

The Eastern Cantons

Abbeys and Castles straight out of the Middle Ages

Driving, walking and cycling tours



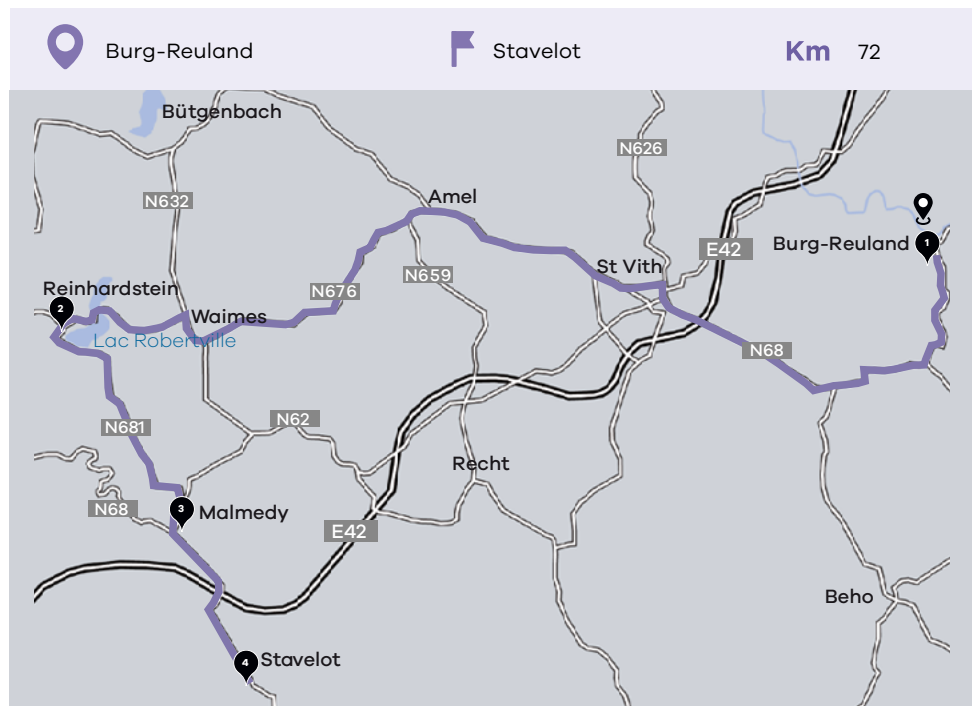
By car



© estbolgenou - dominikatz

The Eastern Cantons Its Castles and Abbeys

All along this magnificent route, you will discover the picturesque landscapes of the deep valleys of the River Our and the hushed atmosphere of the Hertogenwald Forest where, hidden from view, nestle castles straight out of the Middle Ages.



Burg-Reuland

The ruins of the *Château de Burg-Reuland* (Castle) dominate the Ulf Valley and seem to crush the little village. The dark stones of its walls evoke those great "burgs" of the Roman-Germanic Empire which reflected their power with their architectural might. This was a stronghold which was also used as a refuge for the people of the surrounding area who used to come and shelter here during attacks from pillagers who were ravaging the countryside at this time. In the 14th century, the castle was the seat of the Lords of Reuland Dynasty, vassals of the Duke of Luxembourg. If the proud fortress withstood the wars of Louis XIV, the Seven Years' War was its downfall, it would not stand firm against the cannon shots. The town became the owner of the ruins and restored the edifice. Inside, the castle's collection showcases artefacts from the Middle Ages which were found during archaeological excavations.

