

MaasMechelen

Enjoy the Maas Magic

5 X Kids proof

Locations and activities in
MaasMechelen

p46

Cycling

Wonderful cycling through
woods and along the Maas

p25

To do

The MaasMechelen
city game

p34



Tourist magazine 2024



MAASMECHELEN



My Maas Moments

Plan your visit to MaasMechelen with the ingenious day planner at **www.visitMaasMechelen.com**. Share your Maas Moments with a friend, or make a (digital) print and you're ready to hit the road in MaasMechelen.

There is so much to see and do in MaasMechelen. It's a tough choice, isn't it? This guide will help you decide. Put your list together in no time and pay a visit to MaasMechelen. Do you want cycling, walking, action & adventure or just time to relax? Enjoy time with the whole family, or as a couple? MaasMechelen has something for everyone.



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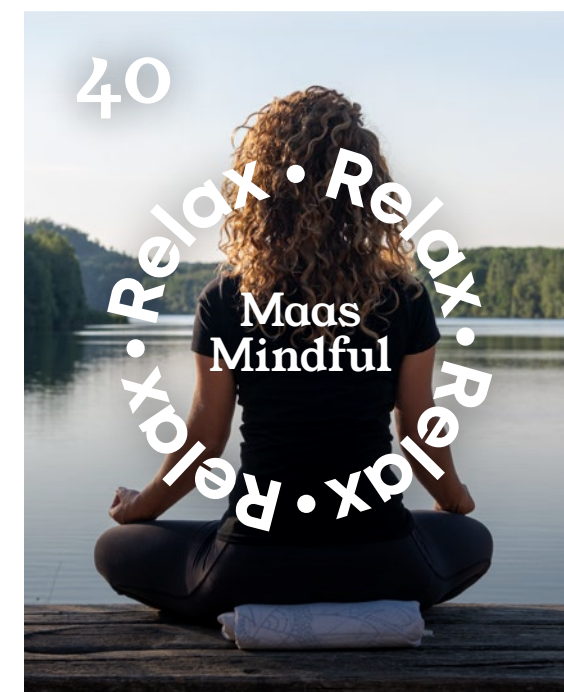
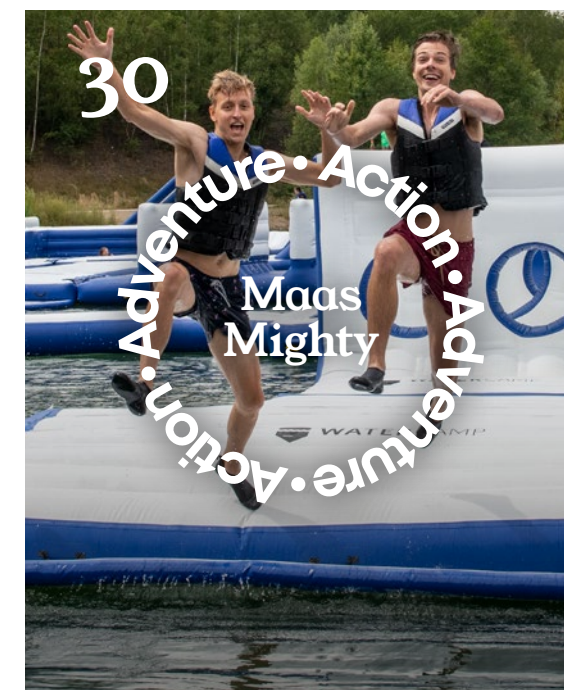
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MaasMesmeric welcoming

Raf Terwingen
Mayor

"MaasMechelen fulfils five requirements. It is the ideal municipality for shopping, walking, living, working and being on the water. Moreover, it is the only Flemish municipality bordered on both sides by a national park. The Nationaal Park Hoge Kempen, on one side, and the RivierPark Maasvallei on the other. In between is an urbanised environment bordered by a chain of five Maas villages where the authenticity of the Maas valley has been preserved.

"Our extensive cycle route network is the ideal way to (re)discover the Maas"

You can follow the extensive cycle route network to discover the Maas with its high-quality and protected cycle paths. For example, you can ride past areas with wild Konik horses, and you can see Galloway cattle grazing in peace.

You could imagine yourself being in the Highlands of Scotland. If you want to explore the various villages and nature areas in an optimal holiday atmosphere, I recommend our charming ferries.

You can even enjoy a beautiful view of the Kasteel Vilain XIII from the cycle path near the village of Leut. It will undergo a complete renovation in the coming years and, as the main entrance to the RivierPark, and as a cultural and social meeting centre, will link the economy and ecology."

Herbert Cook
Tourism Alderman

"I see our municipality as an ecological sandwich between two extensive, pristine nature reserves, a place where we have replaced "black gold" with "green gold". The economy of yesteryear, coal and gravel, gave way to the economy of today and tomorrow. Thriving tourism.

The most beautiful panorama of Flanders can be found in the Nationaal Park Hoge Kempen. I am lucky enough to experience it every time I go for a walk or a ride. The Nationaal Park will soon have a new main entrance on the western mine shaft. And this year, we will start building an impressive reception centre with catering, offices, an exhibition space and more. This will be the place to be by the end of 2024.

The amazing transition of the Nationaal Park is the result of the joint effort of several municipalities and other partners. Years of symbiosis means our visitors will be able to enjoy valuable places and memorable views. And I have absolutely no problem with someone enjoying the Nationaal Park outside the MaasMechelen borders. It is my mission to ensure everyone gets to experience beautiful moments throughout the entire area. I am very happy to do my utmost to support that."

"The 'natural recharging point' of our municipality is developing thanks to strong collaborations"



National Park Hoge Kempen

National Park Hoge Kempen is Belgium's only national park. More than 12,000 hectares of natural beauty are managed and protected in this **unique natural area**. From vast pine forests to purple-flowering heathlands and drifting dunes. Large stretches of water testify to the previous gravel and sand industries. High peaks provide grand vistas.



Entrance

Terhills

Terhills is located on the former mining site of Eisden; it forms the main entrance to the National Park Hoge Kempen. As a living reminder of Limburg's coal mining past, it extends over an area of about 365 ha in Dilsen-Stokkem and MaasMechelen. Today the environment is characterised by lush fauna and flora, enormous stretches of water, and unique views from the mine terrils [spoil tips].

Tested for you

Purple Trail

Terhills has three beautiful hiking trails ranging from 3.6 km to 9.5 km. The trails start at the National Park Visitor Center and lead you to the panorama point and many other beautiful places.

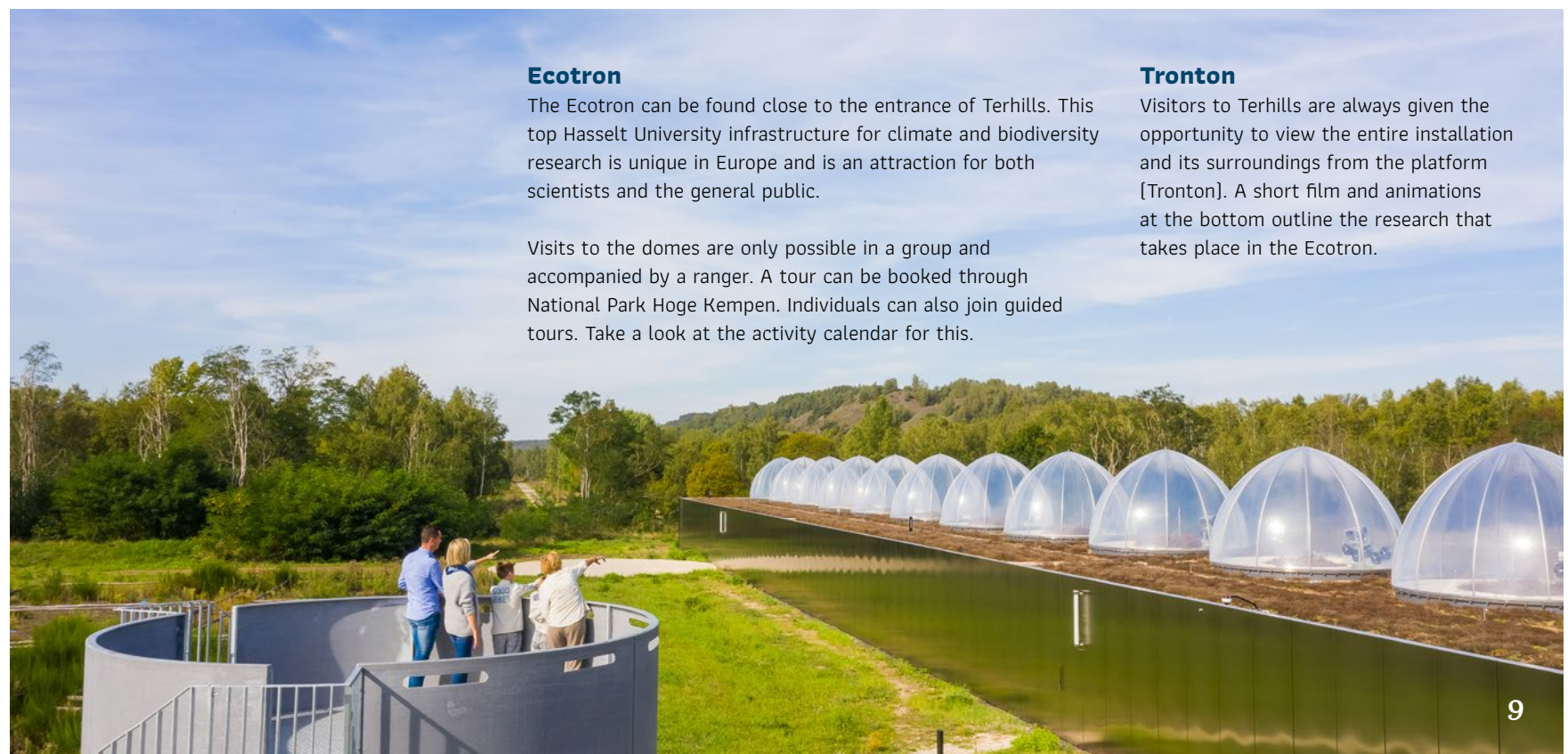
This guide describes the 9,5 km purple trail. This route runs all the way around the large lake and partly through the new Terhills Resort. Here you can stop for a snack and a drink, or simply to take a breather and enjoy the Terland Beach. You will enjoy breathtaking views along the way.

 9.5 KM  2 – 3 HOURS.



Panorama point

The best view of Flanders can be found at the top of the long terril [spoil tip]. It is therefore the National Park Hoge Kempen's most famous Instagram spot.



Ecotron

The Ecotron can be found close to the entrance of Terhills. This top Hasselt University infrastructure for climate and biodiversity research is unique in Europe and is an attraction for both scientists and the general public.

Visits to the domes are only possible in a group and accompanied by a ranger. A tour can be booked through National Park Hoge Kempen. Individuals can also join guided tours. Take a look at the activity calendar for this.

Tronton

Visitors to Terhills are always given the opportunity to view the entire installation and its surroundings from the platform [Tronton]. A short film and animations at the bottom outline the research that takes place in the Ecotron.



