

From the Borinage to the Centre Region

Castles in the Heart of Walloon industry

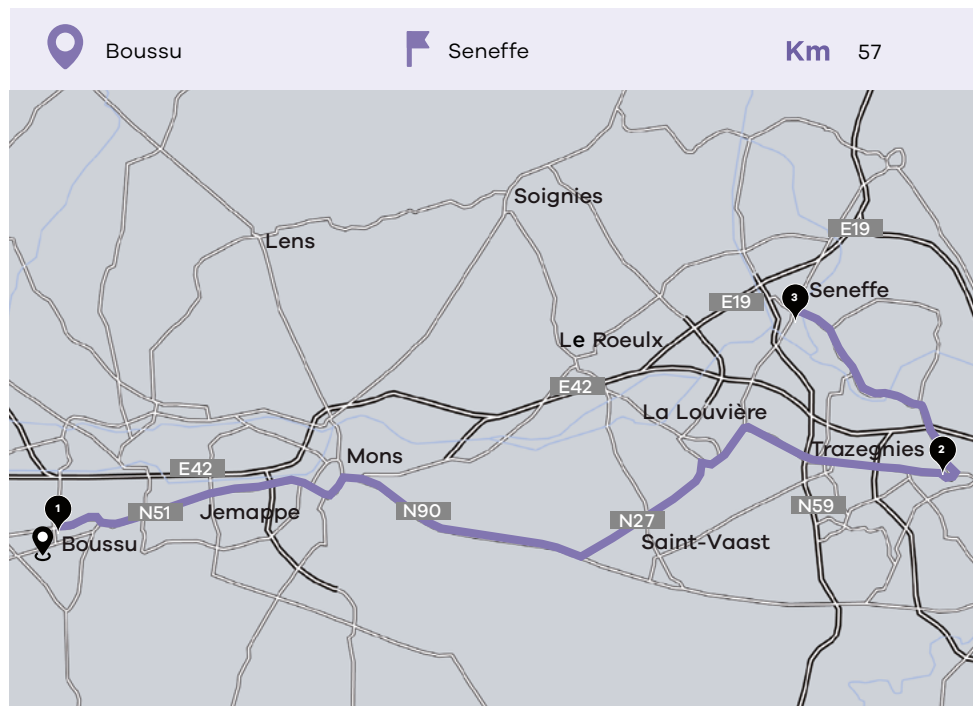
Driving, walking and cycling routes





From the Borinage to the Centre Region Castles in the Heart of Walloon Industry

From the extreme west of Wallonia to the Centre region, this route explores the residential palaces located in the heart of a region rich in industrial history.





1

Château de Boussu (Castle)

Built in the marshy valley of the Haine, the medieval Château de Boussu (13th century) underwent a complete overhaul of its architecture in the 16th century, becoming the first Renaissance-style castle built north of the Loire. Designed by architect Jacques Du Broeucq, however, this king's castle was never finished. The castle was destroyed at the end of the Second World War. Only the entrance Châtelet of the castle remains, which has been extensively renovated. Listed as exceptional heritage in Wallonia, it is currently home to the Centre for Archaeological Interpretation. The latter is open to the public and presents the archaeological and historical collections covering the long history of the site, from the Gallo-Roman period to the German occupation during the Second World War. The Lapidary Museum and a 3D reconstruction complete this visit. In addition to its exhibitions, the site has a twelve-hectare English landscape park for lovely walks.

The park is open to the public daily: from March to October, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and from November to February, 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The interpretive centre is open from March to October, Thursday to Sunday from 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Rue du Moulin, 43
7300 Boussu
+32 (0) 65 77 82 65
chateauboussu.be

The Grand-Hornu in Saint-Ghislain

This former mining complex was built in the neo-classical spirit between 1810 and 1830, at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. It included not only workshops and offices, but also 450 dwellings, a school, a hospital, a library, a dance hall... like a real town. The site was abandoned in 1954. After restoration, it now houses the CID (Centre for Innovation and Design) and the MAC's (Museum of Contemporary Arts). A stimulating and inspiring visit combining remembrance and contemporary art.



