



SCHOOL for
THINKTANKERS

BRUSSELS CITY GUIDE 2024

On Think Tanks

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1. CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

A few items to include when packing for your trip:

- Warm clothes – the weather is expected to hover around 2°C to 6°C, but temperatures could drop below 0 as well. We recommend you bring a good winter coat, shoes with thick soles and an umbrella in case it rains. Keep in mind that we will be walking to different institutions, so a good pair of trainers/sneakers will come in handy. There is no formal dress code for the school, but most participants opt for a business casual look on the weekdays.
- Your own computer/tablet/notebook.
- Travel adaptors – plug types C and E are used in Belgium. See [here](#) for more information.
- Bring your business cards for the various networking events we are organising.
- If you like, you can bring a small item from your country as a gift to everyone (e.g. sweets, key chains, fridge magnets etc.). You can also bring flyers about your work or a poster displaying your work, including a section on opportunities to connect and collaboration.

2. INFORMATION CENTRES & CONNECTIVITY

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2.1. BRUSSELS TOURIST INFORMATION

If you are coming early, or staying afterwards, and want to do some sightseeing, we recommend downloading the [My Brussels](#) app to get more information about life in the city.

We also recommend visiting the website [Visit.Brussels](#) to get acquainted with the city – what to do, shows and activities, and more.

Additionally, you can find tourist information centres at the airport, central and midi train stations, the European Parliament and the Grand Place.

2.2. TELEPHONE AND WIFI

You can buy a prepaid Belgian sim card (if your phone allows for it) from almost any provider. You will be able to find them at the airport in the Carrefour, [Proximus](#) and [BASE](#) stores.

There is free WIFI at the airport in case you want to download the map to your destination from the airport. Follow these [instructions](#) to access the WIFI.

WIFI is also wide-spread across the city, as well in most of our study locations. Read [more information](#) on public WIFI.

3. HOW TO GET ABOUT

3.1. USEFUL APPS

We recommend that you download the public transportation mobile app: [STIB-MIVB](#). For more details on public transport tickets and times, visit: www.stib-mivb.be/index.htm?l=en

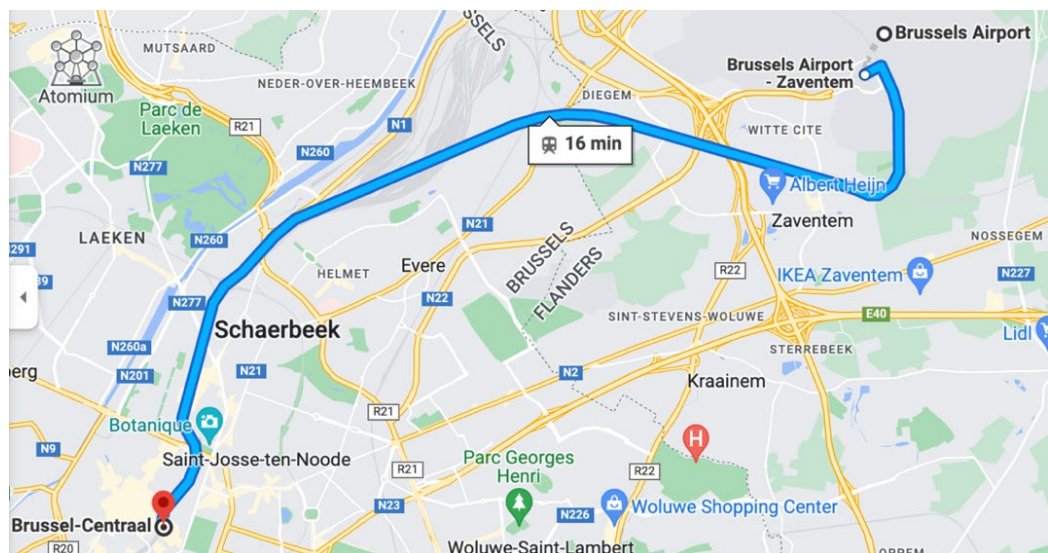
3.2. ARRIVING AT THE AIRPORT

There are many ways to get to the city centre from the Brussels Zaventem Airport.

