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State of the Art



**Visit the most  
beautiful castles in  
Flanders**





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An aerial photograph of a park with a winding wooden path and green grass. The path curves through a lush green landscape with scattered trees. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with shadows cast by the trees and the path. The path is made of wooden planks and is surrounded by a low wooden fence in some areas. The grass is a vibrant green, and the trees have some autumn-colored leaves. The sky is not visible, but the lighting suggests a clear day.

## INTRODUCTION

When you visit the Flemish countryside, you simply can't miss the numerous castle domains. These estates, many of which are centuries old, have an abundance of stories to tell: about venerable families, historic places, flourishing communities, etc. They are heritage sites that really appeal to the imagination. They create meaning and offer opportunities for encounters and contemplation. At the local level, they often play an important economic, social and/or cultural role. At the Flemish level, they provide a rich palette of visitor experiences, all of which maximise what is sometimes referred to as 'the soul of the place': the unique and intangible essence of an extraordinary location.

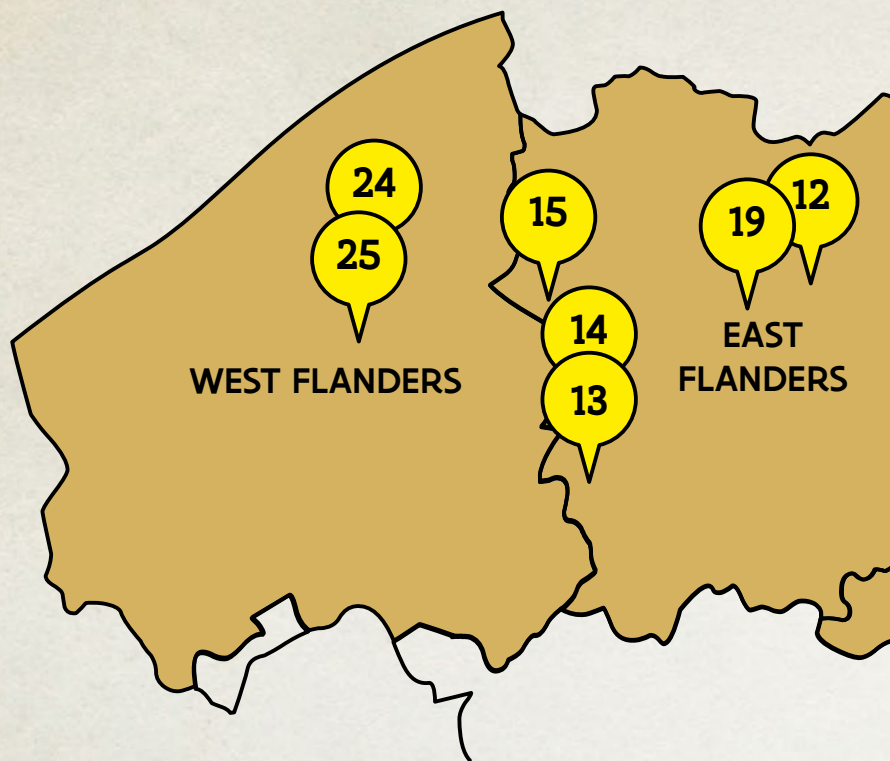
Yet, visitors from home and abroad are still relatively unfamiliar with our Flemish estates and their tourism potential. This inspirational brochure by **VISITFLANDERS** aims to rectify this.

In this brochure you will find a selection of the tourist-accessible castle domains in Flanders. They are extremely varied: museum castles, estates where the experience of the landscape is paramount, places where you can dine like royalty or spend the night like a real lord or lady of the castle. It also provides information about hiking and cycling routes in the vicinity.

This brochure is a living document. The information it contains is regularly updated. New castles will be included in the next version. We hope you enjoy discovering our castles in Flanders!



# Castles on the map



## HASPENGOUW

- 1 GRAND COMMANDERY ALDEN BIESEN**  
Kasteelstraat 6, 3740 Bilzen  
More info on page 7



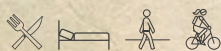
- 2 CASTLE OF DURAS**  
Park 1, 3803 Duras  
More info on page 8



- 3 CASTLE HEX**  
Hekslaan, 3870 Heers  
More info on page 9



- 4 CHÂTEAU DE LA MOTTE**  
Mettekovenstraat 4  
3800 Sint-Truiden  
More info on page 10



## ANTWERP

- 5 CASTLE DE MERODE**  
Polderstraat 51  
2260 Westerlo  
More info on page 12



- 6 HOF TER LAKEN**  
Hofdreef 2  
2221 Heist-op-den-Berg  
More info on page 13



- 7 HOF TER LINDEN**  
Drie Eikenstraat 3  
2650 Edegem  
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- 8 ZELLAER CASTLE**  
Zellaerdreef 1  
2820 Bonheiden  
More info on page 15



## FLEMISH BRABANT

- 9 BEERSEL CASTLE**  
Lotsestraat 65, 1650 Beersel  
More info on page 17



- 10 GAASBEEK CASTLE**  
Kasteelstraat 40, 1750 Lennik  
More info on page 18



- 11 BOUCHOUT CASTLE**  
Nieuwelaan 38, 1860 Meise  
More info on page 19



## EAST FLANDERS

- 12 BEERVELDE CASTLE PARK**  
Toverstraat 6  
9080 Lochristi  
More info on page 21







### 13 LOZER CASTLE (HUISE)

Kasteelstraat 36  
9770 Lozer-Kruisem  
More info on page 22



### 14 OOIDONK CASTLE

Ooidonkdreef 9, 9800 Deinze  
More info on page 23



### 15 POEKE CASTLE

Kasteelstraat 38, 9880 Aalter  
More info on page 24



## ALONG THE SCHELDT

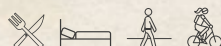
### 16 D'URSEL CASTLE

Wolfgang d'Urselstraat 9  
2880 Bornem  
More info on page 26



### 17 PAVILLION DE NOTELAER

Notelaerdreef 2, 2880 Bornem  
More info on page 27



### 18 BORNEM CASTLE

Kasteelstraat 34  
2880 Bornem  
More info on page 28



### 19 LAARNE CASTLE

Eekhoekstraat 5  
9270 Laarne  
More info on page 29



### 20 WISSEKERKE CASTLE / MUSEUM VILAIN XIII

Kon. Astridplein 17  
9150 Kruibeke  
More info on page 30



## CASTLES

### 21 CORTEWALLE MOATED CASTLE

Zwarte Dreef 2  
9120 Beveren  
More info on page 32



### 22 HOF TER SAKSEN CASTLE PARK

Hof ter Saksendreef 2  
9120 Beveren  
More info on page 33



### 23 HERITAGE HOUSE AND ART DEPOT HOF TER WELLE

Anna Piersdreef 1  
9120 Beveren  
More info on page 33



## WEST FLANDERS

### 24 LOPPEM CASTLE

Steenbrugsestraat 26  
8210 Zedelgem-Loppem  
More info on page 35



### 25 D'AERTRYCKE CASTLE

Zeeweg 42, 8820 Torhout  
More info on page 36







# Castles in **HASPENGOUW**





## GRAND COMMANDERY ALDEN BIESEN



The Grand Commandery of Alden Biesen is located in Rijkhoven (Bilzen), in the middle of hilly Haspengouw. It dates back to 1220, and is one of the few intact castles of the Teutonic Order, a medieval knightly order comparable to the Knights Templar. For centuries, it served as one of the Order's most influential headquarters.

