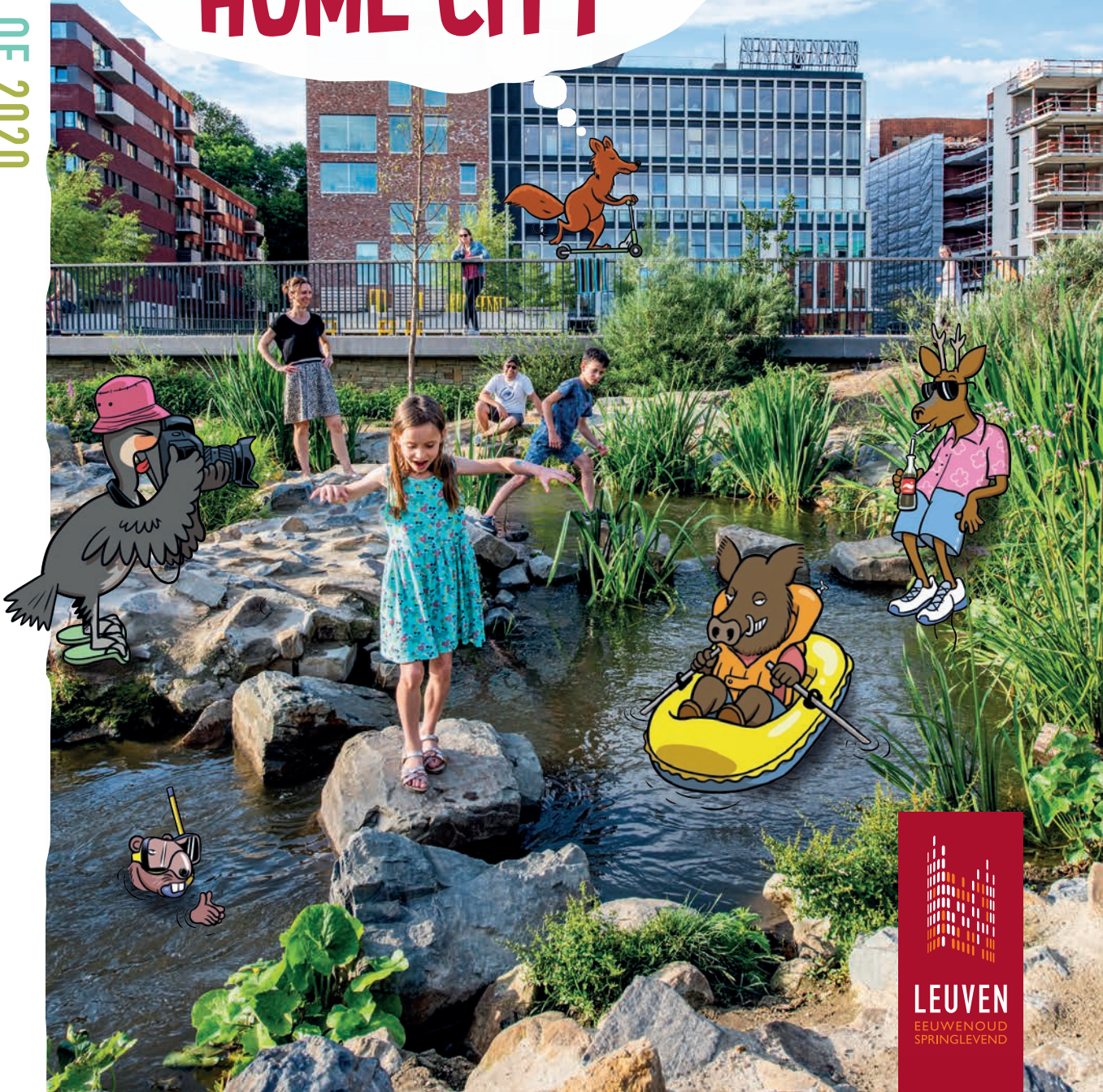


THE SUMMER OF 2020

# ON HOLIDAY IN YOUR HOME CITY



**LEUVEN**  
EEUWENOUW  
SPRINGLEVEN

## WHAT SORT OF PLAYMATE ARE YOU?

In for adventure and plenty of it? Or would you rather chill? Whoever you are and whatever you do, there's a spot around the corner just for you.



4

## Brighten your day with Leuven's BIG FIVE!

40-41

Leuven Town Hall gets a makeover. Our Gothic masterpiece has a few new residents in its recesses - spot them and colour them in. Hang the finished article in your window and cheer everyone up.



## A city to savour

18

Are you feeling hungry? Check the verges and between the paving stones. Can you forage for a tasty snack?



## Hola, saludos desde Lovaina!

Find signs of Spain in the Great Beguinage, where in the winter of 1578 the soldiers burnt a wooden house every day... to stave off the bitter cold. Oh, and do you know how the flag of Leuven got its two red bands?



8

12

## SEE JAPAN IN LEUVEN

Can we journey to the other side of the world, to the 'land of the rising sun', without leaving our home town? Why not! Did you know that for a long time KU Leuven owned the biggest collection of mangas anywhere outside Japan?



Dear Leuveners,

The summer of 2020 will be like no other summer. In Leuven we like to make the best of things, and here in your home city you can have a lovelier summer than ever before. It's the ideal time for us, the city council, to encourage all you Leuveners to (re)discover your city. That's why we've made you this holiday magazine.

Leuven has everything it takes to become your ultimate holiday destination. We've put together everything you could ever want on your travels: history, culture, leisure, adventure, greenery... and that feeling of spending the 'summer with the family'. The magazine is full of tips and ideas to make you feel like a tourist in your own town. Take it with you on a city trek, or sit out with a cool drink on one of our terraces and have a good leaf through.

Happy holidays

Mohamed Ridouani, Mayor

## CITY SAFARI

14



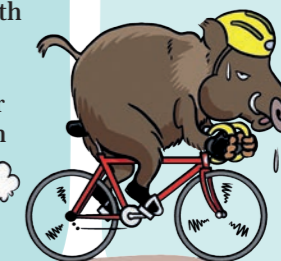
The lion, the leopard, the elephant, the rhinoceros and the buffalo are Africa's Big Five. But did you know that Leuven has Five Big Animals of its own? (and they're all on the cover of this magazine!)

## Loop of Leuven

28



This trip lets you see with your own eyes how big and varied the city is. We cycle Leuven's outer limits, encountering fun facts and stopping off along the way.



## THE TOUR DE LEUVEN

Ride, play, ride and play. The Tour de Leuven is a great way to let off steam for the young and the young-at-heart.

36

## QUIZ

How well do you know the city? Take the 20-question test.

22

## Listen! Talking Statues

Our city is crowded with statues and (natural) monuments. We get up close to a few of them: who are they and what's on their mind?

20, 27, 32

## SUMMER CITY COCKTAIL

38

## See Rome in Leuven

33

On a trip through Leuven you'll soon forget Italy.

# WHAT SORT OF PLAYMATE ARE YOU?

## TAKE THE TEST

### I get to help choose a new community playground. I go for...

- A** ...a mega death-ride. Thundering down from the treetops on a wire: Yeah! Megaaaah!!
- B** ...a massive Wiglo. Encamped among the living willow branches, you can't get deeper in the wilderness than THAT, can you!?
- C** ...sunken seats around a camp fire. Is that allowed in a playground? No idea. But it sounds like a great chill zone.

### When I hear the word 'slide' I think...

- A** ...the longer, the steeper, the better! Whey hey!
- B** ...a big sheet of plastic, some soap and water and OFF WE GO!!
- C** ...or snaking down? Eight friends going down conga-style: what a laugh!

Everyone knows what an odd ball you are. And so they should! Well, shouldn't they?! For these holidays we're staying close to home. Are you a jungle bird or an action hero? Or maybe a team player? Take the test and check out your fave local playground. Reel off the answers as you see them.

### The best swing in the world...

- A** ...is over a river. Or a precipice. Crank up the stress!
- B** ...hangs from the branch of a huge tree. Or you swing on a vine.
- C** ...is a Flying Dutchman. Swing and scream all the way!

### In a soapbox race I'd be driving...

- A** the Speedster: stripped down and plain, but fast as lightning.
- B** the Hedge: not the quickest, but beautifully made from natural materials.
- C** the Ice-cream Van: handing out lollies to my mates.

### When I go out to play I take...

- A** ...an energy drink and dextrose. I want to hit it! And hit it hard!
- B** ...a penknife, a ball of string and a magnifying glass.
- C** ...a game of Kubb and a bag of sweets. Team spirit FTW!!

### In the skate park you'll find me...

- A** ...all over the place. I burn from one object to the next on my skateboard. Kicking!
- B** ...under the mini-ramp. There's a geocache hiding here somewhere.
- C** ...on a bench at the side. Chatting away and yelling words of support to my skate mates.



### What I like doing best?

- A** Skating, parcos, climbing, diabolo, juggling with fire... Putting the EX in extreme!
- B** Climbing trees, setting up camp, geocaching, hide-and-seek... In the woods, preferably!
- C** Team games like volleyball, Kubb, petanque... Whatever gets people involved.

### Check your answers.

Were they mostly **A**? You're obviously an **action hero**!

Or mostly **B**? In which case you're a **jungle bird**.

Or was **C** your favourite? You're never alone, like the **team player**.

Your route is marked out on the following pages. Jump on your bike and scope the place out!

### THE ACTION HERO

You get off on height and speed. You're attracted to danger. You don't know when to stop.

Nobody tries to stop you. If you're not soaked to the skin, you haven't enjoyed yourself. Scraped your knee? You just laugh it off. At the fracture clinic they know you by name. If someone calls you out, they'd better be ready. Yes, helloooo! We're not wimping out, are we?!

**ORANGE** is your colour on the next page



### THE JUNGLE BIRD

You talk to the trees and hug the bushes. You know them all by name. You're the camp site engineer. You'd love the spend the night there. But you only make stuff with dead branches. Nature is your friend. You don't need toys, they're growing all around you. The ultimate survival expert lives on anything, even the weeds on the city paths. Nettle soup, anyone?

