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BRUXELLES 26.11 > 02.01.2022 BRUSSEL

Media Kit

EDITORIAL

For its twentieth anniversary, Winter Wonders is back with twice as much magic and creativity to celebrate with locals and visitors.

This year, we're not focusing on a country or region. Instead, we're going full steam ahead with... trains! To mark European Year of Rail and the Europalia Festival, Winter Wonders is running a series of exclusive events and activities around trains and travel.

The theme reiterates the importance of access to and use of rail services across Europe. The choice also illustrates the City of Brussels's ambition to organize events meeting the highest social, environmental and economic standards. Not forgetting our goal to develop more sustainable tourism too.

The pandemic has hit many sectors hard, including culture, events and hospitality. Unfortunately, Winter Wonders couldn't happen in 2020 and the City of Brussels is thrilled to be getting our must-visit event back on track this year.

Holding Winter Wonders is especially important as it supports local jobs in our shops and hotels, not forgetting artists and technicians.

From 26 November to 2 January, this major national and international showcase for the City of Brussels is staging a series of activities to lift everyone's mood. And we really need that for our mental health, which has been tested in recent months. That's why we've prepared a few new additions for you, with an even bigger and better programme.

As in previous years, Winter Pop is also being organized in collaboration with local groups to take a whole host of entertaining and creative activities out into the community. This initiative reflects the ambition to decentralize events throughout the area. It's an opportunity for locals to share good times with family or friends right where they live.

For five weeks, the spirit and warmth of the holiday season is filling our city again.

Let's come back together, safely, to share the festive fun we missed so much!

**Delphine Houba, Alderwoman of Culture,
Tourism and Big Events for the City of Brussels.**

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1. WINTER WONDERS, A PLACE OF INTERACTION AND INCLUSION

From Friday 26 November to Sunday 2 January, the City of Brussels is celebrating the twentieth anniversary of Winter Wonders. Our must-visit event fills the heart of the capital with magic and sparkle, creating a fun, festive and fairytale feel.

For locals and visitors from all destinations, this anniversary edition means new discoveries and old favourites. To mark the end of European Year of Rail, we're showcasing travel and trains, themes that are subtly present throughout the route. Winter Wonders is finally ready to elevate the centre of Brussels once again and contribute to boosting the capital's attractiveness during the holiday season.

The City of Brussels is hoping to lift the spirits of locals and visitors alike.

Winter Wonders combines style and substance with Christmas tradition and, to bring something new and keep you enthralled over the five weeks, a sackload of new additions and fantastic collaborations. After all, the City of Brussels and the organizers pride themselves on embracing innovation with exclusive exciting activities.

That mix of old and new ensures that the event has something for everyone. And makes it a great way to spend quality time with the family.

If it's Winter Wonders there must be a giant tree and life-size Nativity scene on our beloved Grand-Place, all framed by a spectacular sound and light show. And if it's Winter Wonders there must be an ice rink. And a big wheel, stunning illuminations, merry-go-rounds, exhibitions, brass bands and choirs. Not forgetting the wood chalets with their delicious smells tempting foodies at every turn and bursting with original gift ideas.

These unmissable attractions are sharing the space with a series of new additions this year, including a free 270° immersive projection bringing to life the stately facades of the unsung Place du Musée, a customized train carriage on Carrefour de l'Europe, fascinating frescoes, the designer village in Galerie Anspach...

The Winter Wonders Christmas market has become one of the most popular in Europe because of its inventive approach to end-of-year celebrations and the huge range of activities on offer.

As if that wasn't enough, Winter Wonders includes the Winter Pop popup village for the fourth time, taking seasonal cheer to the City of Brussels's four districts over four consecutive weekends.

As for health and safety, the ice rink is following the Covid Safe Ticket protocol and a one-way system has been introduced at Vismet. The City of Brussels and the organizers are in constant contact with the authorities and will take all necessary steps decided by them.

2. GLITTERING NEW ADDITIONS

This year more than ever, there are plenty of new additions thanks to extensive collaborations and an original programme.

THE INTERACTIVE MAP, the new Winter Wonders tool

A new and effective digital mapping tool is being launched.

Directly accessible on the Winter Wonders website, our interactive map provides an aerial view and overview of the event. Visitors can see the locations of the many facilities, attractions, chalets and local traders. There's also a focus on mobility, a top priority for the city centre. It highlights the architectural and natural heritage at the heart of Brussels too.

Filters make it easy to use: drink, food, local traders, decoration, fashion and jewellery... and access to the event.

Design and development in collaboration with the Brussels-based graphic design studio STOEMP. www.stoempstudio.com

THREE NEW INSTALLATIONS

BEHIND THE WALLS

As part of Europalia, the *Tracks to Modernity* exhibition pulled into the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium on 15 October. It's an artistic and historical journey on the theme of the train, the ultimate symbol of modernity in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The theme is explored through works by major artists from that period.

To close European Year of Rail, travel is also under the spotlight during the twentieth edition of Winter Wonders.

That's the ideal opportunity for a new collaboration between the Museums and City of Brussels, which are joining forces to offer a 270° immersive projection throughout the event.

With *Behind the Walls*, Place du Musée becomes an extension of the *Tracks to Modernity* exhibition, a new open-air forum accessible to everyone free of charge. The video creations projected onto the museum's facades make masterpieces of the history of art, most from European collections, visible to a wide audience.

The creation is led by Michel Draguet, Director of the Royal Museums, and Dirty Monitor, the Belgian projection mapping pioneer that's now world renowned. Divided into four sections, the work explores both the depictions of trains through various artistic trends and Freudian psychoanalysis seen by the traveller. The means of transport becomes the thread connecting the various key periods of modernity.