National Park Hoge Kempen

TIP for the kids

Play pit & B'Oscar's activity route P.47

Picnic by the expansive stretches of water

There are various picnic options around the large stretch of water at the foot of the terrils [spoil tips]. Or just relax and enjoy the beautiful view, why not!?

Selfies on top of the Terril

A walking route in MaasMechelen to guide you along the most beautiful, most insta-worthy spots. This is what Janne promised her friends, Melany and Sarah.

"You don't have to go too far away to be able to post beautiful photos on your Instagram feed. The green hiking trail in the National Park shows you beautiful places, and they are really insta-worthy!", Janne continues. "I always call this walk the 'Instagram trail'. If you are in MaasMechelen and want to take a good Instagram photo, you should walk this route. You are assured likes on your feed!"



Read the blog



National Park Visitor Center
Zetellaan 54, 3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 (0)89 44 04 44
www.nationaalparkhogechempen.be

P Free parking
Visit MaasMechelen, Zetellaan 35

€ The area is freely accessible

📖 The Terhills walking map is available for sale at Visit MaasMechelen and the National Park Visitor Center. It is also possible to view the map digitally via www.wandeleninlimburg.be



Terhills Recreation Area
Terhills is the main entrance to the National Park Hoge Kempen and is also part of the Terhills Recreation Area.

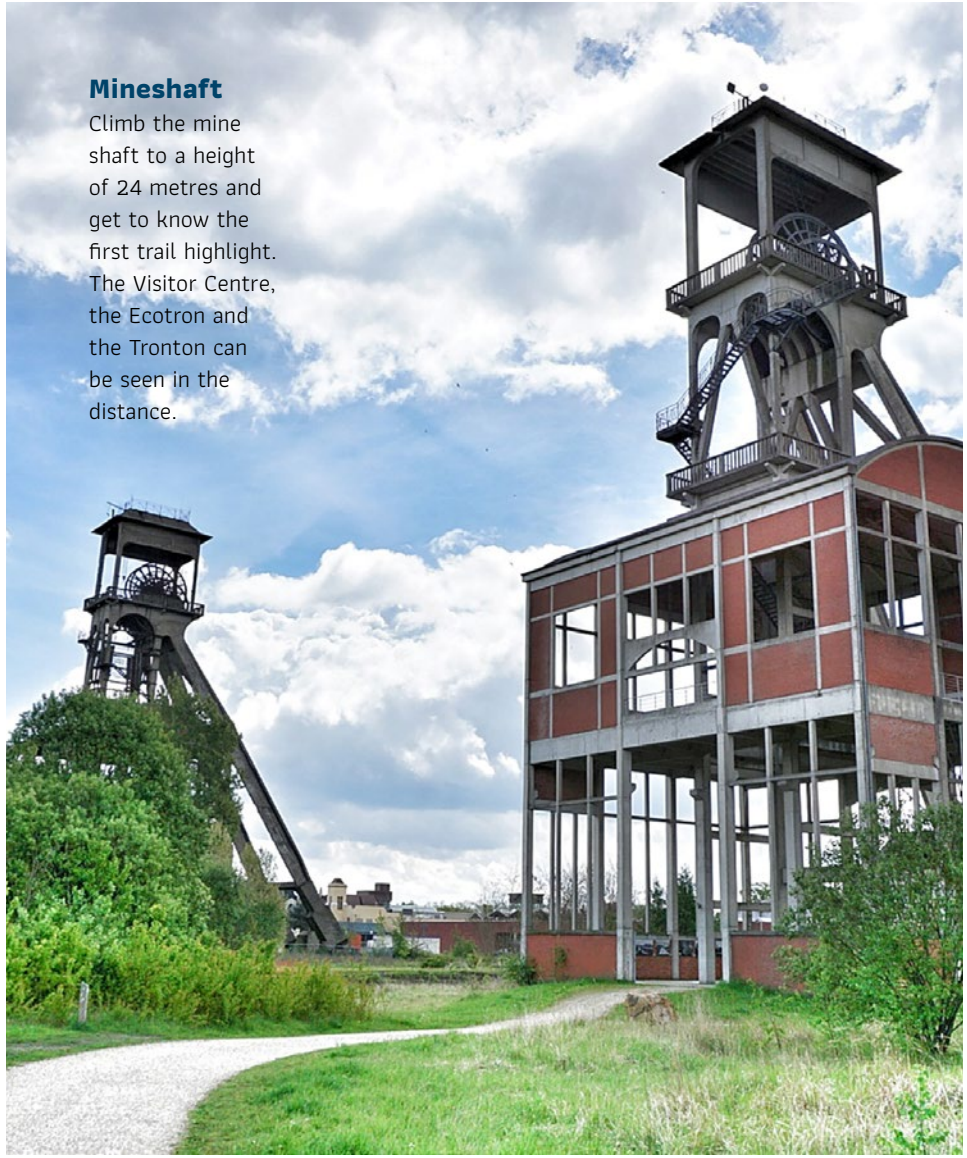


L **National Park Visitor Center**
Daily from 10:00 AM
From April to September: closed at 6:00 PM
From October to March: closed at 5:00 PM and closed on Mondays

L **Terhills hiking area**
The nature reserve is always accessible via the swing gate from sunrise to sunset, even when the Visitor Center is closed

Mineshaft

Climb the mine shaft to a height of 24 metres and get to know the first trail highlight. The Visitor Centre, the Ecotron and the Tronton can be seen in the distance.



Entrance

Mechelse Heide

The Mechelse Heide is one of the entrances to the National Park Hoge Kempen, and it is also very popular with hikers. Nowhere else is the landscape as varied as here: vast heathlands, forests and abandoned sand quarries. A steep climb to the highest natural point of the National Park is rewarded with beautiful views of the region, and even neighbouring countries. It is also the only Flemish heathland where you can enjoy such height differences.

Set off on foot, bike, mountain bike or wheelchair from the free car park and discover the Mechelse Heide. You can follow one of the hiking trails through the heathland, varying between 1.5 km and 8.5 km. Avid hikers can extend the trails by connecting them with trail connections.

Mechelse Heide entrance

Joseph Smeetslaan 280, 3630 MaasMechelen

www.visitMaasMechelen.com

Starting points


Mechels Bos


Fietscafé de Statie, Spoorstraat 10,
3630 MaasMechelen

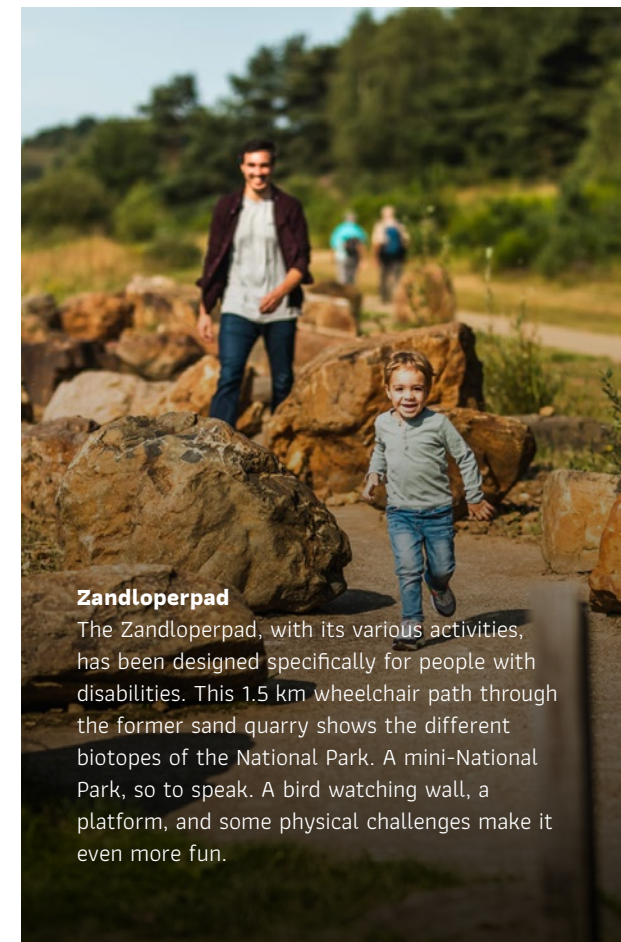
Vallei van de Kikbeekbron

Camping Kikmolen, Kikmolenstraat
3,3630 MaasMechelen

 Free parking on site

 Freely accessible from sunrise to sunset

 The Mechelse Heide walking map is for sale at Visit MaasMechelen and the surrounding catering establishments. It is also possible to consult the map digitally via www.wandeleninlimburg.be



Zandloperpad

The Zandloperpad, with its various activities, has been designed specifically for people with disabilities. This 1.5 km wheelchair path through the former sand quarry shows the different biotopes of the National Park. A mini-National Park, so to speak. A bird watching wall, a platform, and some physical challenges make it even more fun.

Walking

No less than seven hiking trails start from this entrance. There are also five hiking trails at the Station Eisden and camping Kikmolen starting points. You can also pick up the long-distance 110 km route from this entrance.

The kids can get to know the animals of the National Park Hoge Kempen in the Beestige Boelbos while walking and playing. There is also an open play dune for the kids to romp around at their heart's content. Read more about this on [page 47](#).

4 Tips for the Mechelse Heide

1 Vallei van de Kikbeekbron

The Vallei van de Kikbeekbron is a 120-hectare nature reserve in and around a former sand and gravel quarry in MaasMechelen; here water seeps into a stretch of water and then feeds into the Kikbeek and on to the Maas. The valley is part of the National Park Hoge Kempen – Mechelse Heide hiking area. The 5.5 km blue hiking trail takes you through the old sand quarry and heathlands.

2 Purple heathlands on the yellow route

Enjoy the purple heathlands in full bloom from mid-August to mid-September by travelling along the yellow route through the Mechelse Heide. **Highly recommended!**

3 National Park trail

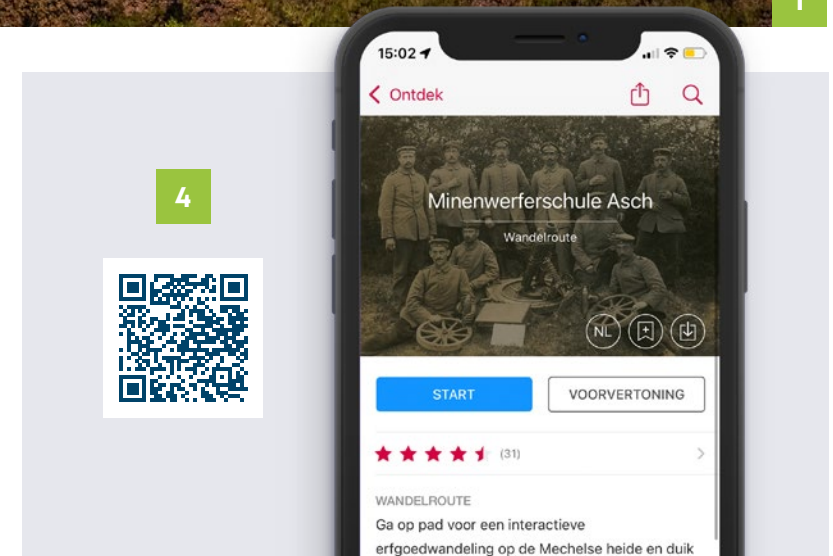
Walk around the National Park Hoge Kempen in five days. This long-distance route received the “**Leading Quality Trails – Best of Europe**” quality label

 110 KM

4 “Minenwerferschule Asche” trail

This 5.5 km route takes you past the German Mechelse Heide training grounds, which were used during World War I.

