Under the high patronage of the European Union

A FASCINATING JOURNEY AROUND EUROPE

mini-EUROPE .brussels
Welcome to Mini-Europe

In front of you are two symbols of the construction of Europe: the offices of the European Commission and the house where Jean Monnet wrote the speech that would lead the founding fathers to form the European Union. For any institution, even one as strong as this, depends on individuals.

These two buildings illustrate the philosophy behind Mini-Europe: it is a miniature world that allows me to share with you my vision of the European Union.

You will see monuments and scenes lining your path through the park. They symbolise the great eras and the rich heritage that have marked Europeans, forged our shared values and led to the creation of the European Union.

This guide will introduce you to this heritage and these democratic values, which have taken concrete form today in the shape of town halls, the British parliament, the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, and the offices of the European Commission, and are also symbolised by the animation of the fall of the Berlin wall.

As in the “Spirit of Europe” exhibition at the end of the tour, we will look at the EU’s successes but also at the great challenges facing it in a world of globalisation.

Thanks to all of you who have shared with me a passion for the story told by Mini-Europe. Feel free to share your comments and suggestions with us. The park undergoes continual change, as does the European Union. It is built with you!

Enjoy your discoveries and above all, have fun!

“I said that Europe needs to be big on big things and small on small things. Well, Mini-Europe is now the only place in the EU where it is allowed to be small on big things!”

JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER
President of the European Commission from 2014 to 2019

ENJOY YOUR VISIT!

Throughout the guide, take a look at the stories that appeal to you by following the thematic symbols:

- HISTORY
- GEOGRAPHY
- EUROPE
- BEHIND THE SCENES
- ART & ARCHITECTURE
- FUN & Gossip

A COMMON THREAD

Go a step further and follow the common thread of the guide... The different sets of heritage that connect and punctuate the history of Europe and Europeans. Learn more about themand the influences that have shaped the Europe of today.

THE RENAISSANCE
Villa Rotonda
1592

LIGHTS
Royal Crescent
1767 - 1774

THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION
Royal Salt Works
1775 - 1779

MODERN AGE
Notre-Dame-du-Haut
1951 - 1956

POST-MODERN AGE
Centre Georges Pompidou
1977

1914-18 War
1900
1800
1700
1600
1500
1400
1300
1200
1100
1000
900
800
700
600
500
400
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200
100
0
-100
-200
-300
-400
-500
-600

ANCIENT GREECE
Acropolis
500 BC

CELTIC HERITAGE
Guimaraes
Castle c. 950 AD

MIDDLER AGES
Guimaraes
Castle c. 950 AD

THE RENAISSANCE
Villa Rotonda
1592

LIGHTS
Royal Crescent
1767 - 1774

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1914-18 War
1900
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1500
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-100
-200
-300
-400
-500
-600

MEGALITHIC PERIOD
Temple of Mnajdra
3600 - 2500 BC

ROMAN EMPIRE
Porta Nigra
C. 180 AD

VIKING AGE
Trelleborg
C. 980 AD

COLONIALISM
Torre de Belem
1515 - 1519

FRENCH REVOLUTION
Arc de Triomphe
1806 - 1836

Follow the guide

Discover all of Europe in just a few hours and enjoy a unique experience! Explore the cities, buildings, history and innovations of the Old Continent... Dive into the past, taste the present and imagine the future of Europe.

- In the order of the tour, you will find a description and stories on all the monuments. Are you lost? Every monument has a sign with its name.

- Extra information on the heritage of the past can be found next to these monuments to illustrate the period concerned:
  p. 15, 22, 30, 31, 36, 38, 40, 46, 52, 63

- Information on the EU:
  p. 02, 03, 08, 10, 17, 19, 29, 34, 42, 49, 55

Welcome to Mini-Europe

THOIRY MEEUS
Manager of Mini-Europe
Education asbl
TOGETHER, the countries of the EU are stronger and better able to promote their Standard of living and their vision.

