

WALKING IN FLEMISH BRABANT

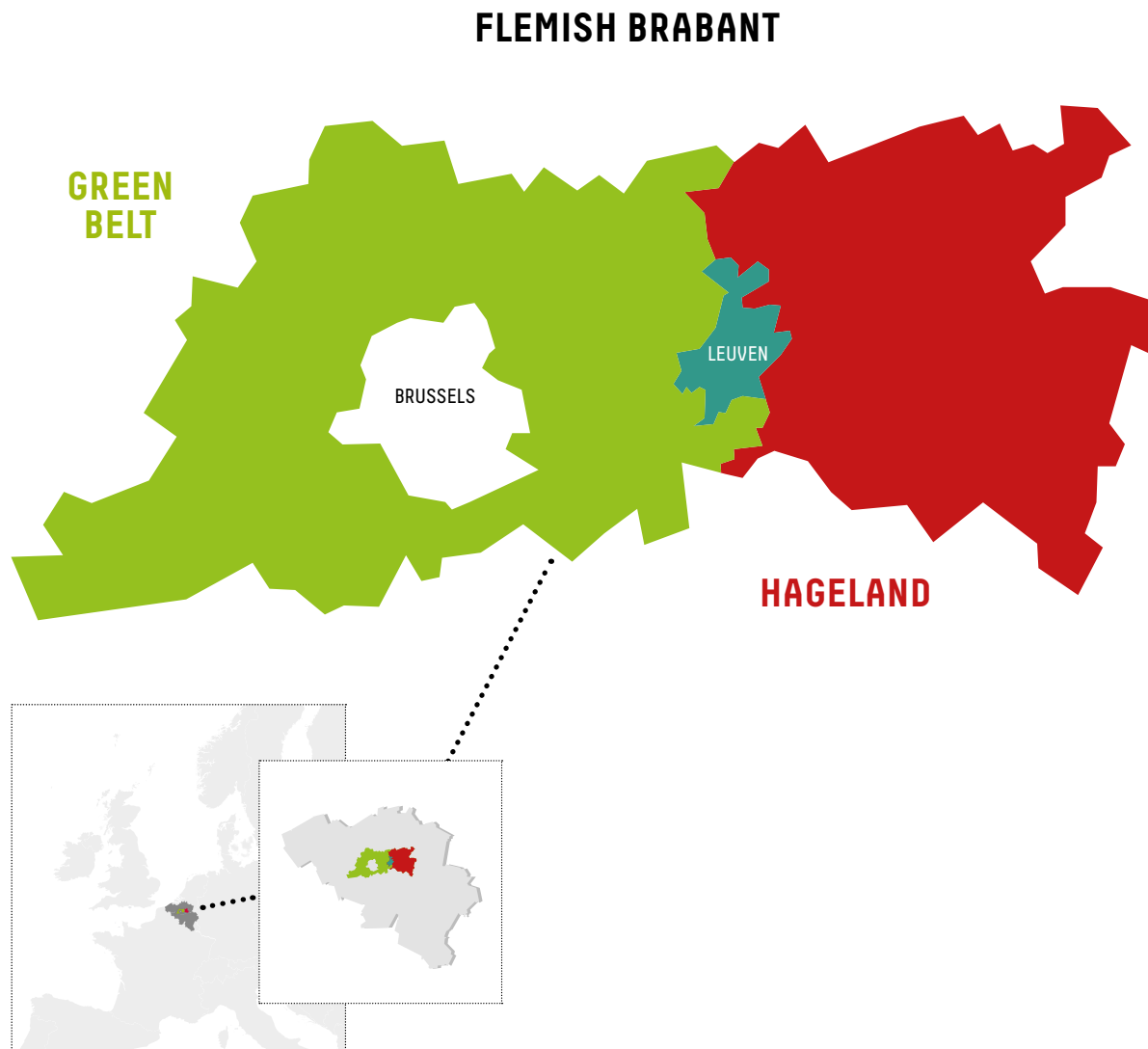


VLAAMS-
BRABANT



12 WALKING
MAPS

Fantastic Flemish Brabant.
Walks for Every Season.



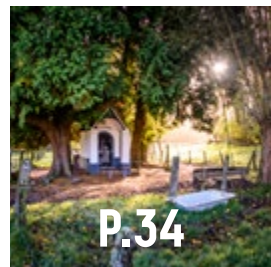
Flemish Brabant, a walker's paradise

That can't be right... Is Flemish Brabant really a walker's paradise? You bet! But that's easy for us to say, right? That's why we leave it up to you – the walker – to discover this truth for yourself. However, we would like to lend a hand with the most stunning walking trails and themed loops, a node-to-node walking network, GR routes, irresistible dining locations and cosy accommodations.

But Flemish Brabant's true gems – its unique landscape, traditions, history, and, especially, the Flemish Brabant folk and their tales – have been around much longer! Your adventure starts when you leave the hustle and bustle of Brussels behind to explore the Green Belt's parks and castle grounds. These treasures were built and decorated by dukes and noblewomen who, like you, sought rest and relaxation with a splash of excitement. Here, Bruegel painted his renowned masterpieces in the days when stalwart Belgian draught horses still ploughed the pastures and lambic was drunk by the barrel. In fact, lambic is still brewed in the same arcane fashion today, relying on wild yeast fermentation. Tasting this tradition is a must. Flemish Brabant's fascination with beer isn't much of a mystery in the heart of beer nation Belgium.

Eventually, you'll wind up in the Brabantse Wouden National Park, replete with gorgeous woodlands such as the Blue, Sonian, Heverlee and Meerdaal Forests, all connected by the green Dyle, Laan, and IJse River Valleys. These forests account for an impressive 10,000 giant oaks and beeches, tremendous trees with trunks greater than three metres around. Once through the woods, you'll arrive in the lively provincial capital, Leuven, and the Hageland, where vineyards, orchards, picturesque villages, and colourful towns brimming with history await.

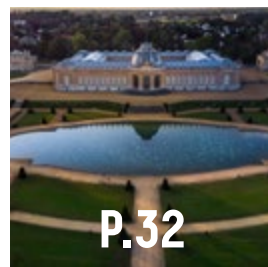
So, what are you waiting for? Grab your guide and get started! Just remember, what you find in the walking guide is only the beginning. What makes Flemish Brabant a walker's paradise? You're about to find out!



KRUISBORRE WALK

Asse

P.34



WARANDE WALK

Tervuren

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IRONSTONE WALK

Aarschot

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NORBERTINE WALK

Scherpenheuvel-Zichem

P.20



MARGIJS WALK

Huldenberg

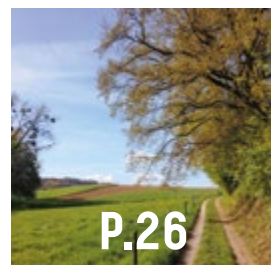
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TER RIJST WALK

Pepingen

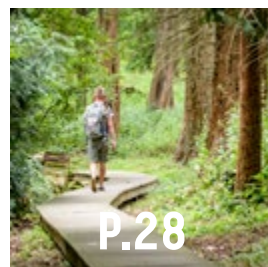
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KESTERBEEK WALK

Beersel

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GROENENDAAL WALK

Hoeilaart

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BIG OAK WALK

Bierbeek

P.14



HOUWAARTSE-BERG WALK

Tielt-Winge

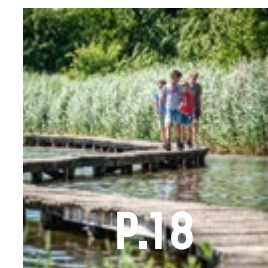
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ALSBERG WALK

