

ANDENNE

Heritage and history



The Collegiate church and the Romanesque churches



■ The Collegiate church (Andenne)

Saint Begga, great-great-grandmother of Charlemagne, when she became a widow, founded a Merovingian abbey in Andenne, circa 692. That abbey comprised seven churches, in addition to two separate quarters. In the 11th century, the monastery was changed into a secular chapter. Secular power required recruitment among the nobility. That is why the early monastery became a predominantly female Noble Chapter.

In 1762, the seven churches were in a very poor state. The Chapter obtained permission from the Empress Maria-Theresa of Austria to replace them with a single sanctuary. It entrusted L-B Dewez, the official architect of the governor Charles de Lorraine, with drawing up the plans for a new neoclassical collegiate church. The objects discovered in the latter church included the grave of a 12th century saint, a lectern taking the form of a griffin (dinanderie brass from 1510), the stalls from 17th century, the confessionals and pulpit from the C18th, paintings from 17th century and 18th century, including the Massacre of the Innocents (1615) by Finsonius of Bruges. In the Collection and Museum located in the 12 adjoining rooms, objects are exhibited such as textiles, sculptures, manuscripts, prints, funerary monuments from the 16th century to the 20th century, including the Renaissance reliquary of Saint Begga together with religious chinaware from Andenne.

■ The church of Saint Peter (Andenelle)

The church with its tower dates from the 12th century. Built of reddish sandstone, this remarkable monument of Mosan architecture is one of the oldest in the region. It underwent alterations in the 17th century (the inside pillars were changed), in 1853 (the entrance portal, which used to be found in the north, was moved to the west),



in 1860 (building of the transept), in 1875 (the portal was moved to the north as a result of the building of the Andenne-Hailot road) and in 1923 (building of the side aisles). It is a mistake to believe that it was built in a hollow. In times past, it

was level with the road and the square. People entered on a level, through a big door at the foot of the tower, next to the stream. But when the Haillot bottom road was built, the portion of the road was raised and people had to go down a few steps to enter the church.

■ The church of Saint Martin (Seilles)

When you reach the hamlet of Reppe, you will find the Romanesque church of Saint Martin. It stands opposite Andenelle, and although people call it a "chapel" it is actually one of the smallest churches in Belgium. Dedicated to Saint Martin, it was apparently built by the inhabitants circa 1050 out of coal-grit. The church complete with its 3 naves, its chancel and its sacristy, unfortunately lost its northern aisle in the middle of the 19th century.

■ The church of Saint Maurice (Sclayn)

The church of Saint Maurice replaced the former collegiate church of a chapter founded in the 11th century by the Emperor Henry IV. It was originally dedicated to Our Lady and to Saint Felix. This building is in the Romanesque style (although its façade is in the Ionic style) and it was restored on many occasions.



■ The church of Saint Stephen (Seilles)

In Seilles, you will discover the Church of Saint Stephen (Saint Etienne). A classical Romanesque building, made of limestone, sandstone and shale, it dates from the 11th century. Before being a church, its massive tower was used for defensive purposes and as a refuge for the villagers in time of war. The loopholes and the thickness of the walls still provide evidence of that.

■ The church of Saint Firmin (Bonneville)

Saint Firmin is called upon by sufferers of rheumatism and pins and needles. Surrounded by its old graveyard, the church partly (the tower and the part before the nave) dates from the 11th century. It was extended eastwards in 1866 by two bays in the same style and a three-plane chancel from the 18th century, probably taken down

and rebuilt. It forms a harmonious arrangement in the Romanesque style. At the outset, the squat tower played a defensive role. This can still be guessed by observing the openings provided in its thick walls from where arrows or other projectiles could be fired at any attackers.



■ You can also discover:

The church of Saint Remi of Thon-Samson, the church of Notre-Dame of Namêche, the church of Saint Rémy of Landenne, the church of Notre Dame Auxilatrice of Petit-Waret, the church of Saint Hubert of Coutisse, the church of Notre Dame of Groyne, the church of Saint Martin of Maizeret, the church of Saint Pierre of Ville-en-Warêt, ...

Other free brochures on the history and heritage, museums and discoveries, and nature walks are available at the Tourism Office of the Town of Andenne.

