



1. Guesthouse
2. Orangery
3. Le jardin à la française
4. Church
5. Gallery
6. Buitenhof
7. Visitor centre
8. Cuvelier
9. Moated Castle
10. English Park
11. Northern outer bailey
12. Southern outer bailey
13. Tithe barn
14. Riding school
15. Apostle house
16. Steward's House

1. Guesthouse

The Maastrichterallee dates back to the late 16th century. The allee is bordered in the west by the gate to the towns of Bilzen and Hoeselt, with the guesthouse on the right (now a restaurant with terrace). Across the allee there's the orangery, with the church to the left and the gardener's tower to the right.

2. Orangery

The fountain is the heart of the orangery garden. From here visitors have a breathtaking view of the entire French garden with the gardener's tower, the orangery, the church, the gallery and the moated castle.

3. French garden

The Grand Commander's garden is situated next to the bridge leading to the moated castle. It is part of the French garden of Alden Biesen that was remodelled in 1991 after the old example of ca. 1700. Off in the distance, to the left of the moated castle, you can see the second half of the garden, viz. the orangery.

4. Church

The single-nave church of Alden Biesen is unique and exceptional: it is one of the few remaining houses of prayer of the Teutonic Order. The baroque high altar is executed in black and white, the colours of the Teutonic Order. In front of the altar lies the Gothic tombstone of Edmund von Werth, a bishop of the Teutonic Order buried in Alden Biesen in 1292. On the left side altar there's a high Gothic statue of the Madonna with child, the patron saint of the Teutonic Order and worshipped here as a miracle statue since 1270.

5. Gallery

In the 17th century a new hospital was built alongside the church above the gallery. In reality, though, it was used as a storage facility. In the 19th century the construction was found to be unstable and broken down. Next to the church there is still an arch gallery with adjoining rooms.

6. Buitenhof

A beautiful courtyard that you encounter when you walk into the domain.

7. Visitor centre

The visitor centre welcomes visitors to the site itself but also acts as a local tourist office for Bilzen and the Haspengouw region. You will find information there on Alden Biesen itself: activities, conferences, meetings and tours. In addition, our staff will be more than happy to inform you on the region as a whole: cycling and walking maps, leaflets and brochures, details on sights or holidays in the fruit region.

8. Cuvelier

The former 17th-century hayloft of the big barn now serves as a multipurpose room with hotel and catering facilities.

9. Moated Castle

From the outer courtyard, in the corner between the northern fore-castle and the gallery, you can see the castle surrounded by a moat. The stone bridge leads to the court of honour.

10. English Park

The English Garden looks out on the moated castle and the back of the southern outer bailey. This park was created in 1785-1786. The lawn marks the transition from the moated castle to the surrounding landscape. In the distance, against the now mature woodland, looms the round marlstone temple of Minerva, one of the follies in this landscaped park.

11. Northern outer bailey

The former horse stables and coach houses, the smithy, the brewery and the steward's office on the ground floor have been converted into conference rooms, a refectory and a kitchen. The hayloft, the malt loft and the steward's quarters now accommodate the guests of the conference centre.

12. Southern outer bailey

The forecourt and its service buildings are the result of several renovations that took place over the centuries. Originally it was a U-shaped outer bailey with the opening facing the castle. Today only the southern and the northern wing remain.

13. Tithe barn

Designed as the counterpart to the riding school, a monumental barn known as the Tithe Barn was erected on the north side. It was used as a storage facility.

14. Riding school

Between 1769 and 1775 under Grand Commander Belderbusch, two buildings were erected in classical style in the continuation of the outer baileys. On the south side a covered riding hall was erected, viz. the Riding School. Nowadays it serves as a large conference room. The foyer reused several columns that once supported the old truss beams.

Between 1769 and 1775, Grand Commander Caspar Anton von der Heyden named Belderbusch (1766-1784) orders builders to demolish the transept of the forecourt that connects the two outer baileys. Along that axis, two classicist buildings are erected: the Riding School and the Tithe Barn. This opens up the moated castle to the landscape, giving the castle complex its present-day layout.

15. Apostle house

On the east side of the Maastrichterallee you can see the gatehouse. On the left is the Apostle House, now a restaurant and art gallery. The building to the right of the gate to Maastricht is the trumpeter's house, where the gatekeeper lived. Today the gatehouse is situated on a junction of roads and cycle routes.

16. Steward's house

The former steward's house of Alden Biesen can be found on the hilly part of the road to the town of Bilzen. It was built in the second quarter of the century in the style typical of the Meuse region. With some effort, this vantage point affords a view of the castle complex in the distance. On the other side of the road you can admire the Demer valley with the breathtaking Biesen path.