

## Along the River Ourthe

**And the castles of the Ardennes**

Driving, walking and cycling routes

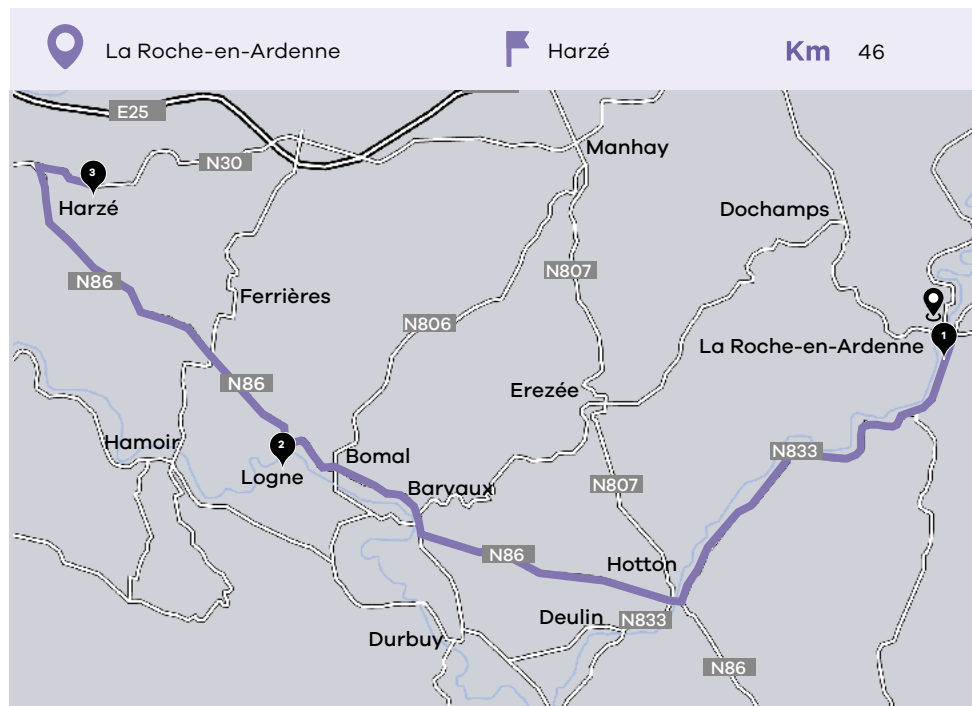


# By car



## Along the River Ourthe and the Castles of the Ardennes

In the Ardennes, fortresses were erected along the Ourthe Valley to keep a close watch on its access. The history of some of them has sometimes ended in death and destruction. While others assumed the role of a manorial residence.





## Château de La Roche-en-Ardenne

Arriving in the little Ardennes' town, the ruins of the fortified castle blend in with the landscape and offer the classic image of the scenic Ardennes that has been represented on post-cards for more than a century. In the 12th century, right in the heart of the Ardennes' Forest, Henry the Blind, Count of Namur, built a castle to protect the passage of goods which were transiting on the English wool route to Lombardy. In the 16th century, the medieval architecture of the castle was no longer adapted to resisting cannons. The French occupied the site in the 17th century and transformed it according to Vauban's plans. Antiquated and quickly obsolete, the castle was forgotten in history and abandoned to brambles. In 1789, the inhabitants of the small town burned it down and used its ramparts of schist as a stone quarry until the early 20th century. When the railway arrived in La Roche, the ruins all of a sudden presented a high tourism potential, which has never faltered since... Miraculously, they survived the destruction of the town, which was 90% destroyed during the terrible winter of 1944-1945. The tour takes you back to how it was back in the day.

Open July and August from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April, May, June, September and October from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. From 7 November to 31 March, open during the week from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Open from 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. on weekends and during the holidays of Christmas, the Carnival and Easter.

Rue du Vieux Château 4  
6980 La Roche-en-Ardenne  
+32 (0) 84 41 13 42  
[www.chateaudelaroch.be](http://www.chateaudelaroch.be)



## Marcourt

What a magnificent panoramic viewpoint the site of Montaigu offers from La Roche-en-Ardenne to Hotton Road. The chapel, which houses the relics of Saint Thibault, was constructed on the foundations of a once very powerful castle which blocked the access to the Ourthe Valley. On the site, a fountain has become a place of pilgrimage, its waters have the reputation of healing fevers and tumours.

