Druk op asielopvang door langere verblijfsduur van asielzoekers in Wallonië



Door Theo Francken, Yoleen Van Camp

De verblijfsduur van asielzoekers in de Waalse gemeentelijke asielopvang ligt gemiddeld twee maanden hoger dan in de Vlaamse opvang, zo blijkt uit een parlementaire vraag van Kamerleden Yoleen Van Camp en Theo Francken. Dat zorgt voor meerkosten van 5 miljoen euro per jaar, uitgaande van een gemiddelde forfaitaire kost van 40 euro per bezette plaats.

De kostprijs van lokale asielopvang is aanzienlijk. “Voor een volwassene gaat het om 40 euro per persoon. De verblijfsduur moet daarom tot een minimum beperkt worden en dit zowel in het belang van de maatschappij als dat van de asielzoeker zelf. We merken dat daar aan Franstalige kant blijkbaar minder aandacht voor is, waardoor de kosten nodeloos oplopen.” Theo Franken wijst op de onaanvaardbare druk op het opvangsysteem: “De langere verblijfsduur in Wallonië kan te wijten zijn aan langere beroepsprocedures aan Franstalige kant, maar ook aan laksheid bij het uitzetten van afgewezen asielzoekers.”

Duidelijkheid over uitgaven nodig

De N-VA’ers willen ook meer duidelijkheid over de uitgaven. Noodopvang is noodopvang, stellen Van Camp en Francken. Maar in de praktijk zijn er voorbeelden van allerhande kosten die worden terugbetaald, zoals cinematickets en fitnessabonnementen. “Daar moet dringend paal en perk aan gesteld worden. In se zou enkel ‘bed-bad-broodbegeleiding’ voorzien moeten worden, zoals Europa bepaalt. De minister stelt ook dat ze enkel huisvesting, voedsel, kledij, maatschappelijke begeleiding en zakgeld voorziet.”

Francken en Van Camp vragen een oplossing: “Door asielzoekers nodeloos lang in de opvang te laten, organiseer je zelf je eigen tekort aan opvangplekken en dus je eigen opvangcrisis.”

Vlaamse kleuters vaker aanwezig in school



Viceminister-president van de Vlaamse Regering en Vlaams minister van Onderwijs, Sport, Dierenwelzijn en Vlaamse Rand

De meeste Vlaamse kleuters zijn voldoende aanwezig in de klas. Vorig schooljaar steeg het globale percentage naar 97,5 procent – iets meer dan het schooljaar daarvoor (97,4 procent). Vlaanderen is internationaal een koploper, maar Vlaams minister van Onderwijs Ben Weyts wil de lat nog hoger leggen. “Vanaf 1 september 2020 verlagen we de leerplicht naar

5 jaar", zegt Weyts. "We willen echt elk kleutertje in een warm leerbad trekken."

Vlaanderen stimuleert ouders om kinderen jonger dan 6 jaar toch al naar de kleuterklas te sturen. Zo ontvangen ouders een schooltoelage als hun kind voldoende aanwezig is op school. Een kleuter van 3 jaar moet minstens 150 halve dagen aanwezig zijn, een kleuter van 4 jaar minstens 185 halve dagen en een kleuter van 5 jaar minstens 220 halve dagen.

De participatiegraad blijft stijgen. Vorig schooljaar (2018-2019) steeg het globale aanwezigheidspercentage naar 97,5 procent – iets meer dan het schooljaar daarvoor (2017-2018), toen het globale percentage op 97,4 procent lag. Vlaanderen is inzake kleuterparticipatie internationaal een koploper, maar het kan hier en daar nog beter. In grote steden zoals Antwerpen (94,3 procent) en Gent (94,2 procent) zit de kleuterparticipatie duidelijk onder het Vlaamse gemiddelde. Ook enkele kleinere steden zoals Turnhout (94,7 procent) en Lommel (93,2 procent) doen het iets minder goed.

Vanaf 1 september 2020 daalt de leerplicht van 6 jaar naar 5 jaar. 97,2 procent van alle vijfjaren haalde vorig schooljaar al de 220 halve dagen die recht geven op een schooltoelage. Om van de kleuterklas rechtstreeks door te stromen naar de lagere school moeten vijfjarigen minstens 250 halve dagen aanwezig zijn in de 3de kleuterklas. 94,9 procent van de kleuters haalde in 2018-2019 die drempel. Ook hier is dus nog marge voor groei.

"We willen de 100 procent kleuterparticipatie zo dicht mogelijk benaderen", zegt Weyts. "Voor kleuters van anderstalige ouders is de kleuterklas een fantastisch taalbad. Maar ook kindjes uit Nederlandstalige gezinnen krijgen veel meer ontwikkelingskansen als ze naar de kleuterklas gaan. Ik investeer vanaf dit jaar 70 miljoen euro extra in het kleuterklas, zodat er extra helpende handen zijn voor al die

kleutertjes.”

Het Agentschap voor Onderwijsdiensten (AGODI) heeft nu een uitgebreid cijferrapport op niveau van de gemeenten gepubliceerd. Zo kunnen ook de lokale besturen zicht krijgen op de aanwezigheid van de nog niet-leerplichtige kleuters.

Fraport Receives Climate Certification for Frankfurt Airport



FRA re-certified for 2020 under European Airport Carbon Accreditation – Exemplary CO2 reduction confirmed by independent experts

FRA/gk-rap – Fraport AG has been systematically implementing stringent climate targets since 2008, when the airport operator first defined these goals. For the eleventh consecutive year, Fraport has now received climate certification for Frankfurt Airport (FRA) under the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) program. Launched by the Airport Council International (ACI) Europe, the ACA program assesses how successful airports are in decreasing their carbon

footprint.