There are even some bunkers remaining.





RivierPark Maasvallei

The Maas river is the lifeblood of the **RivierPark Maasvallei**. The river models the landscape, as well as the plants and animals that live in the environment and do not occur anywhere else. Countless water birds, butterflies, dragonflies, wild bees and special flowers and herbs find their place here. A few typical Maas villages where time has stood still can be found in the RivierPark Maasvallei. They are all strung out along the banks, and they all exude authenticity. Get out and about and be enchanted by the sights of these beautiful villages.



MAASVALLEI
RIVIERPARK



Discover the
rich history

Leut

You can tell the Maas has left its mark on the Leut area in almost everything you see: the typical street pattern of Mzenhoven, the Maaskruis in Vucht, old Maasmeanders, and the new wild nature along the Maas. The combination of nature and culture make this area a gem to explore on foot.

Tested for you

Red Trail

Would you like to stroll along the riverbanks? We already have you in mind taking on the 14 km route through the RivierPark Maasvallei.

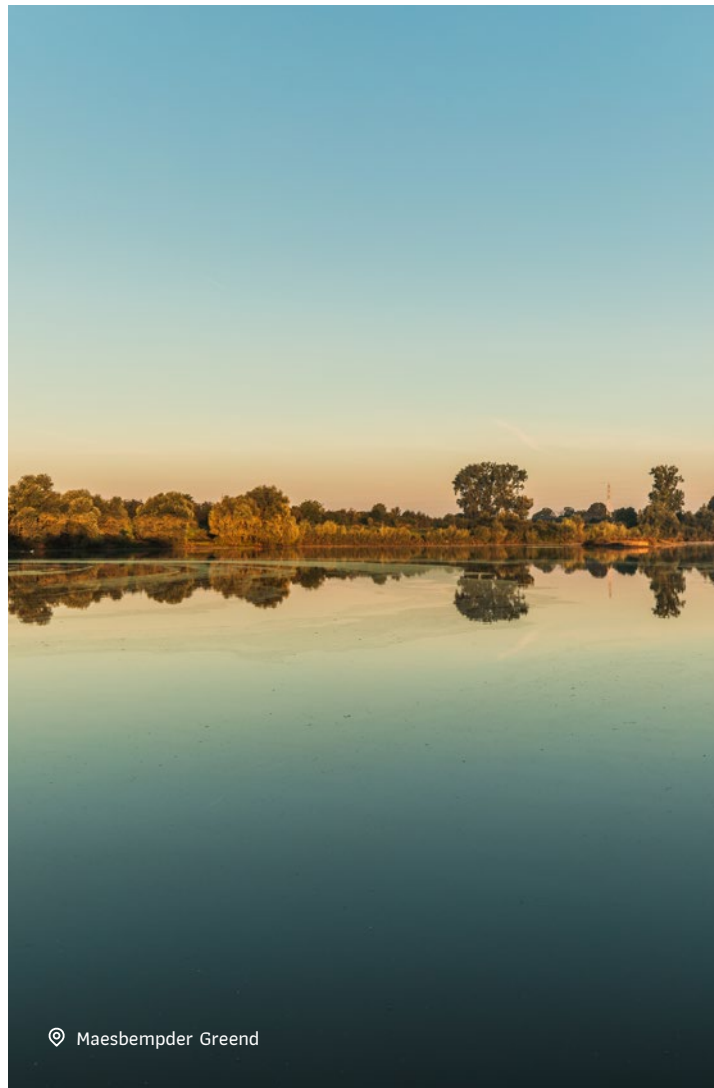
You will discover the vast nature reserves of Mzenhoven and Maesbempder Greend and walk high in the trees with a view of the sunken mining area. We also do not want to deprive you of the imposing Castle Vilain XIII.



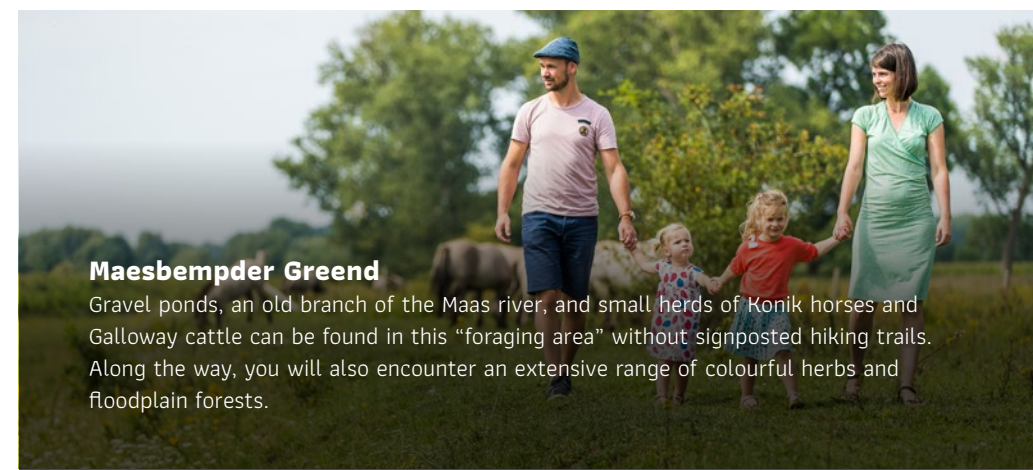
14 KM



2 – 3 HOURS.



Maesbempder Greend



Maesbempder Greend

Gravel ponds, an old branch of the Maas river, and small herds of Konik horses and Galloway cattle can be found in this “foraging area” without signposted hiking trails. Along the way, you will also encounter an extensive range of colourful herbs and floodplain forests.



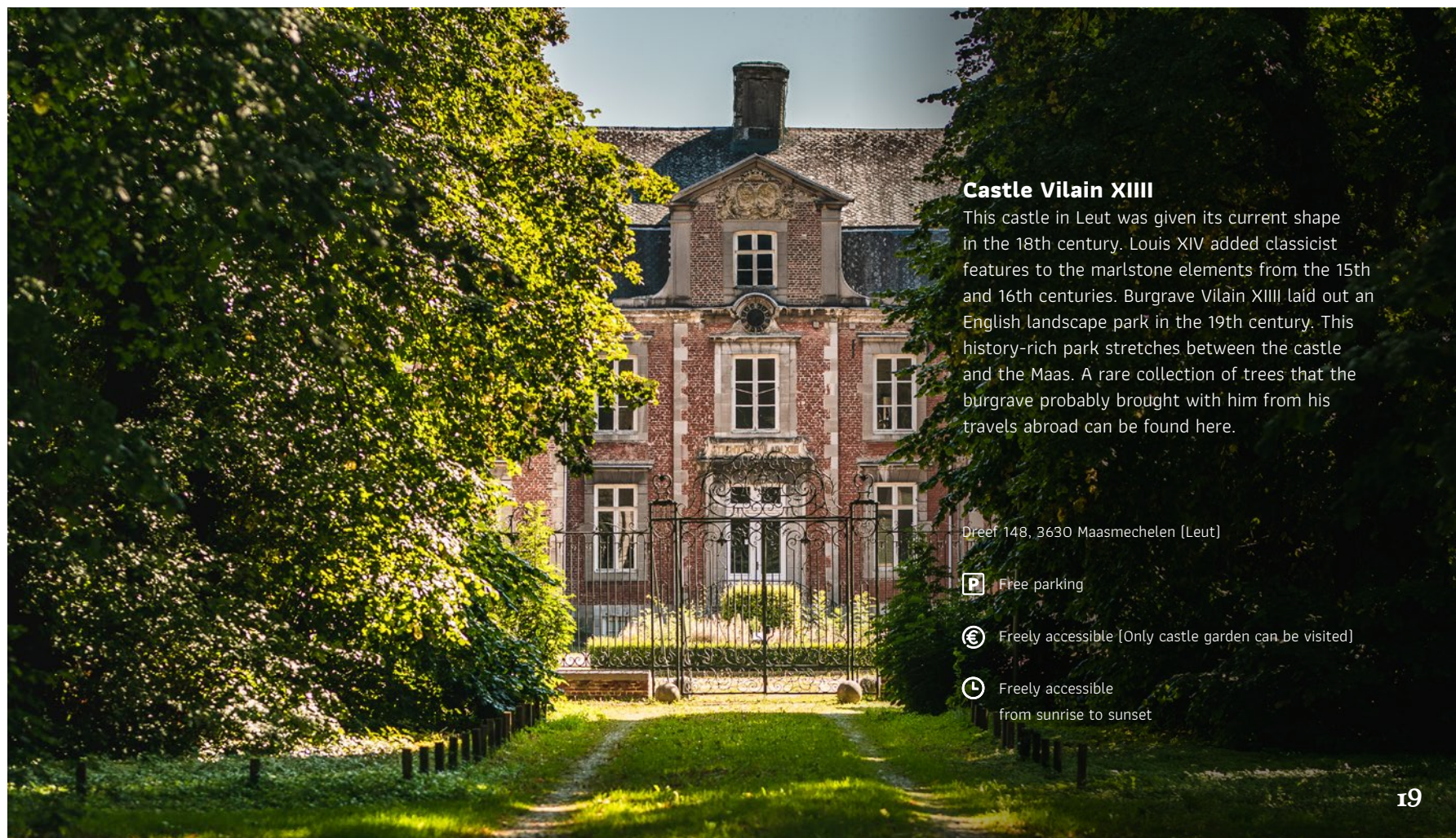
Molen Nieuw Leven

This semi-open standard mill from 1801 once belonged to the domain of the Vilain XIII family. It was given protected monument status in 1945 and is one of the oldest types of wind mill. The mill has been open twice a month since its thorough restoration in 1995, so you can it in action.

Molenstraat z/n, 3630 MaasMechelen



www.visitmaasmechelen.be



Castle Vilain XIII

This castle in Leut was given its current shape in the 18th century. Louis XIV added classicist features to the marlstone elements from the 15th and 16th centuries. Burgrave Vilain XIII laid out an English landscape park in the 19th century. This history-rich park stretches between the castle and the Maas. A rare collection of trees that the burgrave probably brought with him from his travels abroad can be found here.

Dreef 148, 3630 Maasmechelen [Leut]



Free parking



Freely accessible (Only castle garden can be visited)



Freely accessible
from sunrise to sunset



5 Tips in the RivierPark Maasvallei

1 Digital heritage trail

The Heritage app lets you listen to stories and admire old photos at various stops along the 2.5 km trail.

2 Railway Brick museum

This former artisanal bakery in Leut has Belgium's very first (and the fifth in Europe) museum for Lego. While the name is based on the history of more than 50 years of Lego trains, it has the most diverse of layouts.

