

Brussels Belgium

< LATE & LIVELY

Madame Moustache

(5-7 Quai au Bois à Brûler, tel: 04 8553 4494) This quirky nightclub has a whole host of rooms to choose from and the musical repertoire caters for many tastes. Expect to hear everything from French cabaret to Balkan beats, keeping the dancefloor busy.

THIS MONTH

SHOP

The Maasmechelen village offers fantastic bargain prices, not only from Belgium's eclectic fashion designers, but also from some of the best global brands. The village is to be found in Limburg, and the journey takes an hour from Brussels. On Saturday and Sunday there is a free shuttle and a complimentary glass of champagne for shoppers.

SEE At the Musical Instruments Museum don the infra-red headphones and wander around the extensive collection of musical instruments from around the world. As you tour round you'll hear extracts of the spectacular sounds they can produce (2 Montagne de la Cour). **GO** Place Eugène Flagey is a hip district in the heart of Ixelles, due south of the centre. The jumble

of odd architecture is a byproduct of a Belgian law that allows architects to sue for plagiarism. Check out the Flagey cultural centre, host to an array of arts events.

ESCAPE The Folon Foundation is a 20-minute bus ride from the city centre. You'll arrive at the Château de La Hulpe, located in the splendid Solvay Park, which is where you can find the action. After a stroll around the grounds, head to the Folon Foundation, home to a fascinating retrospective of the late great Belgian artist Jean-Michel Folon (Ferme du Château de La Hulpe).

NO WAY!

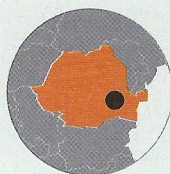
Belgium has more comic creators per km² than any other country in the world, even Japan.

Madeleine Cowley

SOFITEL LE LOUISE ★★★★★



Mix the delights of Brussels with a luxurious stay in the exclusive Avenue Louise area. This is a real standout hotel. From €215, book at hotels.easyJet.com.



Bucharest Romania

DIALLING CODE +40
CURRENCY Leu (RON)

FLY FROM

Madrid,
Milan (MXP)

FROM THE AIRPORT

Pre-book your taxi at easyJet.com. The fare to the centre is about RON100.

Bus 783 leaves every 30 minutes.

Tickets: RON7 return.

Visit the Europcar desk for special easyJet rates.

BON APPETIT UP TO €30

Brauhaus (41 Strada Smardan, tel: 0725 523 081) A perfect spot for groups looking for a raucous night out, this bar serves the biggest selection of German and local sausages in the Old Town and a great selection of beers to wash them down with.

EXCLUSIVE

Cerisiers (19 Strada Clucerului) This place, located in a leafy part of northern Bucharest, takes dining with a view to a whole new level. The rooftop terrace is the most romantic spot in the city, while the food is

inventive Romanian fare with a subtle Mediterranean twist.

AFTER DARK LOW KEY

Leonidas (27 Strada Doamnei, tel: 021 314 1377) This charming establishment is a must for those with a sweet tooth. Chocolate of all kinds – from exquisite truffles to thick milkshakes – is served alongside coffee and tea in a super Old Town location. Unwind with something tasty among well-dressed locals.

LATE & LIVELY

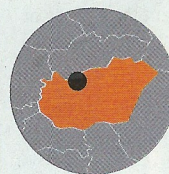
Kulturhaus (4 Strada Sfanta Vineri, tel: 021 313 5592) This lively arthouse club attracts a young, friendly crowd of party people. Expect a different event each night of the week, from live rock to DJs and parties of all shapes and sizes.

THIS MONTH

GO Go and see the inside of Europe's largest building, Casa Poporului, but don't go as part of the official tour. Instead, head for the Contemporary Art Museum (MNAC) round the back. Its terrace has a great view of the city.

NO WAY!

Bucharest celebrates its 552nd birthday in September, having been officially founded in 1459. *Craig Turp*



Budapest Hungary

DIALLING CODE +36
CURRENCY Forint (HUF)

FLY FROM

Berlin,
Dortmund, Geneva,
London (LGW, LTN),
Paris (ORY)

FROM THE AIRPORT

Pre-book your taxi at easyJet.com.

A local taxi costs HUF3,500–HUF5,400.

Trains leave Terminal 1 for Western station.

Tickets: HUF455.

Visit the Europcar desk for special easyJet rates.

BON APPETIT UP TO €30

Húspatika (50 Bartók Béla Utca, tel: 17 824 166) Look for the enormous stuffed pig, covered with curly black hair, standing out front of this butcher-deli on the Buda side. Inside there are several more, making it clear what the specialty here is. Enjoy a hefty sandwich or plate of ribs.

EXCLUSIVE Café

Kör (17 Sas Utca, tel: 13 110 053) A perennial favorite in Budapest, Café Kör is a cosy bistro just a few

steps from the basilica. The food is traditional Hungarian, and a long list of specials are offered daily.

AFTER DARK LOW KEY Café

Alibi (4 Egyetem Tér, tel: 13 174 209) This low-key café offers breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as a fantastic cup of coffee, tasty cakes, and a brief wine list. If the weather is nice, take a seat outside on the pedestrian square.

LATE & LIVELY

DiVino (3 Szent István Tér, tel: 0630 231 1132) DiVino is Budapest's newest wine bar. A stylish place, the focus of its wine list is on up-and-coming Hungarian wineries.

THIS MONTH

SEE Budapest's annual wine festival takes over the Castle area on 7–11 September. Here you can taste hundreds of wines, meet the people who make them, listen to live music, and participate in many other festivities.

NO WAY!

Hungarians credit Ronald Reagan with a major role in bringing Communism to an end. A prominent statue of the former US president (the second in Budapest) was unveiled in the Szabadság Tér area recently. *Carolyn Bánfalvi*

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