

Press Release

The inclusion of Wallonia's major mining sites on the World Heritage List

APPENDIX

GRAND-HORNU

A few kilometres from Mons, **Grand-Hornu**, witness to the audacity and inventiveness of the industrialists of the time, is one of the most handsome neoclassical industrial heritage locations in Europe. The site was established in 1810 by the audacious captain of industry Henri De Gorge during the emerging industrial revolution. The housing district, which counts over 400 houses, is one of the oldest in the country. It surrounds the industrial site, boxing it in and punctuating the landscape. After being one of the jewels of Belgian industry, today Grand-Hornu is one of the most emblematic cultural centres in Belgium. At the site, the non-profit Grand-Hornu Images explores the relationships between art and industry through design, architecture and the applied arts, while the Museum of Contemporary Arts (the MAC's) of the Federation Wallonia-Brussels presents international contemporary creativity in all its aspects.

Visits:

- Grand-Hornu Images NPO - Museum of Contemporary Art NPO (the MAC's)
Grand-Hornu site (10 km from Mons)

Rue Sainte Louise, 82, B-7301 Hornu

Tel.: +32 (0) 65/65.21.21 - Fax: +32 (0) 65/61.38.97

Email: accueil.site@grand-hornu.be - www.grand-hornu.eu

Opening times: every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Mondays, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

For reservations tel.: +32 (0) 65/61.38.81

Audio guides are available for the historical site (in French, Dutch, German, Italian and Spanish)

Facilities: bookshop, gift shop, cafeteria and restaurant.

- La Fondation Grand-Hornu
La Maison du Projet

Allée Verte, 4, B-7301 Hornu

Tel.: +32 (0) 65/65.09.65 - Fax: +32(0)65/65.29.65

Contact: General Secretariat

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Directions:

To reach the Grand-Hornu site by car, from the E19/E42 Brussels-Paris motorway, leave the motorway at exit 25 “Saint-Ghislain-Tertre-Hornu” and continue in the direction of Saint-Ghislain, Hornu. Then follow the signs until you arrive at the entrance to the site. Parking is available free of charge at the site.

The nearest railway stations are those of Saint-Ghislain and Mons. From Mons station you can take the TEC buses numbers 7 and 9 and get off at the Grand-Hornu stop, or a taxi.

BOIS-DU-LUC

The **Bois-du-Luc** mining site, located in the heart of the Centre's industrial valley, between the Borinage and the Charleroi valley, belongs to a company that was founded in 1685, and constitutes one of the oldest examples of capitalist structure in continental Europe. The site eloquently reflects the achievement of an ideology, a utilitarian and catholic paternalism that was so characteristic of the industrial era. Opposite the Saint Emmanuel pit opened in 1846, a company town was built which from 1853 on would be the nucleus of an exceptional workers' village. In addition to a housing district, this village includes a series of shared amenities such as schools, a hospice, a hospital, a church, a park, a grocery store and a community hall which boasts a wide range of leisure facilities and services that have been gradually expanded over the years. Together, all these facilities form a microcosm in which places of work and life intertwine. The presence of the Director's villa, positioned opposite the housing district and close to the workshops in order to afford the Director a good overview of the various activities, illustrates the social relationships that shaped European societies in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Visits:

Bois-du-Luc Ecomuseum (5 km from La Louvière)

Rue Saint Patrice, 2b, B-7110 Houdeng-Aimeries

Tel.: + 32 (0) 64/28.20.00 Fax: + 32 (0) 64/21.26.41

Email: info@ecomuseeboisduluc.be - www.ecomuseeboisduluc.be

Opening times:

From mid-April to the end of October: open every day except Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (visits at 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1.30 p.m. and 3 p.m.) on weekdays, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (visits at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1.30 p.m., 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.) on weekends and bank holidays.

From mid-November to mid-April: open every day except Monday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., only for reservations and groups. Closed on weekends.

For reservations tel.: + 32 (0) 64/28.20.00

Directions:

To reach the site by car, from the E19/E42 Brussels-Paris motorway, leave the motorway at exit 21 "Le Roeulx" and continue in the direction of Houdeng-La Louvière. Drive under the Sart canal bridge and continue on the Chaussée du Pont du Sart. At the first traffic lights, turn right, then continue straight on to the rue Sainte-Barbe. When you get to the corner of the "carrés" (the yellow workers' houses), turn right and you will arrive at the Ecomuseum. Cars and coaches can park in the car park in the rue Saint-Patrice.