Sint Pietersstraat 87, 3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 (0)89 38 40 08
www.railway-brickmuseum.eu

🕒 Friday to Sunday: 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM
Every day of the school holidays in Belgium and the Netherlands except on Monday.

€ €5.00 per person
Free for children up the age of 3

3 Unravel the secrets of Leut

Unravel Leut's secrets in a 3 km hiking trail. Discover historical gems, green oases and hidden corners. This well-signed treasure hunt offers you walking and searching pleasure in the beautiful backdrop of a Maas village.

📍 Dorpsplein Leut,
Genieskensstraat 151,
3630 MaasMechelen

🕒 1.5 hours

📖 Free to pick up at
Visit MaasMechelen or
download using [the QR code](#)



📍 3 km

4 Lange Afstandswandeling

The Lange Afstandswandeling [Long Distance Trail] lives up to its name... It is no less than 137 km long and runs on both banks of the Maas through Belgian and Dutch Limburg, through 11 Maas municipalities, and through 20 wild nature centres. Every kilometre surprises you with ever more beautiful views.

This long-distance route was chosen as “**Best walking route in the Benelux**”

5 Landbouwmuseum de Nostalgie

Get acquainted with the tough, but beautiful [farming] life of the past. This special museum houses old agricultural vehicles, tools and objects that were used on the land or in the household long ago.

Pastoor Goossenslaan 29,
3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 (0)477 67 52 12
www.visitmaasmechelen.com

🕒 Open from 1 April
until 30 September
by appointment



More RiverPark
Maasvallei?

Find out more on our website.



Maas Magic

You can really experience nature here. And you can do it by bike. The **extensive cycle route network** guides you through beautiful heathlands, wide vistas, the National Park Hoge Kempen, charming village centres, and along the Maas. MaasMechelen offers something for everyone thanks to the extensive range of cycling routes.



Cycling • Cycling • Cycling

Wonderful cycling through Woods and along the Maas

MaasMechelen is partly located in the National Park Hoge Kempen, with its extensive forests and partial location in the quiet Maas river valley. From pristine nature to charming villages and a bustling city centre, and from flat, paved cycle paths to challenging mountain bike routes: MaasMechelen has everything the cyclist's heart could desire. So get your steel steed out of its stable and enjoy the wind in your hair and the sun on your face.

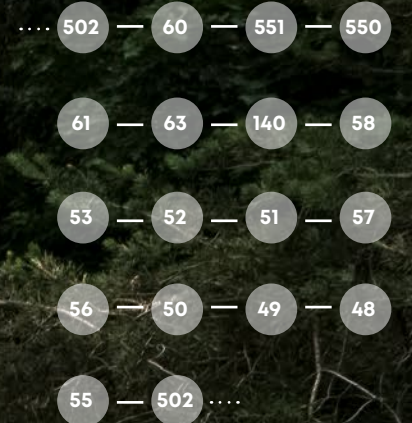
66.2 KM 3 - 4 HOURS.

Visit MaasMechelen, Zetellaan 35, 3630 MaasMechelen
Lies between Junctions 55 en 502.

National Park Hoge Kempen

RivierPark Maasvallei

Junctions



Recreational Family route

This recreational family route is perfect for the whole family. Take a tour through the Mechelse Heide and enjoy cycling 'door de Heide' through the Mechelse heathlands and the Vallei van de Kikbeekbron. A short route with nice sights and several stops to enjoy the beautiful view and maybe set up a picnic.

Junctions



14 KM 2U.

National Park Hoge Kempen

Mechelse Heide entrance
Joseph Smeetslaan 280, 3630 MaasMechelen



for the kids

To really explore the RivierPark Maasvallei across national borders, use the bicycle and pedestrian ferries during your bike ride or long walk. A trip on one of the charming ferries to the other side of the Maas immediately puts you in the holiday spirit. They also let you split your time between the various Maas villages and the nature reserves.

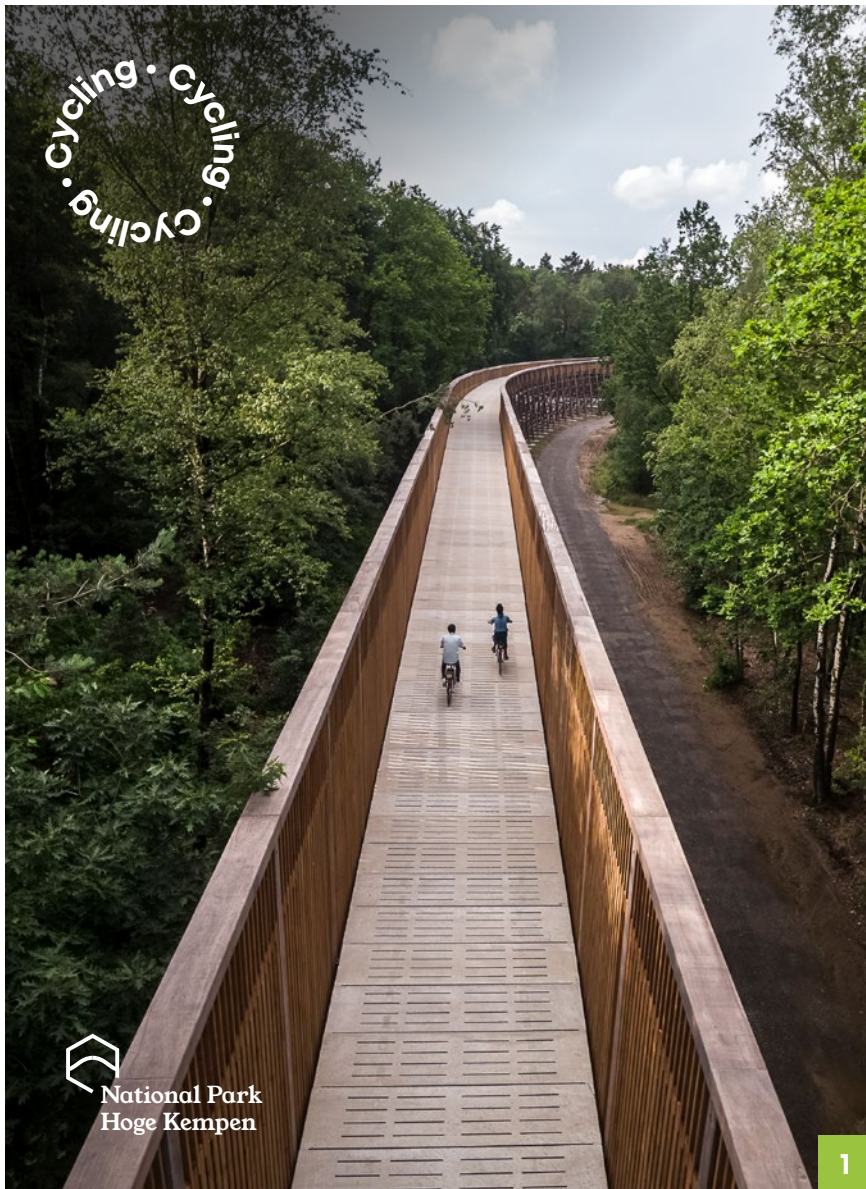
Hoal Euver car ferry 50

Palmenhofweg, Molenveld, 3630 MaasMechelen

Jung foot and bicycle ferry 52

Renewed dyke Uikhoven, 3630 MaasMechelen





5 Maas Mesmeric Stopping points

1 Fietsen door de Heide

Via this experience route between bicycle junction 550 and 551, you cross the Mechelse Heide, one of the largest heathlands in Flanders. Enjoy beautiful views from the monumental panorama bridge.

Junctions 550 — 551

2 Kruinenpad

Depart from the Zuid-Willemsvaart dike for a unique experience at a – literally – high level. The wooden path runs through the treetops. This unique track offers a privileged view of the remarkable consequences of mine subsidence. And between the trees, there are just too many birds and insects to see. The Kruinenpad is 181 metres long.

Junctions 48 — 55

3 Tuinwijk

Welcome to Eisden-Tuinwijk, where the past is inextricably linked to the present. The mining industry of yesteryear had a major impact on the municipality. And now only the main building, warehouses, shaft towers and bathing hall façade of the industrial complex made up of 56 buildings have been preserved. Thankfully they were restored and given a new purpose. The old residential areas, where the miners and families used to live, can also be partly seen in their original form.

Junctions 502 — 60

4 Aan de Maas

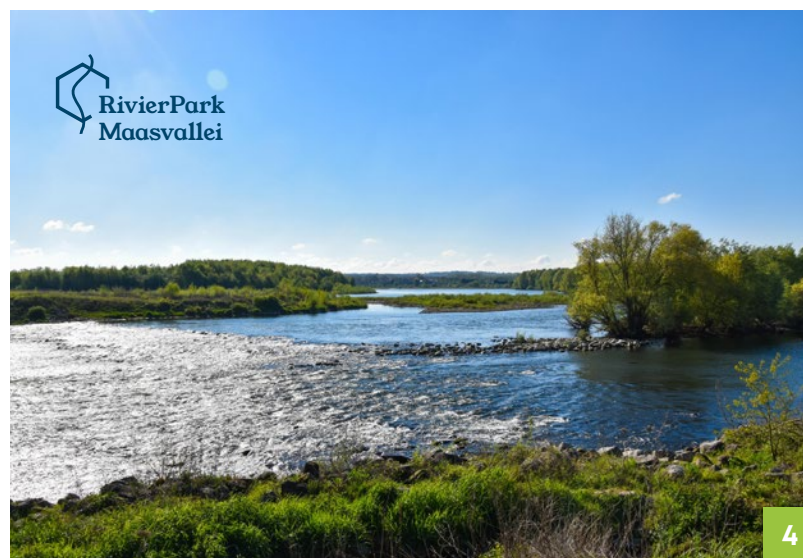
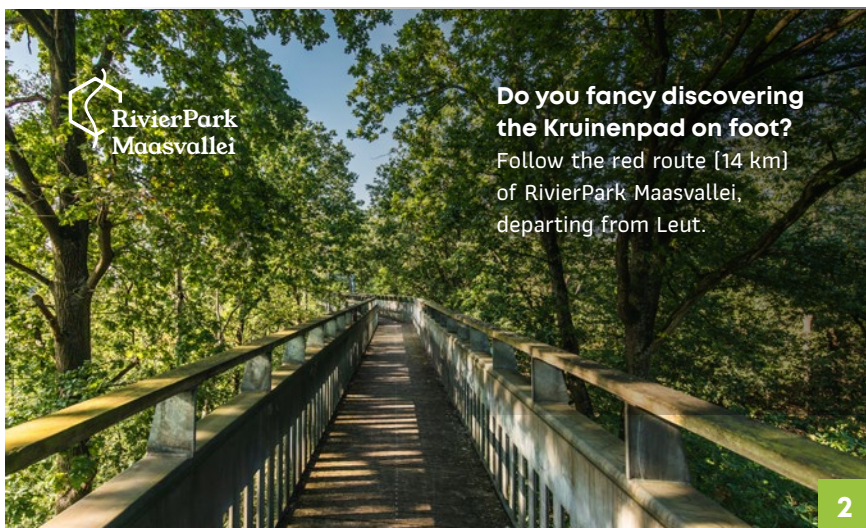
The wildest animals of the Maas of RivierPark Maasvallei can be found in MaasMechelen, more specifically in the Maaswinkel. This is also an ideal place for a picnic or for taking a break in the summer bar. Enjoy a beautiful view of the rippling Maas border, wild grazers, herons, fauna and flora.

