



Four countries, four cities

SONJA, SEBASTIAN,
LOTTA & AMBER

HONOURS CITY TOUR

Cambridge, Tampere,
Darmstadt & Brussels

ART

"The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power."

During the tour, feel free to follow the links and watch the videos that interest you, but don't feel obligated to look at everything, it is still meant to be a relaxing experience!

Tampere, Finland

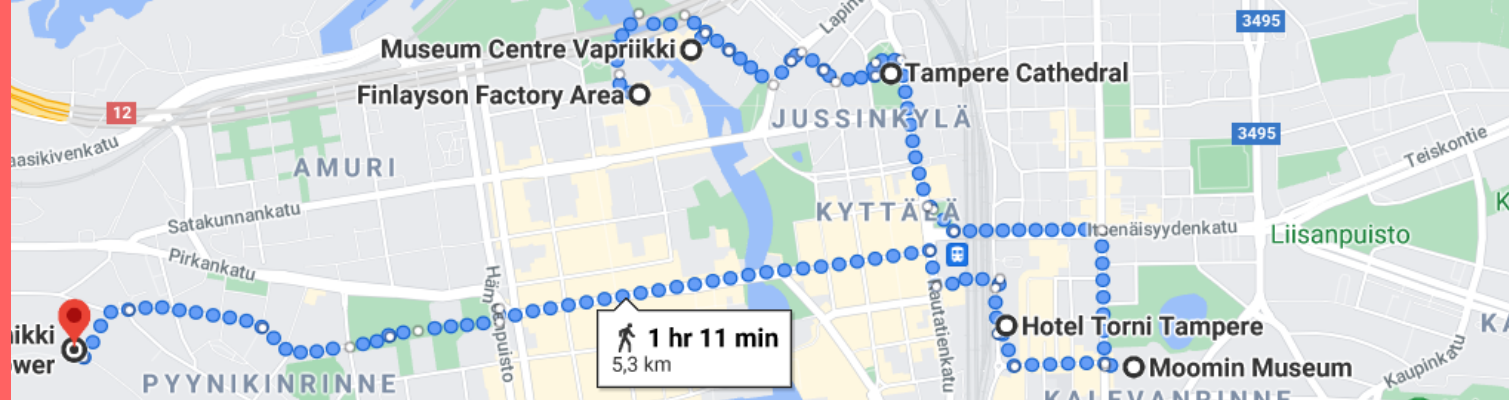
Our tour starts in Tampere, Finland. Welcome!

Tampere is the third largest city in Finland, and well-known for its industrial history. The city provides a variety of art types, but this part of the tour will focus on a few different types of visual art and a bit on literature.



We will start with a short roof tour around the old Finlayson area, so you can get to know some basic history of the city and see Tampere from above. We hope that you are not afraid of heights!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qy1-b8rYz7w>



VAPRIIKKI

We wanted to give you a change to experience some Nordic nature since you have taken a long trip to get here! Luckily, there is an exhibition at the Vapriikki Museum that shows you the best nature photographs of 2019! Take a tour here:

<https://www.facebook.com/vapriikki/videos/653154895463167/>



GET A SLICE!

To make sure you do not get hungry during the tour, you should get a slice of delicious blueberry pie! It is a very traditional dessert in Finland, as not much food grows here naturally – but the berries, they are great! We actually make the pies from bilberries, which is a bit different (and more delicious) species, but we usually still call it a blueberry pie. You can find the recipe here:

<https://globallyflavored.com/finnish-recipes/finnish-blueberry-pie-mustikkapiirakka/>



THE CATHEDRAL

Our next stop is a place for some church paintings. The art in the cathedral has a lot of hidden symbolism, and it is interesting to learn about despite your religious or non-religious background. Take a look at inside the church here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gnUNFHm_NO



note that this is a long video and we have to get to the next destination on time. Also, the video is narrated in Finnish, so you will only use it to see how the paintings look like. Thus, you can skip through the video to the following paintings:

Timestamp 1:40, *The Garland of Life / Graft Carriers*: The graft has been interpreted to symbolise life, and the boys carry it in different ways. To some, it is easy and they can stand tall and proud, and to others it is more difficult. They have also been interpreted to symbolise the twelve apostles of Jesus.

