

**VISITWallonia.be**

# Group Travel

in Southern Belgium

**Create your own tailor-made holiday**





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## Welcome to Belgium. Welcome to Wallonia.

Welcome to our group brochure – your personal guide and travel companion when compiling your next group holiday itinerary.

Southern Belgium is still only a few hours' drive from the Channel on a coach. And you may already know that Wallonia is small... but there's no doubt, it's a beguiling region. As one of the UK's nearest neighbours, it offers an attractive mix of wild nature and expansive landscape. Mix that together with heritage, history, food and festivals and you can organise an enjoyable road trip for your group.

Talking of nature, in the east we have the lustrous forests of the Ardennes, fast flowing rivers and an abundance of space and fresh air. Whilst our pretty villages thrive with quirky traditions, folklore and local arts and crafts in every corner.

It wouldn't be Belgium of course without its food and drink. There is no shortage of options for various tastings: be it with an artisan chocolatier or inside an ancient monastery with some strong Trappist beers. The proximity of many of those attractions in this booklet will easily fit two to four visits into one day without having to travel too much.

It's important to note accommodation for groups of all sizes are available with several hotels able to offer rooms for single occupancy or catering for mobility needs. Many of these group friendly hotels readily provide a comfortable base from which to explore the region.

Have a read and see what inspires? If something catches your attention or if you would like more information or need some recommendations to build your tour, please do get in touch. I would be delighted to talk it through.

Warmest wishes

**Philippe Marée**





# Tournai & Mons

## Highlights of this region include:

- World's first paper Google
- Gigantic boat lifts
- Extensive private car collections
- Underground flint mines
- Belgian vineyards
- 5000 artefacts from the two world wars

## Tournai – Henry VIII's English Outpost

One of the oldest cities in Belgium and located 1 hour 30 from Calais, Tournai was founded by the Romans as a trading post, the city is the historical and geographical gateway between Belgium and France – but for a few years in the 16th century it actually belonged to England. Having seized it on one of his overseas adventures, Henry VIII was so pleased with this foreign acquisition that he installed Cardinal Wolsey as its bishop and welcomed a Tournai MP in the English parliament. He built a Citadel, the Tour Henri VIII, from which just one cylindrical tower survives. Rather more impressive is Tournai's unique, five-spired Cathedral of Notre Dame, and the tall, UNESCO-listed 12th century belfry.

[www.visittournai.be](http://www.visittournai.be)

## Mons – The Cultural City

A small town with a big history. Mons is a great option for tour planners in terms of hotels and group itinerary inspiration. Step back in time in the baroque belfry, whilst enjoying a drink on the Grand-Place, before exploring the winding cobbled alleyways that hint at bygone times. Mons has developed something of a reputation for the quality of its museums, with many attracting international attention beyond Belgium's borders. On the outskirts of the town, in Saint Symphorien Cemetery (CWGC), rest the first and last British soldiers killed on the Western front during the First World War. Consider a half day guided tour ending at the Mons Memorial Museum.

[www.visitmons.co.uk](http://www.visitmons.co.uk)





## Cathedral and Belfry

### Quite a View

Notre-Dame Cathedral is a gem of medieval architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its impressive dimensions, the harmonious blend of Romanesque and Gothic styles and its daring architecture, make this building the benchmark for religious monuments of the West. Nearby is the Belfry. Climb to the top for impressive views over the old town.

## Henry VIII's Tower

### Little England

Sitting on the edge of the city, this wonderful piece of defensive architecture was built on the instructions of the Tudor King.

## Museum of Fine Arts

### The Father of Art Nouveau

Designed by Belgian architect and designer Victor Horta, one of the founders of the Art Nouveau movement, the turtle shaped Museum of Fine Arts is likely to surprise your group. This is his only building in Wallonia and his only museum.







## François Duesberg Museum

### If you Have Time

An amazing decorative art collection featuring not only a prestigious collection of clocks unique in the world, but also majestic French gilt bronzes, superb porcelain and sumptuous gold and silver items.

## Doudou Museum

### Folklore Galore

Combines both reality and the imaginary as visitors are taken to the very heart of the 'Ducasse de Mons' (local folklore). Each year during the 'Trinity' weekend, the people of Mons come together with a vibrant festive spirit to pay tribute to Sainte Waudru and witness the legendary battle, known as 'Lumeçon', pitting Saint George against the Dragon. It's an incredibly original spectacle to witness.

## Mundaneum

### The World's First Google

An archive centre and space for temporary exhibitions, it highlights the legacy and ideas of its founders, the Nobel Peace Prize winner Henri La Fontaine and the father of documentation Paul Otlet. At the turn of the 20th century, these two Belgians devised a system for collecting, classifying and searching all of the world's knowledge. With a noble purpose: world peace. Today confronted by the information society foreseen by its founders, the Mundaneum builds bridges between heritage and digital, between education and technology, between inner peace and the world around us.

## Mons Memorial Museum

### War and Peace

Perhaps the most celebrated of all Mons museums, the 'MMM' is dedicated to 'reflection', 'investigation' and 'interaction' and where the complex realities of the phenomena of war are questioned. Through the fates of men and women who witnessed events, visitors are immersed through multimedia storytelling into the day to day lives of soldiers and civilians in times of peace, of war and of occupation.

## St Symphorien Military Cemetery

### First and Last (CWGC)

Established by the German army in 1914 as the final resting place for British and German soldiers who were killed at the Battle of Mons, this well-kept cemetery has a sad claim to

fame. For the British and Commonwealth force, Mons was where hostilities both started and finished. On 21 August 1914, two days before the first battle, Private John Parr, a member of a bicycle reconnaissance team, was killed while out on patrol. He was officially 17, research suggests he concealed his age to be allowed to serve. It is also the resting place of George Ellison of the Royal Irish Lancers and George Price of the Canadian Infantry. The last to lose their lives on the western front, not long before 11am on the 11 November 1918. At this peaceful, wooded resting place, just east of Mons, the 'first and last' graves – of man and boy – are separated by just nine yards of soil.

## Mons Museum of Fine Art

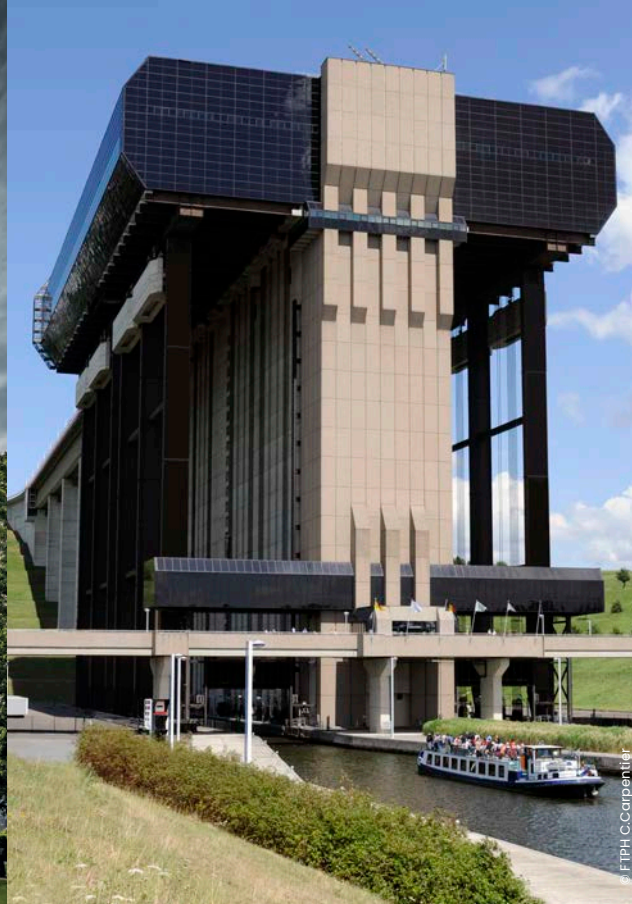
### Where Art Thou?

