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This brochure is a first introduction to our little town Borgloon, the Pearl of Haspengouw¹, in a beautiful scenery with PIT². cycling, hiking, staying the night, nature, culture and monuments, relaxation and local products or having a drink in a cosy outdoor café ... For any questions you can always contact the desk of the Borgloon tourist office. The staff will be pleased to help you. Moreover, you can find everything in detail on www.borgloon.be. We invite you to come and enjoy the peace and quiet and the scenery and we wish you a pleasant stay.

The Mayor and Alderwoman for Tourism

1. region in Belgium - 2. spirit, but also stone (fruit)
ENCOUNTER WITH A RICH PAST

Borgloon, a charming town situated in hilly Haspengouw, was once a fortified town from which the Counts of Loon ruled their county, which at its height equalled the present province of Limburg in size. The name Borgloon is made up of ‘Borg’ and ‘Loon’ which means ‘Fortress in the middle of a wooded hill’. Numerous places of interest refer to the rich cultural-historical past of our “little town of counts”.

The town hall
The town hall, also popularly known as ‘s Grevenhuis, was once the home of the Counts of Loon. The stained glass windows in the council chamber with the blazons of the 10 cities of Borgloon, the statue of Our Lady with Child (17th century), the 12th-century treasury and the 17th-century rack are very much worth seeing.

Klappoel
The relief was restored on the small square next to the town hall, which served as a washing and bleaching place in the past. Steps were worked out in the natural slope, creating a theatrical space. This is the perfect location for organising all kinds of activities, a meeting place for the inhabitants and a place of relaxation for visitors to the town.

Kanunnikenhuis
On het Speelhof, the square in front of the church, there is het Kanunnikenhuis (EN: The House of Canons) (1670), now the administrative centre of the town.
St. Odulf church

The St. Odulf church was originally built in Romanesque style and dates from the 11th century. A Gothic tower was added in 1406. Both the exterior and the interior have been kept sober in Romanesque style. The church is home to many remarkable art treasures. Beginning December 2020, you can visit the restored church again.

De Grote Mot

At the foot of De Burchtheuvel, in the Mot valley, lies the fortified country house 'De Grote Mot' (The Great Mot) (1661). It is thought that there used to be a fortification or lowland castle. The core of the Meuse-style castle dates from 1661. The last restoration and renovation of the castle in neo-traditional style took place in 1976 and 1982.

Burchtheuvel

Close to the church, hidden behind the library building, at 118m above sea level lies De Burchtheuvel. At the time, the castle of the Counts of Loon (10th-12th century) stood here. The heavily dilapidated castle remained standing until 1870. From the top of De Burchtheuvel you can enjoy a magnificent view over the whole of South-Haspengouw.

Rivet walk

The walk ‘In the wake of the Counts of Loon’ (± 4 km) takes you along the most beautiful spots of our little town of counts. Just follow the rivets on the pavement. An accompanying brochure with background information is available at the tourist office (€ 3.00).
Ten castles guard dominantly on the hilltops or hide in the valleys. Every one of them are gems that symbolise a rich past.

Rullingen Castle is a water castle from the 17th century. The 13 ha domain includes the castle with moat, a geometric French garden, a park forest, a valuable fruit tree orchard with hundreds of fruit trees and a large vineyard of 1 ha.

Hulsberg Castle (1882) was built on a hill 108 metres above sea level. Because of this hilltop site, the castle is a striking landmark in the scenery.

The oldest mention of the Mariagaarde Castle in Hoepertingen dates to 1150. In the 17th and 18th century, it was converted into a beautiful noble mansion.

The borough of Gors-Opleeuw has no less than three beautiful castles: the Gors Castle, the Opleeuw Castle and the Bellevue Castle. It is not a coincidence that Gors-Opleeuw was nominated as one of the most beautiful villages in Flanders in 2008. The Gors Castle can be visited in group on reservation at www.kasteelgors.be.

There are two castles in Bommershoven. The Bommershoven Castle and the Terhove Castle. The Rijkel Castle is a 17th-century U-shaped water castle. The De Klee Castle is situated on a domain that used to belong to the heritage of the Herkenrode Abbey. Nowadays, only a mansion dating from 1907 with a 17th-century corner tower and a square farm remains.

Various castle routes, by bike or car, are available at our tourist office. Castles are not accessible except for the Gors Castle after reservation.
Serene simplicity and tranquillity can be found in the Mariënlof Abbey in Kerniel. The name “Colen”, as the abbey is called in popular speech, refers to ‘Maria van Colen’, who founded the abbey for Crutched Friars in 1438.

