



DOMAINE DES  
**GROTTES**  
DE **ETIAN**

Back to Origins

*An immersive Education Programme  
for International Schools*



# The Cave of Han reveals itself...

*...to the enquirers.*

The Domain of the Caves of Han is a 250 hectare site set in the first Belgian Unesco Global Geopark. It is known to be one of the jewels of this internationally recognized territory.

A natural outdoor learning environment, with wonderful opportunities to take young people out of the classroom to a place where they can learn through experience, enquiry and observation.

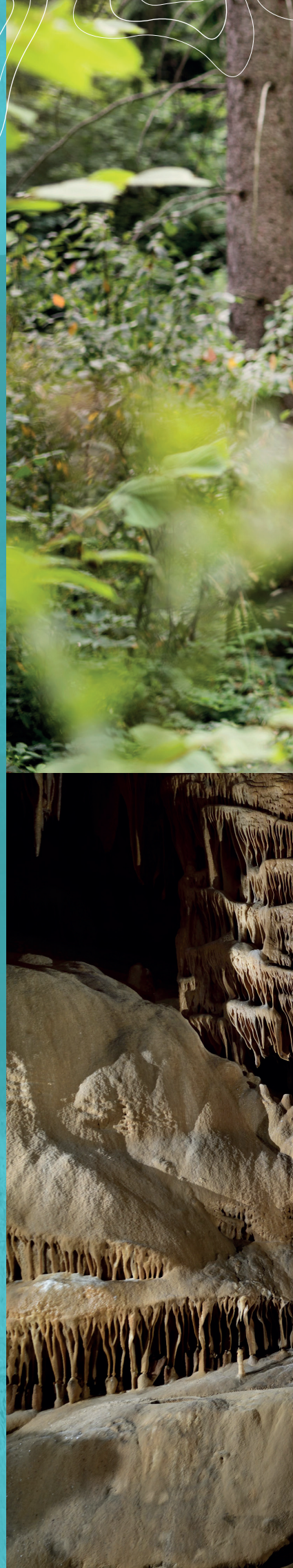
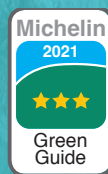
The Han Cave has been studied since at least 1743. The educational aspect has always been part of the DNA of the domain. We offer a high quality, unique learning experience, that can be tailored to the progressive student led international curricula.

The Cave of Han is a real-life laboratory where the future generation can learn and reflect in the field. They will discover everything there is to know about the mysteries of rock and relief formation, the effects of rivers and rainwater, the life of our ancestors from the Bronze Age to the Roman era, and a wealth of other fascinating topics. Part of the visit will include the experience of cave exploration in areas not normally open to the general public. Personal skills will be needed such as communication, risk taking and team building.

The River Lesse has not only forged the network of caves, but also the surrounding valleys of the Domain. The Wildlife Park is another jewel in the crown and part of the same eco-system. The students will be immersed in a biotope that has remained unchanged since prehistoric times. They will get to know the many species that have populated our land for centuries, an experience which will definitely raise their awareness of the importance of animal conservation and biodiversity.



The Domain of the Caves of Han is at the heart of Belgium's very first Geopark, that was recognized as a UNESCO Global Geopark in April 2018.





*Immerse yourself back  
to the Origins...  
...with a full non-tech  
3 day/2 nights journey*

## Events

This programme is tailored for each of the 3 levels (ages 11-14, 14-16 and 16-19) with a focus on Science and Geography.

### Typical programme:

#### Day One

- ▶ Geopodological walk in the Wildlife Park
- ▶ Speleological walk through the Caves
- ▶ Team Building and Investigation Activities
- ▶ Stay at the Cocoon Village
- ▶ Evening enrichment activity

#### Day Two

- ▶ Immersive morning in speleology, experiencing cave exploration in the most beautiful wild cave in Belgium
- ▶ Afternoon Inquiry activity in geology and archeology
- ▶ Reflection and Field Work study time
- ▶ Sleep in the Tree Tents, within the Park
- ▶ Evening enrichment activity

#### Day Three

- ▶ Biology, Climate and Conservation Field study
- ▶ Visit to Sustainability Projects
- ▶ Finalizing Field diaries
- ▶ Team presentation and awards

We offer a high quality range of unique accommodation, depending on your needs. The Park and the Caves are within a safe enclosed site and easily accessible.

Programmes are linked to International Curricula and can be adapted to for specific requirements.