Tielt-Winge

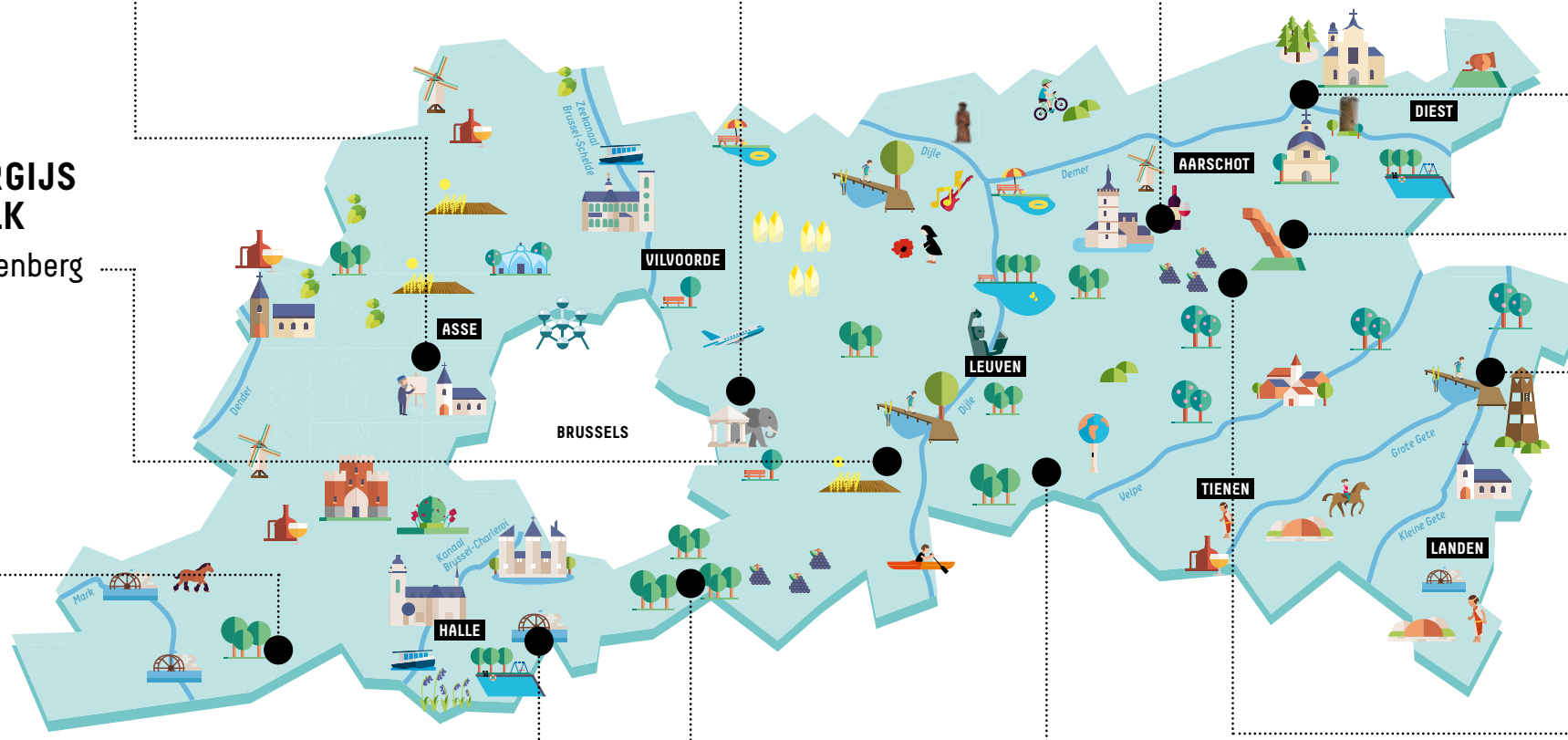
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HALEWIJN WALK

Zoutleeuw

P.18



NEVER GET LOST AGAIN!

Do you always wind up lost? That might pose a challenge this time around, because all of this brochure's walks are signposted. The signposts come in different shapes, sizes and colours.

WALKING NODES

The walking networks are a network of routes where each intersection has been signposted with a node linked to a unique number. These red and white node-to-node signposts let you know which node you've reached. The arrows under the node number the direction of other nearby nodes. If you're between two different nodes, you'll find signs with a node number and an arrow pointing you in the right direction.

LOOP TRAILS

Trouble choosing a route? Then our themed loop trails are exactly what you're looking for. These trails are marked with hexagonal red and white signs with the name of the walk and an arrow indicating the direction you should follow.

'VIRTUAL' WALKING NODES

Virtual nodes are an innovative take on the classic, signposted nodes. The nodes are there, you just can't see or touch them. They are on the map though, and with the free 'NodeMapp Hike' app, you've got them with you all the time.

WALKING IS FOR EVERYONE

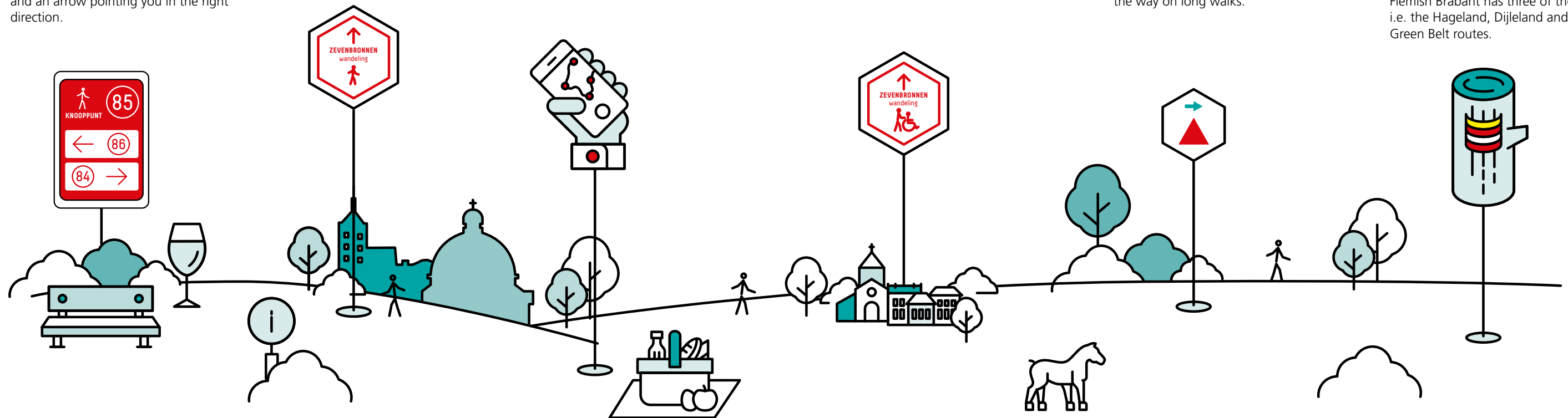
Walking in Flemish Brabant is always good for the soul. And that's why we prioritise people who need additional support with our range of accessible walks for getting out and about in Flemish Brabant. This offer is also constantly expanding. Special signposting is provided along the way to identify these walks.

COUNTRYSIDE WALKS

In a dozen or so special natural reserves in the Hageland, the footpaths have been signposted with geometric figures in different colours. All of the countryside walks are signposted this way. Each shape depicts the length of the walk: a green stripe or a blue diamond indicates a short walk, an orange ball indicates a medium-length trip, and a red triangle will show you the way on long walks.

REGIONAL GRs

Are you an avid walker and are you happiest when the road before you seemingly stretches on without end? Well, the regional GRs were created with you in mind. These huge loop-shaped walks are a few hundred kilometres long and are signposted with the typical red and white and red and yellow signs of the Grand Route Paths. Flemish Brabant has three of these, i.e. the Hageland, Dijleland and Green Belt routes.





The colours of spring

Spring – there's nothing like it. It's the season when Flemish Brabant literally blossoms to life. The happy hum of bees, the dance of fluttering butterflies, and an ocean of blossoms unfurling in Hageland's fruit orchards... Before you know it, the Green Belt's gardens and parks are awash with colour. Say adieu to the winter blues and welcome spring with a walk!

Which walks? For enchanting vistas of delicate white and pink-hued blossoms, we recommend the **Ironstone walk**. Delve deep into the mysterious Mollendaalbos on the **Big Oak walk**. If you time it right, the forest will treat you to a wondrous white carpet of wood anemones. The **Ter Rijst walk** sets your inner romantic free. If the arched bridges and winding paths of Ter Rijst Castle Park don't do the trick, the bluebells, wood anemones, and wild daffodils surely will.

Summer's sun on your face

A stroll with the summer sun on your face – sheer heaven. Summer is the season for savouring the landscape, soaking up history, and sipping cool drinks at an outdoor café. The **Halewijn walk** sweeps you up in the past and through Zoutleeuw's bygone days. A leisurely walk around the Vinnemeer (a lake) is the highlight. Heathland and forest predominate on the **Norbertine walk** near the ever-beautiful Averbode Abbey. Enjoy an ice cream on Averbode's famous Ice Cream Lane (Lekdreef) to finish.

Need a quick escape from life's cares? Walk along the **Margijs walk's** adventurous corduroy roads through the Dyle River Valley's prettiest natural treasures, e.g. the Margijs Wood and the Doode Bemde's marshy patchwork of flora and fauna.

A breath of fresh autumn air

Wonder what the prettiest season for a walk is? Autumn! It's when the forests of Flemish Brabant are cloaked in leafy warm autumn colours, when a pair of wellies always comes in handy. Autumn's charms are irresistible. But...before you relax in autumn's fresh air, try climbing the Houwaartse Berg's slopes first on the **Houwaartseberg walk**. Admire the sloped vineyards and the magnificent, moated Horst Castle. The amber-hued leaves of the Sonian Forest's beech cathedrals are glorious in autumn. If you're on a quest for that kind of beauty, the **Groenendaal walk** is just the ticket.

Autumn... It's also the season for Pajottenland and the Zenne River Valley's brewers to work their magic, exposing their brewing vats to the mysteries of wild yeasts. The message? Drop by a cosy pub after the **Kesterbeek walk** to sample a lambic, geuze, or kriel.

Wonderful winter walks

Scarf and hat snug about your face, sturdy hiking boots on, and coat zipped up tight - winter is when every cloudy breath proves the season's chill hasn't won. Winter is for true walking enthusiasts. On the **Alsberg walk**, you'll visit Vlooyberg Tower in Tielt-Winge. At the top of the corten steel steps, the wind cuts like ice, but the view? Priceless. While not exactly picnic weather, Tervuren's Warande Park ponds always look their loveliest under a glittering, thin sheet of ice. Tip: combine your **Warande walk** with indoor cosy and culture at the AfricaMuseum.