ACI Europe's Airport Carbon Accreditation program comprises four climate certification levels for airports: Mapping, Reduction, Optimization, and Neutrality. Assessments for granting the certification are carried out by independent experts. For 2020, Fraport again achieved the "Optimization" level for Frankfurt Airport. Compared to 2001, Frankfurt Airport cut its CO2 emissions by more than 40 percent – the equivalent of some 127,000 metric tons.

During 2019, ACA-certified airports worldwide achieved total CO2 savings of over 320,000 metric tons. Fraport AG's head of environmental management, Dr. Wolfgang Scholze, said: "In 2008, we set international standards by contributing to the development of the ACA climate protection program. In 2009, we were the first airport operator in the world to be certified." In addition to Frankfurt, six more airports in the Fraport Group are now certified under the ACA program.

In 2018, Fraport's carbon footprint for Frankfurt Airport amounted to 188,631 metric tons of CO2. The 2019 figure is not yet available, but it is forecast to be at around 175,000 metric tons. "We are making consistently good progress," emphasized Dr. Scholze. Over the next ten years, Fraport intends to cut its CO2 emissions at Frankfurt Airport to 80,000 metric tons a year. The company is striving to fully reduce emissions and be CO2-free at FRA by 2050.

Steps to achieve this goal include implementing the airport's

first large-scale photovoltaic system by mid-2020 at a new cargo warehouse in FRA's CargoCity South. More and more apron vehicles are being gradually replaced by zero-emission alternatives. Fraport is currently testing two electric buses for passenger transportation at FRA. Moreover, Fraport intends to invest in wind and solar energy. The goal is for Frankfurt Airport's power requirements to be met almost entirely by renewable energy sources.

International Medical Travel Show Dubai 2020

On February 2, 2020 at Dubai World Trade Center, UAE an extraordinary high-end event dedicated to medical tourism will be held, – **the International Medical Travel Show Dubai 2020.**

The growth rate of the global medical tourism sector is currently considered to be one of the highest compared to other tourism segments. More than 50 countries claim the development of medical tourism at the level of state policy. Each of the countries can offer the most developed medical field and something unique in the healthcare system. The entire global marketing toolkit is fully involved in this sector. Medical tourism has created a new concept of modern healthcare.

IMTS. Dubai 2020 is an advanced Medical and Healthcare Travel networking platform, a unique hub aimed to develop

relationships with government authorities and hospital executives, investors, healthcare authorities, buyers, insurance & travel companies, medical tourism facilitators, – professionals from all over the world. IMTS. Dubai 2020 is about to help to unleash the potential of the industry, both for service providers and service consumers of the health tourism market.

The organizers conducted a special market research, assessing the conditions of medical tourism as a business in more than 50 countries, analyzed all the information about stakeholders and provided the most valuable contacts on IMTS. Dubai 2020 platform.

The main value: any of visitors is guaranteed to receive personal attention from the necessary targeted contact and the opportunity to present themselves and their capabilities.

In the framework of the IMTS.Dubai:

Exhibition Networking and Demonstration Zone – comfortably designed area for efficient communication in between the sector stakeholders.

International Medical Travel Congress – educational part of the IMTS. Dubai that serves to the participants as a knowledge transfer platform.

International B2B VIP Hosted Buyers Program – efficient business tool that exclusively tailored for all participants to guarantee effectiveness. Our aim is to connect you with potential business partners from markets which you are targeting. Meet our Buyers from MENA, GCC, Africa, Europe and Asia!



The expanded business program of the exhibition deserves special attention. Events to be held in completely new formats – interactive venues, discussion zones and B2B meetings, speakers and topics raised by them will make the content of events even more powerful and interesting.

As an exclusive part of the event, participants also have an opportunity to attend **The medical tourism training short course** – a professional skills improvement program for medical travel sector specialists to improve best practices for medical tourism business based on the

30+ years of experience of the trainer who will design a course in accordance with the attendee's profile and understanding of the region particularities. Maria K. Todd the Trainer and CEO of AskMariaTodd™ is often called the world's single most knowledgeable adviser on health travel and medical tourism business strategy and management.

Those present will celebrate the successful completion of the evening in an elegant atmosphere. Known best way to continue business networking to join the community in a less formal atmosphere with amazing Arabic cuisine, live music and our MCs, who will make a celebration after a long and productive day unforgettable.

Join us and get the opportunity to personally communicate with industry leaders.

All interested can familiarize themselves with the detailed action plan and register in advance on the official website imtshow.com or via email info.imts@kenzevents.ae, info.internationalmts@gmail.com.

The 10 th annual edition of MCE Central & Eastern Europe is coming soon!



Freesun News is proud to be media partner with Europecongress which specialises in organising top quality MICE B2B forums, reaching business synergy through intelligent participant selection

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With a new decade started the new year brings the celebrative 10 th annual edition of MCE Central & Eastern Europe.The event has been moving throughout the region to highlight the MICE progress within the region, started out in 2011 in Prague and now will be held in Vienna.

Vienna is in many ways a frontrunner and an example for many other regional destinations, hence the excitement of Europe Congress hosting its tenth edition in this marvellous city.

Alain Pallas, the Managing Director of Europe Congress stated: ‘We feel honoured and privileged to have been able to offer our services for this period of time to the many participants. To have been creating so many new cooperation’s benefiting the MICE industry and to have been organizing these events in so many destinations. Vienna is hosting our 10 th annual MCE Central & Eastern Europe event which promises to be very special’.

Being free from any visitors, this boutique forum will be held at the InterContinental Vienna at the famous Stadtpark. It brings together key MICE solution providers from the entire Central & Eastern European region to meet with carefully selected worldwide event buyers for effective two and a half days. Within this short period of time Europe Congress is able to connect planners with industry suppliers and to offer a clear understanding of the MICE possibilities in the host destination.

External dinner venues will host the evening programs offered by the Vienna Convention Bureau, the lead partner of the event. Convention Bureaus of Lower Austria and Salzburg offer each a FAM trip offering further insights into Austria to the participating event planners.

