs of the journey, you have reserved seat and carriage numbers which are shown clearly on your ticket.



Baggage

As with most trains, passengers are responsible for carrying baggage onto and off the train. Baggage can be stored on overhead shelves or at the entrance to the carriages. Trolleys are available at St Pancras and Lille, but bags do need to be carried on to the platform. Porters are sometimes but not always available at St Pancras.

Travel Editions recommends a luggage delivery service called **thebaggageman**, where your suitcase can be picked up from your home before departure and delivered straight to your hotel; therefore removing the worry about carrying your cases onto and off the trains.

For further information:

<http://www.thebaggageman.com>

Transfers

Your tour manager will meet you at **10.30** on Park Lane (A4202), on the **opposite side of the road** to the London Hilton on Park Lane Hotel. They will then direct you to the coach to deposit your luggage before the visit to Apsley House. After the visit, you will be transferred by coach to St Pancras for your Eurostar to Brussels.

On arrival in Brussels, transfer by coach to the four-star Marivaux Hotel for check in for a three-night stay.

Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.



Accommodation

Marivaux Hotel, Brussels

Located about 500 metres from the historic Grand Place on elegant Blvd Adolphe Max, the four-star Marivaux Hotel is converted from an old cinema and is the perfect base for this tour. This comfortable hotel offers a restaurant, bar and stylishly decorated bedrooms with private bathroom, hairdryer, minibar, TV, telephone, wi-fi, safe, and coffee/tea making facilities.

For more information visit the hotel website:

<http://www.hotelmарivaux.be/en/>



Food

Belgium's food specialities extend far beyond just beer, chocolate, chips and waffles. This small country has rich local resources with fish and mussels harvested from the North Sea, pheasant, rabbit and venison from the forested hills of the Ardennes, and excellent beef and lamb from the Flemish polders.

Traditional dishes include *moules frites*, *stoemp* (mashed potato with leeks and carrots), *witloof en oven* (endives wrapped in ham and covered in cheese sauce), *waterzooi* (fish or chicken and vegetable broth), *paling in't groen* (eel cooked in a sauce of spinach, herbs and white wine), *lapin aux pruneaux* (rabbit cooked with prunes and beer), *Façon à la brabançonne* (pheasant cooked in butter with Brussel sprouts and endives), and *filet américain* (or *steak tartare*, raw mincemeat mixed with egg, onion and capers).

You will find plenty of places to enjoy a meal or snack, ranging from the Michelin-Starred to the humble *fritkot* (chip stand).

Watch out for restaurants offering a lunchtime special set menu – *dagschotel* or *plat du jour* – they offer great value for money. Usually, a discretionary service charge is added to your bill in restaurants and bars, and no further tipping is required, although if service is considered excellent, it is customary to round up the bill.



Drink

Over 400 beers are brewed in Belgium – ranging from the mass-produced lagers like *Stella Artois* to the local, artisanal microbreweries. You will find everything from brown ales, amber ales, white beers, Flemish reds, Indian pale ales, to stouts and Lambic beers. *Trappist* beers, such as *Chimay*, *Achel*, *Orval*, *Rochefort*, *Westmalle* and *Westyleteren*, are brewed in Trappist monasteries, with monks taking an active part in the production process and the profits supporting the monastery. *Bières d'Abbaye*, the best known being *Leffe* and *Grimbergen*, however, are commercially brewed, just using the name and recipe of former monastic breweries. Try a *Hoegaarden* for a white beer, *Lambics* and *Guezes* for oak-aged beers, a *Duvel* for a blonde ale, a local *Cantillon* (microbrewed in Brussels), or if you prefer something sweeter, the cherry-flavoured *Kriek*.

The local spirit is *Jenever*, similar to gin, originally flavoured with juniper berries.

Meals included in the price of your holiday are:

Breakfast – daily

Dinner - on the first and second evening.

Taking food and drink into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or products containing them into EU countries.



Destination

Brussels

Europe's administrative capital and easily reached in just over 2 hours from London; Brussels is lively, wealthy and receptive and has always been willing to embrace new ideas and philosophies. Brussels grew from a small rural settlement on the river Senne to become an important city-region in Europe. Since the end of the Second World War, it has been a major centre for international politics and home to numerous international organisations, politicians, diplomats and civil servants. The city is home to many world class museums, such as the *Art and History Museum* with its objects from various civilisations, or just take time to wander through the streets of the old town to admire the *Grand Place*, *City Hall* and *Cathedral of Saints Martin and Gudule*.