And with Christmas around the bend, you could make an original pilgrimage. The **Kruisborre walk** treats you to Asse's Kapellekensweg, punctuated by small roadside chapels. A Hail Mary is optional. Whatever your persuasion, this loop trail is a great outing.

Cosy accommodations

There's never enough walking to be had in Flemish Brabant. So, why not make a weekend of it for walking fun galore? After all, a new, conceivably unforgettable story or encounter awaits around every corner! What about family and friends visiting from abroad? This is your chance to introduce them to your Flemish Brabant during a fun-filled weekend. There's no shortage of welcoming B&Bs, cosy holiday homes, campgrounds, glamping locations, and other great places to stay.

IRONSTONE WALK

 ***tips for the road***



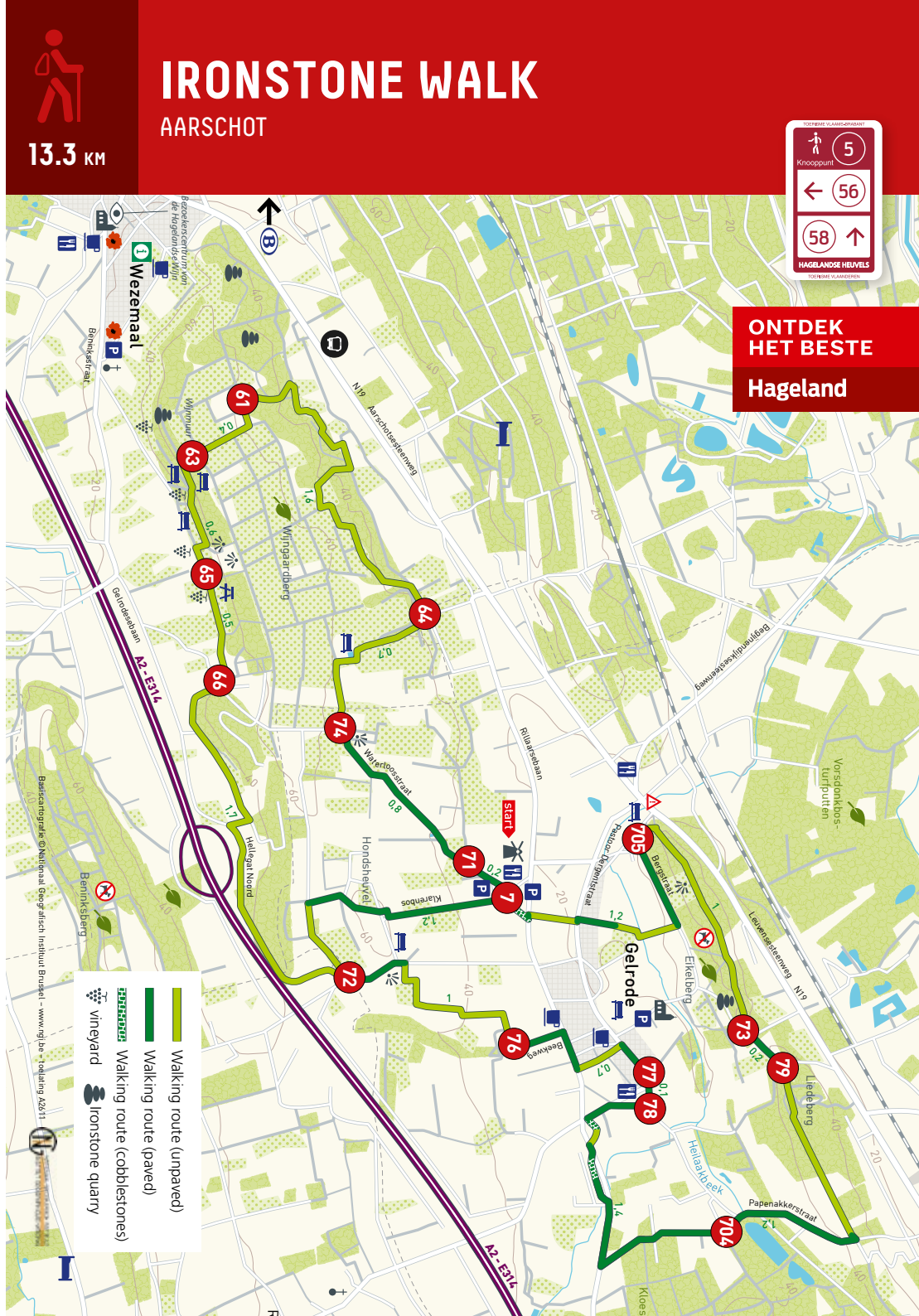
Moedermeule

This authentic grain mill was originally located in Mechelen. In 1834, it moved to the Hondsheuvel in Gelrode. The mill house is a cosy Brueghelian café renowned for its delicious buckwheat pancakes.



Wijngaardberg

Wijngaardberg's peak (vineyard mountain) is 72 metres high. Your hike passes fruit orchards and vineyards, ultimately ending at the 1.5 km-long vineyard wall. In spring, the flowering fruit trees guarantee beautiful sightseeing.



IRONSTONE WALK

Take a walk through the rust-coloured ironstone accentuated countryside. On a visit to the Hageland's characteristic geological inliers and outliers, e.g. Gelrode's Eikelberg and Wezemaal's Wijngaarberg, the ironstone ridges are impossible to miss. Traditionally, this stone was used to build churches, parish houses, and other buildings of note. Now, however, the soil's ironstone is perfect for ripening vineyard grapes: the ironstone substrate absorbs the sun's heat during the day and continues to release that warmth into the night. So, don't miss out! Taste a Hageland wine after your walk.

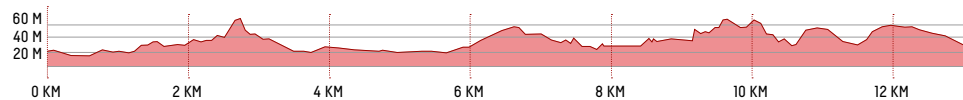
DEPARTURE POINT

Moedermeule
Hondsheuvcl 3
3200 Gelrode (Aarschot)

NODES

7 > 705 > 73 > 79 > 704 > 78 > 77 > 76 > 72 > 66 >
65 > 63 > 61 > 64 > 74 > 71 > 7

TERRAIN



Out and about with the app:
DOWNLOAD THE 'NODEMAPP HIKE' APP

Is the route obstructed?
Is a sign missing or damaged?
Tell us about it.
**[www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/
routemeldpunt](http://www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/routemeldpunt)** *(in Dutch)*



The Ironstone walk is a recommended loop on the Hagelandse Heuvels en Valleien walking network. Want to see more?
www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/en/walking

**VLAAMS-
BRABANT**

Hageland Wine Visitor Centre

800 m from 61.

Experience all the wine region's colours, fragrances, and flavours in this interactive wine museum. Head to wine village Wezemaal's former town hall to find it. Don't forget to book a tasting in the cosy wine cellar.

Let's take a break!

A rare find, De Kroon is an authentic café under Gelrode's church tower (between 77 and 76 at 50 m). Need a mussels and fish seafood fix? Vital restaurant (300 m from 705) is the place to be.

Directions

Following the walk from **61** to **64** is easy from the 'Wezemaal Wijngaardberg' bus stop. Alternatively, alight at Wezemaal Station and walk to **61**.

BIG OAK WALK

tips for the road



Anemones

The forest is full of big oak trees (over 2.5 metres in circumference). Pass the oldest specimen on Big Oak Lane [Dikke Eikdreef]. This grand old oak is over 300 years old with a trunk over 5 metres around. In the spring, this great oak is surrounded by a sea of beautiful white wood anemones.



Mollendaalbos

The Mollendaalbos Forest is a beautiful corner of the large Meerdaal Forest and Heverlee Woods, which combined account for 2,050 hectares of tree-friendly ground. Fleet-footed deer abound, as do deep-hewn paths through forest glades and stately, straight avenues.



BIG OAK WALK

Head into Meerdaal Forest from the centre of Bierbeek. Over 1,000 majestic big oaks (with trunks over 2.5 metres around) await. To gaze on the oldest specimen, just visit Big Oak Lane (Dikke Eikdreef). In the 1970s, the branches and trunk of this proud 300+ year-old oak took a severe beating during a storm. However, having survived, it's more full of life than ever. Be sure to look out for two special sculptures by local artist Ad Wouters when walking in the Walendreef. See the sculptures emerging from the trunks of a pair of dead oaks: the Happy Little Wood Warbler (het fluitkerke van het klein geluk) and the Woodpecker (de specht).

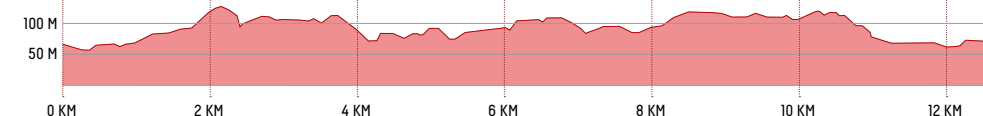
DEPARTURE POINT

Cultureel Centrum de Borre
Speelpleinstraat 10
3360 Bierbeek

NODES

START > 700 > 756 > 77 > 78 > 73 > 74 > 75 > 76 > 757 > 113 > 114 > 115 > 72 > 71 > 70 > 7 > START

TERRAIN



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The Big Oak walk is a recommended loop on the Brabantse Wouden walking network. Want to see more?
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBRABANT.BE/EN/WALKING



VLAAMS-BRABANT



Ad's Path

Local sculptor Ad Wouters transforms these woodlands into a fairytale world of gentle bears, modern Neanderthals, metres-high toadstools, and other playful figures. He carves these sculptures from the trunks of dead oaks.

