

**Paasfeesten Leuven 2019**  
**2019 Easter Festival**  
**International Folkdance and Folk Music Festival**  
**Leuven, Belgium**

**INFORMATION GUIDE**



## 1. Leuven

### The lively mediaeval university town



Leuven Town Hall

Welcome to the cosy city of Leuven. Leuven is the capital of the province of Flemish Brabant, one of the 10 provinces of Belgium. Leuven counts ca 100.000 inhabitants and more than 30.000 university students, who study at one of the world's oldest Catholic Universities. The university hospital UZ Leuven is not only Belgium's largest, but also well renowned all over the world. Inbev, the world's largest beer brewery, has its head office in Leuven. We are proud of our beers ... and of our chocolates. Leuven dates back to the early Middle Ages. Although both world wars left enormous scars on the city, many mediaeval and Renaissance buildings are still eminently present. They make your stay in Leuven an unforgettable experience.

## 2. Easter Festival – CIOFF quality label

The Easter Folkdance and Folkmusic Festival is the official opening of the touristic season in Leuven. It is organised by the **Easter Festival Committee**, a non profit organisation, and subsidised by the Town of Leuven [[www.leuven.be](http://www.leuven.be)]. You will find more information and photos on the official website: [www.paasfeestenleuven.be](http://www.paasfeestenleuven.be).

The 3 Leuven folklore groups actively support the organisation of the festival:

- Reuzegom [[www.reuzegomleuven.be](http://www.reuzegomleuven.be)]
- 't Havermeuleke [[www.havermeuleke.be](http://www.havermeuleke.be)]
- Rozemarijntje [[www.rozemarijntje.be](http://www.rozemarijntje.be)]

The practical organisation is carried out by several **working groups**, each of them being responsible for a key aspect of the organisation:

- Executive committee (programming, performances & participating groups)
- Reception & Accommodation
- Catering
- Technical committee
- Sponsoring
- PR & Promotion

The first festival was organised in 1975. In **2019** the **45<sup>th</sup> festival** marks a new milestone in the history of the festival.

### CIOFF

In 2000 **CIOFF** recognised the Easter Festival of Leuven [[www.cioff.org](http://www.cioff.org)]. The CIOFF label guarantees your group a qualitative organisation.

CIOFF's general aim is the preservation and dissemination of folklore and traditions and the promotion of peace and friendship among people and their countries. We bring together folk art performers in a friendly atmosphere and organise fraternisation activities and performances.

## Commitment

It is very important to us that all of your group members **actively participate** in **all activities**, both the performances and the fraternisation activities (dancing & city hike). For some of these activities we deliberately mix up groups to enhance intercultural exchange.

## 3. Practical organisation

### Reception and accommodation

**Arrival:** the festival starts on Thursday 18 April. We expect the participating groups to arrive around 17h00 pm. The first meal we offer the participants will be an evening meal on Thursday.

**Departure:** all groups are requested to stay until 22h00 on Monday 22 April. It is possible to stay until Tuesday morning. Breakfast on Tuesday 23 April will be the last meal served at the cost of the festival.

Upon arrival, you will be welcomed and fully briefed by a member of the executive committee. Two or three guides will be appointed to your group. They will be your contact persons through the whole festival (24h/24h).

In principle (and if logistically possible) all participants will stay in **host families**. Most host families take 2 guests. If you have an odd number of men/women, you can make 1 set of 3 persons. The host families invite you to their homes, where you will receive bed and breakfast. Some families also offer meals at noon and in the evening. Participants who cannot be lodged in host families are lodged in group accommodation (e.g. Youth Hostel). The group leader will receive a complete list of addresses and telephone numbers of the group members' host parents. We consider the element of host families a very important aspect of our festival. It will enable your group members to get to know the Flemish culture and way of living. We expect our visitors to keep an open mind and try to socialise as much as possible.

### Meals

If your host family does not offer you lunch (12h00) and/or dinner (18h00), you will receive a warm meal in a restaurant at noon and sandwiches in the Rijschool in the evening.

### Provisional programme [text in blue in traditional costume]

*Please not that this program might be subject to changes and will be final in January.*

#### ▪ Thursday

+/- 17h00	Arrival in Leuven
18h00 - ...	Evening in host family

#### ▪ Friday

09h45-12h00	Sound check for musicians and possibility of group rehearsal (45 minutes per group)
11h30-13h30	Lunch in restaurant
14h00-17h00	<i>All groups <b>perform maximum 25 minutes</b> on stage (performance for elderly people) and in the streets</i>
17h00-18h00	Gathering of the presidents of the groups
18h00	Diner in host family

20h30-24h00 Gathering of the groups, group activity

▪ **Saturday**

09h00-12h00 Free

12h00-13h00 **Lunch** in host families

13h00-15h00 **Parade** in city centre and street performances (individual dances, no full programme) on different spots in the streets

15h00-16h00 All groups: short, spectacular **5' performance** in front of Leuven **Town Hall**

16h00-18h00 **Reception** by town magistrates at Leuven Town Hall and exchange of presents

