



Carnaval *de* Binche

PRESS KIT

15, 16 & 17 février 2026

Ⓐ Patrimoine Culturel Immatériel de l'Humanité de l'UNESCO



SUMMARY

Carnaval 2026

- | | | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|--|
| 5 | Introduction | 17 | Carnaval for All Operation |
| 6 | Security | 18 | How to get to the Carnaval ? |
| 10 | Two anniversaries to celebrate | 19 | Tourist Office and Mumask program |
| 12 | The Carnaval program | 21 | Baby changing area and public restrooms |
| 15 | Reception hours for the "Sociétés" at the City Hall | 22 | The Gille's lexicon |
| 16 | Follow the Carnaval live | 23 | The Carnaval actors |





Introduction

Binche will once again be celebrating Carnival on February 15, 16, and 17. Three days of popular festivities during which the city celebrates its most iconic tradition.

Recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the Binche Carnival is a powerful symbol of our identity.

From Shrove Sunday onwards, the streets will come alive with the appearance of the cagnottes, kicking off the festivities.

Shrove Monday, led by the Jeunesses binchoises, will offer a moment of conviviality and sharing.

Shrove Tuesday, the highlight of the Carnival, will see the 15 societies of Gilles, Peasants, Sailors, Pierrots, and Harlequins dancing in a unique atmosphere.

Throughout the festivities, the city offers various activities related to Carnival, before and during the three days of Fat Tuesday.

In Binche, Carnival is experienced and felt in the heart of the ramparts.

See you on February 15, 16, and 17 to celebrate these festivities together.

Plus Oultre!



Sécurité

Security at the heart of the Binche Carnival celebrations

The Binche Carnival is an event that brings together tens of thousands of people every year, both in public spaces and in the city's cafés and restaurants. The safety of visitors, participants in the festivities, local residents, and professionals is therefore an absolute priority for the city of Binche.

The recent tragedy in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, reminds us how important it is to be extra vigilant during large public gatherings.

This tragic event highlights the need to strictly comply with safety standards, particularly in establishments open to the public with multiple floors or balconies. In this context, the city has decided to carry out enhanced checks before the carnival festivities, in collaboration with the relevant services and the emergency services.

These checks are intended to ensure the safety of occupants, staff, and the public, and to prevent any risks, particularly in terms of fire safety.

A letter has been sent to the owners of the establishments concerned to remind them of the importance of complying with safety standards and conditions.



During Carnival, it is essential to pay particular attention to the following:

- compliance with the maximum permitted capacity on each floor;
- the occupancy limit for balconies, which must be clearly defined and respected;
- accessibility and permanent clearance of emergency exits;
- the presence and proper functioning of alarm systems;
- the presence and proper functioning of fire extinguishing equipment.

Use of balconies

Another charming and attractive feature of the buildings on the Grand-Place are their balconies, which are particularly popular with the public during the carnival festivities. These spaces offer a privileged view of the events and contribute fully to the unique atmosphere of the Binche Carnival.

However, the use of these balconies requires strict compliance with essential safety rules in order to prevent any risk of accidents. In this regard, the City of Binche reminds owners that they are required to clearly display the maximum number of people allowed on the upper floors and balconies of their establishments. This measure aims to ensure the safety of occupants, staff, and the public by preventing overloading of structures and ensuring that reception conditions comply with current standards.

Reminder of safety and cleanliness rules

Beyond establishments, safety on public roads also depends on all participants in the festivities complying with clear rules. Therefore, please note that:

- it is strictly forbidden to carry glass bottles on public roads;
- the sale of glass bottles by night shops is prohibited during the three days of carnival, from Sunday at 5 a.m. until Wednesday at 6 a.m.;
- participants are asked to use only containers authorized by establishments, in particular reusable cups;
- waste must be disposed of in the bins provided for this purpose, in order to ensure the cleanliness and safety of the premises.

Collective responsibility, respect for the rules, and shared vigilance are the keys to a safe and successful Carnival. That is why we encourage everyone to comply with the standards in force for the benefit of all.





Security in the field

The Binche Carnival attracts tens of thousands of visitors every year over the three days of Shrove Tuesday. Sometimes, we reach no less than 150,000 visitors over the three days.

With such large crowds, safety is a top priority. With this in mind, the police, in consultation with the city, have put in place a robust and strategically deployed security plan.

