

# THE GAZETTE

Published for members of the SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen communities

## Belgian railways

Since Dec. 9, the Belgian train network (SNCB) has launched their new schedule. A total of 170 national and 23 international connections have been dropped. Check the new schedule at [www.belgianrail.be/en](http://www.belgianrail.be/en) before travelling.

## Radar checks

There will be radar checks Dec. 12 in Lens on Rue du Calvaire (both directions) and at Chièvres on rue d'Ath à Mons (both directions).

## RCO-Benelux

RCO-Benelux will be closed today from noon until close of business for an office function. If an action is urgent and cannot wait until Tuesday morning, contact RCO chief at civilian 0478-940666.

## Holiday schedules

The holiday operating hours schedule have been included in this Gazette. To check the hours, go to page 7 through 9.

## Road conditions

To check the road conditions in your area, go to [www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/) and click on the road condition link at the bottom left of the home page.

## Gazette submissions

Send your requests for publication to [usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil). For more information, call DSN 361-5419 or civilian 068-27-5419.

## USAG Benelux-Schinnen turns the lights on



Marty Notenboom

The lights of the USAG Benelux-Schinnen Christmas tree were put on Wednesday, December 5, 2012 by Novelle Francis III (right), Youth of the Year, with a little bit of help from Ms Kimberly Wayland (left), Deputy Garrison Manager and Mr. Jan Hermans (center), Alderman of the Municipality of Schinnen, the Netherlands.

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# Girl scouts sing Christmas carols with Santa Claus



Keith Houin

Santa Claus sings carols with the Girl Scouts at the USAG Benelux tree lighting ceremony Friday, December 7, 2012 at the Chièvres Exchange.

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[www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil)

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# Drive responsibly

## National drunk and drugged driving prevention month

**Beth Ann Cameron**

*U.S. Army Public Health Command*

The holiday season is the time of the year when drunk and impaired driving accidents are most prevalent. Drug and alcohol use impair judgment, delay reaction times, and can result in deadly consequences when driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, drugs (for example, marijuana and cocaine) are involved in about 18 percent of motor vehicle driver deaths. Drunk driving accidents account for 31 percent of all motor vehicle accidents, and thousands of drivers and passengers lose their lives each year because of drunk and drugged driving.

December is National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. Most people would never imagine that their holiday celebration could result in a fatality or imprisonment, but the risks associated with driving while impaired are very real and can result in tragic consequences for everyone involved.

During Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month, recommit yourself to preventing the loss of life by reminding others to be sober and drug free, and use safe driving practices on the road. Drink responsibly, drive responsibly and encourage family members, friends and co-workers to be safe and responsible drivers for the holidays and beyond.

For more information, visit the following Web sites:

- **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, [www.nhtsa.dot.gov/Impaired](http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/Impaired)**
- **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired\\_Driving/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/Motorvehiclesafety/Impaired_Driving/index.html)**
- **Mothers Against Drunk Driving, [www.madd.org/feature-stories/december/december-is-national-drunk.html](http://www.madd.org/feature-stories/december/december-is-national-drunk.html)**

***The following list includes a few simple tips for celebrating and driving safely during this holiday season:***

- Designate a non-drinking driver ahead of time.
- If drinking alcohol at a party or other celebration, allow at least one hour between drinks. It takes one hour to get rid of one drink from your body (one drink is equal to a 12-ounce beer, 5-ounce glass of wine, or 1½-ounce shot of liquor).
- Set limits beforehand of the number of drinks to have and stick with it.
- Alternate drinking alcoholic beverages with soda, juice or water and eat food.
- Don't mix alcohol with other drugs, including over-the-counter and prescription medications.
- Don't ride with someone who is impaired. Use other means of transportation such as a taxi, public transportation or driver who is sober.

***If you are hosting a party, here are some steps to take to help your guests drive safely:***

- Plan ahead and designate a sober driver.
- Collect each guest's keys upon arrival and store in a designated basket.
- Serve foods along with alcohol-free beverages such as soda, juice or water.
- If making an alcoholic punch, use fruit juice instead of a carbonated drink. Alcohol absorbs faster into the blood stream when mixed with carbonated drinks.
- Stop serving alcohol 1 to 1½ hours before the party actually ends.

***If you take a medication that makes you drowsy, do not drive. Have someone drive you.***

## Beware of overshoulding

As you take cash money at an ATM machine or pay with a card at a counter, some people might overwatch to get your pin code and then try to distract you to steal your wallet.

Once they know your pin code, perpetrators will have time to empty your account by the time you realize your wallet is gone.

Keep in mind that "Shoulder surfers" try to be as discrete as possible. They will be well-dressed, clean, pretending to be a family like husband and wife, mother and daughter,

etc., in order to fool your suspicions. Their age can range from 15 to 50.

You might not notice they are looking when you enter your code but be aware if someone comes to ask you some information, this is just to distract you.

We recommend extra vigilance as these crimes are increasing. A very well organized gang is currently very active, moving from city to city to commit their crime.



# community briefs - community briefs - community briefs

## Wiesbaden and Heidelberg lodging

Wiesbaden and Heidelberg Lodging will be offering special weekend rates every Friday and Saturday in December. Special rates apply to Friday and Saturday nights only. Reservations will be accepted no earlier than the Wednesday before the weekend and must be guaranteed with a credit card at time of booking. Rooms available are limited and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

- **For Reservations in Wiesbaden Lodge** call DSN 335-5504 or civilian 0611-723760 or email at [reservations@wiesbadenlodge.com](mailto:reservations@wiesbadenlodge.com).
- **For Reservations in Heidelberg Lodge** call DSN 370-1700 or civilian 06221-795100 or email at [usaghd.guesthouse@mail.mil](mailto:usaghd.guesthouse@mail.mil).

## CYSS

### Homeschool extras

As of Dec. 11, registration will open for session II of Home-school Extras running from Jan. 15 to May 28. Registration is at the Parent Central Services, SHAPE Bldg. 503 Mon-Fri from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (appointments only) and 1:30 to 5 p.m. (walk-ins welcome). You can also register at SAC Dec. 11 and 18. Classes will take place every tuesday from 9:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Fee is \$96 for 16 sessions.

### Brussels Volleyball Camp

Registration for the volleyball camp runs trough Jan. 7. For more information call DSN 368-9651 or civilian 02-717-9651.

