

PRESS RELEASE



ERNEST DE BAVIÈRE

UN PRINCE DE LIÈGE (1554-1612) DANS L'EUROPE MODERNE

& FRÉNÉSIE VÉNITIENNE

LE VERRE ESPAGNOL À LA FAÇON DE VENISE



18.11.2011 - 20.05.2012
GRAND CURTIUS LIÈGE

Portrait d'Ernest de Bavière, Châteaux d'Augustusburg et de Falkenlust de Brühl, Patrimoine mondial de l'Unesco © H. Gummersbach
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PRESS RELEASE

From 18 November 2011 through to 20 May 2012, the Grand Curtius Museum of Liège will be putting on two prestigious exhibitions of ancient art in co-operation with a dozen museums in Europe.

Between 18 November 2011 and 20 May 2012, the city of Liège will be putting on two prestigious exhibitions of ancient art in the Palais Curtius, an architectural treasure dating back to the Renaissance and today part of the Grand Curtius museum complex.

1. ERNEST DE BAVIÈRE UN PRINCE DE LIÈGE (1554-1612) DANS L'EUROPE MODERNE

The first exhibition 'Ernest of Bavaria, Prince-Bishop of Liège in a modern Europe' retraces the personality and world of Ernest of Bavaria, an enlightened and cosmopolitan prince-archbishop, a brilliant mathematician who was passionate about alchemy, astronomy, the arts, literature and the discoveries of his era at the end of the Renaissance. More than 350 paintings, items of furniture, manuscripts from Liège museums and large public and private Belgian and international (mainly German) collections are brought to life by a contemporary staging created by the artist Ronald Dagonier. Images and 3D visuals will bring this illustrious character back to life throughout this exhibition that is punctuated with historic events and the important scientific discoveries that were legion during this era and that heralded the Modern Age: manierist art, the transformation of alchemy to modern science, the emergence of astronomy and new technology, the development of the coal industry, medicine and the popularity of thermal cures.

This exhibition is curated by Robert Halleux, Professor (Historian) and Member of the Académie Royale de Belgique and the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres of the Institut de France.

A special circuit has been set up by the Tourist Office for Liège, Spa, Stavelot and Malmedy and is entitled 'In the footsteps of Ernest of Bavaria'. This complements the exhibition and gives tourists the opportunity to discover the old principality of Stavelot-Malmedy.



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2. FRÉNÉSIE VÉNITIENNE

LE VERRE ESPAGNOL À LA FAÇON DE VENISE

The second exhibition, 'Venetian Frenzy – Venetian-style Spanish glass', brings together more than 200 works from the Golden Age of the art of glass in Europe with a focus on one of the world-renowned treasures of the Grand Curtius collection of ancient glass. Thanks to loans from private collections, three Catalan museums (the Musée Cau Ferrer of Sitges, the Musée du Château de Peralada and the Musée Episcopal de Vic), collections from the Glass Museum of Düsseldorf and the Cité de la Céramique of Sèvres, visitors are given the rare opportunity of discovering the exceptional work of Spanish glass makers between the 16th and 18th centuries. These virtuoso craftsmen mastered innovative and original techniques that enabled them to create highly refined pieces that were rich in colour and that bore motifs and decorative elements inspired by the world of plants. The exhibition shows items of tableware alongside rare ceremonial objects. It is organised in co-operation with the Knauf d'Iphofen Museum in Bavaria and with the support of the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique (IRPA).

Catalogues of the exhibition are available.



3. CIRCUIT FOR TOURISTS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ERNEST OF BAVARIA

The flamboyant Prince-Bishop of Liège, noted for his love of all things modern, set his seal on Liège, Spa, Malmedy and also Stavelot...

1ST PART OF THE PROGRAMME (COMPULSORY)

- 09:30 hrs. : All meet at the Guillemins station (for those arriving by rail). Transfer by coach to the Grand Curtius (with Atlas Coach). Groups travelling in their own coach meet at the Grand Curtius.
- 10:00 hrs. : Visit to the exhibition “Ernest of Bavaria, a liégeois prince in modern Europe (1554-1612)” at the Grand Curtius (duration: +/- 1 h 30)

2ND PART – OPTIONAL (DURATION : +/-1 H 30)

- From 14:00 hrs. Lunch in the town where the 2nd part of the programme starts. Lunch 12:30-14:00 hrs.

3RD PART – OPTIONAL (DURATION: +/-1 H 30)

- From 16:00 hrs.

- Spa: Guided tour of the historic centre of Spa, a city world-famous for its thermal springs and mineral waters. Ernest of Bavaria was among the first to recognise their healing properties.

Or

- Stavelot: Visit to the Abbey of Stavelot.
On January 4th 1583, the Emperor Rudolph II invested Ernest of Bavaria as Prince Abbot of Stavelot and Malmedy, conferring upon him all the privileges, rights, possessions, franchises and freedoms of the estates and lands dependent upon the abbey. Historians agree that Ernest of Bavaria was without equal in respect to clemency, liberality, generosity, and that he was not a model of eloquence, ownership, having only few connections. The Abbey of Stavelot invites you to discover this fascinating historical period through a series of appealing historical displays, highlighted by multimedia presentations. (7 days a week).

