



# KRINKEL INTERNATIONAL INFOPACK

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# INDEX

<b>#THERE IT HAPPENS KRINKEL .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Belgians playing it rough .....	3
Practical information .....	5
Payment at the camp .....	6
Theme .....	6
Weather conditions .....	6
Food and meals .....	6
International evening .....	7
Participants criteria .....	7
Guide to communication .....	8
Packing list .....	9

# #THERE IT HAPPENS KRINKEL



Every 4 years Chiro Flanders, Belgium's largest youth movement organizes the biggest event for its oldest members and leaders: Krinkel! A summer camp with more than 4 000 aspi's (name of the oldest group), leaders, adult counselors and international guests. Krinkel means young people living, playing, singing... being together for six days.

**Krinkel will take place from Thursday August 24th  
until Wednesday August 30th.**

Taking part in Krinkel is an extraordinary experience. Participants live and play together for 6 days, while sleeping in tents, with no luxury, with the warmth of camp fires, playing games in small groups and join spectacular shows with everybody together. It's a perfect opportunity to have great fun with very nice people in Chiroshorts and Chiroskirts.



Krinkel is a very **active summer camp**. Playing games is a central part of Chiro and of Krinkel. Each day there will be several activities and games played in different groups. There will be games in your 'living group', in your campground or even with the 4.000 participants. Therefore, active participation in every activity is expected from each participant. During some of the games it is also very likely that you will get dirty. So bring along clothes that can withstand a bit of dirt or that not immediately get teared.

The camp is quite basic. Everybody will be sleeping in **tents** on their own mattress or field bed and sleeping bag. Each campground will have a couple of washing tents. There you will be able to wash up with a bowl of water. There are no showers. Toilets are in plastic booths.

We hope to provide WiFi hotspot at Krinkel but we can't promise this now. We're also looking into the possibility to charge your phones. We'll keep you posted if this is confirmed.

Be prepared for this!

## The international campground at Krinkel

### What is a campground?

Every region in Flanders has its own campground, an area where they will live. All participants eat and sleep together in their own region. All our international guests will be part the international campground within Krinkel. For every international guest, we will search a '**buddy**', a Flemish participant who speaks one of the languages you also speak. (English, French or Spanish). All these buddies and international guests will stay at the international campground. The international campground will follow the same program; the only difference is the language and an extra day. For the participants of the international campground we added an extra day of Krinkel, in that way we can get to know each other even better. The rest of Krinkel starts on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August.

Together with your buddy, you will be divided in 'living groups'. Each '**living group**' consists of 12 to 14 people. These living-groups are made of a mix of all the participants to spent time together to play. There will be huge moments with everyone together and moments in the regions (the campgrounds). The international campground is the same as everyone else, but extra fun.



Picture: one of the international living groups 2013

## Belgians playing it rough

Participants international campground  
(article from KLINKER, newspaper of KRINKEL 2013)

**Chiro goes international: Krinkel is not only for the Flemish bare-legged Chiro die-hards. Some 45 international guests from 15 different countries were bold and brave enough to face the Belgian weather, and came to join us at Krinkel in Merksplas.**

Some of them, like Camila, came all the way from Chile to experience the Chiro atmosphere. While they're celebrating a birthday and enjoying pancakes with 'stierenboter', which is butter with candy sugar, we're having a little chat with Camila, Manu from Switzerland, Alma from Slovakia, Jedmir from Albania and their Belgian buddies.

Alma explains: "I heard of Krinkel through FIMCAP, the international federation of youth movements Chiro is also part of." This isn't Manu's first international experience. "I've been to Eurocamp but that was in Switzerland, so it was kind of easy to be there", she laughs.

Every international guest has a Flemish buddy. These buddies show them around, translate games and introduce them to Belgian Chiro habits. That's necessary, as Manu explains: "You just have other traditions. For example: you Belgians play a lot, and mostly really rough games. We also play rough games, but not all the time." Alma from Slovakia agrees: "We mostly do calmer things." In Chile, they focus on educational games and creativity. "In Paraguay they even consider

'cat and mouse' a rough game", one of the buddies adds, "but they're getting the hang of it."