Train: This is the recommended option to travel from the airport to the city centre. The train from Brussels Zaventem Airport to Brussels Central Station departs every 10 minutes between 5.00 am and midnight. The ride takes 17–18 minutes and costs approx. €10–11.

Bus: All airport buses depart and arrive at the bus station at Level 0. The Airport Line is a public transport airport bus that will take you to the city centre. You can take bus Line 12. There will be delays if the bus is caught in traffic and there is limited space for luggage. Download the [De Lijn](#) app to pay approx. €2.50 or have approx. €3–5 in change at hand to pay on the bus.

Taxi: A taxi from the airport to the city centre costs around €46. Look for the blue taxis with a yellow logo – these are the official ones. Taxis are available outside the terminal, facing the Arrivals Hall. Call the numbers below to pre-book a taxi. You can also get assistance at the airport to book one, or grab an Uber.



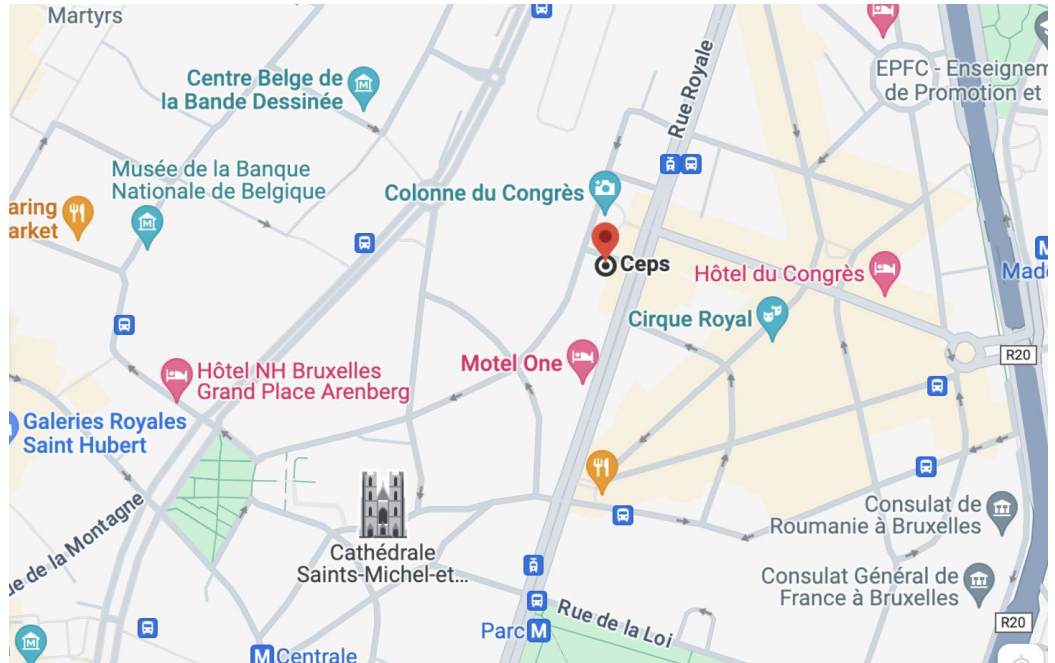
- **Taxis Verts:** +32 2 349 49 49
- **Taxis Bleus:** +32 2 268 00 00
- **Taxi Brussels Airport:** +32 499 10 20 30

If you are travelling from Charleroi Airport, do check which of [these options](#) would be convenient and within your budget.

Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)

We will be visiting CEPS (walking as a group) on Monday, 29 January 2024.

Address: Place du Congrès 1, 1000 Brussels.



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Here is how to get there from the central train station.

- **Walk:** 10 minutes to CEPS from Brussel Centraal Station. We recommend walking as there is very little difference in terms of the time it will take to reach CEPS using public transport.

Centre for Africa-Europe Relations (ECDPM)

We will be visiting ECDPM (walking as a group) on Thursday, 2 February 2024.

Address: Avenue des Arts 44, 1000 Brussels.



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Here is how to get there from the central train station.