## Andrews Federal Credit Union

Andrews Federal Credit Union has the following positions open in Brussels:

- Branch manager (Full-Time)
- Senior teller (Full-Time)
- Two teller Positions (Full-Time)
- Member service representative (Part-Time)

Visit [andrewsfcu.org](http://andrewsfcu.org) to review these and other positions or to apply online. All applicants must have a U.S. Passport with logistical support.

## Ten Steps of getting a Federal Job

For those who want to learn the Ten Steps of getting a Federal Job and you don't have time to come to the class at ACS, you can now sign up for an Online version and do it on your own time on your own computer. If interested, you'll need to be registered at ACS and sign a disclosure form. You will then be given a user name and password and the link to this training. It's easy and great information to get you started on a career in the federal government. If interested or want more information call DSN 360-7269 / 423-5324 or civilian 31(0)46-443-7269 / 32(0)65-44-5324, or stop by the employment readiness office at the ACS.

## Postal Holiday hours

The postal holiday hours in the three communities are as follows:

### SHAPE - Monday through Friday

Postal Finance, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Parcel Pick-up, 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For mail by appointment (five or more parcels), call DSN 366-6311.

### Chièvres - Monday through Friday

Postal Finance, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Parcel Pick-up, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Schinnen- Monday through Friday

Regular hours.

Also open for customer service and parcel pick up noon to 4 p.m. Dec. 15 and 22.

See also the holiday operating hours schedule by community in this Gazette.

## Holiday Mailing Deadlines

To ensure your packages sent to the United States are delivered before Christmas, mail them no later than these dates:

10 December	Priority parcels
10 December	First Class letters
18 December	Express Mail

**These dates are valid for all three communities: SHAPE/Chièvres, Brussels and Schinnen.**

## Volunteers and hires wanted

The Northern Law Center is looking for military spouses or family members to assist as volunteers or hires during the upcoming tax season.

This is a great opportunity to gain technical and practical experience in tax preparation. The free training is conducted by an IRS representative. Space is limited. For more information, contact the Northern Law Center at DSN 423-3903 or civilian 065-44-3903.

## My Army life in photos

The Family & MWR photography contest ends Dec. 19. Weekly winners will be awarded for submitting photos in the following categories:

Theme 1: Army Strong Families / Theme 2: HOOAH Homecomings / Theme 3: Vacation Fun / Theme 4: Patriotic Pets / Theme 5: MWR Moments

Participants may enter at any time during the promotion. Submit your photos at [www.armymwr.com/photocontest.asp](http://www.armymwr.com/photocontest.asp).

Have Something for the Gazette?

Email [usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benelux.imcom-europe.list.pao@mail.mil)

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## **New high speed rail links Brussels – Amsterdam**

Fyra, the new high speed train link between Belgium and the Netherlands, started Dec. 9. The new service from Brussels South Station to Amsterdam Central Station will run ten times a day. The train will stop at Antwerpen Central Station, Rotterdam Central Station and Schiphol (Dutch airport).

## **Serbian Ambassador to NATO commits suicide**

Branislav Milinkovic (52) the well-known Serbian Ambassador to NATO committed suicide by jumping off the parking garage at Brussels International Airport. In the 1990s Milinkovic was an opponent of the Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

## **More Dutch households live in poverty**

The number of single people and households living in poverty in the Netherlands has risen again this year to around 1.1 million. Single parent families, single people under the age of 65, immigrants and people living on welfare benefits are most likely to be living on or below the poverty line. Using this definition, some 7.1% of the population lived in poverty in 2011, compared to 6% in 2010. The research calculations are based on what is considered necessary to eat, live, buy clothes and take part in social activities. For example, a couple with two children and net income of under €1,920 a month last year would be considered poor. The research takes a basic income for a single person of €960 a month as its standard. Using this standard, some 7.1% of the population lived in poverty in 2011, compared to 6% in 2010. This puts the number of households living in poverty at 8.7% for 2012. The predictions say that 9.4% of households will not have enough to live on in 2013.

## **First Homeless to die from the cold in Belgium**

A Polish homeless person of 58 years old died last week from the cold in front of the Public Social Services Center, Rue Haute in Bruxelles. He was illegally staying in Belgium and used to beg in the neighborhood where he died. He belonged to those homeless people that refuse temporary lodging and mostly live on alcohol.

## **Football linesman died after being kicked and punched**

Richard Nieuwenhuizen, 41, died last week in the hospital a day after he was kicked and punched by three teenagers, aged 15, 15 and 16. The linesman was beaten up by young football players during an amateur league match. The three teenagers remain in custody and are facing charges of manslaughter and public violence. All amateur games in the Netherlands were cancelled last weekend.

## **Belgian nuclear reactors**

The two Belgian nuclear reactors that have been standing idle since the summer can go back into service. Both Doel 3 in the Flanders and Tihange 2 in Wallonia were shut down after thousands of tiny tears were discovered in a valve linked to the reactor vessel. Tests on over 400 samples carried out at different labs show that the steel of the reactor vessels is in good conditions and meets the necessary requirements.

The integrity of the structure meets safety requirements. The Belgian government is to take the final decision but Electrabel that operates the two reactors is confident that the two reactors can be taken into service immediately. The two reactors provide 15% of Belgium's electricity needs.

## **Belgian designer Christophe Coppens**

The Belgian hat designer, Christophe Coppens, known for his eccentric hats will leave Brussels and move to Los Angeles. Coppens has bought a house in LA and will work on his new project there. What this is remains a secret. Coppens closed his business in May. At that time he was 700,000 Euros in debt.

## **Two ships collide off Zeeland coast**

Eleven people are thought to have died when the Baltic Ace sank after hitting a container ship off the coast of Zeeland last week. Rescue teams were able to pull 13 members of the crew to safety. Four bodies have been found and a further seven are still missing. The 148m Baltic Ace, which sails under the flag of the Bahamas, was carrying cars and sank almost immediately after the collision. It was on its way from Zeebrugge, Belgium to Finland. The Corvus J container ship, registered in Cyprus, was on its way from Grangemouth, Scotland to Antwerp. The Dutch coast guard said the weather is unlikely to be the reason for the collision. It is more likely the ships had not seen each other. The North Sea is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world and the shipping routes are currently being updated to improve safety by the International Maritime Organization.

## **Manneken Pis is "Europe's most disappointing sight"**

Visitors to the tourist website stedentripper.com have dealt a particularly unkind blow to one of Belgium's most iconic icons. The Dutch website's correspondents say that the poor little Manneken, who has been urinating in one of the streets off the Market Square for centuries, is too small and too crowded by tourists.