Let's take a break!

At 700.

After the walk, enjoy a local beer and something scrumptious on the sunny terrace of the In De Molen brasserie.

Directions

Take the bus to Bierbeek and get off at 'Bierbeek De Borre', the final stop. This is also the start of the walk.

TER RIJST WALK

tips for the road



Ter Rijst

On the route, at **355**.

Get ready for some of Flemish Brabant's most breathtaking views on the long and winding path of Ter Rijst Castle Park. Spring adds a splash of colour when the bluebells, wood anemones and wild daffodils are in bloom.



Brabant draught horses

150 m from the route, between **355** and **356**.

If you're lucky, you'll spot a Brabant draught horse or two on the outskirts of the Ter Rijst Castle Park, roaming the castle farm's fields. These great, stalwart beasts are the pride of the Pajottenland, a regional icon.

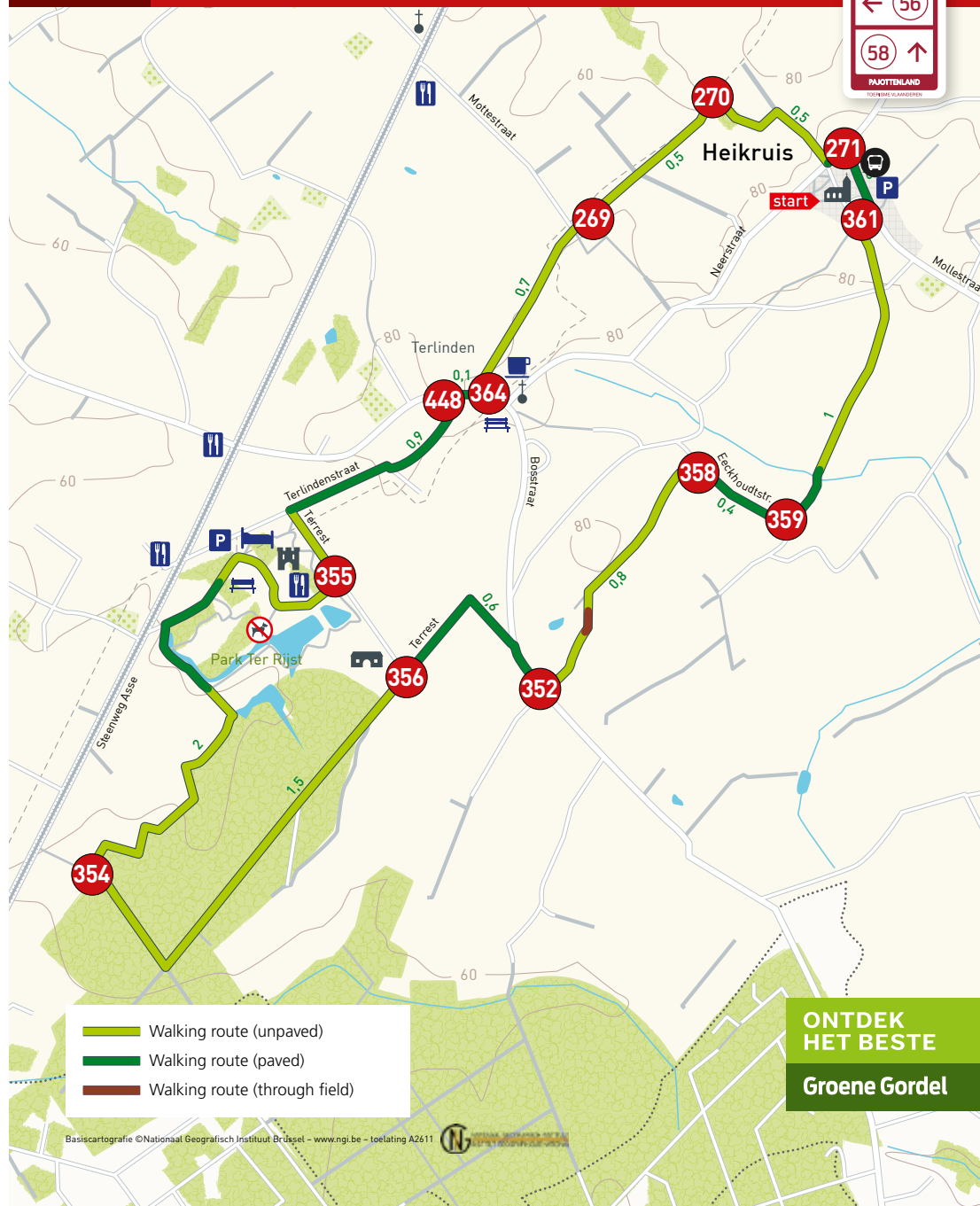
16



9 KM

TER RIJST WALK

PEPINGEN



ONTDEK
HET BESTE

Groene Gordel

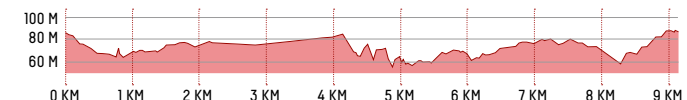
TER RIJST WALK

Just when you think the Pajottenland countryside of Heikruis village can't get more picturesque, Ter Rijst Castle Park crosses your path. This park is a romantic's dream come true with arch bridges, elegant old trees, and gorgeous vistas. When in bloom, the bluebells, wood anemones, and wild daffodils dapple the park with colour.

DEPARTURE POINT

Sint-Bernarduskerk
Plaats 8
1670 Heikruis (Pepingen)

TERRAIN



NODES

START > **361** > **359** > **358** > **352** > **356** > **354** > **355** > **448** > **364** > **269** > **270** > **271** > START



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The Ter Rijst walk is a recommended loop on the Pajottenland walking network. Want to see more?
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBABANT.BE/EN/WALKING



VLAAMS-
BRABANT

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T'Rest

T'Rest opened in 2019 and is located in the beautifully renovated Ter Rijst Castle Park castle. Throw back a pint at the bar on Saturdays and Sundays, or order a picnic box to enjoy in this idyllic setting.

Let's take a break!

70 m from the route, at **364**.

Terlindenhof in Herne is an authentic Pajottenland café, extremely charming and run by innkeeper Sofie Van Belle's family for generations. Look out over the landscape from the large garden terrace while the children have fun in the playground.

Directions

The 'Heikruis Kerk' bus stop is close to the start of the walk.



HALEWIJN WALK



Kid-friendly

This walk is perfect for families with children. Walk exciting corduroy roads across the water or let loose in the playground. The walk is 11.4 kilometres long, but you can easily stop halfway if your wee ones get tired.



Historic Zoutleeuw

On the route, **3** and next.