- **Train:** From Brussel Centraal Station take metro numbers 1 or 5 to Arts-Loi/Kunst-Wet and walk about 5 minutes. The journey takes a total of 10 minutes. See metro routes: www.stib-mivb.be/irj/go/km/docs/horaires/5/schema/20221105/5_1.gif
- **Bus:** From Brussel Centraal Station take bus number 71 to Troon and walk about 5 minutes. The journey takes a total of 12 minutes and these buses are available every 6 minutes. Alternatively, from Brussel Centraal Station take bus number 38 to Troon and walk about 5 minutes. The journey takes a total of 12 minutes and these buses are available every 10 minutes.
- **Walk:** 13 minutes to ECDPM from Brussel Centraal Station.

4. WHAT TO DO IN BRUSSELS

4.1. WHERE TO EAT

Wolf Sharing Food Market Bruxelles: Feeling experimental and want to try a variety of items? Check out this food market that's located in a former bank. The market has 19 street food restaurants from across the world!

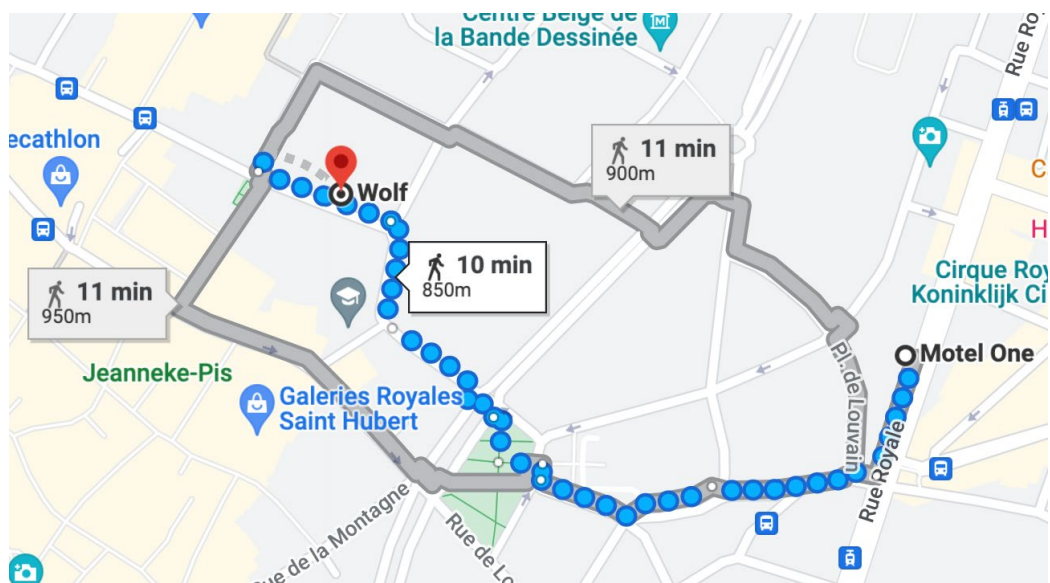


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- **Information:** Open every day (12.00 pm – 7.00 pm).
- **Address:** Rue du Fossé aux Loups 50, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.
- **Travel:** 10-minute walk from Motel One.



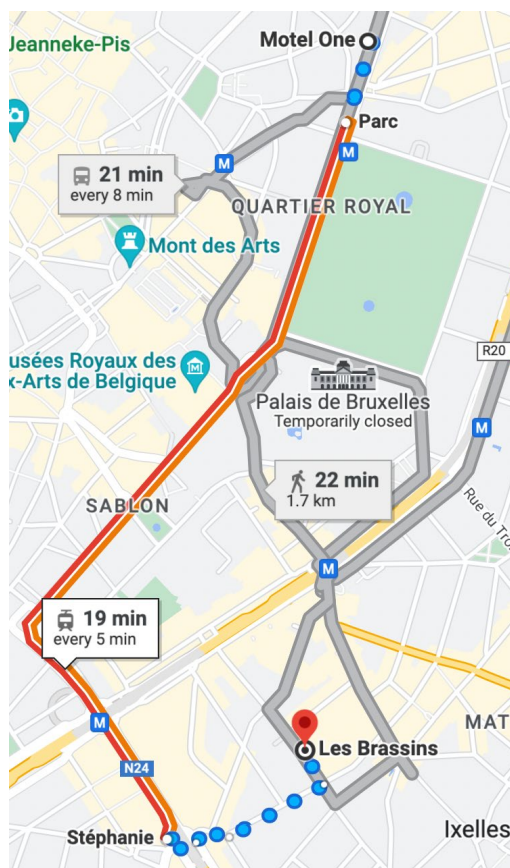
Les Brassins: Head over here for authentic Belgian cuisine and a selection of Belgian beers! Prices vary, but meat items are generally more expensive.



