



# Discover

## exciting new places with Sunparks

- \* THE COMFORT AND PRIVACY  
OF YOUR OWN VILLA
- \* A HOLIDAY FOR ALL SEASONS

### Sunparks Ardennes

 BELGIUM



## Sunparks

In the middle of everywhere.

## Five reasons

### to visit Sunparks Ardennes:

**1 BELGIUM'S GREEN LUNG.** There's nothing artificial about the Ardennes landscape, just pure nature in all its splendour. Descend into the hidden world of the Han Caves or treat yourself to a cleansing spring water treatment in Spa. You might catch sight of a deer or a wild boar while exploring the region's unspoilt forests and hills.

**2 THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.** The Battle of the Bulge. During the Second World War, the stunning scenery of the Ardennes was the setting for a decisive battle. Follow in the footsteps of British and American troops on a trail taking in museums, monuments and hiking routes.

**3 SPORTS, ACTION AND ADVENTURE FOR ALL GENERATIONS.** Sports, action and adventure for all ages. The Ardennes is a great place for some heavy-duty action! Rambling, mountain biking, kayaking, putting quad bikes through their paces or tackling an obstacle course... you're in for a major adrenaline rush!

**4 CULINARY FIREWORKS.** Culinary treats. Savour Ardennes ham, Liège meatballs, the famous *sirap de Liège* and fresh trout. Or you might like to tuck into a bison steak, accompanied by one of the many delectable beers from the region.

**5 A HOLIDAY VILLA TO SIZE.** A holiday villa made to measure. You can always find a villa that meets your needs and suits your budget at Sunparks Ardennes. Blessed with a large family or wide circle of friends? Our largest villas can comfortably accommodate as many as 20 people.



Breathtaking views.



Experience the exhilaration of rafting.



Fun for all the family.

#### EXCITEMENT AND REPLENISHMENT

# Experience all the Ardennes has to offer

Climb steep hills by mountain bike; be enchanted by quaint historic towns; traverse ancient forests and perhaps catch a glimpse of a wild deer or a rummaging boar. Welcome to Sunparks Ardennes at the heart of Belgium's green lung. Discover its stunning blend of adventure, culture and gastronomy. And we'll throw in the panoramic vistas free of charge.

Our two daughters and their boyfriends were becoming increasingly excited and impatient as we approached Sunparks Ardennes, in Vielsalm. They're all outdoor types and just wanted to get out and enjoy the scenery. Arriving at our spacious Select Villa, we found ourselves surrounded by greenery. Unpacking our suitcases could wait till later. Instead, we headed straight to Bike & Fun and rented ourselves some mountain bikes. Of the four signposted mountain biking trails at the bottom of the hill, my husband and I chose the 16-kilometre route. If the youngsters had their way, we would have covered 47 kilometres on our first day, but we managed to convince them to save some energy for all the adven-

ture, sports and culture ahead of us over the next few days. Just outside Sunparks Ardennes, we found an inviting restaurant and we're looking forward to tucking into its local speciality: fresh trout.

#### RACING AND HEALTH SPA

On day two, we visited the famous Belgian town of Spa. The guys were keen to visit Francorchamps, Belgium's Formula-1 race track, which is open to visitors between 15 March and 15 November. The girls were looking forward to visiting the local health spa, so we decided to split up. >>



Challenging mountain bike trails.

“We spent hours antique hunting in the historic town of Durbuy.”

## What not to miss:



**1** The **HAN CAVES** are both spectacular and mysterious. Over millennia, the River Lesse has carved out a staggering 14 kilometres of caves, chambers and galleries from the rock, producing some of the world's most beautiful natural sculptures.

**2** At **PLOPSA COO** theme park, the kids are welcomed by friendly pirates and gnomes. The bobsleigh piste and the wild water splash ride, at the foot of the famous Cool waterfalls, are a perfect challenge for slightly older daredevils. Animal lovers will find the wildlife park – home to woodland roe, wild boar and deer aplenty – a great place to visit.

**3** Worked up a thirst? At the **ACHOUFFE BREWERY**, home to the Walloon La Chouffe beer, they have the perfect tonic. Try their McChouffe scotch ale. Cheers!

FIND OUT MORE AT  
[WWW.SUNPARKS.CO.UK/TOURISTGUIDE](http://WWW.SUNPARKS.CO.UK/TOURISTGUIDE)



Comfort and privacy in a Select Villa.



Exciting activities for the kids.



Adventure sports for the daredevil in you.