## Bomal

Built around 1774, *Château de Bomal* (Castle) is a great classical bluestone and brick dwelling. Situated at the confluence of the Ourthe and the Aisne rivers, it had an irrigation and pumping system which supplied the pond and the water jets of the park. It also supplied the miller with the necessary force to activate his mill. The new layout of the park, based on the theme of water, makes it possible to discover this old technique.



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## Château fort de Logne

When you venture into the Lembrée Valley, the *Château fort de Logne* (fortified Castle) dominates it and stretches out on a narrow rocky crest. Established at the border of the Princely Abbey of Stavelot, the site was an important strategic position. In the Middle Ages, from high up in their fortress of Logne, the lords imposed a tyrannical power on all the region. In 1427, Jean de Geuzaine, the Prince Abbot of Stavelot, short of money, pawned the castle, to the misfortune of the country to the despicable De La Marck Family. The country fell into chaos, experiencing pillaging, theft and murders. In 1521, Robert II de la Marck, supported by the King of France, François I, dared to declare war on his overlord, Charles Quint. Expunging this affront, the Emperor sent 20,000 men. Then, under the orders of Count Henry de Nassau, the Siege of Logne began on the 20th of April. Twenty cannons pounded the proud fortress from the neighbouring crests. In 11 days, the cannonball shots got the better of its ramparts, as powerful as they were. The defenders surrendered: they were hanged at the battlements. The castle was dismantled and abandoned. Nowadays, the ruins are the vibrant evidence of these last cruel and devastating combats. The remains of the castle shares its formidable and fearsome history with visitors.

Open from 1/07 to 31/08, daily from 11 am. to 6 p.m. Open from 3/04 to 12/11: from Monday to Friday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Open on weekends and public holidays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Rue de la Bouverie  
4190 Ferrières  
+32 (0) 86 2120 33  
[www.chateau-logne.be](http://www.chateau-logne.be)

## Deulin

A wonderful 18th century architectural ensemble, part of the Exceptional Heritage of Wallonia, is on display in Deulin. This classical-style castle boasts a vast courtyard. The left wing leads to the French formal gardens. Along the River Ourthe, Deulin's houses, half-timbered or built with rubble limestones, are lined up along the river, like the fairway of a little port – very charming...



## Château de Harzé - The Giant of Stone

What a presence! Established on a hillock, the manorial residence dominates the little village of Harzé. The 17th century main building offers a stone façade, interspersed with high windows where the rooms of the castle turned hotel are located – if you are staying as a guest, you can immerse yourself in the Renaissance period. The superb façade of the courtyard, considerably pierced with bay windows, opens on the ground level onto a typically Renaissance gallery with Tuscan order columns... A stone bridge crossing the old moats leads to a large farmyard surrounded by buildings and towers which house the Milling and Baking Museum.

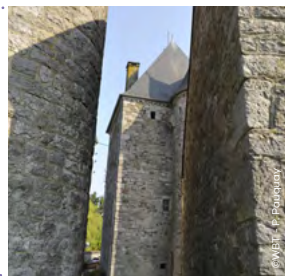
The castle cannot be visited, only the park allows visitors. Rooms available from €60. The castle's restaurant is "La P'tite Auberge".

Rue de Bastogne, 1  
4920 Harzé  
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[www.chateau-harze.be](http://www.chateau-harze.be)



### Donjon d'Izier

The keep stands in the heart of the small village and seems to crush it with its mass. Located in La Ferme de la Tour (farmyard), it is a square-shaped tower, 10 metres wide. This former seigneurie was undoubtedly part of the County of Durbuy and ensured its defence. The keep is private and cannot be visited.



### Grimonster

Along a small road leading to Rouge-Minière, one of the most beautiful castles in the region can be found. It is hidden in a deep valley where two streams flow: the Pouhon and Pourceau Pré, which supply two ponds – a paradise for birds. Situated amid deciduous woodlands, the *Château de Grimonster* (Castle) had a peaceful history, like the nature reserve which surrounds it. The park has given way to serene pastures, while remarkable trees have been preserved. The castle is private and cannot be visited.



