

# MARTIN'S CYCLE TOURS

*Escape by Bike*



CULTURAL  
HERITAGE



NATURE AND  
WELLBEING



LOCAL  
SPECIALITIES



LEISURE



THE MARTIN'S  
CYCLE TOUR IS A  
340 KM **BICYCLE  
TRIP** BETWEEN THE  
MARTIN'S HOTELS,  
BUT IT IS ABOVE ALL  
A MAGNIFICENT  
OPPORTUNITY TO  
EXPERIENCE **SLOW  
TOURISM.**

[martinshotels.com](https://martinshotels.com)



The Martin's Cycle Tour is a 340 km bicycle trip between the Martin's hotels, but it is above all a magnificent opportunity to experience Slow Tourism. Discovering enchanting landscapes while taking your time, fully immersing yourself in the nature that surrounds you, privileging encounters, savouring the pleasures of the table, tasting local products...

Travelling by bike is a wonderful way to travel differently to discover or rediscover a territory. Slower, more connected, more attentive to variations in the landscape, and even more receptive to the quality of the welcome, cycle tourists appreciate authentic hotels that are sensitive to their expectations.

Martin's hotels are located in the cultural and heritage heart of Belgium, conveniently anchored in urban centres. Cycling travellers will have the opportunity to discover some of the main heritage attractions in the heart of Europe and the pleasure of resting in hotels prepared to receive them. Each Martin's Hotel welcomes you to a distinct environment, with a high added value in terms of history, architecture and interior design.

Belgium is full of quality cycling routes, cultural attractions and beautiful landscapes. This trip covers some of these and promises a travel and hospitality experience that meets the growing expectations of travelling cyclists.

6 DAYS



#### MARTIN'S RED

from Tubize to Genval

#### MARTIN'S CHÂTEAU DU LAC

from Genval to  
Louvain-la-Neuve

#### MARTIN'S LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE

from Louvain-la-Neuve  
to Leuven

#### MARTIN'S KLOOSTER

from Leuven to Mechelen

#### MARTIN'S PATERSHOF

from Mechelen  
to Brussels

#### MARTIN'S BRUSSELS

from Brussels to Tubize



## PRINCIPLE OF THE JOURNEY

The Martin's Cycle Tour is a 6-day, 7-night cycling trip between the Martin's Hotels in Brussels, Walloon Brabant, Flemish Brabant and the Province of Antwerp.

Each stage starts from one hotel and will lead you to the next hotel. You can start your journey from the hotel of your choice that is involved in the Martin's Cycle Tour:

- **MARTIN'S RED - TUBIZE** (Hotel of the Red Devils training centre)  
Between old canals and battlefields
- **MARTIN'S CHÂTEAU DU LAC - GENVAL**  
Old stones, strange stones and new stones
- **MARTIN'S LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE**  
From one university to another, from one century to another
- **MARTIN'S KLOOSTER - LEUVEN**  
In the land of the river Dyle
- **MARTIN'S PATERSHOF - MECHELEN**  
Arrival in Brussels on the garden side
- **MARTIN'S BRUSSELS EU**  
Beers, forests and traditions

However, if you want to come by car to start the Martin's Cycle Tour, we advise you to start your first stage with an overnight stay in Tubize as presented in this roadbook and therefore to start your journey from the Martin's Red as this one is provided with a car park where you can leave your car for the whole duration of your cycling trip between the hotels.

It is of course possible to do only a few stages and return to your starting point by train. All destinations have a train station and you can board the train with your bike.

More info:  
[www.belgiantrain.be/en](http://www.belgiantrain.be/en)

## TECHNICAL ADVICE

We recommend that you take the Martin's Cycle Tour with confidence:

- Use a recently serviced bike that you have had the opportunity to try and adjust to your measurements. Don't hesitate to change the posture settings on the way.
- Depending on the road surface, we recommend that you use good, wide tyres with the correct air pressure. Don't forget to check the pressure regularly.
- Carry one repair kit per person (including a pump) and at least one spare inner tube.
- To get the most out of your trip, to carry only the essentials and to travel light. Two 20L panniers are more than enough to carry everything.
- Take a battery with you to recharge your phone or GPS.

And of course don't forget to take your precious road-book with you!

If you do not have a bicycle, please contact Martin's Hotels who will be happy to provide you with a suitable travel bike.

Contact: [mct@martinshotels.com](mailto:mct@martinshotels.com)

All Martin's Hotels are equipped to facilitate the use of bicycles: secure bicycle parking, repair kit, ...

SHARE WITH THE COMMUNITY YOUR FAVORITES, YOUR EMOTIONS, YOUR DISCOVERIES AND YOUR THOUGHTS BY ACCOMPANYING YOUR PUBLICATIONS WITH  
**#MARTINSCYCLETOUR #MARTINSHOTELS**

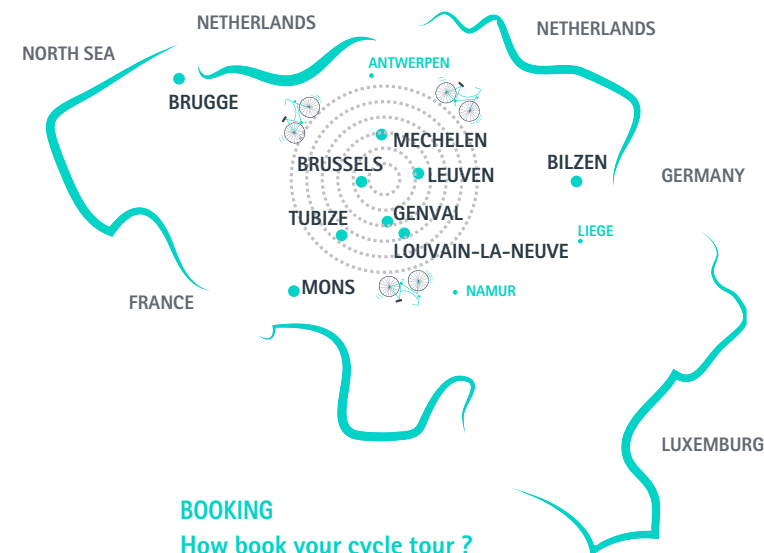
## ORIENTATION



Each step is described in this guide. To help you find your way around safely, we offer you several options available by clicking on QR codes.

