

Floralia Brussels for the 12th time in full bloom!

From Friday 3 April to Sunday 3 May.

Flower lovers are eager to visit the park of the castle of Grand-Bigard during “Floralia Brussels”. The park will once again open its doors from Friday 3 April to Sunday 3 May. This international exhibition attracts many tourists every year. After a visit to Brussels they are always surprised by the beauty of the flowers.



Figures

- park of 14 hectare
- 4 weeks open to the public
- more than 1 million flower bulbs have been planted by hand
- 500 varieties of flower bulbs
- 400 varieties of tulips to admire in all their splendour
- Indoor exhibition of 1.000 m² in the greenhouse



Flowers

As in previous years the gardeners have had their hands full with planting more than 1 million bulbs. Special attention goes to the tulips, amongst which you can admire 400 varieties. Also hyacinths, daffodils and other flower bulbs will be presented to you. You shouldn't miss a carpet of wild flowers, a heart of different red tulips and a labyrinth of flowers. The rhododendrons and azaleas from the English Exbury Gardens remain an eye catcher.

Flowerexpo

Visitors can discover many flower arrangements and creations of ornamental plants in the greenhouse of 1000m². We put every week other flowers in the spotlights. Florist Hans Danko will take care of the creations of flowers and bouquets. He will renew 150 flower arrangements and 10,000 cut flowers per week.

The Labyrinth

The labyrinth of Grand-Bigard was a project of the designer Ferdinand Joseph Deron (1700-1762) for the Marquise H  l  ne – Hyacinthe de Boisschot. However, it seemed that the plans would never be executed. A half century later there was nothing to see of the whole project on the map of the park, signed by P. C. De Decker. At the beginning of the 21 century, the owner of the Castle Grand-Bigard discovered the plans of the labyrinth. He decided immediately to realize at the same place a labyrinth of flowers. In this way, visitors will have the opportunity to go back in time and experience the dream of Marquise H  l  ne - Hyacinthe de Boisschot.



Respect for tradition

The design and realisation of the flower exhibition has been developed by Maarten Bakker, descendant of a famous family of bulb producers in the Netherlands. He looks always for the most interesting varieties for the creation of the flowerbeds.

The castle

The tourist who discovered Belgium had always admiration for the beauty of its historical buildings and castles. The province of Brabant owns several of them, which witness a glorious past. The castle of Grand-Bigard, the pride of the municipality and 7 km west of Brussels is certainly one of the most beautiful archaeological heritage of our country. The castle of Grand-Bigard was first built in the 12th century. It's surrounded by a wide moat and its deep waters reflect the centuries-old beech trees. A five-arch bridge, guarded by two heraldic lions of the 17th century leads the visitors to the drawbridge which gives access to the fortified entrance, dated from the 14th century. The castle itself was built in the 17th century. It's a large building of a wonderful example of the Flemish Renaissance style.



The donjon



The donjon from 1347 consists of 4 floors and is 30 meter high. After 6 months of restoration, the Donjon, dated from the 14th century, will be again accessible to its roof terrace from where you can see the Atomium and the basilica of Brussels.

Living in a castle



The first lord of Grand-Bigard was Almaric de Bigard, who lived here around 1110. Since then, there have been 40 different owners, including several well-known names in the Belgian history. Amongst them, Guillaume Rongman, lord of Bigard who distinguished himself in a special way. In 1902 Raymond Pelgrims de Bigard found sadly dilapidated buildings. The entrance was blocked by a group of farmsteads and the moat was filled with dirt. After thirty years of hard work, he managed to restore one of the most prestigious heritage of our country. In 2004 the family decided to open the park to the public.

Since then this event has become a must to maintain this exceptional piece of heritage.

Info:

- Park daily open from 10am to 06pm
- In the cafeteria: light meals and snacks
- Groups reservation in advance
- Tulips, orchids and summer bulbs for sale at the exit of the park.

Adults 12 EUR
Seniors (65+) 10 EUR
Children (6-14 years) 5 EUR
Children < 6 years free
Groups > 20 pers. 10 EUR p.p.

Guided tour (reservation necessary) 80 EUR

Castle of Grand-Bigard Isidoor Van Beverenstraat 5 1702 Groot-Bijgaarden	0494/47.72.56 info@floralia-brussels.be www.floralia-brussels.be
--	---