*"We really enjoyed the opening show  
and the sing-along show.  
We danced a lot and we had a great time"  
Manu explains.*

What do they think of Belgian food? "It's weird", says Jedmir. All international guests nod in agreement. "You put pineapple in your hot meals", Camila adds, while making faces. "Here the breakfast is sweet, while in Slovakia we usually have a salty breakfast with salami and stuff", says Alma. (It may be of scant comfort, but you're the only ones getting delicious pancakes, guys.)

When we're about to leave, Camila pulls out some special souvenirs from Chilean youth movement Jupach. She has made one for everyone on the international campground. As some of them are placing an order for Chiro clothes, we're sure they won't leave Krinkel empty-handed.

Belgian groups who are willing to sample the international atmosphere and hospitality are always welcome to try out one of the international games on the national playground or visit the international campground. A comfy camp ground, pancakes and most agreeable company: if you ask us, we'll be back! Que pases unbuen tiempo!

**Goose bumps here, goose bumps there, goose bumps everywhere... We felt goose bumps the whole five days of Krinkel, from beginning to end. Just because we were there together, we felt as one group of young people with the same goals. We felt like a part of a big thing, something like Chiro, but in all different kinds, one for everyone.**

**Every organization who was a part of it, felt it. We were simply one big family; we were Krinkel 2013, international campground! (It's similar to creation... in the beginning, there was nothing, after a week... EVERYTHING.)**

Picture: one of the international living groups 2013 (Sara is the girl on the left)



## Practical information

- **Date:**

Start: Thursday August 24<sup>th</sup> – afternoon

End: Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup> – afternoon

If it is more comfortable to come a day or two in advance or to stay a few days afterwards, we will try to help find a suitable accommodation. Especially if you are coming from far away we will do our best to host you in a nice host family before or after Krinkel. Contact us as soon as possible if you want us to help you.

- **Place:**

Landloperskolonie, 2330 Merksplas, Belgium



Picture: mass game Krinkel 2013

- **Price:**

The participation fee is 110 euro. This includes all the accommodation, food, water, etc. Every participant needs to pay this fee.

## Payment at the camp

In the evening, you have the chance to buy a drink during an evening campfire and the final show. You can buy coupons on the international campground with cash. So, bring a few euros for this.

On the national square, there will be a shop from 'De Banier'. This is the store for Chiro clothing, play equipment and gadgets with the Chiro logo. Do not feel obligated to buy something. But if you like to buy something in the shop, you can pay in cash. De Banier will only bring a small range of articles, not all the Chiro clothing will be available. If you want to buy something during the camp, let us know in the first days of the camp. In that way, we can ask De Banier to bring it to Krinkel.

Site: [www.debanier.be/chiro.html](http://www.debanier.be/chiro.html) (only in Dutch)

## Theme

The central theme of the group exchange will be "space". This will also be the year theme of Chiro Flanders for 2017 - 2018. On the national camp Krinkel the year theme will be officially launched. This means that the theme will be visible throughout the whole campsite.

Space can be interpreted in different ways. Outer space is mysterious, calls upon your imagination, invites you to explore new things. But space also means space for young people to play, space for youth groups to do their activities, space for young people to meet, green areas, forests to play, ...

During the camp we will explore the concept of space, try to find out what it means for the participants, play games in different spaces and discuss what spaces you and your youth groups need.

## Weather conditions

It is not perfect, however, the weather in Belgium in August is, on average, good. The average temperature during the day is 25°C and at night the average temperature is 14°C.

There is always a risk of rain in Belgium.

## Food and meals

During a camp of Chiro, there are 3 large meals provided and a snack at 4pm. In the morning, there is a breakfast with bread and different toppings. During breakfast, you also prepare your lunch of sandwiches and you'll get a snack for the '4-o'clockertje' (that's what we call the snack time at 4pm). In the evening, there will be a hot meal. For breakfast and supper, we get together at a big tent on the international campground. Lunch will be eaten somewhere on the terrain of Krinkel.

- *In Chiro, we usually sing a little song before starting the meal, and generally nobody leaves the table before everyone has finished out of politeness.*
- *In most local Chiro groups, there is a tradition that everyone eats everything on his/her plate, otherwise you get no dessert.*
- *Don't take as much of one dish as you can. Make sure there's enough to go around.*
- *When everybody's finished we often give joint messages to the group.*

In Belgium we eat a lot of bread. We encourage you to try out the Belgian cuisine and take part in our food culture.

PS: Last Krinkel, we were the only campground who had pancakes and Belgian fries. We will try to convince our cooking team to do something special again this time!