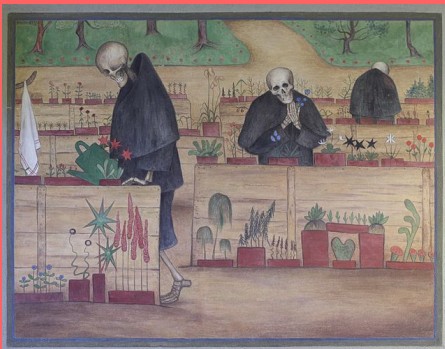
(continues)

3:58 *Serpent of Paradise*: The snake is a biblical symbol for evil, and it is holding an apple in its mouth that symbolises the temptation of Eve in paradise. It was quite scandalous at the time that this symbol of evil was painted in the middle of the ceiling!

When the artist Hugo Simberg was painting the church in 1904, there were rumours around the city that the artist was painting snakes and naked people (maybe even pictures of the devil). They were show shocked that one day the broke through the locked oak door to see what Simberg was painting.

8:10 *The Garden of Death*: According to the artist, this is a place where souls go before they go to heaven. The plants are the souls of the people and the skeletons are helpers of the death. The skeletons are taking care of the souls gently, even in the harsh environment they are in. This is an interesting painting to have in a church, as the story of the painting is not biblical but just made up by the artist.

9:25 *The Wounded Angel* There is no fixed interpretation from the artist, and the viewers are meant to find the meaning themselves. This is, in fact, a re-painting of a picture (also by Hugo Simberg) that is stored in a museum in Helsinki. At 10:28 you can see the factory chimneys of Tampere on the background – these are a little addition to make the re-painted version fit its home city better. Even though there is no direct interpretation given, the artist was recovering from meningitis when painting the original version, which gives context to the theme of the painting.



The Garden of Death by Hugo Simberg. Image: Wikimedia Commons



Tove Jansson, the creator of Moomins. Image: Wikimedia Commons

THE MOOMIN MUSEUM

Everyone loves Moomins, right? At least every Finnish person does – I bet you cannot find a single Finnish family who does not collect Moomin mugs. One Moomin mug was sold for 10,000 euros in 2013. Obviously, the most expensive mugs are rarities, and most people buy their mugs for store prices. And then there are the beloved books and cartoons that people grow up with and still love as adults, as their profound themes touch us regardless of age. If you want to understand the Finnish culture, getting to know the world of Moomin books and the famous illustrations is a MUST.

Well, good news: the world's only museum solely dedicated to these wonderful hippo-like creatures can be found here in Tampere! See what the inside of the museum looks like:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTBy2_IsIk



Too bad the museums is closed due to Covid, but luckily there are other ways to get to know the wonderful world of Moomins.

Start by reading a little bit about the creator of the Moomin world: Tove Jansson, a wonderful LGBTQ+ icon and a member of the Swedish-speaking minority in Finland:

<https://www.muumimuseo.fi/en/moomin-museum/about-tove-jansson/>



Now it is time to get to know the Moomin valley and the characters!

<https://www.moomin.com/en/explore/>



Click on “get to know the characters” and now you can read about each character by clicking on them on the picture. Next, go to “explore Moominvalley” and click around on the map. Finally, find out which Moomin character you resemble the most, by doing the test here:

<https://www.moomin.com/en/which-moomin-are-you/>



VIEWS FROM ABOVE

It is time to cast a one more glance to the city. Check out the 360 view from a tower in the city centre!