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- **Information:** Open from Tuesday to Friday (12.00 pm – 2.30 pm and 6.30 pm – 10.30 pm). On Saturdays, they are open for longer hours (12.00 pm – 10.30 pm).
- **Travel:** Take tram numbers 92 or 93 from Motel One (point Parc) to Stéphanie and walk about 7 minutes.



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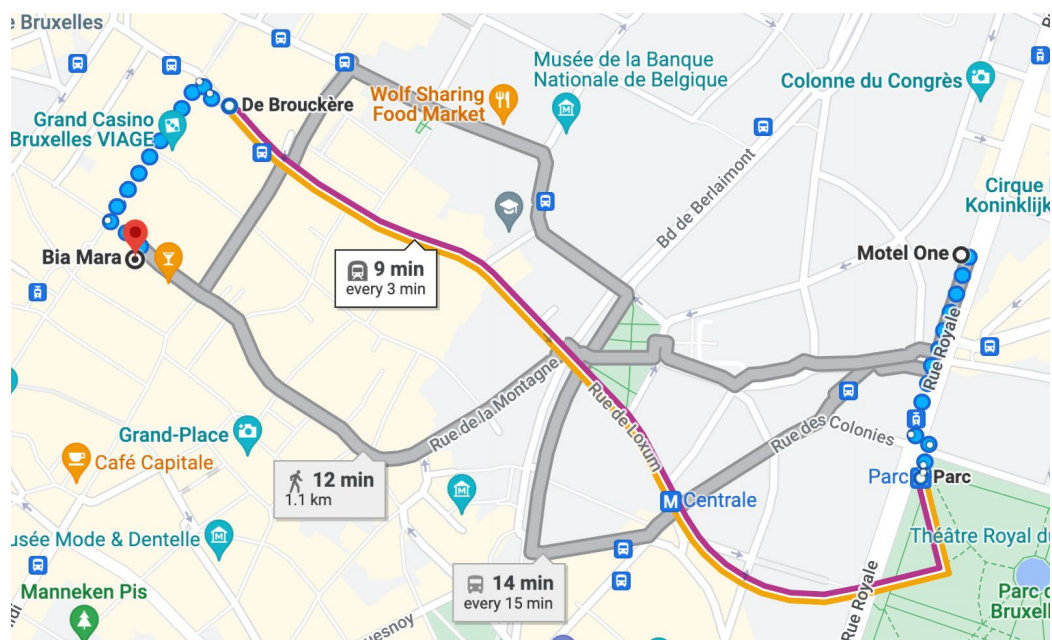
Bia Mara: Hailed as the best fish and chips spot in Brussels! Bia Mara began as a market stall in Dublin and in 2012 set up shop in Brussels. It's a good little spot to grab a quick, affordable bite and indulge in your fish 'n' chips cravings. The menu is based on the catch of the day.



