



Holiday Homes
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Belgium
Wallonia

WALLONIA

FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Water sports, interactive history,
green adventures and so much more

DISCOVER YOUR NEW FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION



01 Tombeau
du Géant

**“THE UNSPOILED SOUTHERN
REGION OF BELGIUM IS MADE
UP OF CHARMING LITTLE
TOWNS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE
AND PICTURESQUE VILLAGES”**



WELCOME

Your guide to a family-friendly holiday in southern Belgium

If you're looking to offer your kids a taste of a different culture and a change of scenery without having to wander too far from home, Wallonia is the place to go. The unspoiled southern region of Belgium is made up of charming little towns in the countryside and picturesque villages that you'll feel compelled to recommend to others, as well as unique attractions in unexpected spots and a stunning variety of natural landscapes.

What's more, because of its proximity to the UK, Wallonia couldn't be easier to get to. Thanks to Eurotunnel le Shuttle, you can cross the channel in 35 minutes without having to step foot out of your car, and be in Belgium within an hour and a half of arriving in Calais. It only takes around

three hours to get from one side of Wallonia to the other, so you can see a lot of it and keep everyone entertained without spending most of your time driving.

Wallonia is a destination that caters to all budgets, tastes and types of trip, from spontaneous mini-breaks to a fortnight away. Holiday home renter NOVASOL has a fantastic selection of affordable and comfortable accommodation for groups of all ages and sizes dotted throughout the region. Whether you're a family of outdoor adventurers, tourist hot spot-lovers or thrill-seekers, in Wallonia you'll find everything you need for an unforgettable holiday that will have you planning your next visit before you're even home.

04.

Putting Wallonia on the map

Get to grips with the geography of the region

10.

Make a splash

Wallonia's assortment of water sports and parks

16.

Home away from home

Find your dream accommodation with NOVASOL

06.

A force of nature

The animals and natural wonders of Wallonia

12.

A blast from the past

Unearth the region's rich and dramatic history

18.

Stop at nothing

Speedy, stress-free travel for the whole family – pets included – with Eurotunnel le Shuttle

08.

The power of technology

Discover a world of innovation

14.