Beffroi de Mons

Recognised as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, this 87-metre-high building is the only Baroque-style belfry in Belgium. A proud symbol of Mons identity, the belfry was erected in the 17th century. An interpretive centre dedicated to its history and its close links with that of the city is located there.



2

Château de Trazegnies

The *Château de Trazegnies* was the seat of a powerful seigneurie and the birthplace of one of Europe's most illustrious families. So the castle had to be worthy and up to scratch! Built-in the 11th century, the castle of Lord Gilles I was attacked by the troops of King Henry II of France in 1554. Destroyed and ransacked, it was rebuilt at the end of the 16th century. At the beginning of the 17th century, the beautiful main building was built in a Louis 13th style, rare evidence of this style in Belgium. A listed historical monument since 1950, it has undergone several phases of restoration. The castle organises various exhibitions, artistic or historical. The visit of the castle is complemented by that of its magnificent park. Note the plane tree, a remarkable 300-year-old listed tree that majestically adorns the castle's courtyard.

Open Sundays and public holidays from 3 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., May to September. Guided tour only.

Place Albert I^{er} 32

6183 Courcelles

+32 (0) 71 45 10 46

www.chateaudetrazegnies.be



The Mundaneum à Mons

Often dubbed the world's first Google, The Mundaneum is an exceptional archive centre and exhibition space within an Art Deco building. Listed in UNESCO's 'Memory of the World' Register, it is an important documentary heritage. Created at the end of the 19th century, the project aimed to collect and index all the world's knowledge. The Mundaneum became a universal documentation centre and, during the first half of the 20th century, was the cradle of international humanist institutions.

Château de Seneffe

Built between 1763 and 1769 according to the plans of Laurent-Benoît Dewez, the *Château de Seneffe* is a marvel to the eye. With its columns, pediments and capitals, the castle is a fine example of the neo-classical style. In its rooms with their opulent décor and furnishings, it houses the most beautiful collection of silverware in Belgium. You can also enjoy the exceptional outdoor setting as you stroll through the French formal garden and the English landscape park. You can also discover a magnificent aviary, a theatre or even a pond with an island connected to the bank by a very romantic bridge. You can visit the site using an app on your smartphone. Finally, sample the flavours of the Enlightenment in a tea room with a pretty décor of yesteryear.

Open daily except non-holiday Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Rue Lucien Plasman, 7-9

7180 Seneffe

+32 (0) 64 55 69 13

www.chateaudeseneffe.be



The Centre Region's Historic Canal

In La Louvière, we keep looking up to admire four monsters of steel over a century old: the boat lifts of the Canal du Centre are the only ones in the world still in working order. All along the canal, there are civil engineering structures such as swing bridges, drawbridges... At the end of the 19th century, the Centre region's mines were isolated, making it difficult to transport ore to major cities and the north of the country. Development involved building a canal! A technical feat for the time since it was necessary to make up for 66 metres of height difference over 22 kilometres. The canal became the economic artery of Wallonia.



The Bois-du-Luc

The Bois-du-Luc mining site has a 300-year history. Entire generations of workers lived here independently: they were born and died in Bois-du-Luc. The site, now a museum, included industrial buildings, a school, a hospice, a bandstand, labourers' houses and a church. During a walk in this preserved microcosm, you will discover all the workings of a coal mine, and the work, the workers day to day lives, the story of the workers from various backgrounds. The Bois-du-Luc mining site is an exceptional testimony to the industrial era and is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On foot



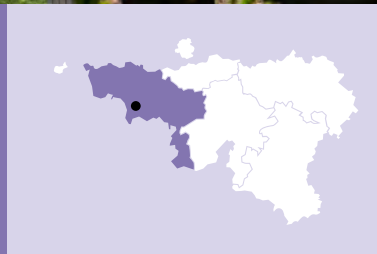
© Dominique Le Senneff arbi - François Vauvion-DOMANE DE SENEFFE

By the Castle of Seneffe

Start this walk at the Seneffe town centre tourist office. Head towards Rue Lintermans to join the towpath, along the river. Pass lock number 14 until you reach 'Noire Bouteille' (which gets its name from the old bar nearby). Continuing along you'll see the "*Théâtre du Château de Seneffe*" on your left. Still on the towpath, you then cross rue de la Maffle to find lock n ° 13.