- You will be able to download the GPX track of each stage and import it into the application of your choice.
- You will be able to follow the track created and available on the Cirkwi and komoot applications.

The CIRKWI application will have the advantage of including all the points of interest to be discovered on your way. It will be easier for you to find your way to these points of interest.



**BOOKING**  
How book your cycle tour ?  
[www.martinscycletours.be](http://www.martinscycletours.be)





# STAGE 1 TUBIZE > GENVAL BETWEEN OLD CANALS AND BATTLEFIELDS



## MARTIN'S CYCLE TOURS *Escape by Bike*

60,5 km

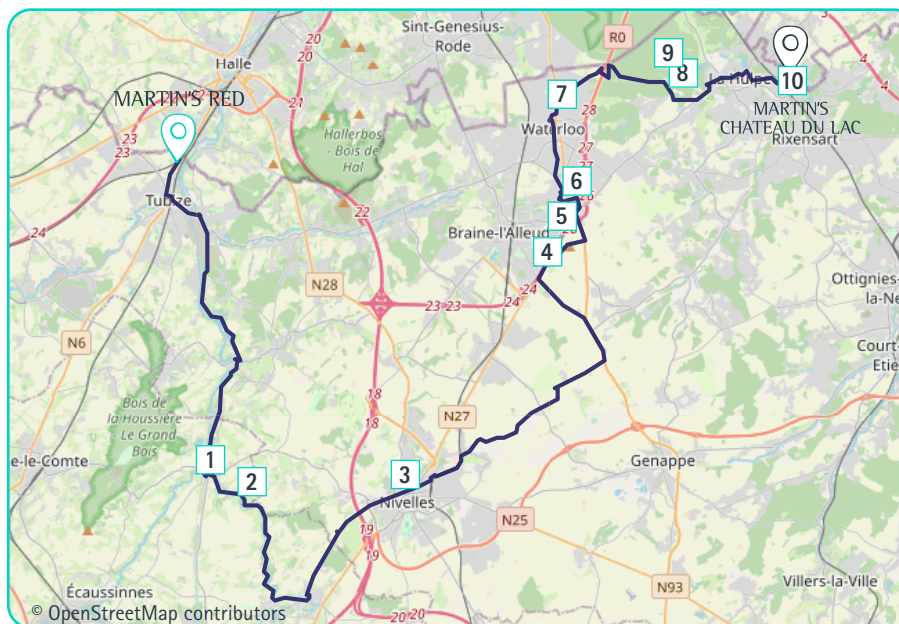
Medium

5h00 + visits  
(3h10 with VAE)

VTC / VAE

Join Ronquières to contemplate the impressive inclined plane! Driving along the old canal, you will arrive at the Château de Seneffe, an 18th century jewel of neo-classical architecture and its park and gardens, magnificent green settings with different atmospheres. You will take a section of the Ravel passing through Nivelles and then go north towards Waterloo to discover or rediscover three historic sites of the famous battle: the Hougoumont Farm, the Wellington Museum and the Wellington Museum. You will then reach La Hulpe and the Domaine Solvay, a real jewel with its park, its castle and the creations of the artist Folon. Finally, you will arrive in the magnificent setting of Lake Genval and its Belle Epoque residences.

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### TO BE DISCOVERED

#### 1 Inclined plane of Ronquières

The Ronquières Inclined Plane, which extends over 1500 metres, is unique in its kind and compensates for a 70 metre difference in height. Discover this fabulous site thanks to its Visitor Center with a panoramic lift and a glass footbridge overlooking the inclined plane.

Route Baccara 1w  
7090 Ronquières  
[www.visithainaut.be/plan\\_incline\\_ronquieres](http://www.visithainaut.be/plan_incline_ronquieres)



#### 2 Old Ronquières Canal

A vestige of industrial heritage, it is a route of the 70-tonne and 300-tonne gauge canal which links Seneffe (from the old boat tunnels) to Ronquières (lock 27). It was disused in 1958 following the closure of the Godarville tunnel.

#### 3 Collegiate Church Saint Gertrude

Dating from the 11th century, this collegiate church, a listed European monument, offers a journey back in time, through the visit of its perfectly restored elements, made of sober materials. This imposing Ottonian Romanesque sanctuary has two transepts and two opposing choirs. With its 102-metre long central nave, it is one of the largest Romanesque churches in the world!

Grand'Place  
1400 Nivelles

#### 4 Hougoumont Farm Museum

Located about 1.5 km from the Memorial, the Hougoumont Farm is one of the places where the tragic battles of the Battle of Waterloo took place. In this place, which was the scene of fierce fighting, a grandiose multimedia installation by Luc Petit tells the story of «the battle within the battle».

Chemin du Goumont  
1420 Braine-l'Alleud  
<http://www.waterloo-tourisme.com/en/hougoumont-farm>

#### 5 Waterloo 1815

Located in the heart of the Waterloo battlefield, the Waterloo 1815 Memorial takes you back to one of the most tormented periods in our history in a spectacular and astonishing way.

Route du Lion 1815  
1420 Braine-l'Alleud  
[www.waterloo1815.be](http://www.waterloo1815.be)



**6 Mont-Saint-Jean Farm**  

A place of character, authenticity and history, the Ferme de Mont-Saint-Jean invites you to come and discover a range of brewing and regional products.

Its events invite you to enter the world of this essential place and its museum, entitled «Le Revers de la Médaille», continues to bring the history of the Hôpital des Anglais to life.

Chaussée de Charleroi 591  
1410 Waterloo  
<https://fermedemontsaintjean.be/en/>



**7 Wellington Museum** 

The Duke of Wellington's Headquarters opens its doors to you in the centre of Waterloo. Immerse yourself in the history of Napoleon's last battle thanks to an important collection of period objects!