If your group has some free time, then this exhibition space hosts two major exhibitions every year and an impressive collection of 15,000 works of art.





Mons Belry © Bruno Dolmonte



FTPH © C. Carpentier



© WBT, JP Remy

## Distillerie de Biercée

### Fruity on the Farm

Find out the secrets of distillation (how 10kg of fruit becomes one bottle of eau-de-vie or liqueur in a magnificent 16th century square abbey farm. Located southeast of Mons, it has been producing top quality products including their renowned Eau de Villée, Noir d'Ivoire and Poire Williams N°1 since 1946. '**La Grange des Légende**', also within the distillery grounds is an excellent brasserie-restaurant. Catering for groups, it serves a varied selection of traditional Belgian meals and snacks. [www.bierceedistillery.com](http://www.bierceedistillery.com)

## 'Strépy-Thieu boat lift'

### Sci Fi Canal Giants

Within 25km of each other, one of the world's biggest boat lifts, and four historic boat lifts, offer tour planners exceptional options for a unique day out. The first sight of the 'Strépy-Thieu boat lift' takes your breath away towering like a left-over space craft from a Star Wars movie. Sitting in the gentle rolling countryside, on a new branch of the Canal du Centre, a few kilometres from Mons, this leviathan of the canals is truly spectacular. The lift connects the two different levels of the canal. With a height difference of 73.15 metres (240ft) between the two levels, it's one of the tallest boat lift in the world.

A few kilometres away are four older lifts. All four are on the UNESCO World Heritage list because of their architectural and historical value. A few kilometres further away is another marvel of the waterways, the '**Ronquières Inclined Plane**'. Opened in 1968 on the Brussels to Charleroi Canal, the construction, often described as a sloping lock, and with a length of 1,432m and a height difference end-to-end of 68m, was designed to reduce the delays to traffic imposed by 14 locks.

Together, the five lifts and the inclined plane offer tour planners a mix of options ranging from a single trip to a full day tour. Tours of the historic boat lifts also give groups the opportunity to see inside an original engine room. [www.canalducentre.be](http://www.canalducentre.be)

## Château of Belœil

### Belgium's Versailles

Lying between Mons and Tournai, Beloeil Castle is surrounded by moats and symmetrical French-style gardens which rightly earns itself the title '*The Versailles of Belgium*'. Once a fortress, Beloeil has belonged to the same family since the 14th century. In April/May each year, the castle plays host to the stunning Amaryllis festival. 5000 flowers are arranged in by celebrated florists to capture the splendour of spring and captivate the poetry of amaryllis in a royal and magical setting. [www.chateaubeloeil.com](http://www.chateaubeloeil.com)



## Château de Seneffe The Silver Castle

Described as a masterpiece of classical architecture, the Château de Seneffe is a remarkable building. The grey stone castle features excellent examples of 18th century parquet, wooden skirting, moulding and furniture. The castle is also home to Belgium's most important silver collections, displayed among what can only be described as a backdrop of splendour and intimacy.

[www.chateaudeseneffe.be](http://www.chateaudeseneffe.be)

## Mahymobiles Museum Motoring Passion

The Mahy family has been collecting cars since 1944. Now the collection exceeds a thousand, and hundreds are on display in this must-see attraction. The over-riding memory of a visit to this museum is the sheer number of vehicles. There are cars, hundreds of them, together with bikes, fire engines, a London transport and a Parisian bus and so much more. This is anything other than a sterile museum. Each display is presented with clear signage, often carries personal stories of how the vehicles had been obtained. As you wander around, you wonder how such a collection has been amassed. Ghislain Mahy bought his first car in 1944, a 1921 Ford T. By the year 2000 the collection had grown to more than a thousand, making it one of the most varied collections in the world. Today, around 300 are on public display representing veteran, vintage and classic cars, movie stars' cars and cars from strip-cartoon albums. There are trucks, buses, chassis, pedal cars, penny-farthings, bicycles, motorbikes, steam machines, horse-drawn carriages and sleighs.

[www.mahymobiles.be](http://www.mahymobiles.be)

## The 'Plugstreet' Pyramid A Peaceful Place

Located about eight miles south of Ypres, is the site of a WWI Information Centre. Ploegsteert was a tongue-twister for the Tommies so it became 'Plugstreet'. The major engagement hereabouts was the battle of Messines Ridge in June 1917. Anzac tunnellers dug miles of 'catacombs', enabling thousands of tonnes of high explosive to be detonated beneath the enemy's positions. At the **Plugstreet 14-18 Experience**, the story of the battle is imaginatively told with film, photographs, touch screens and relief maps. The glass pyramid evokes Hill 63, an Allied observation point nearby. More of an information centre than a museum, it chronicles the experiences and recollections of soldiers and civilians alike.

[www.pluginstreet1418.be](http://www.pluginstreet1418.be)

Next to it, is the **Royal Berkshire Cemetery** features the Ploegsteert memorial, proudly guarded by two majestic stone lions: one expressing calm whilst the other aggression. This graceful circular structure opened in 1931, is devoted to those who lost their lives in action between Warneton and the Estines, (more than 11,000 servicemen) but whose bodies have never been recovered.

## Château de Chimay Imperial Grandeur

Home to the 'Princes of Chimay' for many generations, the chateau was an ancient stronghold. Built in the 11th century, with some documents suggesting it was built in the year 1000, the medieval bastion became a fortress. It then became an imperial chateau in the 1480s.

[www.chateaudechimay.be](http://www.chateaudechimay.be)

## Pairi Daiza Wild and Free

On the grounds of a ruined Cisterian abbey north of Mons, this 'zoo of the future' is one of the most ambitious tourist projects in northern Europe. With over 7,000 animals the park's unique 'wild and free' concept is a wondrous sight with parading peacocks, majestic elephants and roaming orang-utans to behold. Styled as the zoo of the future, it's as if much of the earth's natural history into 125,000 acres. Spend your time encountering birds and animals from all five continents of the world in acres of themed gardens: from Ganesh's Kingdom where the elephants rule the show but live alongside white tigers, macaques, porcupines and orang-utans to African Savannah featuring lions, buffalo, rhino and leopard. Group meal packages are available at a choice of themed restaurants on site.