The abbey is private property and cannot be visited.
Colenstraat 1, 3840 Borgloon.
**The Brigittine Monastery**

This monastery used to belong to Brigittine monks. The U-shaped core dates from 1650-1663, but the buildings were rebuilt several times afterwards. The neo-Gothic monastery chapel dates from 1868.

The monastery garden is freely accessible from April 1 to October 31 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Nieuwland 11, 3840 Borgloon.

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**The Romanesque-Gothic Graethem chapel**

The Romanesque-Gothic Graethem chapel (Dutch: Graethemkapel) is the burial place of Louis I, Count of Loon (+1171) and his wife Countess Agnes (+1175). The whitewashed walls of the interior, which serves as exhibition area at the moment, are embellished with various murals (14th – 17th century).

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**Helshoven Chapel**

Already in the middle of the 13th century the hamlet of Helshoven was a regional place of pilgrimage where Our Lady of Peace was venerated. The Helshoven Chapel, located on the old Roman road, was founded in 1254. Later, a hermitage was attached to it. The last hermit died in 1908. The present chapel dates from 1659.
FRUIT
FRUITS, THE PEARLS OF HASPENGOUW

Hundreds of thousands of fruit trees full of fresh fruit, as far as the eye can see. In Haspengouw this fairy tale scene is part of everyday life. Therefore, you are in the centre of the fruit region.

Fresh, juicy fruit

In the area, everything smells and tastes like fresh, juicy fruit. That creates magical moments. From the opening of the blossoms to the picking of the ripe fruits.

Tons of fruit find their way to the BelOrta site in Borgloon. With a direct employment of approximately 150 people, this fruit auction is one of the most important employers in South-Haspengouw. In addition, the company has built up a reputation as the most important cooperative fruit sales organisation of some 1,000 high-quality professional growers in the region. The BelOrta site in Borgloon is the market leader in the sale of strawberries and summer fruits including a wide range of berries (red currants, blueberries, blackberries, raspberries), sour cherries and cherries.

During the winter months, more than 70,000 tonnes of apples and pears from the Limburg and Visé regions are commercialised. The BelOrta quality label guarantees quality fruit that meets the strictest standards in terms of hygiene and safety. Through successive logistical and commercial investments in Borgloon, BelOrta is further anchoring itself in Limburg and strengthening its position as a hub for the fruit trade in Belgium.

Group visits are possible upon reservation at the tourist office.
HOME OF THE SIRUP PRODUCTION

The old syrup factory of Borgloon is one of the last remainders of the industrial processing of fruit into syrup. At the beginning of the last century, Borgloon was the home of the syrup production, which earned the inhabitants the nickname of Straoplekkers³. The factory was founded in 1878, but in 1988 the activity ceased. Part of the factory, including the complete installation, was listed as a protected monument in 1999. In 2005, the Borgloon city council purchased the syrup factory to prevent further decay.
After an intense restoration, you can discover the story of the Loonse Stroop in the brand-new fruit experience centre since April 2019. A floating pathway takes you to the former Stroopkamer and the experience centre. Along the way you will visit the syrup production.

This unique industrial archaeological site also houses the new tourist reception. After your visit you can go there to spoil your taste buds. Come and visit the shop selling local products, which provides plenty of inspiration to get to work with in your own kitchen. If you like to go out for dinner, you must visit bistro De Smaakfabriek on the ground floor of the syrup factory.

The syrup factory is the best place to learn about the Haspengouw fruit history and it is the ideal starting point to discover the fruit region.

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3. Those who lick syrup.
4. Syrup that is made in the Borgloon syrup factory.
5. Room in the experience centre where you are introduced to the process of syrup making based on various exhibition modules.
The experience centre can be visited every day between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. (last ticket sale at 3.30 p.m.). Closed on Mondays except for school holidays. Groups upon reservation. The tourist reception with the shop selling local products is open every day from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

**De Smaakfabriek**

Limburger Giovani Oosters and his team conjure up genuine and delicious regional dishes here.

**De Strooplekker**

On the cobbled courtyard of het Kanunnikenhuis on het Speelhof stands the statue of de Strooplekker, the nickname of the inhabitants. De Strooplekker is a cheerful little man who represents our rich past and refers to the product that used to be mass-produced here. His head is an apple and his body a pear. These are the fruits that we traditionally have been growing in this region.

The interactive course tells you all about the Haspengouw fruit and its processing.
There is nothing that brings out the value of the soil more than a good glass of wine. And that is precisely what Haspengouw excels at. After all, the best wine of the ‘North’ is made on the fertile Haspengouw slopes.