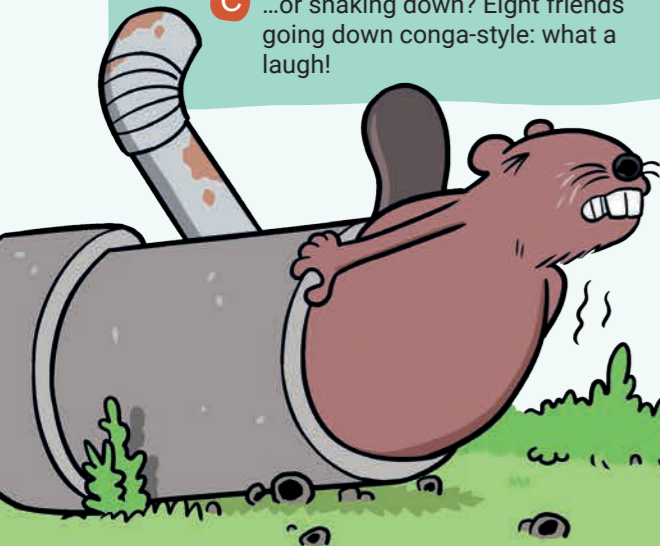
**BLUE** is your colour on the next page



### THE TEAM PLAYER

Being alone gives you the jitters. The more the merrier. You're the Instagram expert. You get your friends together. Sociability and team spirit are your thing. Chillin' on the bank of the Dyle with your mates at sundown: yeah, bring it on! Full spread picnic in the park? You think of everything. A day without laughter is a day wasted. FUN, FUN, FUN!

**RED** is your colour on the next page





## ACTION HERO ACTIVITIES



**DO WHAT??**  
Get high and mighty and climb those towers on the Philips Square playground!  
**Where??** Nieuwe Kerkhofdreef in Heverlee

**DO WHAT??**  
Slide your skin off on Leuven's longest side in Michotte park!  
**Where??**  
Tiensesteenweg 190 in Kessel-Lo

**DO WHAT??**  
Sint-Lambertus playground is for kids who don't let obstacles hold them back.  
**Where??** Sint-Lambertus Square in Heverlee



**DO WHAT??**  
Flex the muscles in the open air at the Barpark Sport Oasis. Work out and live longer!  
**Where??**  
Geldenaaksebaan in Heverlee

**DO WHAT??**  
Learn wick tricks on your skateboard, blades, step or BMX in the Sport Oasis skate park!  
**Where??** Philipssite 6 in Heverlee



## JUNGLE BIRD ACTIVITIES



**DO WHAT??**  
Track stuff down in the country, go geocaching in Kessel-Lo!  
**Where??**  
Tiensesteenweg 21 in Kessel-Lo



**DO WHAT??**  
Inhale pure oxygen and do the Heverlee Forest fit-o-meter!  
**Where??** At the Herendreef, Filosofenlaan and Beukenlaan intersection in Heverlee



**DO WHAT??**  
REAL playing is what you do in a natural materials playground like the Genadedal play area.  
**Where??** Kesselveld in Kessel-Lo

**DO WHAT??**  
Observe human animals and their manners at OPEK.  
**Where??** Victor Broos Square in Leuven

**DO WHAT??**  
The best athletics track in Leuven is in Heuvelhof park, and it's made from... tree bark!  
**Where??** Kesselveld in Kessel-Lo

**DO WHAT??**  
Sink or swim? Discover the secret powers of water in the Provincial Estate.  
**Where??**  
Tiensesteenweg 21 in Kessel-Lo



## TEAM PLAYER ACTIVITIES



**DO WHAT??**  
Chill with mates in the peace and quiet of the city centre in Sluispark.  
**Where??** Vaartstraat in Leuven

**DO WHAT??**  
Get you and all your mates together at the Toverberg!  
**Where??** Toverberg in Heverlee

**DO WHAT??**  
Fun guaranteed at the Bleydenberg play area!  
**Where??** Albert Wouterstraat in Wilsele village (entrance via school car park)

**DO WHAT??**  
Be king of the sports grounds in Spaanse Kroon!  
**Where??** Spaanse Kroonlaan in Leuven



**DO WHAT??**  
Hang out and have fun on Rietens Square!  
**Where??** Rietens Square in Wijgmaal

**DO WHAT??** A playground and meeting place you really shouldn't miss? Check out Kwadenhoek!  
**Where??** Bavenhofstraat 4 in Wilsele-Putkapel

### WHERE DO WE PLAY TODAY?

Do you want to make your own map of the sports grounds and playgrounds in Leuven, or would you rather just look up the parks, play areas and sports grounds in your area? See the city of Leuven website for a handy list:

[www.leuven.be/sport-en-speelplekken](http://www.leuven.be/sport-en-speelplekken)



Follow the guide

## "Hip, hipper, hipster in Vaartkom"

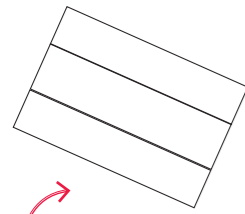
Maarten Vanwalleghem of Leuven Inside Out

"Vaartkom is symbolic of Leuven – innovation comes along, but it is always in sympathy with the past. The neighbourhood is dotted with street art. Visual artist Pieter Janssens has his spaceman leaping into de Vaart (on Stapelhuisstraat) and a little man defying the silos on the AB Inbev site. Further along he has installed *The Beating Heart*, a PET-bottle structure that makes us stop and think hard about our use of plastics. There's something to be said about every piece of work in Vaartkom."

"Have you spotted the beautiful peacock on Mechelsestraat? Or the work of our favourite Leuven-based artist Bisser on Burchtstraat?"

More about Maarten and about Leuven Inside Out?

Have a look at [www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city](http://www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city).



Do you know the colours of the Spanish flag?

# Hola, saludos desde Lovaina!\*

\* Hello, greetings from Leuven!

**Yes, you can see Spain in Leuven. There are Spanish places in the city of Leuven. Or should we say Lovaina?\***

Want to explore Leuven's Spain? Your ideal guide is Ivo Hermans of the Koerier van Navarra. He'll whisk you off to the Great Beguinage, the portal to the Spanish era. The beguinage has been around since the late 12th, early 13th century, but during its restoration in the 1960s by professor Raymond Lemaire of Leuven, it was decided, due to its brick-built houses, to ascribe it to the renaissance and baroque period. Now, as it happens, that was the time of the Spanish Netherlands...



## ■ LEUVEN IN THE SPANISH ERA

The fact that there was a Spanish era in Leuven is due to Emperor Charles V. He was the eldest son of Philip the Fair and Joanna of Castile, otherwise known as Joanna the Mad. Charles V was raised in Mechelen, in the royal household of his aunt, Margaret of Austria, Archduchess of the Netherlands. He was educated by William de Croÿ, Lord of Chièvres, and Adriaan Florenszoon Boeyens or Adrian of Utrecht, pastor of the Leuven beguinage, who was later to become Pope Adrian VI. That's right, he of Leuven's **Papal College** on Hogeschool Square!

In 1555 King Philip II of Spain succeeded his father Charles V as governor of the Netherlands,

and that's when it became 'the Spanish Netherlands'. The Spanish king was out of touch with his father's homeland. His strict religious policies led to uprisings and a separation of the Netherlands into North and South. But it was Philip's strict Catholic convictions that gave Leuven another college: **King's College on Naamsestraat**, a seminary set up to provide top-notch training for priests. It is now home to the university's Animal Physiology and Neurobiology department.

Philip II had little faith in his son and successor Philip III, and for that reason he made his daughter Isabella Archduchess in 1598. After her father's death in 1598 she married the Austrian Albert of Habsburg. Under Albert and Isabella the icy relations with Spain began to thaw. It was Isabella who had the **Spanish quarter** of the beguinage built with money from the Spanish treasury. The Spanish War of Succession began with the dying out of the Spanish Habsburg line in the early 18th century. In 1713 the Treaty of Utrecht gave the Southern Netherlands to the Austrian Habsburgs. As of then, the region was known as the Austrian Netherlands.

## ■ SPOT THE MARKS

The **Church of Saint John the Baptist** was restored in the same stone it was originally built from: not brick, but white Gobertange stone from



Mélin. Have a good look at the sandstone around the brown ironstone, at chest height, to the right of the church entrance... These days the stone is cut by machine, which gives lovely even grooves. The restoration used new stone alongside the old, but it was all cut by hand. Some stonemasons were better at cutting the stone than others. Look closely at the stones and you will notice the difference between the masons who did a good job of following a regular pattern and the sloppy workers who couldn't maintain the 60 degree angle with their chisels... It may seem unimportant, but around the world these days they call this type of restoration the 'taille Lemaire'.

Every day Spanish soldiers burnt a wooden house in the fireplace

## ■ CHEEKY CAVALIER

Look up: **the church in the beguinage** doesn't have a tower. Oh, doesn't it? No: what you see is known as a cavalier. A tower is a structure which has its own foundations in the ground, whereas a cavalier sits on the roof like a knight on a horse. How come? After the fuss kicked up by the clergy, the churches in the beguinage were expected to take a back seat. They certainly couldn't be taller than the neighbourhood's parochial churches. And

that's why the towers were abolished. But they were allowed a cavalier as a lookout point. And in it they used to hang a lantern.

## ■ A NOTORIOUS WINTER

Further down from the church you'll see a **half-timbered house**, filled with bricks. Those bricks are why it was left standing in the Spanish era! Almost all of the mediaeval beguinage was burnt as fuel by the Spaniards. In 1576 King Philip II appoints Don Juan of Austria as Archduke of the Spanish Netherlands. The Archduke bases the Spanish garrison in the beguinage. Then comes the infamous winter of 1578. Driven by the cold, the Spanish garrison of about a hundred horsemen occupies the 100-bed hospital. The beguines are chased off, and every day for

the next three months the soldiers burn a wooden house in the huge fireplace. Bricks prevent the soldiers from knocking the house down and burning its oak frame. And that's how this house was saved from the Spaniards... and survived until its restoration.