Chaussée de Bruxelles 147  
1410 Waterloo  
[www.museewellington.be/musee](http://www.museewellington.be/musee)

**8 Folon Foundation** 

Located a few minutes from Brussels, the Folon Foundation, created and designed by the Belgian artist Jean-Michel Folon himself, presents more than 40 years of creation. The museum, located in the wonderful Domaine régional Solvay, houses more than 500 of his works. Discover the multiple facets of this artist and his universe: watercolours, serigraphs, engravings, posters, diverted objects, stained glass windows, sculptures, etc. The highly original scenography takes us on an amazing journey. Films, sound and visual effects enliven this interactive journey. To complete the discovery of the museum, the Folon Foundation offers a wide range of educational activities.

After your visit, take advantage of the 227 hectares of the Domaine régional Solvay to stroll through its varied landscapes bordered by ponds and inhabited by remarkable flora and fauna.

6 Drève de la Ramée - 1310 La Hulpe  
[www.fondationfolon.be](http://www.fondationfolon.be)



**9 Domaine régional Solvay**    
**Château de la Hulpe**

A real jewel in the crown of Walloon Brabant, the Domaine régional Solvay in La Hulpe is full of charm. No matter where you go, you will be captivated by the green and enchanting landscape that surrounds you. The Château de La Hulpe sits atop the hill and shows off its best features. Its French garden is a great place for souvenir photos and the view is like a postcard... The castle cannot be visited. Not far from there, discreet but present, Folon reigns through the poetry of his art. As if in an open book, the Folon Foundation will reveal the multiple facets of this Belgian artist. Hidden in the four corners of the park, you will see some of his sculptures, guardians of the park. As you can see, whether you are looking for a moment of relaxation or escape, the Domaine régional Solvay will take you on a timeless journey.

111 Chaussée de Bruxelles  
1310 La Hulpe  
[www.chateaudelahulpe.be](http://www.chateaudelahulpe.be)

**10 Lake of Genval**  

Located in an enchanting setting, changing with the seasons, the lake of Genval stretches as far as the eye can see. With its romantic side, it invites you to enjoy a moment of relaxation in the heart of Walloon Brabant. Walking, fishing, sailing, pedal boats... a wide range of activities in or around the water are available to vary the pleasures of young and old alike!

**More info:**

Centrissime Tourism House  
[www.region-du-centre.com](http://www.region-du-centre.com)

Walloon Brabant Tourist Office  
[www.destinationbw.be](http://www.destinationbw.be)

**MARTIN'S RED**

★★★★

Rue de Bruxelles 484  
1480 Tubize  
T +32 2 634 11 11  
[mred@martinshotels.com](mailto:mred@martinshotels.com)



BIENVENUE VÉLO  
FIETS WELKOM  
BIKES WELCOME  
RADFAHRER WILLKOMMEN



Restaurant



Bike parking



Car parking



Lunch pack



Bike storage room



Bike rental



Electric recharge



First aid kits for cyclists and bikes

**MARTIN'S CHATEAU DU LAC**

★★★★

Avenue du Lac 87 · 1332 Genval  
T +32 (0)2 655 71 11  
[cdl@martinshotels.com](mailto:cdl@martinshotels.com)

**MARTIN'S MANOIR**

COUNTRY HOUSE

Avenue Hoover 8 · 1332 Genval  
+32 (0)2 655 63 11  
[mdl@martinshotels.com](mailto:mdl@martinshotels.com)



BIENVENUE VÉLO  
FIETS WELKOM  
BIKES WELCOME  
RADFAHRER WILLKOMMEN



Restaurant



Spa - Wellness



Bike parking



Car parking



Lunch pack



Bike storage room



Bike rental



Electric recharge



First aid kits for cyclists and bikes





## STAGE 2 GENVAL > LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE

### ABBEYS, CASTLES AND DIVINE BEVERAGES



MARTIN'S CYCLE TOURS  
*Escape by Bike*



58,4 km



Easy



4h45 + visits  
(3h05 with VAE)

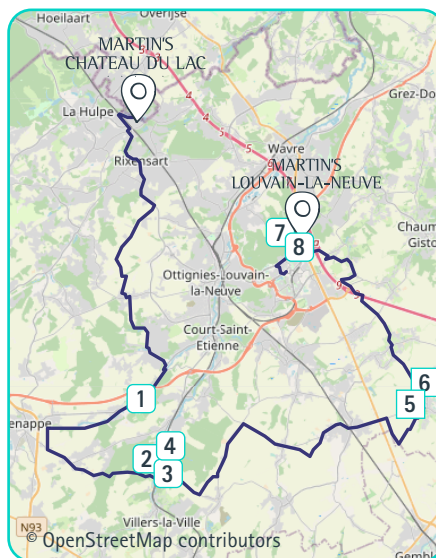


VTC / VAE

You will again travel through Walloon Brabant in the direction of Ottignies and Court St-Etienne. You will then reach the town of Walhain, known as the geographical centre of Belgium and for its feudal castle. You will then go up to the student city of Louvain-la-Neuve via country roads. Belgium's youngest city (built in the 1970s) is known for its special atmosphere, urban architecture and the importance given to greenery. Louvain-la-Neuve is a pedestrianised and dynamic city.

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### TO BE DISCOVERED

#### 1 Château de Bousval vineyard

Discover the beautiful history of the Château de Bousval vineyard. A local producer who offers you a wide variety of products.

The story is that of a nature lover who owned abandoned land where he decided to establish a vineyard in order to revive it. Three grape varieties share these hilly lands: Pinot Noir, Pinot Gris and Chardonnay. Here, no inherited wine, but a wine in the making, the result of the meeting of the young vine with the Belgian sun, the fauna, the varied flora and the micro-organisms of the Bousval soil.

Rue du Château . 1470 Genappe  
<https://chateaubousval.be/>

#### 2 Abbey of Villers-la-Ville

The Abbey of Villers, founded in 1146, is one of the most prestigious testimonies of the life of the monks of the Cistercian Order.

Its ruins reflect several architectural styles. The abbey is considered one of the most beautiful architectural sites in Europe.

Rue de l'Abbaye 55 - 1495 Villers-la-Ville  
<http://villers.be/en>



#### 3 Microbrewery of the Hostieux Moines of the Abbey of Villers - Brabant

The microbrewery of the Hostieux Moines of the Abbey of Villers en Brabant is located in the former laundry of the Abbey, south of the mill. The large vats house the three beers of the Hostieux Moines, namely the Lumineuse, the Ténébreuse and the Christmas beer, the Dom Placide. Activities and visits are planned throughout the year.