In Borgloon and the surrounding area there was already wine growing between the 12th and 15th century. That this craft played an important role at that time is shown by the fact that the wine guild was one of the seven city guilds. Borgloon has several recognized wineries, which supply high quality products.
De Groete Mot & De Clee Winery
Borgloon and Kuttekoven

In 1989, a group of wine enthusiasts planted a vineyard in the Mot valley “de Groote Mot”. Later, in 1995, de Gilde der Loonse Wynluyden came into existence. A new extension followed in 2010 when the vineyard on the domain of the De Clee castle in Kuttekoven was planted. The first wine kasteel De Clee was bottled in 2013.

www.wijngildeborgloon.be

Hoenshof Winery
Hoepertingen

Hoenshof Winery has four vineyards within walking distance of each other. The valley of the Herk\(^6\) radiates its warm glow and tranquillity over the vineyards. The incision of the valley protects the vines in winter against the bleak east and north winds, while in summer the sunny southern flanks can be enjoyed to the full. On the other side of the water lies a beautiful nature reserve. It provides a haven of peace. In this tranquillity, the Hoenshof wines ripen in a modern and technically well-equipped wine cellar since 2002.

www.puurwijn.be


Clos d’Opleeuw Winery
Gors-Opleeuw

This winery takes its name from the entire walled vineyard with a slope of 7%. The French call this ‘clos’, a name that has been protected in Belgium since 2002.

www.clos-d-opleeuw.be
Optimbulles Winery
Jesseren

Vintners Guy Geunis, Maxim Geunis, Theo Pasque and Rik Schreurs started a vineyard in Jesseren (Hoogveld) in the 90s. They decided to focus on sparkling wines from the three Champagne grapes Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier. Optimbulles makes it a point of honour to be as natural as possible and not to sweeten the wines. So they are called Brut Nature. Since a few years, standard apples from Borgloon are also used to make sparkling wine. Besides the sparkling wines, Optimbulles also makes red and white natural wines.

www.optimbulles.be

Cuvelier Winery
Jesseren and Kerniel

The winery has vineyards in Jesseren and Kerniel. Spread over an area of about 2.5 hectares there are about 12,000 vines. They mainly produce sparkling wines but also red and white wines. Cuvelier Winery is convinced that in order to obtain the right aromas, the grapes must be perfectly ripe for the harvest.

www.cubiz.be

The only way to convince yourself of the quality of Haspengouw wine is to come and taste it, in all peace and quiet and in good company.
Clos Les Ramiers Winery
Gotem
The Clos Les Ramiers winery is located in the picturesque village of Gotem. Carole Vandionant started with Chardonnay in 2012. Later Cabernet Cortis, Cabernet Dorsa, Würzer, Johanniter, Muscaris, Muscat Bleu and Dornfelder followed. The range of wines is very varied: red, white, rosé, sparkling and ice wines.

www.closlesramiers.be

Sassenbroek Winery
Broekom
The north-south oriented slope, with its calcareous soil, is ideal for growing wine grapes of French origin to produce sparkling wine. The Claire Martin received the recognition 'Flemish quality sparkling wine'.

www.wijndomeinsassenbroek.be

Het Heuvelswijnhuisje
Kerniel
At het Heuvelswijnhuisje in Kerniel fruity and honest wines are produced. The vineyard has about 3000 vines with as main varieties Muller-Thurgau, Sieger and Ortega for the white wine and Vroege Loonse and Dornfelder for the red wine.
ENJOY NATURE

In Borgloon, the blossom and fruit town of Haspengouw, the nature is unique and beautiful. Picturesque villages, hilly landscapes, beautiful orchards and opulent fields. The ideal place to enjoy nature.

In April, thousands of fruit trees - with the promise of a rich harvest - will become gigantic bouquets of blossoms.

Peace, space and oxygen, three assets that make Haspengouw the pre-eminent hiking region.

Both nature and town walks will lead you past beautiful and unique places. Thanks to the Greenspots7 of the Regional Landscape Haspengouw8, you will discover the region in optimal conditions.

The encounter with Borgloon would not be complete without touring the old land of Loon! Cycling from junction to junction via the Limburg cycle route network or following a castle route, a blossom and fruit route ... everything is possible in Borgloon.
Via the Greenspot Grootloon you enter an age-old landscape with wooded hilltops and extensive standard orchards. Haspengouw stands for cycling and hiking but of course we also warmly welcome all car drivers and motorbike fans.