[www.pairidaiza.eu](http://www.pairidaiza.eu)

## Hôpital Notre-Dame à la Rose Herbal Healing

This ancient hospital, founded in the 13th century, reveals the advancement of medicine, surgery and pharmacy from the middle ages onwards. Its remarkable architecture, medicinal herb gardens and rich artistic and scientific collections make it a 'must see' in this region. If you are interested in plants and their benefits on health, beauty and well-being you will find didactic panels (and their take-away booklet) which, for each plant, will detail its usable parts. The venue can also cater for pre-booked group meals. "A most enchanting place where the cares of body and soul are combined".

[w.notredamealarose.be](http://w.notredamealarose.be)







Pari Daiza. © WBT P.Maree



Pari Daiza. © WBT David Samyn



© Hospital Notre Dame a la Rose



© WBT P.Maree

## Beer and Cheese

You cannot visit Southern Belgium without sampling the local products along the way. These of course include beer and cheese. These can be squeezed into any of your itineraries for something to take home.

- **La Binchoise**

Traditional beers have been produced here almost nonstop since the 14th century. Groups are accepted for pre-booked meals, brewery visits and tastings.

[www.brasseriebinchoise.be](http://www.brasseriebinchoise.be)

- **Chimay**

Visit Espace Chimay and discover the 150 year old history, secrets and treasures of the world-famous Trappist beers and cheeses. Enjoy a tasting and perhaps have lunch at the on-site.

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

- **Dubuisson**

Bush Beers rank amongst the strongest in alcohol in Belgium, at around 12%. Guided group tours are available, which end with a tasting in the Troll and Bush Brewery pub. [www.dubuisson.com](http://www.dubuisson.com)

- **Saint Feuillen**

This is a top-fermenting beer brewed with the best malts and hops. The spring water comes from directly beneath the brewery.

[www.st-feuillien.com](http://www.st-feuillien.com)

- **Silly Brewery** – This is an award-winning artisanal brewery founded in 1850 and another option for groups looking for refreshments in the Mons area.

[www.silly-beer.com](http://www.silly-beer.com)



# Waterloo & Beyond

## Waterloo – Much More Than a Song

Located just two hour's drive from the Channel Port, the name Waterloo conjures up images of the famous battle and the reality is equally memorable. But the region has also a wide range of famous and exciting locations for groups to discover: The romanticism of the Cistercian Abbey of Villers with its new medieval garden; the grandeur of the Romanesque Collegiate Church of St-Gertrude in Nivelles; the Folon Foundation at La Hulpe Castle and the originality of the town of Louvain-la-Neuve – famous Hergé Museum featuring the history of Tintin, are a few of the key attractions for tour planners. [www.waterlooandbeyond.be](http://www.waterlooandbeyond.be)

### Highlights of this region include:

- Waterloo battlefield and memorial
- Napoleon's and Wellington's HQ
- Rebecq steam train
- Folon foundation
- Hergé museum
- Cistercian Villers abbey
- Nivelles collegiate church





Hergé Museum © Atelier Christian de Portzamparc



© Rebecq - Le Petit Train du Bonheur

## Hergé Museum and Tintin All About The Boy

If you're looking for an artistic element for your group – perhaps to learn more about Belgian artists then look no further than Hergé – creator of the much-loved character Tintin and his trusty dog Snowy. The museum offers a comprehensive perspective on the artist's work. More than 80 original plates and 800 photographs, documents and objects have been brought together under one roof. Hergé was much more than the creator of Tintin. He was also a graphic designer, caricaturist, cartoonist, illustrator, and storyteller. [www.museeherge.com](http://www.museeherge.com)

## Steam Train in Rebecq The Little Train of Happiness

Make an unusual journey with the 'Petit Train du Bonheur', a unique tourist train, which is powered and driven by a steam engine from the 'Belle Époque'. The 75- minute journey follows the River Senne and travels through the Valley of Birds, during which you will see the towering Viaduct of Five Bridges. [www.rail-rebecq-rognon.eu](http://www.rail-rebecq-rognon.eu)

## Villers Abbey It's a Monk's Life

Founded in the 12th century under the aegis of Saint Bernard, and sitting in more than 36 hectares of grounds, Villers Abbey, has a history dating back more than 850 years. Today, the majestic ruins give an impression of the monks' daily life in work and in the community. 'Bistro de l'Abbaye' in the vaulted cellar provides a nice spot for a group lunch. [www.villers.be](http://www.villers.be)



© Villers Abbey



© Villers Abbey



## Memorial 1815

### Let the Battle Begin

Located on the site of the battle of Waterloo, the heart of the visit is a site that has grown up around the Lion's Mound, the monument that marks the front line of the battle between French and Allied troops. Your visit (guided if desired) is a full throttle multi-sensory experience complete with special effects. A 15-min 4D film is shown on a unique 180 screen. Ample coach parking. [www.waterloo1815.be](http://www.waterloo1815.be)

## The Lion's Mound

### A Roaring Success

The monument itself was erected in 1826 at the very spot the Prince of Orange was wounded on 18 June 1815 and offers an exceptional panoramic view of the battlefield. At the top of its 226 steps at a height of 40m, stands a formidable cast iron lion astride a globe, a symbol of the allied victory.

## The Panorama

### What's Your Point of View

Next to the memorial, is huge circular building which holds the canvas painted by Louis Dumoulin in 1912, marking the first centenary of the battle. The dimensions of this huge fresco are awesome and worthy of its dramatic subject matter. Measuring 110m around and 12m high, is a unique visual theatre. It is one of the few panoramic paintings that still exists.







Hougoumont farm © E. Furnire



© WBT P.Morée



Fondation Folon © Xavier Janssens



Nivelles' Collegiate Church © G. Janssens

## Hougoumont Farm Waterloo's Saviour

In 1815 this fortified farmhouse was in the hands of 1,500 coalition soldiers and the scene of heavy fighting. Although the main building was razed to the ground, the gardener's home survived. Today a truly impressive multi-media show and exhibition room are in situ to tell its compelling story.