For more information about Brussels, please visit:
<http://visitbrussels.be/>

Apsley House

Henry Bathurst, Baron Apsley, commissioned architect Robert Adam to build him a new house at a cost of £10,000 in 1771. Be amazed by the glittering interiors of the grandest address in the capital, once known as 'Number 1 London'. This beautiful Georgian building was the London home of the first Duke of Wellington and has changed very little since his great victory at Waterloo in 1815. Enjoy one of the finest art collections in London, with paintings by Velazquez and Rubens, as well as a wonderful collection of silver and porcelain.

For more information about Apsley House, please visit:
<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/apsley-house/>

Wellington Museum

People come from all over the world to find out about the events of 18th June 1815. This was the battle that brought an end to the 22 years of war of the Revolution and of the Empire. From then on Europe would know a relative peace. In 1815, the former Bodenghien inn, a building dating from 1705 that now houses the Wellington Museum, was a coaching inn. This vast construction was chosen by the British Military as headquarters for all the army

staff. The Duke of Wellington, commander-in-chief of the allied armies, stayed here on the nights of 17th and 18th June 1815.

For more information about the museum, please visit:
<http://www.museewellington.be/>

Mont St Jean Farm

The Farm of Mont-Saint-Jean, property of the Order of the Hospital of Saint-Jean ("The Order of the Knights Templar" which becomes "The Order of Malta"), served as a hospital to the allied armies during the battle of Waterloo. Since the 18th of June 2015, it houses the new "British Ambulance" Museum devoted to the treatments used on casualties during the battle on the 18th June 1815. After the battle, working continuously for nearly four days local doctors and surgeons operated on 6000 allied soldiers. They amputated without anaesthesia or antiseptic precautions. The amputated limbs "piled up in the four corners of the farm's courtyard". The importance of the site of Mont-Saint-Jean to the warring parties is evidenced by Napoleon's reference to the event as the 'The Battle of Mont-Saint-Jean' and not the Battle of Waterloo.

For more information about Mont St Jean, please visit:
<https://fermedemontsaintjean.be/en/#>

1815 Memorial

The Memorial Museum: explore the history of the battle through uniforms, historical items, animated maps, a pioneering 3D film and includes the following important related sites.

<https://www.waterloo1815.be/en/the-site/>

Hougoumont Farm

This historic farmhouse, the last authentic witness to the battle on 18 June 1815, accommodates a pioneering multimedia installation that tells the story of the "battle within the battle". Hougoumont Farm was the scene of fierce and deadly fighting. It is located in a forward position that protected the Allies' right flank and was where Napoleon's brother sparked off the battle. What was only supposed to be a diversionary manoeuvre at first

became the most violent point of the battle. Throughout the day, the French assaults here were furious but in vain. The main building was burned to the ground. The house we see today is in fact the former gardener's cottage.

Lion's Mound

The Lion's Mound is a monument 40 metres high, erected in 1826 at the request of William I, King of the Netherlands, who wished to commemorate the spot where his elder son, the Prince of Orange, is presumed to have been wounded on 18 June 1815. It has a colossal lion at the top that symbolises the victory of the monarchies. From the top of the 226 steps, the view encompasses the entire Battlefield. An orientation plan and various signs help you to grasp the movements of the troops and to understand the square formations of the infantry, the deployments of the cavalry and the importance of the site's topography.

The Panorama

The Panorama is a vast, circular building housing a canvas painted in 1912 by Louis Dumoulin, a renowned professional painter whose 'Panorama du Tour du Monde' (voyage around the world) was presented at the Universal Exhibition in Paris in 1900. Its spectacular dimensions – 110 metres in circumference and 12 metres high – and the exceptional soundtrack plunge you right into the midst of the battle. You will be surrounded on all sides by battle scenes, the clashing of sabres, cavalry charges and cannon blasts.

Eglise Sainte Catherine

The St. Catherine church is a church -style neo-gothic located in Plancenoit village, in the province of Brabant Wallon. She is known for the commemorative plaques of the Battle of Waterloo.