From Mont des Arts, Dirty Monitor's teaser video on the *Behind the Wall* project shows the public the best way to get to Place du Musée.

Place du Musée and Rue du Musée, 1000 Brussels

Launch: 26/11/2021

26/11/2021 to 02/01/2021 – 17:00 to 22:00 daily every thirty minutes.

Credits:

Design: Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium in collaboration with Dirty Monitor

Development: ADC Production.

The City of Brussels and the organizers thank the Royal Library of Belgium and Protestant Chapel.

From 26.11 to 02.01, Monday to Friday, corporate events can be held at the Royal Museums of Fine Arts of Belgium. Details: b2b@bmeo.be

GALAXY EXPRESS

On leaving Brussels Central Station, a spectacular 25-metre-long audiovisual installation is welcoming passers-by at Carrefour de l'Europe: *Galaxy Express*, a nod and homage to the Japanese manga *Galaxy Express 999*.

Galaxy Express showcases a M4-type locomotive — the model initially allocated to SNCB InterCity trains — reinterpreted by French VJing pioneer Romain Tardy.

For the occasion, the revolutionary French digital artist is collaborating with Antoine Goldschmidt, the founder of MagicStreet, on the design and with audiovisual artist Ofer Smilansky on the soundtrack.

The trio has created a vehicle that captures the spirit of the manga series popular from 1978 to 1981. Fully customized and 'tuned', the locomotive is reminiscent of the Japanese dekotora that Stefan Liberski featured at length in his film *Tokyo Fiancée*.

As well as a monumental sculpture, *Galaxy Express* is also a unique sound and light experience that comes to life after dark. The electro score blends cosmic psychedelic notes with a more down-to-earth base.

Created especially for the 2021 Winter Wonders, this monumental artwork is the result of an incredible collaboration with Train World and the SNCB.

Details: Carrefour de l'Europe, 1000 Brussels (opposite Brussels Central Station)

Audiovisual show 17:00 to 22:00 daily from 26/11/21 to 02/01/22

Ten minutes every twenty minutes.

Credits: Romain Tardy (digital artist), Antoine Goldschmidt (design), Ofer Smilansky (soundtrack).

DISCURSIVE MECHANICS

Spearheaded by Beliris, which wanted to take art and light to the pedestrian, the City of Brussels has developed a new project, Discursive Mechanics, to be inaugurated during Winter Wonders.

The piece, which was first planned in 2011, has been developed by the Brussels-based engraver Fred Penelle and the Franco-Swiss video artist Yannick Jacquet, an adopted Belgian. *Discursive Mechanics* has a dual dimension.

In the daytime, the fresco is clearly inspired by traditional engraving techniques.

At night, the facade at 21 Boulevard Anspach takes on another dimension thanks to the animations projected onto the building. This two-man collaboration provides a resolutely contemporary

composition at the frontier of urban and digital arts or between the Gutenberg and big data era. All with diverse and varied references to medieval iconography, animation, pop culture and videogaming.

Discursive Mechanics, which is beautifully incorporated into its environment and urban space, is a call for introspection and reflection.

**Details: façade at 21 Boulevard Anspach, 1000 Brussels.
From 03/12.**

Fresco visible 24/7. Projections from 17:30 to 22:00. Daily.

Credits: Fred Penelle and Yannick Jacquet (artists) – Nicolas Boritch (production).

CREATORS FACTORY, the sustainable market

In 2013, a hallmark was created to identify Christmas market traders as the City of Brussels and the organizers wanted to stress their presence and showcase their work.

As well as the 24 traders already selling 'handmade' products, Winter Wonders is also working with experienced operators that develop and represent arts and crafts throughout the year.

Born from collaboration with the *Christmas Designers Market* and *Fais-Le Toi-Même*, the CREATORS FACTORY is being launched for the first time, a unique market of 'master craftsmen' guided by ethics and sustainability.

For ten days in December, twenty to forty traders will come together in their very own retail space in Galerie Anspach:

From 9 to 12 December, the all-Brussels members of the *Christmas Designers Market* will take centre stage at our Christmas market.

From 18 to 23 December, *Fais-Le Toi-Même* will take its turn to present designers who focus on the sustainability of their productions.

Details: Creators Factory, Galerie Anspach, Rue de l'Évêque 21 (in the old H&M store).

**Launch: live painting with the Brussels-based collective Farm Prod:
Thursday 9 December at 18:00**

Thursday 9 and Friday 10/12: late-night opening from 18:00 to 22:00.

Saturday 11 and Sunday 12/12 and from 18 to 23/12: 12:00 to 19:00.

INCREDIBLE DISCOVERIES

A TROMPE-L'OEIL FRESCO

Infrabel reveals Brussels's hidden depths!

Every year, thousands of passengers and goods crisscross the 300 km of railways in the Brussels region.

The lines are often hidden because they go through bridges, tunnels or between two blocks. Yet they cover Brussels, including the very heart of the historic centre, just a few metres below the surface.

To raise awareness of the intense activity in the depths of the city centre, a striking trompe-l'oeil fresco is on display throughout the event. It literally shines a light on the North–South connection, an essential rail route for Belgian transport. It's an opportunity too to hail the unrecognized work of the men and women who toil daily to maintain and modernize the rail infrastructure, facilitating tomorrow's mobility.

The fresco is a chance for the public to find out more about Infrabel, the rail manager, its business lines and role in society. It's also a chance to get a shot of adrenaline by taking a selfie with the illusion of hanging over a void.

SKY CASTLE @Brussels by Lights


From 30 November to 1 January, an inflatable sculpture is the new light installation kicking off Brussels by Lights. This year's event includes the illumination of 152 streets and arcades in the City of Brussels. The free interactive experience is installed on Esplanade du Rond-Point Schuman.

Details are available in section 5: Brussels by Lights.

