

TOP TRAVELLING TIPS

Amanda Maynard, Managing Director of Kadoro Events, says being “super-friendly” to the airline check-in clerk usually guarantees a good seat!

“I also can’t live without my Longchamp carry-bag, which manages to fit everything in perfectly.

“And half a Disprin before taking off also miraculously stops my feet and hands from swelling while flying.”



TRAVEL

COMPILED BY SHEENA ADAMS & KHENSANI MASHAMBA



72 HOURS IN BRUSSELS

With some of the best chocolate in the world and its beautifully-stocked museums, Brussels makes for a rewarding mini-break

If you are not *au fait* with French, Dutch or German – Brussels’ three official languages – then get yourself a copy of *Agenda*, distributed with the weekly *Brussel Deze Week* newspaper, when you arrive. Apart from being a hub of European business, the city also offers numerous cultural activities and *Agenda* helps to keep you in the know.

A few words on business etiquette first. Belgium is small, so most people in particular business fields are likely to know each other, meaning sensitivity is key. Women make up more than 50% of professional and technical appointments and foreign businesswomen are warmly welcomed in the country. Be warned, however: you may be treated with old-fashioned gallantry. The city’s business dress sense isn’t that strict, but keep your look chic and conservative.

RESTAURANTS: The swish **Comme Chez Soi** on the Place Rouppe is ideal for entertaining VIPs. It’s considered one of the world’s best French restaurants because of the genius of Chef Pierre Wynants, but you

need to book a month in advance. Situated close to the Avenue Louise, **La Truffe Noire** serves delectable truffles in most dishes and has received a Michelin star for its efforts.

HOTELS: For luxury accommodation, nothing can beat **Hotel Amigo** on Rue de l’Amigo, with its beautiful Flemish architecture and impeccable suites. Not far behind is **The Conrad**, nestled among the designer stores on **Avenue Louise**. It’s a favourite with visiting politicians. For something less pricey, try the **Crowne Plaza** on Rue de la Loi in the city’s administrative heart.

SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING: The magnificent private collections of the **Royal Museum of Art** on Rue de la Régence should be your first port of call. For an architectural tour, go to the **Grand Place** in Lower Town and marvel at the Renaissance churches and *art nouveau* buildings. For gifts, visit Belgium’s finest chocolatier, **Pierre Marcolini** on the Place du Grand Sablon. Boxes of delights from chain stores such as **Godiva** and **Neuhaus** will be equally appreciated.

- **Getting there:** South African Airways offers online return flights between Johannesburg and Brussels from about R11 500.

- At the time of going to press, R1 = €12,17. **D**



MELROSE MAJESTY

Set at the entrance to the exclusive Melrose Arch precinct in Johannesburg, No 1 Melrose Boulevard is the latest *über*-stylish accommodation for business travellers.

Upon entering, you’ll find a treasure trove of luxury finishes (including a gourmet kitchen), a 24-hour concierge and your own private butler, who will arrange almost anything, from a catered dinner party to finding secretarial staff. The décor is contemporary and Seasons in Africa has developed six units, ranging from one- to three-bedroom penthouse suites with a private pool.

Rates for a one-bedroom apartment on a bed-and-breakfast basis start at R3 600 a night.

For further information, visit: www.1melrose.com. **D**

BRUSSELS MUST-HAVES



Perfect for connecting to your iPod on long-haul flights or enhancing your laptop presentation for that important business meeting, the new shoX mini speaker from Tevo connects to media players, computers and PDAs. R199,95, from Game, Makro and Pick ‘n Pay

The “Ultimate Travel Bag” from Louis Vuitton has been created in iconic monogram canvas and comes with all the mod-cons: wheels, cashmere eyeshades and blanket, a computer case, detachable toiletry kit, foldable jewellery-holder, a laundry pouch and a leather evening clutch. Price on request from the Louis Vuitton Special Orders Department, tel: 011 784 9854



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