TRANSPORT

TYPES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The public transport network in Belgium consists of train, tram, subway and bus.

Buying a ticket before you get on the mean of transport is cheaper than buying one on the transport itself. Not paying for your ticket results in a fine when you get caught! To avoid this buy your ticket in advance or inform the conductor/driver that you still have to buy one, he/she will then print you a ticket and you will not be fined.

TRANSPORT BY TRAIN

The train is mainly used for transport between cities. Brussels has 3 main train stations:

1. Brussel Zuid/Bruxelles Midi
2. Brussel Centraal/Bruxelles-Centrale

These and all other railway stations are indicated by the NMBS-logo at the entrance:

- More information is available on the website of the Belgian Railroad company, called NMBS: www.b-rail.be/main/index.html the website is also entirely available in English.
- More information on the different types of tickets you can buy can be found here: www.b-rail.be/nat/E/. Do check it out, because sometimes it is even practical to move around within Brussels by train.
- Besides the 3 main train stations, Brussels has different smaller train stations as well. The VUB campus of Etterbeek is located near the railway station ‘Etterbeek’, close to the main campus entrance at building M.
Bus / Tram

There are three different companies that provide transport by bus in the Brussels area:

1. ‘De Lijn’ = provider for the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium
2. ‘TEC’ = provider for the French-speaking part of Belgium
3. ‘STIB/MIVB’ provider for the bilingual region of Brussels

You will mainly use the STIB-MIVB in Brussels, but you will also see buses from the other two companies, as there is a lot of transport from the surrounding areas into the city.

STIB/MIVB

All information is available on: www.mivb.be/index.htm?l=en

STIB/MIVB also provides transport via tram or subway, your STIB/MIVB ticket is valid on their buses, trams and metros. In Brussels, all metros and trams are STIB-MIVB, and their buses look like this:

For information on the different kinds of tickets: www.mivb.be/acheter-kopen.html?l=en Take your time to look for the best and cheapest way to travel. Prices can verify depending on the length of your stay, your age, and the place where you live.

De Lijn / TEC

Most important on the buses of ‘De Lijn’ and TEC is to know what they look like, so that you don’t confuse them with the buses of STIB/MIVB.

The average price of a ticket is 1.80 Euro and with this ticket you are allowed to travel for 1 hour (only one way!). If you have to change bus/tram/metro WITHIN the STIB/MIVB company, then you don’t need to buy a new ticket the machine will then register you as ‘transit’.
Metro

All metro stations in Brussels can be recognised by the following logo at the entrance:

For the VUB campus Etterbeek, the nearest metro station is called ‘Pétillon’, on the ‘Colruyt-side’ of the campus. Brussels has 7 metro lines each line has its own color. The Pétillon station is part of the yellow line (line 5). You can find a plan of the whole network by following this link: http://www.stib.be/netplan-plan-reseau.html?l=en

Combinations

If you live in the surroundings of Brussels, it is possible that you have to take a combination of different companies. In most cases, it's possible to purchase a long period subscription for this combination. Check the different websites of the different public transport companies. If you want to combine different transport providers within Brussels, you can buy a JUMP ticket, at the price of 2.00 Euro. The one-hour rule is also valid in this case. Note that JUMP tickets are only sold at specific places, so you have to check the internet.

TRANSPORT BY BIKE

If the weather is nice and you feel like biking then you can hire one for a period ranging from 1 day over 7 days to one year, using Villo!. On the website: http://en.villo.be/, you can find all the information on how Villo! works. There is an unmanned renting place in front of the railway station of Etterbeek. For one day you start at EUR 1.60, and after the first half an hour, approximately EUR 1.00 is added for each half an hour. Check all rates on: http://en.villo.be/Rates. On the picture below, you can see what Villo! bikes look like:

Please note that you can only rent a Villo! bike with a bank card and when you are registered in the Villo! network. https://aboen-bruxelles.cyclocity.fr/subscribe/start

TRANSPORT BY CAR

Brussels has lots of private car renting companies, but you can also use the car sharing system of Cambio. To make use of this, you have to register with a valid driver’s license that’s at least two years old. More information can be found on the following website http://www.cambio.be/?language=en

You can also call a taxi, however this is by far the most expensive way of transport!
FROM THE AIRPORT TO BRUSSELS

Train

The airport train station is located below the terminal (basement level -1). Up to 4 trains an hour connect the airport to Brussels North, Brussels Central and Brussels Midi stations.

Approximate travel times to Brussels Central : 17 minutes

A one way ticket to Brussels Central costs 8.50 Euro

Bus

The bus station is located on level 0 – one floor down from the arrivals hall. Centrally located at the bus station are 3 platform, each with their specific use.

De Lijn

Bus company De Lijn operates bus services to railway station Brussels North (lines 272 and 471), the Brussels underground station Roodebeek (lines 359 and 659) and also to Jette (line 820)

MIVB/STIB

The Airport Line is an 30-minute express service between Brussels Airport and the European quarter. From Monday to Friday 8pm the Airport Line is operated as an express service with number 12 and only serves the major stops. On weekdays after 8pm and on Saturday, Sundays and holidays, the Airport Line is operated as a regular service with number 21, serving all stops.

All MIVB/STIB buses depart from platform C.

In order to save time and money, buy your ticket from the GO ticket vending machines before boarding. These machines accept Maestro bank cards, credit cards and coins. Tickets bought from the driver are more expensive.

Taxi

Taxis with a taximeter are permanently available in front of the arrival hall. The fare from the airport to the city centre of Brussels is normally around 45 Euro. Licensed taxis can be recognized by the blue and yellow emblem. Travellers are advised to avoid unlicensed taxis!