The Binche Carnival security plan is meticulously designed, involving close coordination between the police, emergency services, and event organizers.

Visible and discreet patrols monitor the various key points in the city, ensuring that the festivities run smoothly while guaranteeing public safety.

The police, fire department, Red Cross, SMUR (mobile emergency and resuscitation service), and municipal services are on the scene.

A QUICK REMINDER OF THE EMERGENCY NUMBERS TO CALL IN CASE OF A PROBLEM

Appels d'urgence

- Police : 101
- Fire departement : 112
- Binche-Anderlues-Lermes police zone: 064/31 16 60

Red Cross hotline

064/21 57 10

064/84 98 31

Presence in the city center

- Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 a.m.
- Monday: 12:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 4 a.m.

Forward medical post

Athénée Royal de Binche, place des Droits de l'Homme

Sunday and Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 4 a.m.

Lost children hotline

0473/73 42 83

Theatre Ticket Office

Grand-Place

7130 Binche

- Sunday: 2pm to 10pm
- Monday: 3pm to 7pm
- Tuesday: 2pm to 11pm



Two anniversaries to celebrate

**In 2026, the Royal Harlequin Society
will celebrate its 60th anniversary.**

In 1965, Samuël Glotz, head of studies at the Athénée Royal de Binche, and his wife Gisèle Pruniaux had the idea of creating this carnival society. Since 1966, Les Arlequins have been participating in the Binche Carnival. For six decades, they have been perpetuating the values of joy, friendship, and attachment to local traditions. Generation after generation, musicians, volunteers, seamstresses, and members contribute to keeping alive this Harlequin spirit, a mixture of commitment and shared celebration.

This anniversary pays tribute to all those who have shaped the society and highlights the importance of passing on these traditions to younger generations to ensure the continuity and future of the Carnival. Embraced by the population from the outset, the Arlequins embody a living heritage where preparations, rehearsals, and Mardi Gras are synonymous with laughter, encounters, and childhood memories, guaranteeing the magic of this unique celebration for generations to come.





Maxim's celebrates its 80th anniversary

Founded in 1946, Gilles' company "Les Maxim's" takes its name from the café "Chez Maximilien," located on Notre-Dame Street in Binche. Created by several friends who returned from captivity after World War II, it was part of the Binchois' desire to revive the pre-war Carnival. Of the five societies formed at that time, "Les Maxim's" is the only one still active today. Despite difficult periods, the society has always managed to preserve its spirit, vitality, and conviviality. This year, they are celebrating their 80th anniversary!

Infos recueillies de Frédéric Ansion



The Carnaval program

Dimanche gras 15 FÉVRIER 2026

“Dimanche gras” is a wonderful day when children, and their parents too, are spoiled for choice with so many different costumes to choose from.

Starting in September, and sometimes even earlier, the various cagnotte groups (subgroups of the different companies) met in the utmost secrecy to decide on THE costume.

After lively discussions, punctuated by laughter and heated verbal exchanges, the members of the fund made their final choice. Then the seamstresses came into play, working wonders to ensure that all the costumes would be ready on the big day.

From early Sunday morning, these costumes move people, make them smile, and fascinate them. They bring joy and happiness to the very heart of Binche. These Sunday costumes form a wonderful kaleidoscope that reflects the enthusiasm that grips the people of Binche and their friends.

Key moments

- **From 8 a.m.:** costumed groups parade through the streets in fancy dress.
- **9 a.m.:** the cagnottes dance and parade through the city.
- **From 3:30 p.m.:** the societies reform. They go out “to music,” meaning that brass instruments accompany the drums. The procession starts at Avenue Wanderpepen, near Parc Derbaix, and disperses at Avenue Charles Delière.
- **From 6 p.m.:** after the procession, the societies continue to dance in the streets to the sound of music until late in the evening. Around 11 p.m., round dances mark the end of the musical outing.
- The night will be punctuated by the sound of drums.



Lundi gras

16 FEVRIER 2026

“Lundi Gras” is an integral part of Binche folklore. United for a quarter of a century within the A.D.L. (Association for the Defense of Lundi Gras), the three youth organizations—the Royale Jeunesse Catholique Binchoise, the Jeune Garde Libérale, and the Jeunesse Socialiste Binchoise—have set themselves a goal: to defend and promote Lundi Gras.

