

# Belgium

Belgium, a country in Western Europe, is known for medieval towns, Renaissance architecture and as headquarters of the European Union and NATO. The country has distinctive regions including Dutch-speaking Flanders to the north, French-speaking Wallonia to the south and a German-speaking community to the east. The bilingual capital, Brussels, has ornate guildhalls at Grand-Place and elegant art-nouveau buildings.

# Belgian Cuisine

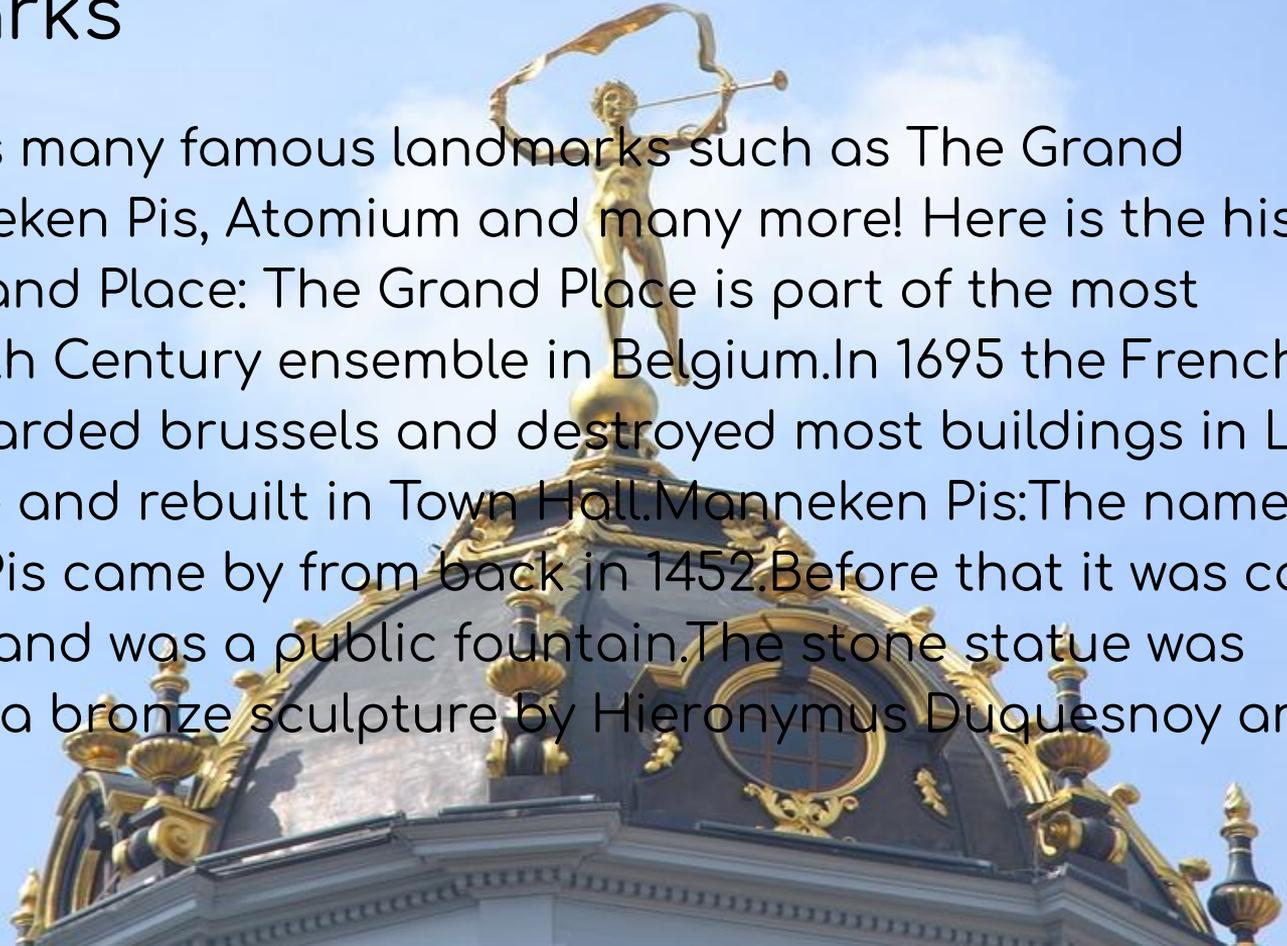
Belgian Cuisine is widely varied with significant regional variations while also reflecting the cuisines of neighbouring France, Germany and the Netherlands. It is sometimes said that belgian food is served in the quantity of german cuisine but with the quality of french food. Breakfast usually consists of bread and cheese, such as sliced Gouda, jam and honey. On Sunday or for a special treat, people typically flock to the bakeries in the early morning and buy croissants and crispy bread rolls. Belgians favor (strong) coffee in the morning, although tea has gained some ground.