All participants will be welcomed and serviced with transfers by Mondial, partner of MCE Central & Eastern Europe 2020 in Vienna. At Mondial, six business divisions are united under one roof, interlocking and complementing one another like the wheels of a clock. Thus, all their clients are able to benefit from specialist know-how as well as from a tourism company’s complete range of services. Since its founding in 1966, Mondial has grown continuously into the largest privately-owned travel company in Austria, with numerous branch offices all across Europe. There are no limits, only solutions. They master the entire range of MICE services. Be it a gala dinner at a glamorous Palais in Prague, a ski weekend in the Alps or

a seminar with several hundred participants in Vienna. The Mondial team are your advisors for your event in Central Europe.

Other event partners are Nuntio Audio-Video Solutions and Meetolgy, where the event MC Jonathan Bradshaw will deliver his masterpiece keynote ‘the science powering world-class social skills’, uniquely combined with the various Central & Eastern European destination presentations. Enough content to get very excited about and look forward to!

As an event planner you can still apply for one of the last places available and join the 10 th MCE Central & Eastern Europe in Vienna by contacting Europe Congress via info@europecongress.com or by telephone at + 420 226 804 080.

MCE Central and Eastern Europe 2020, Fact Sheet

Dates: 2,3 & 4 February 2020 Place: Hotel InterContinental in Vienna, Austria

Key Benefits:

✓ 2,5 days MICE one-stop-shop B2B forum; ✓ High quality event venue: Hotel InterContinental in Vienna, Austria ✓ Minimum of 30 to 35 pre-scheduled and match-made one-to-one meetings: Scheduling organized by EC ✓ 80 qualified event planners meet with 60 Convention Bureaus and MICE Providers ✓ Boutique event format to maximize connectivity’s: Total max of 200 persons remain together for the

event days: No visitors ✓ Educational sessions by Meetology’s Jonathan Bradshaw ✓ Central and Eastern Europe promotional sessions emphasizing the potential of the Region; ✓ Social and networking sessions offering full catering such as coffee breaks, luncheons, welcome reception,

dinners and an after-dinner party to increase interaction ✓ Endless networking opportunities with buyers with interest and

business for Central and Eastern Europe.

International aviation growth slowed to 4.5% in 2019



Olivier Ponti, VP Insights, ForwardKeys

The latest data from ForwardKeys, which analyses global aviation capacity, flight searches and over 17 million flight booking transactions a day, reveals that in 2019 growth in international air travel, as measured by passenger journeys, grew by 4.5%. That is healthily ahead of global economic growth, but it is significantly slower growth than last year, 6.0%; and it is slower than the trend over the last decade, which averages 6.8% per annum. However, the outlook for the coming three months is considerably more optimistic, with international flight bookings as at 1st January 2020 standing 8.3% ahead of where they were at the start of 2019.

Olivier Ponti, VP Insights, ForwardKeys, commented: “Usually, aviation grows around three percentage points ahead of global GDP. However, in the past year, we have seen several events which have held back growth; these include US trade disputes

with Canada, China, Mexico and the EU, riots in Chile, France, Hong Kong and India, the grounding of the relatively new Boeing 737 Max aircraft, terrorism in Sri Lanka, the emergence of ‘flight shaming’ and the bankruptcy of Jet Airways.”

Whilst air travel grew in most parts of the world in 2019, there was a notable exception; international departures from the Middle East were down by 2.4%. The main cause of this was the bankruptcy of Jet Airways, which had the effect of cutting flight capacity between the Middle East and India. Travel between Middle Eastern countries grew by 0.7% while travel to other parts of the world fell by 3.9%.

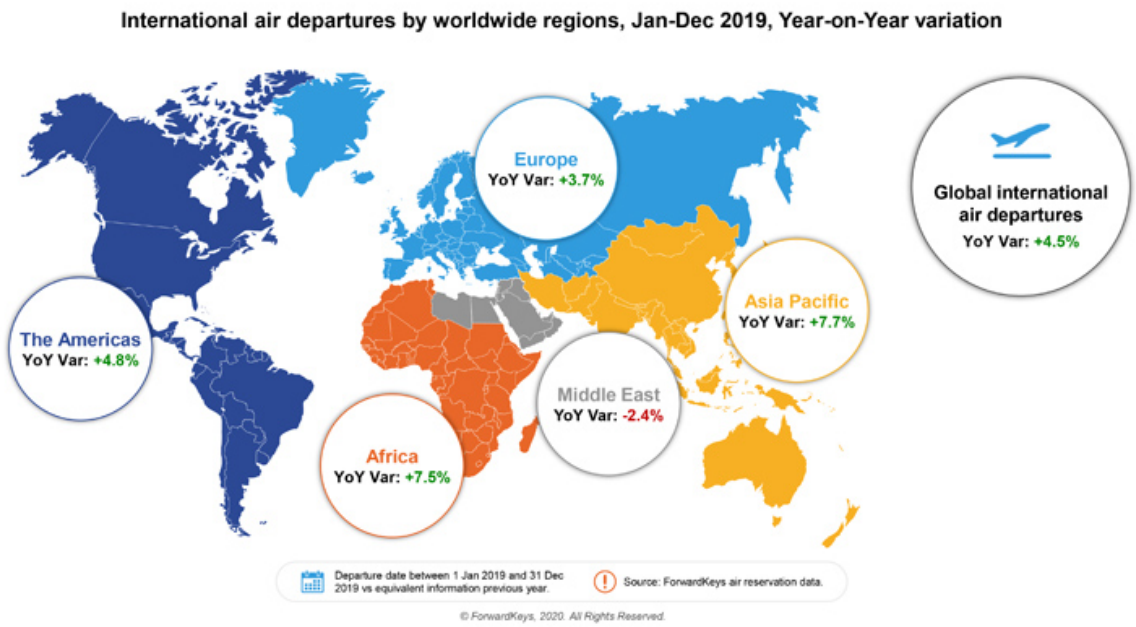
The stand-out region in terms of international aviation growth in 2019 was Asia Pacific, where international outbound travel grew by 7.7%, reflecting the strong economic growth of the region. Travel between countries in the Asia Pacific region grew even more strongly, by 8.7%. Europe did particularly well as a destination, registering 11.7% growth from the Asia Pacific market, boosted by new routes, following the successful EU-China tourism year.