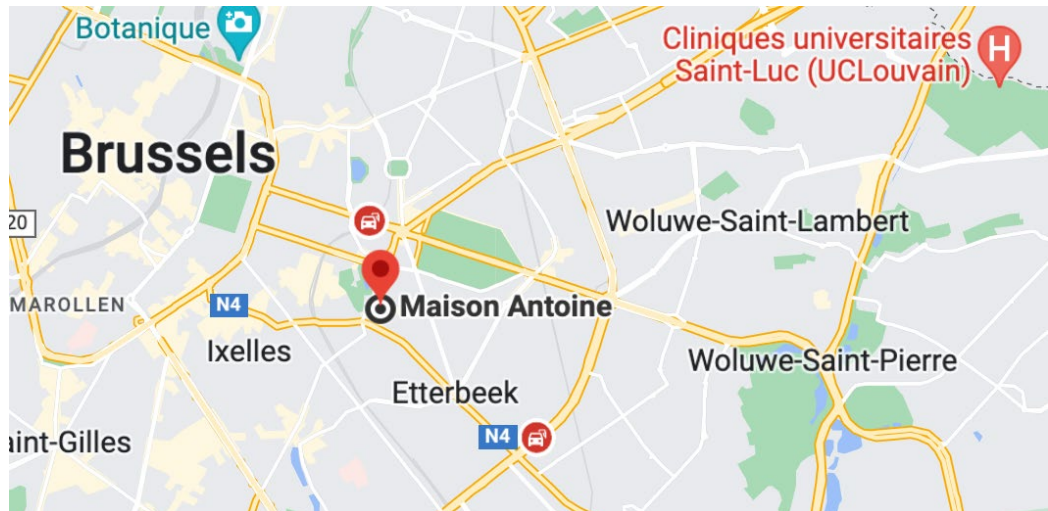
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- **Information:** Open throughout the week at different times. Monday to Thursday (12.00 pm to 2.00 pm, and 6.00 pm to 9.30 pm), Friday (12.00 to 2.00 pm and 6.00 pm to 10.00 pm), Saturday (12.00 pm to 10.00 pm) and Sunday (12.00 pm to 9.30 pm). +32 2 502 00 61.
- **Address:** Rue du Marché aux Poulets 41, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.
- **Travel:** take tram numbers 1 or 5 from Motel One to De Brouckère and walk 3 minutes.



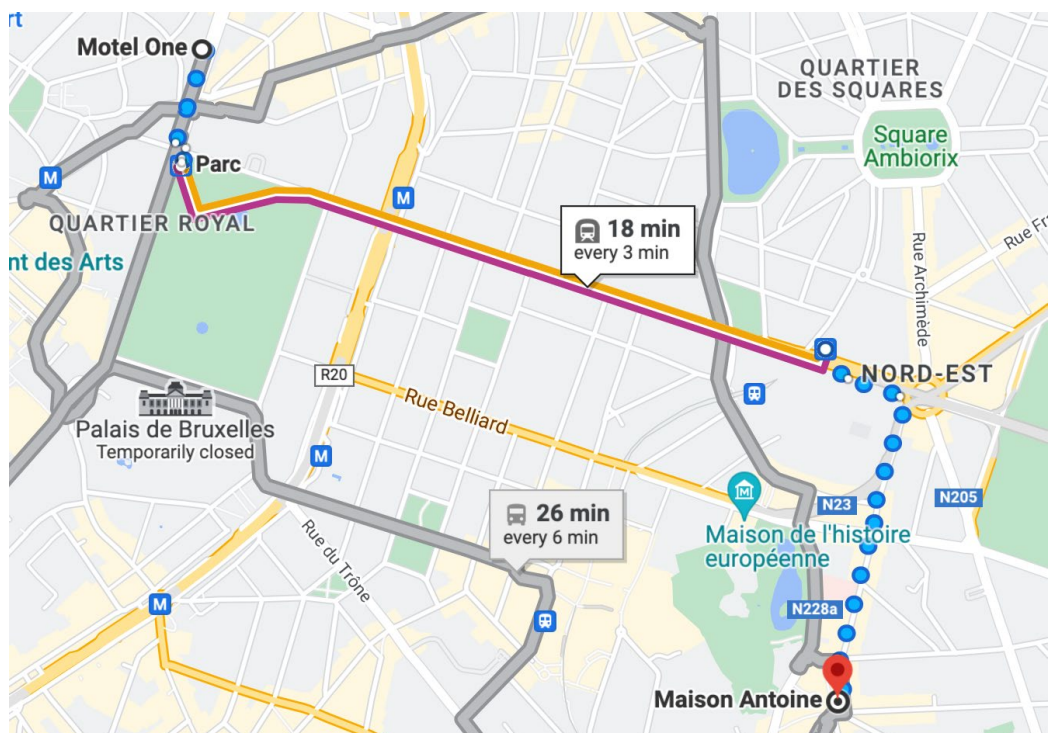
Maison Antoine: The best place to have classic Belgian fries (frites) – even said to be recommended by Angela Merkel!