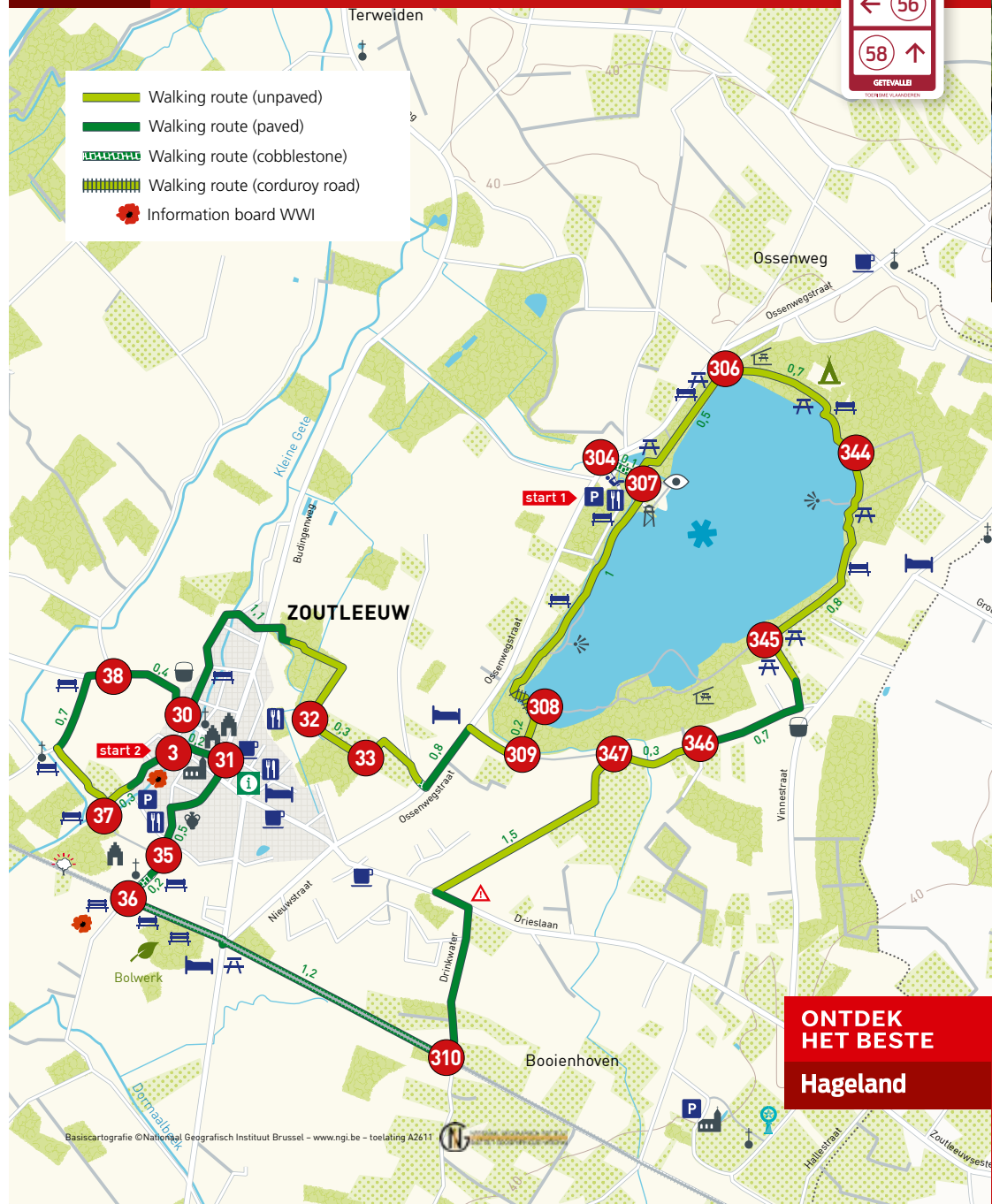
Zoutleeuw's Grote Markt feels like you've been transported to a medieval town. The Lakenhalle (where fine textiles were sold), Town Hall, Spiegelhuis, and De Rode Leeuw are all prime examples of this town's illustrious, time-honoured heritage. However, St Leonard's Church is the true highlight. It escaped the Iconoclastic Fury unscathed, thus preserving its rich store of art.



HALEWIJN WALK

ZOUTLEEUEW

11.4 KM



HALEWIJN WALK

Stroll through centuries of history and the impossibly beautiful natural surroundings of Zoutleeuw. Your journey begins at Het Vinne Provincial Domain, which contains the largest natural lake in Flanders. You could spend a day in itself here, walking the corduroy roads, past hides, watchtowers and a wealth of diverse aquatic flora and fauna. Take the IJzerenweg to reach Zoutleeuw's Grote Markt, a visual treat with its Gothic town hall, the Lakenhalle and St Leonard's Church.

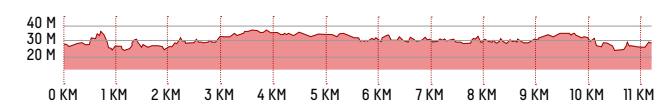
DEPARTURE POINT 1

Provincial domain Het Vinne
Ossenwegstraat 70
3440 Zoutleeuw

DEPARTURE POINT 2

Oud Hospitaal
Paardenbrugstraat
3440 Zoutleeuw

TERRAIN



NODES

307 > 306 > 344 > 345 > 346 > 347 > 310 > 36 > 35 > 31 >
3 > 37 > 38 > 30 > 32 > 33 > 309 > 308 > 307



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The Halewijn walk is a recommended loop on the Getevallei walking network. Want to see more?
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBABANT.BE/EN/WALKING



VLAAMS-
BRABANT

Het Vinne's Nature

To get a good glimpse of Het Vinne's diverse waterfowl population in the reed collars and on the water, you have to climb the lookout tower first. Some are very rare. While the natural lake is a treasure, the surrounding nature and vistas are equally remarkable.

Let's take a break!

At **31**.

Zoutleeuw's Grote Markt is littered with great dining locations and cafes. There's something for everyone!

Directions

This walk is difficult to reach by public transport. There is a large car park at the entrance to the provincial domain.



NORBERTINE WALK

tips for the road



Averbode Abbey

Averbode Abbey was founded in 1135 at the behest of Arnold II, the Count of Loon. The Gothic gatehouse, built in the second half of the 14th century, is its oldest standing building. Today, it remains a place of peace and reflection.



Flowering heather

The varied mosaic landscape of the Averbode Bos & Heide Nature Preserve is home to all kinds of wildlife. In mid-August, the first heath flowers start blooming so that by September, the grounds have turned a marvellous shade of mauve.

9.3 KM

NORBERTINE WALK

SCHERPENHEUVEL-ZICHEM



ONTDEK
HET BESTE
Hageland

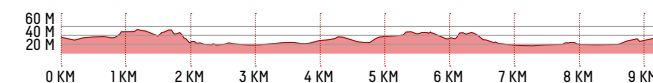
NORBERTINE WALK

Discover the reverent tranquillity of Averbode's Norbertine Abbey. The surrounding forest features the Seven Sorrows of Mary in the Maria Park and Weefberg's natural beauty. In the east corner, you can explore the 'Averbode Bos en Heide' [Averbode Woods and Heathland] Nature Reserve made up of fens, heathland, dunes, forests and grasslands. Unforgettably beautiful, this is a must-see! Top it all off with an ice cream along the famous 'Lekdreef' [Ice Cream Lane].

DEPARTURE POINT

Het Moment
Herseltsebaan 2
3271 Averbode
(Scherpenheuvel-Zichem)

TERRAIN



NODES

100 > 85 > 86 > 75 > 274 > 76 > 87 > 90 > 100 > 98 > 107 > 384 > 144 > 286 >
104 > 91 > 96 > 100



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The Norbertine walk is a recommended loop on the de Merode walking network. Want to see more?
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBRABANT.BE/EN/WALKING



Ice Cream Lane

Between 90 and 100.

Fancy an ice cream? Averbode Abbey is famously home to Ice Cream Lane or the Lekdreef. This traffic-free street is lined with ice cream trucks during the summer. Plunk down on one of the lane's benches and enjoy an ice cream in nature's good company.

Let's take a break!

On the route, at 100.

Abbey Café Het Moment is a treasure. Enjoy a menu featuring mainly items prepared with at least one product produced by the resident monks, from beer, cheese, bread, gingerbread, and speculaas to ice cream and more. All in a historically significant location.

Directions

The 'Averbode Abdij' and 'Averbode Abdijsstraat' bus stops are close to the start of the walk.

MARGIJS WALK

tips for the road



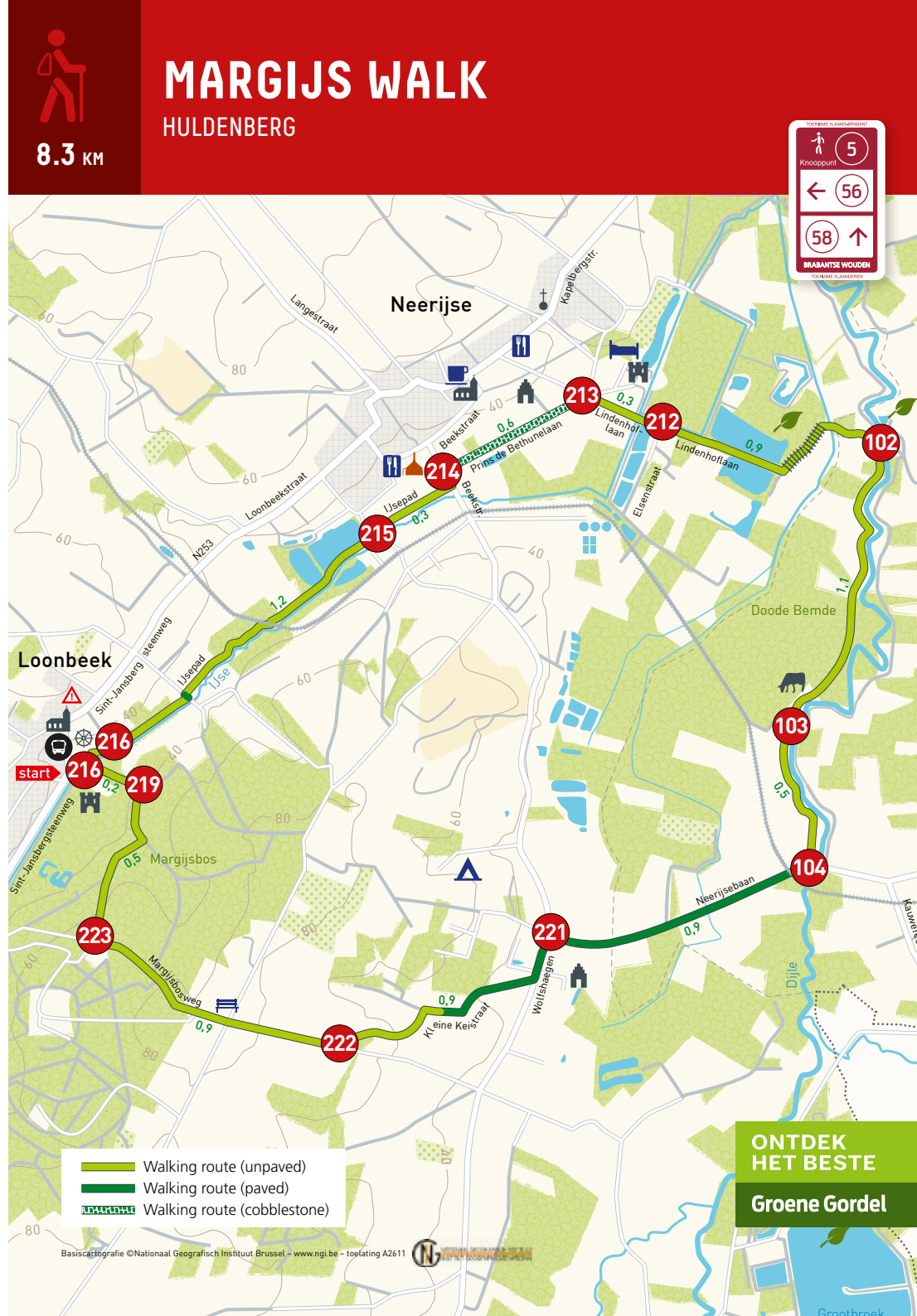
Margijsbos

The Margijsbos - a historical forest - is located between Neerijse and Overijse. You'll encounter several sunken paths carved out by intensive use over the centuries.