Fun and games

Crowd-pleasing entertainment everywhere you go

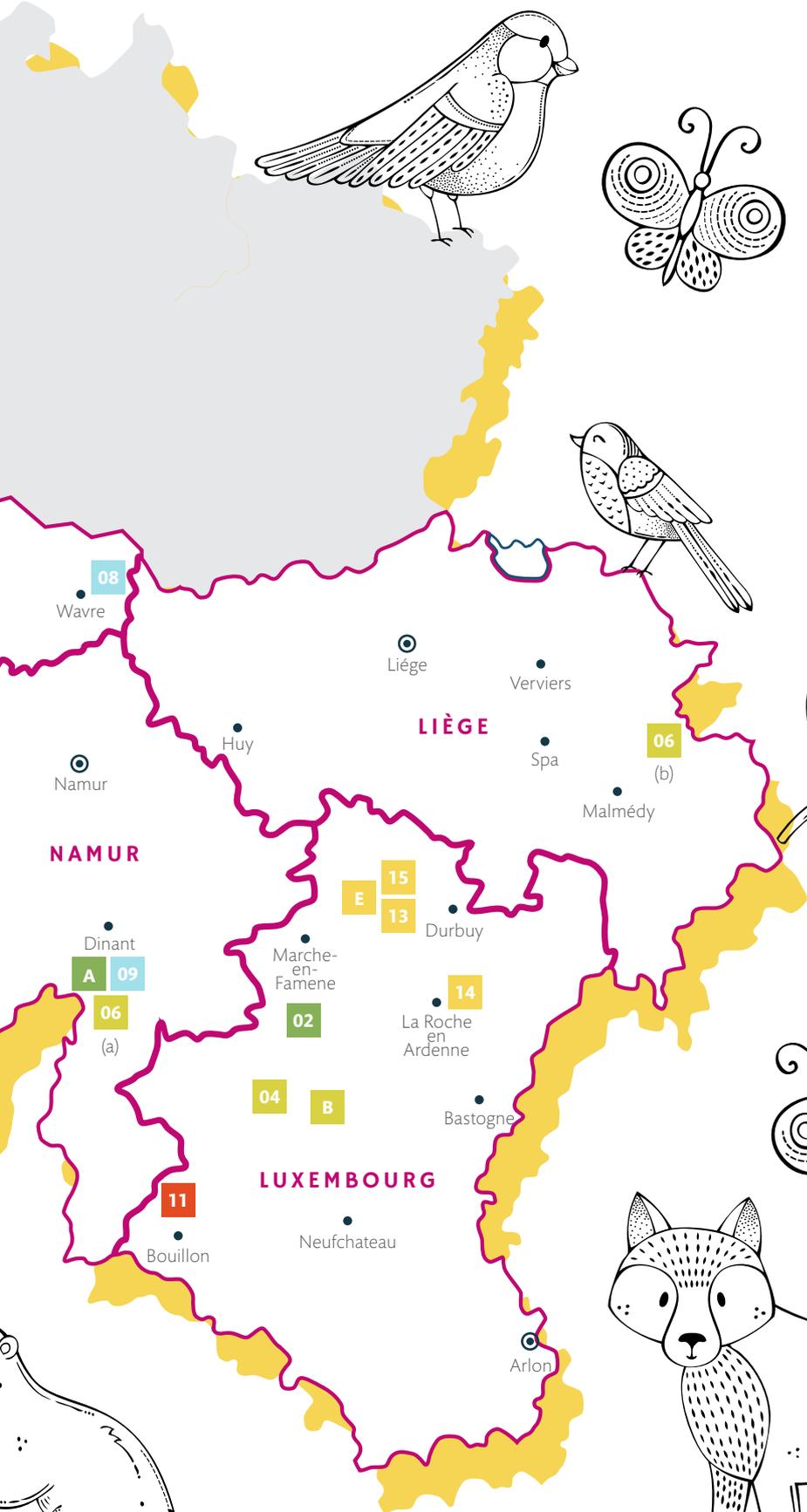


PUTTING WALLONIA ON THE MAP

Get to grips with the geography of the region

- 01**
Pari Daiza
- 02**
Domaine des Grottes de Han
- 03**
Aquascope Virelles
- 04**
Euro Space Center
- 05**
Strephy-Thieu boat lift
- 06**
Rail Bike de La Molinee (a)
Rail Bike des Hautes Fagnes (b)
- 07**
Les Lacs de l'Eau d'Heure
- 08**
Aqualibi
- 09**
Kayaking on the river Lesse
- 10**
Waterloo 1815
- 11**
Chateau de Bouillon
- 12**
Hitler's Hideout
- 13**
La Petite Merveille
- 14**
Parc Chlorophylle
- 15**
Labyrinthe de Durbuy