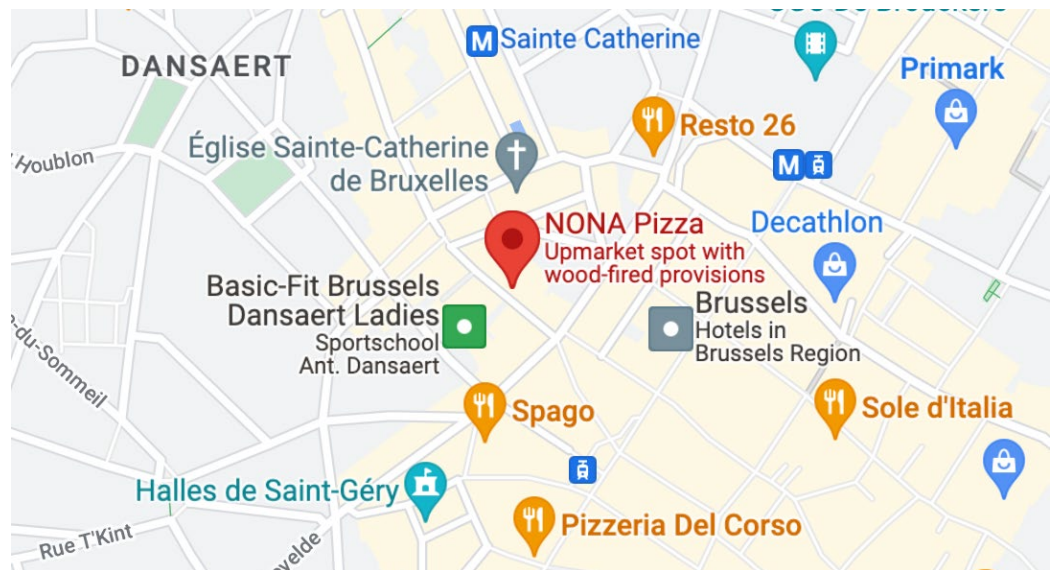
- **Information:** Open throughout the week from 11.30 am to 1.00 am.
- **Address:** Pl. Jourdan 1, 1040 Etterbeek, Belgium.
- **Travel:** From Motel One, walk 4 minutes to the Parc tram stop and take tram number 5 to Schuman. Walk 11 minutes.

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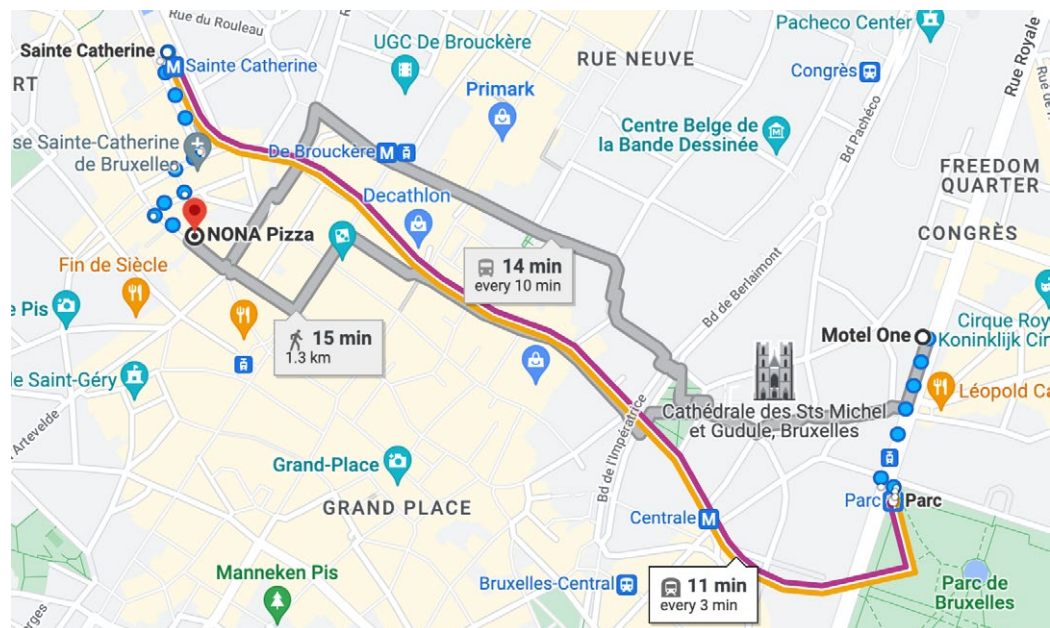
Nona: They serve authentic Italian pizzas and use organic ingredients from Belgian farmers.