18h00-20h00 Diner "**Buffet**" in Redingenhof

20h00-01h00 **Folkdance party**: Flemish dances + Workshops: each group teaches the other participants some easy dances (45 minutes)

▪ **Sunday**

9h30-11h00 Catholic **Mass** at Saint Peter's Church (all groups are requested to play or sing about 3 minutes during the service)

11h00-11h30 Small procession from Church to Town Hall: all groups dance 1 Flemish dance together in mixed couples + Picture of all participants in front of Town Hall

12h00-13h00 Lunch in restaurant

13h00-18h00 Time off. Possibility to visit Leuven or another city

18h00 Dinner at host families or in restaurant



▪ **Monday**

09h45-12h00 rehearsal of the apotheosis

12h00-13h00 Lunch in restaurant

14h30-18h00 All groups **perform** maximum **20 minutes** on stage

18h30-20h00 Dinner at host families or Rijschool

20h00-00h00 Farewell Evening

## Participation rules

- If you travel by **airplane**: your group pays the travel costs to Brussels National Airport (or Brussels South-Charleroi Airport). You will be picked up by a bus and the organisation will provide a bus whenever this would be necessary for the execution of the official programme. If you are interested in an excursion, the festival will provide a bus at the cost of the participation group.
- If you travel by **bus** or **car** to Leuven, you will receive an exact venue point (address of meeting place), some weeks before the festival. You might be asked to drive short distances (< 25 km) to bring your group to a place of performance. As most activities take place in the historical centre of Leuven, the festival cannot provide car park for individual cars. Busses will be guided to free bus parks on the Leuven ringway. If you are interested in an excursion, you will do this with your own bus at your own expense.



- Number of participants: we gladly welcome up to 30 participants per group at our cost. For any person above these 30, a participation fee of € 200 per person will have to be paid upon arrival in Leuven. They will be lodged and treated in the same way as the other participants.
- Adult groups may bring along maximum 5 non performing participants at our costs (eg director, choreographer, translator, bus driver). For any person above these 5 (even if the group doesn't reach 30 participants) a participation fee of € 200 per person will have to be paid upon arrival in Leuven. They will be lodged and treated in the same way as the other participants.
- Bus drivers are lodged and treated in the same way as the other participants. Please inform them on beforehand that they will stay in a host family and not in a hotel.
- Children or adolescent groups can bring along more non performing adults who accompany the youngsters, but you need prior written confirmation from the festival.
- The languages used during the festival are English, French, German and Dutch (our mother tongue). If no member is able to speak one of these languages fluently, you will be asked to bring along an interpreter.

- We offer you a guided tour through the mediaeval city of Leuven. Due to the heavy programme of the festival it is not possible to make touristic trips to Brussels or any other cities in Belgium. If you are interested to visit Brussels or another city, please prolong your stay in Belgium (come earlier on Thursday or stay later on Tuesday).
- Your group will only perform (traditional) dances and music from your own region or country. For this purpose you will only use traditional costumes of your region/country. Costume changes during a 20 minutes programme are discouraged. It is our experience that our public doesn't appreciate 3' instrumental intermezzos or singers.
- We have a policy that **only live music is used**. No CD's of tape recorded music is allowed for performances.
- Performances (always in traditional costumes & with live music):
  - ◆ **Friday: maximum 25 minutes.** Entering and leaving the stage and the shifting between the dances are included in these 25 minutes. The lining up of the musicians is not included. We advice you to choose dances for a maximum of 23 minutes.
  - ◆ **Saturday:**
    - × in the streets: **5-10 separate dances**, repeated on different spots
    - × in front of Town hall: **maximum 5 minutes** – please show a **spectacular dance with as many dancers as possible** (great square)!
  - ◆ **Monday: maximum 20 minutes.** Entering and leaving the stage and the shifting between the dances are included in these 20 minutes. The lining up of the musicians is not included. We advice you to choose dances for a maximum of 18 minutes. We will check the length of your programme during the compulsory exercise on the stage. If you exceed the time limit, we will interrupt your performance.
- **Communication:** we prefer to communicate via **e-mail**. Our mail address is [paasfeesten@gmail.com](mailto:paasfeesten@gmail.com)
- **Information:** In order to meet the quality standards of a good festival and to make your stay as comfortable as possible, we need detailed data from your group & your performances (for publicity reasons), the individual participants (lodging purposes) and the musicians (performances).

If your group has difficulties complying with all the above-mentioned rules, please contact us before taking rash decisions. Some rules are more important than others and exceptions might be made for good reasons.

### **Interested in participation?**

Please fill in the application form you will find on our website

## **4. Timetable**

### **September 2018**

Send us your application form.

**October - November 2018**

Confirmation of participation by signing agreement between your group and the festival. You will receive additional documentation and your group's "**information file**". The info file will travel back and forth between your group and us.

This document is to be filled out by you in order to give us all information necessary to make your stay at our festival as comfortable as possible. You will have to update the file and send it to us at certain dates (deadlines). If you fail to send us the requested information (either incomplete or too late), the festival organisation may decide to cancel your participation. Problems which might occur during the festival and which result from the lack of information cannot be shifted on to the festival organisation.

**We are looking forward to meeting you in Leuven !**