NOVASOL PROPERTIES

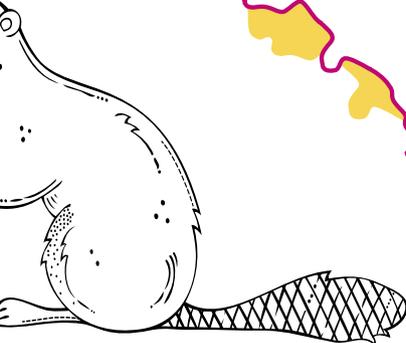
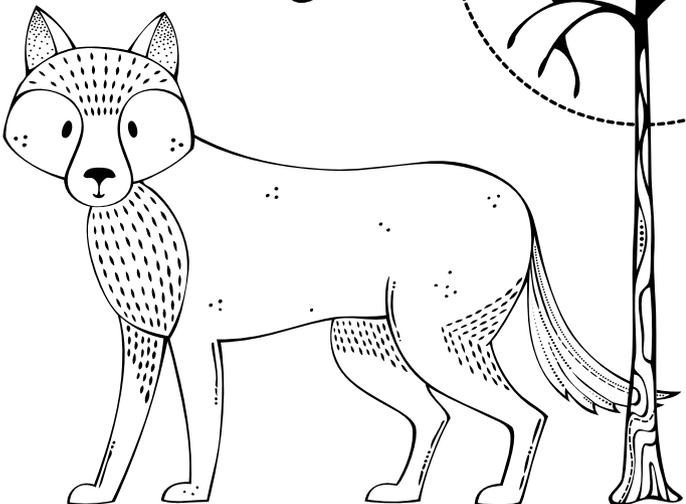
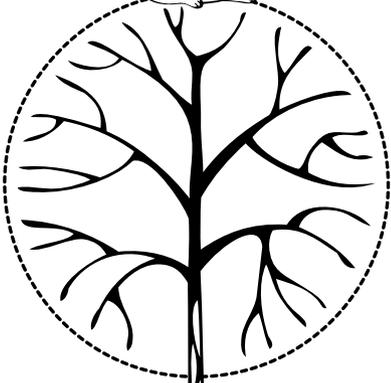
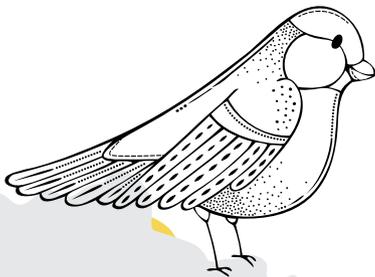
A
Property ID: BNA050

B
Property ID: BLX032

C
Property ID: BNA126

D
Property ID: BHE001

E
Property ID: BLX121



A FORCE OF NATURE

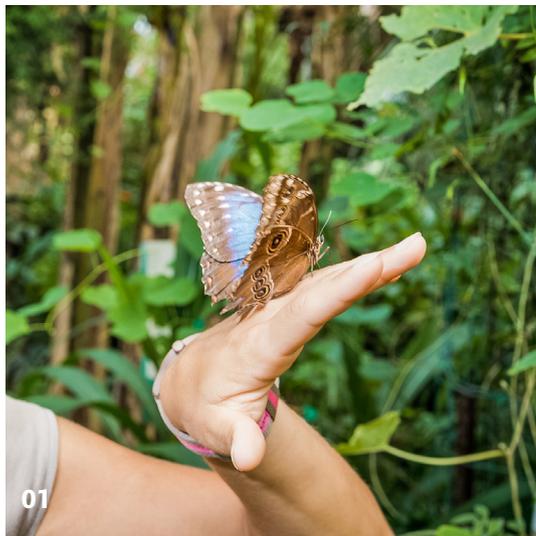
In Wallonia, you're never far from natural wonders and animals of all kinds

Zoological park and botanical garden **Pairi Daiza** is one of Belgium's top attractions, welcoming nearly two million visitors a year – and it won't take you long to see why once you set foot inside. Before you even pass through the turnstiles into the main area of the park, you'll be greeted by roaming peacocks and birds looking down on you from majestic nests high in the trees.

Everything about Pairi Daiza is unique and magical, and it's clearly tended to with care, expertise and attention to detail by a dedicated and passionate team. Originally opened as a bird garden in 1993, the immense park was later transformed into a 'garden of the world' after the owner was inspired by a trip to Asia. Today it is split into different continents made up of magnificent, authentic architecture and more than 4,000 animals from all corners of the globe, including pandas, koalas, orangutans and leopards.

Pairi Daiza has always been actively involved in the conservation of endangered species, from birds and mammals to fish and reptiles, and is a proud home to a number of rare species. The park is based on a 'wild and free' concept, so you'll see various animals wandering about as you explore – you may even end up with a lemur using you as a perch. Complete with a train taking visitors around the park, a wide range of restaurants, cafes and kiosks, numerous relaxation areas and lots to play with, Pairi Daiza is the place to go for an awe-inspiring day that will leave you wanting to come back again and again.