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- **Information:** Open throughout the week from 12.00 pm to 10.00 pm.
- **Address:** Rue Sainte-Catherine 17/19, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.
- **Travel:** Take metro number 5 from the Parc station to Sainte Catherine and walk about 5 minutes.

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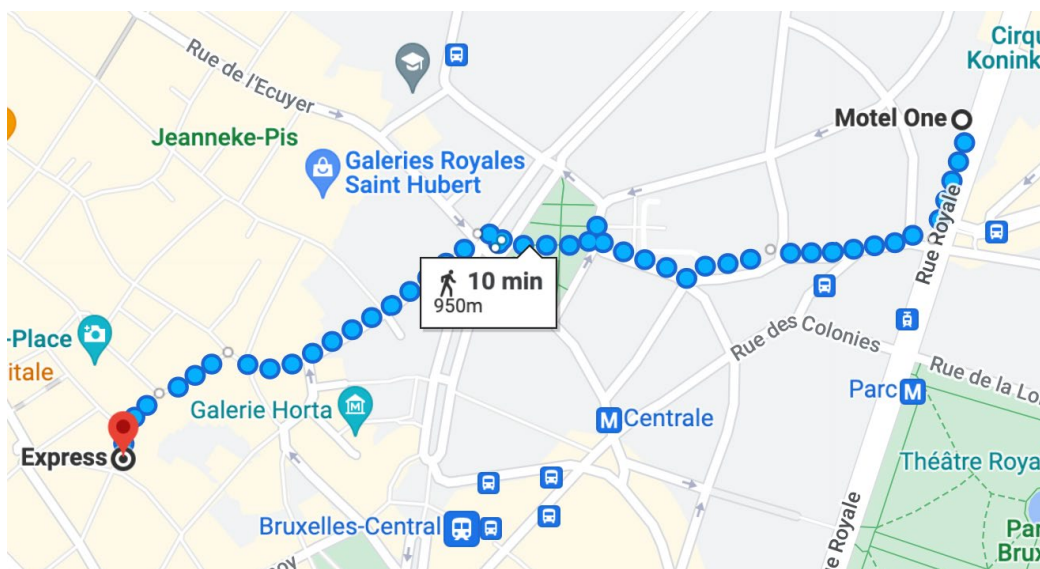
L'Express: A great place to have quick, budget-friendly and tasty Lebanese, Mediterranean, Middle Eastern food! They also have some options for vegetarians.



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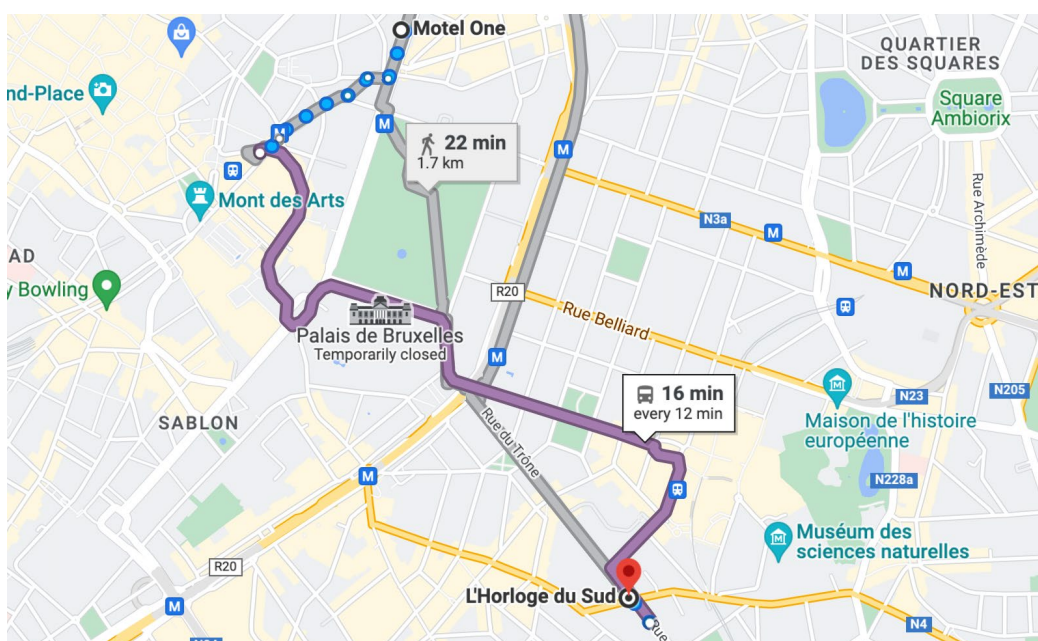
- **Information:** Closed on Mondays. Open on Tuesdays (6.00 pm – 1.00 am) and Wednesday to Sunday (12.00 pm – 1.00 am). +32 2 512 88 83.
- **Address:** Rue des Chapeliers 8, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
- **Travel:** 10-minute walk from Motel One.