Avenue Georges Speeckaert 50  
1495 Villers-la-Ville  
<https://villers.be/fr/visite-mensuelle-micro-brasserie>

#### 4 Villers-la-Vigne

Villers-la-Vigne is the vineyard of the Abbey of Villers-la-Ville. Rehabilitated in the 1990s, it consists of a plain and four south-facing terraces, nestled in the middle of a walled area surrounded by stone walls several hundred years old. The vineyard comprises 15 ares planted. With more than 200 members, the Brotherhood of the Villers Abbey Vineyard maintains the vineyard as a team and thus revives the old Abbey vineyard.

Rue de l'Abbaye 55 . 1495 Villers-la-Ville  
<http://www.villers-la-vigne.be/>

#### 5 Marette Farm

First mentioned at the end of the 16th century, it is particularly well known for having been the scene of an episode on the day of the Battle of Waterloo. It was on this farm, which takes its name from its last owner under the Ancien Régime, that Marshal Grouchy, having received a mission from the Emperor Napoleon to pursue the retreating Prussian army, set up his headquarters on the morning of 18 June 1815.

The marshal convenes his staff there and takes stock with Generals Gérard and Vandamme. It was now 11.30 am when the first cannon shots were heard in the distance; the Battle of Waterloo was beginning. It is then that General Gérard proposes to stop pursuing the Prussians and to «march with cannon». To which Grouchy replied: «My duty is to carry out the Emperor's orders». The discussion is closed.

Legend has it that Grouchy was late arriving on the plain of Waterloo because he had stopped for too long to eat strawberries from the farm's vegetable garden.



It is a square-shaped farmhouse with a two-storey main building built on a high base, dating from the mid-18th century and featuring a hip roof. The 17th century porch is the oldest part of the present building. This porch has a superb frame in blue stone with bushhammering. **Warning: private property - not open to the public.**

Rue de Sauvenière 44  
1457 Walhain

**4 The feudal castle of Walhain**

At the confluence of the Hain and the ri des Radas, in a relatively well-preserved topographical setting, nestle the ruins of the feudal castle. This was the centre of a lordship that developed in the second half of the 12th century with the Walhain family. After passing through various hands, the lordship fell into the hands of the powerful «de Glimes» and «de Bergues» families from 1430 to 1567. This was its hour of glory because, in 1532, Charles-Quint established the land of Walhain as the capital of a county that included many surrounding villages as well as the town of Wavre. It was at this time that the castle was converted into a pleasure castle. The feudal castle has been classified as a Historic Monument since 1955 and as a Site since 1980. The site is accessible on request at the Walhain Tourist Office.

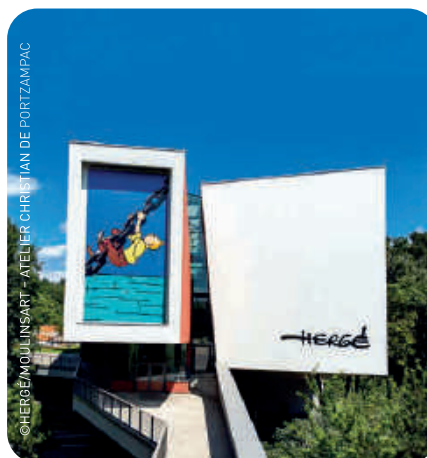
Rue du Vieux Château  
1457 Walhain



**7 Hergé Museum**

By visiting the Hergé Museum in Louvain-la-Neuve, you will learn more about the life and work of Hergé, the father of Tintin and Snowy. More than 80 original drawings, 800 photos, documents and various objects have been brought together in this magical, bright and daring place. Its architect, Christian de Portzamparc, a poet of volume and space, has dreamed up and designed an unusual building for a heritage that is just as unusual. Surprise guaranteed with the multi-talented designer! A graphic artist, publicist, caricaturist, scriptwriter and painter in his spare time, Hergé was all of these things and much more. Discover the fabulous career of one of the greatest artists of the twentieth century.

Rue du Labrador 26  
1348 Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve  
<https://www.museeherge.com/>



**8 Musée L**

It is the first large-scale university museum in Belgium! During your visit, turn into Indiana Jones and discover more than 1500 works of art from all kinds of civilizations. A mishmash that will not leave you indifferent... Invent. Dialogue. A whole art. This is the «motto» of the L Museum. Take the time to admire this emblematic building of modern Belgian architecture: it is a sublime work of art in itself!

Place des Sciences 3  
1348 Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve  
<https://www.museel.be/fr>



**More info:**

Walloon Brabant Tourist Office  
<https://www.destinationbw.be/>

**MARTIN'S CHATEAU DU LAC**  
★★★★★

Avenue du Lac 87 . 1332 Genval  
T +32 (0)2 655 71 11  
[cdl@martinshotels.com](mailto:cdl@martinshotels.com)

**MARTIN'S MANOIR**  
COUNTRY HOUSE

Avenue Hoover 8 . 1332 Genval  
+32 (0)2 655 63 11  
[mdl@martinshotels.com](mailto:mdl@martinshotels.com)



BIENVENUE VÉLO  
FIETS WELKOM  
BIKES WELCOME



Restaurant



Spa - Wellness



Bike parking



Car parking



Lunch pack



Bike storage room



Bike rental



Electric recharge



First aid kits for cyclists and bikes

**MARTIN'S LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE**  
★★★★ SUPERIOR

Rue de l'Hocaille, 1-3  
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve  
T +32 (0)10 77 20 20  
[lln@martinshotels.com](mailto:lln@martinshotels.com)