Today, Alden Biesen is an impressive and inspiring heritage site. Every year, more than 250,000 visitors come to admire the 80-hectare domain. Apart from an English park and French gardens, you will find the largest continuous standard fruit orchard in north-western Europe, with more than 500 historical varieties.

The former coach houses, storerooms and workrooms - including the brewery and malt lofts - have been converted into sleeping quarters. In total, Alden Biesen offers 30 rooms and 54 beds for groups. There are also more than 30 rooms for 10 to 500 persons, which can be booked for meetings, lectures, workshops or receptions.

What's more, Alden Biesen offers a wide range of activities for children, such as a walk and an

annual summer treasure hunt. In addition, there are numerous public events such as guided tours, festivals, concerts and performances. They are announced on [www.alden-biesen.be](http://www.alden-biesen.be).

### Opening hours

**Summer period**  
(1 April - 30 September)

- **Weekdays:** 7:30 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.
- **Weekends & public holidays:** 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

**Winter periode**  
(1 October - 31 March)

- **Weekdays:** 07.30 – 20.00 uur
- **Weekends & public holidays:** 10.00 a.m. – 16.00 p.m.

### Entrance fees

The entrance to Alden Biesen is free, including the gardens, the parks and the outdoor area of the buildings. Only some events require you to buy a ticket. Groups wanting a guided tour must book in advance.

### Practical information

#### General bookings:

Bart Van Gheel

- +32 89 51 93 77
- [congrescentrum.ab@vlaanderen.be](mailto:congrescentrum.ab@vlaanderen.be)
- [www.alden-biesen.be/organiseer](http://www.alden-biesen.be/organiseer)

#### Guided tours:

Karin Van Damme

- +32 89 51 93 65
- [karin.vandamme@vlaanderen.be](mailto:karin.vandamme@vlaanderen.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

Alden Biesen is located at cycling node 68. There are also many cycling and hiking routes in and around the domain. You can find out about them at the [Infokantoor Toerisme](http://Infokantoor Toerisme).

### Food and drink

Alden Biesen has its own catering team that can provide breakfast, lunches, dinners or receptions. You can also choose from a list of external caterers. Visitors have the option of various catering establishments on and around the estate.





## CASTLE OF DURAS



The Castle of Duras (Sint-Truiden) was built between 1787 and 1789 by Baron Jean Joseph Van der Noot, as a gift for his daughter Joséphine-Louise. Her son, Prince Eugène de Ligne, would later lay claim to the Belgian throne. Since then, the castle has been in the possession of descendants of the d'Oultremont family for generations.

At the end of the Second World War, the castle was hit by a German V1 flying bomb. It was subsequently rebuilt according to the original 18th-century design. Today, it lies in a private domain of some 400 ha, including a castle park, orchards, an old water mill and an orangery with a kitchen garden, which has recently been transformed into a vineyard.

### Want to spend the night in the Castle of Duras?

Would you like to feel like a real lord or lady of the castle? Book a stay in the cupola room. This comfortable, circular bedroom has a large balcony with a stunning view of the castle grounds and the majestic 300-metre-long plane tree avenue.

### Did you know?

A sister-in-law of Joséphine-Louise, Countess Henriette d'Oultremont married King William I of the Netherlands in 1841. The latter had to abdicate because he was a Protestant and Henriette was a Catholic. Some of the correspondence between Henriette and William is kept in the castle archives.

In good weather, you can even have breakfast on the balcony. Families of up to 4 persons can stay in a completely renovated chalet surrounded by nature. Reservations can be made via the [website](https://www.duras.be).

### Opening hours

Guided group tours (maximum 30 persons) must be requested three weeks in advance (€ 10 per person with a minimum of € 250, plus € 40 for the guide). For € 5 extra per person, after the tour you can enjoy a glass of Gloire de Duras, the wine produced on the estate.

### Practical information

Gabrielle de Liedekerke

- +32 479 31 80 38
- [info@duras.be](mailto:info@duras.be)
- [www.duras.be](https://www.duras.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

From the Castle of Duras you can explore the enchanting region of Haspengouw on foot or by bicycle (bicycles available upon request).

The [Duras-Wilderden](#) walk passes the castle, as does the '[Cycling between abbeys and castles](#)' (Fietsen tussen abdijen en kastelen) cycling route (44 km, starting in Sint-Truiden).





## CASTLE HEX



Castle Hex was built in around 1770 as a summer residence and hunting lodge for Frans-Karel von Velbrück, the prince-bishop of Liège. The humanist, art connoisseur, scientist and nature lover enjoyed retreating to the hills of Haspengouw. The castle is surrounded by formal gardens with a magnificent rose collection, an organic kitchen garden with rare vegetables, and an English landscape park with lovely vistas and centuries-old trees.

Hex is managed by the d'Ursel family. The castle, gardens and park are listed monuments and designated as a Habitats Directive area - an area extremely rich in flora and fauna.

Twice a year the Hex Garden Festival takes place at the domain, a renowned and very popular garden fair. Would you like to visit the castle at another time? Groups

of at least 20 persons can request a guided tour.

### Opening hours

#### Garden Days

- **First weekend in June:**  
10.00 a.m. - 18.00 p.m.
- **Second weekend in September:**  
10.00 a.m. - 18.00 p.m.

#### Guided tours (by appointment)

- 1 April to 15 October
- Not on Sundays or public holidays

### Entrance fees

#### Hex Garden Festival:

see website. [www.hex.be](http://www.hex.be)

### Guided tour

- **Castle:** € 15 per person (at least € 300 per group)
- **Garden:** € 15 per person (at least € 300 per group)

### Practical information

- Hekslaen - 3870 Heers
- [secretariaat@hex.be](mailto:secretariaat@hex.be)
- [www.hex.be](http://www.hex.be)
- +32 12 74 73 41

### Hiking and cycling routes

The castle lies on the Haspengouw cycling route no. 7, 'Fruity landscapes with spirit' (between nodes 156 and 157). The 'Witch' hiking route also passes by - it starts at De Horne in Vechmaal.





## CHÂTEAU DE LA MOTTE



Nestled in the landscape of South Limburg, less than an hour from Antwerp, Brussels and Maastricht, lies the centuries-old castle domain of Château de la Motte. In the 13th century, a fortified motte tower was built here - the bottom section of which can still be seen in the castle cellars. In 1560, the tower was extended to create a veritable castle. A fire largely destroyed it later: only a square tower survived. It still stands proudly. The present eclectic-style castle dates back to 1865.

In 1994, Château de la Motte was in a dilapidated state, but has since been beautifully restored. Nowadays, you can enjoy real Flemish cuisine in the brasserie with a covered terrace by the moat.

Parties and events can also be organised here. Afterwards, you can spend the night in one of the 17 cottage-style rooms in the holiday accommodation Kleine Motte.

### Opening hours

**Wednesday to Sunday inclusive:**  
12.00 a.m. - 21.00 p.m.

### Practical information

Ruben van Vloten

- Mettekovenstraat 4,  
3800 Groot-Gelmen
- +32 11/48 10 86
- [info@chateaudelamotte.com](mailto:info@chateaudelamotte.com)
- [www.chateaudelamotte.com](http://www.chateaudelamotte.com)

### Hiking and cycling routes

Château de la Motte is situated on the 'Great Delight' (Groot Genot) hiking route and the 'Cycle between abbeys and castles'. (Fietsen tussen abdijen en kastelen) cycling route.







# Castles in **ANTWERP**

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## CASTLE DE MERODE



The name 'de Merode' is inextricably linked to the history of Westerlo. And yet, the castle of the same name, located in the centre of the municipality, has not always been in the possession of the de Merode family. This has only been the case since 1478, when the Council of Brabant officially allocated the domain to Jan IV de Merode.