TOGETHER WORKING FOR PEACE

The construction of Europe has allowed collaboration between former rival countries after centuries of war. 70 years is the longest period of peace since the fall of the Roman Empire.

TOGETHER STRIVING FOR A HIGH STANDARD OF LIVING

The single market, the free movement of goods and capital has enabled unprecedented development. European citizens are amongst the wealthiest inhabitants of the planet with one of the best wealth distribution ratios.

TOGETHER FACING NEW CHALLENGES

The European Union remains a key player on the world stage, although global development has reduced its importance. In 1989, at the start of Mini-Europe, the European Union still represented:

- 10% of the global population, as opposed to 6.8% in 2018 and probably less than 6% in 2030.
- 25% of world trade as opposed to 15% in 2018.

TOGETHER PROMOTING GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

The European Union and its Member States contribute almost 50% of international aid. To this is added the diplomatic efforts of the European Union in a world undergoing constant change.

DIVIDED, the countries that make it up would no longer be up to scratch faced with the new economic powers.

Proud to be EUROPEAN (IMF 2019)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>POPULATION (in millions)</th>
<th>GDP in M$ (in Purchasing Power Standards)</th>
<th>GDP per inhabitant in $ (in Purchasing Power Standards)</th>
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27 MEMBER STATES

- Ireland
- United Kingdom
- Denmark
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- Belgium
- Germany
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- Austria
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- Latvia
- Estonia
- Finland
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The Faroe Isles and Greenland have been independent territories since 1979, but they are still attached to Denmark. They do not, however, belong to the European Union.

**Trelleborg**

980 AD – Medieval Scandinavian style

The most famous restored Viking camp is at Trelleborg, the circular fortress with 31 ‘longhouses’ surrounded by ditches and battlements. Between 500 and 800 soldiers – often accompanied by their wives and children – were stationed here before their sea voyages. Harald Bluetooth (958-987 AD), King of Norway and Denmark, ordered the construction of five fortresses of this type. He is also said to have introduced Christianity to Denmark.

Forget the Vikings from the TV series... contrary to modern beliefs, the Vikings never wore horned helmets.

**Stock Exchange**

COPENHAGEN

1619-1640 – Nordic Renaissance

To give a fresh boost to the Danish economy, King Christian IV ordered the construction of the Copenhagen stock exchange. To state his title of King of the three Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Norway and Sweden), he had 3 crowns placed at the top of the brass turret. On this same brass turret, notice the 4 interwoven dragon’s tails on the building to prevent against attack and fire.

The strategic gateway to the Baltic Sea, the territory of Denmark was once a lot larger. The country – made up of 406 islands – is surrounded by the sea. The Vikings left from the Scandinavian countries (Denmark, Sweden and Norway) to discover Iceland, Greenland...

**DANISH WRITER**

Hans Christian Andersen, famous for his novellas and fairy tales, lived in Nyhavn. It was there that he wrote – among others – the tale “The Princess and the Pea”. He wrote many traditional European tales that have been translated into 125 languages.

**Nyhavn**

COPENHAGEN

1670-1673

The large numbers of wooden ships and painted harbour fronts are proof of the importance of Nyhavn as a commercial port in the 17th and 18th centuries. The port was built using Dutch expertise and labour from Swedish prisoners captured during the Danish-Swedish War (1658-1660), who dug the foundations of the houses. Now it is mainly visited by tourists, but sailors still come and have themselves tattooed there, as the former King Frederik IX did in earlier times.

**Viking Heritage**

(8th - 11th century)

Scandinavian Vikings profoundly changed the social and political structures of European populations by forcing them to defend themselves and organise and centralise power. Exceptional navigators, they gave a huge boost to trade, in particular through the circulation of precious metals and the establishment of new trade routes punctuated with port and bar towns and cities. By doing this, they brought Scandinavian countries closer to the rest of Europe. Their civilised laws and justice systems form the basis of our modern juries.