Junctions 51 — 57

5 Vallei van de Kikbeekbron

The Vallei van de Kikbeekbron is a wonderful stopping place, equipped with a lovely picnic bench. This is located at the top of the Vallei van de Kikbeekbron. Relax for a while with rippling water in the background before continuing on your way.

Junctions 550 — 61



Maas Memo

RouteYou
Bike rental
Parking
Electric charging points
Ferries

Plan your visit online at **My Maas Moments**

It's all our Nature

MaasMechelen is the largest "natural recharging point" in Euregio. Cycle, walk, enjoy action & adventure or relax in the beautiful MaasMechelen nature.

Discover all the possibilities via
www.visitmaasmechelen.com



Adventure • Action • Adventure • Action

Maas
Mighty

You won't be bored for a second in MaasMechelen thanks to the surprisingly wide range of attractions and activities. **Swimming, sailing, kayaking, go-karting, archery:** there's plenty of choice for the active. Sounds good, right? Experiencing it is even better!

Kajak

Maasland

Alone, as a couple, or with the whole family? A trip down the Maas by canoe or kayak is guaranteed fun. But lovers of peace and nature will also get their money's worth. Rent one and two-person kayaks or one of the three- and four-person canoes, and enjoy a trip down the Limburgse Maas.



9 | 13 | 21 KM



2 - 3 HOURS.



RivierPark
Maasvallei



www.kajakmaasland.be

Action at the aqua park

Under a sunny sky, Max, Jorn, Lindert and Arne are enjoying the cable park in Terhills. They came to let off some steam in the aqua park, with a 2,000 m² air cushion and more than 60 inflatable obstacles and elements. Climbing, scrambling, sliding and jumping fun are all guaranteed. Anyone from the age of eight with swimming experience can venture into this play paradise. Who do you want to enjoy yourself with?

Read
the blog



Maas Memo



Parking



Spare clothes



Reservations

Plan your visit online
at **My Maas Moments**



Maasmechelen demystified

experience the city
a whole new way

Anyone taking a new approach to visiting a city will always discover new things. Even if they think they know all the hidden gems already. This unique city game will let you see Maasmechelen in a completely different light. Are you ready to embark on an adventure?

The magic starts with the special MaasMechelen box and the accompanying game app on your phone. Once you have activated the city game, start from Visit Maasmechelen. The route takes you through history and nature while offering breathtaking views, all the while putting your detective instincts to work. Challenging riddles and puzzles – even one with augmented reality – completely immerse you in the game.

“You are taken to places you would otherwise never go and in the meantime you are completely absorbed in unravelling the mystery. Highly recommended!”

Fully charged? Let's go!

Adventure and nature come together in this unique city game that takes you through the enchanting landscape of Eisdén-Tuinwijk and Terhills in the beautiful Hoge Kempen National Park. It is a perfect experience for an outing with family, friends or colleagues. Work together to solve the puzzles so you can continue on your journey. And if you are struggling to solve the mystery? Get a hint from the app. Here's your first tip though: make sure your mobile phone battery is fully charged before you start the game.



Unique combination

The mix of play and nature makes this experience extra special. Don't expect a route with traditional signposts, but get yourself acquainted with beautiful panoramas and hidden beauty while you learn more about Maasmechelen's nature and mining history. Hiking boots are a must!

You can enjoy something to eat or drink near the start and end point. If you want to take a break and enjoy a snack and a drink along the way, bring a picnic. Tips for filling a basket full of goodies can be found at visitmaasmechelen.com/nl/eten-drinken

- € You can purchase the “CityEscape MaasMechelen” box at the **visitor reception** of Visit MaasMechelen or via the webshop: www.citygoose.nl
- L +/- 3 hours (6.8 km)
- 8 2-6 players per game.
Do you want to compete against each other in different groups? Simply buy multiple boxes.



1



2



3

3 Maas Mountain Bike Routes

MaasMechelen is one of Limburg's best destinations for mountain bikers. The National Park Hoge Kempen forms the backdrop for many mountain bike trails. Short or long, you can cross through the woods to your heart's content here.



1 Green trail

This green trail crosses Lanaken and MaasMechelen over a distance of 25.5 km. The start and finish can be found at Weg naar Zutendaal (that's the name of the road). The best address to park is around number 199. The route is 95% off road and includes a total of 167 m of ascents. The maximum slope on the route is 3.55%. And of course, once you've climbed to the top, you have to come back down. The route includes some drops that will test your dexterity.

 **26 KM**  **2 – 3 HOURS.**

 Weg naar Zutendaal 199, 3630 MaasMechelen

2 Blue trail

This mountain bike route is 88% off-road and extends across the MaasMechelen, As and Dilsen-Stokkem regions. The nearest address to the start and end point is on the Mechelse Heide. Depart from there to head off on the 33.4 km ride. There are several start and end places with catering facilities and shower facilities. A total ascent of 199 m with a maximum gradient of 5.97% makes this route a tough one.

 **33 KM**  **3 HOURS.**

 Mechelse Heide, Joseph Smeetslaan 280, 3630 MaasMechelen

3 Red trail

This intense route is short but spicy, and 100% off-road. This 15.6 km route provides lots of climbing. Climb up for fantastic views, ride along narrow paths, and ascend 26 m at an average gradient of 3% to reach the top of Devil's Mountain. The start of this route is at camping Kikmolen. There are catering options and shower facilities for after the exhausting trip.

 **16 KM**  **1 – 2 HOURS.**

 Camping Kikmolen, Kikmolenstraat 3, 3630 MaasMechelen



Introduction to wakeboarding

Tested by Jinte

Jinte took her mom to Terhills Cablepark, where Jinte ventured onto a wakeboard for the first time. The weather was great, and the atmosphere was good.

"Jinte will be 15 tomorrow", Mum Veerle tells us while Jinte is being prepared by the supervisors at Cable Park. They help fit her out with a life jacket, helmet and board. "Since we are sporty and active, and we have a day for just the two of us today, this seemed like the perfect trip to celebrate Jinte's birthday."

They are not alone at Terhills Cable Park, but everything is going smoothly. Jinte has received her first instructions, and gives Veerle some things to look after before she ventures towards the water. "I am a bit nervous," admits Jinte. "It's my first time on a wakeboard and it doesn't look easy. Luckily I got good instructions. They also reassured me that no one has ever stood up on the board for the first time. Practice makes perfect," laughs Jinte.

So, Veerle sits quietly in a beach chair enjoying the view. When it is Jinte's turn, Veerle quickly gets to see how her daughter is doing. It's difficult, but Jinte is a go-getter. After falling into the water a few times, she is able to stand up for a few metres. Jinte beams and raises her thumb to Veerle from the water. She gestures that she will try again. Veerle laughs and says: "I think we'll be back next week! I can see from Jinte that she really enjoys it and that she feels at ease. She really wants to master it now and stay upright on the board."

After Jinte's time slot, some boys and girls from the club have their turn. Jinte quickly changes because she wants to sit on the beach with her mother to see the experienced wakeboarders do their stuff. Their jumps and speed are a delight to watch. Jinte and her mother enjoy the spectacle, and partake in a nice cocktail on the beach. "A successful pre-birthday!" says Jinte. "I'm all set to turn 15 tomorrow."



Maas Memo



Parking



Spare clothes



Reservations

Plan your visit online at
My Maas Moments

Nationaal Parklaan 5,
3650 Dilsen-Stokkem

T +32 (0)473 77 91 46
info@terhillscablepark.be
www.terhillscablepark.be



Relax • Relax Maas Mindful • Relax

Maas Mindfulness is not only in the DNA of everyone in Maasmechelen, but also completely in the nature of MaasMechelen itself. Come and recharge your batteries at the **largest 'natural recharging point'** in Euregio.



Elaisa Wellness

Elaisa Energetic Wellness embraces you with its geometric shapes and offers you everything you need for complete relaxation. There is room here to fully enjoy and relax in the deepest part of yourself.

Elaisa stands for Egypt – Lemuria – Atlantis – Inner Source Activation. Connected to the beautiful nature of the National Park Hoge Kempen, our wellness area surrounds you with different styles, images and symbols from ancient world cultures. A stillness that works deep into your body and helps you find a new balance, full of energy.

Every person is unique and therefore has their own way of relaxing. This is why our diverse offering, unique in Europe, extends much further and deeper than traditional wellness. It is a relief that makes you go back home full of peace, energy and wonder.

Nationaal Parklaan 7.3650
Dilsen-Stokkem
T +32 (0)89 39 09 96
www.elaisawellness.com



Terland Beach

Terland Beach is a hotspot for a dip in the lake, a delicious aperitif in the Beach House, or just chilling out in the sun.


