

Welcome to Brussels!

We hope you will enjoy your stay at [The Dominican](#), a 4-star boutique hotel built on the foundations of a 15th-century Dominican abbey, ideally located just steps away from the historic center. Here are a few tips to exploring some of the best culture, dining, and shopping the Belgian capital has to offer.

Cultural Highlights- In the Historic Center (Within walking distance)

- **The Grand-Place:** Located just a 5-minute walk away, this UNESCO World Heritage site is the beating heart of the city. Admire the gold-leaf facades of the historic guild houses and the majestic Town Hall. Visit “La Maison du Roy” opposite the Town Hall if you want to learn more about the history of Brussels.
- **The Royal St Hubert Gallery:** a few minutes’ walk uphill – a magnificent 19th century glazed shopping arcade (1st in Europe) with bookstores (“Tropismes”), exclusive leatherware (Longchamp, Delvaux, Kaai, ...), all the major chocolate brands, fashion, jewelry, ...
- **Royal Museums of Fine Arts:** Walk uphill toward the Coudenberg district to discover an exceptional art collection, including the **Magritte Museum** and the Royal Museum of Fine arts
- **Royal Palace & Warande Park:** also located in the Coudenberg district. Not accessible but to be admired from the outside.
- **Sablon area:** picturesque square with 15th century gothic church, boutiques (chocolate), home decor (Flamant), antique stores, exclusive handbags/jewelry and best pastries in Brussels (“Wittamer” – see below). On Sunday Morning there is a lovely antiques market organized by the local antiquaires.

Culinary Delights

- [Brasserie Auguste](#) (Top Dinner & Dining Recommendation): Located right on the iconic Grand-Place, this upscale brasserie is inspired by traditional Parisian style while masterfully revisiting Franco-Belgian cuisine. **They are famous as true specialists in authentic Belgian mussels (*moules-frites*)**, served in a variety of delicious, traditional styles. It is also the perfect spot to enjoy their artisan shrimp croquettes or an excellent Flemish beef stew, all while enjoying a breathtaking view.
- [WOLF Sharing Food Market](#) (The Ultimate Casual Lunch): Located **directly behind The Dominican** along Rue du Fossé aux Loups. This lively, trend-setting indoor food hall features over 15 unique street-food kiosks offering a true global culinary tour—from artisan Syrian flatbreads and fresh homemade pasta to international award-winning pizza, sushi, and smash burgers. Complete with its own on-site organic microbrewery and central bars, it offers an incredibly easy and vibrant weekday lunch deal without needing any reservations.

- [la Belle Maraîchère Accueil - la Belle Maraîchère](#) – fish lovers, head for the Place St Catherine where you will find this excellent restaurant with a long-standing reputation.
- [Welcome to the Colonel | Colonel Brussels](#) – this one is for meat lovers: exclusive meats & cuts, located in the Louise shopping area.

Shopping Destinations

For your shopping needs, Brussels offers several distinct experiences depending on what you are looking for, both easily accessible from the hotel:

1. Rue Dansaert (Trendy & vibrant)

12 min walk – = street just across the Stock Exchange building – exclusive shops (Stijl – fashion designers e.g. Dries Van Noten, YSL, etc.), as well as boutiques (Essentiel Antwerp, Ba&sh, COS, Cotélaç, American Vintage,) and outlets and vintage stores

2. Avenue Louise – Boulevard de Waterloo – Avenue de la Toison d’Or (Luxury, designers & elegance)

Accessible in 10 minutes by metro (Lines 2 or 6 from Rogier station to Louise station), or a short, scenic transit hop right after your lunch at the Sablon.

Boulevard de Waterloo is home to the world's finest haute couture fashion houses (Dior, Chanel, Louis Vuitton) and independent designer boutiques. Avenue de la Toison d’Or offers a mix of boutiques and major retailers. Head for Avenue Louise for brands such as Hugo Boss, MaxMara, Hoff, Zara Home, ...).

3. Rue Neuve (High-street fashion & major brands)

Less than a 5-minute walk north of the hotel. This is the busiest pedestrian shopping street in Belgium. You will find all the major international retail brands (Zara, H&M, Mango, etc.), as well as the **City 2** shopping mall for a convenient, high-energy shopping session.

The Mid-Shopping Lunch Break: Sablon District

- [Au Vieux Saint Martin](#): As you travel between the city center and the high-end stores of Avenue Louise, make sure to schedule a lunch step at the beautiful **Place du Grand Sablon**. This legendary, vibrant brasserie has been a local culinary landmark since 1968. It is renowned for serving a benchmark *filet américain* (**Belgian steak tartare**) alongside crispy fries and homemade mayonnaise. It is the ultimate upscale lunch spot to rest your feet and soak in the trendy, artistic energy of the neighborhood before continuing your shopping spree.
- <https://www.wittamer.com/Wittamer>: Wittamer is considered the best pastry chef in Belgium (“Royal Warranty Holder”)