# On foot



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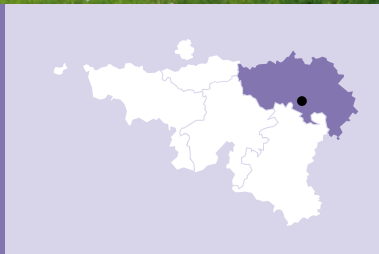
## Towards the Heights of the *Château de Harzé*

Right beside the castle, a road brings you higher to the heights of Harzé village. At the top, wildflowers flatten under the hot wind. From this special light, which floods the meadows, head towards the half-light in the lovely **Saint-Roch Woods**, which are adorned with spring tones of soft green.

The Ardennes then start in the forest. Descend towards **La Levée**: a chapel and four sprawling houses make up the hamlet, splendid in its isolation. As you go along the **Pouhon stream**, discover 1 km to the right the lovely **Saint Anne Chapel**, situated in a green setting. Its construction dates back without doubt to the 16th century. During this period, the iron industry was a very widespread activity in the region and gave rise to numerous forges and furnaces along the streams and rivers. The driving force of the water wheels activated the bellows which then activated the fires of the furnaces.

With the development of this activity, the population increased around Harzé. Then, wishing to have a place of worship, a chapel was constructed near the forges.

The itinerary continues and climbs. You will then see the entrance to **Ernonheid**, a village of crests where the wind blows. In the hollow, where you are better protected from the elements, we reach **Trou de Bosson**. At the top of the hill, **Paradis** (meaning paradise or heaven) appears: a really lovely name for a village...



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### Starting Point

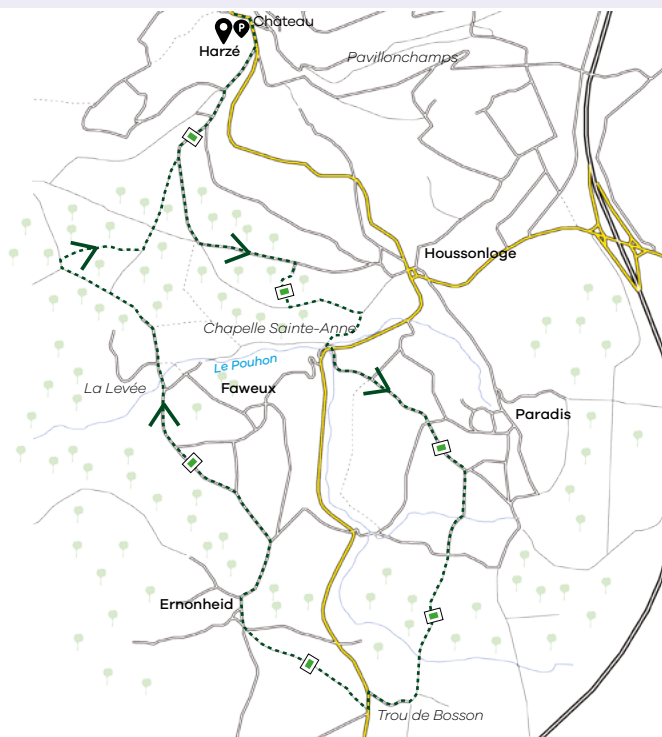
Château de Harzé (Rue de Bastogne 1, 4920 Aywaille) where a signpost for the start of the walks is located.

### Car Park

Spaces available opposite Harzé Castle.

**Km****13****4H****MARKINGS**

Green rectangle n°30

**DIFFICULTY**

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

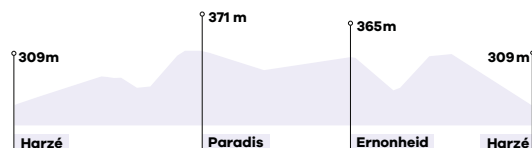
### Tip

Good walking shoes are recommended for this route. At the hamlet of La Levee, there is a little detour to reach the Saint Anne Chapel, by turning right just after crossing the *Pont du Pouhon* (bridge).

### Difficulty

A challenging walk with hills from Harzé and at Trou de Bosson.

### Gradient gain



# By bike



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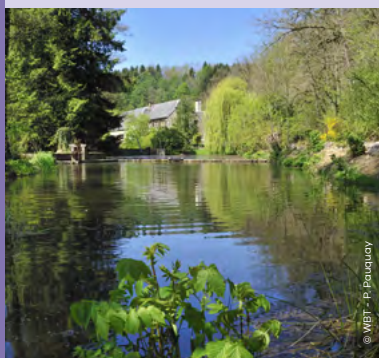
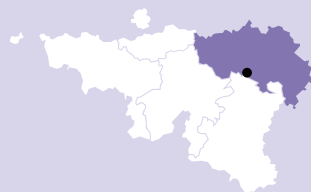
## Around the *Château de Logne*

Cycle on the pretty route running along the Lembrée Valley. Thanks to the project LIFE, the hillsides have been developed into chalk grasslands and remind you of the times when pastoralism punctuated life in Logne.

