

Talk:Belgium

I just came back from a trip, and in Belgium hitching was very difficult. It took ages until someone stopped and we didn't reach our destination in time. We have only been in the french part of Belgium and hitching was as difficult as in France. Maybe only in the north it is as easy as in the Netherlands? --MrTweek

Two guys hitchhiking? Or just you on your own?

My first effort hitchhiking was a trip from Maastricht to Paris, and it was with another guy. We only had one ride, to Liege, and ended up taking a train. I think hitchhiking with two guys is difficult everywhere. Guaka 22:10, 28 March 2007 (CEST)

Well, we hitched a lot together, but it never was as difficult as this time. In Germany or Netherlands we never had problems, in (french) Belgium and France it was kinda frustrating. --MrTweek 22:27, 28 March 2007 (CEST)

Maybe hitching with 2 guys is harder in Francophone areas? I only hitchhiked with another guy in Argentina, and that was doable, but not too easy. It would be interesting to know more about how the gender of the hitchhikers and the area influences the chances of getting rides. Guaka 06:20, 29 March 2007 (CEST)

Maybe, I should try it again in the dutch part of Belgium.

In Germany I found that when hitching together (two males) we get an average Speed of 50 km/h (including the waiting times, of course). When hitching alone I made it to 70-80 km/h, sometimes more. --MrTweek 10:47, 29 March 2007 (CEST)

When I went through Belgium I was with my friend Derek and it was very easy. We started in Amsterdam and made it to Antwerp. From there we went to Gent and then Lille so I don't really know what francophone Belgium is like, but I know it was easy throughout Flanders. But as soon as we hit Lille, it sucked. We ended up taking a train to Lyon. Zac^{talk} 18:12, 30 March 2007 (CEST)

Looks like what I was suspecting is true: in the french-speaking part it is like in France, the dutch-speaking part like in the Netherlands; not only in hitchhiking, but also cultural :(I will put that information on the page. --MrTweek 19:05, 30 March 2007 (CEST)

I quite disagree with most of the statement there, I hitched in Wallonia, France, Flanders and the Netherlands while living those regions to move around for daily routine, to do a week end excursion in the countryside or for plain travelling and none of the country was easier or more difficult than another. I never noticed a more 'easy going' point of view from the dutch or flemish towards hitching than the wallons or french could be, it was quite 50-50. In many cases I would have had it hell if I wasn't speaking Dutch while boarding someone (in NL - VL) and the same applied if I wasn't speaking french (in F - WL). The text should definitely be changed from *will be more difficult* to *may/might be more difficult*. My last day-trip through Wallonia brought me and my friend from Brussels down into Rochefort by nightfall and then hitching several rides between the different villages (about 5 destinations) before heading back to Namur, we never had to wait more than 10min or 5 cars. Maplefanta 06:35, 1 July 2007 (CEST)

Looks like I'm the only one with my opinion. %) Feel free to change this. As I said, I hitched there only one time, so information can't be so accurate. I should also mention that I speak neither Dutch nor French. So it was probably the worst case. --MrTweek 13:14, 1 July 2007 (CEST)

Free use of Internet in every city library, Can anybody confirm-infirm that and complete the information? I personally I'm not very sure of that statement. [Maplefanta](#) 05:53, 28 July 2007 (CEST)

Division

As it was done in other countries, maybe it could be useful to have the table division here too for the Flemish - Walloon cities? I don't know how to build table (nor how to access them to correct them). [Maplefanta](#) 01:52, 5 December 2007 (CET)

Hey Maplefanta, it's quite easy. I'll try write a help-article on how to create a table the next days :) How do you think to divide Belgium? In Flemish/Walloon parts? Or maybe directly in the 10 regions of Belgium? Think we should be careful with that because of the current political situation there ;) [platschi](#)^{site, wiktalk} 13:18, 5 December 2007 (CET)

The 2 official divisions possibilities are: the '3 regions' (Vlaanderen / Brussels / Wallonie) ; the second is the 10 provinces 'Flemish' (Vlaams-Brabant / Limburg / Antwerpen / Oost-Vlaanderen / West-Vlaanderen) 'Walloon' (Liege / Brabant-Wallon / Luxembourg / Hainault / Namur) and Brussels. I think this last one might actually be too narrowed for a hitching description? But I don't mind as both are genuine. [Maplefanta](#) 19:20, 5 December 2007 (CET)

Well, currently I also divided the [Netherlands](#) into its regions. So if people are really hitching in the NL and want to see specific regions, they can look there. No idea how to manage it with Belgium. Maybe we just create Category pages for the provinces, like for the NL. Some weeks ago I already added [Vlaams-Brabant](#) to the wiki, and [Limburg](#) could be also used for both countries. [platschi](#)^{site, wiktalk} 00:25, 7 December 2007 (CET)

I don't think there is need for divisions here. As a hitchhiker who lives in Gent, thats in the Flemish part, I will try to clarify a bit these "disivions". In my opinion, Belgium is a fairly easy country to hitchhike. In general you could say that people have good intentions and are quite willing to take hitchhikers. That doesn't differ much, Flanders and Wallony are quite equal in those regards. Practically although, you might find hitchhiking to be easier in Flanders. Why? Well, thats very easy. There is higher density of population, of cars, of roads, or gasstations and other infrastructure. Just compare the stretch Brussels - Arlon (the main motorway in Wallony) to Brussels - Oostende or Gent - Antwerp, and you will see what I mean. I swear to God, in Flanders you can be in the most forsaken motorway entry and you're out of there in 30 mins. Especially if you know where to stand, in cities like Gent, Antwerp and Brussels, hitchhiking is a piece of cake. About the library issue, in Gent its free to use the Internet. I suppose its the same in other cities. --[Banzai](#) 21:34, 14 August 2008 (CEST)