The castle owes its current appearance to Jean Philippe Eugene de Merode (1674-1732) - a prominent man in his time, as he was Grandee of Spain, Knight of the Order of the Golden Fleece and Feldmarschall of the Imperial armies of Austria. He had a network of avenues created and embellished the castle. Meanwhile, many centuries later, the castle is still inhabited by a de Merode prince.

In recent years, the castle has an impressive addition to its assets: the Historalia shows - open-air musicals based on special historical events or figures, such as Rubens or Queen Marie-Antoinette. And during the Christmas holidays,

the castle is transformed into a magical winter palace as part of the 'Kerstmagie' (Christmas magic) event. Not to be missed!

### Guided tours and visits

Castle de Merode is a private estate. Guided tours are possible and are organised by the VZW Vrienden van het Kasteel van Westerlo:

- **for groups** (€ 15 per person, coffee or tea included)
- **for schools** free for teachers and pupils + € 30 per guide; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays only)

The castle can also be rented for events such as seminars, lectures, classical concerts and business breakfasts. Information on prices and availability can be obtained by contacting [secretariaat@kasteel-westerlo.be](mailto:secretariaat@kasteel-westerlo.be)

### Practical information

Polderstraat, 51  
2260 Westerlo

**Historalia Productions BV:**

- [info@historalia.be](mailto:info@historalia.be)
- +32 14 53 81 41

### Hiking and cycling routes

The castle is located on the 'de Merode' cycling route and the 'Walk past water and castles' ('Wandelen langs water en kastelen') hiking route.





## HOF TER LAKEN



The castle domain of Hof Ter Laken in Booischot is a real gem on the Grote Nete river. The Flemish Neo-Renaissance castle is a real eye-catcher in the magnificent 30-hectare park. The present building was constructed between 1830 and 1870. In addition, the park boasts a depot with horse stables, a forester's house, the former ice cellar and a partially walled kitchen garden and orchard.

The domain is crossed by the Molenbeek and several other 'laken' or smaller watercourses, to which it owes its name. It is surrounded by forests and flowering meadows. The stately drive and the location along the charming meandering river complete the picture.

It's worth mentioning that you can combine a walk from Hof Ter Laken along the Grote Nete river, which with good reason is called the Loire of the Kempen, and pay a visit to many other castles along the river. You will literally walk through the decor of the film *Pallieter*, which was shot in and around Hof Ter Laken.

On 19 July 2018, the municipality of Heist-op-den-Berg and the Kempens Landschap Foundation took over the estate from the de Gruben family. Since then, the park has been managed by Kempens Landschap and the restoration of the buildings has been thoroughly prepared. In the future, the castle will serve as heritage accommodation for large groups (up to 30-35 persons). The depot with the coach house will become a brasserie with a room for events and space for meetings. So after your walk or bike ride, you will be able to enjoy a quiet moment in the glorious setting of Hof Ter Laken.

### Opening hours

The park is open every day from sunrise to sunset. The future opening hours of the buildings are not yet known.

### Entrance fees

Hof Ter Laken can be visited free of charge.

### Practical information

Hofdreef – 2221 Booischot  
(Heist-op-den-Berg)

Contact:

- [info@kempenslandschap.be](mailto:info@kempenslandschap.be)  
(general questions about the domain)
- [www.kempenslandschap.be/nl/domeinen/landgoederen/hof-ter-laken](http://www.kempenslandschap.be/nl/domeinen/landgoederen/hof-ter-laken)

### Hiking and cycling routes

Hof Ter Laken is located at node 71 in Heist-op-den-Berg. If you cycle from there in the direction of node 5, you will pass through the stately Hofdreef, which provides a fine view of the castle.







## HOF TER LINDEN



In the centre of Edegem, about seven kilometres from Antwerp's Grote Markt, you will find the Castle Hof Ter Linden. The classicist castle is surrounded by a 52-hectare green oasis. The domain's history dates back to the 13th century and it owes its name to the local court proceedings that took place there under a lime tree. The present castle dates back to the 18th century, when the owners replaced the dilapidated medieval castle with a court of plaisance. The building is a wonderful example of Classicism in the green belt around Antwerp, situated in a majestic park with two mirrored coach houses in the outer bailey. The castle is decorated in Louis XVI style with exceptional marble and parquet floors.

The Hof Ter Linden domain is a great place to enjoy a walk. A stately drive with a double row of lime trees leads you to the castle. A 5 km loop guides you around the domain. Along the way, the landscape varies from park to forest and meadow. A boardwalk connects you to the nearby Fort 5.

After your walk, take a breather in Brasserie Hof Ter Linden or starred-restaurant Stable. They are located in the coach houses, which have now been fully restored to their former glory. In the future, you will be able to combine your visit to Hof ter Linden with an overnight stay. The castle is being restored and converted into a B&B. Ever since the domain's management was taken over by the Kempens Landschap Foundation, the Municipality of Edegem and the Flemish Agency for Nature and Forests, it is being developed as a tourist attraction.

### Opening hours

Brasserie Hof Ter Laken: open daily, also on public holidays.

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

### Stable:

check the website for opening times:

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

**The castle is currently closed for restoration work.**

The domain can be visited freely.

### Entrance fees

The park can be visited freely and free of charge. The castle is currently closed for restoration work.

### Practical information

- Drie Eikenstraat 1, 3, 5  
2650 Edegem
- [info@kempenslandschap.be](mailto:info@kempenslandschap.be)  
(general questions about the domain)

### Hiking and cycling routes

Castle Hof ter Linden is located close to cycling node 99 of the Kempen cycling network.





## CASTLE ZELLAER



The Castle of Zellaer is just a stone's throw away from Mechelen. It's a fairy-tale setting with its keep, moat and drawbridge. The history of this special place dates back to the 13th century. Back then, a medieval castle stood on the site currently occupied by the present castle. Due to its location, it has always been a desirable place to live. A number of senior clergymen, mayors of Mechelen, wealthy businessmen, counts and a baron successively took up residence here. As the various owners wanted to put their own mark on the castle, it was rebuilt several times. The present Neo-Gothic castle dates back to 1885, and stands in a straight line with Mechelen's St Rumbold's tower. Baron de Vrière had it built from white sandstone using stones from Vilvoorde's city wall. Inside the castle, you will find many well-preserved elements such as wood carvings and paintings.

You can also go for a lovely walk in the 18.5 hectares of park woodland surrounding the castle. The canal structure, pond and avenues that converge centrally into a star bear witness to the castle's rich history.

In order to further develop the domain, the Kempens Landschap Foundation took it on a long lease. During the summer you will find a convivial summer bar here. From June to the end of September, you can also have breakfast in the castle. In due course, you can come here to spend the night in a real fairy-tale castle and have a delicious bite to eat the coach house.

### Opening hours

The park is freely accessible. The castle can only be visited with a guide.

### Entrance fees

Every first Sunday of the month, at 2 p.m., there is a guided tour that you can join as an individual visitor (registration required). You can also request a group visit. It costs € 5 per person, with a minimum of € 50 per group. A guided tour takes about 2.5 hours.

For registrations for the fixed guided tour, requests for a guided group tour and all other requests, please send an e-mail to: [gidsen@kasteelzellaer.be](mailto:gidsen@kasteelzellaer.be).