## Wellington Museum (Battle HQ)

Brings together a range of artefacts and memorabilia recounting the story of the events leading up to and including 18 June 1815. Housed in a building originally dating back to 1705, this museum, was originally an inn and was chosen by the British military as their HQ. The Duke of Wellington, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied armies, stayed here on the nights of the 17 and 18 June 1815.  
[www.museewellington.be](http://www.museewellington.be)

## Mont-Saint-Jean Farm's Micro Brewery For Medicinal Purposes Only

Built in 1719, it served as a surgical hospital for the British and Allied troops during the battle. Now there is a restaurant and a micro-brewery that produces beer, gin and whisky. It has also shop selling local products.  
[www.fermedemontsaintjean.be](http://www.fermedemontsaintjean.be)

## Napoleon's Final Headquarters Emperor's New Clothes

Emperor Napoleon and his staff spent the night of the 17 June 1815 at the Caillou Farm in Vieux Genappe. It was here that Nelson devised his strategy and

battle plans. This former farm – 4km from the main battle site and the Lion's Mound is now a museum housing a variety of items, mainly from the French army, including the Emperor's coat.  
[www.dernier-qg-napoleon.be](http://www.dernier-qg-napoleon.be)

## Folon Foundation One Man's Universe

Discover the world art and poetry of the Belgian artist Jean-Michel Folon on the Hulpe Chateau Farm. Created and designed by artist himself, the foundation represents more than 50 years of creativity, with surprises around every corner, Folon opens the book of his life, where across its pages many facets of his art and his universe amongst the 300 exhibited works can be discovered. These include watercolours, serigraphs, etchings, posters, misappropriated objects, stained glass and sculptures.  
[www.fondationfolon.be](http://www.fondationfolon.be)

## Nivelles' Collegiate Church Mosan Marvels

Consecrated in 1046 by the Bishop of Liège in the presence of the Holy Roman Emperor Henry II, this building is an example of Mosan art and Ottonian architecture. The central nave is 102m long, making it one of the largest Romanesque churches in the world. Guided tours for groups that visit the crypt, the archaeological basement and the cloister can be pre-booked.  
[www.tourisme-nivelles.be](http://www.tourisme-nivelles.be)



# Dinant & Namur

## Dinant – Sax in the City

Dinant is a picture postcard pretty riverside town with a pop of jazz. As you enter the town, lift your gaze to see the onion domed tower of the Collegiate church prettily fringed with ribbons of houses and shops running along the riverside. The imposing Citadel as well as a famous son 'Adolphe Sax' from the town routes lead east into the heart of the Ardennes. His birthplace has been converted into a tiny museum with a sax-shaped floor flanked with a sculpture of the inventor sprawled across a bench. Large coloured saxophones stand guard on the main bridge over the river in honour of the town's musical son. Heritage lovers amongst the group will enjoy visiting nearby castles and abbeys. [www.exploremeuse.be](http://www.exploremeuse.be)

## Namur – The Laid Back Capital

On the surface it presents an easy going and laid-back attitude but the French speaking capital of Wallonia is so much more. It oozes rich history. Way before the Romans, it was a strategic trading and military centre point for central Europe. The grand Citadel was one of the most formidable fortresses, sitting as it does at the confluence of the Rivers Meuse and Sambre. Giant snails, underground perfumeries, tourist trains, state of the art breweries are just the start of the unexpected surprises in store. [www.namurtourisme.be](http://www.namurtourisme.be)

### Highlights of this region include:

- Underground perfumer in a fortress
- Castles, water gardens, and cruising on the Meuse
- Beers and breweries (abbey, trappist, artisanal, organic)
- Steam train experiences
- Hitler's bunker (May 1940)





© Annevoie Water Gardens

## Annevoie Water Gardens

### Carnival Magic

A rare combination of the French, Italian and English styles when they were first laid down in 1770s. Regarded as the finest gardens in Wallonia, Annevoie's fountains, jets and waterfalls, gravity-fed by a canal running above them, complete a spectacular ensemble. Groups always love the romance and the drama of the recurrent "Venetian Mask Festival". The garden's own Brasserie 'Bocow' has set menus available for pre-booked groups. Guided garden tours in English can also be arranged. [www.annevoie.be](http://www.annevoie.be)

## Château Lavaux Sainte Anne

### 17th Century Life as We Know It

Housing a museum depicting the everyday way of life in this region from the 17th century, the castle was formerly the sumptuous residence of the Lords of Lavaux St Anne, comprising beautifully restored and decorated rooms with period furniture. [www.chateau-lavaux.com](http://www.chateau-lavaux.com)

## Château de Vêves

### Rapunzel Would Love It

Perched dramatically on a rocky outcrop overlooking the pretty village of Celles, this medieval 'fairy-tale' style castle has had a tumultuous history and is a remarkable example of 15th century military architecture. Pre-booked guided tours in English are available. [www.chateau-de-veves.be](http://www.chateau-de-veves.be)

## Maredsous Abbey

### Much More than a Pretty Face

Much more than an ancient abbey, it also houses a microbrewery, a hops farm and a cheese museum. Groups can book tasting tours around the state-of-the-art brewing facilities, concluding in the Chapelle room for a beer and cheese tasting. The guide will show you around the abbey, the cemetery, the monks' garden, the ceramics workshop. Groups can take time to stroll around the grounds and feel the peace and calm of the gardens. [www.tourisme-maredsous.be](http://www.tourisme-maredsous.be)



Lavaux Ste Anne © WBT LOV



Maredsous Abbey © GeoShop





## Citadel of Namur

### Smells Sweet

Namur's Citadel was one of the greatest strongholds in Europe, the fortifications revealing 2000 years of history occupations and military architecture. Take a peaceful cable car up to the top to admire the expansive panoramas over the town, its fortress and the nearby landscapes. Below ground, down in the ancient cellars you can expect the unexpected - 500m of restored passages take you to the heart of the Citadel's history through sound and light. Along the way, 3D animations, projections and sound effects reinforce a guided commentary. But perhaps more surprisingly groups will find the 'Delforge Perfume Atelier'. Deep in the heart of this feudal space groups they can discover the world of perfume and perhaps even find one to match their personality.

### Terra Nova Visitor Centre

Located in the former barracks it traces 2,000 years of European urban and military history through the story of Namur and its citadel.

- **A 'Little Train' Tour** – An easy way to discover the eventful military past of the site. Travel alongside the fortifications of this splendid stronghold whilst discovering the unique panorama of the valley, the town and its numerous churches.

- **Guy Delforge Perfumery** – the flair of this perfume maker and his use of an orchestra of rich fragrances to produce fine perfume is memorable in all sorts of ways. A one-hour guided tour including a 12-minute film describing the building's history and a presentation of the raw materials used in making perfume is available to groups.





## Three Valleys Steam Railway & Museum

### Hot Air and Nostalgia

South-west Wallonia has something special for those who are nostalgic for the age of steam. An 8.6 mile stretch of line, built in the mid-19th century, which carried passengers until September 1963. Now full restored the line passes through the three valleys of l'Eau Blanche, l'Eau Noire and le Viroin – on a picturesque 35-minute journey between Mariembourg and Treignes offering a snapshot experience back to the way we once travelled. Groups can book a private journey, a meal or a snack. Don't miss the annual steam weekend at the end of September and the various themed events held at significant times of the year for Valentines, Easter and Christmas. Treignes is home to the Three Valleys Steam Railway Museum with an extensive collection of locomotives, carriages and other railway items. There's also a small café and shop and ample free coach parking at either station. [www.site.cfv3v.eu/site](http://www.site.cfv3v.eu/site)

