

Accessible Tourism in Brussels

Presentation abstract

For more than ten years now the association AMT, accessibility and mobility for all, publishes her paper guide «Brussels for All» and together with its website Handy.Brussels fights for tourism for all.

Tourist site accessibility and travel planning are essential for a successful visit.

AMT is a part of the CAWaB (Collectif Accessibilité Wallonie-Bruxelles) and member of the association 'Access-I', their mission consists in spreading information about the accessibility of buildings and services for persons with reduced mobility. From now onwards, the guide Brussels for All provides information about places in Brussels examined by 'Access-I'.

Handy.Brussels is a complete tool with practical information about accessibility of lodging, hotels, restaurants, shopping and sports centers in Brussels.

Its goal is to make agencies and tour operators, service providers, transportation or lodging aware. The paper edition is complemented by the website which offers more useful details and photos with specific comments about each place visited. Today, the lack of information, of adapted equipment and understanding from the tourism industry, forms an obstacle to the development of a discrimination-free tourism.

Significant improvements have been carried out the last few years in Brussels. We have noticed during our latest visits that some hotels and restaurants had carried out transformations in order to host disabled tourists.

The Brussels Region and various municipalities in Brussels have decided to consider persons with reduced mobility as a reference when launching projects (streets and transportation) and that way, enable persons with reduced mobility to simply and independently participate in the social, cultural and economical activities.

In the medium and long term all touristical places should be developed in order to provide access for everyone to all aspects of the Brussels experience.

This guide is in fact for everyone. We tend to forget that one third of the Belgian population is a person with reduced mobility. To assimilate them to the disabled persons would be limiting.

Every single one of us can at some point in his or her life encounter difficulties to be mobile, including the visually and hearing impaired or the ones reduced in mobility due to certain factors (pushing a baby carriage, pregnancy, a traveler with heavy luggage, a courier with a heavy delivery, aged persons...).

Brussels For All and its linked webapp Handy.Brussels represent a complement of other traditional tourist guide books that remain indispensable to appreciate the abundance of cultural and leisure activities in Brussels.

Miguel GEREZ

Director of the project,

CEO 'AMT Concept asbl' (Access and mobility for all)



Lead speaker : André MOONS

Organisation : AMT Concept

City (Country) : Brussels(Belgium)

Biography : Andre Moons has been an outside collaborator for 12 years of AMT (for graphic design, web and print) in charge of non-French-speaking or non-Spanish-speaking communication for Miguel Gerez. Graphic designer and illustrator, he is specialized in communication by the drawn image.

2nd speaker : Miguel GEREZ

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Biography : Miguel GEREZ journalist (bachelor degree in economic & social political sciences and bachelor degree in social communication & public relations), accessibility consultant. Founding member of AMT Concept. Director of the tourist guide Brussels For All and the website Handy.Brussels