



Steph's Quick Budget Fact Sheet

Belgium - Antwerp

Quick Facts

- ✓ **Capital:** Brussels
- ✓ **Language:** Dutch (*Flemish*), French & some German
- ✓ **Population:** ± 498,500
- ✓ **Sq. km:** ± 204,5
- ✓ **Currency:** Euros (EUR - €)
- ✓ **Country code:** +32 (3)
- ✓ **Visa:** Schengen Visa. Info [here](#).
- ✓ **Emergency phone:** 101
- ✓ **Vaccinations:** None



History Recap Over 1 Drink

Until 1stAD: Romans. 69AD: Batavian revolts. '5thAD: Franks. 9thAD: Vikings/Norsemen. 1830: Independence from Netherlands, recognized in '39. 1914-18: WWI, neutral. '20: Alliance France. '30: Flanders & Wallonia uni-lingual. '40: WWII – surrenders. '44: Allied forces liberate Belgium. '51: Baudouin king. '58: Formation Benelux (*free movement of workers/goods/ services*). '60: Belgium grants independence to the Congo, '62: to Rwanda (*where they had fueled an entire Hutus-Tutsis genocide*). '92: Maastricht Treaty on EU. '93: Constitution divides Flanders, Wallonia & Brussels administrative regions. Albert II king. '96: Mass protests against inefficiency arrest of child rapist/murderer Marc Dutroux. '99: Dioxin contamination scandal. '02: €. Decriminalizing euthanasia. '03: Nuclear reactors closed by '25. '03: NATO wants law-change w.r.t. Belgian courts charging foreigners for war crimes and crimes against humanity, as high-profile figures are now in trouble (!!!) → '02 indeed dropped (!!!). '04: Extreme right political party stripped of funding and TV access rights: disbanded. '07: No government for 100 days. '08: Benelux injecting tax money in 'rescuing' banks (*instead of the people*). '10: Widespread sexual abuse scandal of priests (*for decades*). '13: King Philippe. '15: Islamic State terror attacks start.

Travel Seasons

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Spring												
Summer												
Autumn												
Winter												
Budget												

Altitude: 15.8m. Climate: Oceanic Climate (Cfb).

Bucket List For Free

☺ **Sights:** Antwerp Central Station, Meir, Zwanenmarkt, Groenplaats, Diamond District, Het Bootje (*Schilder straat–Plaatssnijder straat corner*), Nello and Patrasche statue, Grote Markt & Town Hall & Brabo Fountain, [St. Anna's Tunnel](#), Middelheimpark, Vlaeykensgang, [Antwerp's Port](#), [St. Paul's Church](#), Zurenborg (*Art Nouveau street*), [Steen Castle](#), [Rivierenhof](#), Rubens Statue, Pieter Appelmans Monument, Stadspark, National Bank, [De Zwarte Panter](#), Boeienweide, Sint-Annastrand, Boekenbergpark.

☺ **Free Museums (free last Wed/month):** [Museum aan de Stroom](#), [Museum Plantin Moretus](#), [Rubenshuis](#), [Rockoxhuis](#), [Museum Mayer van den Berg](#).

Worth The Extra \$€¥

👍 **Paid Museums:** [Chocolate Nation](#), [Museum de Reede](#), [Red Star Line Museum](#), [FOMU Foto Museum](#), [Museum of Contemporary Art](#) (*discounts on Thursday evenings*), [DIVA](#), [Museum Vleeshuis](#), [Van Mieghem Museum](#), [MOMU Fashion Museum](#), [Stampe & Vertonge Museum](#), [Poorterswoning](#), [KMSKA](#), [Prison Museum](#), [Emile Verhaeren Museum](#) (*discount >1PM*).

👍 **Other:** Cathedral, [De Koninck Antwerp City Brewery](#), [Antwerpse Brouw Compagnie](#), [Comics Station Antwerp](#), [Maagdenhuis](#).

[Middelheimmuseum](#) (*always free*), [Letterenhuis](#).

☺ **Graffiti:** Check out [this cool Street art map](#) & app.

Budget Bites

⌘ **Big supermarkets:** Aldi, Lidl, Carrefour, Dirk, Delhaize, Albert Heijn. The [TooGoodToGo](#)-app gives extremely low-budget food deals to reduce waste.

