

PRESS FOLDER

ERASMUS HOUSE & BEGUINAGE MUSEUMS

THE OPENINGS OF THE SMALLEST BEGUINAGE IN BELGIUM IN A PRISTINE STATE AFTER A MAJOR RENOVATION CONTINUE

5 February – 3 December 2023

After several months' closure and before its brand-new museum project is inaugurated in autumn 2024, the Anderlecht beguinage is letting the public slip in for a few events in 2023. These exceptional opening days will enable everyone to discover this entirely restored architectural jewel in a pristine state before its reallocation as a museum space. The doors will be open the first Sunday of the month to give people a chance to stroll through this period building and gem in Brussels' heritage.

Dates:

1st Sunday of the month (06/08; 03/09; 01/10; 05/11; 03/12)

Heritage days (16 & 17/09)

About the beguinage of Anderlecht

Along with Erasmus House and the Gothic collegiate church of Saints Peter and Guy, the beguinage of Anderlecht is a remarkable listed historical complex in the heart of Anderlecht. It consists of two wings enclosing a walled garden with a well, with architectural components dating back to the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries, and could house up to eight beguines or lay sisters. After the French Revolution it served as a hospice and housing for poor women, then was closed briefly in 1928 before re-opening in 1930 as a local folklore and history museum.

Launched by multidisciplinary studies conducted with ULB's CreA-Patrimoine research centre in 2013, the restoration of the beguinage was carried out by various partners in close cooperation with the Brussels Region's Cultural Heritage Directorate within a strict deontological framework. The financial support of Urban.brussels (Brussels Region Public Service for Town Planning and Heritage), and municipality of Anderlecht ensured the success of the project.



The second phase of re-opening will consist of a new museum project for the beguinage to meet the requirements of a contemporary institution rooted in the present. This project is currently underway and will be finalised in autumn 2024.

“The museum that will open in autumn 2024 is intended above all for the general public, children (especially non-readers), and tourists. We want to develop dynamic, interactive mediation in order to propose something different from what the Erasmus House Museum has to offer, and the new staging of exhibits will highlight the research into the history of the place, archives, and its collections that has been done these past two years,” Zahava Seewald explains.

VISITING THE BEGUINAGE

Each 1st Sunday of the month:
(06/08; 03/09; 01/10; 05/11; 03/12)

Opening hours: 10 a.m.-17 p.m.
Guided tours: “Architecture & History”, 2 p.m.
Departure at 2 p.m. at the beguinage
The visit continues at 2:45 p.m. at the Erasmus House and its gardens

Heritage days
(16 & 17/09)
Opening hours: 10 a.m.-18 p.m.
Guided tours
More info > www.erasmushouse.museum

Address

BEGUINAGE
Rue du Chapelain 8
B-1070 Anderlecht

ERASMUSHOUSE
Rue du Formanoir 31
B-1070 Brussels



Admission

1st Sunday of the month, free admission to the museum
Without reservation

Contact

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PRESS INFORMATION

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PARTNERS

OF THE BEGUINAGE RESTORATION PROJECT

Erasmus House & Beguinage Museums, an initiative of Fabrice Cumps, Mayor, and the Alderman of Anderlecht, with the support of the Brussels-Wallonia Federation.

- Municipality of Anderlecht (contracting authority)
- Urban.brussels (subsidising authority and technical consultant)
- Erasmus House & Beguinage municipal museums
- Arter (architecture & planning consultancy)
- Arthur Vandendorpe (contractor)
- CReA-Patrimoine (ULB), ULg
- IRPA

