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Wallo

Blancs-Moussis carnival in Stavelot

Event planned for the month of March 2021



Laetare de Stavelot - Comité des Fêtes

Stavelot - 4970

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<http://www.laetare-stavelot.be/>

Laetare officially marks Lent's half-way point, and the town of Stavelot celebrates it in a unique fashion. Namely with sinister Pinocchio-like 'Blancs Moussis' in full costume, stuffing confetti down women's tops, dangling dried herrings in people's hair and beating bystanders with dried pork bladders.

The current **Stavelot Laetare** festival traces its origins back to 1502 when local monks were controversially forbidden from joining the celebrations by their Prince-Abbot. The townsfolk responded by dressing up in monkish robes themselves - complete with masks and fake noses to disguise their identities - and partying twice as hard.

Today the eerie Blancs Moussis are still causing mayhem here every Laetare - which falls on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Look out for the irreverent posters they plaster all over town before the confetti-drenched parade itself.

Over 2,200 volunteers dress up for the occasion, gathering a crowd of 35,000 spectators every year.

Program

Saturday

The festivities begin on **Saturday evening** with a procession full of humour and lights and a carnival ball at the abbey.

Sunday

The big Sunday procession begins at 2 pm with all the magic of the show. At the end of the procession, Rondeau des Blancs Moussis (Place Saint-Remacle) and confetti. Podiums at the abbey with fanfares, harmonies and bands. At 9 pm: big fireworks followed by the "Nuit blanche des Blancs Moussis" in the cellars of the abbey.

Monday

On Monday afternoon, music and folklore.

The information contained herein is provided as a guide only.

We recommend that you check with the local supplier before you leave.

Website editor

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