Or

- Malmedy: Visit to the Malmundarium (Mondays closed, except in school holidays).
Situated in the heart of the ancient monastery, the ‘Malmundarium’ now lends lustre to the sumptuous buildings: dedicated today to tourism and culture in the broadest sense of the term, it offers visitors the chance to delve into the history



of the town – paying special attention to Ernest of Bavaria – , its folklore, highlighted by a carnival workshop, and its industrial past, to which leather and paper-making workshops bear witness. Frequently changing temporary exhibitions add notes of special interest to this tour.

- 17:30 hrs.: free time in the town;
- 18:30 hrs.: the programme ends. - (Return to Liège for those travelling by rail).

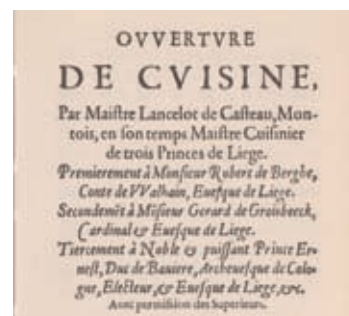
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

- Languages : FR, NL, DE, EN.
- Audio-guides: FR, NL, DE, EN (Stavelot and Malmedy).
- Prices: Meal, 1 course: € 35 / pers. (based on min. 20 pers.) - Reservation required latest 15 days prior to visit.
- Options :
 - 3-course meal at Stavelot : + € 5 /pers.
 - 2-course meal at Spa : + € 5 /pers.
 - 3-course meal at Spa : + € 8 /pers.
 - Guided tour at Stavelot : + € 50 per guide (max. 25 persons per guide).
 - Guided tour at Malmédy: + € 50 per guide (max. 25 persons per guide).
- Hire of Atlas coach
 - 20 persons or more: € 59
 - 30 persons or more: € 51
 - 40 persons or more: € 47
 - 50 persons or more: € 45
- Programme valid from November 18th 2011 until May 20th 2012 (Tuesdays excepted).
- WAL'INCOMING
 - Grand Route, 313 - Beyne-Heusay (Liège)
 - Tél. +32 (0)4 355 80 16 - Fax +32 (0)4 358 39 93
 - incoming@walincoming

4. WALKING TOUR

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

- 10 am: meet your guide at the Grand Curtius ticket office.
- 10.15 am - 12.15 pm: guided tour of the exhibitions «Ernest of Bavaria, a prince of Liège in modern Europe» and «Venetian frenzy – Spanish glass in Venetian style»
- 12.30 pm: your choice of one of our lunch options. These include our special «Lancelot de Casteau» menus, named after Ernest of Bavaria's chef (see our 2012 Packages and Guided Tours for Groups brochure on the website at www.liege.be/tourisme/publications).
- 2.30 - 4.30 pm:
 - Option A
Guided walking tour of the city, «Liège at the time of Ernest of Bavaria»
 - Option B
Guided tour of the Grand Curtius permanent collections



WALKING TOUR INFORMATION

- Basic price for the day, excluding lunch:
 - Option A : with a regional guide: €14/person
 - with a lecturer-guide: €16.50/person
 - Option B : €18.50/person
- Valid from 18 November 2011 to 20 May 2012 (except Tuesdays, 25 December, 1 January and 1 May).
- For groups of at least 25 people

5. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

WHERE?

Grand Curtius Féronstrée 136 - 4000 Luik

DATES

18 November 2011 to 20 May 2012

OPENING HOURS

From Monday to Sunday: 10h00-18h00 – Closed on Tuesday & 25/12, 1/1, 1/5.
Ticket desk closes at 17h00.

PRICES

Admission to ‘Ernest of Bavaria’ and ‘Venetian Frenzy’

8 euros: individuals

6 euros: groups of adults and over 60s

3 euros: students aged 12 – 18, the unemployed

1.25 euros: article 27

Free: children aged under 12

20 euros: family ticket (one or two adults accompanied by children)

Combination-tickets for exhibitions and permanent collections of the Grand Curtius (valid until 20/05/2012):

12 euros: individuals

10 euros: groups of adults and over 60s

6 euros: students aged 12 – 18, the unemployed

Free: children aged under 12

25 euros: family ticket (one or two adults accompanied by children)

Reservations compulsory for groups

MULTILINGUAL GUIDED TOURS : BY RESERVATION

EDUCATIONAL FOLDER

An educational folder is available for schools : www.lesmuseesdeliege.be

CATALOGUES

- Catalogue “Ernest de Bavière (1554-1612). un prince-évêque de Liège dans l’Europe moderne”, published by Brepols, 344 p. : 40 €

- Catalogue “Frénésie vénitienne. Le verre espagnol à la façon de Venise”, published by Verlag j.H. Roll, 208 p. : 20 €. Catalogue available in French, German, Spanish and English.

INFORMATION

www.lesmuseesdeliege.be – www.grandcurtiusliege.be

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High-resolution photos can be downloaded
from www.lesmuseesdeliege.be/presse