For an equally enchanting experience, and to introduce your kids to the natural phenomenon of caves, head to **Domaine des Grottes de Han** in the quaint village of Han-sur-Lesse. Not only do you get to discover one of the most beautiful caves in Europe through a guided tour, crowned with a spectacular underground sound and light show, but there's also a vast wildlife reserve next door. Within the 250 hectares of wilderness you'll find Europe's 'big five' – lynxes, wolverines, brown bears, European bison and wolves – among other mammals and birds, and can enjoy impressive views from the treetop walkways. After making your way round by foot, in the safari bus or a combination of the two, you can enjoy a refreshing drink by the cave's mouth at Le Pavillon while the children entertain themselves at the nearby playground.



WILD ABOUT WILDLIFE

Immerse yourself in the wonderful world of birds and wildlife at **Aquascope Virelles**. Centred around a remarkable 80-hectare pond dating back to the 15th century, it has an indoor centre where you'll learn about the pond's inhabitants and how it's taken care of throughout the seasons, a fun-filled nature trail along the water's edge, a playground, picnic areas and more. Within walking distance lies **La Grange aux Papillons**, a must-see butterfly farm that will have the whole family in a state of wonder.





MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

Located on the edge of a small holiday park in the beautiful Meuse Valley near the town of Dinant, this colourful property has seven bedrooms and can sleep up to 18 guests. The villa comes with spacious living areas both inside and outside, a wellness room featuring a jacuzzi and sauna, and an outdoor swimming pool with a separate children's pool.

Property ID: BNA050

To find out more go to novasol.co.uk



01
La Grange
aux Papillons
(WBT - Bruno D'Alimonte)

02
Aquascope Virelles
(WBT - Bruno D'Alimonte)

03
Domaine des Grottes
de Han
(WBT - David Samyn)

04
Paire Daiza
(WBT - David Samyn)

05
Pandas at Paire Daiza
(Paire Daiza)



THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY

Discover a world of innovation in Wallonia

Did you know that Wallonia is home to the **Euro Space Center**? Unique to Europe, this space odyssey is full of hands-on fun and one-of-a-kind cosmic activities, including a 5D space show, walking on the moon (yes, really!) and a Space Heroes role-play game. If you're a family of astronomy aficionados, you can sign up to a one or two-day mission and get the full space explorer experience – from training like an astronaut using simulators and building your own rocket to operating a galactic mission and learning what it's like to live in space. Whether you're an astronomy novice or a long-time fan of all things celestial, the Euro Space Center is a planet that everyone needs to visit.

Wallonia also has an impressive engineering feat to be proud of in the form of **Stréphy-Thieu** – the second tallest boat lift in the world. Located on the Canal du Centre in the province of Hainaut, it was built to replace four smaller lifts, which date from 1888 to 1919 and are

on the Unesco World Heritage list due to their architectural and historical value. You can marvel at these by walking or cycling along the canal, or hiring a small boat that's simple enough for anyone to have a go at steering.

Stréphy-Thieu took 20 years and 160 million euros to build, but was certainly a worthwhile investment as it now allows river traffic of up to the new 1350-tonne standard to pass between the waterways of the Meuse and l'Escaut rivers. You can experience this monumental construction for yourself via a boat cruise, which involves descending the 73m-tall drop and sailing along the canal. You can also enter the building that the lift forms a part of, inside which you'll find the astonishing machinery room, an exhibition and a superb panorama of the site and surrounding region. This innovative piece of engineering is truly unique to Wallonia – the only other boat lift that beats Stréphy-Thieu in size is in China – and is an eye-opening discovery for all who visit.

