



grassroots
young entrepreneurs in eco-health tourism

Grassroots Bruxelles

Cyclo and other unforeseen, unconventional gems

"Off-the-beaten-track visits and experiences in Europe's capital"



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Who ideated this tour

Young people and their mentors

On the second day of Brussels hackathon, the 3 groups started freely wandering around after concluding the pre-set tours they were provided with.



While walking, they encountered several unexpected places and hidden gems, but they also went to places they already knew or had heard of.

This fact sheet contains these places, which are basically unconventional spots you will never find on mainstream guides of the city of Brussels!

About

Gare Maritime

Gare Maritime, once Europe's largest railway station for goods, is now a revitalized urban space in Brussels. This early 20th-century architectural marvel has been transformed into a covered "city within a city." It houses offices, shops, and recreational areas, all while retaining its impressive original steel structure. Gare Maritime is a sustainable development, using renewable energy sources and boasting a large-scale timber construction. It's a vibrant hub for work and leisure, contributing to the revitalization of the Tour & Taxis district.



About

Port Maritime

While walking we noticed that Brussels utilizes various "depaving" techniques like replacing asphalt with permeable surfaces to reduce runoff and allow rainwater infiltration. "Regreening" efforts include creating green roofs, planting trees, and establishing urban gardens to enhance biodiversity and improve the city's microclimate.



About

Renature.Brussels

We found out that they were created by Renature.Brussels, a Brussels-Capital Region initiative to boost biodiversity within the city. It focuses on restoring and creating green spaces through actions like planting trees, developing natural gardens, and managing invasive species. The project encourages citizen involvement, making the city a greener and more sustainable place for everyone.

renature
.brussels 

renature.brussels
is an initiative by

 **environnement**
.brussels 

[environnement](https://environnement.brussels)
[.brussels](https://environnement.brussels)

About

SUGI Microforet



We also noticed an interesting panel saying “here grows a microforest”, followed by 4 key words:

- biodiversity
- wellbeing
- participative
- connection

And we found out that it was the [Tour & Taxis Forest by SUGi!](#)

About

SUGI Microforet



Tour & Taxis Forest A Miyawaki pocket forest in the heart of Brussels.

 Brussels, Belgium



2,310

Trees

770

Square Meters

20

Native Species

86

Youth Impacted

About

Parckfarm

Parckfarm in Brussels reclaims abandoned urban space by creating a community-driven farm. It combines "depaving" – removing concrete to allow for planting – with "regreening" through urban agriculture. This involves planting fruit trees, vegetables, and creating spaces for animals like chickens and goats, fostering biodiversity and community engagement.

[Parckfarm – Une ferme sociable à Tour et Taxis !](#)

[Parckfarm by Taktyk and Alive Architecture – Landezine](#)

[Parc Tour & Taxis | Visit Brussels](#)



About

Parckfarm

Parckfarm is a unique urban farm project located in the Tour & Taxis district of Brussels. It's built on a former industrial site, transforming a neglected space into a thriving community hub.

Here's what makes it special:

- **Community-driven:** It's run by a non-profit organization and thrives on the active participation of local residents. People come together to grow fruits and vegetables, care for animals (chickens, ducks, goats!), and organize events.
- **Ecological focus:** Parckfarm promotes biodiversity through organic farming practices, rainwater harvesting, and composting. It's a model for sustainable urban development.
- **Educational opportunities:** They offer workshops and activities related to urban farming, ecology, and sustainable living, making it a valuable resource for the community.
- **Social impact:** Beyond food production, Parckfarm creates a sense of community, encourages social interaction, and promotes environmental awareness.



About

Cyclo

CyCLO is a social enterprise with several locations in Brussels that promotes cycling by offering:

- **Participatory workshops:** You can learn to repair your own bike with the help of experienced mechanics in a friendly atmosphere. They provide the tools, space, and guidance, empowering you to maintain your bike independently.
- **Affordable bike repair services:** If you're not into DIY, their mechanics can fix your bike at reasonable prices.
- **Second-hand bikes:** They sell refurbished bikes at affordable prices, giving pre-loved cycles a new life.
- **Training programs:** CyCLO offers training for those who want to become bike mechanics, providing valuable skills and job opportunities.

Essentially, CyCLO aims to make cycling more accessible and sustainable in Brussels. They foster a strong cycling community, encourage self-sufficiency, and promote a greener city.

You can find their workshops in different locations across Brussels. Check their website (cyclo.org) for addresses, opening hours, and more information.



About

Cyclo



CYCLO vzw is een sociale economieonderneming die fietsen promoot in Brussel door middel van fietstechniek, recyclage, cultuur en innovatie.

CYCLO is a social economy organisation which promotes cycling in Brussels through bike mechanics, recycling, culture and innovation.