### ■ THE ONION OF CHIÈVRES

Do you see the onion dome on top of **Chièvres House**? It's of special significance. The architecture is from the East: places like Prague, Moscow, Red Square and the Kremlin... It was imported here by the Crusaders, who had seen the Byzantine architecture on their travels. One of the most powerful men in Brabant, who governs Leuven and Aarschot, is the Lord of Chièvres. He joins the first crusade to the Holy Land, which is led by Godfried van Bouillon. The Lord of Chièvres is also a savvy businessman: he brings back the bulbs of the tulip plant, which he sees growing in the lands of Turkey and Syria. They are unknown in this area, but William de Croÿ markets them as an aristocratic and royal flower and sells them for crazy prices. So is it an onion, or a tulip bulb? Who's to say... You can see the same onion domes on **Arenberg Castle** and the church in Aarschot.

### ■ BEFORE THE SPANISH... THE VIKINGS!

What stood on the river Dyle before the beguinage? It is almost certain that there was a Viking stronghold. The Vikings managed to capture the fortress that Leuven built to keep them out. They used it as a vault for the spoils of their raids. After a while, that vault was a very rich place. Until, that is, Arnulf of Corinthia entered the stage: the Vikings were defeated in the battle of Leuven, or the battle of the Dyle, on 1 September 891. It was the biggest defeat the Vikings had suffered in North West Europe! But it has to be said that Arnulf got lucky: the more seasoned Vikings were out on a raid, and only the youngsters were in. That said, the battle raged for a whole day. It was an epic struggle. Legend has it that both banks of the Dyle were red with blood after the battle. In keeping with tradition the victors built a wooden chapel above the flood line to celebrate the victory. Above the chapel fluttered a piece of white cloth showing two bloodstained bands... The **Flag of Leuven** is derived from this: the two red bands are the banks of the river Dyle, and between them flows the river in white. At the spot where the wooden chapel stood, a Roman church was later built in stone, which was in turn replaced by a Gothic church. That Gothic church is the present **Church of Saint Peter**.



### ■ SPOT THE E AND THE R

Have you crossed the second little bridge to the Spanish Quarter? Spot the E and the R nearby!

Tip: look down. See them? The E and the R, neatly carved? Do they stand for Elizabeth Regina? Esteem and Religion? The truth is much less exciting. An impossible anachronism, as Professor Lemaire would say: overhead power lines in the seventeenth century... Run a string between the E stones and you'll find electricity lines below. And under the 'R', telephone lines. The E and R are from 'Electricity' and 'RTT', and stand for electricity and the board of electricity, telegraphy and telephony...



### ■ DIRTY LINEN IN THE SPANISH QUARTER

You'll see a lawn, bordered by hedges and trees, in the **Spanish Quarter**, which was once the bleaching green. It was where the sheets were laid out on the grass to bleach. The sunlight reacted with the chlorophyll in the grass to whiten the linen. The idea for the Spanish Quarter came from Archduchess Isabel of Spain. There were so many orphans on the street, and they were a target of abuse. Couldn't the beguinage make room for them? The Spanish princess was moved to build the Spanish Quarter in the Flemish Baroque style, using money from the Spanish treasury.

### ■ OUT AND ABOUT WITH DE KOERIER VAN NAVARRA

Ivo Hermans is founder of the *De Koerier van Navarra* cultural association. The association owes its name to the old horse-drawn mail service that ran between Spain and Brussels in the days of the Spanish Netherlands. You can book Ivo to guide you through the Beguinage on an incredibly fascinating one-and-a-half hour walk. Find out more at: [www.kovana.com](http://www.kovana.com).



### MORE TIME TRAVEL?

Ready to explore the mediaeval Leuven? Or the Leuven of the Austrian era, the Leuven of antiquity or the Leuven of any other period in your city's rich history? Or to walk through the history of the 'Leivens', which appear on the street name signs?

Go to [www.visitleuven.be](http://www.visitleuven.be)



## "In Memory of Drieux College"

Jo Celis of Leuven+

"Up until the French Revolution you can only learn music in Leuven by joining the church or the city's musical guild. Fifty years later, when there is a huge shortage of musicians for ceremonies, the city gives the Academy of Fine Arts a new 'Music Department'. The academy is located in Drieux College. The college occupies almost all of the ground between Schrijnmakersstraat and the present-day courthouse, until it is completely destroyed in the Fire of Leuven. The gate and archways are all that remain. The latter is moved to the Vanderkelen-Mertens museum after WWI, but disappears when the M museum is built. The gate is now all that remains of the college."

## "A Stylish Cinema"

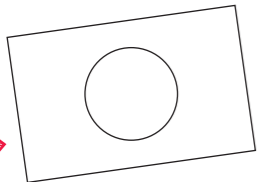
Jo Celis of Leuven+

"19th century Leuveners seek their entertainment in the popular playhouse on the corner of Rijschoolstraat and Vital Decosterstraat. The theatre was originally named 'De Bériot', after the Leuven-born violist and composer. It is the place where audiences start to watch moving pictures in 1897. In 1909 the arena is named the Alhambra, only to be rechristened as the 'Cinema ABC' in 1948. The cinema operates successfully until after the Second World War and is eventually closed in 1961. KU Leuven buys the building, a large part of which it demolishes. Today it is home to the 'Meisjescentrum': the halls of residence for female students."

More about Jo and Leuven+?

Check out [www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city](http://www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city).

# Lose yourself in Leuven's JAPAN



Do you know the colours of the Japanese flag?

What do Leuven and Japan have in common? They're mostly green, literary and stylish. The Asian island nation is never far away in Leuven.

## Plant hunting

Japan has an unparalleled biodiversity. A fact appreciated by the *plant hunters*, who depart for the country in droves in the early 19th century to discover the local flora. In 1830 the German doctor Philipp Franz von Siebold, one of the most famous plant hunters of the time, sends a shipload of Japanese camellias to the port of Antwerp for delivery to Leiden. But the plants never reach the Netherlands, due to the struggle for independence raging here at the time. It would be a shame for them to go to waste, so they are sent to Leuven. And for an obvious reason: the city has a university and botanical gardens. The camellias are still in the botanical gardens to this day.

*Actually, the postal trick had already been played a few years before. How do you imagine the well-known Japanese honey tree (see page 27) arrived here?*

*Striking fact: the Japanese maidenhair tree (with the evocative Latin name *ginkgo biloba*) found in St. Donatus Park is not actually Japanese, but Chinese. Although it does hold special significance for the Japanese. As the sole survivor of the Hiroshima bomb, the tree is seen as a symbol of hope and life in Japan. Tip: if you spot the Japanese maidenhair tree in St. Donatuspark, check it off the list on page 16!*



Did you know... that Japanese is only one of the 170 nationalities currently living in Leuven?

## Shiploads of Books

In 1914 news of the fire of Leuven travelled around the globe. When the Japanese crown prince Hirohito visited and saw the burnt out library in 1919, Japan promptly dispatched six shiploads of books. It was an empathetic, but above all diplomatic gesture: Japan hoped through its literature to popularise its history and culture here. Just one downside: nobody at KU Leuven spoke Japanese at the time. So what did they do? They donated the books with the least words. The impressive manga collection that now belongs to the university is the biggest outside Japan.

*A blessing in disguise is the best way to describe the original location of the manga collection. After Hirohito's departure the books are housed in the attic. When the library cellar is lost in the third of Leuven's fires and a huge amount of literature is destroyed, the Japanese books on the top floor of the building are saved.*



## 日本語の知識はありますか。

*Nihongo no chishiki wa doudesuka?*  
(How good is your Japanese?)

**Impress your neighbours, non-Leuven friends or relatives with some Japanese. These phrases will certainly come in useful.**

## 一番面白い旅行先って?それは6文字だけよ。

*Ichiban omoshiroi ryokousakitte? Sorewa rokumoji dakeyo!*  
(The best holiday destination? Just six letters!)

## 晴天と美味しい料理とこの雑誌で私の夏は完璧!

*Seiten to oishi ryouri to kono zasshi de watashi no natsu wa kanpeki!*  
(Sun, good food and this holiday magazine: nothing can spoil my summer now)

## 世界中の場所のどこよりも、やっぱりここが一番。

*Sekaijyu no bashou no dokoyorimo yappari kokoga ichiban.*  
(I love it here more than anywhere else in the world.)

What about learning another language? The **Centre for Living Languages** is a great place not just for the classics like English, French, Spanish and Italian, but also languages like Japanese, Romanian, Russian and Swedish.

## Did you know...

One of the first Japanese visits to Leuven had criminal overtones. When a Japanese delegation headed home after a brief stop in 1870, they made off with a map of Leuven's Central Prison. And what happened next? The Leuven map became the blueprint for many of Japan's modern prisons.

## Hirohito's vase

After WW2, and the splitting of the universities, the manga books move to the campus at Louvain-la-Neuve, closer to the professors of Japanology. The city isn't left empty handed: the literary donation included masses of artwork. The porcelain vase decorated with birds and flowers in cobalt blue, better known as 'Hirohito's vase', is still the show piece of the collection, and it fits in beautifully with the *art nouveau* style that was popular at the time. There is little evidence of *art nouveau* in the streets of Leuven, but it drives everything behind the scenes. Those ceramic tiles with the *art nouveau* drawings? That decorative ironwork so typical of the style? All from factories on the river Dyle: de Céramiques de la Dyle (pottery) and the Ateliers de la Dyle (ironwork).

*In fact, Hirohito's vase is the only original Japanese vase to be found in Leuven. The so-called Japanese vases, adorned with decorative lines and flowers and held in aristocratic family collections, are actually of Chinese manufacture, or Chinese copies.*

# THE BIG 5 FROM LEUVEN

Found the five mascots for this magazine yet?  
Did you know you can spot the real thing in Leuven?

# ON SAFARI IN THE CITY

## Beaver *Castor fiber*

Until recently the beaver was extinct in this country. The last specimen died in 1848, but in 2000 the animal was spotted in Flanders again. In the Dyle valley, not far from Leuven, to be precise. These days the animal feels completely at home here.

