

Travel the Benelux

Encounter carpet of flowers in Blue Forest



Blooming bluebells carpet the forest floor in the Blue Forest in Halle, Belgium, Wednesday, April 22, 2015. (U.S. Army photo by Tim Clark)

Outside the gate

When you see this miracle of nature and smell its intense sweet fragrance, you might feel like you've stepped into a dream.

The secret of this magical place (which is free to visit) is millions of bluebells.

Every spring, just outside of Halle, the forest floor is transformed into a lush floral carpet surrounding the beech trees as far as the eye can see.

The Hallerbos (Dutch for Halle forest), also called the

Blue Forest, is in bloom now but only for about two weeks.

Don't miss going for a springtime walk on the winding trails in the 1,360-acre woods: Each turn of the path brings a new visual delight.

Driving Distance

For your GPS:
 Vlasmaktdreef 4
 1500 Halle
 From Mons: 44 km
 From Brussels: 19 km
 From Schinnen: 148 km

Upcoming organized trips

SHAPE Trips and Tours

Serving Brussels, Chièvres and SHAPE. Discounted tickets to theme parks, castles and more are also available. Call DSN 423-3884 or civilian 065-443884.

- **Polish Pottery and Czech Crystal Shopping Trip, May 1 to 4**
- **Paris, May 2**
- **Thermes de Spa, Belgium, May 9**
- **Amsterdam, May 23**
- **Normandy Beaches, May 29 to 31**
- **London, June 6**
- **Stonehenge with Salisbury & Oxford, June 13 to 14**
- **Somme Battlefield and Peronne Museum, June 20**
- **Phantasia Land, Bruehl, Germany, June 27**
- **Pamplona Running of the Bulls, July 6 to 9**
- **Prague with Heidelberg and Nuremberg, July 26 to 29 (Register by June 26.)**
- **Disney Paris, July 15**
- **Dolfinarium in Harderwijk, the Netherlands, July 23**
- **Atlantic Wall Museum and Oostende, Belgium, Aug. 8**
- **London, Aug. 15 to 17**
- **Medieval Dinner in Bruges, Aug. 22**

SHAPE Travel Group

For more information, call civilian 0470-876369.

- **Giverny, France: Monet's Home and Gardens, May 7**
- **London and Chelsea Flower Show, May 21**
- **Amiens, France, and Les Hortillonages (Floating Gardens), June 2**
- **Provins, France: Medieval Festival, June 13**
- **Paris, June 18**
- **Hampton Court Palace and Gardens, June 30**

Schinnen Trips & Tours

Call DSN 360-7560 or civilian +31 (0) 46-4437560.

- **Day Trip to Delft, May 9**
- **Luxembourg and American Cemetery, May 30**
- **Disney Paris, June 6**
- **Berlin Express, June 13**
- **Canoeing & Biking, June 27**
- **D-Day landing beaches, memorials and battle monuments in Normandy, France, July 17 to 20 (Register by May 15.)**
- **Dutch Day, July 31**
- **Bernkastel-Kues, Germany: Wine Festival, Sept. 5**
- **National Liberation Museum 1944-1945 and Arnhem battlefield tour, Sept. 26**