## The Caves of Han and Wildlife Reserve

### Where the Wild Things Are

A sound and light show like a surreal underground theatre show create unforgettable memories. The Caves of Han are a must-see attraction. These exceptionally beautiful caves have been welcoming visitors for more than 250 years, with more than 20 million people now having marvelled at the immense chambers and impressive formations, and reflections in the underground River Lesse. Set in the heart of a newly listed UNESCO Global Geopark, it thoroughly deserves its three stars in the Michelin Green Guide. The fossils adorning the Cave walls are a reminder of the tropical ocean of creatures that once swam through these vast spaces. The 3D sound and light show "Origin" immerses visitors into the origins of the universe, going back to the Big Bang and inviting them to explore subterranean worlds at the very heart of untamed nature. Above ground in the Han Wildlife Reserve the wow factor continues in the 250-hectare haven of peace. It's the only place in Belgium to be home to the European "Big Five" in their natural habitat (wolf, bear, lynx, European bison and wolverine). [www.grotte-de-han.be](http://www.grotte-de-han.be)

## Maison Leffe

### Cheers for Beer

Set in a former convent in the heart of Dinant, Maison Leffe tells the story of one of Belgium's most famous beers, first brewed in the Abbaye de Leffe back in 1240. The visit around the museum is active and free-flow, and naturally ends with a choice of Leffe refreshments. [www.leffe.com/en/maison-leffe](http://www.leffe.com/en/maison-leffe)

## The Citadel of Dinant

### Take the Cable Car

This fortress has lived many lives. But for the last century it has lived more quietly as a weapons and history museum. In order to 'storm' the Citadel, visitors can choose between the stairs with 408 steps, or take the much photographed cable car from the town. Both lead to a spectacular view over Dinant and the river. Group meals are possible at two of the Citadel's restaurants: the brasserie 'Les Canons', at the top, or the restaurant 'La Citadelle' at the foot of the cable car. [www.citadellededinant.be](http://www.citadellededinant.be)

## Hitler's Bunker

### Adolf's Secret Headquarters

The little village of Brûly-de-Pesche, was chosen to be Hitler's headquarters for three weeks in June 1940. The site was ideally located, only a few kilometres from France, nestled in a woodland. From here, he orchestrated the battle of France from 6 June onwards. Also known as, the Wolf's Gorge (Wolfsschlucht), the site still bears the scars of Hitler's stay and has the original concrete bunker, as well as two reconstructed Bavarian-style chalets in which the Fuhrer stayed. One chalet now has a small media presentation depicting the lives of the local population when the order of evacuation came in 1940. The other one commemorates the resistance efforts of the Hotton Service Group D, who chose the same forest to organize the sabotage activities. The exhibition offers a glimpse of the tough day to day life of the resistance fighters. [www.bunkerhitler.be](http://www.bunkerhitler.be)





## Caracole Brewery

### Meet the Barley Whisperers

Close to Dinant, this picturesque brewery produces beers – made the old way in copper tanks heated on wood fire, as did the founders of this traditional brewery in the 18th century. They offer group tours and tastings with a vast knowledge and passion for their beers.

[www.brasseriecaracole.be](http://www.brasseriecaracole.be)

## Chateau Freÿr and Gardens

### Renaissance on the River

With its Renaissance-style architecture, terraced formal gardens and fascinating history, Freÿr Castle, has remained in the same family for over 20 generations and some family members still live in a section of the castle.

The oldest part was built in 1571, on the site of a keep, dating from the Middle Ages, which had been destroyed in the wars against Emperor Charles V. Through the years it has hosted some famous guests including Louis XIV of France.

He demanded to be allowed to stay at Freÿr while his forces attacked Dinant. It was in the drawing room of the castle, in 1675, the peace treaty was signed. A satirical painting of the Sun King still adorns the wall of this room. The most striking feature however, is not just located inside the walls of the chateau but also in multi-level gardens. The terraced garden dates from the late 1700s and contains bubbling fountains, 300-year-old orange trees and 6kms of hedge mazes. A free-flow tour of the castle takes 45 minutes. Allow a similar time to explore the gardens.

For a memorable visit, groups can take a mini cruise from Dinant and get off to explore the castle. [www.freyr.be](http://www.freyr.be)



Freÿr Castle © CGT Annaud/Quat



Dinant Evasion Cruise © Xavier Ethuin



Freÿr Castle © WBIDC/son



## Battle of Ligny Museum

### Before the Battle

Step back in time to June 1815 and discover the story of Napoleon's final victory before his defeat, two days later, at the Battle of Waterloo. The museum is housed in the original farm that was used as a hospital on the eve of the battle. Seven rooms across two floors explain how life was in the rural village of Ligny before the battle, and what happened on the day. The collection of old photographs, engravings, dioramas, mannequins, period documents, weapons and maps will be of interest to any group interested in the story of Napoleon and Wellington. [www.ligny1815.be](http://www.ligny1815.be)

## Fagnes Brewery & Brasserie

### Home Brew

This micro-brewery is home to another of Wallonia's popular beer brands, the 'Fagnes' beer. Visit the 'old' brewery dating from 1858 that ended production in 1977. Then there's free entry to see the modern brewery. Group packages are available that include a guided tour of the old and new breweries, an opportunity to sample the product, and a glass to take home as a gift. You can also arrange meals or refreshments in the large 'part-timbered' bar café which sits alongside the working-brewery equipment. [www.brasseriefagnes.com](http://www.brasseriefagnes.com)

## Battle of the Meuse

### May 1940 Museum

#### Plan of Attack

The German surge through the Ardennes and eastern Belgium in May 1940 was truly astonishing. The museum commemorating the Battle of the Meuse (12-15 May 1940) is in the village of Haut-le-Wastia, on a wooded bluff high above the Meuse and close to Dinant. [www.museedusouvenirmai40.be](http://www.museedusouvenirmai40.be)



Fagnes Brewery © WBT Mathieu Pecheur



Musée du Souvenir Mai 40 © WBT P. Warée



© Battle of Ligny Museum



# Liège & Spa

## Liège – Embracing the Old with the New

An abbey in the morning, a racetrack and a fort in the afternoon. Liège has this and much more. The city draws its allure predominantly from its architectural heritage, which includes the Prince-Bishops' Palace, the Cathedral of Saint Paul and the famous baptismal fonts in St Barthélémy Church. Add bustling streets, green spaces, and some remarkable architecture, both old and new, and you have the city of Liège. It sits astride the River Meuse near the eastern borders with Germany and the Netherlands. The best way to explore the city is on foot, giving groups the opportunity to discover medieval churches, abbeys, convents and the 'Neo-Classical Opéra Royal de Wallonie' dating from the 19th century. Those looking for a different shopping experience, will find the world's first shopping arcade, 'Passage Lemonnier', which has opened for business since 1831. The world-famous 'La Batte market' is another retail experience. Hundreds of stalls extend along the left side of the Meuse every Sunday, from early morning until lunchtime. [www.visitezliege.be](http://www.visitezliege.be)

## Spa – Water Water Everywhere

Although entirely inland, Spa is known as a water city because of its natural water sources and hot springs, which are believed to have healing properties and have been drawing visitors to the town since the 16th century. Spas in general get their name from this town rather than the other way around, this being one of Europe's oldest. The town itself is romantic and typical of the Ardennes area and is surrounded by extensive forests and hills. Close to the circuit of Spa Francorchamps, there are a several smaller towns including Stavelot with its Abbey (hosting the track museum) and Malmedy, a pretty town with plenty of shops and restaurants. All are excellent bases for hiking into the surrounding countryside and venturing into the Hautes Fagnes (High Fens). [www.visitspa-hautesfagnes.be](http://www.visitspa-hautesfagnes.be)