The second placed region was Africa. There, international travel grew by 7.5%. The most significant drivers were increases in capacity and in routes by Ethiopian Airlines – capacity between Addis Ababa and Delhi, Guangzhou, Jakarta, Manila and Seoul, and new flights to Bangalore from Addis and New York from Abidjan. Other airlines also added African routes, including Air China between Johannesburg and Shenzhen, China Southern between Nairobi and Shenzhen, Kenya Airways between Nairobi and New York, LATAM Airlines between Johannesburg and Sao Paulo and Royal Air Maroc between Casablanca and Boston and Miami.

The third placed region was the Americas, where international outbound travel grew by 4.8%. Travel between countries in the region grew by 3.2%. The notable performance was growth in

travel to other regions of the world, which was up 6.8%, helped by the continued strength of the dollar, new connections to many parts of the world and the recovery of Egypt and Turkey as destinations.

Outbound travel from Europe grew by 3.7%. Travel between European countries grew by 3.3% and travel to other continents grew by 5.5%.



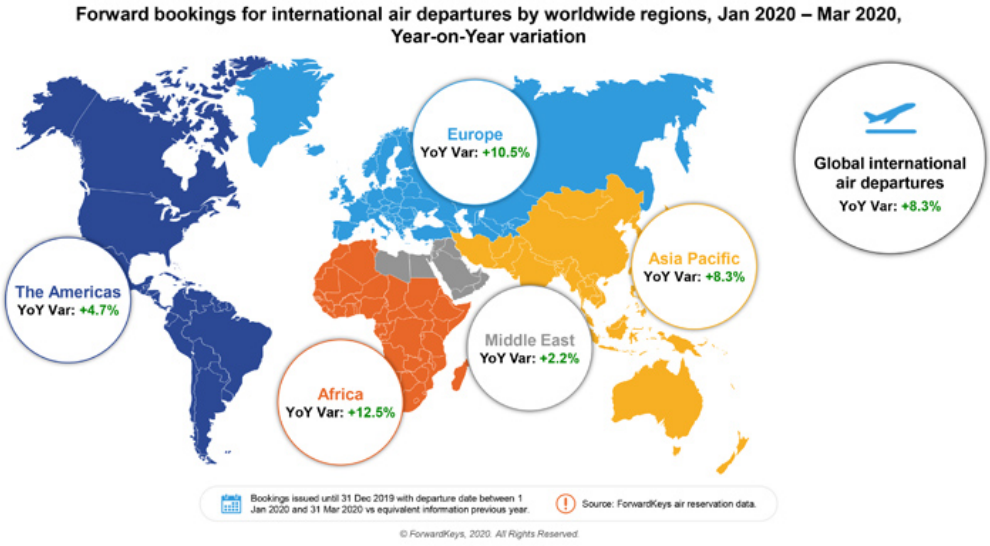
Looking to the future, the global picture is much rosier; and Africa is the stand-out market. As at 1st January, international outbound bookings are ahead 12.5%, 10.0% to other African countries and ahead 13.5% to the rest of the world. As a destination, Africa is also set to do well, as bookings from other continents are currently ahead by 12.9%.

The second most promising outbound market is Europe, with international forward bookings for the first quarter 10.5% ahead. Bookings between European countries are ahead 9.6% and bookings to other continents are ahead 11.8%.

In third place, is the Asia Pacific, where international bookings are ahead 8.3%. Between countries within the region, bookings are ahead 7.7% and long-haul bookings are ahead 9.7%.

The continued strength of the dollar appears to be a driver of what's happening in the Americas, where international flight bookings are 4.7% ahead. There, bookings to other countries within the Americas are ahead by just 1.7% but ahead by 8.8% to other continents.

The travel outlook for the Middle East is starting to look up. International first quarter, forward bookings are 2.2% ahead of where they were on 1st January 2019. Between countries within the region, bookings are ahead 6.8% but long-haul bookings are ahead by just 0.4%. However, ForwardKeys' data pre-dates the assassination by the USA of Qasem Soleimani, an event which could alter the outlook for travel, particularly if the political situation deteriorates further.



Olivier Ponti, VP Insights, ForwardKeys, concluded: "Travel in the first quarter of 2020 looks set to be buoyant, with long-haul travel showing notably stronger growth than intra-regional travel. This is encouraging news for the industry as the further people travel, the more they tend to spend."

airBaltic to Launch New Route between Riga and Yekaterinburg



Riga. The Latvian airline *airBaltic* will launch a new summer seasonal route between Riga and Yekaterinburg in Russia on April 1, 2020. The new connection will offer more convenient travel options for travellers from the Baltics and Russia to *airBaltic* network spanning Europe, Scandinavia, the CIS and the Middle East.

Martin Gauss, CEO of *airBaltic*: "We are delighted to add Yekaterinburg as the 14th new destination to our summer 2020 route map. Every year more than half of all passengers from Russia are choosing Riga as transfer hub to over 70 destinations in Europe, Scandinavia, the CIS and the Middle East served by *airBaltic*. By launching flights from Riga to Yekaterinburg, we are offering one additional gateway between Europe and Russia and vice versa."

Yekaterinburg will be the sixth destination *airBaltic* serves in Russia, in addition to convenient connections between Riga and Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Sochi and Kazan. The number of passengers grows each year. Thus, in 2019 *airBaltic* has carried by 16% more passengers than last year on Russian routes.

