

Brussels offers 'smart' tourists 600 tagged sites

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Residents and tourists enjoy a drink on the terrace of the Brussels Grand Place in 2009. In what it described as a world first, the city of Brussels on Friday launched a hi-tech system that enables tourists or anyone else with a smartphone to scan tags for information at 600 sites.

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Developed by a Belgian firm, the system called "TagTagCity" enables visitors to scan a code on a tag. These tags appear on the walls and windows of museums, monuments, restaurants and shops.

For those without smartphones, small devices can be purchased that enable a user to gather information and download this onto a computer.

"Discovering Brussels is acquiring a whole new dimension," said Christos Doulkeridis, the tourism minister of the city that hosts the [European Union](#) and NATO and sees itself as the heart of Europe.

Brussels last year saw 3.1 million visitors, an eight percent increase on 2010, according to tourist office VisitBrussels.

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