**MARTIN'S ALL SUITES**  
★★★★ SUPERIOR



BIENVENUE VÉLO  
FIETS WELKOM  
BIKES WELCOME



Restaurant



Spa - Wellness



Bike parking



Car parking



Lunch pack



Bike storage room



Bike rental



Electric recharge



First aid kits for cyclists and bikes





# STAGE 3 LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE > LEUVEN

## FROM ONE UNIVERSITY TO ANOTHER, FROM ONE CENTURY TO ANOTHER



MARTIN'S CYCLE TOURS  
*Escape by Bike*

55,4 km

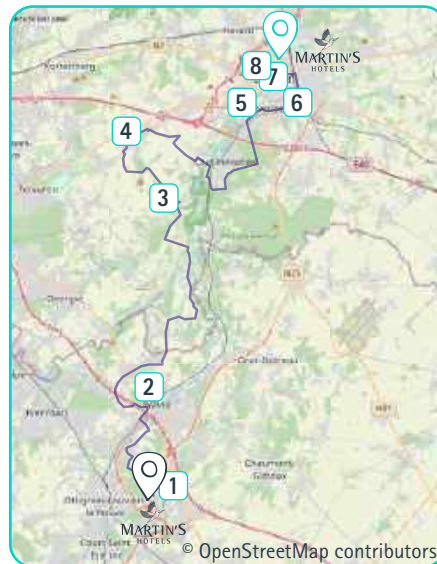
Easy

4h30 + visits

VTC

Linking Leuven to Louvain-la-Neuve cannot be done without a little bit of history between its major Belgian university cities. The University of Leuven was founded in 1425 in Flemish Brabant. It is one of the oldest universities in the world. During the 20th century, the Catholic University of Leuven saw its student population gradually split between Flemish and French speakers. At the end of the 1960s, the presence of French-speaking students and professors was increasingly contested by their Dutch-speaking compatriots. In 1968, paving stones were thrown and demonstrations were held with cries of «Walen Buiten» («The Walloons out»). The situation was such that the government of the day fell. This community quarrel, combined with the sharp increase in the student population, forced all the French-speaking faculties of the UCL to move to Wallonia. The municipality of Ottignies hosted the project on the Lauzelle plateau. The first stone of the new town was laid on 2 February 1971. You will leave Louvain-la-Neuve in Walloon Brabant to reach Wavre and its Adventure Park. You will then travel through Flemish Brabant to discover its architectural gems. You will arrive in the historic city of Leuven via the Heverlee woods and the magnificent Parc Abbey!

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### TO BE DISCOVERED

#### 1 Lauzelle Wood

A Natura 2000 site, the Lauzelle Wood and its 20-hectare nature reserve are an essential part of the landscape and natural heritage of the town of Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve, in Walloon Brabant.

On the edge of the noisy student city, this hilly and varied green space is a real haven of peace.

Boulevard de Lauzelle,  
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve



#### 2 Adventure Parc Wavre

In the heart of nature, the Wavre Adventure Park offers 24 tree climbing courses and 240 games in the trees, suitable for all levels. A play area is accessible from 4 years old. Make the big bungee jump or go full speed ahead on the 45 zip lines with a total length of 2.5 km! Discover the 320-metre long zip line with bends. A unique experience in the Benelux! A giant catapult also propels you 17 metres high. All tree games are fully secured by a continuous lifeline. Since 2020, an interactive lasergame awaits you to conquer the Beumont fortress. And to relax, 3 terraces and a reception centre with cafeteria are at your disposal. Test your adventurous soul and climb up into the trees at Adventure Parc!

152 Rue Sainte Anne  
1300 Wavre  
<http://www.aventureparc.be>



#### 3 Brouwerij De Kroon

Tasting of beers that come directly from the brewery to the pump. You will have the opportunity to accompany your beer with good food.

Beekstraat . 3040 Huldenberg  
<https://www.brouwerijdekroon.be/>

#### 4 Leefdaal Castle

Leefdael Castle, also known as Liedekerke Castle, is a Renaissance castle with medieval remains.

Boskee . 3061 Leefdaal

#### 5 Château d'Arenberg

In the fourteenth century, a first castle was built here by the Dukes of Arenberg. The de Croy family received the estate in 1446. From the beginning of the sixteenth century, the present castle was built in the Renaissance style. In the nineteenth century, it was largely transformed into a neo-gothic style. In 1916, the Duke of Arenberg donated the estate to the University. Today, the castle is occupied by the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the KU Leuven and forms the heart of a green campus for the Wetenschap&Technologie (Science & Technology) group.

Kardinaal Mercierlaan 94  
3001 Leuven





**6 Parc Abbey**

Parc Abbey is an exceptionally well-preserved 12th century historical site. It is located on the outskirts of Leuven and is surrounded by greenery.

Abdij van Park  
3001 Leuven

**7 Great Beguinage**

The beguinage dates from the 13th century. At its peak in the 17th century, some 360 beguines lived here.

The Grand Beguinage was declared a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1998 and is surrounded by a series of alleys, squares, gardens and parks with dozens of traditional sandstone houses and convents

Groot Begijnhof  
3000 Leuven

**8 Botanical Garden Leuven**

The Leuven Botanical Garden is the oldest in Belgium. The University of Leuven created it in 1738 for its medical students.

Kapucijnenvoer, 30  
3000 Leuven

**More info:**

Walloon Brabant Tourist Office  
<https://www.destinationbw.be/>

Tourism Flanders-Brabant  
<https://www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/>



**MARTIN'S LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE**  
★ ★ ★ SUPERIOR

Rue de l'Hocaille, 1-3  
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve  
T +32 (0)10 77 20 20  
lln@martinshotels.com

**MARTIN'S ALL SUITES**  
★ ★ ★ ★ SUPERIOR



BIENVENUE VÉLO  
FIETS WELKOM  
BIKES WELCOME



Restaurant



Spa - Wellness



Bike parking



Car parking



Lunch pack



Bike storage room



Bike rental



Electric recharge



First aid kits for cyclists and bikes

**MARTIN'S KLOOSTER**  
★ ★ ★ ★

Onze-Lieve-Vrouwstraat 18  
3000 Leuven  
T +32 (0)16 21 31 41  
kh@martinshotels.com



