

# VISITWallonia.be

## The romantiscism of the Condroz Region

**Amid Fortifications and Romantic palaces**

Driving, walking and cycling tours

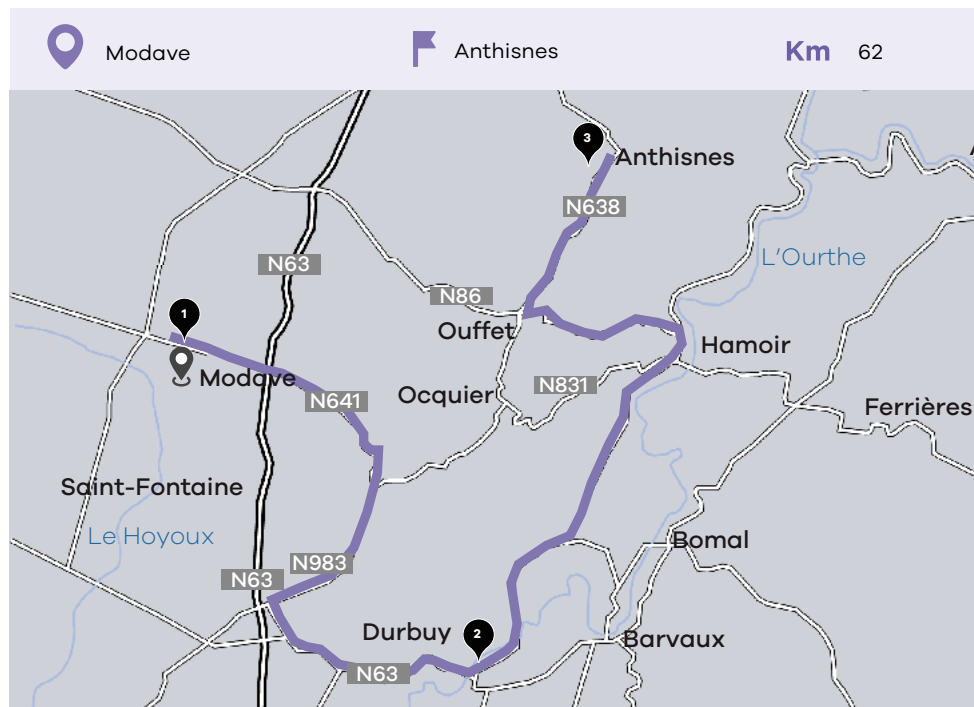


# By car



## The Romanticism of the Condroz Region Amid Fortifications and Romantic Palaces

The tranquillity of the Condroz region inspires a peaceful and stress-free adventure. Its landscapes are characterised by a succession of crests, amidst fields and wooded areas. A series of pretty grey stone villages also pepper the landscape as do romantic palaces.





### Timeless Saint-Fontaine...

Around Saint-Fontaine, ponds and streams are typical elements of a hamlet's place amidst nature. Nothing disturbs the gentle way of life that reigns there. Dominating the few scattered houses made of rough-cut limestone sits the imposing classical-style castle was built in 1820. The other notable building is the *Chapelle Notre-Dame* (Chapel of Our Lady), a 12th-century Romanesque building which is situated in its park. Curiously, Saint-Fontaine is not dedicated to any saint. Its name comes from a distortion of the Walloon term "cint", referring to a very large number of fountains and springs. The Saint-Lambert stream flows through the village: and you cross the village by wading through. A quirky experience!



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### Modave - The French Grand Siècle

This castle stands on a bluff of about sixty metres overlooking the River Hoyoux. The first fortification was built on this rocky peak overlooking the valley, but it was destroyed in 1256 and replaced by another fortress, which was in turn ravaged in 1483. In 1642, Jean-Gaspard de Marchin then acquired the castle and converted it into a manorial residence. An important element in these transformations was the creation of a water machine by a Liège carpenter, Rennequin Sualem. Marly's machine, a kind of large water mill, which allowed the River Hoyoux to reach the castle higher up to ensure domestic consumption and watering of the gardens. The model impressed the engineers at the time so much that Louis XIV commissioned him to install a similar installation to supply the fountains of his future Palace of Versailles. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the castle became a veritable princely palace, with the old farmyard turning into a stable for eighty horses! You can still admire the beautiful castle today with its courtyard, its pond and water jets, and its sumptuous gardens. Via a small bridge that spans the moats, you can enter this dwelling which is designed with rare refinement, which is worth a visit.