Destination served	Flight frequency	Start date	Price *, Basic	Price *, Premium	Price*, Business
Riga–Yekaterinburg	2 flights weekly	April 1, 2020	99 EUR	189 EUR	589 EUR

**Lowest fare (one way), including taxes, fees and service charges, on www.airBaltic.com, subject to availability*

airBaltic will fly from Riga to Yekaterinburg two times weekly. Passengers will board the *Airbus A220-300* aircraft for a flight that will last approximately three hours and five minutes. One-way ticket price starts at 99 EUR, including airport fees and transaction costs.

As informed previously, *airBaltic* continues its expansion in the Baltics and will launch 14 new routes to its summer season 2020 route map, including four new direct destinations from Tallinn, Estonia, and five new destinations from Vilnius, Lithuania. A complete schedule of *airBaltic* flights and tickets for the new destinations are already available on the company's website at www.airbaltic.com.

Brussels Airlines simplifies its loyalty offer

Miles & More to become the sole loyalty program of Brussels Airlines



Monday, January 6, 2020 – ***T***o simplify its loyalty program offer, Brussels Airlines has decided to offer its customers

only one attractive loyalty program, Miles & More. Consequently, the in 2015 launched program LOOP will be discontinued as from 1 February 2020. LOOP members can however still use their LOOPs for a period of 12 months, until 31 January 2021.

It has been over four years since Brussels Airlines launched LOOP, designed for Brussels Airlines customers who travel on a regular basis but don’t fly enough to receive significant benefits from traditional frequent flyer programs. However, Miles & More has extensively developed its offer in recent years and the possibilities to earn and spend miles, herewith coming very close to the customer advantages offered by LOOP. Knowing that many of the Brussels Airlines LOOP members are also member of Miles & More and looking at the developments of the Miles & More frequent traveler program, the Brussels based airline has decided to cease LOOP and to focus on the attractive program features of Miles & More instead.
What does this mean concretely for LOOP members?

- As from 1 February 2020, it will no longer be possible either to enroll to the LOOP program, or to earn LOOPs.
- All bookings including a valid LOOP number made by 31 January 2020 and flown by 31 January 2021 on Brussels Airlines-operated flights will still be rewarded in LOOPs.
- LOOP members can still use their LOOPs by 31 January 2021 to book any Brussels Airlines-operated flight (as per the LOOP terms & conditions).

More information about the many features offered by Miles & More can be found here.

Brusselse events om het jaar goed te beginnen



Ook bij de start van 2020 zijn er heel wat niet te missen evenementen in Brussel. Bezoekers uit binnen- en buitenland krijgen de eerstkomende maanden een bijzonder breed scala voorgeschoteld. Van het unieke BRAFA en het schitterende Bright Brussels tot het prestigieuze Brussels, Dance! Er is voor elk wat wils, in alle disciplines.

Dat het cultureel jaar in Brussel uitstekend startte, bewijst het enorme aanbod aan festivals en culturele activiteiten voor een breed publiek. Wie houdt van kunst, moderne dans, clubbing of strips moet zeker naar de Europese hoofdstad. Hier is een overzicht.



Jazzuary

Brussel is de hoofdstad van de jazz. En dat wordt in januari in de verf gezet. Van 8 tot 25 januari 2020 zijn er namelijk maar liefst 3 jazzfestivals: het Brussels Jazz Festival, het River Jazz Festival en de Djangofolllies. Drie niet te missen evenementen, elk met een eigen identiteit. Ontdek nieuwe talenten van de Belgische jazzscene en internationale topartiesten tijdens Jazzuary.

Locatie: Verschillende locaties in Brussel
Data: 12-25 januari 2020
Meer informatie: https://jazz.brussels/nl/highlight/brussel-zet-de-toon-tijdens-jazzuary

BRAFA Art Fair: Brussels Antique & Fine Arts Fair

BRAFA is dé afspraak voor alle verzamelaars en liefhebbers van antiek. Maar ook gewone bezoekers zullen genieten van deze prestigieuze beurs. BRAFA opent zijn deuren voor de beste exposanten van hedendaagse kunst, Afrikaanse kunst enz. En met duizenden tegelijk stromen de bezoekers toe om gravures, tapijten, meubels, zilverwerk of foto's te bewonderen. Locatie: Tour & Taxis

Data: 26 januari-2 februari 2020
Meer informatie: https://www.brafa.art/nl

Brussels, dance!

Brussels, dance! is een samenwerkingsverband van 14 culturele locaties die elkaar ontmoeten, ideeën uitwisselen en hun programmering op elkaar afstemmen. Bedoeling is om zoveel mogelijk mensen de enorme diversiteit van de hedendaagse dans te tonen. Op het programma staan meer dan 60 voorstellingen en ontmoetingen, met meer dan 100 performances, jonge artiesten en bekende namen. Hier ervaar je Brussel als een creatieve en levendige hoofdstad.

Festivals inbegrepen in Brussel, dance! : In Movement, Lezarts Danses Urbaines, Legs, XS Locatie: Verschillende locaties in Brussel
Data: 1 februari – 4 april 2020
Meer informatie: http://www.brusselsdance.eu/nl/brussels-dance

Bright Brussels

Bright Brussels is een lichtfestival, een fascinerend parcours door de stad, langs een tiental artistieke, interactieve, speelse en superboeiende lichtinstallaties. Bright Brussels is volledig gratis, vier avonden lang van 18.30 tot 23.00 uur. Locatie: Verschillende plaatsen in de stad

Data: 13-16 februari 2020

Meer informatie: www.bright.brussels

Chocoladesalon

Het Chocoladesalon legt de link tussen de landen die chocolade produceren, de chocolatiers en de consumenten. De top uit de chocoladewereld komt naar dit salon voor een feestelijk evenement vol ontdekkingen en gastronomische geneugten. Bezoekers kunnen genieten van de nieuwste creaties van de meester-chocolatiers en deelnemen aan tal van activiteiten.
Locatie: Tour & Taxis
Data: 14-16 februari 2020
Meer informatie: https://brussels.salon-du-chocolat.com/?lang=nl

Anima Festival

Anima, het internationaal festival van de animatiefilm van Brussel, is weer van de partij met de nieuwste kortfilms en speelfilms voor jong en oud. 10 dagen lang staat Flagey in het teken van animatie- en tekenfilms. Poëzie, humor, vreugde, maar ook intriges en mysterie… Tijdens Anima zijn er ook workshops voor kinderen, een podium voor jongeren, concerten, conferenties, enz.