Nationaal Parklaan 1,
3650 Dilsen-Stokkem
T +32 (0)89 81 81 30
www.terland.be

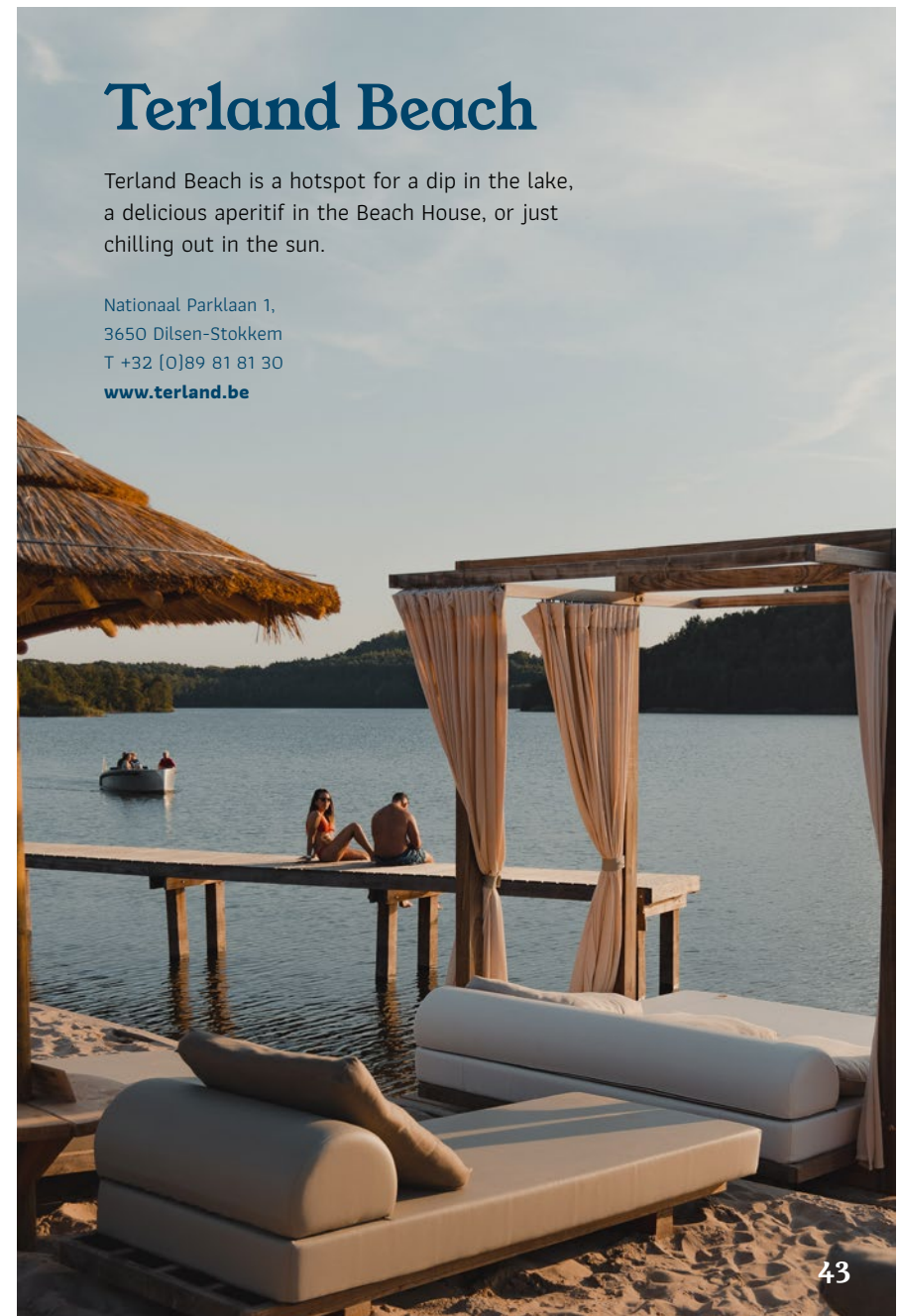
Boat trips Maasland

Zuid-Willemsvaart

Enjoy a luxurious boat trip a stone's throw away from MaasMechelen Village. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings Zuid-Willemsvaart has to offer from the water.

Passantenhaven Eisden, zetellaan z/n,
3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 (0)485 73 94 98
www.boottochtenmaasland.be

 Reservation only





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4

1 Escape Room

Follow the hints, solve the riddles and escape. Share this unique experience with friends or colleagues.

Pauwengraaf 62, 3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 [0]485 15 19 23
www.escaperoommaasmechelen.be

2 Bowling Admiral MaasMechelen

Eight fully automated bowling alleys, as well as pool, bumper pool, table football and darts.

Wipstraat 2, 3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 [0]89 76 64 78
www.bowling-admiral.be

3 Escape Room X-Cube

Enter the X-Cube with your friends or family and let the mission begin. Will you manage to solve the riddles and escape from this virtual Escape Room within an hour?

National Parklaan 1, 3650 Dilsen-Stokkem
T +32 [0]89 81 81 81
www.terhillsresort.be/dagticket



2



3



5

4 Euroscoop – Pathé

The cheapest and warmest cinema in Limburg with eleven screens.

Zetellaan 74, 3630 MaasMechelen
www.pathe.be

5 Cultural Centre

MaasMechelen Cultural Centre enjoys a high-quality, diverse and varied programme with a focus on theatre, classical and contemporary music, dance, film, pop music, humour, family and school performances, exhibitions, training courses and a range of art and cultural education.

Koninginnelaan 42, 3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 [0]89 76 97 97
www.ccmaasmechelen.be

6 Cargo-Karting

600-metre indoor go-karting track on 2 floors. Compete in Mini or Super Grand Prix.

Heufkensweg 5, 3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 [0]89 77 28 50
www.cargo-karting.be



6

Do you want more indoor and outdoor activities?

Discover all the activities on our website.





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5

5x Kids Proof

1 Beestige boelbos [Beastly forest]

Children and their parents become acquainted with the animals in the play forest of the National Park, in particular the species that live on the Mechelse Heide. But there is more: right next to the Beestige Boelbos [Beastly Forest], and surrounded by the Zandloperpad, there is a play dune and water hole equipped with a water game and a climbing tree to make the fun complete.

📍 Mechelse Heide entrance
www.visitmaasmechelen.be

2 De Kikmolen natural swimming pool

Glide from bend to bend at a devilish speed on the 78 m long water slide, or take a rubber dinghy on the short tube slide. Adrenaline and water fun guaranteed in this natural swimming pool.

This swimming pool is also suitable for the little ones. The bottom is sand and starts at a depth of only 30 cm. This bottom slopes gently to the other side, where the maximum depth is 1.80 metres and you can enjoy a great swim.

Kikmolenstraat 3, 3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 [0]89 77 09 00
www.kikmolen.be

3 National Park Kid safari

Biologist and film-maker Frank Ressler leads you on an adventurous safari along the Hourglass Path to discover the magic of animal spotting in Hoge Kempen National Park. Learn all about the fascinating fauna, and study the coolest animals using the QR codes on the wooden posts. There is plenty of hidden life in the dry sand or between the heather bushes if you know where to look.

After your adventurous tour of discovery, end the day perfectly in the Beestige Boel Bos. The wilderness is calling, so come and be amazed by our natural treasures.

📍 Mechelse Heide entrance
www.visitmaasmechelen.be

4 B'Oscars

This is the most important prize for natural talents from the age of seven in the National Park Hoge Kempen. Ree Witherspoon and Arnold Schwarzenever challenge you to take on the role of a very important character in the National Perk.

The trails are signposted and vary from 3.5 km to 5 km. Crack the code and receive your reward by working through the tips you collect along the way and the information you find in the booklet.

📍 Mechelse Heide entrance
Terhills entrance
www.nationalpark.be

WINWIN! Claim your prize using the IZI.TRAVELL app and the special B'Oscar booklet.



5 Spider walk

The "Boekstappers" immerse you in the story of the Webster family during the spider walk through the beautiful nature of Maasmechelen. This interactive walk is 3.3 km and full of experiences. Children from 4 years old can look for the 5 wooden statues, discover what's in the lunch box of the spider children, and learn how to make a real spider web. After the walk, you can buy the "My most beautiful spider web" picture book at Café De Statie, 't Salamanderke, Visit Maasmechelen or in the bookstore.

📍 De Statie, Spoorwegstraat 10,
3630 Eisdén-Maasmechelen
www.visitmaasmechelen.be



Mmmmm MaasMechelen

From multi-cultural picnic basket
to a lazy lunch

The sun on her skin, a soft breeze in the air, and a basket with a delicious lunch under her arm. This is what the ideal spring or summer day looks like for Celeste. “Or looking out over the frozen fields with a Thermos flask of steaming hot chocolate is just as good,” laughs this MaasMechelen foodie as she shares her favourite spots in MaasMechelen for a relaxing picnic or a quick lunch, and the local traders she likes to visit for the tastiest snacks.

A smile spontaneously appears on Celeste's face when she thinks about all the goodies MaasMechelen has to offer. “I regularly cycle along the Maas with my boyfriend in the spring or summer. We drive until we find a nice spot for a picnic. An antipasti dish from **D'Amici** for example. Super! And so easy: everything is pre-prepared so it's easy to take with you. They also have special breads from the freezer. They are perfectly thawed by the time we've finished with the cycling.”

Other favourites are **Il Buon Gusto** and **Two oh Five**. “We go there with friends for wraps or bagels. We put our own nuts, crisps and

bubbles in the backpack, and then choose a sandwich or something to go with it. We even bring our best bowls and glasses. There's no more fun than taking a brisk walk and then flopping down on a bench with a fantastic view over the fields. Opening all the tasty snacks really feels like unwrapping presents. I really need to buy a proper picnic blanket to complete the experience!”

“There's no more fun than taking a brisk walk and then flopping down on a bench with a fantastic view over the fields.”



It certainly doesn't have to be a summer day to go out. “In winter we simply opt for a heartier dish and a Thermos flask with hot chocolate. We once sat down when it was 2 degrees, bundled up and enjoying the frozen landscape around us.”

Celeste's eyes light up as she reminisces. “Do you know what's so cool about MaasMechelen? The multi-cultural character. You can really experience so many different cuisines! Belgian, Italian, Turkish,... At **Iceni** they have the tastiest Turkish olives, peppers and feta cheese, and at the Turkish bakery **De Zon** they have delicious bread and the very best börek [filled puff pastries].”

“I sometimes take my lunch break and sit in the small park at the cultural centre with my face in sun for some me-time. I can drop in at **Pure** for a healthy salad. Our go-to after a walk or bike ride is **Café De Statie**. They offer the Koppel speciality beers there. The best view? That's at **Brasserie Aspermans**.”

Would you like to go on a culinary voyage of discovery in MaasMechelen yourself?

Check out all the delicious addresses on our website.



Passion for delicious chocolate

The counter of their store on the Rijksweg is full of sweet temptations. Pralines in all flavours, seasonal chocolate figures and even a chocolate pump. Everything is made in-house with the best ingredients and craftsmanship. B-art is the life's work and passion of Bart Janssen and his wife Marieke.

“My parents had a ‘classic’ bakery, but my father liked to experiment with chocolate. I was fascinated from an early age and helped him out. After completing my studies, I worked from the studio behind my parents’ bakery where I made pralines and chocolate figures as a secondary vocation. We later took over the business, moved to the new building on Rijksweg, and we now employ three permanent employees and five student workers. We are extremely proud of the path we have taken.”



Taste evolution

“We ask ourselves a number of questions for every new creation. It starts with an idea that we – or the guys in the team – pick up somewhere. We then check whether the ingredients are available, and whether we can process them into the end result we have in mind. It’s not only the taste that counts, we also take things like shelf life into account.”

By the way, flavours are subject to trends: “Praline remains a classic, but sometimes new fashions emerge. *Salted caramel* is an excellent example of this: no one had heard of it ten years ago, but now you can find it everywhere. We also like to play with aromas, textures or special ingredients as well. For example, we use cocoa beans from Tanzania to make a ganache in which you can taste notes of coffee.”

The best ingredients for the best Belgian chocolate

Something that the average customer may be less concerned about, but that B-art is strongly committed to, is sustainability. Fair compensation for cocoa farmers in Ghana and the Ivory Coast is close to their hearts. “As far as we know, there is only one planet with chocolate, so we absolutely need to protect it.”

“There is only one planet with chocolate. We absolutely must protect it.”

Does a chocolatier not get fed up with chocolate? “Of course not! Especially if it is a new type. When you taste it, all the flavours are released and it really melts in your mouth. But we eat quite a lot during the working day, so we try to limit our chocolate consumption a bit in our free time *[laughs]*.”

Rijksweg 289, 3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 [0]89 77 20 71
bart@bart-choc.be
www.bart-choc.be

🕒 Open Monday-Saturday
between 9:00 AM and 6:00PM.