### Practical information

Oude Baan 100, Bonheiden

Contact:

- **General info:** [info@kempenslandschap.be](mailto:info@kempenslandschap.be)
- **Guided tours:** [gidsen@kasteelzellaer.be](mailto:gidsen@kasteelzellaer.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

Castle Zellaer is located right next to the longest cycling street in Europe. Cycling nodes 44 and 46 of the Kempen cycling network pass close by.







# Castles in **FLEMISH BRABANT**

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## BEERSEL CASTLE



Beersel Castle is an exceptionally well-preserved example of medieval military architecture. It has had an eventful history, but it still looks exactly as it did at the end of the 15th century. As a result, it offers a genuine experience of how people lived in a fortified medieval moated castle.

In and around the castle you will find panels with pictures and QR codes. If you scan the QR codes, you will hear captivating audio excerpts that vividly bring the history of the castle to life.

### Opening hours

**1 April to 31 May inclusive**

**Wednesday to Friday**  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**1 June to 31 August inclusive**

**Wednesday to Sunday:**  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**1 September to 31 October inclusive**

**Wednesday to Friday**  
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday fixed closing days

### Entrance fees

**Adults:** € 4,50  
**Children:** € 1,50  
**Guided tour:** € 70 per gids

### Practical information

Beersel Castle  
Lotsestraat  
1650 Beersel  
Information & reservations:

- +32 2 359 16 36
- [visit@beersel.be](mailto:visit@beersel.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

Beersel is a green municipality, a dream destination for hikers and cyclists. There are several hiking and cycling routes that you can combine with a visit to the castle, including the [Zenne Walk](#) and the [‘de Sierlijke Zenne’ cycling route](#).







## GAASBEEK CASTLE



In the Middle Ages, Gaasbeek Castle, located just outside Brussels, was a fortified castle. Later, it became a spacious country house. At the end of the 19th century it was given a romantic restyling thanks to Marquise Marie Arconati Visconti – a spirited lady, who combined a busy intellectual life in Paris with long holidays in Gaasbeek. After her husband's death, she inherited a huge fortune. She used it to restore the castle. She designed it as a museum for her art collection.

In recent years the castle, a complete work of art that testifies to the knowledge and skill of an international team of craftsmen and artists has been closed for thorough renovation work. In July 2023, the castle will awaken from its beauty sleep and open its doors to visitors again. The still quasi-empty rooms will be filled with a tribute to Marquise Arconati Visconti as this year will mark the centenary of her death. In 2024, the castle will reopen with a renewed scenography and its collection back on display.

The 49-hectare castle park, with its centuries-old trees, ponds, avenues,

meandering paths and historic buildings, is the ideal place to unwind. The domain is also home to the unique museum garden, where old varieties of fruit and vegetables are cultivated.

### Opening hours

#### July to October 2023

See website

- **Monday:** closed
- **Tuesday - Sunday:** 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Entrance fees

#### Gaasbeek Castle

- **Standard fee:** € 12
- **Discounted fee:** € 10
- **Free:** members of icom, -7 years, companions of people with disabilities, press

#### Museum garden

- **Standard fee:** € 5
- **Discounted fee:** € 4

- **Free of charge:** -18 years old, companions of people with disabilities, members of the National Trust

### Practical information

Kasteelstraat 40  
1750 Gaasbeek

#### Contact:

- +32 2 531 01 36
- [bezoek.gaasbeek@vlaanderen.be](mailto:bezoek.gaasbeek@vlaanderen.be)
- [www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be](http://www.kasteelvangaasbeek.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

No fewer than three of the nine Flemish Iconic cycling routes pass by Gaasbeek Castle: [the Green Belt Route](#) (de Groene Gordelroute), [The Flanders Route](#) (Vlaanderenroute) and [the Hill Route](#) (Heuvelroute). The delightful [Gaasbeek Castle Walk](#) also passes by.





## BOUCHOUT CASTLE



Bouchout Castle stands in the middle of Meise Botanic Garden. It is built around a 12th-century keep, a square defensive tower with walls up to a metre thick. Over the centuries, the keep grew into an impressive closed fortress with four circular towers and a moat. The castle was repeatedly looted and restored. The residents were dignitaries, who also left their own mark on Belgian history. The castle was comprehensively renovated around the time of the French Revolution. The extensive castle grounds were transformed into an English landscape garden, with exotic plants, charming ponds and picturesque follies.

At the end of the 19th century, King Leopold II bought the castle for his sister Charlotte - the widow of Maximilian of Austria, Emperor of Mexico, who was shot during a revolution in that country. The interior was then refurbished in Neo-Gothic and Neo-Renaissance style. Not everything has been preserved, but much of the woodwork is still there, as is the interior of the salon where the empress liked to spend time.

Today, the castle is part of Meise Botanic Garden. The former English

landscape garden - of which you can still find many traces - now houses a world-famous plant collection. There is something to do in every season, and you can stroll to your heart's content. And take the children: they can let off steam in the play forest, go on a treasure hunt with King Amaryllo or try out the Amaze-your-feet-Path, an adventurous barefoot experience.

In the castle's main hall there is a permanent exhibition about the history of the estate and its residents. You can visit the keep, not to mention the roof terrace: the view is incredible!

### Opening hours

**November - February:** 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**March - October:** 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Entrance fees

**Adults:** € 10

**Children from 6 to 17 years:** € 4

**Discounted fees:** see [website](#)

### Practical information

Nieuwelaan 38 – 1860 Meise  
[www.plantentuinmeise.be](http://www.plantentuinmeise.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

The Brabantse Kouters hiking network and the Green Belt Cregional GR path run alongside the Botanic Garden. The domain is also right on the cycling node network and the Green Belt Route, one of the nine Flemish Iconic cycling routes. Several other hiking and cycling routes pass close by. You can find out all about them at the regional tourist information point, located at the Keizerin Charlotte entrance of the Botanic Garden.

### Food and drink

The Botanic Garden has a self-service restaurant: 'De Oranjerie'. Visit the Kawa coffee bar for a good cup of coffee and a piece of home-made cake. You can also bring your own picnic. More information is available [here](#).







# Castles in **EAST FLANDERS**

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## BEERVELDE CASTLE PARK



Beervelde Castle Park was constructed in 1873, with a special goal: to become a showcase for Ghent's ornamental plant cultivation, which was still in its infancy at the time. The patrons, the Counts de Kerchove de Denterghem, were great plant lovers and played a leading role in the sector. The 25-hectare estate is still owned by the family

In mid-May and mid-October, the castle park serves as the setting for the internationally renowned Beervelde Garden Festival. With 240 participants and more than 20,000 visitors from all over Europe, they have become a household name for garden fair enthusiasts.

The historic castle stands in the middle of the park. It was damaged during the Second World War. It was later demolished and made way for the magnificent villa that occupies the site today. But the original cellars have been preserved - and they are well worth a visit. In the 1960s, they were painted by the famous painter

Roger Raveel. Remarkably, the count at the time had hired Raveel because he wanted to furnish the cellar as a recreational space for his teenage sons.

### Opening hours

#### Hiking

- The estate is private, but hikers are allowed if they register in advance.

#### Flanders Garden Festival

- See [website](#)

### Entrance fees

#### Hiking

- Free

#### Flanders Garden Festival

- See [website](#)

### Practical information

Secretariat of  
Count Renaud de Kerchove

- +32 9 356 81 82
- [info@parkvanbeervelde.be](mailto:info@parkvanbeervelde.be)
- [www.parkvanbeervelde.be](http://www.parkvanbeervelde.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

Beervelde Castle is located along the 'In the heart of the azalea region' ('In het hart van de azaleastreek') and 'Cycle along castles' ('Fietsen langs kastelen') cycling routes. There are also several attractive [hiking trails](#) nearby.