Locaties: Cinematek en Flagey
Data: 21 februari-1 maart 2020
Meer informatie: www.animafestival.be

Comic Con Brussels

Jaarlijks trekken meer dan 10.000 bezoekers naar de populairste comic conventie. Op Comic Con Brussels vind je de wonderlijke outfits van de cosplayers, ontmoet je internationale sterren en verdwaal je te midden van honderden thematische stands: comics, cosplay, gaming, films, manga’s, series, verzamelobjecten, kleding, speelgoed, gadgets en nog veel meer.

Locatie: Tour & Taxis
Data: 22-23 februari 2020
Meer informatie: www.comicconbrussels.com

Foire du Livre de Bruxelles

De Foire du Livre de Bruxelles, goed voor 70.000 bezoekers (!), brengt dit jaar de rijke Marokkaanse literatuur voor het voetlicht. Centrale figuur is de in België bekende romanschrijver Mohamed Berrada, die de drijvende kracht was achter het literaire gedeelte van het Daba Maroc-festival en die getrouwd is met Leila Chahid, de ambassadeur van Palestina. Hij staat bekend om zijn scherpe, kritische pen.

Locatie: Tour & Taxis
Data: 5-8 maart 2020
Meer informatie: www.flb.be

Collectible. Design Fair

Collectible is een beurs die exclusief gewijd is aan het hedendaagse design van de 21e eeuw. De beurs brengt in de Europese hoofdstad internationaal gerenommeerde galerieën en ontwerpers samen. Die worden geselecteerd door een comité dat bestaat uit grote namen uit de designwereld.

Locatie: Vanderborghtgebouw
Data: 5-8 maart 2020
Meer informatie: https://collectible.design

Klarafestival 2020

Het Klarafestival is een internationaal muziekfestival dat bekend staat om zijn innovatieve aanpak. Vanuit Brussel slaat het Klarafestival een brug naar de buitenwereld op lokaal (Brussel), nationaal (Vlaanderen en Wallonië) en internationaal niveau.
Locaties: verschillende locaties in Brussel

Data: 12-29 maart 2020

Meer informatie: www.klarafestival.be

Made in Asia & Youplay! 2020

Made in Asia & Youplay! is een groots evenement gewijd aan de Aziatische popcultuur, manga's en games en verwelkomt alle fans van het genre in Brussels Expo. Op het programma staan meer dan 300 exposanten, shops, ludieke en culturele activiteiten, originele concerten en signeersessies met internationale gasten. Youplay!, het grootste evenement in de Benelux gewijd aan games en video's neemt Brussels Expo opnieuw volledig over. Gamers kunnen er de nieuwste trendy spellen ontdekken, de modernste consoles testen en met nieuwe VR-technologieën experimenteren. En als kers op de taart krijgen ze de kans om hun favoriete youtubers te ontmoeten.

Locatie: Brussels Expo
Data: 13-15 maart 2020
Meer informatie: www.madeinasia.be

Museum Night Fever: 14.03.2020

Van 19.00 uur tot 01.00 uur is (bijna) alles toegestaan tijdens deze nacht in het museum. Tijdens deze magische nacht valt er van alles te ontdekken in meer dan 20 musea in de hoofdstad: tentoonstellingen, concerten, performances, modeshows, rondleidingen en een swingende afterparty om de nacht af te sluiten.

Locaties: Verschillende musea in Brussel Datum: 14 maart 2020
Meer informatie: www.museumnightfever.be

BANAD Festival

Het Brussels Art Nouveau & Art Deco Festival (BANAD) is een uitzonderlijk evenement dat het Art Nouveau- en Art Deco-erfgoed in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest onder de aandacht brengt. Het wordt elk jaar uitsluitend in de weekends van maart gehouden. Er zijn rondleidingen door Art Nouveau- en

Art Deco-interieurs die meestal gesloten zijn voor het publiek. Een unieke gelegenheid om de juwelen van onze architectuur te (her)ontdekken! Locaties: Verschillende locaties in Brussel

Data: 14-29 maart 2020
Meer informatie: www.banad.brussels

Festival UP! International Circus Biennial

Met het Festival UP!, de Internationale Circusbiënnale van Espace Catastrophe, wordt Brussel omgetoverd in één groot circus. Overal in Brussel zijn er spannende ontmoetingen met bijzondere voorstellingen, dwaze weddenschappen en gewaagde stunts van de artiesten die het circus van morgen uitmaken.

Locaties: Verschillende locaties in Brussel Data: 19-29 maart 2020
Meer informatie: www.upfestival.be

Affordable Art Fair

De Brusselse editie van de Affordable Art Fair verwelkomt meer dan 90 Belgische en internationale galerieën. Naast de betaalbare kunst zijn er lezingen, workshops en activiteiten voor kinderen.
Locatie: Tour & Taxis

Datum: 19-22 maart 2020
Meer informatie: https://affordableartfair.com/fairs/brussels

Listen! Festival

Het Listen! Festival vindt plaats van woensdag 25 maart tot en met zondag 29 maart 2020 op verschillende locaties in Brussel. Voor deze vijfde editie lanceert Listen! de slogan “United in Music and Diversity”. Het festival brengt verschillende lokale en alternatieve muziekscenes samen: de symbolen van de unieke diversiteit, typisch voor Brussel.