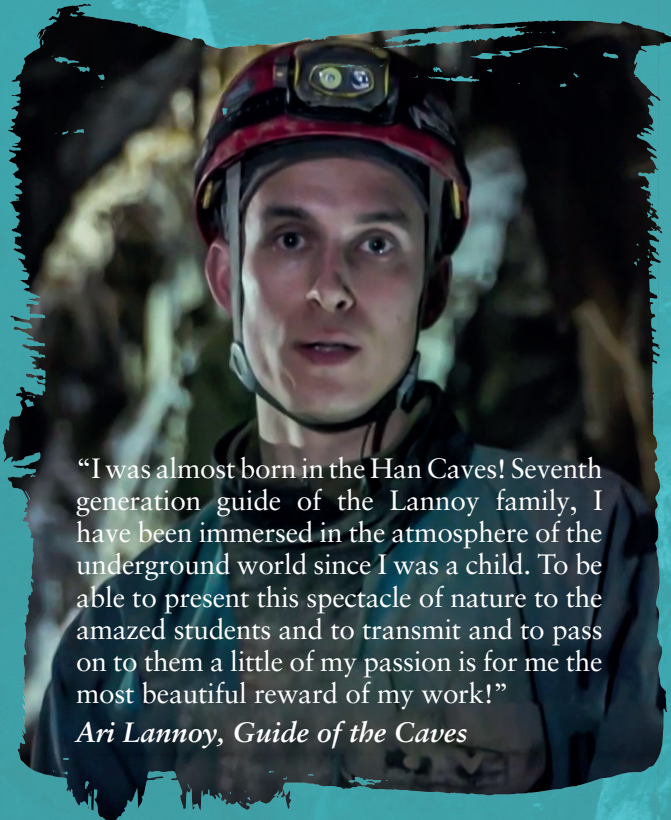
# The Cave of Han

Han-sur-Lesse, in addition to being a real laboratory for many researches, is also a high place for the exchange and diffusion of knowledge about the underground environment and nature conservation.

There are several researches lead by scientists from worldwide renowned Universities and Research Centers (University of Namur, University of Mons, University of Brussels, Belgian Royal Observatory, UBS...).

For more than twenty years, the Domain has hosted an annual international conference that allows exchanges between more than a hundred scientists and field cavers on themes like archeology, cave conservation...

Our guides are experts in their fields and will teach the students to think and work scientifically. They will make them discover the mysteries of the underground world. They are specially trained to take care of students and will welcome you and take you into to the heart of a world apart. Secret rooms, bigger and bigger, larger and larger, more and more beautiful, more and more decorated with concretions are revealed. You follow the river, you lose it, you find it again and your guide makes you understand the intimate history of the water and the rock.



“I was almost born in the Han Caves! Seventh generation guide of the Lannoy family, I have been immersed in the atmosphere of the underground world since I was a child. To be able to present this spectacle of nature to the amazed students and to transmit and to pass on to them a little of my passion is for me the most beautiful reward of my work!”

*Ari Lannoy, Guide of the Caves*

# The Wildlife Park

Animal conservation, reintroduction and raising awareness... runs in our blood.

Ever since our Wildlife Park was opened in 1970, we have strived to strike a balance between life as a tourist attraction and our desire to preserve our natural heritage. Every day we aim to act in an environmentally aware manner and implement eco-friendly policies whenever possible. From the most endangered wild bats (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*), insects, butterflies and of course the European Big fives (European bison, bear, wolvere, wolverine & lynx), our Park is home to a number of threatened species, enabling us to participate in many conservation and reintroduction projects (WWF, European Endangered species Programme, Natagora,...). Therefore, our Park is a European recognized conservation facility.

For example, it is within the framework of a European program of conservation and protection that the park has welcomed animals of a very rare species, wolverines, which are here to reproduce. Along with the bear, the lynx, the European bison and the wolf, they are the emblematic animals of our continent.



“I’m proud to say that we have been able to take part in a cause dear to our heart: the reintroduction of the Przewalski’s horse in China and Mongolia. This small wild horse had almost completely disappeared from its native habitat. Two of our mares left the Park this autumn to be released in the vast steppes of the Gobi desert! This really is my favourite kind of mission and one of the many reasons I love my job!”

*Etienne Brunelle, Wildlife Park manager*



# DOMAINE DES GROTTES DE HAN

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*Contact us*

We'd love to explain more to you about our school programs!  
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