Napoleon's Last Headquarters

17 June 1815. The emperor ordered them to stop and his aides de camp spotted an unoccupied residence. It was The Caillou Farm. It will be Napoleon's Last Headquarters. The emperor, surrounded by his General Staff, spent the night of 17th to 18th June 1815 camped in the orchard under the protection of the Imperial Guard. The next day's battle plans were drawn up in the rooms of the farmhouse. The day after Napoleon's defeat, the Prussians burned down the farm. Ruined, Farmer Boucquéau made the decision to sell the Caillou to a farmer in Vieux-Genappe, Jean Joseph Aubry. He, having restored some of the ruins,

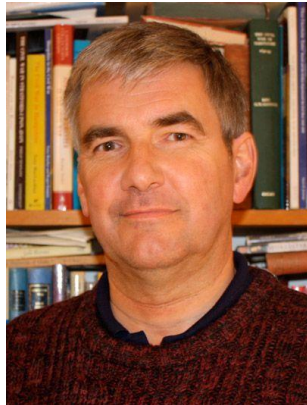
converted the main building into a tavern. In 1823, the farm was converted into a coaching inn by its next purchaser, Désiré François, before becoming the property of the provincial architect, Emile Coulon, in 1869. Emile Coulon was the first to become aware of the historical interest of this residence and paid special attention to its restoration and conservation. He transformed the building in 1889, giving it its present appearance. He purchased some furniture from Boucquéau's son: three tables, two chairs and a Tournai rug (still to be seen by visitors to the Museum) that Napoleon had used to draw up his battle plan. On the occasion of the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo in 2015, the Museum was completely renovated. The museum highlights the events of this famous night through testimonies and anecdotes from civilian and military life, all in an authentic setting.

For more information about Napoleon's Last Headquarters, please visit:

<https://www.dernier-gg-napoleon.be/en/home/>

Your guide

Julian Humphrys - Julian read history at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has worked at historical sites both in Britain and overseas and is now a trustee of the Battlefields Trust and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has a



very infectious enthusiasm for history and has published numerous books on castles and battles. He currently leads more than a dozen tours for Travel Editions and imparts his extraordinary historical knowledge with wit and panache, making a tour led by him both an educational and entertaining experience.

Julian will give 2 talks during your trip:

“The Scum of the earth: Wellington's Army”

“Emperor in exile: Napoleon on St Helena,”

Tour manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operated according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Grading

This tour has been graded as **Demanding**: On your feet all day, uneven terrain (e.g. cobbles).



The Basics

Climate – The weather in Brussels at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared.

Time – GMT +2 hours (Summer time Apr-Oct); GMT + 1 (Standard time Nov-Mar).

Language – French & Flemish.

Religion – Roman Catholic.

National holidays – New Year's day (01 Jan); Easter Monday; Labour day (01 May); Ascension day; Whit Sunday; Whit Monday; Independence day (21 Jul); Assumption of Mary (15 Aug); All Saints' day (01 Nov); Armistice day (11 Nov); Christmas day (25 Dec); Boxing day (26 Dec).

Currency – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

Banks – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in all towns and cities, as well as airports, major train stations and other spots. They usually offer an attractive exchange rate. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros.

Credit cards – American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted across the country. If you're eating at a restaurant, check prior to the meal that your card will be an acceptable form of payment. Even in cities, it's advisable to carry a supply of cash with you at all times. Varying amounts of commission can be charged.

Electricity – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

Drinking water – Tap water is safe to drink. (Although you'll find a huge amount of bottled water for sale too)

Shops and museums – Shops are open Mon-Sat 1000-1800/1900. Department stores often remain open longer, up to 2100 on Friday. Outside main areas, some shops may close at lunchtime.

Please note that most museums are closed on Mondays.

Clothes & Shoes – You may like to bring a warm sweater for cool evenings. Light rain wear for the occasional storm and good grip/flat walking shoes are recommended.

Camera – bring plenty of memory cards/film and any spare camera batteries as these are not always available. Please check with your guide before photographing people.

Bath plugs – The hotel has plugs for basins, but it is useful to carry a 'universal' one with you.

Telephones/mobiles – You should be able to use your mobile phone whilst away, depending on your operator and contract. The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges you might get from 1 January 2021. A new law means that you're protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you're abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

Tipping – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.



Health

Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a doctor.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.



Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will arrange hospital transport.

Keep receipts for insurance claims.

General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit For Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk

Sun Protection

Always ensure you take sufficient sun protection and moisturiser. A sun hat and sunglasses are also advisable.

Inoculations

You should check with your own doctor and take their advice as to which inoculations are required for the country you are visiting, as only they know your medical history and recommendations are liable to change at short notice.



Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>



Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

00 44 20 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

00 44 7841 023807

00 44 7831 133079

PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

If you find that you are in need of consular assistance during your holiday:

British consulate Brussels

Avenue des Nerviens 9-31

1040 Brussels

Belgium

Tel: 0032 2 287 62 11

consularsection.brussels@fco.gov.uk

Open by appointment only. In an emergency, please call 0032 2 287 62 11.

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