## LOZER CASTLE (HUISE)



The Lozer Castle domain (Huisse) has been in the possession of the della Faille d'Huyse family since 1654. At that time it was known as 't Goed t'Uplosere. The current owners are the tenth generation!

The charming castle was given its Neoclassical look during renovations in the 18th century. It sits snugly in a 13-hectare wooded park. You will find winding paths, tranquil ponds and striking outbuildings such as a coach house, an outer bailey and a tower-shaped garden pavilion. The park was created in the 1880s by the famous landscape architect Friedrich Eduard Keilig. You couldn't get much fancier in those days. Keilig also drew the plans for Laeken Park, the Ter Kamerenbos and Antwerp City Park. From the castle grounds, a double avenue leads to the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which was built in the mid-19th century by order of the then Baron.

### Want to stay overnight at Lozer Castle?

Elisabeth and Bernard della Faille d'Huyse welcome you to their B&B (\*\*\*\*) and holiday home (\*\*\*\*\*). They are located in the castle's coach house. All the rooms are located on the south side and offer lovely views of a pond and the park

You can book via [info@lozerkasteel.be](mailto:info@lozerkasteel.be).

### Practical information

Kasteelstraat 36  
9770 Lozer-Kruisem

- +32 9 383 50 27
- +32 478 548 796
- [info@lozerkasteel.be](mailto:info@lozerkasteel.be)
- [www.lozerkasteel.be](http://www.lozerkasteel.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

Lozer Castle is located on the cycling node network (node 25) and on the Gulden Ei and De Blinker cycling route. The long-distance hiking route GR 129 (Dwars door België) also passes by.





## OOIDONK CASTLE



In a winding bend of the River Leie, a stone's throw from Ghent, lies the elegant, stately Ooidonk Castle. The castle moat and the castle park radiate tranquillity. It makes it easy to forget Ooidonk's turbulent history.

In the 16th century, the castle belonged to Philip, Count of Horne. He was one of the main supporters of William of Orange, the leader of the revolt against Spain. In 1568, together with the Count of Egmont, he was beheaded on Brussels' Grand Place. Ooidonk became embroiled in the religious wars that ravaged our regions in the 16th century. The castle was destroyed twice. Finally, an Antwerp dignitary, Maarten della Faille had it converted into a country house in Renaissance style.

In 1864, the castle and the grounds were bought by Senator Henri t'Kint de Roodenbeke and his wife Zoe de Naeyer. Now, 150 years after their ancestor, Count Henry t'Kint de Roodenbeke and his three children live here.

### Overnight stay

Have you always wanted to stay in a fairy-tale castle? Ooidonk has four luxurious guest rooms. All four offer access to a sumptuous living room, an enchanting dining room and a fully equipped kitchen.

### Events

The castle is available for public, private and corporate events. They can be organised in the castle or in a marquee in the impressive courtyard or gardens. There is also a fully equipped conference room for an exclusive tailor-made seminar package.

### Opening hours

#### Gardens:

- **Tuesday:** 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **Wednesday to Saturday:** 09:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- **Monday and Tuesday morning** closed

#### Castle:

- **Sundays and public holidays from 1 April to 1 November inclusive:** 2:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- In July and August also on Saturdays

### Entrance fees

#### Gardens:

- **Adults:** € 3
- **Children:** € 1

#### Castle:

- **Adults:** € 12
- **Children up to 12 years of age:** € 4
- **Schools:** € 4
- **Group fee as of 20 persons** € 9 per person (+ guide's fee)

### Practical information

#### Bookings:

- Els Lisabeth
- +32 9 282 26 38
  - [els.lisabeth@ooidonk.be](mailto:els.lisabeth@ooidonk.be)
  - [www.ooidonk.be](http://www.ooidonk.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

The Ooidonk hiking route and the Leiestreek cycling route pass by the castle.

### Food and drink

- Het Koetshuis Ooidonk
- [info@hetkoetshuisooidonk.be](mailto:info@hetkoetshuisooidonk.be)
  - +32 9 282 73 13
  - [www.hetkoetshuisooidonk.be](http://www.hetkoetshuisooidonk.be)





## POEKE CASTLE



With its pale pink façades and fairy-tale appearance, Poeke Castle (Aalter) is a real gem. It is located in a wooded park in the centre of Meetjesland, halfway between the historic cities of Ghent and Bruges.

There was already a castle here in the Middle Ages, but it was destroyed in 1453, by the army of Philip the Good. A few centuries later, the noble family of Preudhomme d'Hailly built a new castle on the ruins in the Classicism style - 300,000 bricks were transported to do so! Baron Victor Pycke de Peteghem bought it in 1873, and converted it into a romantic retreat. Later, the castle became a boarding school for orphans and children with difficult circumstances at home. VISITFLANDERS acquired it in 2021, and is now working on a new purpose for the domain through a participatory process..

The castle is located in a park of no fewer than 56 hectares. You won't be able to resist a wonderful walk here, taking in its impressive avenues. On the way, you will pass historical sites such as the coach house, the walled kitchen garden,

the hunting hounds kennel (with an oven!), the English garden and the 'carburekot' - a small building that used to produce the gas used to light the castle. Every first Sunday from May to November, you can go on a free guided nature walk.

The castle itself can only be visited in groups accompanied by a guide. Unique: a contemporary art biennale is organised here every two years. And did you know that the castle and park have often been used as a setting for TV series and films? Among others, 'De bossen van Vlaanderen' and 'De bende van Jan de Lichte' were filmed here.

### Opening hours

You can visit the castle park freely every day from sunrise to sunset. You need to make an appointment to visit the castle.

### Entrance fees

Access to the domain is free. The castle can only be visited in groups accompanied by a guide.

### Practical information

Kasteelstraat 38  
9880 Poeke

- [kasteelvanpoeke@toerismevlaanderen.be](mailto:kasteelvanpoeke@toerismevlaanderen.be)
- [www.kasteelvanpoeke.be](http://www.kasteelvanpoeke.be)

Requests can be sent to: Poeke Castle - Rental | VISITFLANDERS

### Hiking and cycling routes

The GR 129, a long-distance hiking trail, crosses the domain. There are also two walking loops. The domain is located on the cycling node network, and the Art Cities Route (Kunststedenroute) – a Flemish iconic cycling route - passes barely 5 kilometres away in Bellem.





# Castles along **THE RIVER SCHELDT**

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## D'URSEL CASTLE



For almost four centuries, Hingene Castle was the summer residence of the noble d'Ursel family. Every summer, the duke would travel with his family and servants to his favourite country retreat. Now the castle and park are the property of the Province of Antwerp, which is lovingly restoring them to their former glory.

Go through the monumental gates and discover an oasis of calm. Footpaths lead you along ponds and through ancient lanes, and with a bit of luck you may spot a squirrel, a bird of prey or a roe deer along the way. You can have a picnic with a view of the castle or play on the vast lawns. In the gatehouse, you can learn all about the domain's history and pick up a brochure with the favourite walk of the duke in around 1900. The gatehouse is also the starting point for two escape games, which allow you to experience the park in a unique way.

In the castle, the walls are covered with Chinese wallpaper and unique painted and printed cotton fabrics (chintz). The oldest pieces date from the mid-17th century and the latest were installed in 1967. Together they form a unique collection: no castle

in Europe boasts more chintz than Hingene.

You can visit the castle during activities, such as exhibitions, concerts, guided tours and other events. Please check the calendar at [www.kasteeldursel.be](http://www.kasteeldursel.be).