Open daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. from April 1 to November 15. Closed Mondays (except on public holidays and in July/August).

Rue du Parc 4  
4577 Modave  
+32 (0) 85 41 13 69  
[www.modave-castle.be](http://www.modave-castle.be)





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## Durbuy

Durbuy, the smallest city in the world, has an incomparable charm. With the *Château des Comtes d'Urse* (Castle) overlooking it and its winding cobbled streets, it retains a medieval aspect. The small landlocked town spills into the rock and attracts visitors from all over the world. It was established around 1050 when the first Counts of Durbuy built a castle on a rocky mound, by a twist of the River Ourthe. The outer courtyard and the future town was established between a hillock and the rock face of the anticline and still has the same layout today. The city was from then on an advanced defensive line, facing the powerful Principality of Liège. It developed around its castle in the 14th century and was given many privileges: it was proud to be designated a city, thus becoming the smallest city in the world!

6940 Durbuy

+32 (0) 86 21 24 28

<https://durbuytourisme.be/>

### La Tour d'Ouffet (Tower)

This remarkable rough-cut limestone ensemble dates from the 17th and 18th centuries. It was built on the foundations of a medieval tower, dating back to the 13th century. Its restoration in 1987 put it back to its full glory.



### The Hoyoux

Flowing into a deep valley, the River Hoyoux brought natural and economic wealth to a predominantly rural region. The river flows from the heights of the Condroz of the Namur region for 24 kilometres. With an average gradient of 9.50 metres per kilometre, it is the fastest river in Belgium. The strength of the Hoyoux current once enabled the operation of many mills. They shredded wheat for millers, the bark of trees for tanners, barley for brewers and flaxseed for oil merchants... In 1891, despite the progression of steam, there were still many factories operating on waterpower from Huy to Royseux.

## Avouerie d'Anthisnes

The ecclesiastical seignery of Anthisnes depended on Waulsort Abbey and Stavelot for over eight centuries. To protect its lands, the seignery was protected by an "advocate" in the service of the lord abbot who lived in an advowson (*avouerie*). The keep, which is the oldest part of the advowson, dates back to the 12th century. Once surrounded by an outer wall and equipped with a flat roof lined with battlements, it enabled the defence of the square and the villagers who took refuge there. Its appearance has changed very little since then. Encompassing the old tower, the rest of the castle was built in 1648, in the Mosan Renaissance style. Only about 60% of it remains today, some parts of which have been destroyed in fires. The outbuildings were converted into small labourers' houses. The tower is currently home to the small *Musée de la Bière et du Peket* (Beer and Peket Museum)..

Open from Tuesday to Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Avenue de l'Abbaye 19  
4160 Anthisnes  
+32 (0) 4 383 63 90  
[www.avouerie.be](http://www.avouerie.be)



© FTPL - P. Fagnoul



© WBT - Pierre Pourquay

### Ferme Saint-Laurent d'Anthisnes (Farm)

This vast rough-cut limestone architectural ensemble is the oldest building in the village of Anthisnes. Completely renovated in the 17th century and then destroyed in 1897 by arson, the *Ferme Saint-Laurent* underwent a new change in 1994 when the *Société Régionale Wallonne du Logement* (Walloon Regional Housing Authority) rebuilt the three wings into social homes.