**Monarchy**

DENMARK

43,000 km²

5.7 million

1973

Standard of living: 125/100

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The Viking legacy

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Sweden, “on the roof” of Europe, is a sparsely populated industrialised nation. It was the birthplace of Alfred Nobel (1833-1896), a rich industrialist and the inventor of dynamite, who dedicated his entire fortune to the creation of the Nobel Prizes. These international awards are given to individuals who act for the whole of humanity, whether in the field of physics, chemistry, medicine, literature, the economy or peace.

Do you know Pippi Långstrump? Yes of course, Pippi Longstocking, the little girl with the braided hair created for children in 1945 by Swedish author Astrid Lindgren.

CITY HALL STOCKHOLM
1911-1923 – National Romantic style
Since its construction, Stockholm City Hall has hosted the Nobel Banquet once a year. At the top of its tower are the three crowns, which have been the Swedish national emblem since the 14th century. However, in 1550, Danish King Christian III dared to add the 3 crowns to his coat of arms. This started a feud: Sweden accused Denmark of wanting to conquer it and Denmark accused Sweden of monopolising the symbol of the Scandinavian union.

* Monument donated by Sweden

To the right of the building, notice the gold-plated sarcophagus of Birger Jarl (1200-1266). Although empty, this tomb honours the founder of Stockholm and the men at the origin of the Swedish Empire.

THE SYMBOLS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
- The flag of the European Union is made up of 12 stars in a circle, with the number 12 symbolising perfection.
- The European anthem “Ode to Joy” is taken from the final movement of Ludwig van Beethoven’s 9th symphony.
- The word “Europe” almost certainly comes from the Phoenician “Ereb” meaning “where the sun goes down”, the West as opposed to the “land of the rising sun”, in Asia. In Greek, the word “Europe” means “big eyes” and initially referred to a beautiful young Phoenician princess kidnapped by Zeus.
- May 9, the anniversary of the Schuman Declaration is European Union Day.
- The motto of the European Union is “United in diversity”
At the crossroads of the great states, the country was in turn governed by the Carolingians, Burgundians, Spanish, Austrians, French and Dutch. It is characterised by three official languages and a stunning institutional complexity. Belgium also form the basis of the Benelux, a free trade zone agreed between Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg.

The adventures of Tintin and his faithful companion Milou, thought up by artist Hergé from 1929, made Belgium the country of comic books.

**Curtius House**

1597-1610 – Meuse Renaissance and Louis XIV styles

Curtius house was built on the orders of Jean de Corte, otherwise known as Curtius, an industrialist and financier from Liège. His fortune, acquired thanks to a monopoly on the provision of gunpowder for Spanish weapons, allowed him to build this monumental palace on the banks of the Meuse. Today the building is used as a museum.

**Vêves Castle**

1230 (rebuilt in around 1410) – Romanesque style

Located on a rock in a strategic location in the Ry Valley (a small tributary of the Lesse), this citadel-like castle is still fully furnished. It gives a good idea of how life must have been there in the Middle Ages. The castle is still inhabited by the very same family.

**Citadel**

1815 – Romanesque Renaissance style

For many years, Dinant was a strategic location on the banks of the Meuse and a succession of many castle-forts were built there. To face up to advances in weaponry, the citadel was built in 1815 using a new defensive architecture style that gave Dinant the nickname Citadel Town.

**Collegiate**

13th century – Gothic style

The Collegiate - also known as the Our-Lady Church, is backed up against a rock wall. Frequently renovated, it has retained its glory and its distinctive pear-shaped tower.

**Christian Heritage**

Catholicism is one of the cornerstones on which Europe is built. Despite the break between the Catholic and Orthodox Faith, and later with the Protestants, Christianity has long been something Europeans have in common. Its values have been instilled throughout European society: the respect for human life that gave birth to human rights, equality, charity, solidarity and universality. A true means of spreading culture, Catholicism still dictates the pace of our lives, in particular through our calendar and religious feasts and holidays. It has also given birth to several towns who owe their existence to pilgrimage sites.

The Church has allowed the distribution of knowledge via a large number of universities (e.g. Vilnius University) and manuscripts copied by monks. It has also allowed for the spread of Greco-Roman heritage.

* Monuments created with the support of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation.