

Your travel guide









Must do's in Zuid-Limburg



Different from the rest of The Netherlands

To the south, Zuid-Limburg borders on the foothills of the Ardennes (Belgium), High Fens (Belgium), and Eifel (Germany). This gives the region its character, which is not typical for the Netherlands at all; Zuid-Limburg's wide and gently rolling hills are in strong contrast with the otherwise thoroughly flat Dutch landscape!

Hiking and cycling region

The Zuid-Limburg region is a true paradise for hikers and cyclists.
The hilly landscape features old sunken lanes, open plateaus and idyllic woodlands. Along the way, picturesque villages and authentic towns alternate. Our natural environment offers a variety of possibilities for cycling, mountain biking, running and horse riding.



Highest and narrowest part and border triangle!

The Vaalserberg, with its 322.5 metres the highest point of The Netherlands, is located on a border triangle, named the Drielandenpunt. The borders of Germany, Belgium and The Netherlands meet here. Additionally, here you can also find the narrowest part of The Netherlands, Echt-Susteren, which borders to the westernmost point of Germany, the Westzipfelpunkt.

A region full of attractions

Zuid-Limburg is home to many top international attractions such as SnowWorld, GaiaZOO, Mondo Verde, Columbus Earth Theater and much more. There is so much to experience! Take a discovery tour to the historical and modern sights in beautiful Zuid-Limburg.

Breweries and vineyards

Zuid-Limburg has a great beer and wine culture. It's not without reason that you can find a number of large and small, high- quality breweries here. They will be happy to show you the craft of beer brewing. The oftentraditional settings make a visit to the Zuid-Limburg breweries extraordinary. Thanks to the excellent marl soil and the good summers in recent years, wine-growing is well possible in Zuid-Limburg. Visit one of the many vineyards and taste it for yourself!



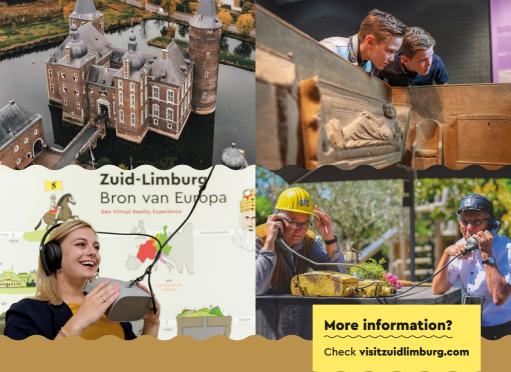
Marl & Caves

The marlstone quarrying in Zuid-Limburg resulted in a 250 kilometres long network of subterranean corridors.

In this unique environment you now can enjoy cave biking, laser gaming and even culinary delights. When visiting in winter, do not miss out on the enchanting, world famous Christmas markets, that take place in the underground caves.

Relax and unwind

Zuid-Limburg is the best place to relax and unwind. Its natural beauty, many facilities and friendly inhabitants with a genuine interest in others, make this the ideal place to slow down. That certainly does not mean sitting still and doing nothing. It means consciously indulging and allowing yourself peace and quiet, living a mindful life.



The Source of Europe

Due to its long, rich and above all eventful history, we also call our region 'the Source of Europe'. For thousands of years Zuid-Limburg and its surroundings have been the source and core of this continent's history.

Experience history up close and watch the unique virtual reality film at the Visit Zuid-Limburg Experience.

Prehistoric farmers and band-ceramists settled down in this area some 7,000 years ago, heralding Zuid-Limburg's rich history. Due to its rich, long and above all eventful history, we also refer to our region as 'Source of Europe'. After all, Zuid-Limburg and its surroundings have been the source and core of this continent's history. Discover it for yourself and make an exciting journey through time to the first farmers, Romans, knights and miners through our unique Virtual Reality film (in Dutch) at the Visit Zuid-Limburg Experience in Valkenburg.

Visit our historic cities



Valkenburg

Hidden between the moss-green hills, in the heart of the 'Heuvelland' nature reserve, sparkles the marlstone town of Valkenburg. With its beautiful surroundings, caves and ruined castle it has been a landmark for over 130 years. In winter, Valkenburg turns into the Christmas town of The Netherlands.

Maastricht

Historical buildings and trendy designer shops. Majestic churches and cosy pavement cafes. Spectacular festivals and spacious squares. Maastricht has it all! It is with reason that Maastricht is a popular destination for both shopping and weekend breaks.



Heerlen

The city of Heerlen boasts an abundance of art, culture and creativity.

Join a city walk and be amazed about the amount of national and international street art, visit its special cultural events like Cultura Nova or enjoy an evening out in the local theatre, the Parkstad Limburg Theater.

Sittard

Fancy combining a moment of reflection with culture, history and a cosy historical city centre? Then Sittard is the place to be! Only even in the vibrant city centre there are as many as five different places of worship within a short distance of each other. And also enjoy the good life on Sittard's historical market square, one of Limburg's best hidden gems!

Eijsden

The old village centre of Eijsden is located right along the river Maas (Meuse). On the quayside (Bat) beautiful monumental buildings are situated. The 'Diepstraat' street has a typical architectural style in this region, called the Mosan Renaissance: features 17th and 18th century mansions. Further south along the river Maas, Eijsden Castle boasts its freely accessible French gardens.

Vaals

Around the border triangle you can walk endlessly across the vast German, Belgian and Dutch forests. Here, you will find Europe's largest maze, two lookout towers and the highest point of The Netherlands. Cities like Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle), Liège and Maastricht are only a stone's throw away.

Endless miles of footpaths



Hiking is a popular leisure activity in The Netherlands. There's a simple but perfect guiding system with coloured wooden waymarkers for a carefree hike, while taking in Limburg's beautiful hilly landscape.

The individual routes are between 2 and 20 kilometres long and take you through the most beautiful parts of the region. Detailed hiking maps provide visitors with useful information and interesting facts about Zuid-Limburg.



Themed walks

There are also **themed guided walks**, concentrating on **flora and fauna** or on **monuments and cultural sights.** There is something for every taste.

The most scenic hike

→ The river Geul from the village of Mechelen to Epen

5,9 km

Hiking map code: Wi20

river Geul is one of Limburg's jewels.
On this hike you follow the course of this stream from the village of Mechelen to Epen. A real valley hike with little difference in altitude and cosy pubs on the way for a great pint of Limburg beer!

Zuid-Limburg at its best! The babbling

→ Panorama Route Schinnen



Hiking map code: SC08

This versatile route includes everything that makes Zuid-Limburg fun. Centuries-old castles, convivial pavement cafes, authentic half-timbered houses, churches, lush hillside forests and rolling grasslands. You will come across them all on this hike, in the beautiful surroundings of the village of Schinnen.

→ Special estate Buitengoed Geul & Maas



Code Wanderkarte: Va15

exuding noble class.

on this hike between the hamlet of Houthem and the town of Valkenburg. Enjoy the babbling sound of the river Geul, winding through the valley, butterflies fluttering amongst the diverse vegetation, and Château St. Gerlach,

Imagine yourself in a different world,

Cycling in Zuid-Limburg



The Netherlands is a popular cycling holiday destination and venue for various cycling events.

The cycle paths in Limburg are wide and everywhere, the sign posting is perfect and the entire infrastructure is geared to the needs of cyclists. The hills and the varied landscape provide new spectacular views around every bend in the road, fantastic views of the River Maas plains and impressive panoramas of three countries.



Cycle route junction network

Zuid-Limburg was the first region of the Netherlands where the so-called cycle route junction network was developed for hobby cyclists. Every cyclist can plan his or her individual route with the help of the corresponding numbers that are assigned to the route, and then set off, simply following the numbers selected.

You can get the relevant maps at the local Tourist Information Centres and online at webshop.visitzuidlimburg.nl

Cycle racing

The excellent cycling infrastructure offers racing cyclists ideal training opportunities, such as the many paved roads to the various hills: the Cauberg (140 m) in Valkenburg, the Keutenberg (167 m) in the village of Schin op Geul and the Eyserbosweg (190 m) in the village of Eys. Well-known cycling events are the Amstel Gold Race and Limburgs Mooiste.

Active, sports and adventure



The forests, the hills and the many indoor sports facilities are the place to be to for anyone who loves an adventure.

There are plenty of challenges and adrenaline pumping activities to choose from. Get wild and go climbing, laser gaming, cave biking, down the toboggan run, karting, abseiling or take an altitude training. It's all possible!



Cave biking

Enjoy an exciting bike tour through the mysterious cave labyrinth in Valkenburg. Go 40 metres under the ground, step on a special bike and enter the darkness. By the light of your bicycle, a small part of the centuries-old cave network, with all its unique stories, opens up. Do you see the prehistoric fossils flashing by?

Climbing parks

A head for heights and up for a challenge? Test your bravery and visit one of the many climbing parks. Discover the real climbing sport at Ivy Climbing, follow the adventure trail at SnowWorld's climbing park or visit the climbing forest at Park het Plateau or Adventure Park Valdeludo.

Splashing activities

The River Maas offers plenty of entertainment for true water lovers and water sports enthusiasts. If you appreciate serenity with a breath-taking view, then a boat trip on the Maas is an absolute must. Or want it wet and wild? Then how about kayaking, canoeing or even rafting!

Golf sport

Sports enthusiasts can play on **one of the many golf courses.** Zuid-Limburg is
one big playground for everyone who
loves to be active and sporty. There are **always new holes to discover.**

Family outings



A good day out is always more fun together than alone. In Zuid-Limburg that is well understood.
Whether young or old, there is lots to do...

Visit breath-taking attractions, fairy-tale amusement parks or take a ride on the steam train. Fancy a bit of action and adventure for the whole family? Or are you a grandparent who would like to treat the grandchildren to an unforgettable day out? Welcome to Zuid-Limburg, where families, both large and small, are more than welcome!



GaiaZOO Kerkrade

The animals at GaiaZOO Kerkrade come from all parts of the world and are housed in an environment that reflects their natural habitat. Discovering the world and its animal kingdom together is always fun and never boring.

Heritage Steam Railway

For grandparents there is no greater enjoyment than the look on their grand-children's faces when the train starts moving. All aboard!

Fairytale Forest Valkenburg

Fantasy and reality meet in the Fairytale Forest (Sprookjesbos) in the town of Valkenburg. Enjoy timeless fairy-tales, entertaining attractions and playgrounds.

Adventure Park Valdeludo

Avonturenpark Valdeludo, located in the town of Echt, **is a playground paradise.** Here, it is all about outdoor adventures!

World Gardens Mondo Verde

Unique gardens, animals, exciting attractions and lifelike dinosaurs: a unique park with different themes.

SnowWorld Landgraaf

SnowWorld is Europe's largest indoor ski village. Here visitors can have the ultimate winter sports experience. With crisp snow, lovely après-ski and typical winter meals, just like in the real mountains.

Our culture & traditions



Zuid-Limburg cherishes its unique traditions to keep the region's rich past alive.

Carnival

During carnival the whole region is celebrating. Traditionally, carnival lasts for three full days, just before the fasting period, but in fact the festivities last for a full week.



Vlaai

Sweet tooths will love the region's specialty, the vlaai. Traditionally, this flan is made of a fresh yeast dough, filled with locally grown fruit, and baked in a wood-burned oven.

Schutterij

The schutterij (literally marksmen's guild) originates from the 14th century. In the Middle Ages its members acted as voluntary guards, protecting the church and the city. Nowadays they are a unique part of Limburg's cultural heritage and traces of its religious origins are still evident. Historical costumes, parades and drum bands you can see at 'The Oud Limburgs Schuttersfeest' where 160 'schutterijen' come together.

Processions

Ancient traditions come to life every year during religious processions. You can easily recognise the route of the processions, as the streets are marked by white-yellow flags and decorated with beautiful flower arrangements.

The Maypole

Before the start of the summer, an old ritual of pulling in and 'planting' a maypole is carried out to bestow fertility on the cattle and the fields. In many villages a tall, bare pine is being erected on the village square and decorated with the traditional wreath.

Culture and Events



Zuid-Limburg's versatility is also reflected by the large number of cultural offerings. There are events that occur every year, transforming Zuid-Limburg into a world full of music, theatre, song and dance.

There is something for every taste, from opera to pop and from fine arts to dance festivals. One thing they all have in common: a very special event line-up!

Therefore, visiting those events is a much rewarding experience. Have we aroused your interest? Below we have listed a few of the events for you...



TEFAF Maastricht → March

At TEFAF Maastricht – International Art and Antiques Fair – over 215 of the most important international art traders, from approximately 15 countries, take part.

Amstel Gold Race → April

The Amstel Gold Race is a one-day classic road cycling race that first took place in 1966. It is one of the most important cycle races of the year.

Pinkpop → May/June

Pinkpop is the oldest and most popular open-air festival in Europe. Many internationally renowned bands have already performed on the stage of this event, such as the Rolling Stones, Dire Straits, Metallica, and Rage Against the Machine.

André Rieu Summer Concerts → July

André Rieu's concerts turn the entire Vrijthof square in Maastricht into a spectacular and enchanting outdoor theatre.

Orlando Festival - July

Young and adult amateurs get lessons from famous musicians and in the evening, they listen to the chamber music concerts given by their teachers.

Sint Rosa Festival → August

A religious city festival, consisting of church services and a unique Sunday procession. As was customary in ancient times, the Sint Rosa Festival also boasts a nostalgic fair, matching to the rich Roman life of that time.



Cultura Nova → August/september

This annual festival in Heerlen and surroundings is a fascinating summer event that amazes, astonishes and surprises.

Gulpener Beer Festival → September

Zuid-Limburg is proud of its beer culture! Each year around the hop harvest, it's all about beer in the small town of Gulpen.

Art Days Wittem → September

The Art Days Wittem (Kunstdagen Wittem) take place in the monumental library of the Wittem monastery. Every year a varied programme of chamber music, literature, fine arts and readings is offered here.

Musica Sacra → September

The Musica Sacra Festival is dedicated to religious music. For three days there are concerts, film screenings and theatre performances, all dealing with sacred themes.

Oktoberfest Sittard → Oktober

There is no need to go to Germany for an Oktoberfest. This event takes place in Zuid-Limburg too! For five days you can revel in a great atmosphere, a variety of performances and lots of beer in several party pavilions in the city of Sittard.

Christmas Town Valkenburg

→ November/Dezember

Each year from the end of November, Valkenburg dives head-on into the Christmas spirit. A special highlight are the caves in Valkenburg that serve as an amazing underground scenery for the Christmas markets.



Christmas in Zuid-Limburg

At the end of the year, Zuid-Limburg turns into the top Christmas region of the Netherlands.

Engaging events, enchanting illuminations, Christmas trees, and perhaps even a layer of snow on the Limburg hills...

Christmas Town Valkenburg

Underground, you can visit the unique Christmas markets in the Gemeentegrot (Municipal Cave) and Fluweelengrot (Velvet Cave). Be amazed at MergelRijk, where dozens of informative stories about marlstone and caves are told. Discover above ground the fascinating Christmas Parade with its illuminated floats and beautifully costumed dancers, Santa's Village and the culinary walking tour 'Route d'Amuse'.

Even more to discover



Zuid-Limburg is also appealing for a somewhat longer stay. Besides delightful family outings, sports activities and many events, for both young and old, there is much more to enjoy!

Fun shopping

Shopping in Zuid-Limburg is great experience too. Zuid-Limburg offers the allure of the city with the most popular home decor and designer labels. However, you can also find history, craftsmanship and authenticity here, in cosy shopping arcades.



Museums, galleries & studios

Cultural Zuid-Limburg is bustling with the biggest events, exceptional exhibitions and fascinating museums. Be inspired by the galleries and studios that are hidden all over the region. Show your creative side during one of the many artistic workshops.

Murals in Heerlen

Experience Heerlen's concrete jungle by foot, join a **Street Art tour** and discover the **most beautiful murals.** The guide will take you to the most remarkable places in the city centre of Heerlen. Who are the artists behind those murals? Get to know all about the **street** art culture.

Land of castles and fortresses

Of the hundreds of castles and places that have shaped its landscape in earlier times, Zuid-Limburg still boasts a lot of them that have been very carefully restored. It's possible to visit those and worth a trip by bicycle or on foot.

Get lucky at the casino

On top of the Cauberg in Valkenburg, Holland Casino is located. Here you step into a different world. The friendly staff and the hospitable atmosphere immediately make you feel welcome. Whether you're trying your luck at the American roulette tables, Black Jack, or the slot machines: anything seems possible.

Enjoying the good life



The best places to enjoy the good life are everywhere but sometimes a bit hidden. We are happy to help you find these places!

That quiet spot right next to the winding river Geul, that cosy pavement café down town, or that particular restaurant serving authentic food from the region. After all, enjoying life is all about sharing.



Savouring food at unique locations

With a view over the varied Zuid-Limburg landscape your lunch or dinner tastes unparalleled. Forests, brooks, hills and plateaus determine that picturesque view that can be admired from some exclusive terraces. In the middle of a vineyard or in an underground cave. While enjoying a glass of wine or traditional regional dish, your experience turns into an unforgettable memory.

Exclusive dining

Anyone appreciating culinary delights knows where to go for the crème de la crème of gastronomy. They know how to enjoy life here, and that the love is in the eating! This way, both bon vivants as culinary connoisseurs get their money's worth. Chateaus, farms and manor houses are home to chic restaurants where (star) chefs pamper their guests.

Tasting Zuid-Limburg

Zuid-Limburg has many typical regional dishes, distinguishing this region for its great flavours. They can all be tasted directly from the field, meadow and vineyard. Isn't it about time to discover the home-grown fruit from the village of Bemelen and surroundings, the Livar pig that has been raised with love, or a craft beer from one of the many breweries?

Zuid-Limburg wine

Here in Zuid-Limburg we catch the sun in the grapes growing in our vineyards. The sun, the craftsmanship of the wine grower and the rich soil add that special flavour to the Zuid-Limburg wines. You can visit many of these vineyards and taste top-quality wines with a stunning view.

Relax and unwind



If anything, Zuid-Limburg is the place to make time for yourself. Its natural beauty, many facilities and friendly inhabitants with a genuine interest in others, make this the ideal place to relax and unwind.

The region's rich religious heritage also creates space for spirituality. And of course, you can also look for the meaning of life without being religious. A treat to yourself in a much demanding world with a lot of obligations. You will feel reborn and ready to return to everyday life.



Spa & wellness treatments

Wellness is comprehensive: from balance between body and mind to body care, from nutrition to spirituality, from unwinding to traveling. Choose for a relaxing sauna visit, a wonderful massage, a treatment with healing herbs or a bath in '40,000 years young water'.

Pilgrim's path in Zuid-Limburg

Did you know that the **St. James Way** passes through Zuid-Limburg? Whether you want to walk all the way to Santiago de Compostela or just want to make a walk to clear your head, you can walk the pilgrimage path by following the bleu signs with the scallop.

Religious heritage

Enjoy beautiful frescoes dating back to 1725 and beautiful stained-glass windows from the 20th century. Visit a monastery library or sit down for a moment in the oldest abbey complex in The Netherlands. You don't need to search long for cultural heritage in Zuid-Limburg. After all, this region is still home to many churches, chapels, monasteries and basilicas. Almost all of them have a Roman-Catholic origin and most of them are still in use. And of course, you cannot miss the hundreds of roadside crosses.

Waking up in Zuid-Limburg



After such a night you will feel reinvigorated and ready for a new day full of adventure!

Wake up to the sound of singing birds, pull back the curtains and welcome a new day. Mmm, that wonderful smell of fresh coffee and freshly baked rolls.

You're not dreaming, you're in Zuid-Limburg!



Hotels

From design hotel to small family hotel, in the heart of a historical city centre or in the middle of a forest: no matter the choice of your hotel, in Zuid-Limburg you can be assured of that ultimate holiday feeling.

Château hotels

Once the home of a rich baron or powerful count, nowadays a luxurious retreat with majestic hotel rooms, where you can spend the night in style.

Bed and breakfasts

In our B&B's you will experience that feeling of a home away from home. Here, your day will start with a scrumptious breakfast, prepared with love by your host or hostess.

Holiday parks

Located on the most beautiful locations of Zuid-Limburg you can find cosy and comfortable holiday parks for the whole family. The perfect starting point for an unforgettable holiday.

Holiday homes and apartments

Enjoy a family holiday in a cosy and comfortable holiday home or apartment. The kids will romp around in the garden, while Dad is baking pancakes and Gran enjoys a cup of coffee out in the sun.

Campsites and Motor home parking

Experience Zuid-Limburg at its best by camping or caravanning in the middle of the beautiful countryside. Lay your head to rest and enjoy the peace and quietness.

Sleeping at the farm

A children's feast and an oasis of peace for the parents: sleeping at the farm is a truly unique experience. Stroking calves, feeding goats and counting sheep: you're sure to sleep like a baby!

Group accommodations

Enjoy a relaxing or active get away together with colleagues, family, friends or club.



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City walk Heerlen

Visit Zuid-Limburg Shop Bongerd 19 → 3,5 km

A city with a young and contemporary architecture. Modern with design, experimental art and culture, both urban and verdant. The walking route starts at the Glaspaleis (Glass Palace), on the market square, called Bongerd.

Visit Zuid-Limburg
Shop
t square Bongerd

SCHUNCK Glaspaleis

Plaarstraat

St. Pancratius Church

ıll

Pancratiusplein

Savelbergklooster

(museum & cultural centre)

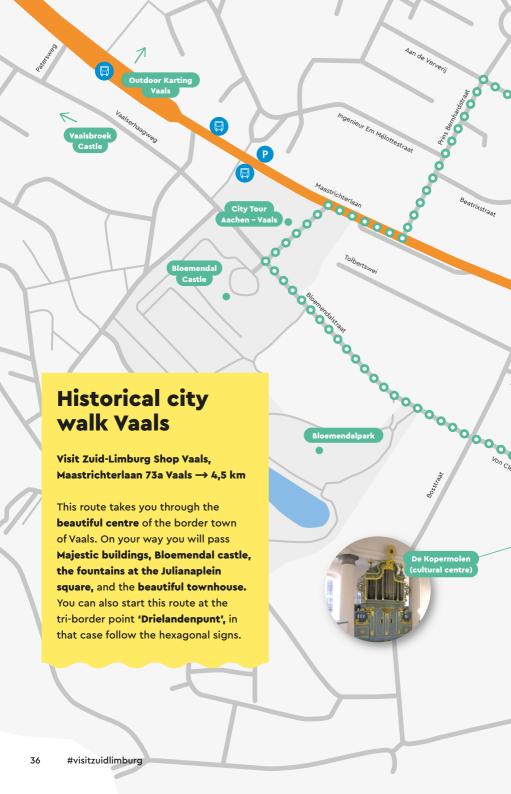
Klompstraat

nuseum & cultural centre)

