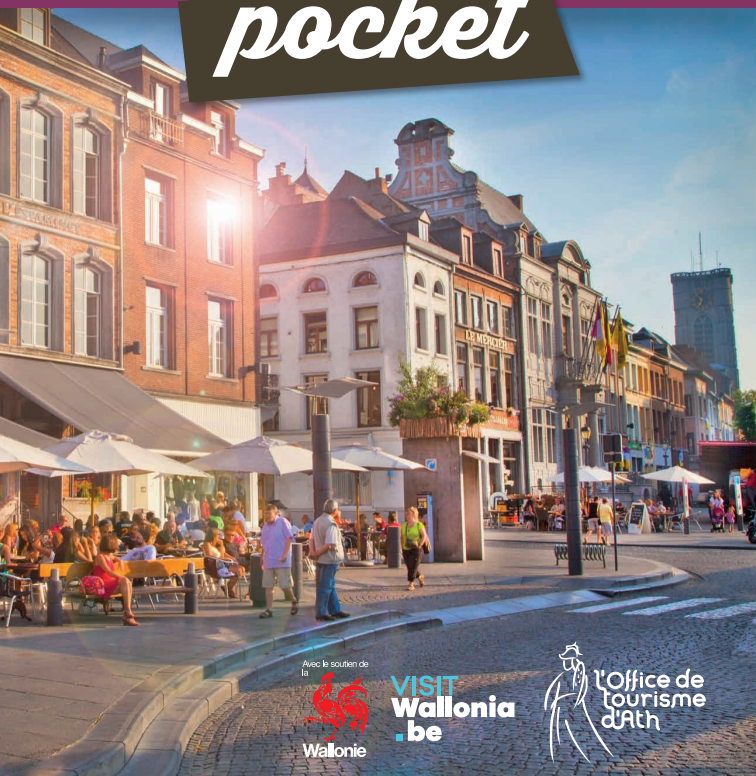


—ATH—

*in your
pocket*



Avec le soutien de la



Wallonie

VISIT
Wallonia
.be



l'Office de
tourisme
d'Ath





Not to miss !

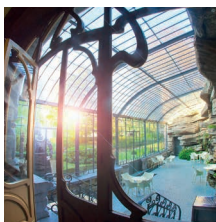
THE GIANTS' HOUSE

At the Giant's House it is the festive season all year round. This Museum occupies a Louis XV style mansion and takes you on a captivating journey through the world of giants.

During the visit you use all your senses. You see how a giant is made, then further on you see how it is carried, the passing of the festival from one generation to another is recalled by several of the people involved. Giants also exist beyond our frontiers, in fact they can be found all over Europe. Several well illustrated documentaries tell you about them. The Giants' House regularly holds temporary exhibitions on various themes.



Enjoy wandering around this magic place in the very centre of the town.



Guided visits for groups



Not to miss !

GALLO ROMAN MUSEUM

SECTION OF THE BAVAY-VELZEKE ROMAN WAY



Friendly characters animate the location where two boats are moored ; one has a flat bottom, the other is like a dug-out canoe.

These two boats were discovered in 1975 during an archaeological dig at Pommeroeul. The celtic style barge (chaland) is today regarded as one of the treasures of the 'Federation Wallonie-Bruxelles'.



A boatman called 'Rufus' welcomes visitors and tells the story of the boats, trade, itineraries and products carried on the waterways during the Gallo-Roman era.

The visit to the Gallo-Roman area will be of interest to all the family.





To discover

THE STONE MUSEUM

The Stone Museum has found a home in the old quarry owner's house.

It shows the life of the stone-cutters in detail – works, tools, achievements, social life. Almost 1,000 men worked at Maffle before 1900 when the industry was flourishing. A look at the geology of the village shows the presence of the 'blue stone' (pierre bleue) which is known locally as 'small granite' (petit granit).



Guided visits for groups through the year

To discover

THE BURBANT TOWER

In 1166 when Baudouin IV, Count of Hainaut, arrived at the confluence of the two Dendre rivers. He found wasteland. Very quickly he had a stone Keep built – the Burbant Tower. Over the years the tower became the nerve centre of a veritable castle. Today from the top of the keep visitors can see eight centuries of history.



BALL GAMES MUSEUM

'Balle-pelote', a very popular Walloon sport animated the squares of villages on sunny afternoons. The players explain the rules after the « lutte ».

To learn everything about this sport visit the 'Musée Jeux de Paume'. Located in the Town Hall (see map on page 5) its purpose is to tell you all about the history of ball games in our country.

www.sortileges.be



A town that is alive !

LES SORTILÈGES, RUE ET VOUS !

Street Art Festival

On Ascension Thursday. Every year visitors are the first to discover the latest Street Art creations – theatre, dance, circus, music, plastic arts .. les Sortilèges, Rue et vous ! It's the high point for Belgian and French artists who come to share their emotions with the general public. The festival is free and open to everyone.

Organised by the « Maison Culturelle d'Ath » in association with the « Centre des Arts de la Rue » and the town of Ath.

Let's have a drink on the main square !





A town that is alive !

ATH DUCASSE

ITS INHABITANTS ARE CERTAIN THAT THE ATH GIANTS ARE WORTH SEEING !

Ath vibrates on the fourth weekend of August when these huge figures emerge. The public hold their breath on the Grand Place during the fight between David and Goliath.

Goliath, the giant Philistine, has taken part in the Sunday procession since 1481 – it was originally a religious procession. Here the love of the Ducasse is passed on from generation to generation. This festival is a reflection on the history of a region and its people.



Since 1819 the procession has become a non-religious event, developing around 19th century ideas (exotism, Belgian nationalism etc.) Floats and bands give rhythm to the procession, greeted by an enthusiastic crowd. Altogether seven giants dance and make their contribution to the success of this multi-secular festival.

**Ask at the Tourist Office for
the programme of events.**

2022: 26/27/28 of August
2023: 25/26/27 of August
2024: 23/24/25 of August



ACCESS ROUTES

- > Railway station.
- > E429 exit 30.
E42 exit Nimy-Maisieres direction Ath.
- > 45 minutes from Brussels and Lille.
2 hours 30 from Paris.
- > Brussels, Lille
and Brussels-South airports.



THE TOURIST OFFICE

Rue de Pintamont 18
7800 ATH , Belgium

Tel +32 (0) 68 68 13 00

office.de.tourisme@ath.be

<http://tourisme.ath.be>

From Tuesday to Friday : 10 to 17.00,
until 18.00 (between June and Sep-
tember). Saturday, Sunday and School
holiday : from 14 to 18.00. Close on
sunday in December and January