THE TRAVELS OF MANNEKEN-PIS

As this year has marked several important rail anniversaries, it's only right that one of Brussels's symbols, if not THE symbol, plays its part.

In fact, 2021 marks 175 years of the Brussels–Paris route. But also 25 years of Thalys, 75 years of the Luxembourg rail link, 30 years of Intercity-Express (ICE) and 10 years of the first European Union whitepaper on Europe's railways.



For the occasion, Manneken-Pis is taking advantage of the 2021 Winter Wonders to celebrate this rail theme, which is an invitation to travel and exploration. The museum display will be entirely redecorated during the event's six weekends.

On 26 November, the legendary *ketje* will officially receive a new outfit, a train conductor gifted by the SNCB, at an official ceremony with all the fuss and fanfare.

Manneken-Pis is being spoiled this holiday season: he will wear the uniform of an STIB driver on 5 December, a Brussels Airlines pilot on 12 December, a polar explorer on 19 December and a cosmonaut on 2 January.

What a programme!

Details: Rue du Chêne, 19 – 1000 Brussels. 26/11, 05, 12, 18/12, 02/01.

COPERNICUS

In collaboration with the European Union Space Programme, Winter Wonders invites you to space travel thanks to a unique digital experience in Brussels Central Station.

The «founts of knowledge» are futuristic screens on which to discover an interactive exhibition presenting concrete and thematic uses of space data, showing us how the EU Space Programme helps us in our everyday life.

European Union satellites enable millions of people across Europe and the world to better communicate, sail safely and more accurately, or be rescued in the event of an emergency. Every flagship project from the EU Space Programme aims to protect our planet and its natural resources, support Europe's industrial and technological leadership and improve living conditions for Europeans.

An enlightening and educational exhibition that's accessible to everyone.



AN APRÈS-SKI VILLAGE

To recreate the winter sports feel in the very heart of Brussels, a fully-fledged 'après-ski' village is coming to Place de la Monnaie. Like the ice rink, it's accessible until 9 January. Young and old can have fun on several artificial sledging slopes and at a 'high-altitude' bar-restaurant selling wine, hot chocolate and fondue, all served in converted ski lift pods. Takeaway food, a huge choice of candy and sweet treats are the other attractions of this little breath of mountain air.

Details: 26/11 to 09/01, Place de la Monnaie.

Price: €5/person for three goes, sledges provided in exchange for ID.

A VERY LOCAL VISUAL

Arnaud Debal and Guillaume Desmarests are two illustrators, artists and active members of Farm Prod. The collective, which has been based in Brussels since 2003, brings several visual artists together for a multitude of creative projects.

Whilst producing prolific collaborative work, each member has developed their individual output. Arnaud and Guillaume have pooled their graphic design and illustration talents to give the 2021 Winter Wonders its new look.

www.farmprod.be



3. BOIS DE LA CAMBRE, A NEW FESTIVE LOCATION

There's a sizable new addition for the twentieth anniversary of Winter Wonders! The City of Brussels is taking the event's festive atmosphere to the magical setting of Bois de la Cambre and opening a new space for leisure and light.

From 3 December to 9 January, this beautiful location is welcoming a whole host of festive activities linking the north and south of the wood, in collaboration with Bois de la Cambre ice rink, Jeux d'Hiver, Chalet Robinson, Woodpecker, the Kiosk and Théâtre de Poche. An ice rink, merry-go-rounds, curling sheets and sledging slopes are available for young and old to enjoy. Several monumental light installations are also enhancing Brussels's green lung.

Winter Wonders invites visitors to a unique experience surrounded by nature, over a hot drink and sweet or savoury snack from the many local retailers. They also provide various original activities.

Winter sports fans, foodies or thrill seekers looking to try something new can (re)discover Bois de la Cambre in its winter finery.

Anyone who already liked this enchanting location is seriously going to fall in love!

Details: Bois de la Cambre, Brussels. 3 December to 9 January. More details to follow.

4. GRAND-PLACE IN GRAND STYLE

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

If there's anything that symbolizes Winter Wonders, it's the famous tree.

It will take pride of place at the centre of the sound and light show revealed to audiences at around 18:00 on 26 November, the event launch day, alongside the traditional Nativity scene.

After being positioned on Grand-Place from 6:00 on Thursday 18 November, it will be decorated during the night of 20 to 21 November. It will come to life for the very first time on Friday 26 November, during the event's launch ceremony, followed by the sound and light show.

SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW ON GRAND-PLACE

HELLO :) WHERE ARE YOU FROM ?

Who better than Magic Monkey to take charge of the sound and light show on Grand-Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site? For just over 25 years, the Brussels-based collective has been unrivalled in its use of space and ability to create a unique connection between the audience and architecture, to a backdrop of videos, lights and music.

Magic Monkey is partnering the composer Charles de Moffarts this year for a 360° sound and light show on the theme of travel and power of meeting new people, as reflected by our Grand-Place, a legendary meeting place visited by tourists from around the world.

It's impossible to describe this emotionally charged show in words. Above all, it's a joyous and festive celebration to be shared by everyone, breaking down boundaries and celebrating diversity.

A cry for unity, *Hello :) Where are you from?* showcases the location's architecture to sounds from the four corners of the globe and encourages us both to travel and live well together.

Details: Grand-Place de Brussels, 1000 Brussels.

Launch: 26/11/2021

Sound and light show: 17:00 to 22:00 26/11/2021 to 02/01/2022.

Monday to Thursday every hour, Friday to Sunday every thirty minutes.

No shows on Fridays 24 and 31 December.

Design: Magic Monkey; Daphné Delbeke and Marc Largent.

Sound design: Charles and Chris de Moffarts.

Light operator: Jimmy Stas.