<https://360.nerdfuel.fi/TampereTorni/TampereTorni.html>

And conclude your Tampere experience in nature: visit the Pynnikki Observation Tower!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NJ-K7nO5EAs>



Darmstadt, Germany

Darmstadt is situated in the heart of Germany, close to the big city of Frankfurt am Main. We will start our tour in the city centre and then move towards the edge of the city.



Kunsthalle Darmstadt

Let's start with a virtual walk through the art gallery "Kunsthalle Darmstadt". Just click on the link below and admire the strange paintings and sculptures that are exhibited here.



<https://www.thinglink.com/video/1316839755752669186>

Goldene Krone

After emerging again into the blinding daylight, we take an 15 minute walk until we arrive at a building right at the corner of a big street. You can immediately spot the big graffiti that is painted onto the side of the building.



The 'Goldene Krone' (Golden Crown) is a historical building from the 17th century and the only to survive the fire storms in WWI which consumed the entire historic center, as the British air force dropped incendiary bombs on the city in an attempt to demoralise the public. In contrast to the historical facade there is an ever-changing mural decorating the side of the building.

Now, as an important cultural center of the city, it is normally used as a pub, also hosting frequent concerts and parties. Let's see if there is something going on tonight:



<https://www.goldene-krone.de/>

Darmstadtium



As we cross the street, we can already spot a quite bizarre building which takes a very prominent place in the area.



The 'darmstadtium', named after the chemical element discovered in the city, caused quite some controversy when built in the mid 2000's, since the bold design is clearly not everyone's cup of tea.

The building seems to contain almost no right angles and mirrors its surroundings through large window fronts. An interesting feature is also represented by a piece of historical city wall sticking out of the side of the building.



<https://www.darmstadtium.de/en/darmstadtium/downloads/image-gallery/>

Waldspirale

In the video below you can see the 'Hundertwasserhaus' or 'Waldspirale' as it called by the locals, which means as much as 'house designed by the architect Hundertwasser' or 'forest spiral', which are both very fitting names.

To understand the style of the Austrian architect Hundertwasser, you best visit his website, as it is otherwise very difficult to describe.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVs1jN-T2Pw>



<https://hundertwasser.com/en>

The nickname of 'forest spiral' is rooted in the quite unique, spiralling shape of the building, as well as the green roof, on which real trees grow.



Mathildenhöhe

We arrive at the Mathildenhöhe, which is an important centre of Jugendstil (or Art Nouveau).

One of the most eye-catching features is the "Fünf-Finger-Turm" (Five finger tower) which is also the landmark of the city, named after its shape which resembles a hand reaching for the sky. The tower can be climbed, which gives a great overview of the city and couples are married here frequently.

Also visible in the video is the Russian chapel, built at the end of the 19th century when one member of the local royal family married the Russian tsar Nicolai II. To make it extra authentic, it was constructed on real Russian soil, imported by train.

Wissenschaftsstadt
Darmstadt



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KMAFY8Z096E>

Rosenhöhe



If we walk a little bit further outside of the city, we enter a beautiful recreational area. Passing under the watchful gaze of great stone lions we have arrived at the park "Rosenhöhe" (Rosehill).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ebw0vujYWAA>

Here, many people take a stroll during the weekend, admiring the beautifully curated flowers and herbs, protected by grates and fences from the wild hogs which roam the area at night and plough the ground in the search for food.

Hofgut Oberfeld

Since we are quite exhausted and hungry by now, we are relieved when, after another short walk, we reach the "Hofgut Oberfeld" which is an organic farm with a small store and a café where we can get delicious baked goods, coffee and cold beverages.

They also make very good bread, which is very important for Germans. German bread culture "Brotkultur" was even declared immaterial UNESCO world heritage. Don't worry, they will also take your bank card, even though it is still very common in many places here that you can only pay in cash.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bRFUIHGKVDw&t=1s>

Recipe



If you have become very hungry for baked goods now, you might want to try out this recipe for German "Laugenbrezeln".

In Germany, you can find them in almost any bakery and they are an essential staple snack to eat on the go, as they are cheap and tasty.