## **Half of Dutch men and women are overweight**

Some 54% of Dutch men and 43% of Dutch women are now overweight, according to new figures from the national statistics office. Men weigh an average of 84 kilos, and women 70 kilos. This is an increase of 5.6 kilos and 3.7 kilos on 20 years ago. Over the same period, the average height of a Dutch man has gone up just over two centimeters to 1.81. Women are marginally taller at 1.68 meters. The increase in weight is coupled with an increase in diabetes diagnoses. Some 4.7% of the population now suffers from diabetes, compared with 2.8% just 10 years ago.

## **Pin code and date of birth**

As an additional precautionary action, some banks have installed a new safety measure. When proceeding to get money from Belgian AT&M machines or when using self-banking machines, you may be prompted to input not only your pin code but also your date of birth. This measure is just an additional safety measure and not a hacking attempt.

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# SHAPE/Chièvres Official Holiday Schedules

## SHAPE/Chièvres HOLIDAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

	SHAPE Parcel Pick-up	SHAPE Postal Finance	Chièvres Parcel Pick-up	Chièvres Postal Finance	Fitness Center	ACS	Benelux Finance	Library	Gate 1 to Chièvres Air Base	Pers. Property Proces./ Drivers Trg & Testing, Motor Pool	SATO	CIF/ HazMat/ SSA/ Maintenance/ PBO
Dec. 23									closes at 23:59			
Dec. 24	0730-1900	closed	0730-1900	closed	0900-1700		1000-1400	closed	closed	closed	0800-1600	closed
Dec. 25	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Dec. 26					0900-1700		closed	0900-1700	closed	closed	0800-1600	closed
Dec. 27					0900-1700		1000-1400	0900-1700	closed	closed	0800-1600	closed
Dec. 28					0900-1700		closed	0900-1700	closed	closed	0800-1600	closed
Dec. 29					0900-1700		closed	0900-1700	closed	closed	closed	closed
Dec. 30					0900-1700		closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Dec. 31					0900-1700		closed	closed	closed	closed	0800-1600	closed
Jan. 1	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Jan. 2									closed		0800-1600	closed
Jan. 3									closed			
Jan. 4									closed			
Jan. 5									opens at 0000			

**NOTE:** The empty cells represent regular opening hours

## SHAPE/Chièvres HOLIDAY COMMUNITY CALENDAR

	PX	PXtra	Commis-sary	Anthony's	Burger King	Auto Skills	Kennel	Vehicle Processing	CYSS	Housing Office	Self Help (DPW)	Shuttle bus	Chièvres IACS
Dec. 22							0900-1200 1300-1500			closed		no service	
Dec. 23						closed	0900-1200 1300-1500			closed		no service	
Dec. 24	1000-1800	1000-1800	1000-1600	closed	1100-1800	closed	0900-1200 1300-1500			closed	closed	no service	closed
Dec. 25	closed	closed	closed			closed	0900-1200 1300-1500	closed	closed	closed	closed	no service	closed
Dec. 26			closed			closed	0800-1300 1400-1600			closed	closed	no service	1300-1600
Dec. 27						closed	0800-1300 1400-1600			closed	closed	no service	1300-1600
Dec. 28						closed	0800-1300 1400-1600			closed	closed	no service	1300-1600
Dec. 29						closed	0900-1200 1300-1500			closed	closed	no service	closed
Dec. 30						closed	0900-1200 1300-1500			closed	closed	no service	closed
Dec. 31	closed	1000-2000	1000-1800			closed	0900-1200 1300-1500			closed	closed	no service	closed
Jan. 1	1100-1800	1100-1800	closed	1100-1800	closed	closed	0900-1200 1300-1500	closed	closed	closed	closed	no service	closed
Jan. 2							0800-1300 1400-1600				closed		1300-1600
Jan. 3							0800-1300 1400-1600				closed		1300-1600
Jan. 4							0800-1300 1400-1600				closed		1300-1600

**SHAPE/Chièvres Emergency numbers**

**Chièvres MP station, DSN 361-5301 or civilian 068-27-5301**

**SHAPE Police Desk, DSN 423-3333/4 or civilian 065-44-3333/4**

**Any emergency - Dial 112**

# Brussels Official Holiday Schedules

## Brussels Holiday Community Calendar

	FMWR Admin	ACS	Fitness Center	CYSS	Library	Three-star Lounge	Auto Skills	Finance	Parcel Mailing	Parcel Pick-up
Dec. 24	0800-1700		0700-1500	closed	closed	closed	closed	1000-1400		
Dec. 25	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Dec. 26	0800-1500		0700-1700	0800-1500	1100-1600	closed	closed	closed		
Dec. 27	closed	closed	0700-1700	0800-1500	1100-1600	closed	closed	0900-1600		
Dec. 28	0800-1700		0700-1700	0800-1500	1100-1600	closed	closed	0900-1600		
Dec. 29	closed	closed	0900-1600	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed		
Dec. 30	closed	closed	0900-1500	closed	1100-1600	closed	closed	closed		
Dec. 31	0800-1700		0700-1500	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed		
Jan. 1	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Jan. 2	0800-1500		0700-1700	0800-1800	1100-1600	closed	closed			
Jan. 3	closed		0700-1700	0800-1800	1100-1600	closed	closed			
Jan. 4	0800-1700		0700-1700	0800-1800	1100-1600	closed	closed			

**NOTE:** The empty cells represent regular opening hours

## Brussels Holiday Community Calendar

	Gate 1&2	Gate 5	Pers. Property Procs./Drivers Trg & Testing, Motor Pool	Sato Travel	HazMat/Property Book
Dec. 22					
Dec. 23					
Dec. 24	0700-1900	0800-1600	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec. 25	0700-1900	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec. 26	0700-1900	0800-1600	Closed	0830-1600	Closed
Dec. 27	0700-1900	0800-1600	Closed	0830-1600	Closed
Dec. 28	0700-1900	0800-1600	Closed	0830-1600	Closed
Dec. 29	0700-1900	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec. 30	0700-1900	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec. 31	0700-1900	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Jan. 1	0700-1900	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Jan. 2	0700-1900	Closed			
Jan. 3	0700-1900	Closed			
Jan. 4	0700-1900	Closed			
Jan. 5	0700-1900	Closed			
Jan. 6	0700-1900	Closed			
Jan. 7					