Locaties: Verschillende locaties in Brussel Data: 25-29 maart 2020
Meer informatie: www.listenfestival.be

Meer informatie over de evenementen in Brussel www.agenda.brussels

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Nouveau record de fréquentation avec plus de 5,7 millions de visiteurs et le plus grand investissement de l’histoire de l’entreprise Mack

La série des records de fréquentation se poursuit : avec plus de 5,7 millions de visiteurs en 2019, Europa-Park a atteint le plus grand nombre de visiteurs de son histoire. À cela s’ajoutent les premiers explorateurs du nouvel univers aquatique indoor « Rulantica », ouvert fin novembre. L’année 2019 a été marquée par des investissements très élevés : l’univers aquatique « Rulantica » et l’hôtel adjacent ont coûté à eux seuls environ 180 millions d’euros. C’est le plus grand investissement jamais réalisé par la famille Mack. Le quartier scandinave, détruit en 2018 par un incendie, a également été

reconstruit et accueille désormais la nouvelle attraction « Snorri Touren ». Roland Mack, propriétaire d'Europa-Park, est ravi : « Depuis son ouverture, Rulantica attire déjà de nombreux visiteurs et obtient d'excellentes notes. Nous en sommes très heureux car l'univers aquatique est un nouveau domaine d'activités pour nous. Le taux d'occupation de l'hôtel « Krønasår », ouvert depuis mai 2019, est également remarquablement bon avec plus de 90% ». Retour sur les grands événements de 2019 qui ont fait le succès d'Europa-Park.

Ouverture de « Rulantica », le nouvel univers aquatique indoor



Avec « Rulantica », Europa-Park est le premier parc de loisirs en Allemagne à ouvrir un deuxième parc sur le même site et s'impose ainsi comme destination de court séjour. « Rulantica » est l'un des plus grands univers aquatiques à thème d'Europe et a permis la création de 550 emplois. Avec deux parcs, six hôtels et le « Confertainment Center » sur une surface totale de 145 hectares, le meilleur parc de loisirs du monde attire de plus en plus de visiteurs internationaux et rivalise avec des destinations du bassin méditerranéen.

Ouverture de l'hôtel « Krønasår – The Museum-Hotel »

L'hôtel 4* supérieur « Krønasår – The Museum-Hotel », 6ème hôtel d'Europa-Park, a ouvert en mai 2019 et constitue une partie essentielle de l'extension du Resort. Il peut accueillir jusqu'à 1 300 hôtes dans une ambiance nordique et un décor qui suggère un musée d'histoire naturelle un peu particulier. De belles expériences culinaires attendent également les visiteurs dans les restaurants et bars de l'hôtel.

Réouverture du quartier scandinave



Après à peine plus d'un an de travaux, le quartier scandinave a rouvert ses portes en juillet 2019. Depuis 1992, la péninsule nordique fait partie du meilleur parc de loisirs du monde. Le quartier brille désormais d'un nouvel éclat avec ses délicieuses spécialités de poisson, ses tours féériques et son célèbre requin blanc. La silhouette du port et les embruns des cascades du « Fjord Rafting » sont les premiers signes d'une passionnante découverte des traditions nordiques.

En automne, la nouvelle attraction familiale « Snorri Touren » a également ouvert ses portes. Au fil d´un parcours thématique multimédia, les visiteurs sont transportés dans un mystérieux voyage sur l'île de « Rulantica », en compagnie de l'espiègle pieuvre Snorri.

L'attractivité de la saison hivernale

La saison hivernale joue un rôle de plus en plus important et attire chaque année davantage de visiteurs. Des milliers de lumières, 3 000 sapins blancs et 10 000 boules de Noël étincelantes transforment Europa-Park en un univers féérique au milieu de l'hiver. Des spectacles avec environ 300 artistes internationaux assurent également le meilleur divertissement. Europa-Park sera encore ouvert le week-end du 11 et 12 janvier 2020 dans le cadre de la saison hivernale.



Jusqu'au 2 février 2020, les visiteurs peuvent aussi profiter du Dinner Show d'Europa-Park qui promet divertissement et plaisirs culinaires de haut vol. Un spectacle de 3h30 mêlant musique, danse et acrobatie redonne ainsi vie aux clubs et studios légendaires du New York des années 70. Thomas Mack,

associé-gérant d’Europa-Park, se réjouit : « C’est formidable de voir que cette offre unique de plaisirs culinaires et de spectacle s’est développée et attire de nombreux visiteurs, de la région et d’ailleurs. Je suis également fier que nous puissions offrir à nos hôtes un exquis menu à 4 plats concocté par Peter Hagen-Wiest, notre chef 2 étoiles Michelin du restaurant « Ammolite – The Lighthouse Restaurant ».

Des offres dans les hôtels d’Europa-Park pendant la basse saison

Alors qu’Europa-Park fermera temporairement ses portes pour la trêve hivernale à partir du 13 janvier 2020, l’univers aquatique « Rulantica » reste ouvert toute l’année.

Les hôtels d’Europa-Park proposent également des offres exclusives de basse saison. Au programme : différentes formules de nuitées et un programme de bien-être complet. Le tout accompagné d’événements culinaires thématiques comme les soirées fondue, les « Brunch Country » ou encore la soirée « Vino & Formaggi ». Entre divertissement, gastronomie, fête et détente, chacun trouvera son bonheur.

Finavia airports had 26 million passengers in 2019 – a year of moderate growth in air traffic



2019 was a busy year at Finavia’s airports even though growth in air traffic was more moderate than in previous years. A total of 26 million passengers (+4,2%) travelled on scheduled and chartered flights.