A little further along, you'll arrive at the 'Pont d'Origine', which you cross. This bridge gets its name from the fact that it was at this point that the navigation fee tax was calculated, according to the tonnes per kilometre. Turn left to reach lock number 12 before continuing on your route to reach the Godarville tunnel. Come out of the towpath on the right, at the house, and turn left into Rue du Bois Roulez.

Then take Rue Lucian Plasman where you see the Seneffe castle sign. It leads you to the entrance of the main courtyard of the castle. Take the tree-lined lane away from the castle to reach Seneffe centre. Turn right back onto the towpath to reach your starting point.



© WBT - Bruno Dall'Monte

Starting Point

Office du Tourisme de Seneffe
(Tourist Office) - Place de Penne
d'Agenais 13 - 7180 Seneffe.

Car park

Rue Lintermans.

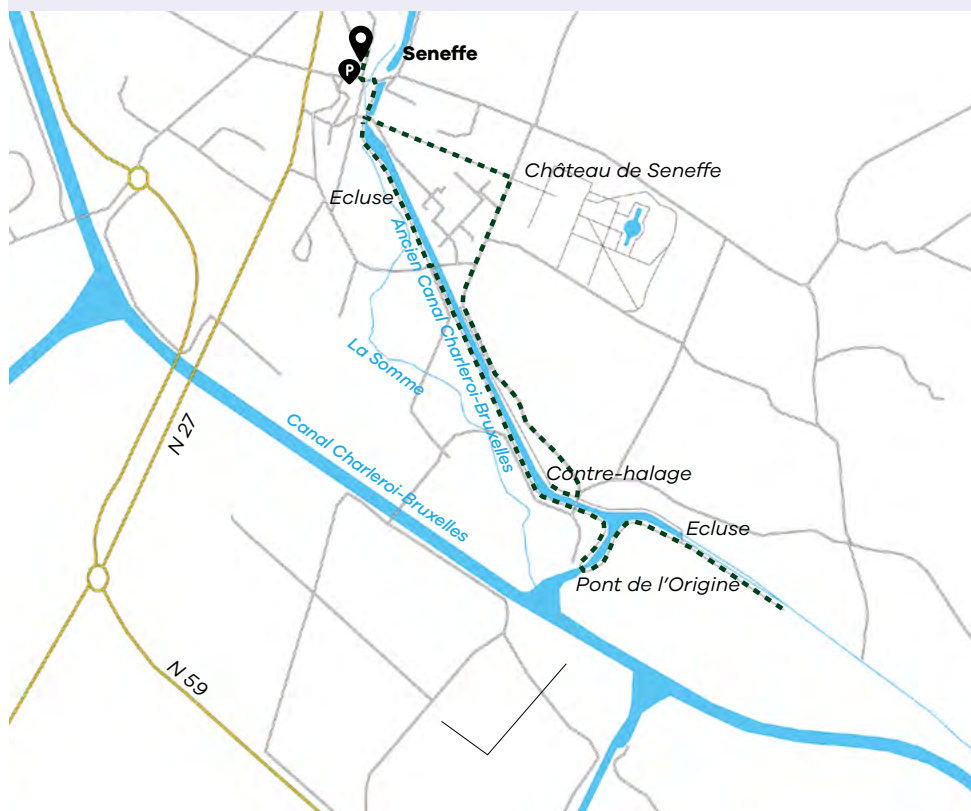
Km 6,5



2H

Unmarked route

DIFFICULTY ●○○



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

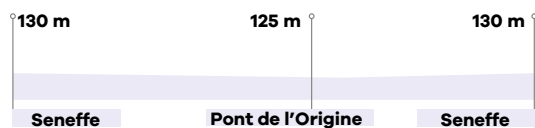
Tip

Don't forget to make a detour to visit the 18th century *Château Seneffe*.

Difficulty

An easy walk which mainly follows the towpath.