Bike parking



Car parking



Lunch pack



Bike storage room



Bike rental



Electric recharge



First aid kits for cyclists and bikes



## STAGE 4 LEUVEN > MECHELEN IN THE LAND OF THE RIVER DYLE



## MARTIN'S CYCLE TOURS *Escape by Bike*

46,7 km

Very easy

3h30 + visits

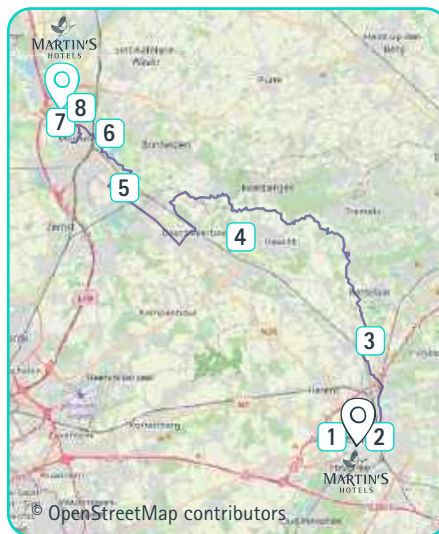
VTC

During this stage you will mainly drive along the Dyle. In the land of the Dyle, the brewers even had a canal dug to transport the barrels of beer from Leuven to other cities. But where does the Dyle come from? The Dyle has its source in Houtain-le-val in Walloon Brabant. It flows through the municipalities of Court-Saint-Étienne, Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve and Wavre. In Flemish Brabant, the Dyle becomes the Dijle and flows through Rhode-Sainte-Agathe, Sint-Joris-Weert, Korbeek-Dijle and Heverlee before reaching Leuven. In Leuven the Dyle also passes through the large beguinage. It will then continue its journey as far as Mechelen, before forming the Rupel by mixing its waters with the Nèthe. A day where you can taste beer, walk through provincial parks and visit a zoo. On arrival in Mechelen, you will pass Kazern Dossin for an important memorial before reaching the hotel, famous for being housed in a former church.

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### TO BE DISCOVERED

#### 1 The Little Beguinage

The first mention of the Little Beguinage dates back to 1272. The district consisted of a street and two dead-end alleys where the women who served in the nearby St. Gertrude's Abbey lived. In 2000, the Little Beguinage was extensively restored and sold to private individuals. All that remains of the beguinage are about thirty houses in traditional Flemish style.

┆ Klein Begijnhof, 3000 Leuven



#### 2 Kessel-Lo Provincial Estate

This green recreational park, located near Leuven, is perfect for families with young children.

Children can enjoy the playgrounds, the boats, the pedal boats, the road course, the miniature golf course and the roller skating track.

The shallow, heated outdoor paddling pool is ideal for young children.

Sportsmen can play tennis, fishing, football, volleyball and basketball.

In the bee house, visitors can observe the activities of the bees behind glass and a small exhibition tells you all about honey and beeswax (by appointment only).



At the Ecocentre, you can learn all about 'water', such as water pollution, water purification, water catchment, aquatic fauna and flora and the rational use of water (by appointment only).

Beemdenstraat z/n,  
3010 Kessel-Lo  
<https://www.vlaamsbrabant.be/nl/vrije-tijd-en-toerisme/provinciedomein-kessel-lo>

#### 3 Rotselaar Mill

This restored old watermill was part of the Rotselaar seigneurie until 1573. Located on the Dyle, it is now home to a sustainable development project. Visits by appointment only.

Molenstraat 2,  
3110 Rotselaar  
<https://www.molenvanrotselaar.be/>

#### 4 Haacht Brewery

A 100% Belgian family brewery for four generations, the Haacht Brewery is proud of its tradition and know-how. A rich history that comes to the fore during a visit to the buildings and remains from the beginning of the last century. But don't be fooled: behind the brewery's historic facades, the brewing process, bottling and refermentation in hot rooms are equipped with the latest technology.

Provinciesteenweg 28,  
3190 Boortmeerbeek  
<https://haacht.com/en-be>





**5 Planckendael Zoo**  

Planckendael is much more than just a wildlife park. On the 40-hectare estate you can admire exotic animals, go on expeditions on suspension bridges or walk under the treetops.

Leuvensesteenweg 582,  
2812 Mechelen  
<https://www.zooplanckendael.be/en/>

**6 Provincial domain of Nekker**  

At the De Nekker sports and recreation domain, you can play a variety of indoor and outdoor sports. In the summer, you can take a dip in the swimming pond or lie on the sandy beach and enjoy the sun. A covered playground is available for children in all weathers. In short, the domain offers a multitude of relaxation possibilities for the whole family.

Nekkerspoel-Borcht 19,  
2800 Mechelen  
<http://www.denekker.be>



**7 Kazerne Dossin** 

The new Kazerne Dossin Museum tells the Belgian side of the Holocaust story. Stories, testimonies and photos take you through the 1940s and describe the discrimination and subsequent deportation of Jews and gypsies.

Goswin de Stassartstraat 153,  
2800 Mechelen  
<https://www.kazernedossin.eu/en/>



**8 Brewery Het Anker**  

Did you know that Het Anker has been in existence for over 100 years? Beer consists of three main ingredients? You can make beer from whisky? Discover this and much more during a visit to Het Anker and/or Stokerij De Molenberg.

If you wish to visit both Brouwerij Het Anker and Stokerij De Molenberg, you should take into account that there should be at least 2 hours between the two starting times.

Guido Gezellelaan 49,  
2800 Mechelen  
<https://www.hetanker.be/en>



**More info:**








Tourism Vlaamse-Brabant  
<https://www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/>

Visit Mechelen  
<https://visit.mechelen.be/>

**MARTIN'S KLOOSTER**

★★★★








Onze-Lieve-Vrouwstraat 18  
3000 Leuven  
T +32 (0)16 21 31 41  
[kh@martinshotels.com](mailto:kh@martinshotels.com)

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-  Bike storage room
-  Bike rental
-  Electric recharge
-  First aid kits for cyclists and bikes

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Karmelietenstraat 4  
2800 Mechelen  
T +32 (0)15 46 46 46  
[mph@martinshotels.com](mailto:mph@martinshotels.com)

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# STAGE 5 MECHELEN > BRUSSELS