# Belgian Traditions

For traditions Belgian people celebrate quite a lot of traditions. Just like St. Nicholas, Masked orange-pelting figures at Carnival de Binche, Roaming giants at the Ducasse of Ath. Quite a lot with long names. Here is what they do on some of these traditions. Carnival de Binche : There is a special breakfast eaten at 7am that would be champagne and oysters then all societies dance wearing wax masks holding a ramon to mark rhythm and to get rid of winter chill. Roaming giants: It happens in a small town that has parades on the 4th week of August it stars 7 giants with biblical and folkloric connotations.

# Landmarks

Belgium has many famous landmarks such as The Grand Place, Manneken Pis, Atomium and many more! Here is the history of some. Grand Place: The Grand Place is part of the most beautiful 17th Century ensemble in Belgium. In 1695 the French army bombarded Brussels and destroyed most buildings in La Grand Place and rebuilt in Town Hall. Manneken Pis: The name of Manneken Pis came by from back in 1452. Before that it was called Petit Julien and was a public fountain. The stone statue was replaced to a bronze sculpture by Hieronymus Duquesnoy an elder in 1619.

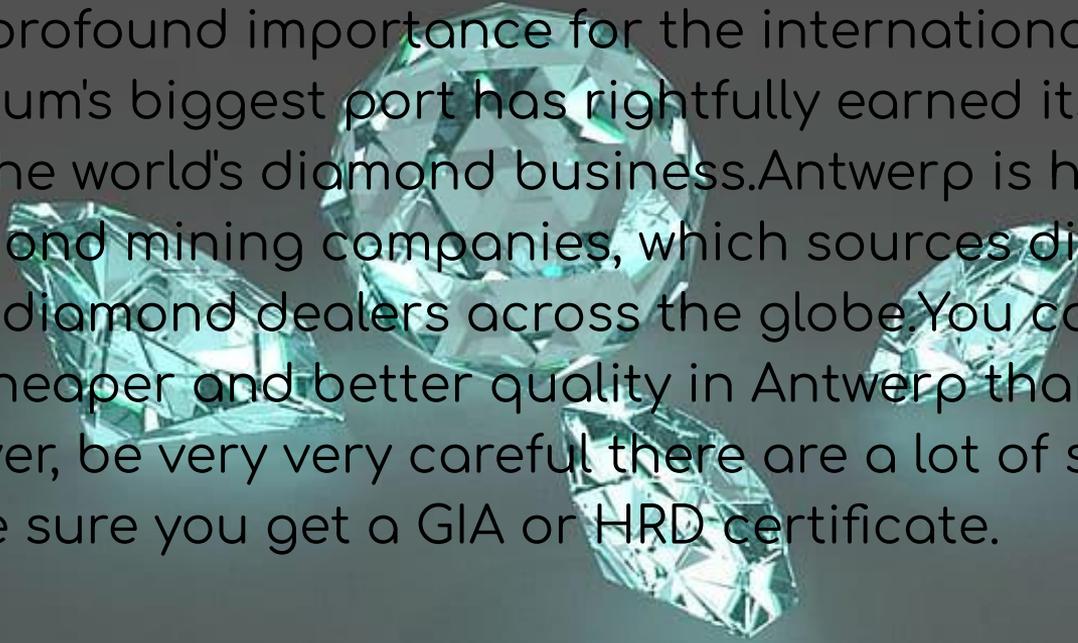


# What Is Belgium Famous For?

Belgium has a long tradition of chocolate making. Belgian chocolate couverture and baking chocolate are characteristically more buttery, medium sweet with medium bitterness. Filled Belgian chocolates such as truffles and molded pralines are very often in a fanciful shape and filled with butter creams or ganache. The country's love of chocolate goes back to the 19th Century, when cocoa was shipped home from Congo, which had become its new African colony. The Belgian chocolate industry became world famous following the invention of the praline, a chocolate shell with a soft centre.

# What Is Belgium Famous For?

A place of profound importance for the international diamond trade, Belgium's biggest port has rightfully earned its place as the capital of the world's diamond business. Antwerp is home to all major diamond mining companies, which sources diamonds for thousands diamond dealers across the globe. You can get a diamond cheaper and better quality in Antwerp than anywhere else. However, be very very careful there are a lot of scammers out there. Make sure you get a GIA or HRD certificate.



# Fun Facts

- Belgium got its name from the Romans.
- Antwerp is the diamond capital of the world.
- New York was founded by a belgian.
- Belgium holds the record for longest period without a government.
- Cricket, the classic sport of England was invented in Belgium!



# Fun Facts

- The king of Belgium is Philippe of Belgium.
- The capital of Belgium is Brussels.
- The prime minister of Belgium is Sophie Wilmes and she is the first female head of the government of Belgium.
- The population of Belgium is 11,589,623.
- Brussels airport is the world's largest chocolate selling point.