Open daily from 1/5 to 30/6, 11a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed on Tuesdays). Open daily from 1/7 to 15/9, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Open on weekends from 16/9 to 15/11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

4790 Burg-Reuland

+32 (0) 80 42 00 46

www.reuland-ouren.be



Two Abbeys and their Abbey Churches

In the beginning of the Middle Ages, the Ardennes Forest was inhospitable and wild. It offered hermits and then monks a promised land for their solitude and renunciation of all things material. One of them, the Benedictine monk Remaclus settled with some companions in the remote region of the Warche Valley. Here, they pictured it as a place of meditation and founded a monastic village. They chopped down the forest and drained the marshlands of the surrounding area. Founded in 648 and 650, the monasteries of Stavelot and Malmedy would transform the Ardennes and would flourish for several centuries. For a thousand years, the abbatial principality of Stavelot-Malmedy wielded great economic, religious, political and artistic influence on a territory which extended beyond the borders of present-day Belgium as far as the River Loire and the German Empire.



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Château de Reinhardstein

Suspended between heaven and earth on its rocky spur, the *Château de Reinhardstein* (Castle) blends into this forested landscape that is the Warche Valley. It is on this unassailable site that the fortress was built in the 14th century by the lord of this place, Renaud de Waimes. During the following centuries, Reinhardstein changed hands among several families before falling to Count of Metternich in 1812 who sold his property to... demolishers. In the 1970s, Professor Overloop saved this patrimony by rebuilding it exactly as it was. He used rare 14th century documents to reconstruct the towers and parapet walks. It was a great success. Today, a tour of the castle invites you to immerse yourself in the life of lords of the Middle Ages. All along this travel back in time, discover a large collection of armour, weapons and tapestries as you go from one room to the next. It is also possible to get something to eat by tasting delicious local cheeses and beers.

Open every Saturday and Sunday, every day during the Belgian and Dutch school holidays and all public holidays. Guided tours only, departure every hour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Chemin du Cheneux, 50
4950 Ovipat
+32 (0) 80 44 68 68
www.reinhardstein.net



© WBT - Denis Erotyaux

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The Malmundarium

Built on the foundations of the *Abbaye de Malmedy* (Abbey), it is the historic heart of the city. In 1985, the town of Malmedy decided to acquire this heritage of the past with the ambition to make it a first-class cultural and tourist centre thanks to the financial support of the Walloon Region. Today, the monastery, renamed Malmundarium, has completed its transformation. It has become a major tourist attraction. On two levels, the 3,000 m² immerses you in 14 centuries of the region's history.

Open daily, except on Mondays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (from 31/03 to 4/11) and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (from 4/11 to 30/03).

Place du Châtelet, 10
4960 Malmedy
+32 (0) 80 79 96 68
www.malmundarium.be



© WBT - David Samyn

Abbaye de Stavelot

At Stavelot, the ruins of the old 11th century abbey and the restored religious buildings regroup three large museums where temporary exhibitions are organised. One of them, the *Musée historique de la Principauté de Stavelot-Malmedy* (Historical Museum of the Principality of Stavelot-Malmedy) offers in the renovated 18th century cloisters, a timeline through more than 1,000 years of history. The list of Abbots is reproduced on the floor of the central hall, whilst extracts from the Rule of Saint Benedict in Latin are etched on the windows. The rooms each address a specific theme which the princely abbey was controlling then: its monastic and religious life and its economic and political organisation.

Open daily from 10 am. to 6 p.m.

Cour de l'Abbaye, 1

4970 Stavelot

+32 (0) 80 88 08 78

www.abbayedestavelot.be



On foot



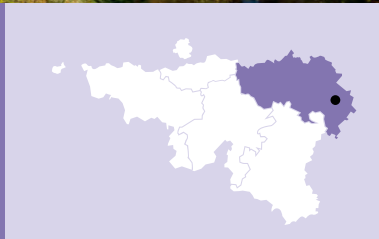
© WBT - S. Wittenbol

Around the *Château de Reinhardstein*

Soon after the dam, we are on a veritable donkey trail, sometimes feeling like a tightrope walker between slopes and steep inclines. In a gap, the *Château de Reinhardstein* reveals itself. Perched on its eagle's nest, it seems to challenge the hikers as you have to get around it via steep paths.