The beaver builds the entrance to its lodge just below the waterline. It uses dams and canals to adjust the water height. The water in the river Dyle is usually high enough to prevent the beaver from having to show off too many of its gnawing and construction skills. That said, you can still spot beaver teeth marks on branches, leaves and trees by the waterside in the city bounds.

The beaver is Europe's largest rodent. It grows up to 137 centimetres from nose to tail.

**SPOTTING PLACE** The bend in the river Dyle at Pereboomstraat, the Wijgmaalbroek nature reserve and the Park Abbey ponds. Can also be seen in the new Dalemhof nature reserve in the Molkenbeek Valley, along Meerdaalwoudlaan.



## Roe Deer *Capreolus capreolus*

They bound gracefully through our woods, and we have a population of 20,000 in Flanders. Roe deer are not red deer, they are only 60-75 centimetres high at the shoulder, and the males have very plain antlers. Roe deer are very shy animals. Your best chance of seeing one is when they move between the woods and the meadows at sunrise or sundown.

Roe deer do not have a tail, and they have a white patch on their hind quarters. The females have a heart-shaped patch, the males kidney-shaped.

**SPOTTING PLACE** the coppice woods and hedges around Wijgmaalbroek, near the boundaries between Leuven and Rotse-laar. Roe deer also live around Park Abbey, Ziekelingstraat and Heverlee forest.

## Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*

In the last few years wild boar have returned to Leuven from the forests of the Ardennes. The wild pigs root through the soil in search of roots and nuts, earthworms, larvae and truffles. They look dangerous, but wild boar are extremely shy and can hear and smell you a long way off.

Wild boar have such a keen sense of smell that they can sniff out drugs and explosives. In Lower Saxony the police even trained a wild boar to detect drugs. Louise (1984-1998), thorn in the side of the drug smugglers, became world famous.

**SPOTTING PLACE** Wild boar are found in the 2,000 hectare forest complex of Heverlee Forest, Meerdaal Woods and Egenhoven Forest. Look for evidence of them rooting

around and hide in wait at dawn or dusk, if you dare. Wild boar live in groups, so if you see one the rest can't be too far behind.



## Red Fox *Vulpes vulpes*

Bushy tail, cunning tricks and plundered chicken coops. This mysterious little animal usually hunts at night, and it will eat just about anything: rodents, earthworms, eggs, road kill, fruit and waste from domestic refuse bins. If you see one, it is often just a flash.

Foxes can reach a speed of 60 km/h. They can live to the age of twelve, but only with a lot of luck. Eight out of ten animals die in their first year, on the roads or as the result of hunting.

**SPOTTING PLACE** Foxes have been known to appear in the heart of the city, but they are usually found the green suburbs. And certainly at the edges of Heverlee forest. They dig their lairs wherever they can, as long as they are close to food and cover: in parks, woods, derelict land, roadside verges. The best chance of spotting a fox is in the twilight of dawn or dusk.



## Great Cormorant

*Phalacrocorax carbo*

This large, black fish-eater with a long, thick neck is an impressive sight at the waterside. It dives easily to a depth of ten metres and gets through half a kilogram of fish a day. Chinese and Japanese fishermen train the cormorant to catch fish for them. A ring around the neck prevents the cormorant from swallowing the fish.

**SPOTTING PLACE** The Bellefroid ponds and the former Park Abbey fish ponds. When not flying, the great cormorant is usually to be found in the willows on the island in the Abbey's first pond. On these ponds you should also be able to spot the grey heron, the grebe, the mallard, the kingfisher and other special birds.

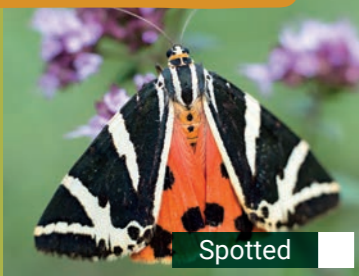




# Can you spot these summer animals and plants?

Tip. Check your finds on Natuurpunt's ObsIdentify app!

Spanish Flag / Kesselberg



Spotted

Tawny Owl / Wijmaalbroek



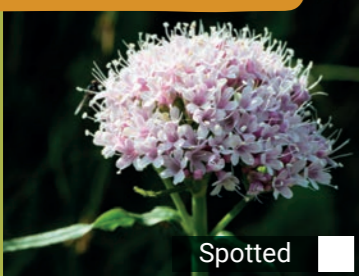
Spotted

Stone Marten / everywhere in Leuven



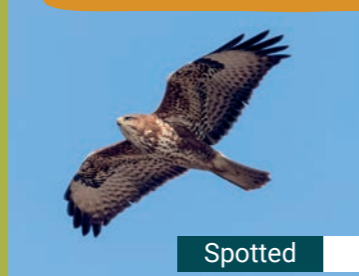
Spotted

Valarian / Lovenarenbroek



Spotted

Buzzard / Heverlee forest



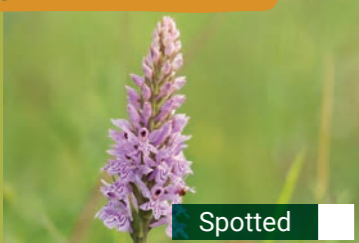
Spotted

Maidenhair Tree  
St-Donatus Park



Spotted

Common spotted Orchid  
Wijmaalbroek



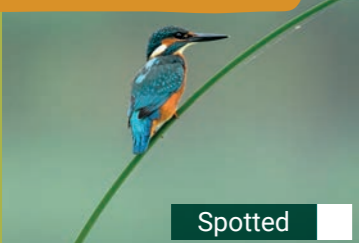
Spotted

Slowworm / Koeheide



Spotted

Kingfisher  
Provinciedomein Kessel-Lo



Spotted

Spotted Medick Park Abbey



Spotted



extra hard  
Orobanche hederæ  
Dyle Park

Spotted

# Bizarre fauna and flora

## THE GREENLAND WALRUS

An enormous skeleton of a Greenland walrus has hung from the ceiling of KU Leuven's Museum of Zoology since 1880. It was a research object belonging professor Pierre-Joseph Van Beneden (1809-1894) of Leuven, who was a world authority on zoology. There are many more remarkable animals in this surprising museum. Such as the coelacanth, a fish that was presumed to have gone extinct 65 million years ago. Or a stuffed specimen of the American passenger pigeon, which had a population of around five billion in the 19th century when the European colonists first started hunting it. The last passenger pigeon, Martha, died in 1914.

*The Museum of Zoology is open every weekday and entry is free.  
Charles Deberiotstraat 40*

## CAN YOU SPOT THE GERMAN EAGLE?

The Virgin Mary has never looked so warlike: wearing a soldier's helmet and piercing a German eagle with her sword. Can you spot the eagle on the front of the University Library on Ladeuze Square?

## ANIMAL GRAFFITI

Where's Leuven's biggest pigeon? You'll find it fluttering against the wall of the De Ring Grammar School on Justus Lipsiusstraat. It's a piece by street artist Dzia. Spot even more giant animals on Leuven's walls with the street art app, downloadable at [leuven.streetartcities.com](http://leuven.streetartcities.com)



## THE THICKEST

A tree in Arenberg castle park is thought to be the thickest in Leuven. The plane tree has diameter of more than seven metres! There is another, thicker, tree, but it is made up of six trees growing together. It stands by the Ymeria sports hall on Pastoor Bellonstraat in Wijmaal, and its trunk has a diameter of about 9.50 metres.

## THE OLDEST GARDEN

The oldest garden in the country is the botanical garden on the Kapucijnenvoer. The university laid the *Hortus Botanicus Lovaniensis* in 1738. It contains an exceptional collection of plants from across the globe, including many tropical species, but is best known as a lovely, colourful oasis of calm in the city centre.

*Free entry on summer days from 09:00 to 20:00*

## GIANT DEER IN THE OFFICE

On the first floor of the KU Leuven's Geo Institute stands the fossilised skeleton of the *megaloceros giganteus*, a giant deer that lived 11,000 years ago and had gigantic antlers. A contemporary of the woolly mammoth and the cave lion. Free entry during office hours.

*Celestijnenlaan 200E, Heverlee*

# A city to savour



In the verges, between the paving stones, against the wall... you can gather a healthy snack in the centre of Leuven in next to no time. Leuvenier and botanist Geert Van Damme knows exactly where to look. Take his shopping list into the city with you. On an original walk around the city, he and city guide Hilde Vansteenvoort serve a historical sauce with the city's edible plants.

Want to know more? [www.facebook.com/eetbaaronkruid](http://www.facebook.com/eetbaaronkruid)

## Shepherd's Purse - *Capsella bursa-pastoris*

This little plant can be found on just about every piece of derelict ground in the city. The shepherd's purse can be recognised by its triangular seed pods, which grow close to the long stem and offer a tasty alternative to garden cress.



## Water Mint - *Mentha aquatica*

What summer cocktail doesn't come with a leaf of fresh mint? And it can be picked from the green banks of the Dyle. At Sluispark, for example. You will recognise the plant by its mint scent: crush a leaf in your fingers and smell.



## Wild Angelica - *Angelica silvestris*

The thick, rhubarb-like stalks and leaf stalks of this remarkable plant on the banks of the

Dyle are sweet-tasting. Slice and boil until soft, add sugar and leave to simmer for an hour. The delicious candied sweets are said to help with indigestion.

## Charlock Mustard - *Sinapsis arvensis*

In salads the bright yellow flowers and young leaves of the charlock mustard add a mild mustard flavour. Charlock mustard grows on waste grounds and roadsides.



## Common Mallow - *Malva sylvestris*

Moroccan chefs use the leaves of the mallow like spinach. The plant is recognisable by its fine, purple flowers. It can be used to make a tea to help relieve a sore throat. The common mallow can be found growing on the verges around Handbooghof.



## Ground Elder - *Aegopodium podagraria*

The Romans brought the plant as a food to these regions and it has found its niche along our roadsides. The leaves are delicious in a salad or boiled like spinach, and have a fresh

parsley-like flavour. The plant is recognisable by its white flowers and the seven leaves on every stem.