**NOTE:** The empty cells represent regular opening hours

**Emergency numbers in Brussels**  
**Any emergency - Dial 112**  
**Brussels MP station, DSN 368-9769 or civilian 02-717-9769**

# Schinnen Official Holiday Schedules

## Schinnen Holiday Community Calendar

	Sato Travel	Main Exchange & PX	Shoppette	Car Care	Burger King	Commissary	HazMat	Drivers Trg & Testing	Transportation Motor Pool	Property Book	Car Crafts Shop	Vehicle Processing
Dec. 21	0800-1630	1000-1900	0800-1900	0800-1900	0900-1800	1000-1900						
Dec. 22	closed	1000-1800	1000-1800	0900-1900	0900-1800	1000-1800					0900-1300	
Dec. 23	closed	1000-1800	1000-1800	1000-1700	1100-1700	1000-1800					closed	
Dec. 24	0800-1200	closed	1100-1700	closed	closed	1000-1600	closed	0730-1600	closed	closed	closed	
Dec. 25	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed
Dec. 26	closed	1000-1800	0800-1800	1000-1700	0900-1800	closed	closed	closed		closed	closed	closed
Dec. 27	0800-1630	1000-1800	0800-1800	0800-1900	0900-1800	1000-1900	closed	closed	closed	0730-1600	0900-1300	
Dec. 28	0800-1630	1000-1900	0800-1900	0800-1900	0900-1800	1000-1900	closed	0730-1600	0730-1600	0730-1600	0900-1300	
Dec. 29	closed	1000-1800	1000-1800	0900-1900	0900-1800	1000-1900	closed	closed	0730-1600	closed	0900-1300	
Dec. 30	closed	1000-1800	1000-1800	1000-1700	1100-1700	1000-1900	closed	closed		closed	closed	
Dec. 31	0800-1200	closed	1100-1700	closed	closed	1000-1800	closed	0730-1600		0730-1600	closed	
Jan. 1	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed		closed	closed	closed
Jan. 2	0800-1630	1000-1800	0800-1800	0800-1900	0900-1800	1000-1900					closed	
Jan. 3	0800-1630	1000-1800	0800-1800	0800-1900	0900-1800	1000-1900						
Jan. 4	0800-1630	1000-1900	0800-1900	0800-1900	0900-1800	1000-1900						

**NOTE:** The empty cells represent regular opening hours

## Schinnen Holiday Community Calendar

	Personal Protery	CIF	Finance	Bowling Center	Fitness Center	VAT office	ACS	PCS, SLO, Youth Sports	Youth Center	CDC/SAC	Library	Arts & Crafts
Dec. 21								Closed			1000-1400	Closed
Dec. 22				1100-1800	0900-1700	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec. 23				closed	0900-1700	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec. 24	0800-1630	0730-1600	0900-1300	closed	0900-1700	Closed	0900-1500	Closed	Services at CDC	0700-1500	Closed	Closed
Dec. 25	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec. 26	closed	closed	0900-1600	closed	0900-1700	Closed	0900-1500	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1000-1700
Dec. 27	0800-1630	0730-1600	0900-1600	1100-1800	0900-1700	Closed	0900-1500	Closed	Services at CDC		1000-1400	1000-1700
Dec. 28	0800-1630	0730-1600	0900-1500	1100-1800	0900-1700	Closed	0900-1500	Closed	Services at CDC		1000-1400	Closed
Dec. 29	closed	closed	closed	1100-1800	0900-1700	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec. 30	closed	closed	closed	closed	0900-1700	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Dec. 31	0800-1630	0730-1600	0900-1300	closed	0900-1700	Closed	0900-1500	Closed	Services at CDC		Closed	Closed
Jan. 1	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Jan. 2				closed	0900-1700	0800-1630		Closed	Services at CDC			Closed
Jan. 3								Closed	Services at CDC			1000-1700
Jan. 4								Closed	Services at CDC			Closed

**NOTE:** The empty cells represent regular opening hours

### Emergency Numbers in the Netherlands

**Any emergency - Dial 112**

**Schinnen MP station, DSN 360-7555 or Civilian 046-443-7555**



This column includes events within close distance to Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

### Christmas Deal

Every weekend in December and every day during the school break (22 Dec – 6 Jan) you can travel by train for €9.90 per person, one day return ticket second class to any destination in Belgium. Buy your ticket online at <https://www.belgianrail.be/timetable-and-buy-tickets/Search/secure/buy-your-ticket-step-1.aspx> (website is in English). Also, for every paying passenger (aged 12 and over), up to four children under 12, travel free of charge if accompanying the paying passenger.

#### 15 December

- **Bastogne commemorations and historic walk**

- 35th Historic Walk covering 7, 13 or 22 km. Departure is from the Sports Center between 8 and 9:30 a.m. on Saturday. Registration will be at the sports center from 3 to 8 p.m. on December 14 and from 7 to 9:30 a.m. on December 15. Participating fee is €6.
- Official commemorations will start on December 15 at 3 p.m. with a parade led by the USAG Benelux Color Guard to Patton's monument and McAuliffe's monument for wreath laying ceremonies. Upon the parade's return at the city hall, authorities will throw nuts from the city hall balcony.

The funds raised thanks to the walk are donated to Honor Flights, a U.S. organization that organizes trips to the Washington, D.C. Mall so veterans can see the memorials there. This year, Bastogne will donate the "Their Last Chance" (TLC)/Lone Eagle Program.

- **Volksmarch in Tournai** for 7, 12, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from the school on Avenue Leray, 33 from noon to 3 p.m. for the 20 and 10 km route and from 5 to 9 p.m. for the 12 and 7 km route.
- **Second hand toys and children's sports articles Fair in Waterloo**, at the Chenois school on Rue Mattot, 135, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Open doors at the animal sanctuary "Etoile de Bonté" in Quaregnon**, on Rue de la Chapelle au Foya 22. Fee is €3.
- **Visit a farm in Hennuyères** and watch the milking of the cows at 9 a.m. on Rue des Fachelles, 83 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### 15-16 December

- **Wild West Christmas in Chaudfontaine** - At Western city on Bois de la Grue in Chaudfontaine. On Saturday at 8 p.m.: Country cooking (entrance fee is €10 per person) Sunday at 11 a.m.: free aperitif, lunch (registration is mandatory), as of 2 p.m.: shows, Santa, Mrs. Santa, Jenever bar and more.