On leaving the river, the itinerary joins the ridge line. There is a descent and then you arrive in My, a lovely limestone hamlet enhanced by its farm-castle.

The discovery continues when the walk reaches the banks of the Lembrée river where the old mill is nestled. Follow a stony path leading to Ferrières. This pretty place is an ideal stop taste the local artisan ice cream.

Leaving the shady esplanade, the route travels through the Condroz region. At a farm, the route becomes a track and approaches the edges of the valley where Logne Castle stands out from the horizon, proud of its might. The same vision that Charles Quint's troops must have had, as they assembled, eager for vengeance...



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### Starting Point

At the *Ferme de la Bouverie* (rue de la Bouverie, 4190 Ferrières), follow the markings, direction Sy.

### Car park

At the *Ferme de la Bouverie*.



Km

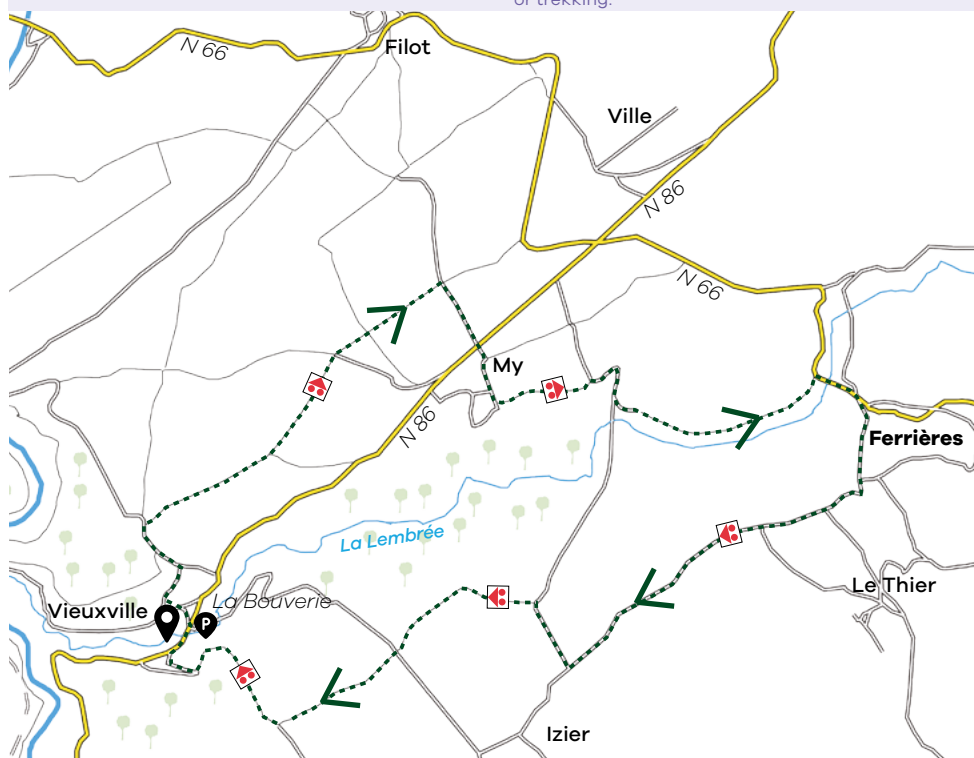
13



2H00

HYBRID BIKE  
or trekking.

DIFFICULTY



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

### Type of Route

Country roads and forest paths.

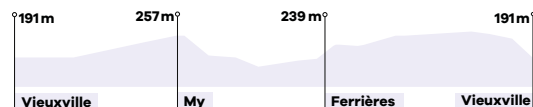
### Markings

Follow the VTT markings of red circles and triangles.  
Markings are deficient in places. Bring our map with you.

### Difficulty


13 km (10 miles). A mountain bike is advised for cycling on the country tracks.

### Gradient gain



Follow us

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### **The Ultimate Belgian Getaway**

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