5. A WELCOMING CHRISTMAS MARKET

Striking a perfect balance between tradition and modernity, the Winter Wonders Christmas market in the very heart of Brussels is one of the most popular in Europe (*source: European Best Destination, European Best Christmas Market*).

Over five weeks, 225 wood chalets fill the city centre, offering the ideal excuse to (re)discover our beautiful capital in winter. They present treasures to delight curious eyes and tickle foodies' taste buds. You can try specialities from around the world and pick up original gifts to give or keep.

After dark, the market is even more fairytale-like with all the lights and decorations creating magical moments.

THE BOURSE

The chalets on Rue Henri Maus provide a link between Grand-Place and the front of the Bourse, an area that has been underused in recent years. The beautiful recently renovated square has been enhanced by a stunning illuminated star under which visitors can find all sorts of mouth-watering delights.

PLACE DE LA MONNAIE

Dit jaar wordt het prachtige Muntplein tot 9This year, the beautiful Place de la Monnaie is being transformed into an après-ski village until 9 January.

Artificial sledging slopes are surrounded by gourmet chalets serving fondue and mulled wine for a typical mountain feel. A wide range of candies and other sweet treats will put a smile on everyone's face.

Full details in section 2: Glittering new additions.

PLACE DE BROUCKÈRE

Recently pedestrianized, it is hosting the ice rink as well as numerous chalets and covered seating areas to create a warm and welcoming mini village.

THE BLACK TOWER

Located behind St Catherine's Church, the Black Tower is one of the best preserved remains of Brussels's first fortifications, which were built in the early 13th century.

It's become an important part of Winter Wonders, home to a small but perfectly formed Christmas village.

The spotlight is on Quebec with maple-based foodstuffs and other typical products with inimitable flavours, including the legendary Poutine dish of fries, cheese curds and gravy.

An igloo-shaped stage is hosting Winter Vox choirs, only adding to the magical location and hidden treasure feel.

COVERED SEATING AREAS

The protected, furnished and lit covered seating areas are a meeting point along the route and give visitors the chance to relax.

PAVILLON STELLA

Pavillon Stella at Vismet promises a warm welcome for visitors who want to enjoy our quintessentially Belgian beer at this unmissable stop-off.

6. SHIMMER AND SPARKLE IN THE CITY CENTRE

HEAD IN THE STARS, the fairytale facade of St Catherine's Church

What can we do to see, discover, rediscover or protect the starry skies that are disappearing from our cities? That's the question asked by the Liège-based nocturnal urban development agency Radiance35, which focuses on the city, landscape and its users.

This fairytale facade provides total immersion into the heart of the Milky Way. As with the sound and light shows on Grand-Place, words don't do *Head in the Stars* justice. The performance transports the audience into the stars and is divided into three highly symbolic vista.

The first captures the constellations, which appear in quite rapid succession, and you can have fun trying to spot the Great Bear against white colours, providing a brand-new perspective of the church facade. The second act lingers on the multicoloured planetary rings with deep warm colours: red, amber, orange and yellow. And yes, we are part of something bigger. The intelligent third movement takes the opposite course by inviting us once again to introspection, to wonder and why not reject the rat race that disconnects us from ourselves. The colder but softer colours fluctuate between blue, purple, pink or white for an all-too-rare moment of escapism.

Details: Place Sainte-Catherine, 1000 Brussels.

Launch: 26/11/21.

Performance: every night from 17:00 to 22:00 26/11/21 to 02/01/22.

Design: Radiance35 – Development: Arto

HARMONICES STĒLLĀRIS

Amongst the many new additions, this year's Winter Wonders is welcoming a light sculpture inspired by Plato's geometry to the City Hall courtyard. *Harmonices Stellaris* represents a three-dimensional geometric shape with twelve sides, thought to be a symbol of the universe. What a head spinner.

For the history lesson, Greek philosopher and polymath Aristotle, Plato's disciple, called the symbol «aether». As for the German astronomer Johannes Kepler, he describes the geometry in his famous treaty *Harmonices Mundi*, which outlines the harmony of geometrical forms and law of planetary motion. This light sculpture filled with metaphors and meanings is positioned in the very heart of our capital and comes to life with light and the surprising interplays of reflection and diffraction.

Your journey to the heart of the universe provides a fantastical and remarkable contemplative experience.

Details: City Hall courtyard, Grand-Place – 17:00 to 22:00 26/11 to 02/01.

Credits: Antoine Goldschmidt and Mathieu Zurtrassen
Sound design: Patrn

A GIANT CHANDELIER

At Vismet, a giant chandelier seems to have fallen from a ceiling that's none other than the sky. It's majestically waiting for us to gather round it to play a silent but captivating light symphony that transforms the space in the open-air ballroom.

Credits: TILT.

NIGHT LIGHTS

Delicately positioned a stone's throw from Place de Brouckère, these night lights use colours to create a soothing or stimulating atmosphere. Their sleek and sophisticated shapes add a majestic feel.

LAPLAND VILLAGE

As part of Brussels by Lights, a walk along the decorated city centre boulevards takes families to Place Fontainas, which was renovated in 2020. Little ones will be delighted to find a small village featuring animals from Lapland.

7. BRUSSELS BY LIGHTS

The City of Brussels had one of its brightest ideas in 2014 when it decided to illuminate, literally and figuratively, more and more of the capital's streets and arcades. There will be 152 this year, including 10 new ones.

That extension is justified by the ongoing ambition to support the business activities of the city's districts, which are also involved in decisions about the illuminations in their areas.

The decorations are also chosen by each district's trade associations.

This year, the spotlight is on the European District with illuminations along Quartier Jean Monnet (Rue Stévin, Rue Franklin, Rue Archimède, Boulevard Charlemagne), Petite Rue de la Loi and Square Marguerite.