The tourist office has a wide range of key maps at its disposal.

Renting a Bike
Simply book your bike online at www.fietsparadijslimburg.be. Be sure to do so in time during busy periods (summer holidays, long weekends, blossoming period ...) or when you’re with a larger group, to avoid that all bikes are already gone.

7. Well-maintained walking areas with signposted hiking trail over various distances in the beautiful Haspengouw.
8. In Flanders: The organization that aims to protect and enhance the great cultural, historical and natural value of a landscape.
TIPS FOR KIDS

“The Syrup Gourmets”

The fruit experience centre is ideal for a visit with children. Upon arrival, they will pick up a brochure. Cornelis and Mia playfully take the children along to discover the story of the fruit region and the syrup factory. Along the route there are assignments specially designed for a young audience.

0-3 years free, 4-18 years 1 euro

‘Scavanger hunt’ for kids between 5 and 12 years old

Come “nosing around” in our treasure chest. However, before the chest reveals its secrets, the children must first find “the key word”. During a hike along culture, art and nature, they solve all kinds of questions with which they can figure out this word.

Departure from the tourist office. Price: € 3.00/child
“PIT”, art in the open space

You really do not only find art in dusty museum rooms. During a nature hike there is suddenly a work of art in front of you. That is what we call art in the open space. In addition, there are a lot of things you can do in nature that you are not allowed to do in a museum. You can walk, talk, play, shout ... Even touching the works of art is allowed!

At the Borgloon tourist office, you can get a collection of to-do and sightseeing tips that you can use with every work of art.

“Play orchard”

On the Roman road, amidst the hills and orchards, lies the play and experience orchard of Grootloon. Here you will find lots of fruity facts, a peaceful picnic area and some play elements such as a giant hammock ...

Near the wooden shelter there is also a public barbecue area. You can use this barbecue after making a reservation at the Borgloon youth service. After reservation you will receive all the information needed to barbecue in a unique environment.

More information: www.belevingsboomgaard.be/de-barbecue
On foot: greenspot hike Grootloon: blue: 5.5 km, orange: 8.5 km, yellow: 12.5 km. By bike: between cycle junction 151 and 155

Photo search for young and old ‘Pearl with PIT’

Come and discover Borgloon through a series of photos. You will get the directions for free. Can you crack the numeric code? Hurry to the tourist office for a nice present.

Departure from the tourist office. Price: € 3.00.
ART WITH PIT IN THE SCENERY OF BORGLOON

Art, heritage and scenery, the three key ingredients for a surprising cultural visit to Borgloon. They come together in the PIT-project - Art in the open space of Borgloon.

This artistic project of the Province of Limburg is unique in Flanders and far beyond. The works of art allow passers-by and visitors to look at the environment in a different way. Both established names and young talent went to work in Haspengouw. Currently, six high-profile works of art can be admired.

You can obtain a free key map at the tourist office.
According to the British newspaper The Guardian the most beautiful place in Belgium!
LANDMARKS:
THE SCENERY OF BORGLOON

Landmark Roman Villa
At the Bollenberg in Borgloon lies the Roman villa landmark. This design by artist Hans Lemmen reminds you of the importance of Haspengouw and its unique landscape for the Romans. Along the Romeinse Kassei (the Roman route Tongeren-Tienen) you have a breathtaking panorama of the Roman landscape. The artist placed five terracotta-coloured concrete benches there that refer to the basic shape of a Roman villa house. On the benches you will find more information about the Roman villas that were found in the area.

Attention: the landmark is not accessible by car. You can park your car on the parking place at Sint-Truidenseweg, between Grootloonstraat and Neremstraat. Choose for:

- the bicycle to paddle between junctions 151 and 155 of the cycle route network Limburg;
- the walking shoes to follow the walking routes of Greenspot Grootloon, starting at the parking place.

Address: Romeinse Kassei, 3840 Borgloon
Visit: the landmark is freely accessible.
Archaeological landmark Jesseren

The archaeological landmark in Jesseren is definitely worth a visit. A contemporary signpost with shapes of the excavated grave goods leads you to an orientation table. This table is located at a relaxation and picnic area. The orientation table has the shape of the Gallo-Roman well that was excavated here. You can discover the story of this Gallo-Roman site, but also of seven other interesting archaeological sites in the wider area. A third section is located in the slope of the large water basin. You can read the Latin word ‘Aqua’ with next to it an arrow pointing to the bottom. This arrow points to a largely preserved stone well from Gallo-Roman times.