### What Does This Region Offer?

- Underground UNESCO site
- Belgian whisky tours
- Spa – the namesake of well-being
- Chocolate workshops
- Castles, abbeys and 7 collegiate churches
- Beer and cheese tastings
- Christmas markets





## Liège Forts WWI A Living Museum

Lying close to the German border, Liège was first in the firing line when the Kaiser's troops invaded in 1914. Belgium had prepared for an attack by constructing a ring of defensive forts around Liège. Made of unreinforced concrete, they were no match for the Germans' heavy artillery, in particular their powerful new howitzer, 'Big Bertha'. Seven kilometres north-west of Liège, Fort de Loncin withstood a three-day bombardment, before a shell from Big Bertha struck one of its gunpowder magazines and the fort was obliterated. More than 100 of the 350 who died were never found, and the site is now a military cemetery as well as a 'living museum'. Outside, undulating lawns and flowers soften the scene, but shattered gun turrets have been left lying where they landed. The extent of the devastation was chilling – even when viewed 100 years later. Prebooked guided tours are available.

[www.fortdeloncin.be](http://www.fortdeloncin.be)

## Liège Forts Second World War, Same Story

After the Fort Loncin disaster in 1914, Belgium prepared for future German aggression by building four new defensive forts in the 1930s to protect Liège. The biggest of these – Fort Eben-Emael was hailed as one of the most formidable defensive fortresses. Its statistics make extraordinary reading. Sprawled over 75 hectares this complex structure spanned roughly the size of 150 football pitches. 17 separate bunkers were connected by a complex network of galleries resembling London Underground tunnels and measuring more than three miles. The fort commander needed four hours – on a bicycle to inspect every section. At full capacity, this extraordinary, mainly subterranean garrison was occupied by nearly 1200 men. This museum represents the Battle of the Albert Canal on the 10th and 11th May 1940. For history lovers or military enthusiasts there are extensive tours available.

[www.fort-eben-emael.be](http://www.fort-eben-emael.be)

## Liège Christmas Village Four Weeks of Festive Frolics

The event has grown over the years to become the largest, oldest and longest festive markets in Wallonia. Proclaimed the Latin capital of yuletide festivities, it has subtle differences in atmosphere to its Germanic and Alsatian neighbours. Numerous wooden chalets sell a wide variety of wares including handmade ornaments, gastronomic delicacies, local handicrafts and regional souvenirs.

[www.villagedenoel.be](http://www.villagedenoel.be)





## Val Dieu cisterian abbey

### Something's Brewing

The abbey has always been a site for pilgrimage but it also houses a brewery for traditional beers. Located in the centre of Meuse-Rhine Euro region, the abbey dates back to the 13th century.

The brewery, welcomes its guests inside the abbey and is inspired by the monks who used to live and work there. It's a unique process since the beers are re-fermented in the bottle. Like the monks before, the site brews its products with distinct characters and flavours.

The abbey's stables have been converted into a restaurant. 'Le Casse-Croute'. Rustic with a nice spacious open air terrace, the menu comprises regional specialities and delicious Val Dieu beer and Aubeil cider. [www.abbaye-du-val-dieu.be](http://www.abbaye-du-val-dieu.be)

## Chateau Reinhardstein

### Life's Rich Tapestry

The castle has been through the mill since it was first built in 1354. Sitting on a rocky outgroup in the deep gorge of the Warche Valley, it stands in a perfectly restored state today thanks to a man called Professor Overloop. He saved its patrimony in the 1970's by using old 14th century documents to successfully reconstruct towers and parapet walks with stunning results. A guided tour in English (on request) will guide you through the castle's fabulous tapestry and weapons collection. Treat yourself to the castle's very own Reinhardstein amber beer or soft cheese. All collectively reflecting the tastes and passions of the last masters of the land. [www.reinhardstein.net](http://www.reinhardstein.net)



Reinhardstein Castle © WBT P.Maree



© Carnet d'escapades.com Laurene Philippot



© Darcis Chocolat



## December 44 Museum

### A Tale of Brandy and Tigers

Located in the heart of the northern part of the Ardennes, this museum tells the story of the 'Ardennes' offensive in the Second World War. An impressive amount of historical artefacts have been collected – primarily, from the local area, preserved and exhibited, which depict a chronological and themed journey into the history of the German offensive in the surrounding area of La Gleize, and the failure of Kampfgruppe Peiper to succeed in his mission in December 1944. One of the most unusual features of this collection is a King Tiger tank. The Tiger II with number 213 was disabled defending the Werimont Farm. After the war it was exchanged for a bottle of cognac from salvaging GIs by the local innkeeper's wife, thus saving it for posterity.

[www.december44.com](http://www.december44.com)

## Chateau Modave

### Grand Rooms and Classical Concerts

This castle was first mentioned in 1233 as a fortified post protecting the nearby town of Huy. With the current building dating from the late 17th century, a guided tour will take the group through more than 25 richly decorated and furnished rooms, adorned with stucco and 17th century tapestries. Located on a rocky outcrop overlooking the Hoyoux Valley 60 m below, views from the castle of the surrounding nature reserve are impressive to say the least. There are occasional music evenings and events. Christmas at the Chateau is a particularly magical time of year with decorations adorning the chateau to create a vibrant festive atmosphere. Classic piano concerts with champagne for private groups can also be organised on request.

[www.modave-castle.be](http://www.modave-castle.be)

## Chateau Jehay

### A Chequered Past

This imposing castle is surrounded by moats which appear as if by magic as you approach. Recognisable because of its distinctive chequered walls, the castle is a rare and beautiful example of 16th century architecture in the Renaissance style with its woodlands and flower gardens spanning over 22 hectares adding to its accolade as a 'Site of Exceptional Heritage in Wallonia'.

[www.chateaujehay.be](http://www.chateaujehay.be)

## Stavelot Abbey

### Godspeed in the Crypt

The Abbey of the Prince-Bishops of Stavelot is one of the oldest monastic foundations in Belgium where 'Godspeed' takes on a whole new meaning when you suddenly find a racetrack museum in the crypt. The museum features a display of racing cars and motorbikes, hitherto unpublished documents and racing memorabilia. The abbey has teamed up with the Spa-Francorchamps racetrack to offer an attractive package for groups that includes a visit to the abbey and the museums, and the opportunity to take a trip around the Spa circuit... by coach! Here's hoping your driver doesn't fancy himself as a bit of a Nigel Mansel. Two other museums (history and poetry) are also situated on site.

[www.abbayedestavelot.be](http://www.abbayedestavelot.be)

## Darcis Chocolate Factory

### Discover the Food of Love

Philippe Darcis is one of Wallonia's best known and most loved chocolatiers. His main shop in Verviers is a popular attraction that tells the story of chocolate. An audio guide takes you on a journey of exploration to discover its origins. Sneak through the corridors of a 'Mayan Temple', embark aboard the 'Caravelle de Cortez', and across the oceans to Europe. You'll arrive in the middle of the French Revolution in a bourgeois salon where you can immerse yourself in the ambience of the first chocolate shops in the early 20th century. After this compelling history lesson, you can take part in a group chocolate making workshop, and naturally sample the products.