Gradient gain



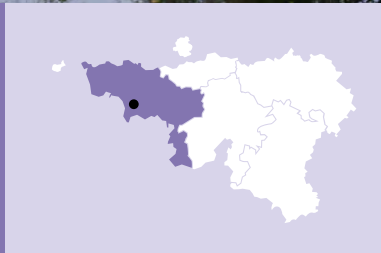
By bike



© WBT - P. Paquay

Around the *Château de Seneffe*

This walk begins by following the pre-RAVeL (L 141) in a **hilly region**, full of groves, hawthorn hedges and alignments of willows and ash trees. At the entrance to Arquennes, the **listed bridge**, built by a certain Gustave Eiffel, is in perfect harmony with the stone houses and cobbled streets. From the bridge, you follow the **old Charleroi-Brussels Canal**, which is full of charm. Along this ancient waterway, you immerse yourself in the nostalgic atmosphere of the reaches and lock-keepers' houses. The journey along the canal continues to **Ronquières**, where its **Inclined Plane** is located, which allows barges to recover the 68 m of height difference; a civil engineering structure that you follow along the regional route (W4). Canals and rivers. When you return to Seneffe, your journey ends at its magnificent castle.



© WBT - B. D. m. n. t. e



© WBT - Olivier Point-Ecluse

Starting Point

From the Rue Lintermans, walk along the supermarket to join the RAVeL line L 141.

Car park

Rue Lintermans.

Km

27

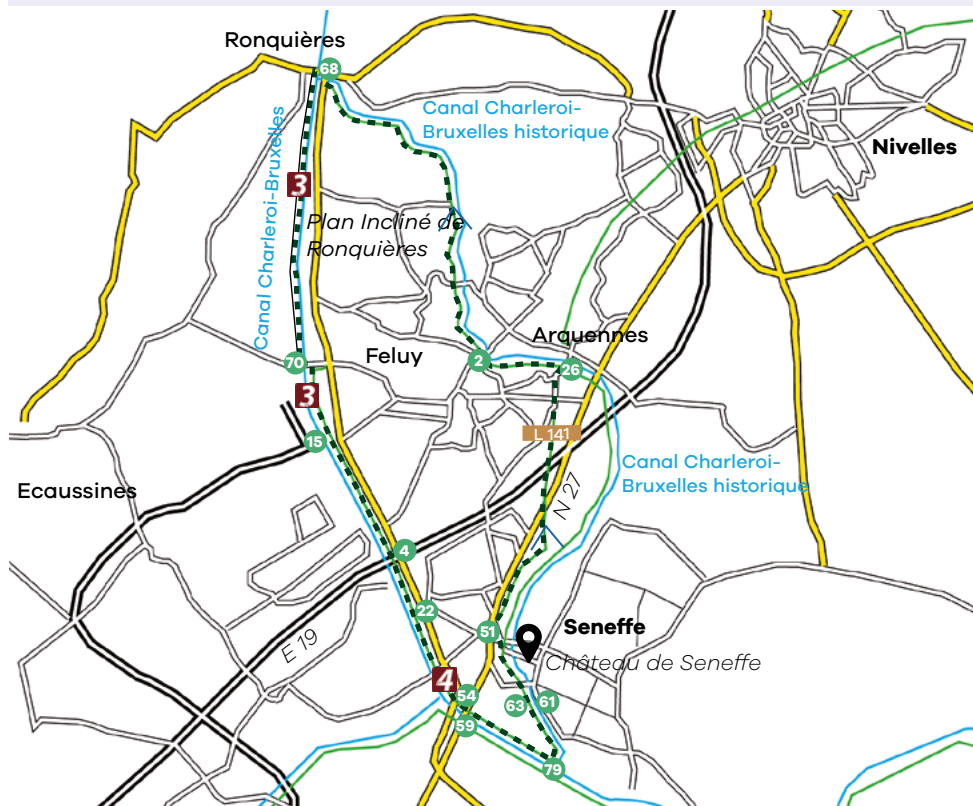


2H40



HYBRID BIKE

DIFFICULTY



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

Type of Route

Paved RAVeL.

Markings

Follow the point-nœuds (intersecting routes) **51, 26, 2, 68, 70, 15, 4, 22, 59, 79, 63** and **61**.

Difficulty


An easy dedicated trail.


Gradient gain





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VISITWallonia.be

The Ultimate Belgian Getaway

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