After their visit to the race track, the guys made a pit stop at Stavelot Abbey to pick up some local delicacies. The *eau de vie* made from bilberries and the beer from the local Achouffe brewery went down a treat. “We should definitely visit the brewery,” my husband said later. I'm just hoping there's enough time to fit it all in! On our way to Spa, us girls made the deliberate decision to unwind and chill out. We were in for a great relaxing treatment at the hot baths. In fact, the gorgeous scenery was a tonic in its own right. A perfect setting to enjoy the soothing effects of the purifying water swirling around the copper tubs. We felt the stress just drain away. In contrast, the men were fired up like little boys by the time they arrived to pick us up. I didn't feel much like cooking in my serene state and, luckily, no one objected when I suggested trying a pizza from Paolo's in the Sunparks village.

### CROSSING THE MONKEY BRIDGE

“Afraid of heights? Who, us?” Everyone seemed brave enough at the breakfast table. On our third day at Sunparks Ardennes, we visited Durbuy Adventure Park. While I went kayaking with my husband through the stunning natural scenery along the River Ourthe, our daughters and their boyfriends tackled the adventure rope course – clambering on rope ladders, nets and monkey bridges high in the trees. In the afternoon, we decided to



“At the Spa health resort, we felt the stress just drain away.”



take things at a more leisurely pace. Durbuy is well worth exploring, so we set out on an antiques hunt through the historic town on the banks of the River Ourthe. At the local jam factory, I picked up a few jars of flower and wild fruit preserve. We were in the mood to indulge ourselves, so in the evening we drove out to Wanne for a meal. Just ten minutes from Sunparks Ardennes, the village of Wanne is home to La Métairie, a great restaurant where we savoured some delicious regional dishes, as well as the great views from the hill-top. When we were handed the bill at the end of a lovely evening, it became clear why La Métairie was awarded a *Bib Gourmand* by Michelin for its great value!

### DO MENTION THE WAR

There's no getting away from the Second World War in this region, but it's good to be reminded about that part of its history. Together with American troops, British forces fought hard to stop the advancing German panzer divisions in what became known as the Battle of the Bulge. >>

The German army's final major offensive of the war made its mark throughout the Ardennes. Our first encounter with history came in Bastogne, where the Historical Centre and the town itself are both worth a visit. We spotted monuments and the odd military vehicle dotted around the landscape en route to La Roche-en-Ardenne. As promised, we pulled over in Aichouffe to visit the brewery at Brasserie d'Aichouffe. This is where the McChouffe scotch ale is produced; a bit strong for my taste, but the men rated it highly. In La Roche-en-Ardenne, we visited the local war museum, which houses a treasure trove of battle gear and uniforms, an impressive collection of weaponry and servicemen's personal belongings. Back in Sunparks Ardennes, we all took a dip in the wave pool to recover from our busy day.

### UNDERGROUND WONDER OF NATURE

On the final day of our holiday, we got up bright and early, curious about the famous Han Caves. For centuries, the River Lesse has carved out an underground path for itself. The result is nothing less than a breathtaking natural wonder. We discovered the Minaret Hall, home to a stalagmite that is fully five metres in height, while the Trophy Hall houses a colossal *sinterklaas* (Santa Claus) formation. With its 145-metre length and reaching 62 metres in height, the Light Dome Hall is one of the largest underground halls anywhere in Europe. We were tongue-tied in amazement. We completed our cave tour by taking a short boat ride across the underground river. Back home in Sunparks Ardennes, the youngsters went out for a final walk along one of the many signposted trails. Having succumbed to Ardennes cuisine in a big way, my husband and I decided to stock up on some extra local specialities. Needless to say, the minute we got back, everyone was keen to try the Ardennes ham, the wild boar and deer pâté, and the tasty goat's cheese we'd bought. We weren't having any of it, though, and managed to save the delicacies for when we got home. Luckily, Sunparks Ardennes' own buffet restaurant provided some equally appetising alternatives and everyone went home happy. One thing's for sure, the Ardennes has captured our hearts and our stomachs.



Getting cosy in a Select Villa.



Villas in the heart of nature.










Plenty of local attractions.

## Did you know that:



- • • The town of Vielsalm towers some 450 metres above sea level and, at 652 metres, Baraque Fraiture is one of the highest peaks in Belgium.
- • • During the Battle of the Bulge, in 1944-1945, the town was almost wiped off the map. An American tank remains as a reminder of that turbulent time.
- • • At twilight on 20 July, the Witches' Sabbath is celebrated. Afterwards, the whole town bursts into a hearty celebration!
- • • Vielsalm covers 13,976 hectares, of which 8,200 hectares is forest.

## Sunparks Ardennes

-  Aquafun
-  Indoor and Outdoor Tennis, Badminton, Squash, Table tennis, Mini-golf, Bowling
-  Bike & Fun
-  Hotspot
-  Outdoor playgrounds
-  Brasserie, Buffet restaurant, Italian restaurant, Hamburger restaurant, Take Away
-  Food store

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A BOOKING, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.SUNPARKS.CO.UK](http://WWW.SUNPARKS.CO.UK) OR CALL 0904 0110 011 (£0.35/MIN).