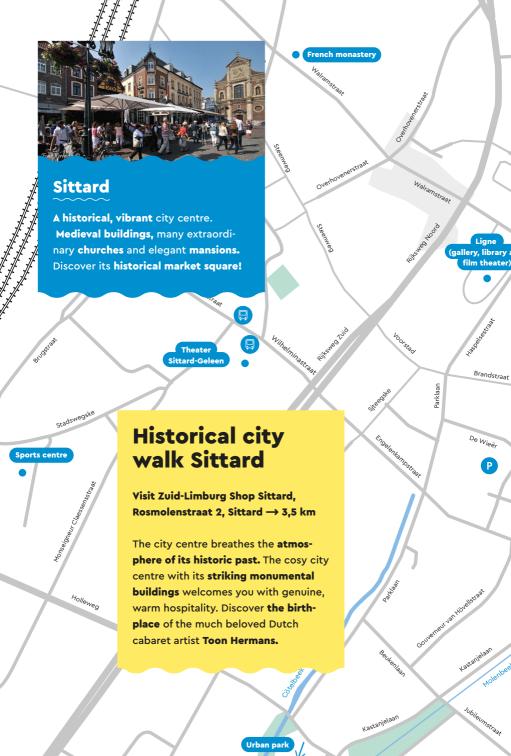
Heerlen

Gasthuisstraat

The city of Heerlen is characterised by its vibrant appearance and monuments that represent the most important architecture styles from the 20th century. Cultural centre SCHUNCK, the Royal Theatre, the Town Hall and the Parkstad Limburg Theatre, designed by Frits Peutz, are great examples.









Visit Zuid-Limburg Experience



In the shop section of the Visit Zuid-Limburg Experience you can discover all great things that Zuid-Limburg has in store for you!

Our hostesses and hosts are happy to share the best places and activities with you! Also check out our extensive range of regional products, gift ideas and gift youchers.



Visit Zuid-Limburg Experience

Make a virtual journey through Zuid-Limburg's history, take a selfie on the Pinkpop stage, taste the best regional products and be inspired by the best tips from the locals. It's all possible at the Visit Zuid-Limburg Experience in the town of Valkenburg aan de Geul!

Photo-wall

Has it always been your dream standing on the Pinkpop stage? Or next to a gorilla? Thanks to the greenroom at the Visit Zuid-Limburg Experience you can immortalise yourself on unique Zuid-Limburg hotspots. Props add that extra dimension to your photo. Instantly share your photo with your friends or family and let them be part of your journey through Zuid-Limburg.

Valkenburg, Th. Dorrenplein 5 **Gulpen,** Dorpsstraat 27

Heerlen, Bongerd 19
Sittard, Rosmolenstraat 2
Vaals, Maastrichterlaan 73a

Or visit one of the **Visit Zuid- Limburg Service Points.**



Visit us online

Of course, you can also find us online. At www.visitzuidlimburg.com we supply you with numerous information, event notes, tips and videos and even an interactive map of Zuid-Limburg, including all its attractions.

You can also order detailed hiking or bicycles maps in our webshop.



Tag or use **#visitzuidlimburg** to share your journey!

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Practical information

When traveling by car in Zuid-Limburg, please be aware of the traffic regulations. The Netherlands have the highest traffic fines of Europe. The maximum speed on Dutch motor ways is 100, 120 or 130 km/h, unless indicated otherwise. Please be careful not to park on a parking place for 'Vergunninghouders', as those are meant only for residential parking permit holders. Additionally, paying for parking is required on Sundays too.

Discover the region by bus and train with the OV-ToerPas: the perfect ticket for tourists (in four variants). You can buy the OV-ToerPas at the tourist offices.

Colophon

Visit Zuid-Limburg

Postbus 820 6300 AV Valkenburg a/d Geul +31 - 43 - 609 8500 info@visitzuidlimburg.nl

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Holland Casino Valkenburg







Have fun in Zuid-Limburg!