## Buck's-horn Plantain - *Plantago coronopus*

An inconspicuous plant that grows between the paving stones, but one of the most delicious of Leuven's edible plants. In Italy they farm this bitter delicacy as a vegetable, but here we literally step all over it. The plant thrives in a salty environment, so Bucks-horn plantain is usually found along Leuven's ring road and main roads, which are salted in the winter.



## Picking rules

- Pick only when herbs and plants are plentiful.
- Do not pick on private property.
- Identify the plant correctly, not all plants are edible. Good to know: Natuurpunt's ObsIdentify app identifies the plant in your lens with a single click.

## Make your own herbal pesto

Ingredients:

- bunch of young nettle leaves
- an equal quantity of elder leaves
- a clove of garlic
- 100 ml of rapeseed oil
- 50 g of sunflower seeds or walnuts
- 50 g of Parmesan cheese

Add all ingredients to a blender and blend to a fine paste!





## “Luckily I’m the forgiving type”

I’m a church guardian who looks graciously over the beautiful city of Leuven. From the top of the Keizersberg I have a wonderful view. Every morning I shine with the rising sun. If it’s not cloudy or raining, that is. The Keizersberg has a rich past: it was once the site of the dukes’ and duchesses’ citadel, and even the Knights Templar had a hideaway. Did you know that the Keizersberg owes its name to Julius Caesar? Or was it Emperor Charles? But Leuveners prefer the more modest name of ‘Boelenberg’. The present-day residents are Benedictine monks. Though I stand with my back to the abbey, I haven’t turned my back on it. We like to chat every once in a while. With the pigeons I have a love-hate relationship: they keep me company a lot of the time, but they’re not above staining my robes. Luckily I’m the forgiving type, and I offer the other shoulder. My mercy extends not only to the city and the Emperor’s Abbey, but to my son, who is cradled in my arms day and night. But he IS getting rather heavy. How quickly they grow! Before I know it, he may become one of those students who stay in the halls of residence around here.

Maria on top of the Keizersberg



## Edward & Jeanne

I’m one of the most famous people in Wijnmaal, if I say so myself. How did it happen? In 1855 I set up a starch business and called it ‘Remy’. No lack of originality there. I started by buying a watermill on the Dyle. My business grew quickly, so I began building further along the waterway in around 1900. A tower was built, and on it I had the company’s name emblazoned in huge letters, so you can hardly miss it. Today it’s still known as the Remy tower. Do you know what I’m looking forward to? The arrival of Jeanne Dormaels, a resistance fighter from Wijnmaal,

to occupy the lane beside me and keep me company on the station square, soon to be named the Jeanne Dormael Square, I hope.

Edouard/Edward Remy on the Remy Tower in Wijnmaal



## “Wijnmaal, is Remy”

Herman Verbruggen of Toerisme in Leuven Anders (TiLA)

“The Remy Tower stands head and shoulders above Wijnmaal – literally speaking. It is a silo, which was built around the time of WWI by Leuven businessman Edward Remy, although he had already purchased an old water mill on the Dyle in 1855. In other words, Remy’s first factory is on the waterside. Remy soon expanded and built another two starch factories. Today the modern factory in Wijnmaal processes tens of tons of rice. That’s because starch is made from rice grains.”

**More about Herman and about Toerisme in Leuven Anders? Have a look at [www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city](http://www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city).**

## “Jansenius: old tower, new neighbourhood”

Jan Van de Broeck of Lots of Leuven

“Old Leuven is around the Ursulinnen lock area. It’s where the first city wall, a structure made in the early 12th century, meets the water gate. The Justus Lipsius and Jansenius towers, where incoming ships used to pay a toll, are the show stealers. The Dutch priest Jansenius had a workshop built in the old, dilapidated water tower, which actually remains to this day. Walk across Janseniushof, a new area of the city which is still under construction. Did you know that the charming pavilion in the middle of the neighbourhood was once a morgue for the sisters in the convent on Minderbroedersstraat?”

**More about Jan and about Lots of Leuven? Have a look at [www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city](http://www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city)**



painter who worked with the neogothic architect Joris Helleputte. This artist painted the chapel in the Higher Institute of Philosophy and the chapel of the American College in Leuven. What is the artist's name?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
4th letter at 15, 7th letter at 5

**9 /** Walking along you reach the Fish Market, the oldest market in the town. The Dyle wasn't originally underground and this used to be Leuven's inland port. Can you spot the Busleyden passageway at the southern end of the market? Jeroen van Busleyden donated a property along there to the university of Leuven. After his death the Collegium Trilingue was built under the watchful eye of Desiderius Erasmus. Which three languages were taught here?



**Answer:** Latin, Greek and \_\_\_\_\_  
5th letter at 22

**10 /** It is not far from the Busleyden passageway to Mechelsestraat, one of Leuven's most charming pedestrian shopping streets. Through Dirk Boutslaan and De Layensplein you will reach the Great Market Square. It looks centuries old, but looks can deceive: in August 1914 the Great Market Square was reduced to rubble by the Germans. All that remained besides the heavily damaged church of Saint Peter was the police station, the town hall – where the Germans had established their headquarters - and the row of houses currently numbered 1 to 4. The buildings around the market square are in the typical 'reconstruction' style, a return to a past that never existed. Look closely: at what address does Saint Hubert's stag reside?

**Answer (streetname in dutch):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ nr. 2  
2nd letter at 12, 8th letter at 7

**11 /** Did you find it? That means you are good at spotting details. And there are plenty to spot on the Town hall. It has 236 wall statues! The towers are decorated with characters from the Bible. The second floor is home to the Counts of Leuven and Dukes of Brabant. On the first floor we have the patron saints of the parishes and characters representing the city privileges. On the bottom two rows are the artists, academics and dignitaries of Leuven. Counting along from the painter Gortzius Geldrop (1553-1616), who is shown first in the row on the police station's eastern facade, in what place do you find the cartographer Gerard Mercator (1512-1594)? You will recognise him by the globe he holds.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
1st letter at 9



**12 /** Walk on through Tiensestraat to Hoover Square. There lies the new city fountain, which is laid out in the shape of the Leuven street map... in 1550. The famous Dutch cartographer Jacob van Deventer drew that map of Leuven. His map shows the gates of Leuven: Steen gate, Proefstraat gate, Redingen gate, Broekstraat gate, Minderbroeders gate, Biest gate, Minne gate, Borcht gate, Sint-Michiels gate, Heilige-Geest gate and... There are eleven altogether. Which gate is missing from this list?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
4th letter at 16



**13 /** You continue along Tiensestraat and across Hoover Square and its new city fountain to Ladeuze Square and the University Library. Do you see the statue of Mary in the middle of the facade? She is on the warpath, wearing her battle helmet, and she has the Prussian eagle underfoot. The library is also a sort of war memorial, built to replace the one that the Germans set on fire in late August 1914. What royal couple lives below the virgin Mary?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
5th letter at 18

**14 /** Behind the University Library lies the faculty of Literature and Philosophy, and to get there you simply follow Ravenstraat. The literary Erasmus garden contains a statue of René Rosseel: *De Witte*, or Whitey, alias de Witte van Sichem. The eponymous film by Robbe De Hert was made in 1980, the book *De Witte* was published 1934. Who was its author?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
3th letter at 19, 7th letter at 21

**15 /** Walk along Maria-Theresiastraat to return the starting point of our quest. Where was that?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
5th letter at 25, 11th letter at 24

**TIP** Leuven's many traders offer plenty more to discover along the way. Don't hesitate to wander in.

**ANSWER SENTENCE. Succes!**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	



Where are all the DIY-heroes?

## Capture Provence with home-made flowers Where are the kings and queens of DIY?

Rainy day? Infant teacher and handicraft guru **Gerd Ronsmans** of Abdijsschool Vlierbeek brings the sunshine indoors. These home-made flowers bring a sense of Provence – to your living room!

### WHAT YOU NEED:

Satay sticks- drawing paper or cardboard - green crêpe paper or any other coloured paper - coloured felt balls - little pompoms or cotton wool balls – ballpoint pen or pencil - scissors - sticky tape and (liquid) glue

### LET'S GO!

#### STEP 1

Start with the patterns. You will need three different ones. Draw a three-part leaf, an oval leaf and a long leaf on the drawing paper. Not that good at drawing? Use the patterns on this page as an example. (Tip: lay thin paper over the page and you should be able to trace them.) Cut the patterns out.



#### STEP 2

Draw the patterns over the top of the crêpe paper or coloured paper. You will need two leaves with the three-part pattern. Cut the leaves out.



#### STEP 3

Pin the three-part leaves onto your satay stick.



#### STEP 4

Put a drop of glue on your little pompom and pin that onto the satay stick, above the green leaves. Press down hard, so that they stick together. That's the flower bud done!



#### STEP 5

Take the other green leaves. Prick the end of the satay stick through the leaf and push it up as far as you think it needs to go. Stick the leaf with a little tape and do the same with the second leaf.

#### STEP 6

Your DIY flower is finished! Put them in a vase and admire your beautiful bouquet!



### Flower-up Leuven Beach!

Grab your flowers by the stems and slip off to Leuven Beach, the ultimate summer playground on Blauwput Square in Kessel-Lo. Pin them into the sand for everyone to enjoy, or present them to your favourite boy or girl.

No good at drawing? Cheat a little by using these patterns. Trace them out and use them to get the shape of your flower leaves – we won't tell anyone ;-).



## "I've sipped many a tear through my roots"

For more than 200 years I have stood here. Did animals speak back then? Of course they did, and they still do. In spring and summer my friends the busy bees always come looking for me. They shower me with compliments about the beautiful nectar I produce. "Your nectar tastes incredible again, it will make delectable honey", they tell me. No, they don't call me the honey tree for nothing. By some I'm known as "the tree of great sorrow", but the last thing I am is sorrowful. I'm a honey tree, not a weeping willow. I was given that name because many a young couple were forced to say their goodbyes beneath my boughs. I stand before the entrance to Atrecht College, which was formerly the girls' boarding school. Had I neglected to say that? Well I'm saying it now. I have sipped many a tear through my roots because the girls had to be in early: by seven o'clock in the evening. On the dot! The kids these days get in a twist if they're expected to be home by one or two in the morning. Now I'm protected as a monument. Mind you, it would be a poor show if they didn't protect me, 'cos we need to look after our senior citizens'.