The climax is definitely the sound and light installation *Sky Castle* on Esplanade du Rond-Point Schuman, between the European Commission and European Council.

This is a rigid inflatable sculpture formed of five groups of four arches standing five metres tall. The public wanders between the arches, activating melodies and triggering colour changes.

This positive interactive experience reveals sound themes that are very now, such as space, gardens or futuristic cities.

Details: daily from 13:00 to midnight 30/11/21 to 01/01/22.
Esplanade du Rond-Point Schuman (Rue de la Loi), 1000 Brussels.

Launch: 18:30 on 30/11/21. Access is free.

The inner city centre won't be forgotten with new decorations coming to the famous Rue Neuve, Quartier Saint-Géry, Sablon and Quartier Saint-Jacques. During these family outings, little ones will be thrilled to find a small village featuring animals from Lapland at Place Fontainas.

8. WINTER POP: A POPUP VILLAGE TO SHARE THE CHRISTMAS JOY

For a few years now with Winter Pop and Summer Pop, the City of Brussels has been working to delocalize its events and give people from other areas the chance to join the party. During this year's Winter Wonders, Winter Pop's cute caravans will share the Christmas joy, bringing it to the widest possible audience.

Since its debut in 2017, the popup village has been a big hit everywhere it stops.

This year, it will spend four successive weekends on Square Ambiorix, in Les Marolles, Neder-Over-Heembeek and Laeken.

Thanks to close collaborations with local groups, a whole host of fun and creative activities for all audiences are available: concerts, brass bands, boardgames, dances, choirs, animated film screenings, demonstrations... There's something for everyone and snacks too.

Details:

- **Friday 26 to Sunday 28/11/21 in Les Marolles (Place de la Chapelle).**
- **Friday 3 to Sunday 5/12/21 in Neder-Over-Heembeek (Place Peter Benoît).**
- **Friday 10 to Sunday 12/12/21 in Brussels (Square Ambiorix).**
- **Friday 17 to Sunday 19/12/21 in Laeken (at Le Jardin des Justes in Quartier Tivoli).**

Times:

15:00 to 21:00 Fridays and Saturdays and 14:00 to 19:00 Sundays.

9. FOR KIDS ONLY

FAMILY TIME – WINTER WONDERS

An inspired partnership between Winter Wonders and Palace Cinema, with a special Christmas programme on Sundays from 28 November to 2 January. Kids will leave the screening with an activity book full of games and colouring to do at home. After a hot chocolate at the Palace bar, a visit to the Christmas market or stop-off at Grand-Place is almost a must.

Details: Palace Cinema, Boulevard Anspach 85, 1000 Brussels
Sundays 28/11, 05/12, 12/12, 19/12, 26/12/21 and 02/01/22.

Prices: €20/2 adults + 2 children

www.cinema-palace.be

ANDRÉA'S MERRY-GO-ROUND

The merry-go-round with fantastical characters handmade in the Jules Verne style is another classic must-visit for some timeless fun.

Place Sainte-Catherine – price: €3.00

ICE MONSTER

There are only seven of these 45-m dinosaurs designed by the US company behind *Lord of the Rings* and *Harry Potter* in the world. Can you guess where the only one in Europe is? At Winter Wonders, ladies and gentlemen! It has a ferocious appetite and will gobble you up, taking you on a journey featuring terrifying special effects.

Vismet – prices: €5/person

Family tickets: €12 for 3 people / €15 for 4 people

BABY CORNER

During Winter Wonders opening times, small family-friendly facilities will be available throughout the event for baby changing and warming up bottles or food undisturbed.

Details: address and times TBC.

10. FEEDING THE CULTURE VULTURES

No point burying your head in the snow, these five weeks are also an opportunity to enjoy the exceptional cultural activities available in the city centre.

BRUSSELS CITY MUSEUM – MAISON DU ROI

Standing on the world's most beautiful square, Brussels City Museum tells us everything we need to know about Brussels's long and tumultuous history. Masterpieces of painting and sculpture, model illustrating the city in the 13th century, exceptional tapestries... all made in Brussels, of course! On the top floor, Grand-Place's story is told through unique pieces such as the original Saint-Michel weathervane. And it's also at Brussels City Museum that you can admire the real Manneken-Pis statue!

Details:

Brussels City Museum – Maison du Roi, Grand-Place
10:00 to 17:00 Tuesday to Sunday.
Closed Mondays, 25.12 and 01.01.

www.museedelavilledebruxelles.brussels

GARDEROBE MANNEKEN-PIS

The Manneken-Pis, whose original statue is kept at Brussels City Museum, is Brussels's biggest star. The only statue in the world to have over 1,000 costumes plus regular additions to its already incredible collection, Manneken-Pis is dressed half of the year or around 170 days. The exhibition presents nearly 150 exceptional costumes from around the world and arranged by theme.

This year, a window display will showcase five of the costumes that the capital's *ketje* wears during its travels.

Details: Rue du Chêne 19, 1000 Brussels – 10:00 to 17:00
Tuesday to Sunday.
Closed Mondays, 25.12 and 01.01.

CENTRALE for contemporary art

This winter, CENTRALE presents the exhibition *La Vie matérielle*, a dialogue between twelve Italian and Belgian artists on the link between art and life.

La Vie matérielle, named after the book of the same name by Marguerite Duras, explores and relates the artistic journey to personal experience. Both Duras' book and the works in the exhibition are defined by a constant dialogue between ordinary everyday life (of which the body is a crucial element) and the inner, intimate life, torn between its deepest aspirations and reality.

By reusing, hybridizing, diverting or decontextualizing organic materials and everyday objects and giving them a new life that transcends their usual use, the artists in the exhibition bridge the divide between artistic disciplines.