<https://www.thespruceeats.com/brezel-the-soft-pretzels-with-old-world-taste-1446685>

(What is called "Lye" in the recipe can be found commonly under the name of baking soda.)

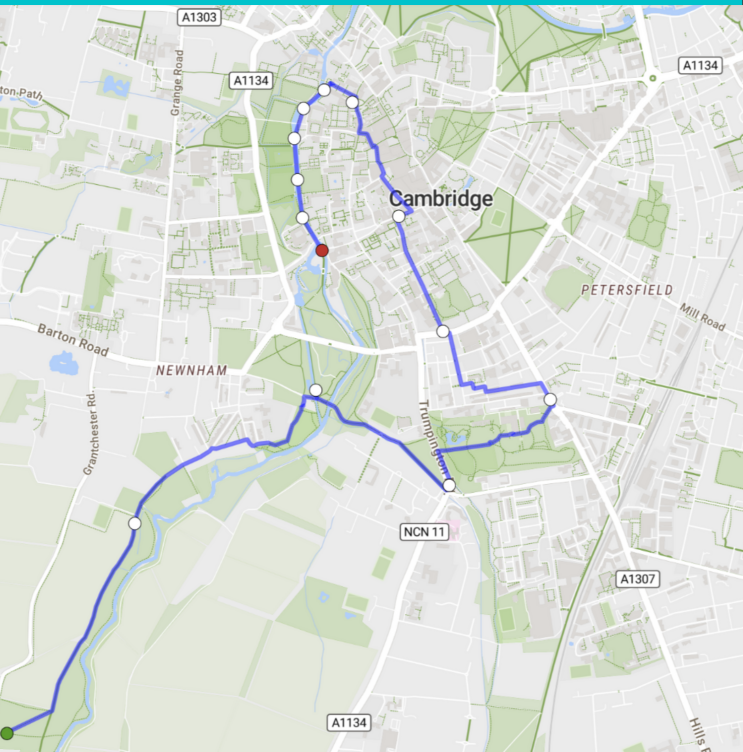
CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND

A HISTORIC CITY FILLED WITH ART

Welcome to Cambridge! During this tour, we will guide you through the beautiful city of Cambridge, discovering one of the oldest universities in the world, some classic British culture, and admiring the art of the city.

The tour will follow the route shown below, starting at the Orchard Gardens, walking along Granchester Meadows, going through the Botanical Gardens, before venturing into the city center along a bicycle, and then finishing off with a lovely punting tour.

Sit back, grab yourself a cup of tea, and enjoy this tour!



Art is defined in many ways, but an art form which we cherish a lot as a group is the art of cooking. Therefore, we would like to show you a quick video of a vegan scone recipe which you can make at home easily! Feel free to take the time to make some now so that you can enjoy them during this tour.

Cambridge is quite an expensive city to live in and therefore has plenty of tea gardens and very nice cafes which serve scones and tea. You can enjoy scones with jam or butter, but a personal favorite is with nutella.

Here is the link to the recipe:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KRuxfBI_9M8



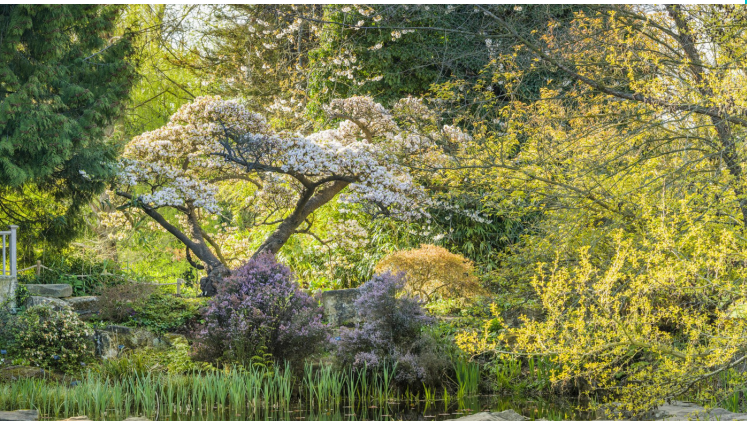
Hopefully you have taken the time and initiative to make yourself some scones since we will now take you to the first stop of our tour, the Cambridge Orchard Tea Garden. What began in 1897 by a group of students asking for tea in the Orchard Gardens after a long cycle, soon grew to become one of the most popular destinations for Cambridge residents. What makes the Orchard special is its location just outside the city, away from the busy, student-filled streets. Most tourists do not make the trip to the Orchard so it remains a little oasis of quiet for local residents. These gardens were visited and enjoyed by many famous people, including Maynard Keynes, Alan Turing, and Stephen Hawking.