On this day, the three youth groups come together to ensure that children can continue to enjoy the festivities free of charge. Thanks to the generosity of the town, all the shopkeepers and cafés, the A.D.L. is able to organize the entire day and give each participant a basket of oranges.

In the afternoon, over the years, friends have formed groups known as “fantasy groups” that brighten up the streets of Binche to the sound of “violes” (traditional instruments).

Key moments

- **From 9:30 a.m.:** Young people come out to the sound of violas and parade through the city during the morning.
- **Around 11 a.m.:** “Confetti battle” on the Grand-Place and in the city's many cafés.
- **Between 1:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.:** Fantasy groups spontaneously join in the festivities: the Chic Types, the Mervellouses, the Montagnards, the Sales Djônes, the Ladies Binchoises, the Commissaires, etc.
- **At 4:30 p.m.:** children in costume join the three youth groups and gather on the Grand-Place to form the “Rondeau de l'Amitié” (Friendship Round).
- **Around 5 p.m.:** the youth groups gather at Square Eugène Derbaix (station district) to dance, lit by Bengal lights.
- **At 7:20 p.m.:** fireworks in the station district.

Mardi gras

17 FÉVRIER 2026

Key moments

- **From 5 a.m.:** Gilles, Harlequins, Sailors, Peasants, and Pierrots go from house to house to the sound of drums and fifes playing "l'Aubade matinale" until dawn.
- **Around 7 a.m.:** the societies are formed. On the Gilles' breakfast menu: oysters, smoked salmon, and champagne.
- **From 7:45 a.m.:** the societies of Gilles, Harlequins, Sailors, Peasants, and Pierrots gather in the Grand-Place. The Gilles and Peasants wear their wax masks. All are welcomed at the Town Hall by the municipal authorities for the presentation of medals to the jubilarians.
- **At lunchtime:** the Gilles retire to their homes for lunch with family or friends.
- **At 3:30 p.m.:** the afternoon procession departs from Battignies. It crosses Avenue Charles Delière to reach the Grand-Place, where the societies form a circle. During this procession, the actors offer their oranges and the Gilles wear their famous hats with ostrich feathers. The societies are accompanied by drums and music.
- **At 8 p.m.:** departure of the second procession, heading for the Grand-Place where the societies gather to form a circle. The baskets are empty and the Gilles have removed their hats. As night falls, they dance by the light of Bengal fires.
- **At 9:30 p.m.:** the Grand-Place lights up and becomes the scene of a grand fireworks display, a sumptuous moment and the apotheosis of the Carnival. The societies continue to dance and, around midnight, each performs a new rondeau in front of its premises, accompanied by drums and music. Afterwards, the societies continue to dance and pound the streets of Binche to the sound of drums alone.



RECEPTION HOURS FOR THE “SOCIÉTÉS” AT THE CITY HALL

8:00 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES MARINS

8:15 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ LES IRRÉDUCTIBLES

8:30 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES MAXIM'S

8:45 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES ARLEQUINS

9:00 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES RÉCALCITRANTS

9:15 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES SUPPORTERS

9:30 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES PETITS GILLES

9:45 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES PIERROTS

10:00 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ LES INCORRUPTIBLES

10:15 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ LES JEUNES INDÉPENDANTS

10:30 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES RÉGUÉNAIRES

10:45 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ LES ARPEYANTS

11:00 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES PAYSANS

11:15 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES INCAS

11:30 A.M. SOCIÉTÉ ROYALE LES INDÉPENDANTS

If you would like to obtain a list of those celebrating their anniversaries, please do not hesitate to request it from the Communications Department of the City of Binche.



Follow the Carnaval LIVE

During the three days of carnival, several media outlets come together to bring you the excitement and energy of our folklore.

Dimanche gras

- **From 11 a.m.:** Antenne Centre Télévision teams will be present on the Grand-Place, from a mobile studio, to capture the electrifying energy of the first hours of the festivities.

The program will include a special broadcast, presentations, morning atmosphere, reports, guests, and more. Live broadcast on ACTV's social media channels and YouTube from the Grand-Place in Binche.

- **From 4:40 p.m. to 5:20 p.m.:** special live broadcast from the Shrove Sunday parade. Program co-produced by ACTV and RTBF.