Through provocative or questioning narratives, fragile or energetic stagings, these very diverse works (assemblages, videos, drawings, sculptures, installations) blend the finished and the unfinished, the knowing and the sensing.

The exhibition integrates and explores several senses, in particular vision and touch, through a journey that takes the viewer inside a kind of emotional and mental spider's web, hoping that at the end of the journey, we will have gained new perspectives on how we perceive and read our shared 'material world', and the link that art allows us to create between our body and our inner world.

Details: 09.12.2021 to 13.03.2022.

A collaboration between Palazzo Magnani (Reggio Emilia, Italy) and CENTRALE for contemporary art (Brussels)

Alongside this exhibition, emergent creation will be featured by CENTRALE I box, CENTRALE I lab and CENTRALE I vitrine.

Curator: Tania Nasielski

CENTRALE I BOX - DAVID AYOUN FOLD

As a child of «creolisation», David Ayoun develops work that questions the transformation of the body and its perceptions in its relationship to technique and memory. His practice is situated at the crossroads of image and dance, language and the unconscious, ritual and dream. The viewer's attention, perceptions, bodily awareness and mobility are called upon. The artist pays particular attention to the frame, the space, the temporality, and the sound. His various collaborations with artists, researchers, choreographers, composers or programmers contribute to the construction of his mixed artistic project.

From 09.12.2021 to 13.03.2022

CENTRALE | LAB - KATYA EV

Katya Ev (Moscow, 1983) lives and works in Brussels. Her time-based, performative practice explores institutional critique, issues of power and control, and the potential for individual agency within dominant power structures in relation to specific political situations or events.

From 09.12.2021 to 13.03.2022

CENTRALE | VITRINE - ALFONSE, PAUL ET LES AUTRES VIVARIUM

Vivarium is a space that confronts commercial staging and spectacular presentation of nature. A polite universe of bourgeois decoration will be shaken up by the presence of disproportionate representations of plants drawn on the scale of the space, recreating an artificial jungle. Halfway between girly decoration and prostitutional staging, these elements will contribute to establishing an underlying sexual tension in this «vivarium» crossed by contradictory energies.

From 09.12.2021 to 13.03.2022

www.centrale.brussels

FASHION AND LACE MUSEUM - BRUSSELS TOUCH

Brussels, a fashion capital! But can we really talk about Brussels fashion like we talk about Belgian fashion?

Whether Belgians, visiting students or expats, designers are inspired by our unique city to explore new horizons. This unprecedented exhibition shows us Brussels's influence on contemporary fashion, from the 1980s to today. It questions the characteristics of this Brussels-based fashion, or rather the «spirit of Brussels», through the talent of 33 male and female designers.

Details: until 15 May 2022, Rue de la Violette 12, 1000 Brussels
10:00 to 17:00 Tuesday to Sunday. Closed Mondays, 25/12 and 01/01.

www.museemodeetdentelle.brussels

CINEMAMED - 21ST BRUSSELS MEDITERRANEAN FILM FESTIVAL CINEMA

For its 21st edition, Cinemamed is back in cinemas and with audiences at Palace Cinema, Aventure Cinema and Bozar.

The festival is again providing a selection of online films on the Sooner platform. This is an opportunity to experience the festival buzz and meet film fans at discussions and guest appearances. Those are some of the driving forces behind Cinemamed: championing inclusion, multiculturalism and interaction. This edition is highlighting the determination of young people, role of women and changing attitudes within society.

Details: 02 to 11/12, Palace Cinema, Aventure Cinema and Bozar

www.cinemamed.be

WITCHES EXHIBITION

This exhibition is an artistic, cultural, historic and social exploration of the figure of the witch through the ages, realities and representations, from the end of the Middle Ages to current feminist movements.

As new feminist campaigns have adopted the witch as a symbol of their revolt, we explore the stereotype, which was feared and persecuted in ancient times before gradually becoming a figure of myths and fairytales, being reinvented by pop culture and finally symbolizing today's feminism.

This is an overlooked subject and yet is essential to understanding the image and status of women in our societies from the late Middle Ages to today. And the figure of the witch still shapes our imaginations, childhood memories and cultural references.

Details: Espace Vanderborght – 27/10/2021 to 16.01/2022
10:00 to 18:00 Wednesday to Monday (closed Tuesdays) (last admission at 17:00) – Closed on 25.12 and 01.01

More details: www.witches-expo.ulb.be

BRUSSELS JAZZ WEEKEND

The all-new winter edition of Brussels Jazz Weekend is being launched on **10, 11 and 12 December**.

Stop off at the pretty Place du Nouveau Marché aux Grain and Winter Wonders visitors can enjoy a friendly festival under the welcoming «Salon Perdu» mirrored marquee. A varied

programme is on offer, covering everything from addictive swing and lindy hop to live music (Friday), big names in the Belgian jazz scene and experimental jazz (Saturday and Sunday). Thanks to various partners, the festival is totally free.

Details: 10, 11 and 12 December – Place du Nouveau Marché aux Grain

Bookings essential via brusselsjazzweekend.be

11. FESTIVE EVENTS

THE LAUNCH

Given the uncertain health and safety conditions, the launch event on the afternoon of Friday 26 November will include the Christmas tree lights switch-on on Grand-Place followed by this year's first sound and light show. Light parades will line the route for the delight of visitors.

More details will follow given the changing health situation.

WORLD AIDS DAY – WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER

The AIDS Prevention platform and its partners are again campaigning on World AIDS Day, Wednesday 1 December, with red ribbons and condoms handed out at Winter Wonders from 13:00 to 20:00.

The positivity and prevention party is coming to Rue Marché with Brazilian percussion, juggling, a photo booth and bowling in a giant condom to mark the fight against sexually transmitted infections (STI). And there's free HIV screening.