### Overnight stay at the castle domain

In 1878, the talented amateur artist Duchess Antonine had a painter's studio built in a corner of the castle park. Today, her studio has been fully restored and given a new lease of life as a stylish holiday home. The basement and attic offer four bedrooms and three bathrooms. In the former studio on the first floor, there is an open kitchen and a lounge with a view of the park.

### Opening hours

The park is freely accessible. The castle is open during activities or for group visits by appointment.

### Practical information

#### Contact:

- +32 3 820 60 10
- [info@kasteeldursel.be](mailto:info@kasteeldursel.be)
- [www.kasteeldursel.be](http://www.kasteeldursel.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

Follow the Notelaardreef until you reach De Notelaer Pavilion, on the bank of the River Scheldt, and walk through the tranquil area along dikes and through polders. Admire the stunning nature of Klein-Brabant and the 'Stille Waters' drama series while hiking or cycling. A complete list of hiking and cycling routes in the neighbourhood can be found at [www.toerismekleinbrabant.be](http://www.toerismekleinbrabant.be). In the vicinity, you will also find Marnix de Sainte Aldegonde Castle, Bornem Abbey and Wissekerke Castle in Bazel.





## PAVILION DE NOTELAER



Pavilion De Notelaer is an absolute gem on the banks of the River Scheldt. The circular, 18th-century building owes its name to a huge walnut tree that once stood on the Scheldt dike and served as a beacon for skippers. These days, it is a popular stop-off for cyclists and hikers.

The dike cellar and the ground floor used to house the ferry service and the inn. The beautiful salons and the staircase were private. After all, the pavilion belonged to the castle domain of the noble family d'Ursel in nearby Hingene. They used it as a hunting lodge and as a venue for parties. During the summer months, the duke and his family dined there regularly, usually in the company of high-ranking guests

The pavilion's showpiece is the circular salon. Apart from the striking wall and cupola paintings featuring muses, gods and fabulous beasts, the unique parquet floor is a real eye-catcher. No fewer than eight different types of wood were used in the geometric pattern. Be sure to venture to the top: from the cupola gallery, there is a priceless view of the Scheldt, the polders and the polder villages.

The pavilion can be visited free of charge. VZW De Notelaer non-profit organisation organises exhibitions,

Sunday summer concerts and guided walks. Relax on the sunny garden terrace, revel in the silence while sipping a local beer or a piece of home-made Notelaere tart. You can also bring your own picnic. And don't forget to pay a visit to the nearby d'Ursel Castle in Hingene: a splendid historic building where there is also plenty to do.

### Want to spend the night in De Notelaer?

In July, August and September, you can come and 'pit camp': sleep in a tree tent!

### Want to feel like a duke or duchess for a while?

You can stay in the pavilion itself (4 to 6 persons).

### Opening hours

#### March

- **Saturday and Sunday:** 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

#### April-May

- **Every day:** 2:00 p.m. – 6 p.m.
- Closed on Friday

### June-September

- **Every day:** 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

### Oktober

- **Every day:** 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Closed on Friday

### Entrance fees

The pavilion can be visited free of charge. This also applies to the exhibitions. For the summer concerts only, you pay € 14 per person.

### Practical information

Notelaerdreef 2  
2880 Hingene (Bornem)

#### Contact:

Ann Boeykens and Gerrit Roskam

- +32 3 889 69 20
- [info@notelaer.be](mailto:info@notelaer.be)
- [www.notelaer.be](http://www.notelaer.be)

General info:

- [info@kempenslandschap.be](mailto:info@kempenslandschap.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

A complete list of the hiking and cycling routes in the neighbourhood can be found at [www.toerismekleinbrabant.be](http://www.toerismekleinbrabant.be).



## BORNEM CASTLE



The Neo-Gothic Castle of Bornem is located on the Oude Schelde, a tributary of the river Scheldt. History - The domain's history dates back more than 1,000 years, to Viscount Lambrecht I of Ghent. Over the centuries, the domain has been owned by several important families. The family of the current owner, Count John II de Marnix de Sainte Aldegonde, has owned the domain since 1773! In addition to the impressive castle, the estate also boasts a medieval duck decoy, one of the oldest in Europe!

Today, the Count opens his residence to the public. You can visit beautifully decorated rooms, with precious furniture, historic paintings, collections of porcelain and luxurious ceiling paintings. Be sure to check out the unique collection of engravings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder or learn more about Philip de Marnix de Sainte Aldegonde, the most important descendant of the family.

The former depot houses an experience centre, along with a major coach collection.

### Opening hours and entrance fee

From 1 April to 15 November

- Guided group visit of at least 10, maximum 20
- 20 persons: € 200 for the group plus € 65 to be paid to the guide. This guided tour includes a short visit to the reception centre/tour of the castle and a visit to the coach museum.
- Private individuals can also join a separate group on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday upon reservation. Reservations are made through Tourism Klein-Brabant Scheldeland and include an audio guide. Minimum 10, maximum 20 persons. € 225 per group including an audio guide

- **Open days for individuals:** on 15 August, the last two Sundays of August and the first two Sundays of September. € 15 per person. This visit includes the reception centre, limited visit to the castle and coach museum. Advance registration is not required.

### Practical information:

Kasteelstraat 35, 2880 Bornem

- +32.3.889.90.09
- [info-nlkasteelvanbornem.be](mailto:info-nlkasteelvanbornem.be)
- [www.kasteelvanbornem.be](http://www.kasteelvanbornem.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

- [The Castle Trail](#) (Kasteelpad)
- [Eel cycling route](#) (Palingfietsroute)





## LAARNE CASTLE



A stone's throw from Ghent, you will find the castle of Laarne, one of the most beautiful and best preserved moated castles in the country. The foundation stone of a medieval castle was laid here more than 700 years ago. The pointed circular towers and the imposing square keep or dwelling tower date back to that time.

Over the years, the castle has been extensively rebuilt, and by the 17th century, it had become a **maison de plaisance**, a noble summer residence. It still exudes the grandeur of the past. The exceptional furniture, tapestries and paintings and the internationally renowned silver collection of Claude D'Allemagne guarantee an unforgettable visit.

You can visit the castle individually or as a group. There are exhibitions, concerts and other cultural events. In December, the castle is bathed in a magical Christmas atmosphere. And you can also book it for meetings, ceremonies, receptions, team building events or photo shoots, etc.

With the HEKSEN! movie guide you explore the castle from top to bottom: the salons, the kitchen, the knights' hall, the prisons. You are immersed in the castle's past together with priest Jan Schatteman (played by Ivan Pecnik) and cleaning. What's gnawing at the priest's

conscience? What secret does Josyne carry with her? And who were the witches of Laarne?

The castle is also a great destination for families. There is a gnome hunt (3-5 years), two photo hunts (5-7 years and 8-9 years) and the exciting discovery tour 'Heintje Heks zoekt de sleutel van de schatkamer' (Young witch Heintje seeks the key to the treasury) (9-12 years).

### — Opening hours

**Early May to mid-October:**

- **Every Sunday:** 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **School holidays:** every day except Saturday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There is always an exhibition in the spring. The opening hours of the exhibition are announced on the website.

### — Entrance fees

- **Adults:** € 9 (including movie guide)
- **Youth (12-18 years):** € 6
- **Children (6-12 years):** € 6 (hunt included)

- **Children < 6 years:** free
- **Children's hunt < 6 years:** € 2
- **Group visit (up to 25 persons) with movie guide:** € 9 per person

Groups of 15 or more persons can book a guided tour (€ 7 per person + € 50 for the guide).