Tearful honey tree, *Naamsestraat 63*

## "What about me?"

Hey, tearful honey tree, think of someone else for once! Yeah, what about us? You get six plane trees for the price of one. Siamese sextuplets, now that's unique! There are plenty of big, wide trees, but have you ever seen six trees growing together? No, I didn't think so! So I, or we, should I say, could do with a little more love and attention. Please don't leave us out in the cold.

Conjoined plane trees (*palaverende platanen*)  
*Pastoor Bellonstraat 23*



Kick-off at Leuven station

Distance 37,2 km

**Download the route**  
You'll find this bike loop on Routeyou.com. Scan the QR-code, download the coordinates and follow your smartphone or GPS.



# Loop of Leuven

Test your limits. Or at least, your city limits. This **BIKE LOOP** reveals that other Leuven. The Leuven of the deepest sunken lanes and the highest crests, the southern valleys and the vast fields, the lost castles and the glass palaces. A voyage of discovery in the outer reaches of our city.

## The city limit

The city ends here! That's what should have been inscribed in huge letters over Vlierbeek Abbey's 16th century western gate. It's hardly fifteen minutes to the Abbey from Leuven station by bike, but it's a whole other world. Duke Godfried I knew a good territory when he gave this piece of land to the Benedictines in 1125. With the abbey lands behind you, in the motor-free countryside past the Northern Gate, the mayhem fades away. Are we still in Leuven? Yeah, actually.



The In den Rozenkrans looks like something from the TV series *Wij, heren van Zichem*. And it is. Not only that, but the name Estaminet In den Rozenkrans was painted above the door when the film crew canned the series in the late 60s. Until then the pub had been called Bij Janneke en Bertha.

There are more great bike trails in and around Leuven to be found at [visitleuven.be](http://visitleuven.be) or Visit Leuven (Naamsestraat 3)



## The Kesselstein peaks

A quick blast of electrical power won't go amiss when tackling the incline on Martellekensweg. You'll start to feel the rise to the Hageland hills, but the pay-off comes in the form of a view of the beautiful green valley. Worthy of

the Flemish Ardennes. Free-wheel downhill and spare your calves for the Kesselberg: a wooded obstacle some 75 metres high. A deep sunken lane leads you to where the Kesselstein once stood, a reinforced fortress that once guarded the city. Until it fell into disrepair and highwaymen used as a base to terrorise the region.

Park your bike and walk through the nature reserve to the viewing point. Can you see the Town Hall towers? The university library? Sint-Maartensdal?

## Lifeblood of Leuven

All of a sudden there it is, behind the houses of Wilsele: the river Dyle! Leuven grew up on the river, the Vikings followed it to the city gates in 891, and in the Middle Ages the breweries grew around its banks and Proud Margaret the city's patron saint floated up the river instead of down. The Dyle leads you on to Wijgmaal – can you see the beacon on the Remy tower in the distance? – and to that other watercourse. The Leuven-Dyle canal is fed with water from the Dyle at Vaartkom in Leuven.

On 9 February 1750 Charles of Lorraine made the first cut into the earth for the Leuven-Dyle canal. With a silver spade, no less. The wheelbarrow he used is kept at M Leuven. The spade itself has disappeared. It didn't leave Charles nursing a bad back, but it probably did the 500 Ardennes farmers who spent the next two years digging the canal without respite.



## The lost fortress and the glass palace

The large statue of Mary at Keizersberg Abbey has gazed over the treetops to the city since 1906. In the Second World War it was forced to carry on gazing without its head. In the 19th century the Maredsous monks built their monastery on the spot where until the late 18th century the Dukes of Brabant had their fortress. What would that fortress be like now if Leuven were still the capital of the Duchy of Brabant? Perhaps a little like the other palace you ride past further up. KBC's glass palace has graced the E314 since 1996. Back then KBC was still Cera, and the E314 was the A2. How things change.



## Smart guys need oxygen

The smart guys at KU Leuven, imec and the many other hi-tech spin-off companies get through an awful lot of oxygen. Luckily, the glass walls of the research buildings and the offices on Gaston Geenslaan look out over Egenhoven Woods. There is always a researcher to be seen jogging or watching waterfowl from the observation hide. Follow the Dyle and you reach Arenberg castle, where more great brains come together. The Dukes of Arenberg loved the sciences, and the university professors were friends of the family.

In 1916 the Arenberg family donated the entire area to the university. Germans were not particularly popular in this country at the time, understandably enough. Today the castle is the hub of a green campus for KU Leuven's Science and Technology group.



## On life and death

The straight and majestic tree-lined avenues of Heverlee Forest lead to the arboretum. A living museum that holds more than 300 species of tree and bush, including several, colossal, giant sequoias. And trees die standing, like soldiers.

756 Brits, 157 Canadians, 45 Australians, a handful of New Zealanders and Poles, one South African and one American. Many were pilots in the Second World War, whose missions went terribly wrong. In 1944 the British established their 101st General Hospital in Leuven. Those who didn't come out of the hospital alive were given a plot in the Heverlee war cemetery.

**Bike wanted?** Not tried an electric bike? Or fancy a quick ride on cargo bike, tandem or wheelchair bike? See what VELO, Blue Bike or Leuven Leisure have to offer, and reserve your wheels.

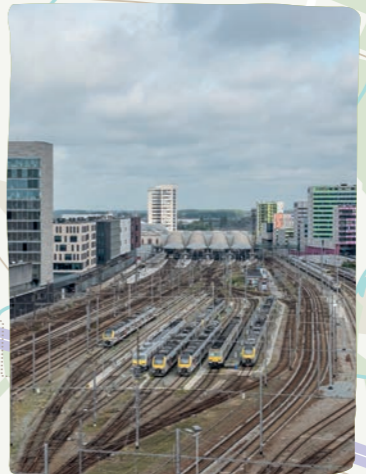


## Nine centuries of the Norbertines

Godfried I – we met him earlier in Vlierbeek – was a patron to several monastic orders. From him the Norbertines received a piece of land just beyond Leuven's city walls, where they built Park Abbey. It probably never occurred to Godfried that they would be living there nine hundred years later. The estates and the abbey buildings tell the wonderful history of the abbey and its inhabitants. The graveyard bustles with prominent Leuveners, such as former first-minister Gaston Eyskens and the rectors Paulin Ladeuze and Pieter De Somer. The abbey grounds are a wonderful, consecrated area of contemplation and quiet. In blissful contrast to the garish graffiti on the cycle bridge across the tracks further along.

## Den Belvie

Or Belle Vue if we're being posh. The new park on Martelarenlaan has a touch of New York about it, if you take in the Leuven skyline from the hip greenery on the other side of the tracks. The minimal government house, the Town Hall, the sweeping curves of the station roof, the Flemish Administration Centre further on. Quite a cool city, isn't it?



## "Natural trail"

Yvette Toison of Friends of Heverlee Forest and Meerdaal Woods

"Antwerper, lawyer and former KUL student Pieter van Dale founded the Van Dale College in 1569. In the 16th and 17th centuries it was one of Leuven's finest buildings. Even better is the garden, which is split into three parts and from which you can reach the orchard and vineyard on Schapenstraat through the arched wall. Today the jade-green jewels of the neighbourhood are Van Dale park, Dyle park and Ramberg park. A nature trail has recently come to wind its way through the greenery: the Dijlewolven path. The path leads (school) children through the wilds to the centre of town."

**More about Yvette and Vrienden van Heverleebos en Meerdaalwoud? Have a look at [www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city](http://www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city).**

## "Green students"

Jan Van de Broeck of Lots of Leuven

"Everyone knows that Sint-Maartens Tower is one of the most outstanding 20th century buildings in Sint-Maartensdal. Its hexagonal high-rise and herringbone low-rise elements earned the tower the epithet of 'most striking building' in 1967. KU Leuven's Riga Residence was also a neighbourhood prize-winner. When the old Rega school was converted to student accommodation in 2016, the architects took the opportunity to make it particularly environmentally friendly. And that won them the *Outstanding Precast-award*. Tip for sunny days: a water terrace on the Vunt awaits you in the inner gardens."

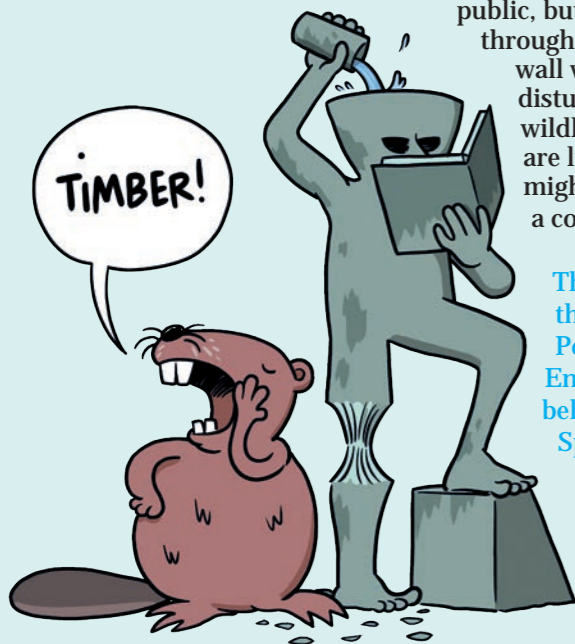
**More about Jan and about Lots of Leuven? Check out [www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city](http://www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city).**





### "I'm a fish out of water, a pike in a carp pond"

Behind the Sports Hall in Wilsele village lies a hidden area of nature containing two bodies of water, the Bellefroid Ponds. I'm leaping out of one of the ponds. The ponds used to be privately owned. Before I came they were used as incubation ponds, not for pike, but for carp. Those days have gone. Today the land is owned by the city of Leuven, and it was opened to the public in June. The footpath is almost a kilometre long and it should be possible to walk all the way round the pond soon. The second pond is not open to the public, but can be seen through the viewing wall without disturbing the wildlife. If you are lucky you might get to see a cormorant.