Lundi gras

- ACTV will offer a wide range of content throughout the day on its digital platforms, as well as a live news broadcast on Monday evening during the return trip to the station shortly before the fireworks display.



Mardi gras

- Mardi Gras, the most eagerly awaited day of Carnival, will be covered continuously by Antenne Centre and its colleagues from the local media in Hainaut:
- **From 6 a.m.,** Vivacité will kick off the festivities with a live morning radio show from the Grand-Place, which can be followed on TV on Antenne Centre, immersing listeners in the excitement of Binche thanks to images from ACTV.
- **From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.,** a live broadcast on Antenne Centre will follow, with numerous contributors, the medal ceremony, a key moment that is always very moving for those involved in the Carnival.
- The grand finale will take place in the afternoon with live coverage of the Mardi Gras parade **from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.** on the 12 local media outlets of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, including, of course, No Télé, Télé MB, and Télésambre. This is an event not to be missed if you can't make it in person, as it allows you to experience the excitement and magic of the parade, where Gilles, Peasants, Sailors, Pierrots, and Harlequins dance to the beat of drums and music and throw thousands of oranges to the crowd.
- A special edition of the ACTV news program will be broadcast live from the Grand-Place in Binche at 6 p.m., featuring reactions from the folklore participants.

Numerous Belgian and foreign television stations also cover the Binche Carnival. Teams come from all over the world to cover the news in Binche.

CARNAVAL FOR ALL OPERATION

The City of Binche provides a space entirely dedicated to people with reduced mobility during the carnival festivities.

- **PMR locations:**

All persons with reduced mobility can access PMR locations without prior registration, based on an official document proving their disability.

- **Sunday from 3:00 p.m. – Parade:**

Av. Wanderpepen (near the Art Technic store opposite number 62)

Location supervised by PCS (Social Cohesion Plan) officers

- **Monday from 3:30 p.m. – Rondeau:**

Grand-Place (in front of the Municipal Theater)

Free location not supervised by PCS officers

- **Tuesday from 2:45 p.m. – Parade:**

Av. Charles Delière (Le P'tit Mousse and Berry's establishments)

Supervised location

- **Tuesday 2:45 p.m. – Rondeau:**

Grand-Place (in front of the Municipal Theater)

Supervised location

From the PRM location set up on the Grand-Place, **the ASA Foundation, which specializes in audio description of sporting and cultural events for visually impaired people**, will provide audio description commentary on the Mardi Gras parade. This initiative reinforces the inclusive and participatory nature of the Binche Carnival.

A brochure listing all locations and establishments in the city center (bars and restaurants) that are more easily accessible to people with reduced mobility is available at the Binche Tourist Office. Braille copies are also available.

If you have difficulty accessing the reserved locations, you can always contact the PCS on 0498/93 28 16 (during the three days of carnival, from 2 p.m. onwards).



HOW TO GET TO THE CARNAVAL ?

By train

On Shrove Tuesday, SNCB is increasing its regular train service by adding extra carriages to the following trains:

Tuesday morning:

Brussels-Midi (10:30 a.m.) - Binche (11:41 a.m.).

In the evening:

- Train IC 3418: departs Binche at 6:20 p.m.;
- Train IC 3419: departure from Binche at 7:20 p.m.;
- Train IC 3421: departure from Binche at 9:20 p.m.;

An additional train will depart from Binche at 10:34 p.m. to ensure a safe return after the fireworks.

La Louvière-Sud station offers connections to Charleroi, Namur, Liège, Mons, and Tournai.

Free shuttles

To make the most of the festivities, the City of Binche is offering shuttle buses connecting the villages in the area to the city center. These free buses provide a safe way to get to and from the center of Binche. They will run from 8 a.m. to midnight on Sunday, February 15, and Tuesday, February 17.