⌘ **Markets:** Vrijdagmarkt (*Fri*), Zaterdag-markt (*Sat - Theaterbuurt*), Exotische Markt (*Sat, Theaterplein Oudevaartsplaats*), Bioplein (*Sun, Falconplein*).

⌘ **Local food:** Frieten (*thick french fries*), Frituur (*deep-fried snacks, like bitterballen*), Charcuterie (*preserved meat*), Martino / Filet Américain (*raw spreadable meat on bread*), Mosselen met Friet (*mussels with fries*), Bloedworst (*blood sausage*), Stoemp (*mash pot*), Garnalenkroketten (*shrimp croquettes*), Stoofvlees (*beef stew with fries*), Waterzooi (*creamy fish stew*), Frikadellen met Krieken (*meatballs with cherries*), Konijn met Pruimen (*rabbit with prunes*) Gegratineerde witloof (*chicory-cheese-bechamel dish, really gross*), Pens (*sausage*), Paling in 't Groen (*eel*), Kip met Frieten en Appelmoes (*chicken with fries and apple sauce*), Vol-au-Vent (*stuffed pastry*), Belgian Chocolates, Waffles, Speculoos (*delicious cookies*), Beer.

⌘ **Go vegan:** Being vegan is ridiculously easy in Europe, especially in cities like Antwerp. [Local vegan dishes](#): Frieten, certain 'Frituur', Asparagus and Potato Soup. Check vegan-friendly restaurants here: [Happy Cow – Antwerp](#).

Mama Said

☠ Europe is generally safe, but Antwerp contains the same risks as any other bigger city. Stay alert.

☠ Tap water is drinkable.

☠ If you consider yourself an animal lover, avoid companies such as Antwerp Zoo, where animals are imprisoned out of their natural habitat.

☠ In Antwerp they speak Flemish (*Dutch*), French on the side. 'Antwerpen' and 'Anvers' are the same city.

Next?

➔ **In Belgium:** Gent, Brussels, Brugge, Knokke, Leuven.

➔ **International destinations close by:** The Netherlands, France, UK, Germany, Luxemburg.

Sleep Cheap

❖ Hostels and alternative accommodation are quite expensive in Belgium. Check [Booking.com](#) for deals.

❖ Go [Couchsurfing](#) or Housesitting ([20% discount for Trusted Housesitters via this link!](#)). Also check [WorkAway](#) or [HelpX](#) for work-exchanges.

Festivals

☼ Antwerp Summer Festival: Jun-Aug.

☼ Antwerp Metal Fest: Jul.

☼ Desertfest: Oct.

More festivals [here](#).

Nights Best Spent

◆ **Nightlife areas:** Historical center, Keyserlei, het Zuid... Café Beveren has a dance organ, and Café 't Elfde Gebod a colorful collection of religious statues.

◆ **Theatres:** De Roma, Koningin Elisabethzaal, Vlaamse Opera, Brouillasschouwburg, Stadsschouwburg Antwerpen, Theater Elckerlyc, Toneelhuis, Theater Het Klokhuis, Noordtheater, Arenbergschouwburg, Fakkeltheater, Sportpaleis, Trix, Roxy. Kinopolis is a leisure centre and Europe's biggest cinema.

Free-Riding?

■ Walking is an excellent option to see the more subtle details of Antwerp. Most sights in the historical centre and neighbouring areas can be reached by foot.

■ Biking is another fun way to explore. Antwerp's local bike share system is called [Velo](#), every first 30 minutes are free of charge, a day pass is €4.

■ Antwerp has an excellent public transport system, consisting out of buses and trams. You can buy a ticket from the driver, but it's much cheaper in kiosks/supermarkets/ticket machines or via [De Lijn app](#).

■ Antwerp's central train station is a sightsee-stop on its own. There are other stations called Antwerpen Luchtbal, Antwerpen Zuid, Antwerpen Oost, Antwerpen Noorderdokken en Antwerpen Berchem. It's much cheaper to buy your ticket online at the [NMBS website](#). Budget bus line [Flixbus](#) also serves Antwerp.

■ Airports: Antwerp Airport (ANR), Brussels Airport (BRU).

The Earth Becomes My Throne