This column includes events within close distance to Brunssum and Schinnen.

#### 11 December

- **Candle-Night in Gouda**. Thousands of candles are lit in the windows of the beautiful town hall and every window of the houses around the market square. Highlight of the evening will be without doubt the lighting of the beautiful Christmas tree in the center of the square. This scenic event draws many people every year and starts at 7 p.m.

#### 14-16 December

- **Christmas market near Altötting (GE)** at the Castle Tüssling. Entry is €4, children (6-15) €1. Open Fridays from 3 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 8 p.m.

#### 14-16, 21-23 December

- **Christmas Market in Bad Münstereifel (GE)**. Market is held in the middle of the timber-framed houses in the center of town. Open Fridays from 2 to 7 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Christmas Market in the center of Monschau (GE)** on the square. Open Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### 15 December

- **The historic Christmas play in Den Ham** is also the stage for a play in which 200 inhabitants of the village take part. The play is set in the years 1800-1811 and several scenes, each with a different plot but all from the same time, tells us when the French were occupying the Netherlands. The event is open from noon to 8 p.m.

#### 15-16 December

- **Dickens Fest in Deventer**. The historical Bergkwartier in the center is changed into a city from Dickens' famous "A Christmas Carol". Both days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. about 350 Victorian personalities and characters from Dickens' stories will walk around the center of the town. A large Christmas Market is held in the center on Dec. 16.
- **Attractive Christmas Market in Wassenberg (GE)**. Open Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Dec. 16 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### Ongoing Events & Happenings

#### Through 16 December

- **Christmas Market in Cochem (GE)** with stands along the River Mosel. . Open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Through 19 December

- **Christmas Market in Stolberg (GE)** at the castle and at Kaiserplatz. Open daily from noon to 8 p.m. The Christmas Market at the Castle is only on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 8 p.m.



This column includes events within close distance to Chièvres, SHAPE and Brussels.

**15-16 December continued**

- **Living nativity scene in Masnuy St Pierre**, at the church at 7 p.m. both days.
- **Medieval Christmas in Soignies** – Downtown Soignies with knights, magicians, jugglers, acrobats, story-tellers, fire dancers and more. From noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday. See also the Christmas market listing in this Gazette as you'll be able to visit the Soignies Christmas market at the same time.
- **Antiques Fair in Brugge**, at Beurshall on Hauwersstraat (200 booths) from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Entrance fee is €2.5 per person.
- **Flanders Book Festival in Gent** – at the Flanders Expo from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

**16 December**

- **Volksmarch in Placenoit (Lasne)** for 5, 10 or 20 km. Departure is from "Maison de Tous" on Rue de la Bâchée 17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Volksmarch in Braffe** for 7, 14 or 21 km. Departure is from the "Maison de Village" on Rue du Quesnoy, 1 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Store openings** – Many Belgian stores will be open today for Christmas shopping.
- **Winter market in Jambe** on Avenue J. Materne from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Ongoing Events & Happenings**

**Through 6 January**

- **Christmas at the Modave Castle in Liège** - Christmas decoration in the castle from florist Dominique Rausin. The castle is situated on a rock in the middle of a nature reserve and has about twenty richly decorated and furnished rooms. Open every day from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information go to [www.modave-castle.be/infos\\_pratiques/langue\\_en](http://www.modave-castle.be/infos_pratiques/langue_en).

**Through 15 January**

- **Exhibition "European Ceramics and Glass Triennial in Mons"** - Discover European jewellery, ceramics and glass creations showcased. Germany and Portugal are the guest countries at the fourth edition of this triennial expo. Their work will be exhibited along with a selection of Northern and Southern Belgian pieces.

**Through 24 January**

- **Chocol@t's exhibition in Stavelot** - The Abbey of Stavelot hosts an exhibition which retraces the history of cocoa and chocolate and the history of many of the region's firms, draws up an inventory of the status of chocolate at the present time and wonders about the chocolate of the future, where chocolate is heading, its development, its innovations, new ways of working. More information on [www.abbayedestavelot.be/code/en/expo\\_detail.asp?pk\\_id\\_abbaye=1063](http://www.abbayedestavelot.be/code/en/expo_detail.asp?pk_id_abbaye=1063).



This column includes events within close distance to Brunssum and Schinnen.

**Through 22 December**

- **Medieval Christmas Market in Heinsberg (GE)**. Held at Burg- and Kirchberg. The market is illuminated by candles and oil lamps while on some days the old spirits and dark figures will dance and roam around the majestic St. Gangolf church. Open daily from 11:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **The Christmas Market in the center of Düren (GE)** is beautifully illuminated and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

**Through 23 December**

- **Christmas Show in Schimmert**, at Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg on Op de Bies 70. Open Mondays from 1 to 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays- Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Fair "Spirit of Christmas" in Spaubeek**, at Victorian House, Musschenberg 30 English antiques such as furniture, accessories and more. The fair is only open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Market around the historic Town Hall in the center of Aachen (GE)**. Open daily 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., but on Nov. 25, 6 to 9 p.m.
- **The Christmas Market in Bonn (GE)**, Beethoven's birthplace, presents impressively illuminated storefronts and the festive scenery of the Münsterplatz, the Bottlerplatz, the Friedensplatz and connecting streets. Vendors offer traditional Christmas goods, arts and crafts. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **A romantic Christmas Market is held on Market Square in the old historic center of Düsseldorf (GE)**. Also Christmas Markets at Stadtbrückchen (trendy); Schadowplatz (nostalgic); Heinrich-Heine-Platz; Flinger Strasse and Königsallee in the center of Düsseldorf. Open Sundays to Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fridays to Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

**Through 30 December and 2-3 January**

- **Christmas Express**. On Saturdays and Sundays in December as well as on January 2 and 3 you can travel to the Christmas Markets in Valkenburg and/or Maastricht in a nostalgic way. Park your car at the train station in Simpelveld the historic steam train will take you on a wondrous and relaxing journey through the beautiful Limburg scenery to the center of the Christmas City of Valkenburg. For tickets, reservations and more information go to [www.zlsm.nl](http://www.zlsm.nl) or call 045-5440018.



# Christmas Markets

The below list of selected Christmas markets and activities includes the ones that start this week. The list will be updated on a weekly basis to include the markets starting the week of the Gazette's publication date. You can view a larger selection of Christmas markets in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany at the USAG Benelux homepage - [www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil) - and click on the appropriate country.