•February 15: double shuttle service for Leval and Ressaix to Binche

•February 17: double shuttle service for Ressaix and Péronnes and for Bray and Péronnes

BUS NO. 1: DEPARTURE FROM **RESSAIX AND **PÉRONNES** TO **BINCHE****

- Place de Ressaix - Ressaix: at :10 and **:40***
- Place de l'Église - Ressaix: at :15 and **:45***
- Place Elisabeth (in front of the chip shop) - Ressaix: at :20 and **:50***
- Corner of Rue Joseph Wauters and Rue Albert Elisabeth - Péronnes: at :30 and **:00***
- Place Josphé Wauters (near the church) - Péronnes: at :35 and **:05***
- At the stop sign (roundabout) - Péronnes: at :40 and **:10***
- Place Sainte-Marguerite - Péronnes: at :45 and **:15***

BUS NO. 2: DEPARTURE FROM **LEVAL AND **RESSAIX** TO **BINCHE****

- Place Saint-Pierre - Leval: at :10 and :50
- Place de Trahegnies - Leval: at :15 and :55
- Place Bourdon - Ressaix: at :25 and :05

RETURN TO THE VARIOUS ENTITIES:

- From Place des Droits de l'Homme
- Bus No. 1 and No. 3: at :00 and :30
- Bus No. 2 and No. 4: at :10 and :30

***Only on Mardi Gras**

BUS NO. 3: DEPARTURE FROM **PÉRONNES AND **BRAY** TO **BINCHE****

- Place du Village - Bray: at :15 and **:45***
- Place de la Cité - Bray: at :20 and **:50***
- Garage Centorame - Bray: at :25 and **:55***
- Corner of Rue du Charbonnage and Route de Mons - Bray: at :30 and **:00***
- Restaurant "Porta Nova" - Bray: at :40 and **:10***
- Place Communale - Péronnes: at :50 and **:20***

BUS NO. 4: DEPARTS FROM **EPINOIS AND **BUVRINNES** TO **BINCHE****

- Salle des fêtes - Épinois: at :10 and :50
- Ecole communale - Buvrinnes (rue des Ecoles): at :15 and :55
- Delhaize (corner of rue Saint-Pie and G. Dehavay) - Épinois: at :25 and :05

ACTIVITIES OF THE TOURIST OFFICE

Dress up your Gille - Family art activity

A yellow poster for the 'Habille ton Gille' activity. At the top, it says 'Binche.Tourisme' in black. Below that, 'Habille ton Gille' is written in large, colorful, bubbly letters. Underneath, 'ACTIVITÉ ARTISTIQUE' is written in black. A section titled 'AU PROGRAMME :' lists the following: 'Balade d'environ 2 km', 'Animation bricolage', 'Petit cadeau', and '3 €'. To the right of the text is a circular image showing a person in a Gille costume. At the bottom right, it says 'DU 1ER AU 28 FEVRIER 2026'. There are also illustrations of confetti, a feather, and some fruit at the bottom left.

Binche.Tourisme

Habille ton Gille

ACTIVITÉ ARTISTIQUE

AU PROGRAMME :

- Balade d'environ 2 km
- Animation bricolage
- Petit cadeau
- 3 €

DU 1ER AU 28 FEVRIER 2026

To mark the 2026 summons and carnival season, the Binche Tourist Office is offering an artistic, family-friendly activity in the heart of Binche. From Sunday, February 1 to Saturday, February 28, 2026 (except February 17, 18, and 22), set off on a 2 km walk with a roadbook and take part in a craft activity based on the famous Gille de Binche. Departures are between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from the Binche Tourist Office. Price: €3/child (aged 3 and over). Free for accompanying adults (no prior reservation required).

Each participant will receive a small gift at the end of the walk.

A great opportunity to share a moment of creativity and discovery with the family during the soumonces.

A face painting session is planned for February 1 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Town Hall, after the craft activity (additional charge: €2/child).

Binche Carnival Quiz: discover a unique tradition!

Take part in a quiz to discover traditions in a fun way.

The approximately 4.5 km route takes you through the center of Binche. Along the way, illustrated panels present the iconic characters of the Carnival. At each stage, a simple question allows you to learn more while having fun.

From February 1 to 28, 2026 (except February 17, 18, and 22)

Departures between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. from the Binche Tourist Office

Price: €2 per person - No reservation required
Each participant will receive a small gift at the end of the trail.

This friendly activity is ideal for (re)discovering the Binche Carnival, alone, with family, or with friends.