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

## Tin Box Museum

### It's Quite a Collection

View the largest collection of tin boxes in the world listed by the Guinness Book of Records. This is an impressive collection which features no less than 60,000 items. No matter how you try, it is impossible to imagine how vast the selection is. The guide will tell you how this passion was born and the stories behind these tin boxes. By appointment only.



© December 44 Museum, La Gleize



Modave © WBT Dominik Keiz



Stavelot Abbey © WBT V. Fergat, Pixel Konando



# Bastogne & Bouillon

## What Does This Region Offer?

- 'Battle of the Bulge'
- Castles and underground dungeons
- Walk on the moon
- Beer and cheese making traditions





## Bastogne – You Can Mention the War

Close to the Luxembourg border, this area is known for what took place during the second world war. It was the centre point of the last major German offensive ('Battle of the Bulge').  
[www.paysdebastogne.be](http://www.paysdebastogne.be)

## Bouillon – Castles and Crusades

Let's start with the medieval castles perched high above the river valleys. One of these is the castle-fortress at Bouillon, a small town close to the French border. Dating from the eighth century, it was once owned by Duke Godfrey of Bouillon, leader of the first crusade. Today it's one of the most ancient and interesting remains of feudalism in Belgium.  
[www.paysdebouillon.be](http://www.paysdebouillon.be)





## Mardasson & Bastogne War Museum

### The Star of all Memorials

Just outside Bastogne, one of the finest American war memorials in Europe sits on Mardasson Hill. The star-shaped structure honours the nearly 77,000 Americans who were killed, wounded or went missing in action during the battle. Just a few yards away from the imposing memorial, the museum's halls and galleries provide a 'big picture' look at both the Ardennes campaign and WWII. It explains its origins, consequences, and relives the battle through the eyes of four people who were there: two soldiers (one American, one German), a local schoolteacher and a teenager. Coach parking.

[www.bastognenewarmuseum.be](http://www.bastognenewarmuseum.be)

## Bastogne Barracks & Bastogne War Rooms

### 'Nuts' to That

The Germans launched their attack on 16th December and 4 days later surrounded the US troops in Bastogne at a critical road junction. The US divisions established their headquarters in the Belgian 'Heintz' Barracks. On the 22 December, Brigadier General Anthony McAuliffe wrote history, as he answered 'NUTS' to the German forces who demanded immediate surrender. His short but powerful statement became a turning point in the Battle of the Bulge.

With ample coach parking, you can visit: The '**Bastogne Barracks**' which feature a large 2,350 m2 exhibition hall, as well as an outside display including WW2 track and wheel vehicles, artillery pieces and assorted equipment from both the allied and axis forces. <https://bastognebarracks.be>

The '**Bastogne War Rooms**' house the McAuliffe's historical cellar, complementing the offerings of the *Bastogne War Museum*.

## Bastogne 101st Airborne Museum Band of Brothers

This museum houses a collection of objects from the Battle of the Bulge and the famous 101st airborne division (serialised by Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks in *Band of Brothers*). The many displays illustrate remarkable life-like scenes when the battle was in full force. Through the multimedia elements visitors can hear, see and feel a frighteningly realistic bombardment whilst the bombers thunder overhead and learn what the residents of Bastogne must have gone through as they took shelter. [www.101airbornemuseumbastogne.com](http://www.101airbornemuseumbastogne.com)

## Medieval History and Bouillon Feudal Castle

### Knights and Crusaders

Completely immerse yourself in Belgium's medieval history at the 'Bouillon Medieval Experience'. Cutting edge audio-visual technology takes you on walk with a knight and his squire on their way to Jerusalem in an 11th century crusade.

[www.bouillonmedievalexperience.be](http://www.bouillonmedievalexperience.be)

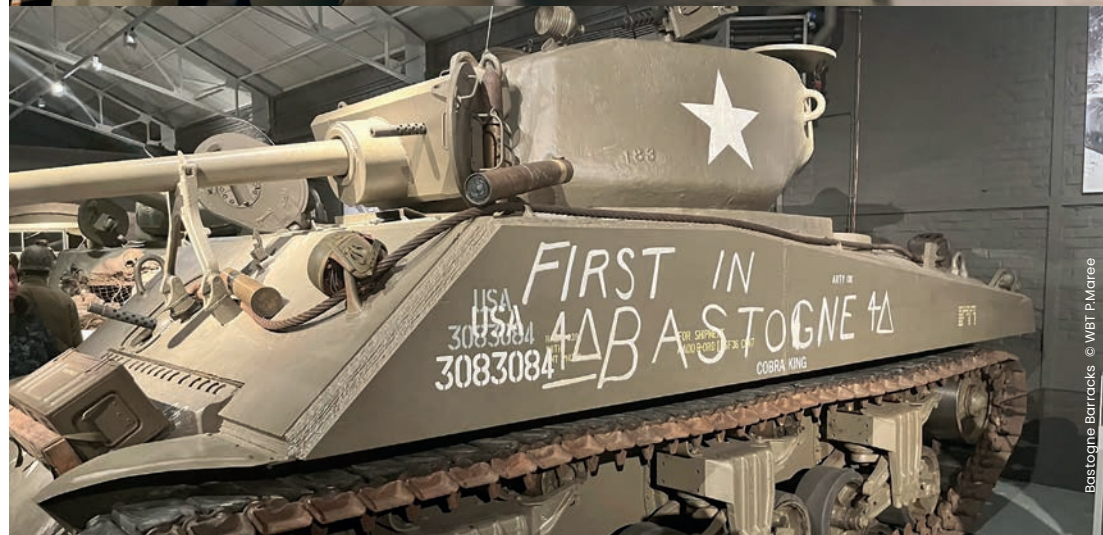
If your group is game for enhancing the history lesson with a little more exertion, then Bouillon's feudal castle will hit the spot. Dating from 988AD it's associated with Crusader Knight Godefroid de Bouillon, the first 'Belgian' ruler of Jerusalem. It has an impressive labyrinth of stairs, narrow corridors, vast vaulted rooms and secret chambers. And if you climb its steps to access Austria Tower, the highest point of the castle, you'll be rewarded a striking panoramic view over the town, the Semois valley and the Ardennes forests. [www.chateaubouillon.com](http://www.chateaubouillon.com)



Bastogne Barracks © WBT P.Maree



NUTS - Bastogne War Rooms © Tempora



Bastogne Barracks © WBT P.Maree



## Euro Space Center

### Planet Fantastic. Fancy a Walk on the Moon?

Ideal for school groups and their science teachers, students follow in Neil Armstrong's footsteps by donning a virtual reality mask and doing a Moonwalk, where you 'weigh' six times less than on earth. You can also build your own rocket, to operate a galactic mission or live like an astronaut in space. Try the Mars walk XP, which involves a special chair and another virtual reality mask that transports you to the Red Planet. A full-size replica of the US Space Shuttle welcomes you to inspect its cockpit and cargo bay. [www.eurospacecenter.be](http://www.eurospacecenter.be)

## Orval Abbey

### Herb Gardens to Beer Gardens

A visit to the Cistercian ruins is enhanced by a 20 minute audio visual presentation of the monastery's history and the present day life of the community. The history of pharmaceuticals are located in an 18th century building in the grounds as well as a medicinal herb garden. Groups can pre-book guided tours.