RIDE THE RAIL

For a slightly more old-school expedition, why not command a **rail bike** using your own pedalling power? A firm favourite among families and kids of all ages, these novel open-air vehicles are an entertaining way to explore Wallonia's stunning scenery via an old train route. Travelling on a railway track means you don't have to worry about steering and makes taking it in turns to pedal safe and easy, so everyone can have a go. There are two rail bike stations in Wallonia, one in the picturesque Molignée valley and another in the Hautes Fagnes, and each has routes of different lengths to choose from with pit stops along the way. Every vehicle can accommodate up to four passengers at a time.



MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

This spacious holiday home is perfect for large groups and serves as a great base for exploring the unspoiled countryside of the Ardennes. Situated on a private plot of land with meadows, ponds, a small river and generous garden, it has 10 bedrooms (five in the main building and five in an annex), two saunas, a recreation room with a pool table and a heated outdoor swimming pool.

Property ID: BLX032

To find out more go to novasol.co.uk



01
Euro Space Center
(Euro Space Center)

02
Euro Space Center
(WBT - J.P. Remy)

03
Canal du Centre
Historique Ascenseur
Hydraulique
(WBT - Bruno D'Alimonte)

04
Rail bike in
the Hautes Fagnes
(vnnbahn.eu)

MAKE A SPLASH

Dive in to Wallonia's assortment of water sports and parks

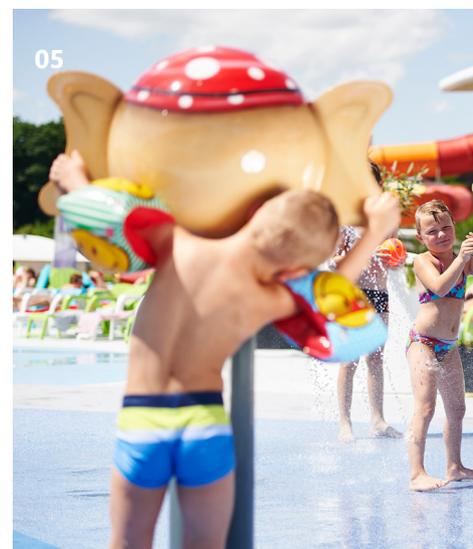
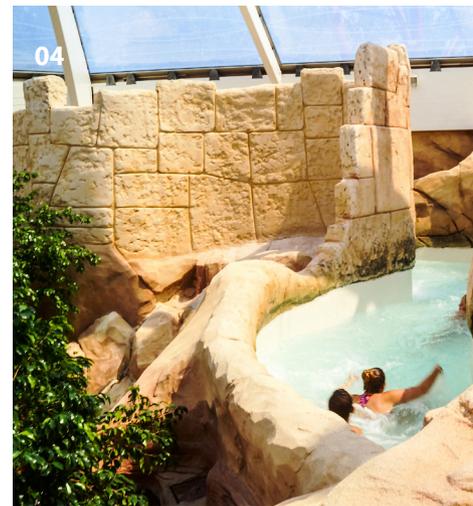
There's nothing quite like water-based fun to keep the whole family happy for hours on end. Having access to a water source is especially important during the warmer months, and Wallonia's array of lakes and rivers makes it the ideal summer holiday destination. One place in particular that caters for all wants and needs are the **Eau d'Heure Lakes**, the largest nautical space in Belgium. This sustainable, preserved natural area is made up of five lakes in total, with each one offering something different, and there's not much you can't do here. The water sports on offer include stand-up paddle boarding, sailing, windsurfing, jet- and water-skiing, scuba diving and wakeboarding, and you can also try your hand at aqua golf or board the Red Crocodile Amphibious Bus, a unique contraption that takes passengers on a tour through the water.

The merriment doesn't stop there. Next to the lakes lies one of the complex's most popular attractions – an aqua centre featuring multiple pools, a jacuzzi, spray park, an 'infinity jump' slide, games and sun loungers. There are also two designated swimming areas within the lakes and pedalos available for hire. To explore the rich natural scenery surrounding the water, make the most of another of Wallonia's defining features, the RAVel network – 1,350km of disused railway lines and canal towpaths that have been converted into dedicated paths for cyclists and hikers. There are 42 different routes covering the whole region, one of which will take you round the Eau d'Heure Lakes.