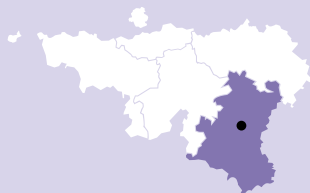
# On foot



© Château de Modave

## Around the *Château de Modave*

From the castle, walk along the beautiful beech tree avenue, a natural extension of this gem of national heritage. You then cross the woods that lead you to **Petit-Modave**, a village that has disappeared. By decree of King Leopold II, water catchments were drilled in the surrounding area to ensure a particularly healthy and pure water supply to Brussels, at the expense of the hamlet's destruction. The walk runs along the nature reserve via a beautiful path in an undergrowth of alders where the area is wet and the land is rich. At the top, isolated from the world, you can walk alongside a large farm, amidst its crops. At the bottom, as you walk down, there's a surprise. **Val Tibiémont** gives the impression of you stepping back in time. This forgotten hamlet, surrounded by woods and bathed by the Hoyoux, represents one of the loveliest images of the Condroz region: nothing here disturbs the absolute calm. A sensation you will also experience when visiting the **Château de Modave**.



© WBFL-J. Flémal



© WBFL-Dominik Kott

### Starting Point

From the avenue of the *Château de Modave* (Rue du Parc 4577 Modave), follow the path to the right.

### Car Park

At the *Château de Modave*.

Km 7,5



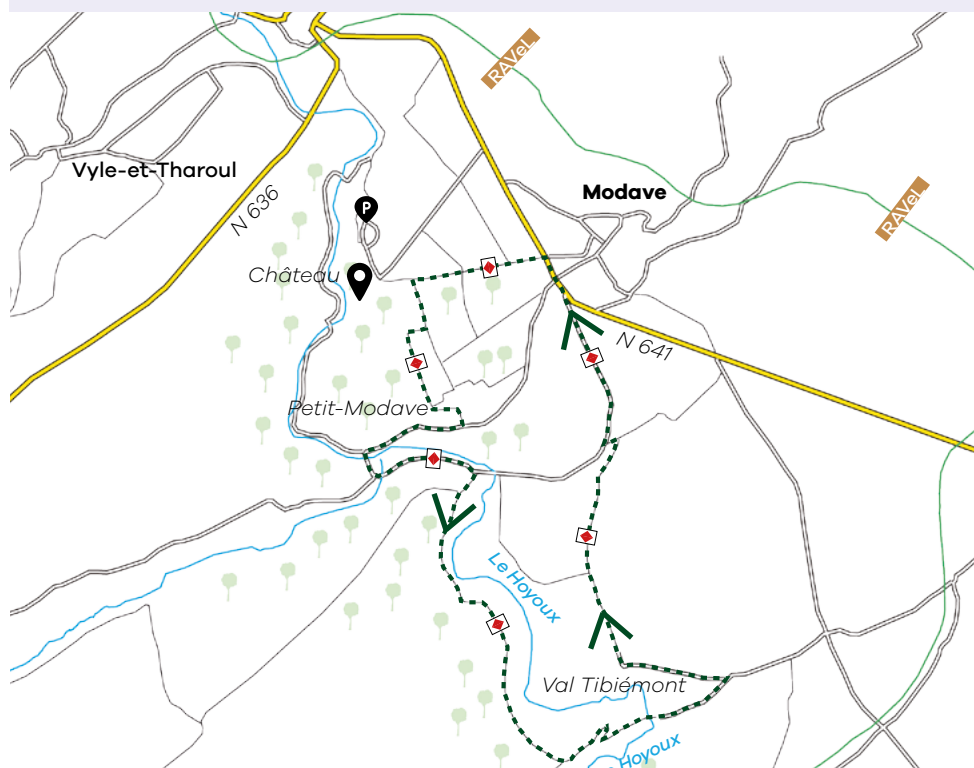
2H15

MARKINGS



Red diamond

DIFFICULTY



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

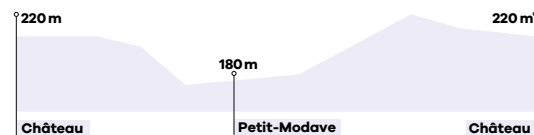
### Tip

In spring, the undergrowth is covered with thousands of flowers.

### Difficulty

Steep path towards Petit-Modave.