The Doode Bemde Nature Reserve

The nature reserve features a patchwork of small fields, poplar groves and wetland forests, pastures and meadows, brushwood and reed beds, ponds and canals. Don't forget your wellies. It can get soggy out there.



MARGIJS WALK

This walk takes you through the Dyle and Ijse River Valleys, featuring a patchwork of small fields and wetland forest, brushwood and reed beds, ponds and canals. The Doode Bemde is one of the most stunning green jewels of the Dyle River Valley. Hike your way up to the Margijs Wood to enjoy a breathtaking panorama of the Dyle River Valley. Don't forget your wellies. It can get soggy out there. Why not pop in for a tasty pint at the De Kroon brewery along the way?

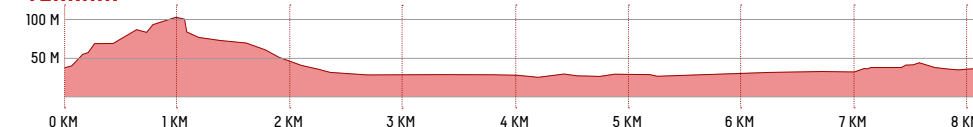
DEPARTURE POINT

Car park in bend opposite Loonbeek Castle
Sint-Jansbergsesteenweg
3040 Loonbeek (Huldenberg)

NODES

216 > 219 > 223 > 222 > 221 > 104 > 103 > 102 >
212 > 213 > 214 > 215 > 216

TERRAIN



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Is the route obstructed?
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The Margijs walk is a recommended loop on the Brabantse Wouden walking network. Want to see more?
[WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBRABANT.BE/EN/WALKING](http://www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/en/walking)



Zwarte Jean

Stroll along the Ijse and under the bridge, which, until 1957, was part of a steam-powered tram engine's route. The viaduct's artwork alludes to the 'Zwarte Jean', the tram connecting Vossem and Tienen. The old tram bed meanders through the Dyle region, part of which has become a footpath.

Let's take a break!

100 m from the route, at 214.

De Kroon Brewery was declared national heritage in 2003 and is one of the last fully-equipped artisanal breweries in Flanders. Fancy a bite? The menu includes classics as well as beer-infused culinary creations.

Directions

The 'Loonbeek Kouterstraat' bus stop is just a few metres from the walk's starting point.

HOUWAARTSEBERG WALK

tips for the road



The Wijnbank

80 m from the route, between **155** and **225** (follow the signs).

No, you haven't shrunk. The Wijnbank atop the Houwaartse Berg is just enormous. Sit down and enjoy the view of the magnificent vineyard landscape arcing gracefully across the hillside. Can you spot the famous Vlooybergstoren in the distance?



The landscape

Climb the hill, past the graceful vineyard rows, where you can let your gaze roam over the valley and simply enjoy the view. Afterwards, follow the mysterious sunken path back down. It's so beautiful and only a heartbeat away.

24

9.4 KM

HOUWAARTSEBERG WALK

TIELT-WINGE



ONTDEK
HET BESTE
Hageland

Publisher: Toerisme Vlaams-Brabant vzw, Provincieplein 1, 3010 Leuven | January 2024

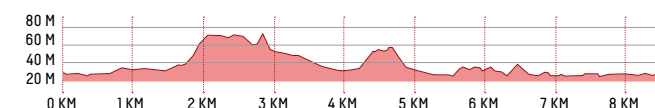
HOUWAARTSEBERG WALK

Stroll the banks of the Wingebeek and the vineyards criss-crossing the Houwaartseberg's slopes for Flemish Brabant's take on Tuscany's charms. From atop the hill, enjoy the magnificent views of Motte Valley and Houwaart vineyard village. A giant-sized bench peers out from Houwaartseberg's vineyards. Climb it for the most enchanting valley views. Every November, this is where the Houwaart wine festival takes place!

DEPARTURE POINT

Sint-Denijskerk
Halderstraat (no number),
3390 Houwaart
(Tielt-Winge)

TERRAIN



NODES

246 > 228 > 227 > 226 > 225 > 155 > 154 > 153 > 152 > 151 > 144 > 228 > 246



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Horst Castle

500 m from **144**.

This magnificent moated castle is nestled in the green Wingebeek Valley between the Hageland hills. The Lords of Horst resided here as early as the 13th century. The characteristic donjon dates back to the 15th century.

Let's take a break!

Between **144** and **143**.

Once upon a time, lady of the castle Maria Anna Van den Tympel stored her coaches here. But these days, the coach house (wagenhuis) is a charming regional brasserie. Enjoy the gorgeous views of Horst Castle from the spacious terrace.

Directions

The walk's starting point is close to the 'Houwaart Kerk' bus stop.



The Houwaartseberg walk is a recommended loop on the Hagelandse Heuvels en Valleien walking network. Want to see more?
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBRABANT.BE/EN/WALKING



KESTERBEEK WALK

 ***tips for the road***



Herman Teirlinckhuis

Take the Uweberg from your starting point - the Herman Teirlinckplein - about 150 m from the route.

The villa atop the Uwenberg was writer Herman Teirlinck's creative haven. These days, it's a warm cultural rendezvous for writers, artists, readers, and walkers.



Oud-Beersel Brewery

Say hello to an authentic lambic brewery unique to this region. The geuze and kriel are fresh and frothy, crafted according to time-honoured practice. Head to the old brewery café, Het Bierhuis, for an authentic taste of the lambic tradition. The best time to visit is October, a time of beer heritage celebration.

KESTERBEEK WALK

BEERSEL

8 KM



Publisher: Toerisme Vlaams-Brabant vzw, Provincieplein 1, 3010 Leuven | January 2024

KESTERBEEK WALK

Nothing beats the Zenne River Valley's gorgeous vistas. This is what the walking life is all about, right? The Kesterbeek Walk is a challenge, treating you to the picturesque region flanked by Beersel, Dworp, and Alsemberg. Expect hedgerow-bordered fields and forests that burst into life during spring. What better place to enjoy the region's time-honoured lambic tradition?

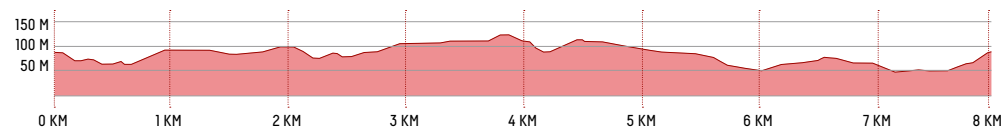
DEPARTURE POINT

Herman Teirlinckplein
1650 Beersel

SIGNPOSTING

Follow the themed hexagonal signs.

TERRAIN



THE NODES OF THIS WALK ARE NOT SIGNPOSTED IN THE FIELD.



Out and about with the app.

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Or follow the themed hexagonal signs.



The Kesterbeek walk is a recommended loop on the Brabantse Wouden walking network. Want to see more?
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBRABANT.BE/EN/WALKING

VLAAMS-
BRABANT

Beersel Castle

600 m from 50.

Featuring a deep castle moat, drawbridge, embrasures, and battlements, this is the quintessential storybook fortress. Scan the QR codes at the site to make the castle come to life. There are some great Kid's activities.

Let's take a break!

At 5.

Enjoy the friendly atmosphere and family vibe when you try the Belgian cuisine and selection of geuze and kriel from the 3 Fonteinen menu. Restaurant 3 Fonteinen is nestled in the Zenne River valley, opposite the church of Beersel.

Directions

Take the train to Beersel Station. From here, you can easily walk to **50**, where the walk continues. Or get off at the 'Beersel Centrum' bus stop.

GROENENDAAL WALK

 tips for the road



Groenendaal Arboretum

King Leopold II himself commissioned the construction of this arboretum in 1897. Populated by over 400 different trees and shrubs, the arboretum is also home to Big Eugène, a 6-metre-thick poplar. The arboretum is gorgeously diverse and an incredibly pleasant walk.



Royal Lodge

At **829**.