Last year, 21,9 million passengers (+4,9 %) travelled through Helsinki Airport, the largest international airport in Finland. The number of passengers using Finavia’s other airports increased to a total of 4,2 million (+0,6 %). Out of the larger airports, the number of passengers increased the most at Turku Airport (+22,6 %), Helsinki Airport (+4,9 %) and Rovaniemi Airport (+2,6 %). A total of 1.5 million passengers (+1,5%) used Finavia’s airports in Lapland in 2019. The number of passengers declined slightly at Oulu Airport (-3,6 %) and Tampere Airport (-2,5 %) due to a decrease in the number or flights.

Number of transfer passengers continued to grow at Helsinki Airport

The number of passengers transferring from one international flight to another at Helsinki Airport increased by 16,7 per cent. Flights to and from Japan, Germany, China and Sweden had the most international transfer passengers. Last year, international transfer passengers amounted to 38.6 per cent of all passengers passing through Helsinki Airport.



A total of 659 000 passengers (+18,2 %) travelled on flights to and from China in 2019. For the Japan routes, the number of passengers was 837 000 (+11,2 %). Currently, flights are operated from Helsinki Airport to nine destinations in China.

Helsinki Airport also offers flights to five destinations in Japan, which is more than any other European airport offers. In addition, three weekly flights also started to operate to Beijing’s new Daxing International Airport last autumn. In December, Helsinki Airport opened Europe’s only direct connection to Sapporo, Japan.

1 644 000 passengers (-1,6 %) travelling on the Sweden routes, 594 000 passengers (+15,2 %) travelling on the Russia routes and 323 000 passengers (+9,4 %) travelling on the Estonia routes passed through Helsinki Airport in 2019.

”Helsinki Airport is still very successful in attracting passengers. Asian transfer passengers form a significant user group at Helsinki Airport as Finland’s geographic location between Asia and Europe is ideal for transfers. During the 2020 summer season, 53 weekly flights to China and 45 weekly flights to Japan will be operated from Helsinki Airport. The smooth travel and the high quality of customer service give us a competitive advantage. For example, many services are available in Chinese both at the airport and in our digital environments,” says **Petri Vuori**, Finavia’s Vice President, Sales and Route Development.

Around 439 000 passengers travelled to North America from Helsinki Airport in 2019, which is approximately 103 000 passengers more than in 2018 (+30,5 %). The number of flights offered from Helsinki Airport to North America has increased compared to last year – for example, due to the new route to Los Angeles that opened in March.

New routes from our network airports – Lapland remains a very

attractive destination

Like last year, routes to Germany, Sweden and Spain were the most popular when all Finavia airports were considered. For our network airports, the number of international passengers was highest on routes to Sweden. At Helsinki Airport, routes to Germany were the most popular.

Turku Airport continued its positive development as the number of passengers increased to 453 000 (+22.6 %). At Turku Airport, flights to Gdansk, Poland, had the highest number of passengers in 2019. Turku Airport's selection of direct routes to European destinations was extended considerably last year. In summer 2020, direct flights to Warsaw, Poland will start from Turku Airport. In addition, direct flights to Kutaisi, Georgia will start by the end of the year.

In December, Oulu Airport reached one million annual passengers for the fourth time in its history. In total, 1,1 million passengers passed through Oulu Airport in 2019, which is a little less than in 2018 (-3,6 %).

Rovaniemi Airport was used by 661 000 passengers (+2.6 %) last year. At the airport, the international route with most passengers was the route from Rovaniemi to London. During the current winter season, Rovaniemi Airport also offers flights to Manchester. The most significant route opening during the winter season was the launch of direct flights from Rovaniemi to Istanbul for the winter season in December.

The North is still very attractive – a total of 1,5 million passengers (+1,5 %) used Finavia's airports in Lapland in 2019. The number of passengers travelling on chartered flights was 309 000 (-8,0 %), and 1 374 chartered flights (-6,3 %) arrived at Finavia's airports in Lapland. Last year's number of chartered flights was affected by the bankruptcy of Thomas Cook and the classification of some of the flights as scheduled flights. The highest number of chartered flights to

Lapland came from the United Kingdom, with Kittilä, Rovaniemi and Ivalo being the most popular destinations.

Finavia's development programme for Lapland's airports to improve the customer experience and raise the level of service was completed as planned before the beginning of the 2019 Christmas season. The development programme consisted of investments amounting to EUR 55 million aimed at improving the customer experience and raising the level of service at the Ivalo, Kittilä and Rovaniemi airports.

A wider range of services for passengers at airports

"2019 was a year of more moderate growth and a good year overall: air traffic still increased at a rate higher than the long-term average. At Helsinki Airport, we opened Aukio, which is the new heart of Non-Schengen area, and the new West Pier serving passengers on long-haul flights and wide-bodied aircrafts.

Finavia works persistently to provide a first-class customer experience for passengers. In Lapland, we were able to open the extensions of Rovaniemi and Kittilä airports to customers before the start of the busiest Christmas season.

It is also worth noting that our growth and development has been carried out sustainably. We are a pioneer in the development of more sustainable airport operations – all of Finavia's 21 airports are already carbon neutral," says Petri Vuori.

Finavia aims to make Helsinki Airport one of the best airports in the world in terms of both services and the atmosphere of the airport. 2020 will be a time of construction work at Helsinki Airport. The new car park P1/P2, now almost at its full height, will be opened by autumn 2020. The construction

of the new entrance to the airport and the arrivals and departure halls has begun as planned. The range of services offered at the airport will be extended as new shops and restaurants are opened in the gate area during the spring.

Finavia publishes air traffic statistics on its website every month. Read more about the Helsinki Airport development programme here. You can find out more about Finavia’s sustainability efforts here.

Updated 1/10/2020: direct flights from Turku Airport to Warsaw and Kutaisi.