Address: Bosstraat 1, 3840 Borgloon
Freely accessible

360° viewpoint of the Haspengouw blossom

On the roof of assisted-living centre Orelia Puthof you will find a viewpoint overlooking Haspengouw. On one side you have a view on the town Borgloon, on the other side you can see the church of Kuttekoven, the chimney of the ancient syrup factory ... while on the horizon you discover the slag heaps in Genk. Wherever you look, the view is breathtaking, especially during the flowering season! Even cyclists and walkers who pass the assisted-living centre along the route network can take a look before they have a bite to eat or a drink in our cafeteria.

Address: Puthofveld 4, 3840 Borgloon
Freely accessible
DISCOVER HASPENGOUW

Tongeren, a trip through time
A trip to Tongeren, the oldest town of Belgium, has a surprising contemporary charm. Along the way you will come across one historical sight after another: from Roman ramparts and medieval towers to a Gothic basilica and a charming beguinage. To top it all off, you can visit the Gallo-Roman Museum or the Teseum (treasury and archaeological site)!

www.toerismetongeren.be

Rural Heers
Does Heers have unique assets for an unforgettable stay? Absolutely! Tranquillity, hospitality, nature, history and lots of possibilities to experience the ultimate relaxation with your family. Like a full fruit basket from which you pick the most delicious experiences.

www.heers.be/toerisme

Bilzen, the centre of the castle landscape
The jewel in the Bilzen crown is the impressive Alden Biesen Castle. You can come here to visit the castle, take a quiet ride through the region with the green carts, take a relaxing walk or an exciting and relaxing bike ride. During the day, you can join actress Joke Devynck in exploring the entire domain to solve ‘The Conspiracy’ of Bilzen Mysteries. After sunset, a virtual actor (Jan Decler) will take you on an enchanting time travel during ‘The Story’.

www.bezoekbilzen.be
www.bilzenmysteries.be

Riemst, wines and marl
Riemst hides a lot of special landscapes! Above ground wide views, beautiful nature and top attractions such as the Wine Castle of Genoels-Elderen and The Bridge of Vroenhoven. Underground you descend into a system of corridors and caves of about 300 km long.

www.toerismeriemst.be

Sint-Truiden, capital of Haspengouw
The fruit town and sixth monumental town of Flanders gives you a taste of its rich past. The historic town centre and surrounding church villages are bathed in the most beautiful blossoms. Let yourself be touched by the beautiful sceneries that you can discover through numerous cycling and hiking routes.

www.visitsintruiden.be
A DAY OUT IN BORGLOON

For a group visit you can find all the possibilities at www.borgloon.be/groepsbezoeken

Practical information

Please confirm your reservation in writing. Let us know the correct number of people at least one week before your visit. The number of visitors communicated will be charged. The tourist office cannot be held liable for any accidents that may occur during your day trip, nor for any changes to prices or programmes, regardless of its will. In this case, an equivalent programme will be proposed.

Borgloon Tourist Office, Tourist reception at the syrup factory
Stationsplein 8, 3840 Borgloon
T: +32 (0)12 67 36 53 / +32 (0)12 67 36 54 / +32 (0)12 67 36 57
E-Mail: toerisme@borgloon.be

Guided tour: €60.00 for each started tour with a max. of 2 hours. €30.00 for each hour following the first 2 hours. Maximum 20 people per guide.

STAYING IN BORGLOON

To spend a night in Borgloon consult our website: www.borgloon.be/overnachten
Tourist reception syrup factory
Stationsplein 8, 3840 Borgloon
T +32 (0)12 67 36 53 | +32 (0)12 67 36 54 | +32 (0)12 67 36 57
toerisme@borgloon.be | www.visitborgloon.be
info@stroopfabriek.be | www.stroopfabriek.be

Opening hours:
Every day from 10h until 17h

Closing days:
January 1st
The 2nd Sunday of spring half-term (Carnival Sunday)
November 1st
December 24th & 25th
December 31st

Main places of interest:
1. Town hall
2. Speelhof: House of Canons (Stroplekker figure)
3. St. Odulf church
4. Burchtheuvel
5. De Grote Mot
6. Fruit auction Borgloon
7. Brigitte Monastery
8. Experience centre Syrup factory
9. Graethem chapel

Free parking:
P1. Graaf
P2. Graaf Ladewijkplein
P3. Nieuwland (School)
P4. Sports centre
P5. Stationsplein (not to be used on Saturdays in morning during the flea market)
P6. Fruit auction
P7. College (not during school hours)
P8. Walstraat – Kanunnik Darisstraat (not during school hours)