

E4U National Reports: introducing Belgium

Hello everyone!

I'm going to introduce my life here in Belgium.

Living place:

So it starts with my living place. I live in a small village called Elewijt. It's not because it's small that there is nothing to do. You have a lot of sport facilities like a tennis club, a football club, there is a small sport centre for judo, karate, ... You have almost everything you need such as a bakery, a supermarket, a hairdresser,.. You also have a special store that just sells American burgers and it's just delicious! I love to live there because everybody knows everybody.

Family life:

At home we were with 4. My mother, my father and my older sister. But now we live separated, my parents are divorced. In Belgium it's normal to have divorced parents. Most of the time they work or I need to work for school. The dinner is ready when I come home from school. We sit together and just talk about a lot of subjects. After dinner I do my homework and when I'm ready with my school work I watch television with my sister and father of when I'm at my mother's place I watch television with her.

School life:

My school life is every week the same. I wake up around 6.40 am, I make me ready to take the bus at 7.30 am and my school starts at 8.25 am. We have planning for our lessons. At that time we have that lesson, at that time we have a little break, at that time we have lunch time and at that time we are finished with school. Each lesson is 50 minutes, the little break 20 minutes and lunch time is an hour. We finish with school at 15.30 pm accepted on a Tuesday and a Thursday then we finish at 16.25pm. We have 3 directions: ASO, BSO and TSO, each of these directions are divided in other directions.

Traditions:

In Belgium we don't have that weird traditions I think. We have Christmas on the 25th of December. It's a dinner with the whole family. Some people choose to decorate their house, almost everyone put a Christmas tree. The teenagers go out on new year's eve and the parents stay at home. Sometimes they invited friends or family our they go to their friend or family. At Easter we hided small chocolate eggs for the children and they need to find them in the house or in the garden. It's lovely to watch. In one school year we have 5 holidays: Autumn holidays, Christmas holidays, Easter holidays, spring break and summer holidays.

Social habits and customs:

When we great each other we give them 1 or 3 kisses. It depends on the occasion. We give 3 kisses to congratulate them for something like when someone is celebrating his/her birthday. The men shake hands. It's very normal to blow your nose, using chewing gum, smoke and make calls in public. There is not really a taboo in our country that I know, we talk about almost everything.

Food:

The tourist know that we are famous because of our chocolates, beers, fries, ... We have 3 meals a day: Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Around 10 am and 16 pm we eat a little snack our cookie. At school

we can also have a warm meal to eat. Each day we can have another meal. We don't eat dog or cat because we think it's sad for the animals. We have cats and dogs as a pet not a meal. But we eat horse, cow, lamb, ... At home my father or mother cook most of the days but sometimes we like to eat some fries or burgers from McDonalds. And with our meal we drink normal drinks. Cola, Fanta, Ice Tea. In the morning Belgium people like to drink some thee, coffee or milk with their breakfast.

Famous people:

We have a lot of famous people in Belgium. When people talk about the football they immediately think about The Red Devils. They play really good and we are very proud. We also have famous tennis players like Kim Clijsters and Flippkes. The singer Ian Thomas who lives in America for his career. We don't have so many international famous people, but we have a lot of national famous people. We call them BV (Bekende Vlaming = Famous Fleming). I can give you some examples: Nathalie Meskens, Jonas Van Geel, Staf & Mathias Coppens, ...

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