Following a succession of hills, **the Nez de Napoléon** (Napoleon's Nose) viewpoint finally appears – a jutting rock formation which offers us a stunning vista of the **Warche Valley**. On the crest, the trail starts to wind and follows the meanders of the relief.

The itinerary soon reaches the River Warche. Near the banks of the river, the trail enters a valley which becomes narrower and narrower. The trail now climbs uphill. This slope offers the opportunity, one last time, to enjoy the view over the **wild valley**, which is marked by this mighty fortress.



© WBT - P. Paquay

Starting point

From the dam parking lot, direction the hamlet of Walk, take the walking path to the left.

Car park

Beside the dam, near Walk.

Km 5,5



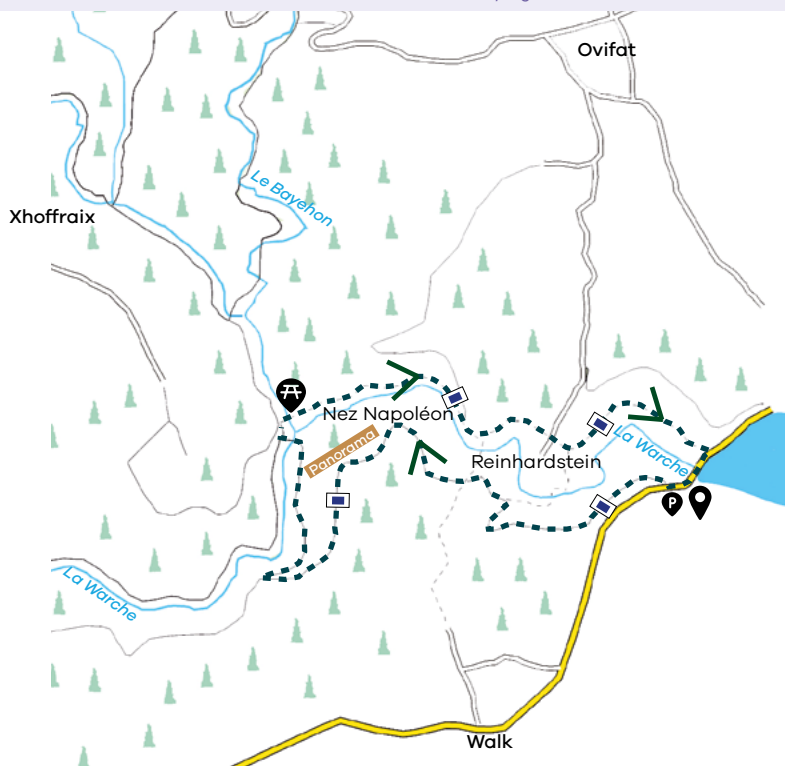
2H20

MARKINGS



Blue rectangle and lily
of the valley logo

DIFFICULTY



View and download the route on [visitwallonia.be](https://www.visitwallonia.be)

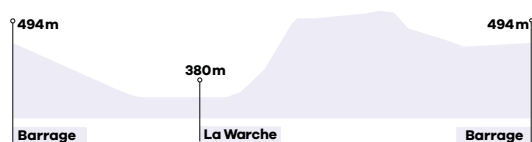
Tip

Wear hiking boots with good ankle support. At the end of the hike, there are different possibilities for getting something to eat or drink in Robertville.

Difficulty

This is a hard walk. There are a succession of steep hills and descents..

Gradient gain



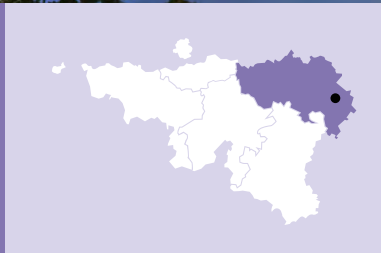
By bike



© WBT - Arnaud Siquet. Pêche sur une barque sur le lac de Bütgenbach

Along the Bütgenbach lake

Starting from the old railway **station in Sourbrodt**, you cycle for a few kilometres through the beautiful **Vennbahn** landscape. The pleasant, slightly uphill paths offer beautiful views of the **Warche valley**. Then you reach **Bütgenbach and its lake**: a village that looks like a seaside resort but hides an unspoilt nature of forests, vast green areas and hedgerows. A little extra: cyclists are particularly welcome here! After a well-deserved break on one of the beaches, you can follow the **RAVeL** back to the starting point through a relaxing landscape that varies greatly depending on the season.



