

Abbaye Notre-Dame d'Orval

A long history...

The oldest remains discovered at Orval date back to Frankish times, but the Orval spring bears witness to occupation of the site since the dawn of time. In the 10th century, the first oratory is built in the valley. In 1070, thanks to the Count of Chiny, lord of the country, the first monks - Benedictines from Italy - come to the site and build there a church. In 1132, with a group of monks sent forth by St. Bernard, Orval becomes from then on a Cistercian monastery. The monastery built at that time survives the ups and downs of history but is several times rebuilt until the 18th century. This period of prosperity stimulates the Community to build, in the center of the valley, an entirely new monastery in the neo-classical style. In 1793, the troops of the French Revolution raze to the ground this new construction. Throughout the 19th century, Orval remains a ruined waste-land. It is only in 1926 that the Cistercian-Trappist monks come back to the site and, under the leadership of Father Marie-Albert Van der Cruyssen, set about the construction of the present-day monastery.

Neither the Brewery nor the Cheese Department are open to the public. Those wishing to participate in the prayer of the monks are invited to make inquiries at the entrance to the monastery. Information as regards staying in the Guesthouse is also available upon request.

Virtual reconstruction of the choir of the medieval Cistercian church

*In the choir of the medieval church you will find **two QR codes** which allow you to place yourself in the right place to view then the virtual reconstruction of the interior of the medieval church in augmented reality in 360°.*

- On the **tomb of Wenceslas n°13**, upper right edge.
- On the **panel n°16**, behind the stalls, going towards the cloister.

By scanning these QR codes, you will then have the opportunity to be immersed in the center of the old 12th century Cistercian church and to discover its architecture, its furniture, its stained glass windows...

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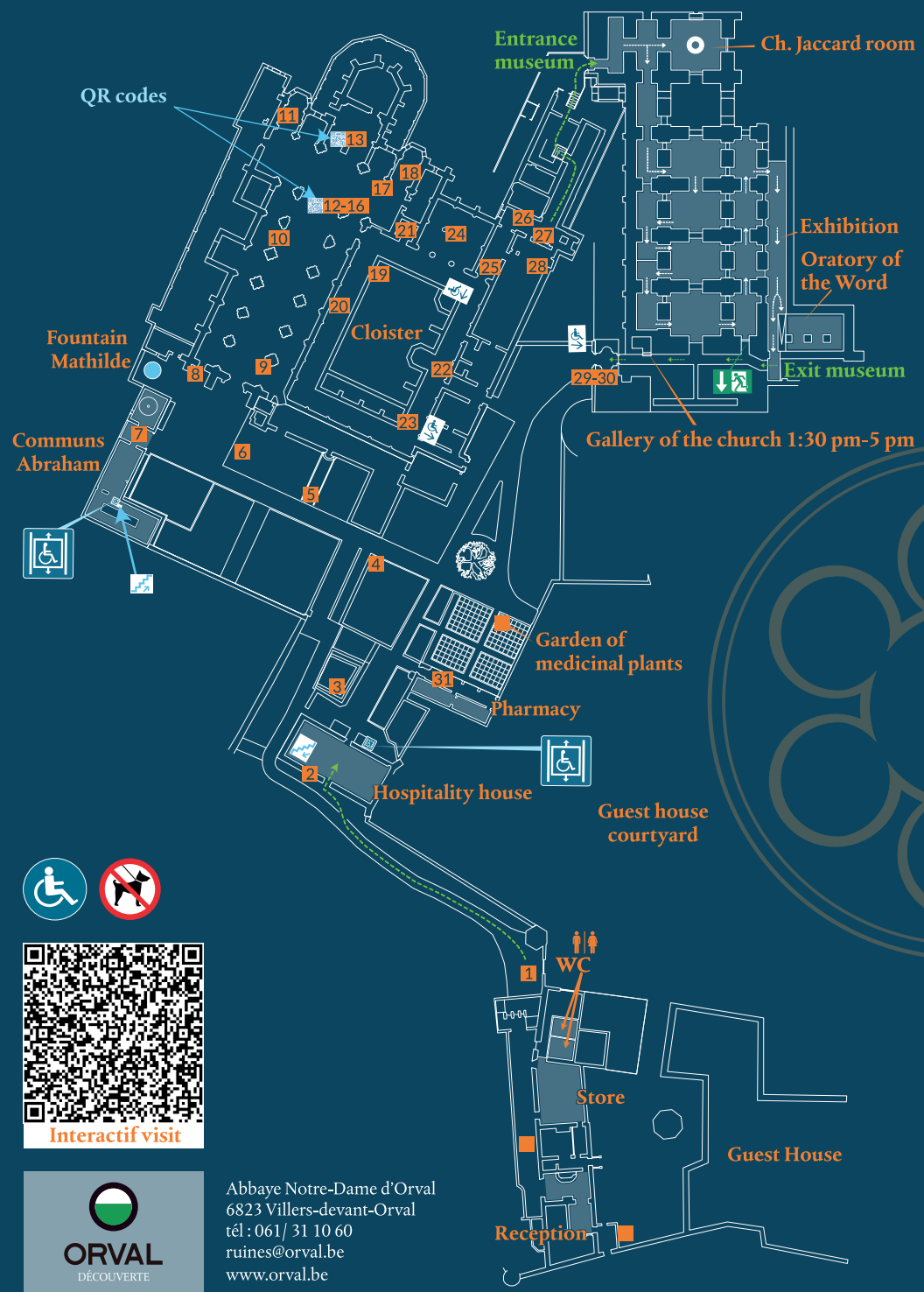
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