The Pike of the Bellefroid Ponds Entrance behind the Sports Hall, Brandweg 8, Wilsele

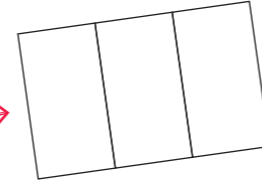
### "I'll try to keep my head"

It wasn't enough, apparently, to be sacrificed for mankind and nailed to the cross. I had to be beheaded. "Yeah, but Jesus, we want to restore your head", they said. "It's for your own good." In the end I gave in. And what happened? Decapitated. "We'll restore you!", they said. They didn't restore me at all. They cloned me! They're obviously making a new head. And they'll send the cloned head back to Saint Peter's church instead of mine. I was outraged and started complaining, but it fell on deaf ears. Curing the blind is one thing, but this? So there I lay. Gathering dust in a workshop. Until one day I read in the paper that my body has gone up in flames, in a church fire. Nailed to the cross, beheaded and now burnt. What's the world coming to? So I decided on a trip to France to take my mind off things. 'La vie en rose' did me a lot of good, although the the travel agent was dubious, looking back on it. A few years after that well-deserved vacation I was delighted to get back to Leuven. I didn't think I could ever be so homesick. And that's why I'm not planning any excursions in the near future.

Head of Christ from the Crooked Cross, Saint Peter's Church, Leuven  
Saint Peter M-Treasure Chamber, Great Market Square 1  
Open from 10:00 to 16:30 (Mon-Fri), 10:00 to 16:00 (Sat), 11:00 to 16:30 (Sun)

## Lose yourself in Leuven's

# Rome



Do you know the colours of the Italian flag?

**Ciao bella/o! Rome, you say? It's inside the ring-road this summer. Where? Right here!**

**Pull out any atlas: Leuven and Rome look more or less the same from above. Almost perfectly round, bisected by a river from north to south, Saint Peter stealing the show... And that's just for starters. On a trip through Leuven you'll soon forget Italy.**



### ON THE ROAD WITH HADRIANUS

The Papal College on Hogeschool Square is a permanent reminder of the city's links with 16th century Rome. After graduating in theology from KU Leuven, Adriaan 'Hadrianus' Floris of Utrecht set his sights on Saint Peter's Church. When he became Pope in 1522, Rome began to look like Leuven: the new Pope liked to draw his staff from former students of the university he attended. On his death Hadrianus was given a plot in a church beside the Piazza Navona. (Like Henricus Gravius, son of the famed Leuven printer, who was sent to Rome as prefect of the Vatican print shop and died shortly after his arrival).

### THE TREVI... NO, LEUVI-FOUNTAIN

Think Rome and you think fountains. Like the one on Hoover Square, for instance. Leuven took its inspiration for the fountain street map from the drawings of the famous Dutch cartographer Jacob van Deventer, who captured the city on paper in 1550. There's no need to throw coins in the fountain for good luck – keep them to buy a *gelato* on the way!

### WONDER OF THE WORLD

The Colosseum in Rome is one of the wonders of the world, but Leuven has seven wonders of its own to offer... All either on or within the ring road. In the 17th century four churches were renowned for their strange characteristics – Sint-Geertrui Abbey was built without using a single nail, Sint-Jacobs church has a bell not inside, but outside its tower, Sint-Michiels church has its alter

outside, and the church beside the convent of the Discalced Carmelites, which was demolished in 1808, had a tower that barely protruded above the roof. The old city gates can also be described as wonders: dignitaries were buried in the old Sint-Michiels church at Hoelstraat gate (Tiensestraat). In other words, when you passed through the gate you went under the bodies. The same is true of the trees at Groef gate (now Tervuurse gate): so impressive were the roots of the seven elms that it was considered a wonder to pass through the city gate. And to complete the list, we have the upstream flow of the river Dyle on which Proud Margaret once floated.

### GREETINGS FROM SAINT PETER

The church on the Great Market Place, which is dedicated to the New Testament's guardian of the gates of heaven, shares more than its name with the basilica in Rome. In *The Martyrdom of Saint Dorothy*, one of the church's paintings, we see the red 'SPQR' flag ('Senatus Populusque Romanus'): a clear reference to 'The Senate of the People of Rome', which is the official name of the old Roman Empire. Before stepping into the church look across to the Town Hall, where you will see Saint Peter at the entrance, key in hand. And who greets you before you enter the huge doors of the Italian equivalent of Saint Peter's church?

The very same, yes. *Saint Peter is not the only link between Italy and the Town Hall: Pope Martinus VI, who has a place on the bottom row, was Italian. It was he who consented to the founding of the University in 1425.*

### ART(S) IN THE CITY

Like the Galleria Borghese in the centre of Rome, the M museum in Leuven will quicken the pulse of any art lover. Not only was the Faculty of Arts, or the Vicus Artium formerly housed there, a place to study the seven liberal arts, which are best known by their Latin name ('septes artes liberales'), but the Tuscan pillars at the entrance are a clear nod to all things Italian.



## Taking it further Outside Rome there's also plenty to see.

So too beyond Leuven's historical centre. Heverlee and Vaartkom are a breath of Italy.

### Little Venice

It might prove difficult in a real gondola, but you could try braving the waters of the Sluispark in a miniature version. Baby Italian whirlwinds can let off energy in the water park, while their elders cool off in the newly opened space around the river Dyle.

### Reminder of the Colosseum

Little wonder, given its Italian architect, that the Philips site in Heverlee is highly reminiscent of the southern land. Aldo Rossi based his designs on the Colosseum and the ancient imperial forums. The city square lies on the crossroads of the 'cardo' and 'decumanus', the two main axes of the site – where the Roman forum was located in ancient Rome.

### Buongiorno, gelato, grazie, arrivederci!

One way to impress the *locals* on holiday is to say a few words in the local language. Make yourself popular with the local ice-cream vendor by trying these opening sentences.



**Questi gelati hanno un aspetto magnifico. Proprio come te!**  
(This ice-cream looks delicious. Just like you.)

**Per me un cono pistacchio e stracciatella. E il tuo numero di telefono!**

(Please could you give me a cone with lemon and stracciatella. And your telephone number.)

**Non so chi sia più radioso oggi: tu o il sole.**  
(I can't tell which is shining brightest today: you or the sun.)

## "It all tastes better with a view of the Dyle"

Johan Byloos of Vizion Leuven

"The main thing about Leuven is the flavour. The real gems are to be found in the little shops filled with tasty foods and beautiful craftsmanship. Mouth-watering chocolate truffles, slices of home-made cervela, Stella chilled in the Dyle... All there in the shade of the Dyle terraces, in the company of Proud Margaret – wonderful. And the bell ringer playing Billy Joël's *Goodnight Saigon* in the background. Only in Leuven."

**More about Johan and Vizion Leuven? Check out [www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city](http://www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city).**

## "From guildhall to day centre"

Jan Van de Broeck of Lots of Leuven

"Many Leuveners know Kolveniershof (Vital Decosterstraat 104) as a day centre, but what they don't know is that the building was once a guildhall for the Culverineers. (A Culverineer carried a culverin, a long-barrelled firearm. The weapon was named for its similarity to the adder, or 'couleuvre' in French). The building was made in a U-shape to accommodate a firing range in the garden. In 1797 the French dispensed with the guilds, and the building ended up being used for other purposes. At various points it was home to a theatre and dance hall, as well as barracks, an infirmary and a youth hostel."

**More about Jan and about Lots of Leuven? Check out [www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city](http://www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city).**

## Pleasure-filled ride for the kids



Kick-off at Leuven station

Distance 9,8 km

## CYCLE, PLAY, CYCLE, PLAY, CYCLE...

**Cycle and play, play and cycle: the ideal ingredients for a (half) day holiday with the kids in your home city. Leuven is full of easy-going cycle routes that take you from square to playground... Are you coming?**

The best place to begin a trip through and around Leuven is the station and its new **bike spiral**. Use your own bike or rent one from the bike hire point at the station: it's ideal for testing out a tandem, a cargo bike or an electric bike. Sebastien, Fran and their children are looking forward to testing it out, Noah on a bike from Velokadee and his parents and sister Rosalie on comfortable city bikes.

### **A must try: the bike spiral**

Noah has just started preschool and hasn't been riding for very long. The bike spiral is the ideal place to perfect your cornering. From the station it goes past the Town Hall in a straight line to the **Philips site**. At the recently renewed playground the bikes stop for a drink and a play. The second play area, which has small climbing frames and

baby swings, is just right for Rosalie; Noah heads off to a big climbing frame that has different climbing surfaces and a big slide. *Wheey!* Noah also wants to have a quick look at the skate park, where the bigger children hang out.

### **New bridge, more cycling**

Now the route passes Bierbeekstraat and Tivolistraat to follow the bridge over the railway tracks to new cycle tunnel under Tiensesteenweg, but the new bridge opens soon and you will be able to cross behind the Philips site to **Park Abbey**. Wave to the cows, do a lap of the pond perhaps to see the ducks, and the swans, and the cormorants, and the herons, before cycling behind the abbey along Brugstraat and back to the new cycle tunnel.

This brings you to **Park Belle Vue** in Kessel-Lo, which is yet another spot to have a play and a bit of a rest. You can have a picnic here, but today the plan is to picnic on top of the Keizersberg. So there's still a bit of cycling to do! From Park Belle Vue the route heads back to the station; the Rimbold family push their bikes under the station to Diestsestraat. You cycle along Vanden Tymplestraat, Nerviersstraat and Strijdersstraat before arriving at Tweewaterspad. Turn right here. Ride between the trees and the water until you reach the intersection with the ring road. At the traffic lights you can cross Diestsevest safely to get to Vuurkruisenlaan, the Walkers bridge and then on to Engels Square. The cycle lift takes you to the tramway on **Keizersberg**. The view from the top is amazing. 'Wow!', says Noah. It's wonderfully quiet and green at the top, the perfect place to lay out a blanket for a picnic. Time for a rest, but Noah and Rosalie are soon ready for action. So, just free-wheel back down!

