

E4U National Reports: introducing Belgium

My Area

I live in Mechelen is a city in the Northern part of Belgium, Flanders, where people speak Dutch. It is one of the biggest cities in Belgium, but small enough to feel quite cosy. It is an attractive town for tourist, they can go to de cinema Utopolisch or swimming pool, sauna and many more. There are historical buildings like Sint-Romboutstoren or church. There are a lots of culture places like theatre, cinema and more. The transport is very good but sometime some busses came late witch is very irritated. All and all is very good place to live. There is also shopping Centre and a lots of restaurant.

School Life

I am in 5th middle school in Ursulinen Mechelen. It is a very big school with a lots of stages. The give also extra classes who need it and extra time for people who have problem with their study or they have sickness. I sit also in more time class during exams because I am from other country and it is very difficult for me. There are after-school activities organized by the school like dance, basketball, you can stay at school for long time for example to study if someone will and more. There is also slot festival in our school where some group dance or singing music, you can buy food.

Family Life

I live in one house with my parents, two brothers and one sister. My parents are married. I help always my mother with housework for example, vacuuming, ironing, washing. In general I love my family.

Traditions

Official holidays of Belgium are New year, Christmas on December 25th, on 27 Mach, National holiday on 21 July and many more. Meals in Belgium: the breakfast: Breakfast in Belgium is very extensive, at least when people have time for. Usually the cut slices of white or brown bread with jam, chocolate or salty fillings. With coffee or tea. Usually it is eaten warm afternoon. It is started with soup, followed by the main course with meat, potatoes and vegetables. Finally, will there be a dessert: a piece of fruit, a yoghurt, rice pudding, cookie, etc. and finally. Dinner is eaten early, around five to six hours. Typical Belgian specialties include French fries, cheese, chocolate and beer.

Social Habits and Customs

To family and friends gives the Belgian three-cushion. To people that they know less well, they give a hand to the shopkeeper, waiter or neighbour they say 'Hello'. Also to be desired, it is customary to give three kisses to thank or congratulate someone. To give about twelve years boy a kiss to "uncles" or grandfathers. But as they get older, they only give a hand to men. Men do give a kiss to women, but not usually to men. Women giving a kiss to men but also girls and other women. A good friend giving a woman usually just one kiss.

Food

Belgian cuisine is not only wonderful. It is also one of the best, most sophisticated cuisines in the world. Typical Belgian dishes are French fries, Flemish beef stew, Smout Globes, Brussels waffles, mussels, salad, potatoes.

Famous People

Nathalie Meskens is a Flemish actress, presenter and singer. Sean Dhondt, a Belgian musician and presenter. He became known as a singer of the Belgian pop-punk group Nailpin and as a video jockey on youth broadcasters TMF and JIM. Today he is a singer in Manoeuvres and presents on VTM and Qmusic. Charles Michel is a Belgian politician for the party Mouvement Réformateur (MR). He is the prime minister of Belgium since October 11, 2014.

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