

# HOW TO GET TO MECHELEN



### BY PLANE

[www.skyscanner.net](http://www.skyscanner.net) / [www.momondo.com](http://www.momondo.com)

=> search cheap flights all over Europe (also to and from Belgium)

### BRUSSELS AIRPORT

[www.brusselsairport.com](http://www.brusselsairport.com)

- The national airport of Belgium lies just outside of Brussels.

- Bus from airport to Mechelen:
  - Level 0 of the airport, busplatform B
  - bus numbers 682 / 683
  - 2 to 6 direct connections per hour (2 on weekends)
  - 50 minutes ride
  - € 2.00 (bought in the press shop) / € 3.00 (bought on the bus)
  - First bus at 05:46, last bus at 23:39 (on Sat and Sun at 06:27 and 23:38).

- Train from airport to Mechelen:

The railway station is located under the airport. First take the train to Brussels 'Nord / Noord' station. There you take the direct train to Mechelen.

  - 3 connections per hour / about 45 minutes / €6.70
  - First train at 05:27, last train with a connection to Mechelen at 23:27 (on Sat and Sun at 05:30 and 23:17).

### BRUSSELS SOUTH CHARLEROI AIRPORT

[www.charleroi-airport.com](http://www.charleroi-airport.com)

- This small low-cost airport is 50 km outside of Brussels, in Charleroi. There are no direct connections to Mechelen, so you have to take the shuttle bus to Brussels first. It takes about an hour and goes two times per hour. When you miss the last bus, look for people to share a taxi to Brussels. The fixed price is €100.

- Shuttle bus to Brussels
  - two per hour
  - drives 1 hour to Brussels (to 'Zuid/Midi' train station)
  - one-way for € 13 / two-way for € 22
  - buy your ticket outside of the airport (follow the blue line) or online at [www.voyages-lelan.be](http://www.voyages-lelan.be)

- From Brussels 'Zuid / Midi' to Mechelen:
  - 7 trains per hour / about 30 minutes / €4.10
  - First train at 04:58, last train at 23:35 (on Sat and Sun at 05:48 and 23:37).

### BY BUS

- The international Eurolines bus doesn't stop in Mechelen. All the connections go via Brussels 'Noord/ Nord' station. It will be no problem to catch a train from Brussels to Mechelen, but watch out: buses often have a delay, so you might have to spend the night in Brussels if you're late.

- [www.eurolines.com](http://www.eurolines.com) > online booking

### BY TRAIN

- Mechelen lies between Antwerp and Brussels, with many fast direct connections to both cities.

- Thalys = international high-speed train between France, Belgium and the Netherlands. Thalys does not stop in Mechelen, but in Brussels 'Zuid / Midi' station. [www.thalys.com](http://www.thalys.com)

- Eurostar = international high-speed train between the UK, France and Belgium. Does not stop in Mechelen, but in Brussels 'Zuid / Midi' station (with many direct connections to Mechelen). [www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com)

- Trains in Belgium: [www.b-rail.be](http://www.b-rail.be)

## TRAINS FROM BRUSSELS TO MECHELEN = € 4.10

There are three stations in Brussels: Brussels 'Zuid / Midi', Brussels Central and Brussels 'Noord / Nord'. All Belgian trains stop in the three stations, so you can choose. Brussels 'Noord / Nord' is the closest one to Mechelen.

Railway timetables in English: [www.b-rail.be/main/E/](http://www.b-rail.be/main/E/)

IC-trains (InterCity) go faster than IR-trains (Inter-Regional). Don't take the slow L-trains (local).

*TIP: If you're travelling with a few friends, and you plan to see more than one city in Belgium, it's cheapest to buy a 'Go-pass' with ten tickets for € 50. You can use it between all the Belgian stations with more than one person at the same time. If you're older than 25, ask for a Rail Pass (same system for € 74).*

*TIP: If you're travelling alone, you can also order a 'Go-pass One' ticket online. This one is only € 6,50. You cannot buy it in the train station, so print it at home!*

*TIP: If you're making a return trip during the weekend, ask for a weekend ticket. This is almost half the price.*