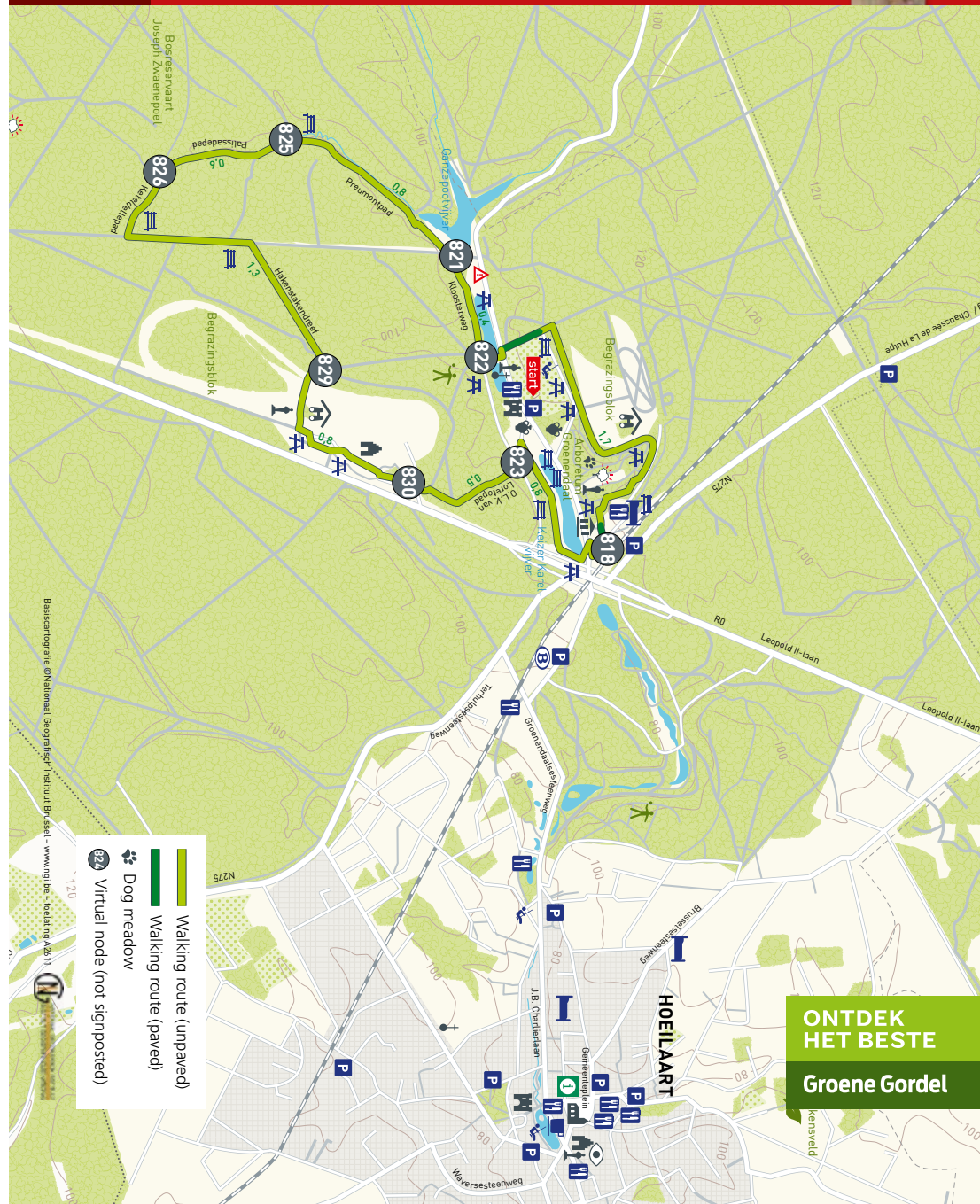
For ages, the Groenendaal racecourse was the pride of Belgian horse racing. However, all that's left of the tradition is the Royal Lodge. The royals would watch the races in this beautiful lodge, surrounded by nature's verdant charms.


28


6.8 KM

GROENENDAAL WALK

HOEILAART



-  Walking route (unpaved)
-  Walking route (paved)
-  Dog meadow
-  Virtual node (not signposted)

ONTDEK
HET BESTE
Groene Gordel

Publisher: Toerisme Vlaams-Brabant vzw, Provincieplein 1, 3010 Leuven | January 2024

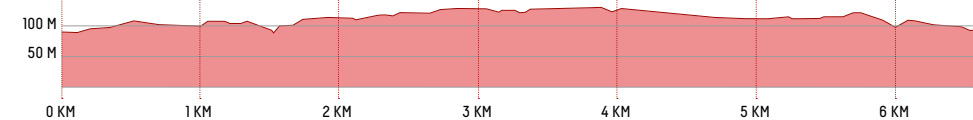
GROENENDAAL WALK

Leave the hustle and bustle of Brussels for the Sonian Forest's blissful oasis of green. Groenendaal – where some six centuries ago, Augustinian monks sought and found the peace and quiet required for a contemplative life – lies at the heart of the Sonian Forest. Explore Groenendaal Arboretum, here, home to around 400 fascinating native and non-native tree species. But that's not all! The Joseph Zwaenepoel Forest Reserve is just around the bend. UNESCO World Heritage, this is also where you'll find the Royal Lodge and the former Groenendaal racecourse.

DEPARTURE POINT

Groenendaal Castle
Duboislaan 1
1560 Hoeilaart

TERRAIN



THE NODES OF THIS WALK ARE NOT SIGNPOSTED IN THE FIELD.



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Or follow the
wooden poles
with coloured band.



The Groenendaal walk is a recommended loop on the Brabantse Wouden walking network. Want to see more?
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBRABANT.BE/EN/WALKING



Joseph Zwaenepoel Forest Reserve

Prepare for a walk in the enchanting Joseph Zwaenepoel Forest Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage. The reserve is home to Europe's largest beech (up to 46 m high and 5 m around). This reserve is of exceptional scientific and natural historical importance.

Let's take a break!

At the walk's starting point.

On the edge of the Sonian Forest, the trendy Sonian restaurant awaits. Relax and grab a delicious bite to eat or enjoy a drink. On some summer evenings, you can kick back to the tunes of live music.

Directions

Groenendaal Station is 1 km from the walk's start.

29

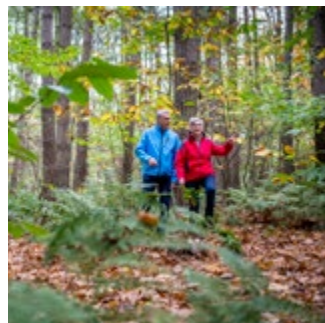
ALSBERG WALK

tips for the road



Vlooybergtoren

The unique floating staircase is made of stainless corten steel, its colour reminiscent of its ironstone heritage. The Vlooybergtoren stands over 11 m high and is over 20 m long.



Walenbos

The Walenbos is vast, wild, wet, and inhospitable. However, it's also one of the Hageland's most important nature reserves. The unspoilt nature is what makes this green gem stand out. Relax and enjoy!

6.4 KM

ALSBERG WALK

TIELT-WINGE



ONTDEK
HET BESTE
Hageland



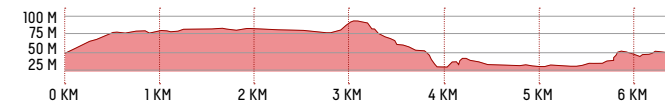
ALSBERG WALK

Explore the hamlets of Alsberg and Tielt on this walk. Much of this walk traces the hill crest, providing you with a majestic panorama. Head to the Vlooyberg Tower for the best vantage point. Roundabout halfway, the fields give way to part of Walen Forest, which also happens to be the largest alder forest in Flanders.

DEPARTURE POINT

Huize Hageland
Oudepastoriestraat 22
3390 Tielt (Tielt-Winge)

TERRAIN



NODES

206 > 204 > 203 > 202 > 201 > 244 > 24 > 25 > 26 > 206



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St Martin's Church

At 26.

Set out from the picturesque, single-nave Sint-Martinus Church, built in part from local ironstone. Be sure to peek inside the church as well to admire the striking organ. The oldest parts of the instrument date back to the 17th century.

Let's take a break!

Enjoy delicious artisanal ice cream, milkshakes, bubble waffles, Liège waffles, and pancakes at Amber IJs. Accompanied by a delicious coffee or hot chocolate, that's all you need!

Directions

'Tielt-Winge Keulenstraat' bus stop is close to the walk's start.



The Alsberg walk is a recommended loop on the Hagelandse Heuvels walking network. Want to see more?
[WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBABANT.BE/EN/WALKING](http://www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/en/walking)



VLAAMS-
BRABANT

WARANDE WALK

tips for the road



AfricaMuseum

At 429.

The renovated AfricaMuseum has a new objective – to turn a museum building with a colonial past into a canvas that paints a contemporary, emancipated Africa. Learn all about the nature, culture and art of the African continent.



De Warandepoort Visitor Centre

Don't forget to pop into the De Warandepoort Visitor Centre at the start. It's your one-stop shop for the facts on the Zuid-Dijleland region and the Sonian Forest.

