

CENTRAL BRUSSELS is divided into two main areas, each of which has its own chapter in the guide. Historically the poorer area where workers and immigrants lived, the Lower Town contains the exceptional 17th-century heart of the city, the Grand Place, as well as the cosmopolitan Place de Brouckère, and the historic workers' district, the Marolles. The Upper Town, traditional home of the aristocracy, is an elegant area which encircles the city's green oasis, the Parc de Bruxelles. Running up through the area is Rue Royale, which ends in the 18th-century Place Royale, home to the city's finest art museums.



Hôtel de Ville

The focus of the Grand Place, Brussels' historic Town Hall dates from the early 15th century. Its Gothic tracery façade features the famous needle-like crooked spire



KEY

- Major sight
- Place of interest
- Other building
- Parking
- Tourist information
- Police station
- Hospital
- Bus terminus
- Tram stop
- Train station
- Metro station
- Church



La Bourse façade

Overlooking the city from busy Boulevard Anspach in the Lower Town, Brussels' Stock Exchange was built in 1873 in ornate style

Place du Petit Sablon

This square is a jewel of the Upper Town. Originally a horse market, the central area became a flower garden in 1890, surrounded by wrought-iron railings decorated with stone statuettes. Each figure represents a medieval trade or craft that brought prosperity to the capital



Palais Royal

The official home of the Belgian monarch, this is one of the finest 18th-century buildings in the Upper Town. A highlight of Neo-Classical architecture, it overlooks Parc de Bruxelles