## ARRIVAL IN BRUSSELS ON THE GARDEN SIDE



# MARTIN'S CYCLE TOURS

*Escape by Bike*

50,6 km

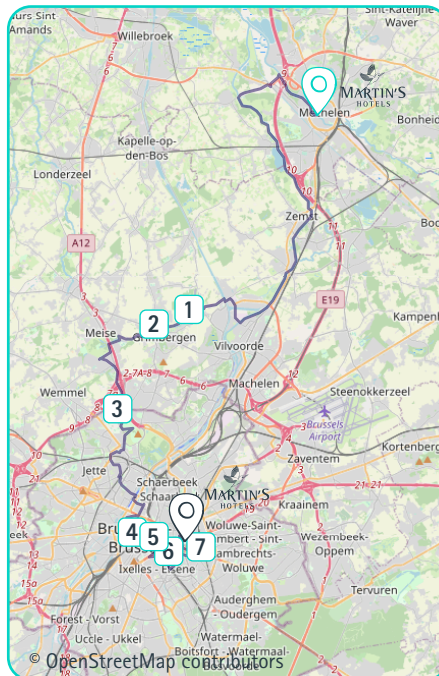
Medium

4h00 + visits

VTC

From Mechelen, you will cross Flemish Brabant to the Botanical Gardens of Meise and the Bouchout Castle at the gates of Brussels. You will arrive in the capital from the north, along the royal domain and past the Atomium. You will pass the historic Tour & Taxi site to reach the city centre by the canal. You will reach the hotel via the historical Brussels, the Sablon district, the Royal Palace, the Cinquantenaire Park and the European district. A rich day out to and in the Capital of Europe.

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### TO BE DISCOVERED

**1 Grimbergen Abbey**

Grimbergen Abbey is an abbey in the centre of Grimbergen, founded in 1128 by the lord Gauthier Berthout. Grimbergen beer has not been brewed at this location for over two centuries, but it is well worth a visit. For beer lovers, the Abbey Beer Museum waiting for you.

Kerkplein  
1850 Grimbergen



**2 Bouchout Castle**   
and the Botanical Garden of Meise

The castle dates back to the 12th century and was once the residence of Charlotte, Princess of Belgium and Empress of Mexico. You can admire it but it is not open to the public.

Come and discover one of the largest botanical gardens in Europe! This historic estate of 92 hectares of greenery has something for every nature lover. 18,000 species await you! Come and admire the beautiful and interesting outdoor collections: medicinal and aromatic plants, rhododendrons, conifers, maples...

Nieuwelaan 38  
1860 Meise  
<https://www.plantentuinmeise.be/en>



**3 Atomium**

A symbol of Brussels and Belgium and a unique achievement in the history of architecture, the Atomium is now the most popular attraction in the capital of Europe.

Built for the first post-war World's Fair [Expo 58], its nine spheres depict an elementary iron crystal magnified 165 billion times and embody the belief in science and progress.

Place de l'Atomium 1  
1020 Laeken  
<https://www.atomium.be/home/cover>





**4 Grand-Place**

Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Grand-Place began to be built in the 15th century, first with a few guild houses and then with a Town Hall to establish the authority of this commercial centre.

**5 BELvue Museum**

Presenting itself as the museum of Belgium and its history, but also as a 'centre for democracy', the museum has recently been completely redesigned. Democracy, prosperity, solidarity, pluralism, migration, languages, Europe: the BELvue Museum offers you the opportunity to discover the country through these themes.

Place des Palais 7  
1000 Brussels  
<https://www.belvue.be/en>



**6 Leopold Park**

The Leopold Park, located in the heart of the European quarter, is a haven of greenery, its lawns invaded at lunchtime by students, employees of nearby institutions or tourists. It is also home to the Museum of Natural Sciences with its parade of iguanodons and its gallery devoted to biodiversity, as well as the new Museum of European History and scientific institutions.

Avenue du Maelbeek  
1000 Brussels



**7 Cinquantenaire Park and Autoworld**



The museum is located in a prestigious building in the Parc du Cinquantenaire, built in 1880 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of the Kingdom of Belgium.

Autoworld is more than 300 vehicles, coaches and motorbikes of different origins that trace the history of the automobile and illustrate the spectacular development of vehicles over more than a century.

Parc du Cinquantenaire . 1000 Brussels  
<https://www.autoworld.be/en/contact>

**More info:**

Tourism Vlaamse-Brabant  
<https://www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/en>

Visit Brussels  
<https://visit.brussels/en>

**MARTIN'S PATERSHOF**

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Karmelietenstraat 4  
2800 Mechelen  
T +32 (0)15 46 46 46  
[mph@martinshotels.com](mailto:mph@martinshotels.com)

**MARTIN'S BRUSSELS EU**

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Boulevard Charlemagne 80  
B-1000 Brussels  
T +32 (0)2 230 85 55  
[mbeu@martinshotels.com](mailto:mbeu@martinshotels.com)



- Bike parking
- Car parking
- Lunch pack
- Bike storage room
- Bike rental
- Electric recharge
- First aid kits for cyclists and bikes

- Restaurant
- Bike parking
- Car parking
- Lunch pack
- Bike storage room
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- First aid kits for cyclists and bikes



## STAGE 6 BRUSSELS > TUBIZE BEERS, FORESTS AND TRADITIONS



MARTIN'S CYCLE TOURS  
*Escape by Bike*

68,3 km

Medium

5h30 + visits

VTC

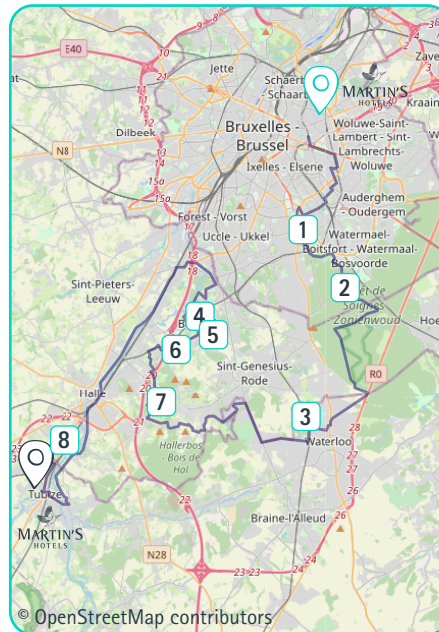
You will spend part of the day in the woods: the Bois de la Cambre and the Forêt de Soignes. A real green lung for the capital. You will also cross the Pajottenland in Flemish Brabant, southwest of Brussels. Pajotteland is the land of hops and beer, especially lambic and gueuze. It is a very fertile and hilly agricultural region between the rivers Senne and Dender and the Senne valley. It is part of the green belt of Brussels.