## Selected Christmas markets in Belgium that have opened or will open this week.



### 11-12 December

- **Christmas Market in Grimbergen** can be found in the center of Grimbergen around the beautiful Baroque Church. Open Dec. 11 from 2 to 9 p.m. and Dec. 12 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### 11-16 December

- **European Christmas Market in the center of Lommel** with participants from all over Europe with regional products held at Kerkplein. Open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

### 14-16 December

- **Christmas Market in Anderlecht** on Place de la Vaillance in Anderlecht. Open Dec. 14 from 5 to 10 p.m., Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas Market in Braine-L'Alleud** on Rue du Môle, Place Abbé Renard in the center. Open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas Market in Nivelles** at Grand Place; in the cloister of the Abbey and in large tents around the Collegial Church in the center of Nivelles. Open Fridays from 4 to 10 p.m.; Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas Market in Enghien** on Cour des Accacias in the beautiful park of the Castle d'Enghien Open Dec. 14 from 4 to 10 p.m., Dec. 15 from noon to 10 p.m. and Dec. 16 from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- **Medieval Christmas Market in Soignies** with lots of free animations. Open Dec. 14 from 6 to 10 p.m., Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas market in Waterloo** on Place de la Maison Communale and on Rue F. Libert in Waterloo. Open from noon to 8 p.m.
- **Christmas Market in Woluwe-St-Lambert** on the Square Meudon. Open Dec. 14 from 5 to 9 p.m., Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.



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## Selected Christmas markets in the Netherlands that have opened or will open this week.



### 13-15 December

- **Christmas Market in the center of Deventer** at Lebuiskerk. Open Dec. 13 from 2 to 9 p.m.; Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Dec. 15 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €2.50; children 11 and younger have free entrance. Entrance is at Grote Kerkhof onder de Toren.

### 13-16, 20-23 December

- **Castle Merode Christmas Market** - The Prince and Princess von Merode will open the Castle Merode again this year for a romantic and traditional Christmas Market. The market is only open on Thursdays-Saturdays from 2 to 9 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 8 p.m. Entry on Thursdays and Fridays is €5 and in the weekend €5.50, children (6-16) €1. To get to Castle Merode follow the A4 (Köln/Aachen); exit Eschweiler-Ost and follow signs Weisweiler and Langerwehe. Then get on B264 direction Düren until sign Merode.

### 14-16 December

- **Unique evening Christmas Fair in Sempelveld** at Damiiaan Abbey on Pater Damiaanstraat 38. Entry is €2.50. Open Dec. 14-15 from 6 to 10 p.m. and Dec. 16 from 3 to 9 p.m.

- **Christmas Market in Vaassen** at the court of Castle Cannenburg, Maarten van Rossumplein 4. The castle is decorated for Christmas and is the perfect setting for this event. Entry to the Christmas Market is €2; children 12 and younger - free entrance. Entry to the castle is €5; children (3-12) €3. The market and the castle are open Dec. 14 from 1 to 10 p.m.; Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Dec. 16 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### 15-16 December

- **Christmas Country in Bemmelen** in the greenhouse of Perkplantenkwekerij Leijten on Broekstraat is a real Christmas event with lots of decorations, gifts, toys, clothes, entertainment and more. Santa will visit and he will have some gifts for the smallest among us. Open: noon to 7 p.m.

Christmas Markets

# Christmas Markets | Continued



## Christmas Markets

### Christmas markets in Belgium

#### 14 December - 6 January

- **Christmas Market in Mons** – Snow Heart in Mons at Grand' Place in the center with numerous stands, attractions, local delicacies, a heart-shaped ice-skating rink, a magical forest, choirs and Santa Claus of course. Open Mon-Thurs from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Fri-Sun from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

#### 15-16 December

- **Christmas Market at the hall Jacques Galant.** Open Dec. 15 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Dec. 16 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Christmas Market in Leuze-en-Hainaut** at the town hall. Open from 2 to 9 p.m.

#### 16 December

- **Christmas Market in Ecaussinnes** on Rue René Casterman. Open from 2 to 9 p.m.
- **Christmas Market in Lens** on the Place Trinité. Open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Through 16 December

- **Christmas Market in Binche** at Grand' Place in the center of town.

#### Through 24 December

- **Christmas Village & Market in Charleroi** at place Charles II. Open Mon-Thu from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fri-Sat from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sun from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### Through 30 December

- **Christmas Village in Liège** at Place de Marché is the largest Belgian Christmas Market. "Village de Noël" has atmosphere, full of magic and glamorous Christmas sentiments in the town center. It is a festive Belgian mix of Alsatian and German Christmas ingredients. Open Mon-Thu from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Fri-Sun from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

#### Through 31 December

- **Christmas Village (Noelleries) in Namur** with lots of activities at Place d'Armes and Rue de Fer is open daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Every Saturday from 1 to 5 p.m. horse drawn carriage rides.
- **The Christmas Village in Tournai** with Christmas Market, a large Christmas tree, rides, nativity scene and more on Grand'Place is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and again from 2 to 7 p.m. and in weekends the Christmas Village is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

### Christmas markets in the Netherlands

#### 15-16 December continued

- **The Christmas Fair in Bronckhorst**, the smallest town of the Netherlands is very nostalgic with old crafts demonstrations and lots more. Scrooge is waiting for you in the town's Dickens Museum. Open both days 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- **Christmas Market held in Kerkrade** at 900 years old Abbey Rolduc. Open all days from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entry is €3.50.

#### 16 December

- **Christmas in Heeswijk-Dinter** at Castle Heeswijk near Den Bosch. The castle, beautifully decorated, is the perfect setting for a traditional Christmas Market. Open from noon to 5 p.m. Entry is €7; children (4-12) €3.50.

#### Through 23 December

- **Christmas Market in Soest** with lots of activities at Tuinadviescentrum 't Vaarderhoogt on Dorresteinweg 72b. Open Sat-Thu from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Fri from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., closed on Sun.
- **Christmas Fair "Spirit of Christmas" in Spaubeek** at Victorian House, Musschenberg 30 with English antiques such as furniture, accessories and more. The fair is only open on Fri, Sat and Sun from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Christmas Market Valkenburg** in Fluwelengrot (Velvet Cave) on Daalhemmerweg. A unique Christmas Market held in the caves under the castle ruins. Open Sun-Thu from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Fri-Sat from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 23 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Entry is €5; children (5-11) €3.