1



2



3



4

4 Shopping addresses in MaasMechelen

1 Pauwengraaf

This dynamic intersection of shops, cafés and restaurants is located in the bustling commercial heart of MaasMechelen.

www.visitmaasmechelen.be

3 M2 Shopping Center

This beautiful gallery is a gem of light and airy architecture full of playful details. It is always pleasant to stroll around there. Charming boutiques, warm cafés and restaurants alternate.

 Free parking

www.m2shoppingcenter.be

2 Koninginnelaan

There are numerous shops, stylish boutiques and restaurants to be found here in the commercial centre of MaasMechelen. Fashion-conscious buyers will definitely find something to their liking here.

4 MaasMechelen Village

This brand village offers a unique shopping experience. Indulge yourself in style boutiques that offer their previous season collections at outlet prices. For great opportunities, you should definitely be in MaasMechelen Village.

 Free parking

www.maasmechelenvillage.com



post • Cultural/post • Cultural/post

Maas Mine

The Mijncité [also called cité or Tuinwijk] is another name for 'City Garden Architecture'. The mine commissioned its construction so the miners could live close to their work. Many trees and hedges were used to create a green environment.



Tested for you

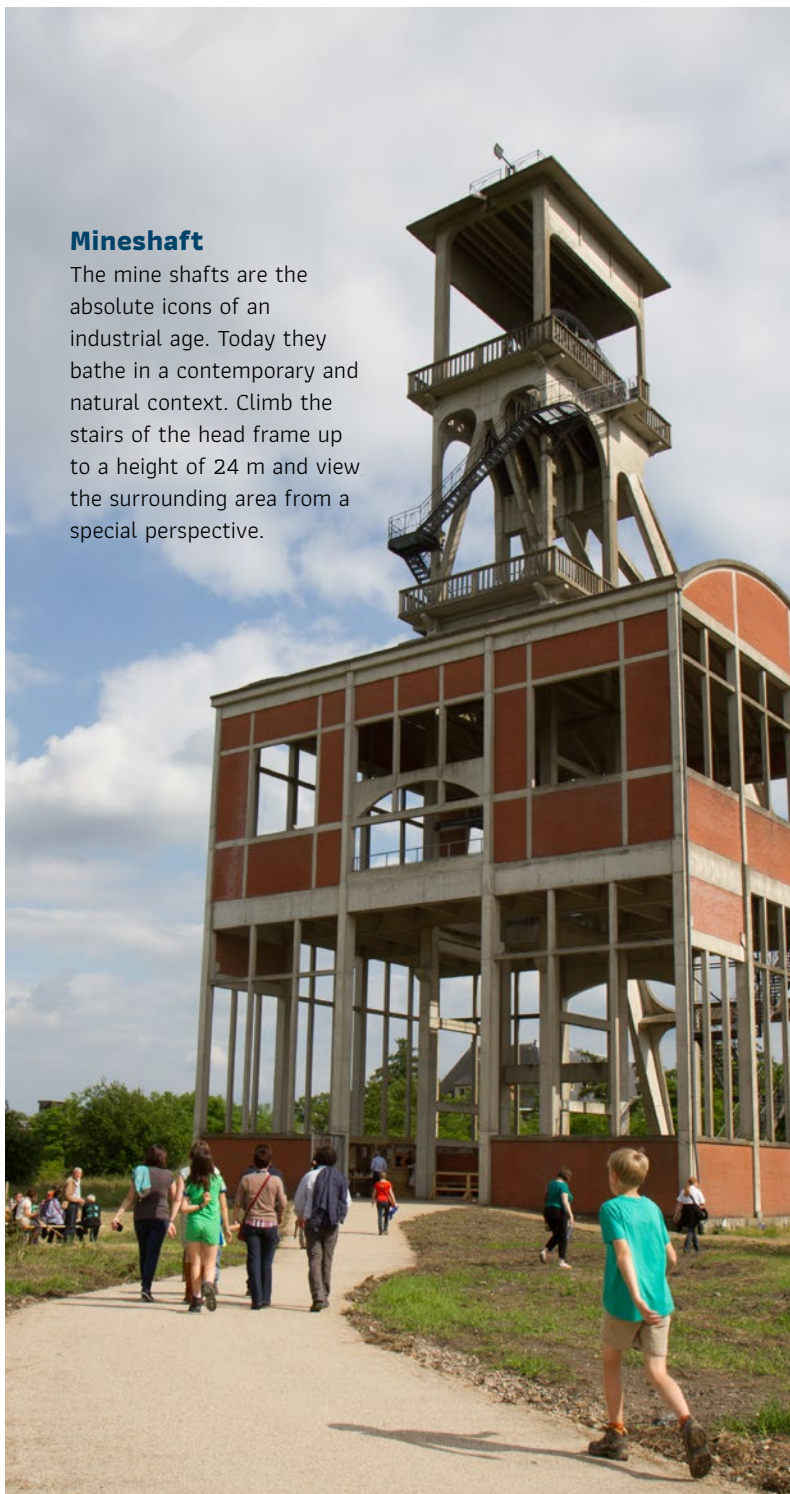
Grey Trail

Welcome to Eisden-Tuinwijk, where the past is inextricably linked to the present. The Eisden coal mine was one of seven mines in the Kempen coal basin. This hiking trail takes you on a fascinating journey through the mining past of Eisden-Tuinwijk and guides you along the most beautiful and best preserved spots.

🕒 1 – 2 HOURS.

Mineshaft

The mine shafts are the absolute icons of an industrial age. Today they bathe in a contemporary and natural context. Climb the stairs of the head frame up to a height of 24 m and view the surrounding area from a special perspective.



TIP

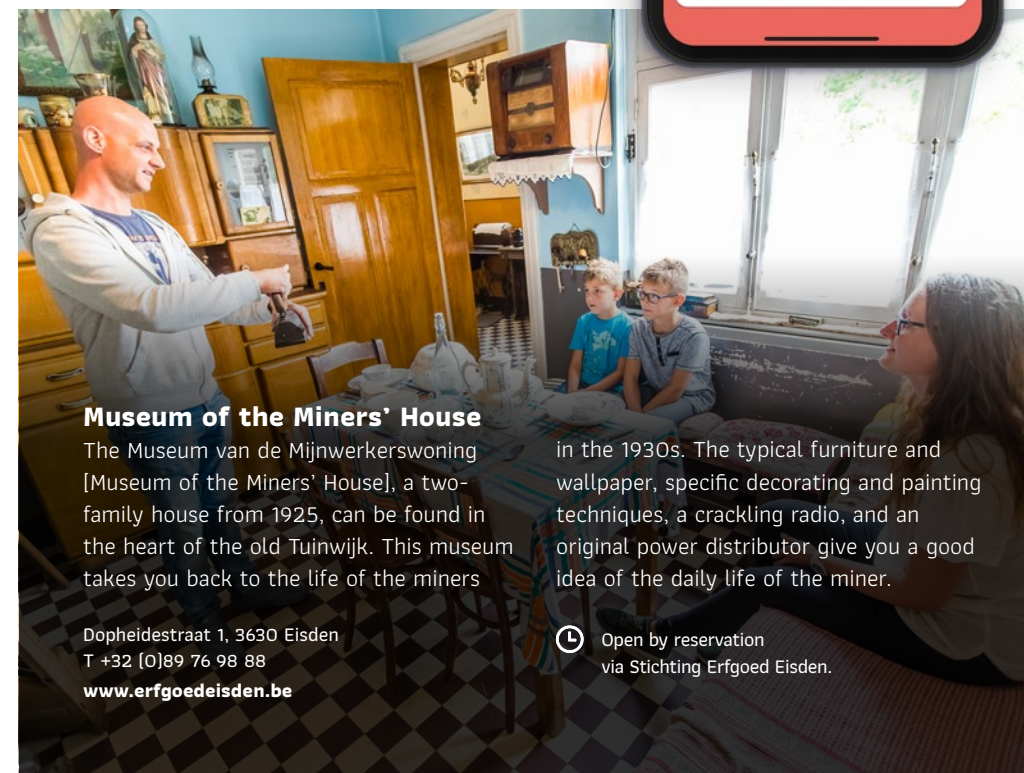
Do you want to learn more about the mining past and the mine buildings along the way?



Download the Heritage app. This trail, identical to the grey hiking trail, takes you on an interactive 5 km route and has old photos and footage of life in the Tuinwijk.

Authentic miners' houses and engineers' houses

Feast your eyes as you stroll past numerous original miner's and engineer's homes.



Museum of the Miners' House

The Museum van de Mijnwerkerswoning [Museum of the Miners' House], a two-family house from 1925, can be found in the heart of the old Tuinwijk. This museum takes you back to the life of the miners

Dopheidestraat 1, 3630 Eisden
T +32 (0)89 76 98 88
www.erfgoedseiden.be

in the 1930s. The typical furniture and wallpaper, specific decorating and painting techniques, a crackling radio, and an original power distributor give you a good idea of the daily life of the miner.

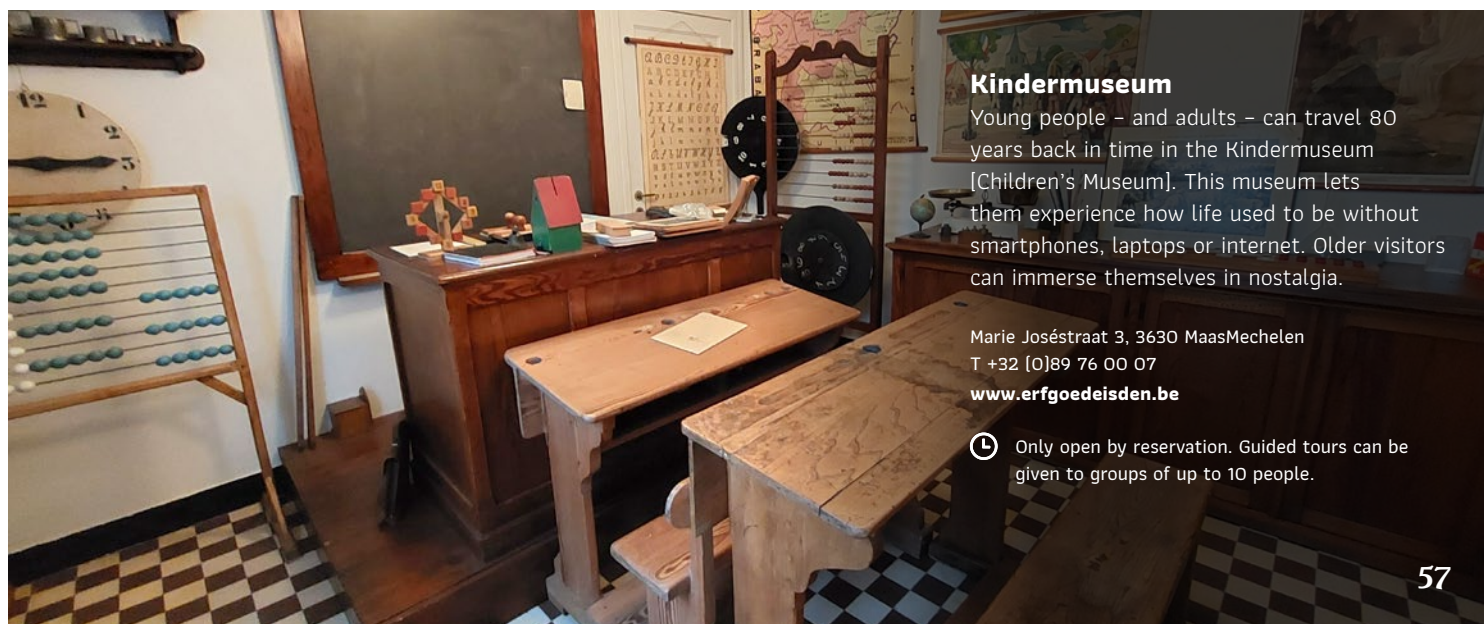
🕒 Open by reservation via Stichting Erfgoed Eisden.