From the La Louvière Centre railway station you can reach the site by taking the TEC buses numbers 37 and 39.

THE BOIS DU CAZIER

Since 2002, the **Bois du Cazier** colliery site in Marcinelle has been a memorial site dedicated to the 262 victims of the terrible accident on 8 August 1956, who lost their lives as a result of asphyxia. Thanks to the work done to raise awareness about the disaster and also to the commemorations that are held each year, the site has become a symbol of remembrance, of labour and of immigrant workers. A general increase in awareness of the disaster formed the basis for a profound reappraisal both in terms of employment and society as a whole. In addition to the areas dedicated to the tragedy, the presence of the Museum of Industry and the Glass Museum on the site reinforces the Bois du Cazier's status as a showcase for human expertise, for its successes but also for its tribulations. Its new ambition is also to evolve into a site to increase awareness and develop active citizenship on themes such as safety at work and migration.

Visits:

The Bois du Cazier (5 km from Charleroi)

Rue du Cazier, 80, B-6001 Marcinelle

Tel.: +32 (0) 71/88.08.56 - Fax: +32 (0) 71/88.08.57

Email: info@leboisducazier.be - www.leboisducazier.be

Opening times: open all year round

- Tuesday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Saturdays, Sundays and bank holidays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Guided tours are available in French, Dutch, English and Italian (for groups of between 10 to 25 persons)

Audio guides are also available for hire

For reservations tel.: +32 (0) 71/29.89.30

Facilities: restaurant, gift shop, cafeteria serving light snacks and a picnic area

Directions:

To reach the site by car via the A54 or the R3, take the A503 and then exit number 34 "Marcinelle-Haies". The site is accessible for persons with reduced mobility with the exception of the slag heaps.

From the Charleroi South railway station, the site can be reached by taking the TEC buses numbers 1 and 52.

BLEGNY-MINE

Located between Liège and Visé, **Blegny-Mine** is a very old mining site which was also the last one to remain in operation, as production only ended here at the beginning of the 1980s. Blegny-Mine is the only one of the four sites not to have been dismantled and abandoned and conserves two pieces of evidence of Liège's mining activities from very different periods: the Marie pit, certain rooms of which date back to the mid-19th century and the No. 1 pit, the oldest of which sections date back to 1942. Complete with its top landing equipment, winch, sorting and washing equipment, this pit is still used to take visitors down to the mine's underground galleries (30 and 60 metres underground). Often visitors to the mine are still guided by former miners or by professional guides trained by the latter, which adds a very important human aspect to the technical discovery.

Visits:

The Blegny-Mine Site (18 km from Liège)

Rue Lambert Marlet, 23, 4670 Blegny

Tel.: +32 (0) 4/387.43.33 - Fax: +32 (0) 4/387.58.50

Email: domaine@blegnymine.be - www.blegnymine.be

Opening times:

Individual visitors:

- mine visits: weekends and bank holidays from 18 February to 16 December 2012 and weekdays from 2 April to 7 September 2012 and during the Carnival and All Saints' Day holidays
- other activities: weekends and bank holidays from 31 March to 11 November 2012 and weekdays from 2 April to 7 September 2012

Groups (minimum 15 persons):

- mine visits: every day from 6 February to 20 December 2012 (only on reservation)
- other activities: every day from 18 February to 30 November 2012 (only on reservation)

For reservations tel.: +32 (0) 4/387.43.33

Facilities: cafeteria, restaurants, miniature golf, playgrounds, recreational park, residential centre for groups), slag heap redeveloped for walking, educational orchard and exhibition rooms.

Directions:

To reach Blegny-Mine by car from the E40 motorway, take exit 36 and follow the signs to "Blegny-Mine". From the E25 motorway take exit 22 and follow Dalhem, then Blegny, and finally the signs to "Blegny-Mine". Ample parking is available free of charge at the site.

From the Liège-Palais railway station (Léopold station), you can reach the site by taking the TEC bus number 67 Liège-Visé [via Blegny]. Disembark at the “Charbonnage de Trembleur” stop.

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