

2009 in Brussels :

Comics, beach, music and Christmas

This year, Brussels will spruce itself up to welcome tourists from all over the world. The city will immerse itself in festivities through four major events:



The year of the comic strip in Brussels

From 28 February 2009 to 3 January 2010 • www.brusselscomics.com

Why «BRUSSELS 2009 BD COMICS STRIP»? The various authorities in Brussels have decided to focus the 2009 tourism year on comic strips. This is a natural choice, for a city that is home to the many creators of comic strips and which has given birth to a number of legendary figures of the ninth art: Hergé (Tintin), Franquin (Gaston Lagaffe) and Peyo (The Smurfs) are all from Brussels.

The city is also home to **the Belgian Comic Strip Centre** (CBBB/ BCB), in a superb Art Nouveau building, and will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2009. Brussels also has a long tradition of celebrating things.

So whether we are talking about exhibitions, events or the city's walls (featuring murals as well as outstanding installations), 2009 will be a great opportunity to highlight the ninth art in the capital of Europe.

In 2009, Brussels will be more of a capital than ever before!

Welcome to Brussels!



Bruxelles Les Bains

From 17 July 2009 to 23 August 2009 • www.bruxelleslesbains.be

Behind this event lies the concept of an **urban beach**, complete with a little Brussels sauce. Lined up along the canal are over a kilometre of beaches, sports, music and activities for kids. And everything is free of charge!

Bruxelles Les Bains also provides about 50 straw huts inviting you to enjoy food and drinks from all over the world.

In 2009, **explore the world of Bruxelles Les Bains**, a unique adventure. For Bruxelles Les Bains is the perfect spot for relaxing, taking it easy and above all enjoying the summer holidays!

It's the place to B!



Brussels Summer Festival

From 21 to 30 August 2009 • www.brusselsummerfestival.com

For its **eighth edition**, the Brussels Summer Festival will welcome old friends and friends-to-be for 10 days with more than **150 concerts**, theatre, street activities and shows for children, movies, expositions...

These will mostly be free or for a token sum. The programme of festivities includes rock, world music, jazz, hip hop, folk, reggae and electronic music – held in the **city's most attractive squares** and numerous partner bars.



Winter Wonders

From 27 November 2009 to 03 January 2010 • www.winterwonders.be

To celebrate the **Christmas and New Year holidays** and their special warm, colourful, gastronomic and festive atmosphere, the City of Brussels will again be hosting Winter Wonders.

Along an illuminated walk-route of more than two kilometres, the project brings together all the cultural, traditional and fun activities scattered between the Place St. Jean and the Marché aux Poissons. It includes:

The Electrabel Nights on the Grand'Place:

Discover a **musical and illuminated fairyland**, which quite literally immerses spectators in the heart of Christmas magic, against the backdrop of the 'most beautiful theatre in the world'. It features a magnificent sound and light show that lights up the skies of our dark winter days. **You are sure to be enchanted!**

Christmas Market: festive handicrafts, gastronomy and activities

Belgium's largest Christmas market, made up of 240 chalets located around the Bourse (Stock Exchange) and on the Marché aux Poissons. Belgian artisans and those from abroad offer their specialities, original gifts and tasteful decorations. The atmosphere is enhanced by frequently organised activities – with street artists, brass bands, processions on foot, choirs and amusement rides for the kids.

A guest of honour (a city, country or region) traditionally occupies Place Ste. Catherine to present its handicrafts, gastronomy, culture and so on.



Skating rink

Covering an area of more than **1,000 square metres** and able to accommodate up to 300 people, the Winter Wonders skating rink is open every day on the Marché aux Poissons to welcome visitors who enjoy thrills and a few spills. The youngest have their very own skating rink.

More than **45,000 delighted skaters** glided across the rink in 2008. The Wall Street Journal even awarded the venue a 'gold medal' for the quality of its ice, after a panel of judges had looked at all the open-air rinks in Europe.

The two-km route

Move between the event's various main areas by walking along **an illuminated route, featuring a sound system** and enlivened by street artists. To guide the visitor, there are arches and other illuminated totems marking the walk.

Brussels Card and Winter Wonders

Entitles holders to get into 30 Brussels museums and to travel for free on the city's public transport, plus discounts in some restaurants, shops and tourist attractions, as well as four special offers to make the very most of Winter Wonders (two hot drinks for the price of one in the brasserie, half-price entry to the skating rink, a ride on the Big Wheel for the child rate, and 25% off all Winter Wonders souvenirs).

www.brusselscard.be

If you would like to include these events in your packages, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

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