An orange poster for the 'Quiz Carnaval de Binche'. At the top, it says 'Binche.Tourisme'. Below that, 'QUIZ CARNAVAL DE BINCHE' is written in large, bold, blue letters. To the right, a blue starburst shape says 'DU 1ER AU 28 FEVRIER 2026'. In the center, there is a photo of a person in a Gille costume holding a stick. To the left of the photo, a blue box says 'PARCOURS 4,5 KM' and '2€', and below that, 'PETIT CADEAU'. At the bottom left, there is a small black figure with a crown. At the bottom right, a red speech bubble says 'VENEZ DÉCOUVRIR UNE TRADITION UNIQUE !' next to a large green question mark. At the very bottom, it says 'INFOS SUR WWW.BINCHETOURISME.BE'. There are also confetti and small decorative elements scattered around.

Binche.Tourisme

QUIZ CARNAVAL DE BINCHE

DU 1ER AU 28 FEVRIER 2026

PARCOURS 4,5 KM

2€

PETIT CADEAU

VENEZ DÉCOUVRIR UNE TRADITION UNIQUE !

INFOS SUR WWW.BINCHETOURISME.BE

A Carnaval to experience too

THE MUMASK

The MUMASK is open during the three days of carnival from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. without interruption and invites you to immerse yourself in the magic of masked traditions with its three permanent exhibitions:

- Binche Carnival Interpretation Center
- A Look at the Collections
- Carnivals and Folklore of Wallonia

The museum will be closed on Wednesday, February 18.

LUNDI GRAS ACTIVITIES

"Lundi Gras" is children's day! And what better way to celebrate than with a workshop full of color, imagination, and good cheer? During this creative workshop, children will decorate their own fancy half-masks! Feathers, glitter, patterns, and personal touches: everyone will leave with a unique mask before joining the parade on the Grand-Place!

- Monday, February 16, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- For ages 6-12
- €5/child - Reservations required at 064 33 57 41 or www.mumask.be

Starting at 10:30 a.m., a confetti battle will transform the courtyard into a real party venue for the confetti aperitif! When you visit the museum bar, children will receive a free bag of confetti.



CATERING



The museum bar will be open on all three days of Mardi Gras: Sunday from 8 a.m., Monday from 10 a.m., and Tuesday from 5 a.m.

In collaboration with Le Cul du Poule, the museum will offer non-stop fast food service during the three days of Mardi Gras, with or without reservations.

- Mardi Gras Sunday: 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Shrove Monday: 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Shrove Tuesday: 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.

It will also be possible to eat oysters and salmon from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. by reservation at david.baras@mumask.be.

A simple option for a quick bite to eat during the carnival festivities.

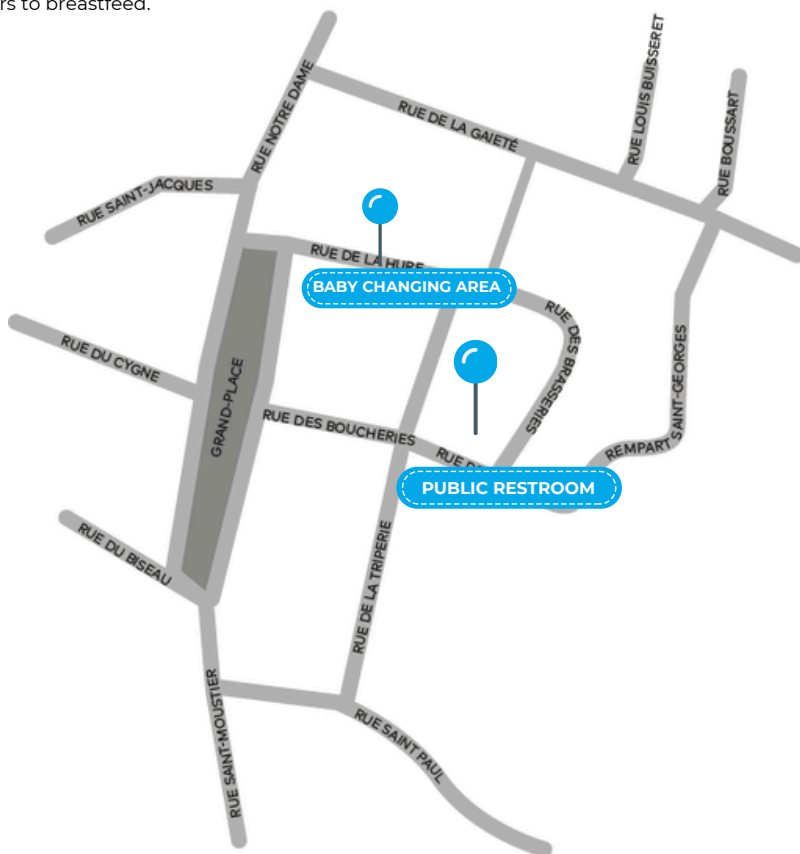
BABY CHANGING AREA AND PUBLIC RESTROOMS

In an effort to offer an ever warmer and more inclusive welcome, free public toilets are available on Rue de l'Oie.