Further north in Wallonia is another wet playground in the form **Aqualibi**, Belgium's most famous water park and a dream day out for kids. Think hot tubs, waves, pools and, of course, super slides. Complete with deckchairs and a restaurant, Aqualibi has everything covered, and there's something for all ages.

TAKE TO THE WATER

Wallonia's rivers Lesse and Ourthe can be found in the spectacular Ardennes, weaving through stunning landscapes decorated with medieval castles, prehistoric caves and dramatic rock formations. Head to the beautiful **city of Dinant** and hire a **kayak or canoe** for a leisurely cruise in this captivating setting.



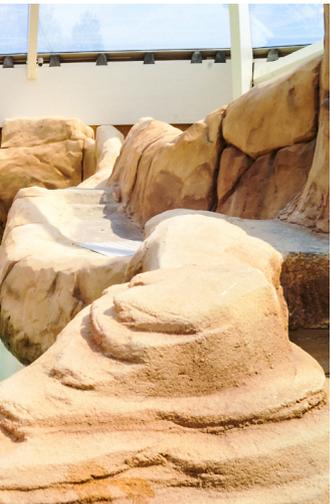


MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

This rustic wooden bungalow is part of a holiday park in Oignies-en-Thiérache offering lots of family-friendly activities, including table tennis, badminton, signposted walks and a playground that kids will love. Perched at the edge of the Ardennes and surrounded by lush forest, it has three bedrooms that can sleep up to seven guests.

Property ID: BNA126

To find out more go to novasol.co.uk



06



01
Scenic kayaking on the Ourthe river in Durbuy (MT Ourthe et Aisne - C. Mottet)

02
La Petite Merveille (WBT - Bruno D'Alimonte)

03
Aqualibi (Belpark)

04
Aqualibi (FTBW)

05
Les Lacs de l'Eau d'Heure Aquacentre (Francoise Ribaucourt)

06
A family picnicking at the Eau d'Heure Lakes (WBT - David Samyn)

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Unearth Wallonia's rich and dramatic history

On the surface Wallonia may seem like a peaceful region full of quaint towns and splendid natural scenery, but dig a little deeper and you'll find that Belgium's southern half actually has a sensational past. Perhaps most notably, it's where Napoleon met his match and was finally defeated by the Allied troops of Wellington and Blucher in the Battle of Waterloo. The story behind this monumental event that changed the course of European history is told in truly fascinating fashion at **Waterloo 1815**, a multifaceted tribute to the notorious clash on the site of the battle itself.

Upon arrival at the battlefield, kids will immediately be drawn to the Lion's Mound and the 226 steps leading up to it. The spectacular 360° views from the top of the 40m-tall hill of the fields in which the action took place is well worth the climb. The museum, meanwhile, is packed with interactive exhibits and experiences, from life-size models of Wellington, Napoleon and their soldiers in full costume to an immersive 3D re-enactment of the conflict. You can even transport yourself to the battlefield by popping on a pair of virtual reality goggles and experiencing the action from the Duke of Wellington's perspective. If you're keen to prove to your children that learning about history is far from boring, Waterloo 1815 is the place to go.

"BELGIUM'S SOUTHERN HALF ACTUALLY HAS A SENSATIONAL PAST"

Over in scenic **Bouillon**, kids can get up close and personal with the knights and princesses of their favourite fairy tales at the town's famous **medieval castle**. Within the grounds of this popular multimedia attraction, you'll get to watch a thrilling falconry show, explore tunnels and turrets and learn about the life and times of former castle resident and acclaimed crusader Godfrey of Bouillon. Think King Arthur meets Robin Hood!