# Christmas Markets | Continued



## Christmas Markets



### Christmas markets in Belgium

#### Through 31 December continued

- **Christmas in Antwerp.** Antwerp is one of the places to be in the month of December if you want great winter fun. There is an ice-skating rink at Grote Markt as well as a Winter Village with lots of stands with glühwein and other winter delicatessen and Christmas articles at Groenplaats. Open Sun-Thurs from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fri and Sat from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Dec. 24 & 25 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### Through January 2

- **Christmas Market in the center of Bruges** on Market Square and Simon Stevinplein. Open Mon-Fri from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sat-Sun from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
- **Christmas Village in Mouscron** at Grand' Place. Ice skating rink and weekend visits by Santa.

#### Through January 6

- **Brussels Christmas Market** - The Brussels Winter European christmas market. There is an ice skating rink and much more await visitors in the warm and friendly atmosphere of downtown Brussels. More information on [http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE\\_en/minisite\\_winterwonders/content/7565/the-attractions.do](http://visitbrussels.be/bitc/BE_en/minisite_winterwonders/content/7565/the-attractions.do).
- **Winter Dream in Gent** with Christmas Market, ice-skating rink and lots more winter activities on Sint-Pietersplein. Open Mon-Fri from 1 to 9 p.m. and Sat-Sun from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- **Winterland in the center of Hasselt** with ice-skating rink and more attractions. A Christmas market is held at Kolonel Dusartplein, Grote Markt and Molenpoort at the same time daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

#### Through January 12

- **Indoor Christmas Market in Knokke-Heist** - Indoor Christmas Market with ice-skating rink, lots of stands and many activities on the Verweerplein. Entry is free. Open all days 3 to 10 p.m.



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### Christmas markets in the Netherlands

#### Through 23 December continued

- **Another Christmas Market in Valkenburg** in a cave is located in Gemeentegrot on Cauberg 4. Open on weekdays from noon to 9 p.m. and weekends from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Dec. 23 from noon to 6 p.m. Entry is €5; children 5 to 11, €3.
- **Authentic and attractive Christmas Show** in Schimmert at Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg on Op de Bies 70. Open Mon from 1 to 5:30 p.m., Tues-Fri from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat-Sun from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Through 24 December

- **Authentic and attractive Christmas Show in Schimmert** at Lupa Outdoors Vijvercentrum Limburg on Op de Bies 70. Open Mon from 1 to 5:30 p.m.; Tue-Fri from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sat- Sun from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

#### Through 31 December

- **Magical Maastricht.** The city of Maastricht can be called Christmas Town with reason this year. The Vrijthof is transformed into a large ice-skating rink. There are many traditional and nostalgic attractions and Christmas Markets at several locations in the center, new is the market on Kesselskade along the river. Maastricht with Christmas is fun for young and old. Open Mon-Thu from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., Fri-Sat from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sun from noon to 6 p.m., Dec. 24 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Dec. 25-26.

#### Through January 6

- **Valkenburg – Christmas Town.** Visiting the town of Valkenburg during the winter months is like stepping into the story of Charles Dickens. Illuminated streets, decorated Christmas trees and beautiful Christmas songs bring this little town alive. Enjoy the only Dutch town in real Christmas settings: in one of the many cozy restaurants and pubs, in the decorated shops, at the hotels, the sights and of course the unique Christmas markets in the caves. Every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. and every Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m. a Christmas Parade with floats, dancers and animators will move through the center.
- **Winter Festival in Eindhoven** in the town center with ice skating rink, stands and lots of other entertainment in the center of Eindhoven. Open daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

# SHAPE Trips & Tours

For information on the trips below,  
call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-44-3884



Courtesy Photo

Events & Happenings

- **Aachen and Monschau, Germany Christmas Markets, December 15** - Travel with us to the quaint village of Monschau where you can do your Christmas shopping at the many wooden stalls. Our next stop will be Aachen's "Christmas City". Price is € 50 Adults, €45 Child (0-12). Departs SHAPE at 7 a.m., returns SHAPE at 11 p.m. Departs Brussels at 8 a.m. and returns at 10 p.m.
- **Paris after Christmas, December 27** - A relaxing day in Paris. From culinary delights to cultural sights. Price is €50. Departs SHAPE at 8 a.m. and returns SHAPE at 11:30 p.m. Departs Brussels at 6:45 a.m. and returns at 00:30 a.m.
- **New Year's in London, December 30 - January 1** - London is one of the most popular places to spend New Year's Eve. There will be a New Year's Day Parade starting at Parliament Square at noon as well as the fabulous fireworks display at the London Eye that night. Prices: €468 Single, €298 Double, Twin or Triple, €198 Youth 3-12\*, €98 Child 0-2\* (\*When sharing a room with two fully paid guests). Departs SHAPE at 7:15 a.m.(Sunday), returns SHAPE at midnight (Tuesday). Departs Brussels at 6 a.m. (Sunday), returns Brussels at 1:15 a.m. (Wednesday).

## Schinnen Trips and Tours

For information on the trips below  
call DSN 360-7561 or civilian 0031-(0)46-4437561

- **Spring Break getaway to Malgrat de Mar, Spain, March 29 - April 7 (Register prior to Dec. 22 with down-payment)** - Included in Tour Price: round trip royal class motorcoach transportation (non-smoking); Seven overnights in a 4-star hotel; half board accommodation (seven Breakfasts & seven Dinners Included). Prices: \$489 per person in Double Room; \$639 per person in Single Room; \$389 per child (3-11 years) staying in the parents room, when sharing a room with two fully paid guests.

## SHAPE Travel Group

For information on the trips below call civilian 065-336560  
Travel Group members are available every Wednesday and Friday  
from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Foyer of the SHAPE Library, Bldg. 307.

- **Aachen Christmas Market and Cathedral, December 12** - Guided tour of the Dom and Christmas market. Price is €35 Adults.
- **Paris Llights, December 17** - Spend the day in Paris for cultural visits or Christmas shopping. Price is €40 Adults.

For recurring events check on [www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/sites/local/pages/gazette/GazetteExtra.pdf](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/sites/local/pages/gazette/GazetteExtra.pdf).

