

When to Visit

While welcome all year, it is preferable to avoid July/August (summer holidays); the period between 20 December and 6 January; the week before and the week after Easter; and the following public holidays.

New Year's Day — 1 January

Easter Sunday and Easter Monday

Labour Day — 1 May

Ascension Day — March - April†

Whit Sunday — March - April†

Dutch-speaking Community Day — 11 July

National Commemoration Day — 21 July

Assumption — 15 August

French-speaking Community Day — 27 September

All Saints' Day — 1 November and 2 November*

Armistice — 11 November

Dynasty Day — King's official birthday — 15 November*

Christmas Day — 25 December and 26 December*

† Date set by lunar calendar

* Only government offices closed

National Regulations

In Belgium, many products are subject to national regulations derived largely from EEC directives (e.g., labelling, packaging and advertising of prepared foodstuffs for retail sale). These regulations apply, in particular, to foodstuffs, live plants, cigarettes, pharmaceutical and medical products, cosmetics, textiles, machinery and appliances. Regulations governing prelabelled products apply to packaged products when they are intended for consumption: foodstuffs, body care, washing and cleaning products, maintenance products for leather and furniture, mineral oils and other fuels, and ready-to-use paints and varnishes.

Marks of Origin. Foreign goods that have markings or inscriptions which would falsely imply that the goods are of Belgian origin are prohibited for import, export or transit.

Before they can be sold, all weights, measures, and instruments and apparatus for weighing, measuring and counting must bear a certificate identifying the producer or importer and a primary control stamp from the Belgian government.

Certificates. Sanitary certificates from Agriculture Canada and signed by a veterinary officer are required for meats and meat preparations, offals and rendered fats.