MAKE HISTORY

If you find yourselves near the village of BrÛly-de-Pesche, **'Hitler's hideout'** is worth a visit – especially if your children are interested in or studying World War Two. Among the trees of this little known but historically significant spot, you can trace the footsteps of the Nazi leader himself and go inside the bunker built especially for him. The cabins he occupied, meanwhile, have been turned into two engrossing galleries dedicated to the local population (who were forced to evacuate ahead of his arrival) and resistance.





MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

With five bedrooms and additional sleeping space on the mezzanine, this bright and spacious renovated farmhouse is the ideal base for exploring the delights of western Wallonia. There's a partially covered terrace with sun loungers and a barbecue, a swing and sandpit in the grounds and even a range of bikes for guests to use as they please.

Property ID: BHE001

To find out more go to novasol.co.uk



01
A family enjoying lunch in Bouillon
(WBT - David Samyn)

02
'Hitler's Hideout' in BrÛly-de-Pesche
(Rosemary Smith)

03
Waterloo panorama
(Rosemary Smith)

04
Lion's Mound at Waterloo 1815
(MT Waterloo - Jean-Philippe Van Damme)

05
Falconry show at the Chateau de Bouillon
(WBT - David Samyn)



FUN AND GAMES

You'll find crowd-pleasing entertainment everywhere you go in Wallonia

If there's one thing this part of Belgium isn't short of, it's opportunities for having fun. "I'm bored" are the words every parent dreads hearing, especially when you're trying to find time for your own enjoyment and relaxation during a much-needed holiday. Luckily, in Wallonia you're never far from something to do – in fact, there are so many activities on offer that you'll have trouble choosing which ones to try. One attraction that's sure to turn the whole family's heads as soon as it comes into view is **La Petite Merveille**, Belgium's biggest adventure park situated in the popular town of Durbuy. Here you'll find everything you could possibly want for an action-packed day out, from a tubing slide, bike park and 3D labyrinth to climbing walls, zip lines and a treetop park. There are different wristbands available based on age, ability and interests to ensure everyone can make the most of their visit, an epic playground to keep young ones occupied, a restaurant – and not an ounce of boredom in sight.

A mere half hour away lies **Parc Chlorophylle**, a recreational nature park nestled in abundant forest and the epitome of embracing the great outdoors. It's a fantastic setting for adults and children alike to learn about their natural

“NOT AN
OUNCE OF
BOREDOM IN
SIGHT”

surroundings while having hands-on fun, with some of the highlights including a forest-themed playground, a treetop walkway and 24 attractions made from wood, as well as lots of play areas and discovery trails. At Parc Chlorophylle, you can count on the kids roaming happily for hours as you sit back and soak up its peaceful beauty.

LOST TO THE WORLD

Another nature-inspired attraction can be found in the form of the **Durbuy Labyrinth**, a giant maze with a themed experience that changes every year (Tarzan was the inspiration for 2018). There are a couple of options for tackling the maze, all involving tasks, games and interactions with the talented performers dressed up as characters that children will know and love. On top of the plant puzzle, there's a playground, café and gardens to explore.



MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME

Set amidst verdant countryside near stunning Durbuy, this homely apartment is part of a holiday resort with an array of communal facilities, including indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a restaurant. With two bedrooms and the sleeping capacity for six people, it's the perfect family holiday home. **Property ID: BLX121**

To find out more go to novasol.co.uk



01
Labyrinthe de Durbuy
(MT Ourthe et Aisne -
C. Mottet)

02
Labyrinthe de Durbuy
(asbl Labytourisme)

03
La Petite Merveille
(Adventure Valley Durbuy)

04
La Petite Merveille
(Adventure Valley Durbuy)

05
Parc Chlorophylle
(Parc Chlorophylle)



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HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Find the perfect accommodation for you and your family with NOVASOL

Where you stay is just as important as what you do on holiday, especially when travelling with children. Having a comfortable and spacious base with good facilities to call home while you're away is the difference between a good holiday and an unforgettable one. With an incredible selection of more than 50,000 places to rent across Europe, NOVASOL is your go-to for finding the ideal accommodation - whether you're exploring an exciting new destination or revisiting a tried-and-tested family favourite.