## Time

We tend to be pretty accurate when it comes to time schedules, so remember that in Belgium 12.05 means 12.05, and not 12.15 or later.

You are expected to be on time and follow the scheduled times of the program.

## International evening

On the second evening, there will be an international evening. Every participant has a chance to show something from their country and organisation. Each country/organisation gets a table to present their self. So if possible, bring some typical food (like cookies or sweets) or drinks to present during this evening. There is no fridge available to store all the things you bring. So make sure you bring something that you can keep in your tent.

And off course you can wear your uniform, t-shirt, scarf or traditional clothing during this evening.

## Participants criteria

- *You should be an active, enthusiastic participant because we play active games throughout the days. So we expect every participant to join each of these games and activities.*
- *You are between the age of 16 and 27. If you are older, it's not immediately a problem. Let us know and we will work out the possibilities for older participants.*
- *You can express yourself in English, French or Spanish. We'll live together closely and intense for a week and it's nice if we can understand each other.*

- You are excited to meet new people! You'll meet people from all over the world.

## Guide to communication

International friendships and cooperation can be a fantastic gift to you and your organisation. By participating at Krinkel, you form new bonds and learn a lot about Belgium, Chiro, and the different organisations/cultures of all the participants. All while having fun and making lots of new friends. But participating in a camp in a different country – perhaps far away from where you live, and much different from the country you come from, there may be some pitfalls in communicating. We've put together some guidelines so you know what to expect from Krinkel and some ways for you to navigate the Flemish cultural landscape.

Rule of thumb: **TALK, LISTEN and ASK.** If you don't know where to be, if you wonder why the Belgians are doing weird things – ASK. Almost all Belgians speak English and will be happy to help you out. Your buddy is there to guide you in your stay at the camp, and will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the way we do camps. It's completely okay to ask about things that seem strange or illogical to you, and better ask one time too many than too little if you don't know what's going on.

- Speak English (French, Spanish) also with your friends from home when you are together with people who don't speak your language.
- Don't be afraid to ask your International friends to speak English as well.
- Remember that most people at camp are speaking a foreign language – don't be afraid of making mistakes.

### Translation:

In general, don't expect translation at all events, so ask your buddy or another Belgian friend who can help you. We will try to provide translation as much as possible.

- Group together with your buddy and ask if they can translate for you, so you're not left out.
- Don't expect anyone to translate for you if you don't ask them first. People can usually not tell that you speak a different language.



Picture: one of the shows Krinkel 2013

## Packing list

If you have this in your bags, you'll be fully equipped to join Krinkel. (*This is not a final list. Just before Krinkel you'll get the complete packing list.*)

### Important documents

- World assistance card or other cards/documents of your health insurance
- Identity card
- Completed medical information form (you can find it on the website Krinkel.be/English)

### Clothing

*Bring practical clothes; be prepared for a camp in open air and temperatures between 10 and 30 degrees.*

- underwear
- socks
- pyjamas
- t-shirts
- shorts
- trousers / jeans
- sweaters
- jacket
- rainwear
- poncho

And your uniform, if you have this.

### Toilet bag

- towels and washcloths
- soap and shampoo
- toothbrush and toothpaste
- brush /hair comb
- deodorant
- sunscreen and after-sun lotion

- mosquito stick
- personal care products

### Shoes

*For all distances and weather conditions*

- sandals
- sneakers
- sturdy walking shoes

### Camping equipment

- sleeping bag and matrass
- pillow
- flashlight (perhaps batteries)
- blanket

### Cutlery

- plate
- drinking cup
- cutlery: knife, fork, spoon,...
- 2 kitchen towels
- breadbox (to pack your lunch)
- bottle

### Other

- Cap or hat (for the sun!)
- Medication if necessary
- Songbook, music or dances from your country
- Small backpack (to take your lunch with you)
- Euro's (see payment at the camp)
- The flag of your organisation
- Information about your country and organisation for the international evening
- Small board game, list of games you like
- Phone (not necessary)

More information will be sent a few weeks before Krinkel!

**We welcome you for this fantastic summer camp  
and we are looking forward to meet you!**



**#Krinkel2017 #daargebeurhet**

Join our Facebook group: [Krinkel International](#)  
Mail: [internationaal@krinkel.be](mailto:internationaal@krinkel.be)