Watch the video below to enjoy a peaceful summer day, back when sitting outside together was still a thing!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ceKt97jzHpw>



Next, we will walk along Granchester Meadows all the way to the Botanic Gardens in the center of Cambridge. The Cambridge University Botanic Garden holds a collection of over 8,000 different plant species from all over the world, used both to facilitate teaching and research, and also for the public to enjoy. The garden covers an area of nearly 40 acres right in the center of Cambridge. The video below shows you a short glimpse of this beautiful oasis, located in the middle of a bustling city.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nyg6HnvGcAO>



What might seem to most of you as a trivial concept, is considered an art form in the UK: cycling! Cambridge is often called the cycling capital of the UK, with the most cycling infrastructure in the city. Cycling is particularly popular amongst students, who use it both as a practical way to get around but also a form of exercise, to enjoy bike rides through the meadows or to the tea and beer gardens around Cambridge. However, the infrastructure is still far from the level of the Netherlands, as you can see for yourself in the video below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5AGIOu56yI>



As you (virtually) cycle through Cambridge, you must stop at the Fitzwilliam Museum. As the principal museum of the University of Cambridge, it represents the UK's highest concentration of internationally important collections outside London. With more than five million works of art, artefacts, and specimens, the collections span four and a half billion years. Close to a million people of all ages and backgrounds participate in events for their extensive public, educational and outreach program every year.

Feel free to visit their website to look at the current collections, and/or also check out this video of a webinar series on their Youtube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCgQkHAXfuc>

Further along your cycle, you might stumble upon a group of locals and tourists admiring a rather strange object: the corpus clock. The Corpus Clock was inaugurated in 2008 to show the passing of time. One of the main attractions in Cambridge, this somewhat sinister art installation represents the inevitable passing of time until we die. The grasshopper sitting on top, called the "Chronophage" which means 'time-eater', is there to devour the time.



As you make your way towards the final part of this tour, the punting excursion, keep an ear out to possibly hear the sound of a busker in the street. Cambridge students have been known to take part in very peculiar activities, however this one student has taken this a step further. The Man in a Bin, as he has been called, spends his free time playing guitar and singing from a bin. Make sure to listen to him and give him some change if you can! The video below shows him jamming out:

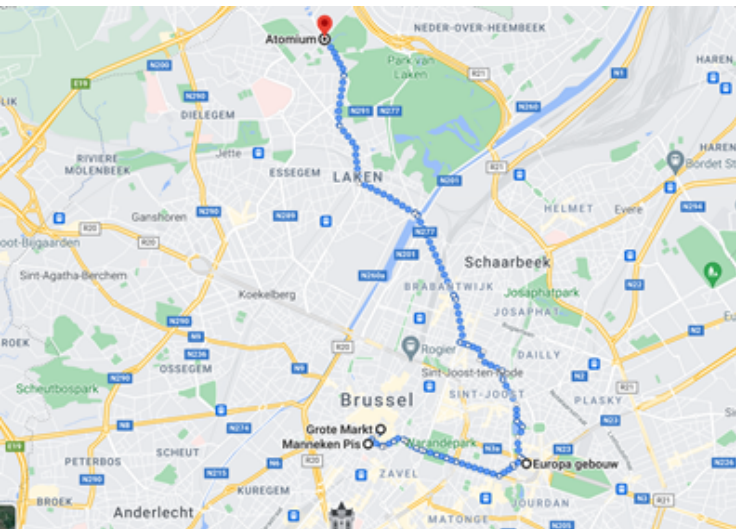
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXbesr1lzMM>