© Vennbahn à Sourbrodt-000004905



© WBT - Daniël Ervoux - Bütgenbach - Vennbahn - RAVeL - 000004905

Starting point

The Old Sourbrodt Station
Rue du Camp – 4950 Waimes

Car park

The Old Sourbrodt Station
Rue du Camp – 4950 Waimes

Km 20

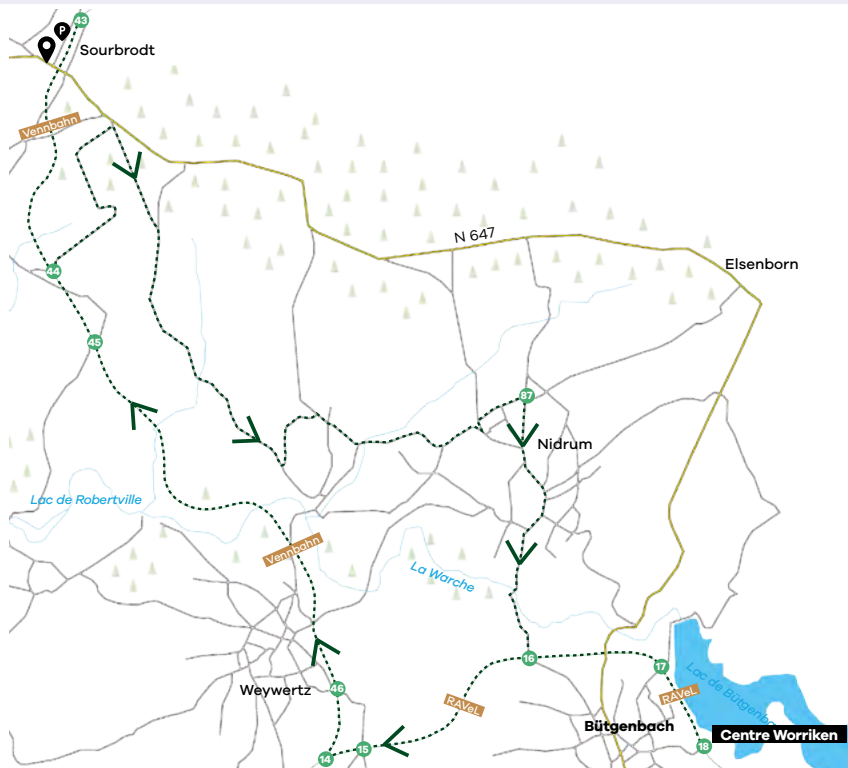


1H45



HYBRID BIKE

DIFFICULTY ●○○



View and download the route on [visitwallonia.be](https://www.visitwallonia.be)

Type of Route

RAVeL and country roads.

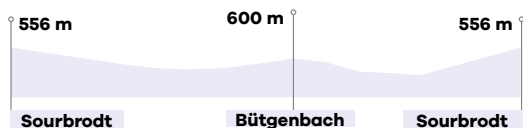
Markings

Follow the points-noeuds (intersecting routes) **44, 87, 16, 17, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 46, 45, 44.**

Tip

If you want to extend your 10km walk, you can do the tour of the lake from 'point-noeuds 17' – (intersection route 17). Head towards the dam and follow the path along its banks.

Gradient gain



Follow us

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 **BelgianTouristOfficeWallonia**



VISITWallonia.be

The Ultimate Belgian Getaway

This brochure is published by Wallonia Belgium Tourism (WBT) Company Number: 0888.366.085.

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