These are accessible:

- Shrove Sunday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Shrove Monday: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Shrove Tuesday: 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

For parents, a fully equipped baby corner is available at the Tourist Office on the Grand-Place, where they can change and care for their children in peace. This space has been designed to meet the needs of families on the go, offering a convenient and pleasant place to feed babies (a microwave is available) and a more private area for mothers to breastfeed.



THE GILLE'S LEXICON

Barette : a white cotton cap that completely covers the gille's hair. It also makes it easier to wear a hat.

Manchettes : like the trouser facings, they are made in the same way as the collar..

Apertintaille : made up of little copper bells..

Panier : made from woven wicker, it is filled with blood oranges that the Gille distributes during the afternoon procession on "Mardi Gras".



Chapeau : made of ostrich feathers, it is worn during the "Mardi Gras" procession. Between 240 and 290 small feathers are mounted on a metal frame to form 8 to 12 large feathers measuring 1.50m, which fall in a plume. Weight: $\pm$ 4 kilos.

Mouchoir de cou : a folded square of white cotton, passing under the neck and tied above the head. It holds the hair clip.

Collerette : made of pleated ribbons, lace or golden fringes, is attached around the neck over the hump.

Costume : it consists of a blouse and trousers, made from jute fabric. It is decorated with 150 motifs (lions, coats of arms, crowns, stars, flags). These ornaments are cut out of black, yellow and red felt, the colours of the Belgian flag.

Sabots : made from wood, they're a must for Gille's feet as they pound the pavements to ward off the cold and winter. They are complemented by 'renoms', pleated ribbon trimmings that match the collar and facings.

Masque de Gille : made of cloth covered in wax. It is only worn on Tuesday mornings to go to the Town Hall. Patented, it can only be worn in Binche and is only sold to gilles through their company.

THE CARNAVAL ACTORS

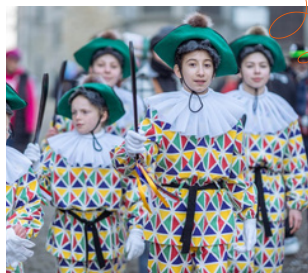
The Pierrot



The Pierrots wear a conical hat, adorned with lace and a white ribbon at the top. They wear a blouse and trousers of the same colour which can be pink, blue or yellow.

Their mask is a black wolf and they hold a stick, called the mirliton, decorated with ribbons of different colours.

The Arlequin (Harlequin)



Arlequins wear a blouse and trousers made of fabric printed with yellow, red and green triangles with a black belt. Their felt hat is green and decorated with a black and grey fur tail.

They wear an Arlecchino half mask with fur border. In their hand they hold a bat decorated with ribbons of different colours.

The Marin (Sailor)



On Shrove Tuesday morning, the sailor, dressed as a sailor, will have a black wolf mask, he will dance to the sound of the viola with a wooden anchor garnished with a sprig of mimosa.

In the afternoon, he will carry his oranges in a metal basket lined with white satin.

The Paysan (Peasant)



The Peasant wears a simpler costume than that of the Gille: a blue smock with white sleeves, white trousers, thin shoes decorated with pleated ribbons, white gloves and a ramon a little different from that of the Gille. The Peasant also wears a hat decorated with two white ostrich feathers and long white ribbons.

He also wears a "barrette" as well as a large square white cloth folded under the chin. Finally, the Peasant wears a mask almost similar to that of the Gille but without the moustache and goatee.



Pres contact

Communication Departement

064/23 05 08-10

ou 0499/ 84 83 62

communication@binche.be



Accreditation requests must be submitted online at www.carnavaldebinche.be by February 11, 2026. You can also scan the QR code opposite to submit your request.