Groups of fewer than 15 persons pay a flat rate of € 155.

### — Practical information

Eekhoekstraat 5 – 9270 Laarne

#### Boeking en reservaties:

Emile Cnudde

- +32 9 230 91 55
- [kasteelvanlaarne@herita.be](mailto:kasteelvanlaarne@herita.be)
- [www.kasteelvanlaarne.be](http://www.kasteelvanlaarne.be)

### — Hiking and cycling routes

Laarne Castle lies on two provincial cycling routes, 'Along Begonia Fields' (Langs Begoniavelden) and 'Kastelen'Along Castles' (Langs Kastelen), and between two nodes of the cycling node network. Various walks start at the castle.





## KASTEEL WISSEKERKE / MUSEUM VILAIN XIII



In the charming polder village of Bazel, a robust moated castle watched over the Scheldt valley in the 13th century. Later, Wissekerke Castle was built here, which for more than two hundred years was the residence of the noble Vilain XIII family.

In the 19th century, Viscount Philippe and his consort Zoé de Feltz decided to rebuild the castle in the Neo-Gothic style. Wissekerke had everything a castle needed: a façade to show off, an imposing entrance gate, a stunning English landscape park with an elegant wrought-iron suspension bridge, and a kitchen garden with exotic fruits, etc. A water reservoir was built on top of the dovecote, and an ice cellar below it – state-of-the-art at the time, when refrigerators and freezers had yet to be invented. For the interior, the viscountess was inspired by the Empire-style, which had become popular under Napoleon, a good friend of hers.

After meticulous restoration work, the castle will reopen at the end of March 2023 with a completely new interactive experience trail. Viscountess Zoé de Feltz takes you through the family's history, the birth of Belgium, the tensions between Catholics and Liberals and her special bond with Napoleon. Projections, audio stories, fascinating objects, a digital quiz and atmospheric soundscapes make Wissekerke Castle one big time machine. And outside, you can stroll around and dawdle in the beautiful landscaped park.

### Opening hours

- **Wednesday to Sunday (and public holidays):** 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Closed:** 1 and 11 November, 24 December to 2 January

### Entrance fees

- **Individual:** € 12
- **Group visit (as of 10 persons):** € 8
- **Discounted fees:** see [website](https://www.kasteelwissekerke.be)

### Practical information

Koningin Astridplein 17  
9150 Bazel

- +32 3 740 04 00
- [kasteel.wissekerke@kruibeke.be](mailto:kasteel.wissekerke@kruibeke.be)
- [www.kasteelwissekerke.be](https://www.kasteelwissekerke.be)





# Castles of **BEVEREN**

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Hof ter Saksen



Heritage house and art depot Hof ter Welle



Cortewalle Moated Castle

## CORTEWALLE MOATED CASTLE



In the centre of Beveren lies a 15th-century moated castle: Castle Cortewalle, the ideal location for a wedding or anniversary celebration. But even if there is nothing to celebrate, the 10-hectare castle park is still worth a visit. There is a wonderful bee and butterfly garden, and it is always busy with young people picnicking, and hikers and cyclists taking a breather under the centuries-old trees.

The castle can only be visited with a guide. Listen to stories of the former residents. Admire the beautiful rooms and the valuable works of art – such as the restored tapestry from Aubusson, a French village famous for its tapestry weavers. Unique: the impressive archive of family de Brouhoven

### Did you know?

In the 15th century, Cortewalle had two well-known residents: Joos Vijd and his wife Elisabeth Borluut – the patrons of the Ghent Altarpiece, the world-famous painting by the Van Eyck brothers. The original castle was once even visible on the Ghent Altarpiece, but unfortunately disappeared during earlier restoration work. Discover who Joos Vijd was and what he meant to Beveren on a multimedia cycling route.

de Bergeyck, the former residents, is also kept here and can be freely consulted for research purposes.

### Opening hours en Entrance fees

The park is freely accessible every day. The castle can only be visited with a guide.

### Address

Zwarte Dreef 2, 9120 Beveren.



## HOF TER SAKSEN CASTLE PARK



Hof ter Saksen is one of the rare closed park forests in the Land van Waas. The showpiece is the stunning 18th-century castle and its orangery with a cafeteria. The park occupies 13.5 hectares and offers refreshing water features and extensive lawns as well as a rich diversity of plants and trees, with a particular focus on Chinese and Japanese varieties. A place to become totally Zen! Discover the four-leaf clover around the castle: the arboretum, the nature garden, the standard orchard and the peaceful river valley. Or meet the industrious inhabitants

of the gigantic beehive. You can also book a nature guide who will tell you stories all about the park to the rhythm of the seasons and your particular interests. Little ones will adore the play forest. Discover the flora of the Ghent Altarpiece in the Vijd Garden or delight in the sensory garden.

### — Opening hours

**1 March to 31 October inclusive:**

- **Every day:** 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**1 November to end of February inclusive**

- **Every day:** 10:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### — Entrance fees

Free

### — Adres

Hof ter Saksendreef, 9120 Beveren

## HERITAGE HOUSE AND ART DEPOT HOF TER WELLE



You'll find Hof Ter Welle hidden behind a stately beech avenue, surrounded by an imposing moat. The oldest traces of the castle date back to the 13th century. In 1723, the Beveren mayor's daughter Anna Piers bought the building to house an orphanage for young girls. The site grew to become an orphanage, school and monastery complex. Today, this hidden gem is the heritage house of the Municipality of Beveren.

It houses the museum of local history and the municipal art collection - silent witnesses that bring the rich past of the Land van Beveren to life with art and stories. The charming Baroque chapel from the 18th century is used for exhibitions, lectures and concerts.

Visit Hof ter Welle free of charge on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons. Would you like more detailed information? A guide will be happy to accompany you, also outside opening hours.

### — Opening hours

- **Wednesday:** 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **Sunday:** 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### — Entrance fees

Free

### — Address

Anna Piersdreef 2, 9120 Beveren

## The Castles of Beveren:

### Practical information

Tourism Beveren, Gravenplein 8, 9120 Beveren.  
Check out our social media, Tourism Beveren, on Facebook and Instagram: #beverenverkennen

- +32 3 750 15 80
- [toerisme@beveren.be](mailto:toerisme@beveren.be)
- [Waterburch Cortewalle | Beveren](#)
- [Hof ter Saksen | Beveren](#)
- [Erfgoedhuis Hof ter Welle | Beveren](#)

### For group visits:

check out [www.beveren.be/groepsbezoeken](http://www.beveren.be/groepsbezoeken)

### Hiking and cycling routes

The signposted castles walk allows you to discover all the castles of Beveren. You can find a map at the tourist information desk in the town hall or on: [www.beveren.be/toerisme](http://www.beveren.be/toerisme).



# Castles in **WEST FLANDERS**

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## CASTLE OF LOPPEM

A stone's throw from Bruges lies the stately Castle of Loppem, in the middle of a romantic English garden with centuries-old trees, ponds and a maze. The impressive monument was built in the mid-19th century in a style that was very fashionable at the time, the Neo-Gothic. It is a total work of art: the exterior and interior are in perfect harmony. Englishman Edward Welby Pugin designed the furniture, while Jean-Baptiste Bethune – known as the founder of the Saint-Lucas schools – designed the interior: the stained-glass windows, the chandeliers, the staircases and fireplaces, etc. Everything was made by local artisans with considerable craftsmanship.