It's an opportunity too for the AIDS Prevention platform to launch a new campaign to tackle discrimination against people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

At a time when Covid-19 is dominating the headlines, all these actions aim to remind the public that HIV still exists and that HIV patients are too often victims of discrimination in their daily, professional, family, social and sexual lives. Remember also that a HIV patient who takes their treatment correctly DOES NOT TRANSMIT HIV and has the same life expectancy as anyone else. And so there's NO RISK to sharing everyday life with an infected person.

More details from www.preventionsida.org

MAKE-A-WISH

Staying true to the tradition and drawing on its long experience, Make-A-Wish Belgium South works to grant the wishes of seriously ill children, bringing them hope, strength and joy. Head to the foot of the stunning Christmas tree on Grand-Place, where you can buy a magic star and write down one of your ambitions or aspirations. In doing so, you will contribute to making dreams come true for little princes or princesses who have had difficult lives and help them cope with their treatments!

Details: Grand-Place, 11:00 to 21:00 Saturday 18.12.
Make-A-Wish Belgium South 02/420.22.24

bureau@makeawishsud.be

WINTER VOX, CHOIRS IN THE HEART OF THE CITY

For the fifth edition, Winter Wonders is again collaborating with *Bozar Singing Brussels* and *À Chœur Joie*, the charity that promotes the development and practice of choir singing with no political, philosophical or religious affiliations. For the Winter Vox project, three ensembles of professionals or amateurs are staging recitals featuring Christmas carols, gospel, hymns or a more pop and contemporary repertoire every Saturday and Sunday.

Details: at the Black Tower, behind St Catherine's Church.
15:30 to 19:00 every Saturday and Sunday from 27/11 to 19/12.

LIGHT PARADES

Sparkling light parades wind their way through the city centre's streets to dazzle and amaze visitors discovering the wonders of the Christmas market.

Details: 18:00 to 20:00 on Saturdays 4, 11, 18, 25
December along the city centre boulevards: Places
de Brouckère, de la Bourse and de la Monnaie.

FESTIVE BRASS BANDS

Popular, intergenerational and entertaining, five brass bands bring groove and tempo to Winter Wonders. Joyous virtuosos, they perform upbeat, mood-lifting music to get passers-by moving and shaking.

Details: 18:00 to 20:00 Thursdays

12. THE ESSENTIALS

THE ICE RINK

The sportiest Winter Wonders attraction is again coming to Place de Brouckère.

Enjoy complete peace of mind with professional staff to supervise skaters, and the very young can try out skating safely in a specific 60-sq. m area. The transparent roof covers the full 800-sq. m rink.

Straps that can be placed over shoes are available. Parents or guardians will be able to access a stand to watch their children take their first steps or go out onto the ice without skates if needed.

Bookings aren't necessary except for schools (see details below). And the rink is of course accessible to wheelchair users and carers, both on and off the ice.

To access the ice rink and stands, a valid Covid Safe Ticket is required from everyone aged over 16, including carers.

Details: 26.11 to 09.01

Timing

- Daily from 12:00 to 22:00 (last admission at 21:00)
- 24 and 31.12: 12:00 to 18:00 (last admission at 17:00)
- 25.12 and 01.01: 12:00 to 22:00 (last admission at 21:00)

Prices (including skate hire):

- adults (over 16s) €10
- under 16s €5

free for carers

Not recommended for children under 6.

The organizers recommend avoiding the very busiest times and instead visiting from 12:00 to 17:00 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Bookings for schools only and for the 20 to 24 December period, between 12:00 and 17:00: info@bmeo.be, 02/318 6470.

THE LOTTO BIG WHEEL... PLACE YOUR BETS!

Another of Winter Wonders' unmissable attractions, the 55-m big wheel offers spectacular views of Brussels and the city centre at their Christmas best. It has 42 capsules, including one specially equipped for disabled visitors.

Prices: adults €8 / under 12s €5

DREAM SPACE

Comfortably seated in immersive motion chairs, Dream Space visitors can enjoy incredible virtual reality experiences: meeting mommies or dragons, visiting a haunted house, walking in space, riding on a Christmas sleigh... Larger-than-life experiences for all tastes and ages!

Price: €5 (main attraction)

13. THE CITY AND SUSTAINABILITY

The City of Brussels is made clear its commitment to sustainability.

For years now, Brussels Major Events has been exploring various ways to make the events it organizes as sustainable as possible.

The use of reusable cups (launched over ten years ago), improved accessibility to sites for disabled visitors, recycling scheme, review of mobility, 'happy team' serving visitors, various awareness-raising campaigns, collaborations with local groups and artists...

Work is also ongoing on new measures to introduce at the next Winter Wonders. It's looking at harassment in public places, switching to reusable tableware (as well as cups), food waste, dry toilets and alternatives to nonrecyclable packaging.

DISABLED ACCESS, A CENTRAL FOCUS

For years, the City of Brussels has paid particular attention to disabled people and provided several facilities to guarantee them easy access to the entire Winter Wonders site.

Brussels Central Station, Bourse, De Brouckère and Sainte-Catherine metro stations have lifts taking disabled visitors to the heart of the event. The Ecuyer and Monnaie car parks include spaces for disabled users as well as lifts. Two additional spaces are also disabled-only on Quai du Marché aux Porcs, near the big wheel.

Toilets along the event route are accessible to disabled users via specially designed ramps. The ice rink also has disabled access, and a special wheelchair-accessible capsule is available on the big wheel. The floors and cables are also adapted so that everyone can cross them.

Free assistance is available in Brussels Central Station. More details from 02/528 2828.

Full details at www.winterwonders.be

REUSABLE CUPS

As during the recent Hello Summer, the City of Brussels and the organizers have clearly stated their ambition to reduce the amount of waste generated by public events and so improve litter levels.