Now, all good things must come to an end unfortunately. As we reach this final part of our tour, you will embark on a punting boat which will take you down the Cam River (hence why it is called Cambridge, the Bridge over the Cam). Click on the video below for a very special 360 tour of a punt through the back of the Cambridge colleges!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gD93j8HXnGk>

Brussels, Belgium

WELCOME TO BRUSSELS, BELGIUM! DURING THIS TOUR YOU WILL DISCOVER THIS CITY, LEARN A BIT ABOUT ITS HISTORY AND MOST IMPORTANTLY LOOK AT THE BEAUTIFUL ART.



First we're going to start with a tasty Belgian waffle! Follow along with this video to make them yourself! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRIQDXPF31g>



To start of we will have a look at Grand Place . The buildings on Grand Place, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, date back to the 15th century. First the halls and some guild houses were built, then the City Hall was started to anchor political authority on this trading place.

The Grote Markt was almost completely destroyed in 1695 after a three-day bombardment by the French army, but rose like a phoenix from its ashes. The entire square was rebuilt in less than five years. Various transformations also took place later. As a result, we find here four architectural styles side by side and even intertwined: Gothic, Baroque, Neoclassicism and Neo-Gothic.

The tower of the City Hall is approximately 96 meters high. Every year there is also an event where grand place is filled with a giant flower carpet . As you can see, even places like the City Hall are filled with art!



Next, we will have a look at the Europa Building. Besides being the capital of Belgium, Brussels is also the capital of the European Union.

The Europa Building of the Council of the EU. The Europa building is one of the most recent and magnificent examples of contemporary architecture in Brussels. The enormous cube is made up of 3 750 restored window frames and contains a glass lantern that, at night, is beautifully lit up by 374 LED tubes.



This 'House of the European Member States, with its multicoloured interior, is the main seat of the European Council and of the Council of the EU and is where meetings between EU ministers and heads of government are now held. Philippe Samyn, the Europa building's lead architect, sees it as the expression of a number of the values espoused by the EU. The façade thus consists of window frames from every EU country which signify both the diversity ('United in diversity') and the craftsmanship of every Member State, as well as the desire to promote sustainability.

Thanks to the collection of rainwater, the use of solar panels across the whole area on the top of the building, and the optimised façade structure, the Europa building has been awarded the Valideo environmental certificate. The interior lantern, built in a shape that was necessary to avoid too much pressure being exerted on the ground and the underground metro tunnels, mainly contains meeting rooms and a large press room and press area.

Next, we will have a look at The Atomium!

The Atomium was supposed to be a temporary monument but its success made it the symbol of European capital and a popular tourist attraction. It was constructed as the main pavilion of the world's fair Expo 58 in 1958, which was hosted in Brussels.

The Atomium is a giant 165 billion times enlarged model representing an elementary iron crystal cell and it can be considered as a mixture between sculpture and architecture. Since Expo 58 was the first one after World War II, the Atomium represented the faith in scientific progress as a main driver of the progress for humanity at large.

It was designed by the Belgian engineer André Waterkeyn. He entrusted his work to two architects – brothers André and Jean Polak, who were Waterkeyn's brothers in law. Have a closer look!



This bronze statue (Manneken Pis) was made in the 17th century by J. Duquesnoy the Elder. The statue is the personification of the derisive Brussels spirit. Also known under the name "Kleine Juliaan" after the name of one of the numerous fountains (the Julianekensborre) that supplied the city with water.

