

The Chronicles of Belgium



There's no doubt that one of the things on top of an Erasmus student's to-do list is travelling, and fortunately the Netherlands is close to a lot of nice places such as Belgium, France and Germany. The first place I decided to travel to was Brussels in Belgium. I have friends here who brought a car with them, so we decided to drive to Brussels as none of us had ever visited Belgium before. The drive was approximately two hours which wasn't much, and we also had the advantage of seeing other cities along the way. However, if you ever plan on visiting Brussels by car, then make sure it isn't on the first Sunday of the month because no vehicles can be on the road on this day. If you're a fan of chocolate and waffles then Belgium is a must visit. There were so many fancy chocolate stores, with creative chocolate designs. On the other hand, the waffles were so amazing and I'm not kidding when I say I'd go back to Belgium just for the waffles.

Apart from the food, Brussels is considered the Capital of the European union. So, you will notice it's a very multicultural city with cultures from many parts of Europe. However, from my point of view I felt Brussels was just like any other city and from what I'd heard from all my Belgian friends was that the ideal city to visit in Belgium was Bruges. Fortunately for us, the university had already organised a trip for us to Bruges and participating only cost 35 euros. Included in this was a boat cruise and a tour as well as tasting in the "Bourgogne Des Flandres" brewery but I'll get more into this later.

Bruges was amazing and had a completely different vibe to most of the cities I'd visited before. It is commonly referred to as the Sicily of western Europe. The buildings and everything about it looked ancient and that was the amazing part of the whole experience as well as all the canals which ran through the city. During our boat cruise we managed to see a large part of the city, also because it's not that big. The canal bridges were very low and halfway through the cruise it started raining so we put our umbrellas up but each time we would come to one of the bridges we'd have to close our umbrellas which was hilarious. We later went for the

tour and tasting at “Bourgogne Des Flandres” brewery. It was a great experience, and I managed to learn about the entire process of making beer which was quite interesting. The beer tasted amazing as well, I’ve never really been a beer fan but this didn’t taste anything like any of the beers I had drank before. But to sum it up, I’d recommend visiting Belgium and especially Bruges. One thing that I did realise was that Bruges was very expensive, so If you want to buy chocolate then this isn’t the right place because it is very touristic and everything is priced accordingly. I found that it was even cheaper to buy the same chocolate here in the Netherlands, however they do have some exclusive fancy chocolates that they only sell there so that could be something that one would be interested in.