L'Horloge du Sud: Good place to enjoy African cuisine in the heart of Brussels. They also organise conferences, debates, film screenings and concerts to promote the cultures of sub-Saharan Africa. They offer both dine-in and take away options. Main meals cost around €11-14. See [menu](#).



- **Information:** Open from Monday to Friday (11.00 am to 3.00 pm, and 6.00 pm to midnight) and Saturday (6.00 pm to 12.00 pm). +32 (0) 2 512 18 64.
- **Address:** Rue du Trône, 141 1050 Ixelles.
- **Travel:** Take bus number 38 from Motel One (point Centraal Station) to Idalie and walk for 2 minutes.



4.2. WHERE TO HAVE A DRINK

Delirium Café is claimed to have the world's largest selections of beer.

Information: Open throughout the week from 11.00 am.

Address: Imp. de la Fidélité 4, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Madame Moustache is a quirky, whimsical bar with a circus-style carriage, barber-shop room, foosball table and live music.

Information: Open from Thursday–Saturday from 10.00 pm to 4.00 am.

Address: Quai au Bois à Brûler 5/7, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Zodiak is a nightclub popular for electronic dance music (EDM).

Information: Open on Friday – Sunday (times vary, but usually open after 11.00 pm or 12.00 am).

Address: Rue du Marché aux Fromages 10, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

The Green Man Cocktail bar is the go-to place for a great selection of beautifully presented and delicious cocktails. They serve beer as well.

Information: Open from Thursday–Sunday from 5.00 pm.

Address: Rue des Chapeliers 20, 1000 Bruxelles.

Bar des Amis has a vintage feel and a great atmosphere.

Information: Open throughout the week, usually after 4.00 or 5.00 pm.

Address: Rue Sainte-Catherine 30, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Amadeo is famous for its delicious ribs and unique interior.

Information: Open throughout the week (Monday – Thursday from 6.30 pm and Friday – Sunday from 6.00 pm).

Address: Rue Sainte-Catherine 26, 1000 Bruxelles, Belgium.

Palce Flagey, described as ‘the multicultural and underground scene for non-stop Brussels life’, has a great selection of bars.

Address: Pl. Eugène Flagey 18, 1050 Ixelles, Belgium.

4.3. THINGS TO SEE OR DO

Join us on Sunday 28 Jan for a **walking tour** to get acquainted with the city.

Place de Lux is the ideal place to grab a drink on a Thursday night if you want to interact with parliamentary assistants! It's also a good space to network and discuss politics in Europe.

Cycle around **Bois de la Cambre**, one of largest parks in the Brussels capital region. But do check the weather before renting a bicycle from the city! You can also visit other parks such as the **Royal Park**, the largest park in the city.

Parc du Cinquantenaire is another beautiful park to visit if the weather is good. The French-style gardens and museums at the site offer a great space to have a picnic, enjoy the scenery or learn about history.

Comic lovers can visit the **Comics Art Museum** to learn about history of comics and illustration.



5. SCHOOL CONTACTS

From the OTT team, you may contact Stephanie via Slack (once you get access) or WhatsApp (only in case of an emergency). You may also contact Rodrigo via WhatsApp should you have an emergency.

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