



Belgio
Wallo

Mundaneum: Mons paper Google

From Wednesday 01 January 2020 to Thursday 31 December 2020.



Mundaneum - Frederic Raeven

Rue De Nimy 76
Mons - 7000

Phone number (main contact): +32 65
31 53 43

<http://www.mundaneum.org>

The Mundaneum is an exceptional archive centre and exhibition space in Mons, known to hold 12 million bibliographic records. Le Monde describes it as the Paper Google and the New York Times as The Web Time Forgot.

Listed by Unesco as exceptional heritage, the Mundaneum stores so many documents they would create a 6 km long line if put side by side... This off the beaten path gem in Wallonia can be compared to the invention of the printing press in the 15th century.

The Centre received the "European Culture Award" in 2016 for

helping a shared vision: peace through culture. At the edge of this digital revolution, the Mundaneum offers a fantastic playground bringing together information and digital literacy. It is considered the ancestor of our modern web search engines. It partnered with Google in 2012.

A bit of history

The origins of the Mundaneum date back to the end of the 19th century. Created from the vision of two Belgian jurists, Paul Otlet, father of documentation, and Henri La Fontaine, who was awarded for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1913, the project aimed to gather together and index all of the world's knowledge.

The Mundaneum became a universal centre of documentation and was the birthplace of international humanist institutions during the first half of the 20th century. Today, it is considered the **first search engine in history** and is nicknamed "Paper Google".

The Mundaneum today

The Mundaneum holds exhibitions and conferences linked to this exceptional heritage site. It preserves significant documentary heritage, which is comprised of:

- Universal Bibliographic Repertory, which is inscribed to the UNESCO Memory of the World List.
- The International Newspaper Museum
- Personal papers from the founders
- Archives on anarchy, feminism and pacifism
- Books, posters, photographs, post cards, etc.

Since 1998, the Archives Centre has had an exhibition space, with a **scenography designed by François Schuiten and Benoît Peeters**. The Mundaneum, a space for memory, exchange and exhibitions, today stands in good stead to become a crossroads between history, culture, technology and the debate on culture.

Visitors with specific needs

[#link\[taxonomy_term|3037|Please click here\]](#) to see the list of facilities and activities accessible to visitors with reduced mobility. Wallonia has developed the Access-i program to give travellers a clear understanding of what the infrastructures offer.

Please note, on this site:

- If you are blind or visually impaired: holding rails, appropriate toilets, lifts
- If you are deaf or hard of hearing: video in sign language

.....
The information contained herein is provided as a guide only.

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

Website editor

Michel VANKEERBERGHEN, Wallonia Belgium Tourism Chief Executive Officer (WBT asbl).

© Wallonia Belgium Tourism (WBT asbl). Avenue Comte de Smet de Nayer 14 . 5000 Namur. Belgium + 32 (0)81 84 41 00 walloniabelgiumtourism.co.uk
info@wbtourisme.be

The information contained in this document is provided and has been compiled very carefully by Wallonia Belgium Tourism (WBT NPO). The editor cannot be held responsible for possible changes that could have occurred between the collection of data and their presence in this document.

Unless otherwise specified, the information you find in this document belongs to Wallonia Belgium Tourism (WBT NPO).

Any use or reproduction of the information require a prior written permission

Wallonia Belgium Tourism (WBT NPO) reserves all intellectual property rights in this document