**Ten things to know about Liège**

1. **Its geographical location**: in the heart of Europe and of the Meuse-Rhine Euroregion (around the city-corridor of Aachen-Maastricht-Hasselt-Liège). It’s really a multicultural destination, which offers a great diversity of nationalities and religions.
2. You have to learn to **be flexible and indulgent with the weather which can be very capricious** (on the same day you can need both your umbrella and your sunglasses) **as well as with schedules** (for example, we have a small breakfast, a quick snack at midday, and so we normally eat a hot meal quite early in the evening, i.e. before 7.30pm). That’s why shops are closed early, at the latest at 6.30pm.
3. The inhabitants of Liège are **friendly, warm and always in a festive mood**. Attend once a football match of one of the most successful clubs in Belgium, i.e. Standard Liège, and you will see what I mean!



1. The folklore and the traditions in Liège are widely **influenced by the industrial background of the city**, as you can see **in the Outremeuse area** with its famous character **“Tchantchès”** and its local alcohol, the **“péket”**.

1. **The events you should be at and absolutely not miss are the festivities of “Le Quinze Août”** which celebrates the Virgin Mary, with among other things a procession of the Black Virgin, an open-air mass in Walloon and a cortege with the parade of the giants, etc. **as well as “Les Coteaux de la Citadelle”** which takes place on the first weekend of October.



1. **The students’ folklore**: the **Saint Nicholas** festival around the 6 December **organized by and for the students of the University** - for 24 hours, the students (wearing very **dirty lab-coats**) are **allowed to beg for money for drinking**; the **“baptême”** which is specifically Belgian, i.e. a kind of hazing process which includes the practice of some rituals (like songs, etc.) and other activities used as **a way of initiating a person into the student body**; **“le Carré”** in English "the Square" **with many lively pubs** which are reputed to remain open until the last customer leaves; the **“Saint-Toré”** which takes place during the third week of March.



1. **Places to go to in Liège are**:  
   - **the “Batte” Market** - The outdoor market that goes along the Meuse River is one of the biggest in Europe.



- the **Place Saint-Lambert**, a square in the centre of Liège, with **the former Prince-Bishops' Palace**. Until 1794, it was the site of St. Lambert's Cathedral. **Remains of the foundations of the cathedral** have been conserved, and **are on display at the Archéoforum museum**, under the square.



- the **“Place du Marché”** and its **perron** (a stone column, decorated with a globus cruciger, that was erected in cities belonging to the erstwhile Prince-Bishopric of Liège (980-1795))



- the **stairway of the Montagne de Bueren**



- the **Museum of Walloon Life** and **its puppet theatre**

- the **Royal Opera of Wallonia** and Liège **Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

- the new **Liège-Guillemins station designed by** the famous architect **Calatrava**



1. Eating and drinking in Liège: **What are the local specialties?**

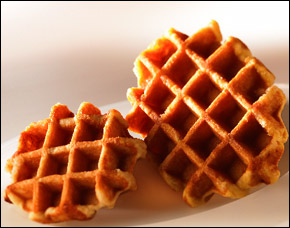
- the **meatballs “Liège style”** (with apple butter) **and french fries**



- the **“salade liégeoise”** (beans with potatoes and diced bacon drizzled with vinegar)



- the **waffels**



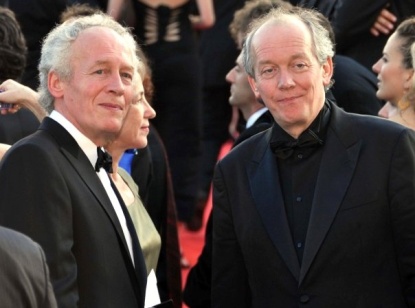
- the **“spéculoos”**



- the **“péket”** of course, and so many other things… !

1. **People who make things happen in Liège**:

- the moviemakers: **the Dardenne brothers**

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- the draftsmann and cartoonist: **Pierre Kroll**



- the writer: **Georges Simenon**



- the sportsman (table tennis): **Jean-Michel Saive**



- the actress: **Marie Gillain**



1. **The kiss: something very special!** We kiss each other on the cheek, just once, never mind if it’s the first time we meet or not. And we don’t care if it’s a boy or a girl!

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