5.8 KM

WARANDE WALK

TERVUREN



ONTDEK
HET BESTE
Groene Gordel



WARANDE WALK

This walk through Tervuren Park combines the best of both worlds – enchanting nature and history. Once the nobility's hunting grounds, the terrain is now a walker and cyclist's paradise. Boasting indoor and outdoor treasures, this walk features St Hubert Chapel, Het Spaans Huis (millhouse and restaurant), and the AfricaMuseum with its unparalleled tribute to Central Africa's tremendous cultural diversity.

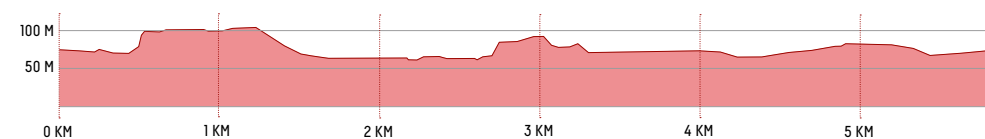
DEPARTURE POINT

Visitor Centre De Warandepoort
Markt 7B
3080 Tervuren

NODES

4 > 41 > 442 > 42 > 430 > 429 > 4

TERRAIN



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The Warande walk is a recommended loop on the Brabantse Wouden walking network. Want to see more?
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBRABANT.BE/EN/WALKING



VLAAMS-
BRABANT

Downtown Tervuren

Explore the Tervuren market and make sure to visit the Gothic church, which unfortunately has lost its tower to the toll of time. There's no shortage of cosy restaurants and cafes to be enjoyed downtown.

Let's take a break!

On the route, at 430.

At the Spaans Huis, the park's former watermill, you can enjoy a bite and drink on the pond-side terrace. Plus, the shop features tasty local products.

Directions

Take Tram 44 from Brussels to the final stop, 'Tervuren Terminus', which stops close to the AfricaMuseum. Or get off at the 'Tervuren Kerk' bus stop, just a few metres from the walk's start.

KRUISBORRE WALK

tips for the road



Kruisborre Chapel

At 252.

The Kruisborre walk, also known as the 'Weg Om' or 'Kapelkensweg', is a pilgrimage route connecting a string of small chapels in Asse. The beautiful Kruisborre Chapel is at the centre of a verdant protected valley and was founded as a tribute to the Holy Cross.



Hopduvel

The Hopduvel, a statue holding a Duvel glass, has stood watch over the market square since 1986. The Hopduvel (hops devil) symbolises the stormy winds' ruinous gusts at the end of August, which rip the hop vines from their poles. Taste the beer crafted from these hops at one of the many cafés and restaurants on the traffic-free market square.

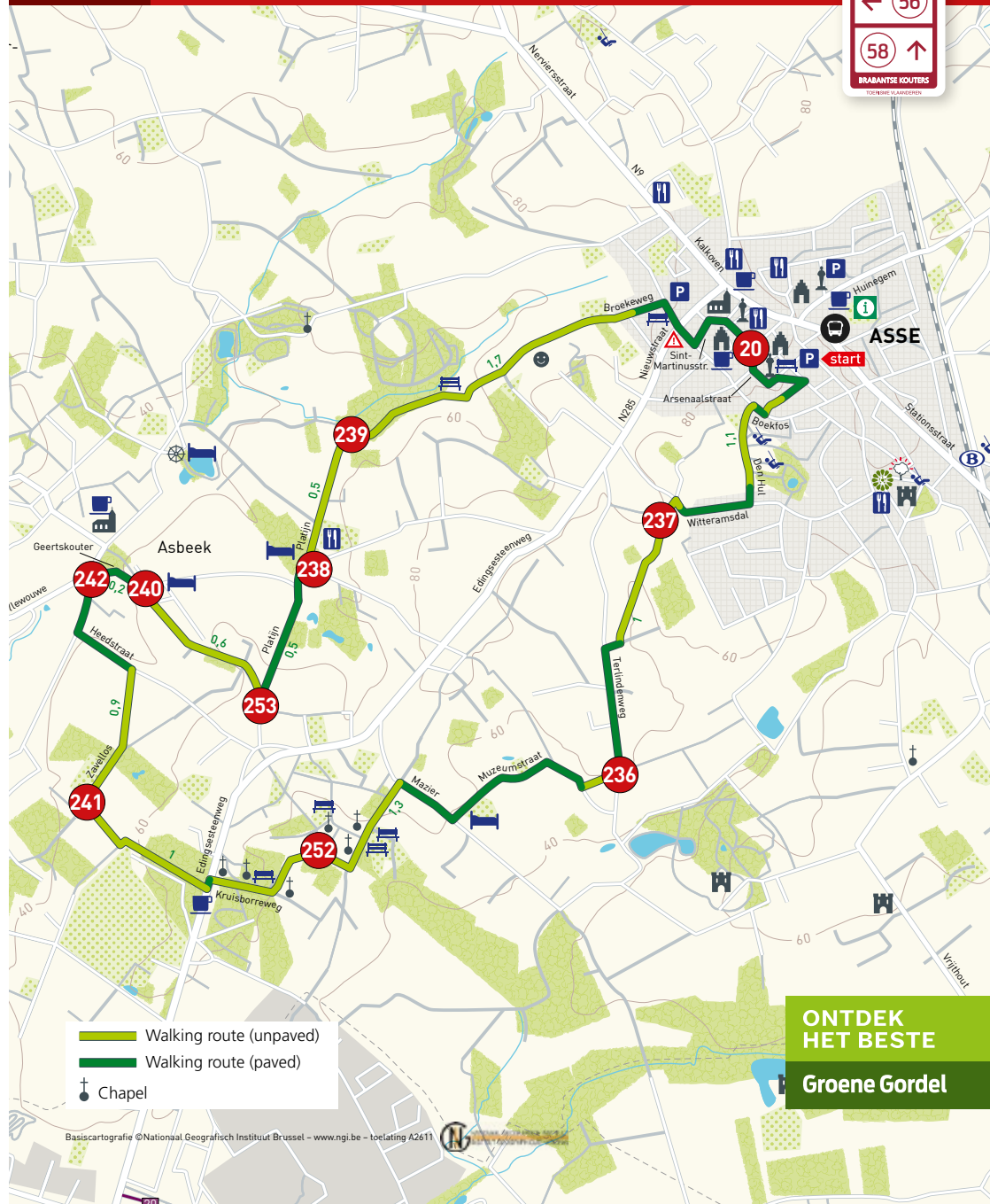
34



9 KM

KRUISBORRE WALK

ASSE



KRUISBORRE WALK

The 'Kapelkensweg' or 'Weg Om' pilgrimage route, connects a string of chapels that start with Kruisborre Chapel – a beautiful heritage site. Learn the bleak legend behind this chapel, riddled with remorse and involving a host stolen from the Eucharist and bloodstained wood chips. On its founding, the name Kruisborre was chosen for the spring discovered nearby.

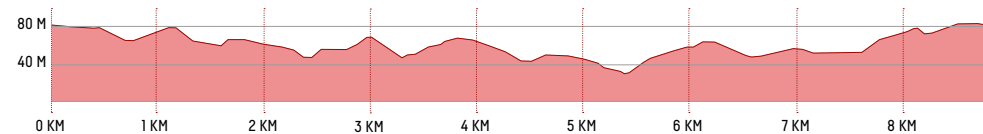
DEPARTURE POINT

Hopmarkt
1730 Asse

NODES

START > 20 > 237 > 236 > 252 > 241 > 242 >
240 > 253 > 238 > 239 > 20 > START

TERRAIN



Out and about with the app:
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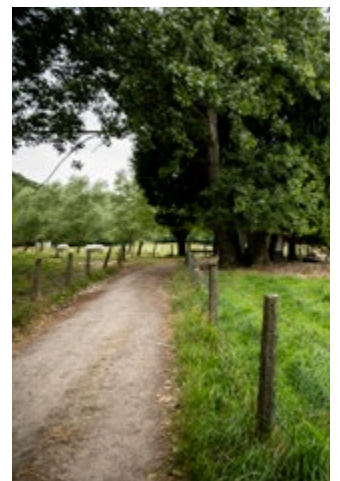
Is the route obstructed?
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www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/routemeldpunt (in Dutch)



The Kruisborre walk is een suggestielus op het wandelnetwerk Brabantse Kouters. Meer wandelen?
WWW.TOERISMEVLAAMSBRABANT.BE/EN/WALKING



VLAAMS-BRABANT



Boekfos

Pass by the Boekfos, once overrun with beech trees, but now an open stretch of green with springs, ponds and pools of placid water.

Let's take a break!

On the route, between 252 and 241.

Brasserie De Koekoek has been a landmark in the region since 1880. Head there for a delicious lunch, a luxurious dinner or a refreshing beer.



Directions

Take the train to Asse station or get off at the 'Asse Gemeenteplein' bus stop, which is close to the start of the walk.

35

Keep walking!

Flemish Brabant beckons with more walking adventures than you could possibly imagine.

- Subscribe to our expats newsletter for monthly inspiration, recommendations, and ideas.
- Follow us on  Instagram and  Facebook @discoverflemishbrabant.
- Visit www.toerismevlaamsbrabant.be/en for more walks, information, and tips.

Keep our walks and nature beautiful. Take your trash home!

