



An ideal visit for those who love history-filled places, serene atmospheres and discoveries that nourish the mind as much as the senses, to enjoy during a Wallonia getaway, just a few steps from the French border.



GO THERE

+32 61 31 10 60

VISIT THE WEBSITE

Monday : 09:30 - 18:00

Tuesday : 09:30 - 18:00

Wednesday : 09:30 - 18:00

Thursday : 09:30 - 18:00

Friday : 09:30 - 18:00

Saturday : 09:30 - 18:00

Sunday : 09:30 - 18:00

Reviews

4.6/5 (7046 Google reviews)

Information

Orval Abbey, a promise of silence, stone and living memory

The **Orval Abbey** reveals itself like stepping into an ancient story, in the heart of generous and peaceful nature in the far south of Wallonia. Here, time seems to slow down. The stones tell nearly **nine centuries of history**, and every step through the Cistercian ruins invites contemplation, listening and a rare form of quiet reflection.

The site offers an **immersive interpretation trail** through the remarkably preserved remains of the former abbey, complemented by a modern exhibition dedicated to the **brewing expertise** that has made Orval renowned far beyond national borders. A subtle balance between spiritual heritage, architectural history and contemporary transmission.

Walking through the ruins, feeling the spirit of the place

The Cistercian ruins of Orval impress with their **architectural harmony** and their perfect integration into the landscape. Surrounded by forests and bathed in natural light, they create a deeply **soothing** atmosphere. One senses the breath of the past, that of the monks who shaped these places through **three successive abbeys**, since the foundation of the first nearly 950 years ago.

The stones, shaped by the centuries, are **carefully maintained**, making the site easy to understand and accessible. Visitors do not simply observe: they understand, feel and absorb the atmosphere. The route is designed to guide visitors step by step without ever breaking the magic of the place.

A contemporary visit serving history

The visiting experience is surprising for its **discreet modernity**. Videos, interactive installations and a **video mapping projected onto a scale model** allow visitors to visualize the evolution of the abbey over time. These educational tools enrich the discovery without distorting it, making the history accessible to all audiences, young and old alike.

The exhibition dedicated to the **Orval brewing expertise** adds another dimension to the visit. It highlights the close connection between monastic life and artisanal production, rooted in rigor, patience and transmission. A fascinating insight into a living heritage that is still active today.

The legend of the Mathilde Fountain, between mystery and poetry

It is impossible to leave Orval without stopping at the **Mathilde Fountain**, the symbolic heart of the site. Legend tells that an Italian countess lost her wedding ring there, before a trout miraculously returned it to her. This poetic founding story explains

the origin of the famous emblem of the abbey and its brewery.

Around the fountain, the atmosphere becomes more intimate. The murmur of water, the coolness of the stone and the simplicity of the setting invite visitors to pause. A suspended moment, almost outside of time.

An open, accessible and deeply human place

The **Orval Abbey** also stands out for its attention to welcoming everyone. Certified with the **access-i** label, the site notably offers a **Braille scale model**, allowing everyone to understand and experience the architecture of the place. This commitment to inclusion fully reflects the spirit of openness and transmission that defines Orval.

Before leaving, a stop at the **abbey shop**, open all year round, extends the experience. Monastic and Trappist products are offered there in a simple and authentic atmosphere, faithful to the spirit of the place.



Car park

Coach park
4 parking spots

Maestro

Opening times

All year, every day • January and February: 10.30 to 17.30 • March, April, May and October: 9.30 to 18.00 • June, July, August and September: 9.30 to 18.30 • November and December: 10.30 to 17.30

Price

adults €8 • 60+, students €6 • children (7-14 years) €3

Guided tour

Guided tours: every afternoon in July and August and Sunday afternoons in September. French starting at 13.30, 14.15, 15.00, 15.45, 16.30, 17.15. Dutch starting at 13.00, 13.45, 14.30, 15.15, 16.00, 16.45

Tour length

1.5 hrs • Multimedia room and Models showing the history of the monastery and the life of the community

Group

Price (min. 20 people) adults €6 - seniors (60+) €4.50 - students (15+) €4.50€ - children (7-14) €2.50 • School groups (7-14) €2 per pupil

Guided tour EN, FR, NL, DE, IT, LU - €65/guide - all year round on prior written request.

More information <https://www.alangegardien.be/en>

Weather in Villers-devant-Orval

Nearby...

Bouillon Medieval Experience

Bouillon 37.34 Km 00:33