From wooden chalets tucked deep within the tranquil Ardennes to renovated cottages in picture-perfect villages, your holiday home is the key to discovering Wallonia - the green heart of Belgium and one of Europe's best-kept secrets. Book today with NOVASOL before word gets out...

**TO FIND OUT MORE GO TO
NOVASOL.CO.UK**



Malmedy

Spacious holiday home in the Ardennes with five bedrooms and a well-equipped garden. *Sleeps 14. Prices start from £950 a week.*



Property ID: BLU069

Waimes

Detached family home in a private forest with six bedrooms and a large garden with play equipment. *Sleeps 13. Prices start from £622 a week.*



Property ID: BLU060

Heppenbach

Light and airy holiday home on the edge of a nature reserve with three bedrooms and a garden with a private terrace. *Sleeps six. Prices start from £382 a week.*



Property ID: BLU203

Durbuy

Countryside holiday home just 3km from Durbuy with four bedrooms and a jacuzzi offering panoramic views. *Sleeps nine. Prices start from £759 a week.*



Property ID: BLX043

Lierneux

Charming stone-built cottage in a rural village with five bedrooms and a large garden. *Sleeps 14. Prices start from £410 a week.*



Property ID: BLU033

Somme-Leuze

Modern villa in a peaceful village location with four bedrooms, an indoor pool, a garden and BBQ. *Sleeps 12. Prices start from £1,236 a week.*



Property ID: BNA021



STOP AT NOTHING

Enjoy speedy, stress-free travel
with Eurotunnel le Shuttle



02

Eurotunnel is the quickest and easiest way to get to the continent by car – and gives you complete control over your journey. Travelling with your car means you don't have to worry about luggage restrictions or fees. You can bring everything you need for a smooth journey and holiday, which is especially useful when you've got young children. What's more, you don't even have to leave your car while you cross the channel, and all passport checks are done before you board – so you can drive straight off towards your destination. Other unique benefits of travelling with Eurotunnel include:

- Getting from Folkestone to Calais in just 35 minutes
- Motorway-to-motorway access
- Paying per car instead of per person
- No additional charges for bike or roof racks
- Being able to bring your pet with you in the car

Go the extra mile

Eurotunnel also offers customers the chance to become a Frequent Traveller member. All you have to do is open an account with a minimum of 10 single tickets a year and you could travel for just £46 per car each way, saving you up to £500 a year. There are no registration or annual membership fees, and you can share your membership with a friend or family member so you can both bag great discounts.

Alternatively, if beating the queues and complete flexibility is a must for you when travelling, then the Flexiplus ticket is ideal. Flexiplus travellers enjoy dedicated check-in lanes, a fully flexible and refundable ticket, complimentary refreshments, newspapers and Wi-Fi, access to an exclusive lounge and priority boarding, which allows you to get on the next available shuttle at any time on any day. The Flexiplus ticket is perfect for those occasions when time is of the essence, or for spontaneous travellers who like to be able to



03



04

PET PARADISE

Eurotunnel is the best way to travel with your furry friends, as you can keep them with you in the car for the whole journey. There is a fun exercise area for animals as well as dedicated pet-friendly staff at both Folkestone and Calais, so pets can have a good play and run around before relaxing during the crossing. Dogs, cats and ferrets travel for just £19 per pet each way, and more than two million pets have already travelled with Eurotunnel since the scheme started. Don't forget to ensure you comply with DEFRA's Pet Travel Scheme rules before you go.

To find out more go to eurotunnel.com



06



05

02
The city of Dinant

03
Pet exercise area
(Eurotunnel)

04
La Roche-en Ardenne
(ostbelgien.eu – Dominik Ketz)

05
Happy dog on holiday
(Eurotunnel)

06 Dog on board Eurotunnel
(Eurotunnel)

01 Domaine des
Grottes de Han
(Guy Evrard)

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walloniabelgiumtourism.co.uk

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le shuttle