



PLAISIRS D'HIVER WINTERPRET

24.11 > 31.12.2023*

*PROLONGATIONS > 07/01 @ place de Bourckère, place de la Monnaie, Grand-Place
VERLENGING > 07/01 @ De Brouckère-, Muntplein & Grote Markt

plaisirsdhiver.be / winterpret.be

PRESS RELEASE

City of Brussels, Monday 20 November 2023 – **In a few days, Winter Wonders will open its doors from 24 November to 31 December 2023 in the center of Brussels, with an extension of the festivities on Place De Brouckère, Place de la Monnaie and Grand-Place until 7 January 2024.**

Winter Wonders kicks off at midday on Friday 24 November. The festive inauguration will take place on the same day from 6pm, with a gathering on the Grand-Place sublimated by the 11 Indigenous Nations of Quebec, the guest of honour of Winter Wonders. The lighting of the Christmas tree will be followed by traditional indigenous dances and chants, and the first broadcast of the sound and light show.

The City of Brussels continues to introduce innovative features and eye-catching installations every year: the 11 Indigenous Nations of Quebec are proud to present their heritage and culture at the Bourse, curling rinks are coming to the ice rink on Place De Brouckère, and afterski parties with DJ sets are taking place there every Thursday. Children's activities bring a fairytale atmosphere to the Tour Noire every Wednesday and Sunday, and an art installation with swings is taking up residence on the Mont des Arts under the name Éloge de l'air, along with other surprises.

"It's time once again for the most eagerly awaited event of the festive season, with the opening of Winter Wonders. We can't wait for our residents and other visitors to come and enjoy all the activities planned in the city center and in the various neighbourhoods. The magic and warmth of Winter Wonders will embellish the city," says Philippe Close, Mayor of the City of Brussels.

Over the years, the City has pursued its efforts to make its events ever more sustainable. In collaboration with a number of Brussels organisations (Rock The City, Brussels Expo, etc.) and the financial support of the National Lottery, it is supplying reusable tableware to traders on Place De Brouckère, Place de la Monnaie and Place de la Bourse. The organisers and the city's departments are also working together on cleanliness, mobility, and safety to ensure that the capital is as pleasant as possible for its many visitors.

"Winter Wonders is the biggest event organised by the City of Brussels, and it aims to set an example for the challenges of today and tomorrow. By equipping them with reusable tableware, we're helping traders on the road to sustainability. These choices also enable us to respond to climate-related issues, as well as cleanliness, by limiting the amount of waste produced by several tons", stated Benoit Hellings, Alderman for Climate and Sports.

The great classics such as the Christmas market and the well-known attractions, as well as the cultural activities that make Winter Wonders even more exceptional, continue to attract visitors in large numbers to this major event. With 3.5 million tourists and Belgians visiting the city center last year, Winter Wonders reinforces Brussels' appeal during the end-of-year period.

"Winter Wonders is a much-anticipated event, not only for Belgians and tourists, but also for retailers, food service operators and hospitality professionals, who are constantly stepping up their creativity to make our city even more magical," concludes Fabian Maingain, Alderman for Economic Affairs, Employment, Administrative Simplification, and the Smart City.

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