Church of Saint Barbara

The parish church of Saint Barbara was commissioned by the mining company and was designed by architect Auguste Van den Nieuwenborg from Ukkel. This monumental neo-Gothic church is dedicated to Sint-Barbara, patroness of miners. The tower is 53 meters high. The same red and blue in the beautiful stained glass windows can also be found in the famous Chartres cathedral in France.

Only accessible in groups accompanied by a guide.
Reservation via Stichting Erfgoed Eisden.

Kastanjelaan 26, 3630 MaasMechelen
www.erfgoedseiden.be



Kindermuseum

Young people – and adults – can travel 80 years back in time in the Kindermuseum [Children's Museum]. This museum lets them experience how life used to be without smartphones, laptops or internet. Older visitors can immerse themselves in nostalgia.

Marie Joséstraat 3, 3630 MaasMechelen
T +32 (0)89 76 00 07
www.erfgoedseiden.be

🕒 Only open by reservation. Guided tours can be given to groups of up to 10 people.

our neighbours Euregio

Euregio is an area in which Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany come together. MaasMechelen is the beating heart of the region. The historic centres of Maastricht, Aachen and Hasselt are just a stone's throw away from each other.

Genk

Bokrijk

How did the past inspire our present and future? Be surprised by the four fascinating parts of this open-air museum, each with its own unique interpretation. Also, don't miss "Fietsen door het Water" [Cycling through the Water]: a unique cycling experience where you can cycle straight through a pond for more than 200 metres.

vzw Het Domein Bokrijk
Bokrijkklaan 1, 3600 Genk
T +32 (0)11 26 53 00
www.bokrijk.be



C-Mine

C-mine is clustered on a unique industrial mining heritage site and is a creative hotspot for artistic talent. Having its roots in the past helps C-mine shape the future. This is achieved by involving a broad community in a versatile context of study, research, design, innovation, creation and reflection.

C-Mine 10
3600 Genk
T +32 (0)89 65 44 90
www.c-mine.be

Thorn

The small town of Thorn is the white pearl of Dutch Limburg. It is known for its striking white-painted houses, monumental buildings and authentic cobbled streets. The Abbey Church of Thorn towers high above the white houses.

www.visitnoordlimburg.nl/nl/thorn

Tongeren

Our recommendation? The antiques market in Tongeren: the largest antiques and second-hand market in the Benelux. About 350 exhibitors and about 40 antique shops have been displaying their best wares to numerous visitors from all over the world on Sunday mornings for more than 30 years.

www.antiekmarkt-tongeren.be

Riemst

Feeling adventurous? Then discover the Grotten van Kanne [Caves of Kanne]. Follow a route up to 30 metres underground and lasting about one and a half hours in dark, high, wide corridors. Along the way there are wall drawings and data from block breakers who removed the marl from the quarry.

www.grottenvankannevzw.be

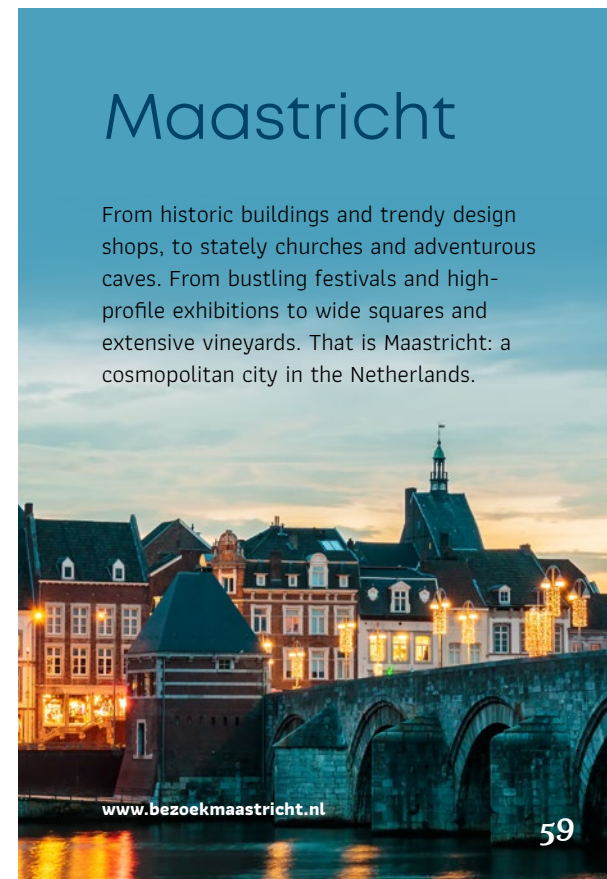
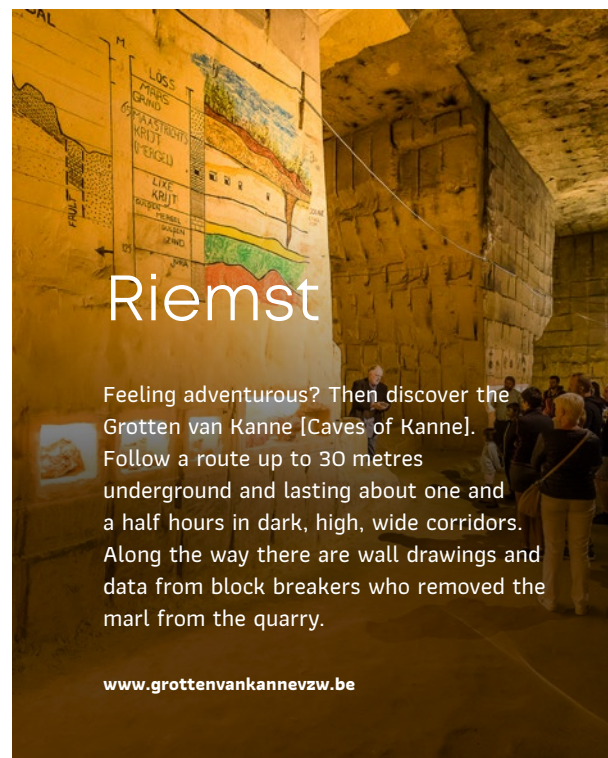
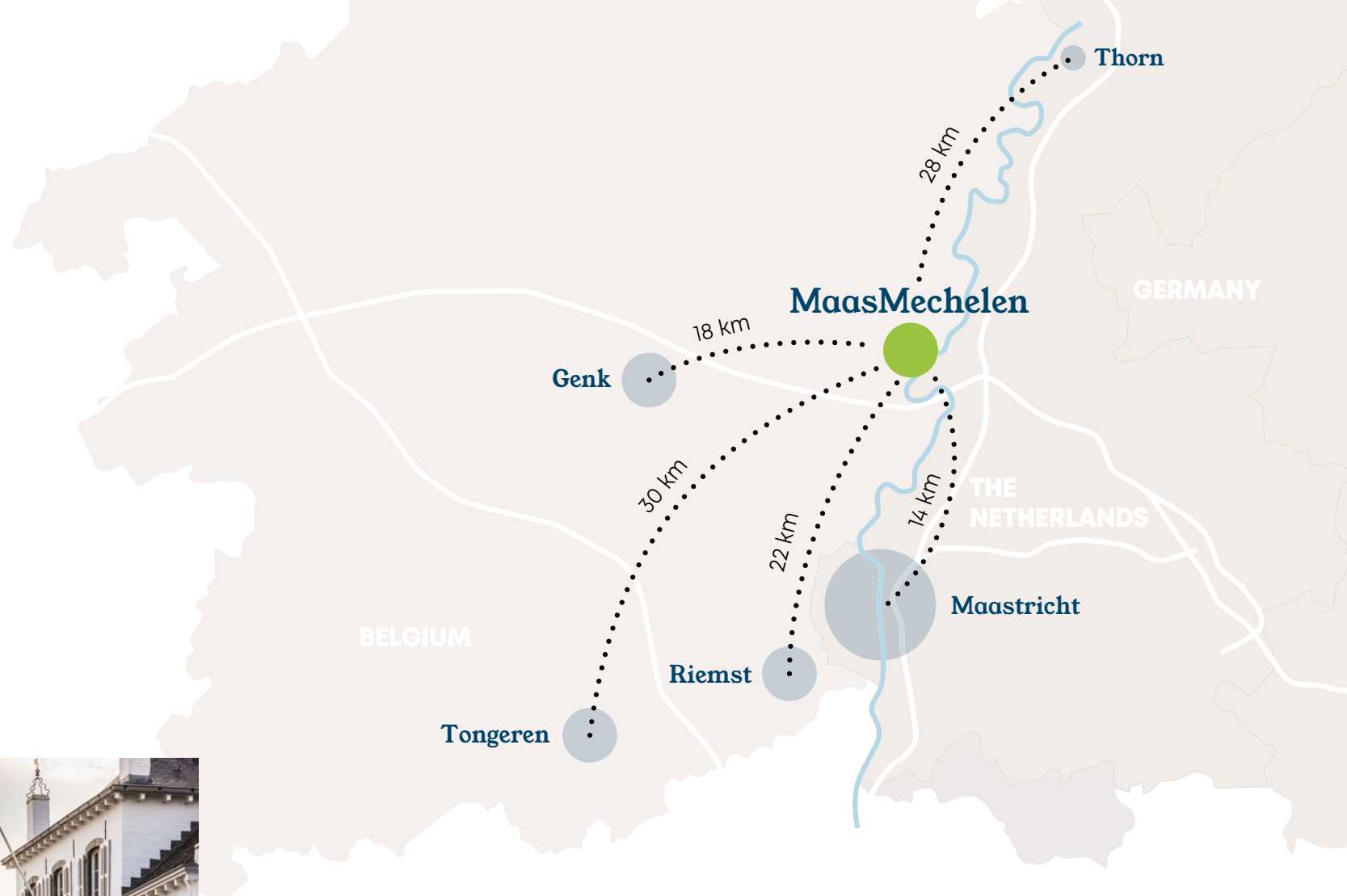
Discover other
trips in the
neighbourhood



Maastricht

From historic buildings and trendy design shops, to stately churches and adventurous caves. From bustling festivals and high-profile exhibitions to wide squares and extensive vineyards. That is Maastricht: a cosmopolitan city in the Netherlands.

www.bezoekmaastricht.nl





MAASMECHELEN

Visit MaasMechelen, Zetellaan 35, 3630 MaasMechelen

T +32 (0)89 76 98 88 **E** visit@MaasMechelen.be

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