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

## BRUNSSUM/SCHINNEN COMMUNITY

### December 10

- **Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC)** - Join for an Evening of Christmas Fellowship at 6:30 p.m. at the Brunssum Chapel, third floor in the American Room. It will be a fun evening of crafts and caroling. A potluck dinner will be served with the main course provided by the PWOC. Free childcare is also available. For childcare or to sign up to bring a dish, please RSVP to [Brunssum@PWOC.org](mailto:Brunssum@PWOC.org).

### December 10-14

- **Optometry appointments U.S. Clinic** - If you need an eye exam and are active duty, Spangdahlem Optometry will be visiting the Geilenkirchen U.S. Clinic. Appointments are now open to all active duty. Call the appointment line at (0049)2451-99-3200 Mon-Thurs 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fri 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. to book your appointment. If you cannot make your appointment call at least 24 hours in advance to cancel.

### December 11

- **Healthy Venting Group** - Here you'll find a safe place for parents with children of all ages to come together in a peer group surrounding to share the trials and tribulations of parenting. Bring your lunch, grab a chair and find out what other parents are going through. Drinks and dessert provided. Get-togethers start at noon at ACS. Call 046-443-7444 for more information.

### December 12

- **Infant Massage** - Schinnen ACS will be offering Infant Massage from 10 to 11 a.m.

### December 13-14

- **Culture College/Newcomer's Tour** - Designed for those new to Schinnen, welcome to the number one way to quickly integrate into the Dutch culture. This two day cultural adaptation class provides you with knowledge of local customs, traditions, language and, on the second day, using the local public transportation system. Course is at Schinnen ACS from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information or to register call 046-443-7500.

## SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY

### December 11

- **Baby sign-language** at the ACS Training Room, SHAPE Bldg. 318 from noon to 1 p.m. No registration fee. For more information or to register contact ACS at DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.
- **CYSS 2012 Fine Arts Exhibit** - Opening ceremony from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the SHAPE International Library. People are encouraged to bring canned food items to donate and participate in the Lemonade stand-off. Cake and punch will be served at the end of the ceremony. For more information call CYSS at DSN 423-5610 or civilian 065-44-5610 or stop by SHAPE, Bldg. 503.

### December 12

- **Breastfeeding Support Group meeting** from 10 to 11 a.m. at the SHAPE Healthcare Facility Old Physical Therapy, 2nd floor, Berlin Hallway. If you are finding yourself breastfeeding in a bottle feeding culture or want to meet other nursing moms, join for the meeting. Feeding concerns are discussed in a supportive environment with a certified lactation consultant. All pregnant and breastfeeding mothers are invited to attend. For more information call WIC overseas at DSN 423-5971 or civilian 065-44-5971. Infant massage class immediately following from 11 a.m. to noon.
- **Bingo** at the Warrior Zone. Doors open at 5 p.m., early birds at 6:15 p.m. and play begins at 6:30 p.m. Open to all U.S. and SHAPE (green) ID Card Holders 18 years of age and older. For more information call DSN 361-5643 or civilian 068-27-5643.

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Community Roundup

## SHAPE/CHIEVRES COMMUNITY CONTINUED

### December 13

- **Banking/Credit Union services and consumer rights** - Learn to make the most of your bank and credit union accounts, to avoid unnecessary fees, to know your rights as a consumer. Meets at SHAPE ACS from 1 to 2 p.m. For more information or to register call DSN 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.
- **EFMP Support Group** - Living with a disability is difficult, you don't have to do it alone. Join the group for education and support in a safe, confidential environment and meet others facing similar issues. Meets at the Rendezvous Café VIP Room next to GB on SHAPE from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. For more information or to register, call ACS at 423-5324 or civilian 065-44-5324.

### December 14

- **Middle School Midnight Madness** - Join for a night of high activity and lots of fun. Held at the Middle School Teen Center Bldg. 503 from 6 p.m. to midnight. Participation fee is \$15. CYSS Free Annual Registration is required prior to registration. Sign-up at Parent Central Services, SHAPE Bldg. 503 Mon - Fri 9 a.m. 1 p.m. (appointments only) and 1 to 5 p.m. (walk-ins welcome). Parent Permission form/waiver required prior to participation.

### December 16

- **Carol, lessons and Christingle (English, East Chapel)** - At SHAPE International Chapel Center, Bldg. 601 at 10:15 a.m.

## BRUSSELS COMMUNITY

### December 10

- **Metro Madness** - Learn to use the tram, bus and train in Brussels from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Meet at ACS Bldg. 4, room 320. For more information or to register call DSN 368-9683/9729 or civilian 02-717-9683/9729.

### December 11

- **Consumer Rights Class** - Learn the difference between banks and credit unions, how to evaluate the accounts and products they offer, and what your rights and protections are when using checks, debit cards and more. Class is from 1 to 2 p.m. in the ACS conference room. For more information or to register call ACS at DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-717-9783.
- **Newcomers' briefings** - From 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m., key agencies will present a brief overview of their services, answer questions, ensure a smoother transition for new arrivals. Meeting place is at the ACS conference room, Bldg. 4. For more information or to register call ACS at DSN 368-9783/9729.

### December 12

- **Brussels American School's annual Holiday Concert** - The concert starts at 7 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. The bands and the choir will perform various holiday selections. For more information, contact Brussels American school at DSN 369-9552.
- **Supermarket guided tour** from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. the director of the Wezembeek-Oppem Delhaize will familiarize you with a local food store. Meeting place is at the ACS conference room, Bldg. 4. For more information or to register call ACS at DSN 368-9783/9729.
- **Cultural adaptation** - General information about local customs and helpful basic vocabulary in French and/or Flemish from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meeting place is at the ACS conference room, Bldg. 4. For more information or to register call ACS at DSN 368-9783/9729.

### December 13

- **Winter Fest** at the 3-Star Community Club from 4:30 until 6 p.m. Kids crafts and Santa's visit. Soup and sandwich bar will be available, \$6.95 (children 12 and under, \$3.95).
- **Tree Lighting** at 6 p.m. at the flagpole. Hot chocolate and gluhwein will be available.
- **Baby Sign-Language** class from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the ACS conference room. No registration fee. For more information or to register call DSN 368-9783 or civilian 02-717-9783.
- **Hospital guided tour** - The Brussels Health Clinic patient liaison will provide a tour of the Leuven Hospital from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Meeting place is at the ACS conference room, Bldg. 4. For more information or to register call ACS at DSN 368-9783/9729.

**Don't forget to fill out the SHAPE/Chièvres  
U.S. civilian employee Living Pattern Survey at  
[www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil](http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil)**