### Gradient gain



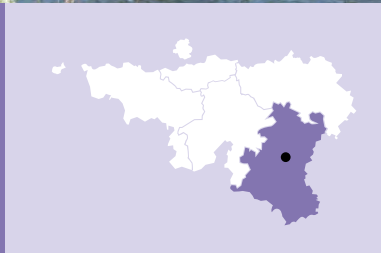
# By bike



© WBT - Pierre Baudouy

## Around Durbuy

From the first few metres, you go past a succession of hills allowing you to contemplate the beautiful landscape of this buffer region - Calestienne, **between the regions of the Condroz and the Ardennes**. To the west undulating meadows gently stretch out, while to the east, the hills are covered with forests. Follow the road down and you reach **Grandhan**, flanked by the River Ourthe. The **points-noeuds** (intersecting routes) avoid high-traffic roads by crisscrossing little known side roads such as the one near Fronville. You'll find the River Ourthe gently crisscrossing a big meadow here. After following the banks, you reach the charming town of **Hotton** before continuing on your way. As we approach **Ny**, on the border between the Famenne and the Ardennes, the narrow road is a beautiful ride. Once you reach the end you come to a small hill - Biron, on the edge of the **Megalithic fields of Wéris**. Once you've crossed this hill in Tour, a side road leads to the busy town of Barvaux and the city of Durbuy. It's utterly charming out of season, away from their summer crowds.



© WBT - Pierre Baudouy



© WBT - Bruno Dallmonke

### Starting Point

Place de Durbuy, the *point-noeud* 7 marks the start of this ride.

### Car park

Large free car parks at the entrance to Durbuy, from Somme-Leuze.



Km 39,4

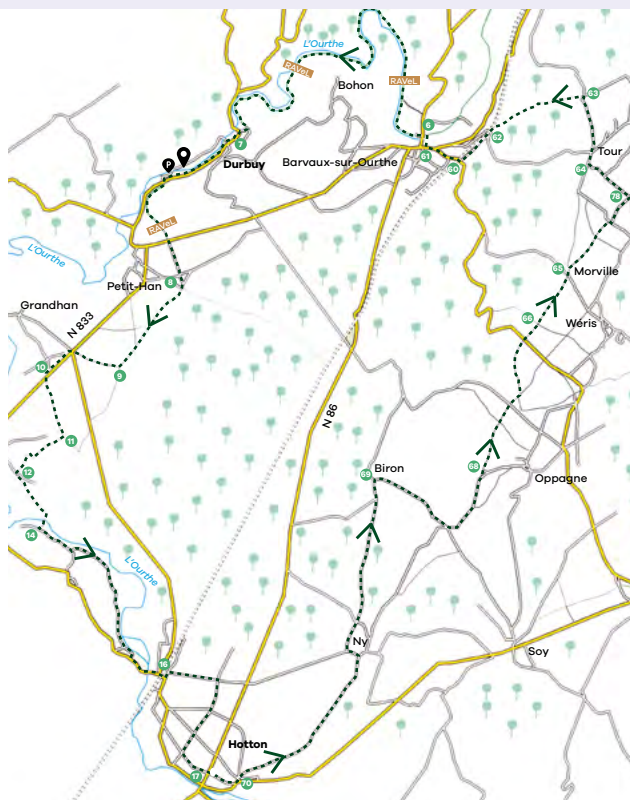


4H00



HYBRID BIKE

DIFFICULTY



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

### Type of Route

RAVeL and country roads.

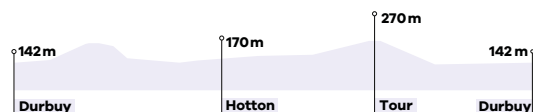
### Markings

Follow the point-nœuds (intersecting routes) 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 70, 69, 68, 66, 65, 78, 64, 63, 62, 60, 61, 6 and 7.

### Difficulty


Little difficulty on this route taking place exclusively on small roads and the RAVeL.

### Gradient gain



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### **The Ultimate Belgian Getaway**

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