

PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 16 December 2021 – With its ongoing commitment to sustainable events, the City of Brussels has spent years exploring how to make Winter Wonders as easy to access as possible. To avoid the headache of traffic jams, we're encouraging visitors to prepare their journey and prioritize ecofriendly ways of getting around.

As travelling to the city centre can be a hassle, especially during the holidays, why not start your visit to the Winter Wonders site without the stress?

This year, the City of Brussels is working with an event travel expert to facilitate access to the city. We would urge visitors to try the many alternatives to driving:

- With 33 railway stations in the capital, including Brussels Central at the heart of the event, **the train** is quick and cost-effective: return tickets are -50% at weekends. And until 9 January, two passengers can travel for the price of one Standard Ticket with a Duo Ticket. <u>Details here</u>.
- Public transport serves the city centre with several **tram**, **bus and metro** lines. Services will run every ten minutes instead of twenty between 23:00 and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. <u>Details here</u> and on the app.
- Because it's so flexible, cycling remains the easiest way of getting around. Free and secure bike shelters are available in Bourse and de Brouckère metro stations. <u>Details here</u>.
 Free outdoor car parks are also open to visitors on Rue du Marché aux Porcs and Place de l'Albertine.

More than ever, the City and the organizers are making **local residents central to what we do**. Information can be found here.

With them in mind, an "event" zone has been created in which people without a parking card (residents, professionals, visitors) pay €10 for an hour of parking (max 4½ hours) between 9:00 and 23:00. This measure also aims to encourage the use of other means of transport. Drivers with a PRM card can park for free in this zone.

The message is clear: it's better not to **drive** to the centre of the capital. If, however, none of the many alternatives are right for you, various options are available: just twenty minutes away by metro, Ceria-Coovi and Kraainem Park & Rides are open, especially as they're free at weekends and only €3 during the week throughout the event.

On the other hands, we recommend prioritizing car parks in the surrounding areas, particularly those in the inner ring road that offer a special rate. Info here.

To cover the last few miles, several means of transport are also provided. Details here.

Moreover twoo *Kiss and Ride* zones are accessible any time to pick up and drop off visitors and clients of the various shops (31 place Sainte-Catherine and 65 quai au Bois à Brûler).

The City of Brussels and the organizers are also taking steps to guarantee **disabled people** easy access to the entire Winter Wonders site: special entrance to the ice rink, accessible toilets, adapted tables, reserved parking spaces, special pod on the big wheel... <u>Details are here</u>.

To ensure that Winter Wonders is an enjoyable festive experience for everyone, information on accessibility has its own tab on the event's website.

www.winterwonders.be

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