Meanwhile, the Manneken has become a legendary figure. His wardrobe includes about 800 richly decorated costumes, which have recently been refreshed and placed in an attractive setting (Museum of the City of Brussels). He received the oldest (known) costume from the Elector of Bavaria in 1698.

Unfortunately, Manneken-Pis was also the victim of a whole series of vandalism. In 1745 he was kidnapped for the first time by the English. Two years later it was the turn of the French. When Louis XV was informed of the theft, he donated a lavish gold brocade costume in reparation and awarded the Manneken with the Cross of St. Louis. In 1817 the statue was stolen by a released French prisoner and later found in pieces. With these fragments the statue was made that now adorns the antique fountain.

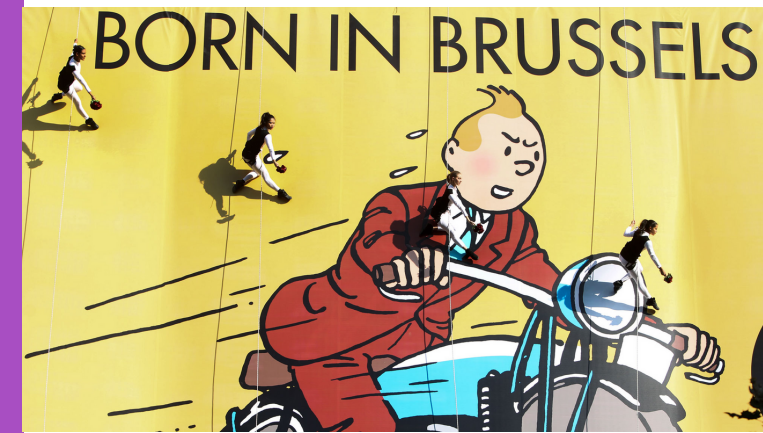
Lastly, let's not forget about the great artists that came from Brussels who gave us Tin tin and the Smurfs!

Everything starts one day in 1907 in Brussels. Little Georges Remi, born on May 22, grows up there, goes to school and draws his first comic strip. Hergé was born.

Brussels is his everything, his life and his source of inspiration. The Brussels atmosphere can be found in the cafés, the alleys, the theatres, the museums and the invented landscapes. From the flea market on the Vossenplein to The Secret of the Unicorn and the Royal Palace from King Ottokar's Scepter: Brussels is shining through everywhere.

Due to the international success of the small reporter, Hergé scraps all too obvious brand names here and there, but he always remains loyal to his beloved Brussels. He subtly incorporates Brussels place names into Tintin's world maps and gives his characters juicy Brussels folklore names, such as Sheikh Bab El Ehr; baron Almaszout or the rogue oil magnate R.W. Chicklet.

To this day, Tintin can be seen in many places in Brussels!





These little blue creatures, famous the world over, were born in Brussels in 1958. Peyo (Pierre Culliford), their creator, was working at the time for the magazine Spirou, for which he produced 1000 adventures for Johan and Peewit. The two heroes met these little blue people – exactly five inches tall – in the comic The Smurfs and the Magic Flute. It was love at first sight for the readers, and the beginning of a phenomenally successful new series.

Peyo came up with the storylines and drawings, and his wife, Nine, was responsible for the colours. The author's fertile imagination would take his little smurfs to the small – and the big – screen. First came the original cartoons from the TVA Dupuis studios in 1965, and then the adaptation of

The Smurfs and the Magic Flute by Lombard's Belvision studio in 1976. And with the 256 episodes produced by the American studios Hanna-Barbera between 1981 and 1987, the Smurfs' international career really took off. They can be seen everywhere around brussels and even have a big mural of them in one of the most visited places! It was a global success, and the Smurfs set off to conquer hearts all over the world as the most famous Belgian Airline even made a plane about them!

To look at more buildings in Brussels you can click on the following link <http://www.brusselsfromabove.be/360/grand-place> to look at with a 360° view!

The End.

We hope that you enjoyed our tour all along the way and that you feel a little inspired now! :)