For the last ten years, wineglasses, champagne flutes and other recipients have been replaced by reusable cups during Winter Wonders. A €1 deposit is required for each cup. The initiative cuts the amount of waste by around two tonnes.

QUALITY ACCREDITATION

The accreditation has become a hallmark: it's displayed by 24 accredited traders, who share the expertise and passion behind their finest creations. The accreditation is spearheading the City of Brussels's commitment to sustainable events.

KEEPING BRUSSELS TIDY, an important issue for the City of Brussels and the organizers

Recycling areas are provided at every site to collect stallholders' waste and direct it to the right facility. Brussels Major Events, the event organizer, is supplying a team to take it from the chalets to the collection areas.

Nearly 150 recycling bins are dotted across the various Winter Wonders sites. Collaboration with City Hall's highway teams, who are with us every day, keeps the event looking its best. First, the route is cleaned daily by mechanized teams. The Grand-Place, Bourse, Monnaie, de Brouckère and Vismet areas are cleaned simultaneously from 06:30. Once the chalets are open, mobile teams step in to maintain the site and empty the public bins. In the week, services are provided until 20:00, whilst the waste management teams are hard at work until 22:00 at weekends.



14. MOBILITY, a top priority during Winter Wonders

Following a 2019 investigation, a multimodal mobility plan was studied for Winter Wonders in collaboration with the company Fluxology. Several measures are being taken in the aim of managing visitor flows in and around the event:

Brussels Central Station, at the heart of Winter Wonders, is strategically located in the city centre. Therefore, we strongly recommend travelling to the event by train. www.belgiantrain.be

The many public transport services to Winter Wonders are a major boost to its accessibility. Brussels Central Station, Bourse and De Brouckère stations take visitors right to the hub of the action via metro lines 1 and 5 and trams 3 and 4. www.stib-mivb.be

Cycling remains an easy and flexible way of getting around. Free and secure bike shelters are available in the Bourse and De Brouckère stations (www.cycloparking.brussels). An outdoor bike shelter is also available at Quai Marché au Porcs, a stone's throw from the big wheel, as well as on Place de l'Albertine, near Brussels Central Station. Shared bike hire is also possible via Villo!, Blue Bike, Swapfiets, Billy... Full details at <https://mobilite-mobiliteit.brussels/en/node/207>

If there's no other alternative, the event remains accessible by car. To avoid any inconvenience, we strongly recommended using Waze or Google Maps to find a park & ride (Ceria or Kraainem), which cost €3 and are even free at weekends during Winter Wonders (26.11–02.01). From there, the heart of the event is just twenty minutes away by metro.

As roadside parking spaces in the Sainte-Catherine area are part of an *event parking zone (€10/hour)*, we strongly recommended parking in an Interparking in the Rogier zone (Botanique, City 2, Passage 44 or Rogier car parks), the 2 Portes zone (Toison d'Or, 2 Portes and Entre Deux Portes car parks) or in Loi car park.

www.parkandride.brussels - www.parking.brussels

The area around Vismet is becoming a restricted-access zone during peak times: 16:00 to 23:00 Friday to Sunday. Two traffic filters ensure that the zone is only accessible to residents, traders and disabled people.

Two areas of Kiss and Ride are finally accessible to everyone: in total, 69 spaces are available at the two far ends of the Vismet zone: they can be used as drop-off and pick-up points for diners in local restaurants.

All the above points have been incorporated into the Winter Wonders interactive map. For more information, see section 2: Glittering new additions. <https://www.plaisirsdhiver.be/en/mobilite/>

With the «Pcard+ Brussels», you can access all the car parks in the Interparking network in Brussels. It's a handy way to avoid queues at the ticket machines, entrances and exits 24/7. Card holders receive €15 in parking credit and a €15 gift voucher for use in participating Brussels stores. Sign up for free at: brussels.pcard.be

15. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Friday 26.11.2021 to Sunday 02.01.2022.

Times

12:00 to 22:00 daily except Fridays 24 and 31.12.2021: 12:00 to 18:00

Health measures throughout Winter Wonders

- Masks must be worn in all areas
- Hand gel available everywhere along the route
- Social distancing is recommended
- Signs clearly indicate the one-way system to be used in busy areas
- The ice rink and stands require a Covid Safe Ticket from everyone aged over 16
- 'Bubbles' and social distancing to be maintained when eating and drinking.

Getting here: www.winterwonders.be > Mobility tab

PRESS CONTACTS

City of Brussels

Maïlys Charlier Zenari
Office of the Alderwoman of Culture, Tourism and Big Events
mailys.charlierzenari@brucity.be
+32 (0)490 14 07 90

Carole Poncin
Office of the Mayor,
carole.poncin@brucity.be
+32 (0)488 04 38 24

Organization

Marina Bresciani,
Brussels Major Events asbl
m.bresciani@bmeo.be
+32 (0)478 22 61 59



16. ROUTE MAP

A new digital mapping tool is being launched. Accessible via the Winter Wonders website, it's easy to use and offers visitors an optimal experience. The interactive map provides an aerial view and overview of the event.





LA VILLE
DE STAD



PLAISIRS D'HIVER WINTERPRET

BRUXELLES 26.11 > 02.01.2022 BRUSSEL



PLAISIRS D'HIVER WINTERPRET

BRUXELLES 26.11 > 02.01.2022 BRUSSEL

17. PARTNERS

The City of Brussels and the organizers are delighted to be able to count on the support of our enthusiastic partners. Big thanks to them all!
Thanks to these multiple partnerships, creative and fun activities are organized to make visitors feel even more special.



PLAISIRS D'HIVER WINTERPRET

BRUXELLES 26.11 > 02.01.2022 BRUSSEL



www.winterwonders.be