You will leave Brussels via the Bois de la Cambre and the Forêt de Soignes. After crossing the forest, you will arrive at the foot of the Lion of Waterloo. You will pass by the provincial domain of Huizingen and the magnificent Beersel Castle before reaching the hotel via Halle along the canal. A day of hop tasting in prospect!

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### TO BE DISCOVERED

#### 1 Bois de la Cambre

The Bois de la Cambre is located at the end of Avenue Louise. This English-style park with its forest-like layout owes its name to the nearby Abbaye de la Cambre. It is a unique jewel of Brussels' heritage, which has nothing to envy to the emblematic «Central Park» in New York. People come here all year round to walk, jog, cycle and rollerblade. At weekends, several roads are closed to cars to make room for alternative mobility. The Bois de la Cambre is an offshoot of the Forêt de Soignes. It covers an area of 123 hectares. In 2004, the wood was declared a special conservation area by Natura 2000. More than 80 trees are listed in the inventory of remarkable trees in the Brussels-Capital Region. In addition, the Bois de la Cambre is



home to 16 species of bats. From time to time, roe deer come out of the Forêt de Soignes to roam the area.

Avenue du Panorama  
1000 Bruxelles  
<https://visit.brussels/en/place/Bois-de-la-Cambre>



#### 2 Forêt de Soignes

The Forêt de Soignes is an exceptional green space, which was included on the Unesco World Heritage List on 7 July 2017, as part of a series of 78 remarkable beech forests located in 12 European countries. Although it has had a particularly rich history, due to demographic changes and land use, its original relief has been remarkably preserved. Thus, under the dark canopy of this cathedral beech forest, the area where reindeer and mammoths once walked is exceptionally present.

<https://www.foret-de-soignes.be/>



#### 3 Bois des Bruyères

In the past, charcoal was produced on this former part of the Forêt de Soignes. Today, take the opportunity to walk around the lake (3km) and admire the lush nature that surrounds it.

Fosses des Moines path  
1410 Waterloo





**4 Provincial domain Huizingen**  

The provincial estate stretches around Huizingen Castle. Here you can take a dip in the heated outdoor pool or enjoy a game of miniature golf. The various sports facilities in the park attract fans of football, tennis, fishing, canoeing or athletics. Would you rather go for a walk? Numerous paths and theme trails lead you through the entire estate. Children can have a great time in the animal park, the playgrounds or the mini cars.

And let's not forget the arboretum of deciduous and coniferous trees, which unveils a carpet of daffodils, azaleas and hyacinths in spring. The oriental-inspired rock garden with more than 1200 plant species offers an unparalleled palette of colours.

Henri Torleylaan 100, 1654 Huizingen  
[www.vlaamsbrabant.be/huizingen](http://www.vlaamsbrabant.be/huizingen)

**5 Oud Beersel**

The Oud Beersel Brewery, founded in 1882, is one of the last authentic lambic breweries in Belgium. It is known for its artisanal lambic brewed according to old traditional methods.

The lambic matures for up to three years in wooden barrels, after which it is cut up and processed into Vieille Gueuze. By fermenting sweet-tasting cherries in the lambic and after a second fermentation in the bottle, the Vieille Kriek is created. This unique brewing process



with spontaneous fermentation is possible in Belgium, namely in the regions of Pajottenland, the Senne Valley and Brussels, due to the presence of specific microflora.

Oud Beersel - Laarheidestraat 230  
1650 Beersel

**6 Brasserie Trois Fontaines** 

The Trois Fontaines Brewery, called Brouwerij Drie Fonteynen in Dutch, is a brewery located in Beersel in the province of Flemish Brabant in Belgium. It mainly produces lambic beers, typical of the Senne valley. In 1883, an inn was built by Jacobus Vanderlinden as an annex to a gueuzerie in Beersel. At that time, the village had about ten of them. The name of the three porcelain beer pumps that served lambic, faro and kriek. The company was later taken over by Jacobus Vanderlinden's son, Jan-Baptist Vanderlinden, known as Tisjke Potter. When he became mayor of Beersel in 1953, he decided to sell the pub. Author: Wikipedia

Molenstraat 47, 1651 Lot (Beersel)  
<https://3fonteynen.be/en/>



**7 Beersel Castle** 

Beersel Castle, surrounded by a moat, is one of the last well-preserved examples of medieval military architecture in our country. It was built around 1420 as an outpost for the defence of Brussels. The castle's fortifications are classic: a deep moat, a drawbridge, crenellated ramparts and loopholes. The castle appears in the Bob and Bobette album 'The Treasure of Beersel'.

Lotsestraat z/n, 1650 Beersel  
<http://www.visitbeersel.be/kasteel-van-beersel>

**8 Boon Brewery** 

The beginnings of what is now the Boon Brewery date back to 1680. The brewery was named after its new owner each time and in 1977 René De Vits sold it to Frank Boon as a gueuzerie.

The brewery is one of the few to use the 'cloudy wort' method, the oldest traditional brewing method for lambic. Boon Brewery supplies lambic to pubs and produces a classic Oude Geuze and Oude Kriek, as well as a strong-tasting Boon Kriek.

Fonteinstraat 65, 1502 Lembeek (Halle)  
[www.boon.be](http://www.boon.be)

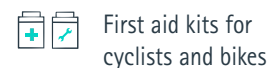
**More info:**

Tourism Vlaamse-Brabant  
<https://www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/fr>

Visit Brussels  
<https://visit.brussels/fr>

**MARTIN'S BRUSSELS EU**  
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Boulevard Charlemagne 80  
B-1000 Brussels  
T +32 (0)2 230 85 55  
[mbeu@martinshotels.com](mailto:mbeu@martinshotels.com)



**MARTIN'S RED**  
★ ★ ★ ★

Rue de Bruxelles 484  
1480 Tubize  
T +32 2 634 11 11  
[mred@martinshotels.com](mailto:mred@martinshotels.com)



BIENVENUE VÉLO  
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BIKES WELCOME  
RADFAHRER WILLKOMMEN