Created in 1931 the Orval Brewery is located within the confines of the abbey. It has always hired lay workers including master brewer Poppenheimer, who invented Orval's famous Trappist beer recipe.

Orval cheese has also been made on the premises since 1928, using an 1816 recipe from the Trappist monks. It is made from cow's milk with a distinct creaminess and a natural washed crust. [www.orval.be](http://www.orval.be)

## St Hubert

### It's the Song of Seduction My 'Deer'

This countryside town is a centre for green tourism and hiking. Located in the heart of the Ardennes, the fact there is a towering Basilica is an unexpected surprise with its elegance and majesty. It acts as a centre of worship St Hubert – patron saint of hunters and butchers. Close by you'll find the open-air museum 'Domaine St Michel Furnace', a remarkable architectural ensemble dedicated to the way of life of the Ardennes of yesteryear. If you happen to visit between mid-September to mid-October you may also catch the Stag Bellowing – their mating season seduction call to find their dearest of deer. [www.foretdesainthubert-tourisme.be](http://www.foretdesainthubert-tourisme.be)





# Durbuy & La Roche

## What Does This Region Offer?

- The world's smallest city
- History, legends and ghosts
- Historic train journeys
- Beer made by gnomes





Durbuy © Dominik Kez



© MBT P. Varea



© TTA

## Durbuy – ‘The Smallest Town in the World’

This pretty resort sits in the Ourthe Valley. The centre is a maze of narrow, pedestrianised streets that wind between the ancient houses and walls full of shops, cafés and good eating places. Home to the largest topiary park in the world. A guided walking tour can be pre-arranged combined with a tasting of local produces. Special coach drop-off (close to centre) and parking (outside town). [www.durbuy.be](http://www.durbuy.be)

## La Roche-en-Ardenne – Like a Phoenix from the Ashes

The ruins of the medieval castle overlook this popular tourist town. Nestled in the valley of the River Ourthe, this charming town has become one of the most visited in the Belgian Ardennes. Fascinating history, legends and even a ghost ignite imagination whilst its 9th century feudal castle with towers, murder holes and oubliettes create an authentic medieval atmosphere. [www.la-roche-tourisme.com](http://www.la-roche-tourisme.com)

## Achouffe Brewery Gnome Sweet Gnome

The story begins in the 1970’s when two brothers in law decided to create their own beer in the garage belonging to one’s mother-in-law. Using the little money they had they embarked upon what fans of the brewery called ‘The Chouffe story’. The first La Chouffe mash tub (49 litres) was produced on 27 August 1982. Although first seen as a hobby, it has become a successful brewery venture sold in over 40 countries. Don’t forget to ask about the gnome. [www.achouffe.be](http://www.achouffe.be)

## Tramway Touristique de l’Aisne On Track for Touristic Splendour

In the heart of the Ardennes between Erezée and Dochamps, you’ll find one of the oldest tourist railways operating on a section of a disused rural line. Travel through natural landscapes, untouched by time. Groups can pre-book for private use. [www.tta.be](http://www.tta.be)



## Bataille des Ardennes Museum

### A Story of Liberation

Occupied by the Germans, the town was liberated by allied forces on 10 September 1944, but a counter-attack wasn't long in coming. On 20 December, in a surprise offensive, the Germans re-captured the town. By early January the allied counter-offensive – the 'Battle of the Bulge' – was underway. La Roche became the target of heavy allied artillery shelling that killed 114 civilians and destroyed 90% of the buildings. On 11 January the town was liberated by the British 51st Highland Division and the American 84th Infantry Division. Today, the Musée de la Bataille des Ardennes is a place of history and remembrance focusing heavily on the role of the British in the battle. Displayed across three floors, it has a huge collection of documents, weapons and personal belongings. There's even an original ENIGMA code machine and plans showing the timeline of the battle.

[www.batarden.be](http://www.batarden.be)

## Hotton Military Cemetery and Monument

### Peaceful Memory

The 'British and Commonwealth Military Cemetery' at Hotton commemorates 666 who lost their lives in the 'Battle of the Bulge', 527 of whom were British. Nearby you'll find the Sherman 'Firefly' turret, a memorial to the soldiers of the 53rd Welsh Infantry division and to their supporting armoured regiments. The cemetery is one of the many memorials to the battle in the area. A specific booklet on the subject is available, simply email: [trade.uk@visitwallonia.be](mailto:trade.uk@visitwallonia.be)

## Durbuy Topiary Park

### Lovely Shrubbery

Strange that.. the world's 'smallest town' should boast one of the world's largest topiary parks. Quirky and amusing forms have been created in an area of 10,000 sqm comprising 250 clipped box trees and other lovely shrubbery.

[www.topiaires.be](http://www.topiaires.be)





# Wallonia's Annual Events



## Amaryllis Festival at Beloeil Castle (Spring)

Each year the Princes de Ligne hosts the Amaryllis exhibition. Artists take more than 5,000 flowers and create stunning designs displayed throughout the corridors and rooms. It's a real sight for the sense with the scent of flowers and the visual feast of colour sumptuously decorating the castle setting.



## Annevoie Venetian Costume Festival (May)

A sumptuous visual feast of romance and elegance, this annual Venetian costume festival adds magic to Wallonia's 18th century Water Gardens every spring. Richly decorated costumes glide magnificently amidst these beautiful fountains, water features and green gardens. Don't forget your camera.



## The Bathtub Race in Dinant (August)

An annual regatta consists of a fleet of floating bathtubs decorated in unusual and original ways. The race is one kilometre long and runs along the river Meuse. The bathtubs must be propelled by human force only - think paddling, adding to the entertainment. Participants are rewarded for the beauty and originality of their tub.



## Tanks in Town (September)

A kind of 'living museum', this unique event is a celebration for the liberation of the Belgian city of Mons. It's an exceptional historical commemorative event like no other in the world which attracts thousands of visitors every year with dozens of WW2 tanks and other armoured vehicles taking part in a commemorative parade.



## Steam Festival (September)

Steam locomotives non-stop between Mariembourg and Treignes from 10am till 8pm during the weekend with various activities (model railway exhibition, music blacksmith and farrier demonstrations, etc..)



## Christmas Markets - (throughout December)

Visitors to Wallonia's main towns (Liege, Mons, Namur, Durbuy) in the month of December could be forgiven for thinking they'd stumbled into Lapland as numerous Christmas markets pop up for the whole month.





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Annevoie Water Gardens © Geoff Sharp

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**The Ultimate Belgian Getaway**