In the final days of the First World War, in the autumn of 1918, the castle received a high-profile visit: King Albert I and Queen Elisabeth took up residence here for a month. The king appointed a new government while based here. The so-called 'government of Loppem' introduced, among other things, universal single voting rights – though for the time being only for men.

A visit to the Castle of Loppem is both a journey through time and

a journey around the world. The Neo-Gothic interiors and living quarters downstairs reveal how a noble family lived over a hundred years ago. A stately staircase takes you to the first floor, where you can peek inside the family chapel. You can also see the room where Albert and Elisabeth stayed. In separate rooms you can enjoy the collections of Jean and Roland van Caloen, two former lords of the castle who were passionate art collectors. You will discover amazing works from the Middle Ages, as well as Asian and African art.

### Opening hours

**14 November to end of February inclusive:** closed

**March – mid-November:** open from 1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (closing days: see website)

Groups can visit during the castle's closing, subject to reservation.

### Entrance fees

**Individual visitors:**

- Under 4 years of age: free
- From 4 to 18 years: € 4



- +18 years: € 8
- Discounted fees: see [website](#)

### Groups as of 15 persons

- Under 4 years of age: free
- From 4 to 18 years: € 4
- +18 years: € 6
- 

### Combi groups (castle + maze):

- -18 years: € 5
- +18 years: € 7

### Practical information

Steenbrugsestraat 26  
8210 Zedelgem-Loppem

### Bookings:

- [info@kasteelvanloppem.be](mailto:info@kasteelvanloppem.be)
- +32 50 82 22 45
- +32 496 40 35 90
- [www.kasteelvanloppem.be](http://www.kasteelvanloppem.be)

### Hiking and cycling routes

The Castle of Loppem lies on the [Green Belt Bruges cycling route](#) and on the [Brugse Ommeland node network](#). Hikers will love the [Sint-Maartenspad](#) (13 km).





## CASTLE D'AERTRYCKE



The history of the Domain d'Aertrycke dates back to the year 1865. In that year, August de Maere, the spiritual father of the port of Zeebrugge, got his hands on a domain in Torhout. He had a Neo-Gothic castle built there, and in 1897 – in the meantime he had been elevated to the nobility – he received permission to add 'd'Aertrycke' to his name.

One of his descendants, Xavier de Maere became known as the second-in-command of the Belgian South Pole expedition in 1958-59. After his mother's death, he partly opened up the domain. Now you can relax in the 55-hectare castle park with ponds, garden arbours and loop-shaped avenues - designed by the renowned garden architect Louis Fuchs.

Today, the castle serves as a restaurant and banquet hall. It is the dream location for weddings (it has its own wedding chapel), receptions,

garden parties, corporate banquets, meetings and seminars. The former coach house has been converted into a bistro.

### Opening hours

#### Restaurant:

- Open on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon
- On weekdays for groups of 25 or more persons

#### Bistro:

- Open on Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday afternoon
- Open every day in July and August

### Practical information

Zeeweg 42, 8820 Torhout  
 • [www.kasteeldaertrycke.be](http://www.kasteeldaertrycke.be)  
 • [info@kasteeldaertrycke.be](mailto:info@kasteeldaertrycke.be)

Matthieu Spruytte

- +32 477 35 22 45

### Hiking and cycling routes

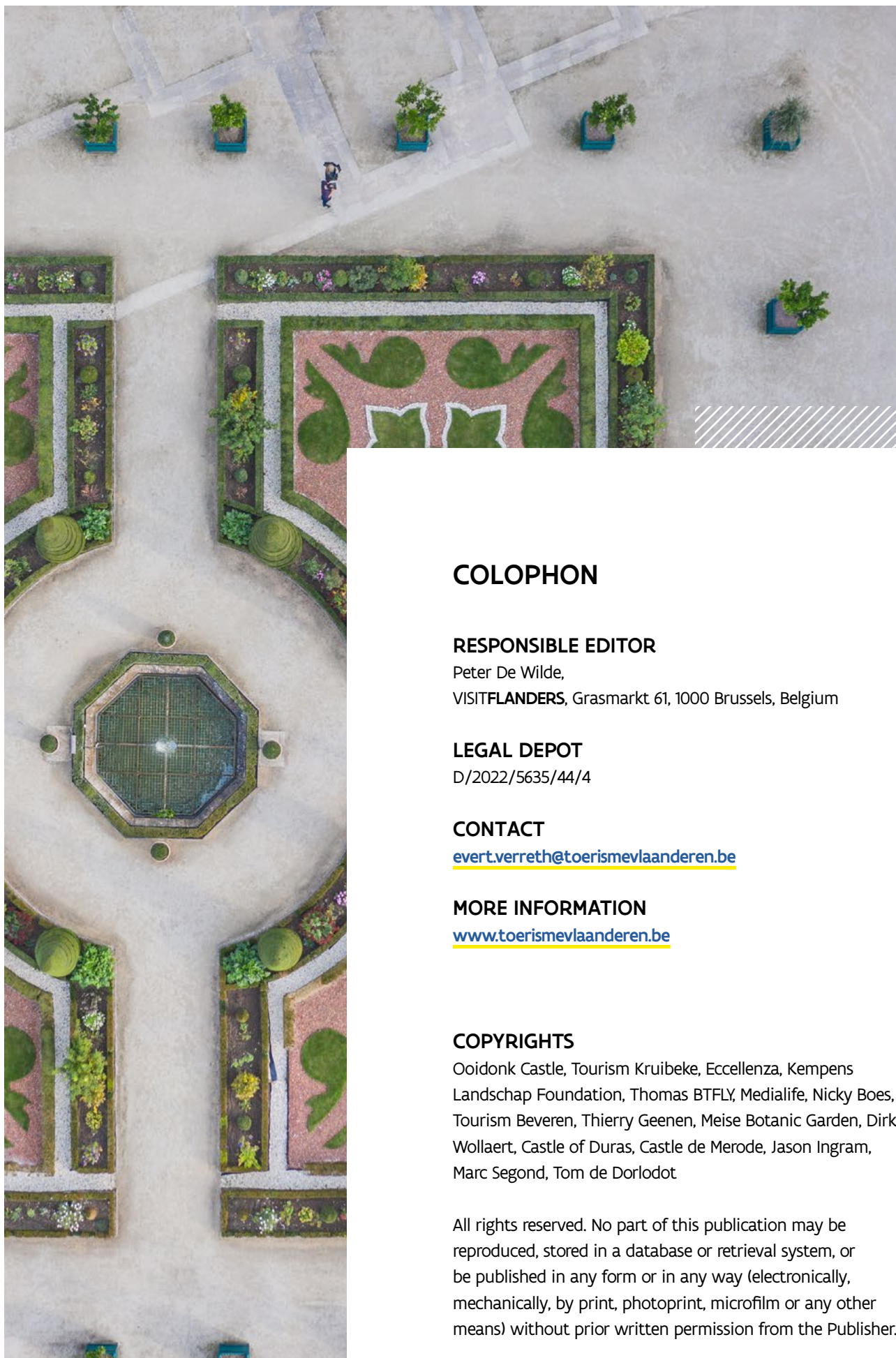
Various hiking routes pass by the castle domain:

the 'Schadde' walk d'Aertrycke (4 km), the Fuchs walk d'Aertrycke (1,5 km) and the 'Kobbe' walk d'Aertrycke (3 km). The Green 62 (22 km) is a hiking and cycling route.

And three more cycling routes pass by as well:

Cycle between Ichtegem and Torhout (32 km), Castles and mustard (44 km) en de Torhout mountain bike route (57 km).





## COLOPHON

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