### **Water, fish and ducks: an unbeatable combination!**

Once you have passed OPEK and De Hoorn it is easy to cross over to **Sluispark**. The plan is to have a look for fish on the fish ladder and a splash about in the water garden. Rosalie loves it here! In Bruulpark Noah wants to play football with his dad. It's also a good place to stop and make use of the public toilets. The route goes on through Sluisstraat and past Sint-Geertrui church to Pereboomstraat and the **Bruul**. There, Rosalie has a little rest in the shade of the trees.

### **Hot day? Even more water then!**

It's hot and the children want "another water park". Through Brouwersstraat, the Lei, past the Town Hall and along Tiensestraat we go to **Hoover Square**, and the city fountain, where it's great fun to splash about. Step between the gullies, find islands and squeal with excitement when the water sprays up: what fun! There's time to find one more little playground before heading home, and why not? That's what holiday's are all about. So it's up to **Tuin de Walque** in Nobelstraat, behind the university library by taking Ravenstraat, through the garden

**Freewheeling on the bike and splashing about in the water garden. Good times!**

of the Faculty of Literature and Philosophy to Bogaardenstraat, and then Quinten Metsysplein. The Tuin de Walque is hidden from sight just around the corner, on Nobelstraat. It's peaceful here. The play area was recently resurfaced, and it is now a truly spacious garden where children can enjoy themselves in the sand, climbing, scrambling and swinging... Young children can be left to play here independently, so parents Fran and Sebastien have a little rest on a bench. The surrounding walls give a sense of safety and security, and it's easy to let the children out of sight for a while. With the sandpit well and truly dug, it's time to go home. Down Quinten Metsysplein and into Dagobertstraat, and across Tiensevest where the wide cycle path leads back to Velo to return the bikes. Noah doesn't really want to part with his handy bike, but with a bike subscription from Velokadee he doesn't have to...



### **KIDDIES' BIKES TO SUIT**

Noah is riding the Zoef, a children's bike by Velokadee for kids between two and four. He's still on stabilisers and will soon move to the Kit, the next size up... Velokadee do a bike subscription that lets you hand in your child's bike when it gets too small. From the learner bike Billie to the junior bike Loko for children from ten to fourteen: there is bound to be a size that fits among Velokadee's safe and child-friendly S'cool bikes.

**You pay 62 euros a year, or a concessionary fee of 12.40 euros with the UiTPAS. [velokadee.be](http://velokadee.be), [info@velokadee](mailto:info@velokadee) or 016-29.87.40**



## “Leuven is nothing without Stella”

Bo Van Koeckhoven of Leuven Leisure

“Without Vaartkom, Leuven Beer City would never exist. It’s where all the elements of the story come together. It’s the birthplace of the world famous Stella Artois beer. The water of the river Dyle was for centuries the main ingredient of Leuven’s beer, and the Vaart has allowed everyone to enjoy that beer since the 18th century. Let’s not forget the wonderful cafes that serve our fermented treasure from the barrel. Cheers!”

**More about Bo and about Leuven Leisure? Have a look at [www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city](http://www.visitleuven.be/en/explore-city).**

## Walk Leuven’s surprising sides

Unique artistic walks are a great way to discover even more of our city’s surprising sides. Ever wondered about our architectural gems? Then take a walk with Stad & Architectuur. On the ‘Leuven Scene’ walk, Belpop expert Jan Delvaux delves into the city’s rock and pop past. 30CC’s spotlighted artist leads you past 30 of the city’s artistic windows. Every window portrays and showcases the talent of the artist that lives there. The Academie van ’t Leives takes you down every nook and cranny of ’t Leives. New (guided) walk initiatives are added every day. Discover them all at [www.uitinleuven.be](http://www.uitinleuven.be).

## TO YOUR HEALTH!

### Enjoy the afterglow on a terrace

Have you rediscovered the city? What say you to a warm welcome on one of our café and restaurant terraces? Grab a beer on the longest bar in the world the Oude Markt, or sip a home-made ice-tea in your local café.

### How to prepare for your next city expedition

Make new plans for a day’s vacation in your home city while you cradle a refreshing and quintessentially Leuven-city cocktail.

Years ago, city chef **Jeroen Meus** created the **city cocktail**, an exotic concoction that has Leuven written all over it:

- 1.25 cl vodka
- 1.25 cl fresh lemon juice
- 2.5 cl fraise de bois or crème de cassis
- 5 cl Stella

serve in a jockey glass with crushed ice and mint leaves

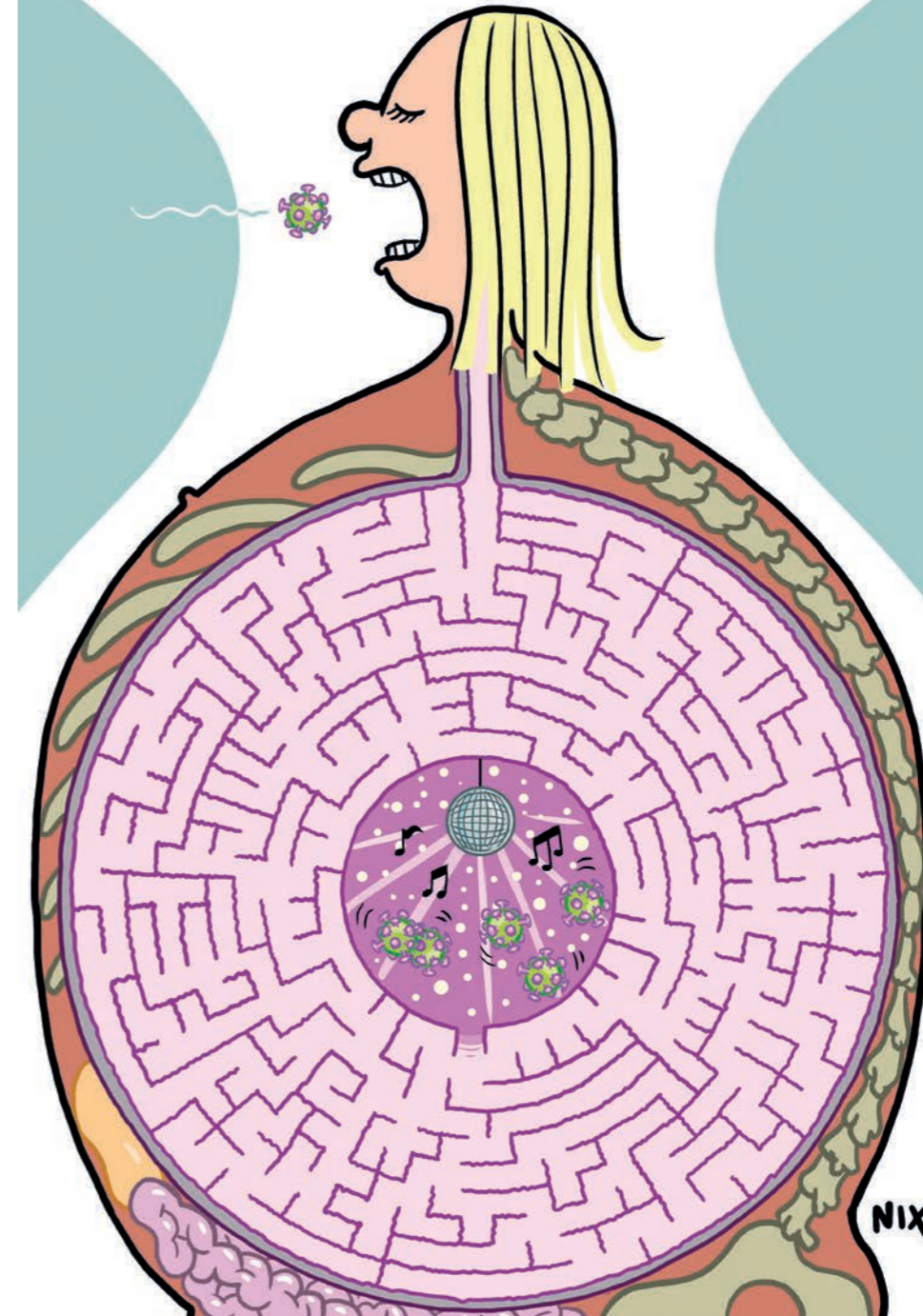
Ever heard of the **Leuven Fonzie**? A divinely refreshing mocktail created by **Dave Aertgeerts**:

- fill a glass with ice cubes
- 3 cl passion fruit purée (or coulis)
- 2 cl honey syrup
- 10 cl Fever Tree Ginger Beer or Ginger-Ale

serve in a lemonade glass and finish with half a passion fruit, star anise and a sprig of sage



DURING LOCKDOWN PARTY'S WERE STRICTLY PROHIBITED,  
BUT VIRUSES KEPT ON CELEBRATING.  
CAN YOU HELP THIS ONE REACH HIS FRIENDS ON THE DANCEFLOOR?  
QUICK! HIS FAVOURITE SONG IS ON!



## COLOFON

Commissioned by  
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Dit is een vertaling  
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City of Leuven - Leuvenement in co-operation with 30CC, Alamire Foundation, Cinema ZED, HAL 5, Het Depot, Het nieuwstedelijk, MijnLeuven, M-Museum, Parcum and STUK.

## BREAKING!

Stay tuned for  
new events:

**[www.uitinleuven.be](http://www.uitinleuven.be)**  
(dutch only)

## LEUVEN'S POST-SUMMER SIZZLE

Leuven's amateur artists get the new culture season off to a good start in September with an all-new Amateurama, and cultural centre 30CC hit the ground running with season starter over three weekends.

\*These events will only go ahead if they are compliant with the public health guidance. The activities will be altered to reflect any change in the National Security Council guidance.