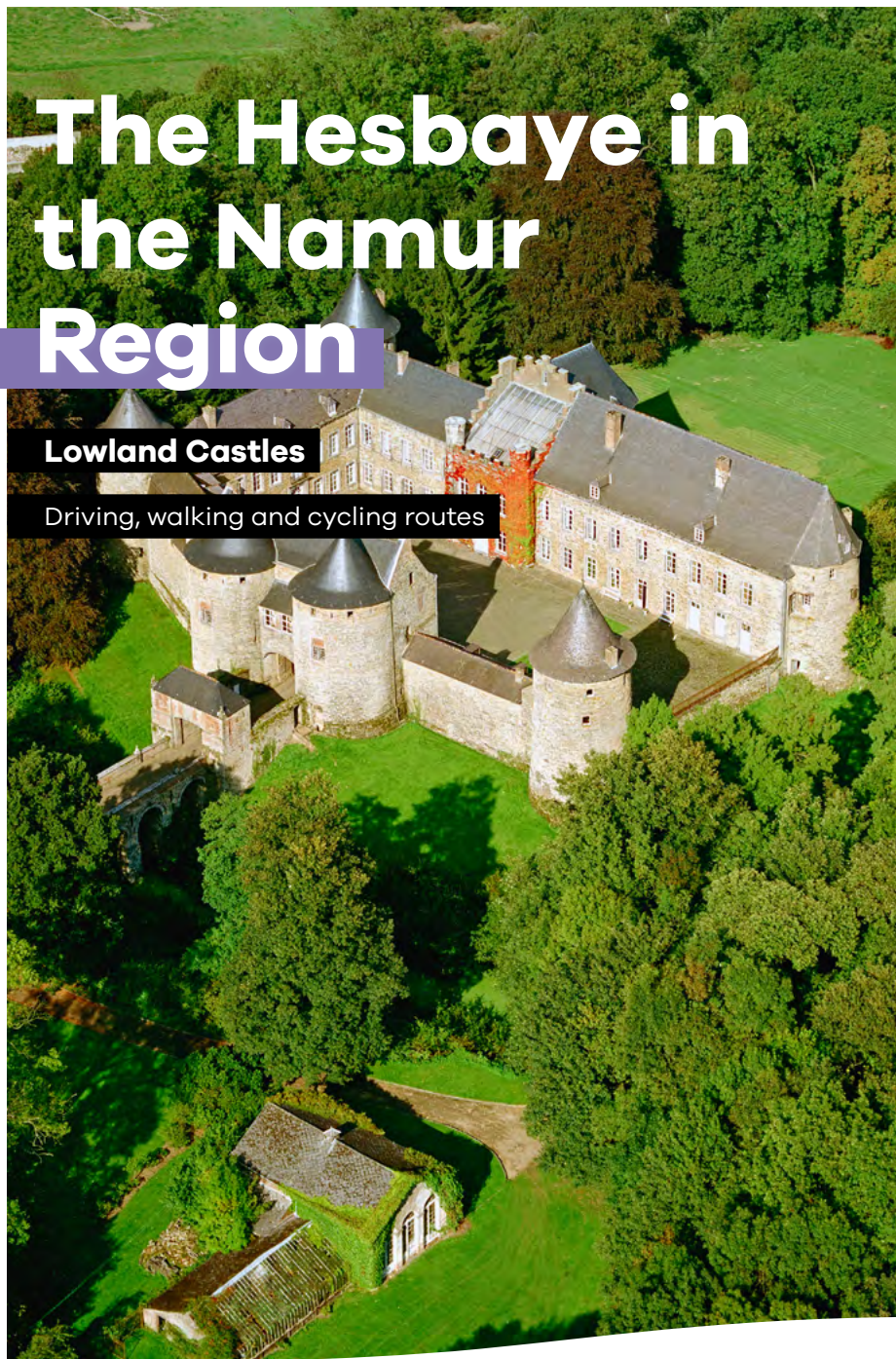


# The Hesbaye in the Namur Region

**Lowland Castles**

Driving, walking and cycling routes

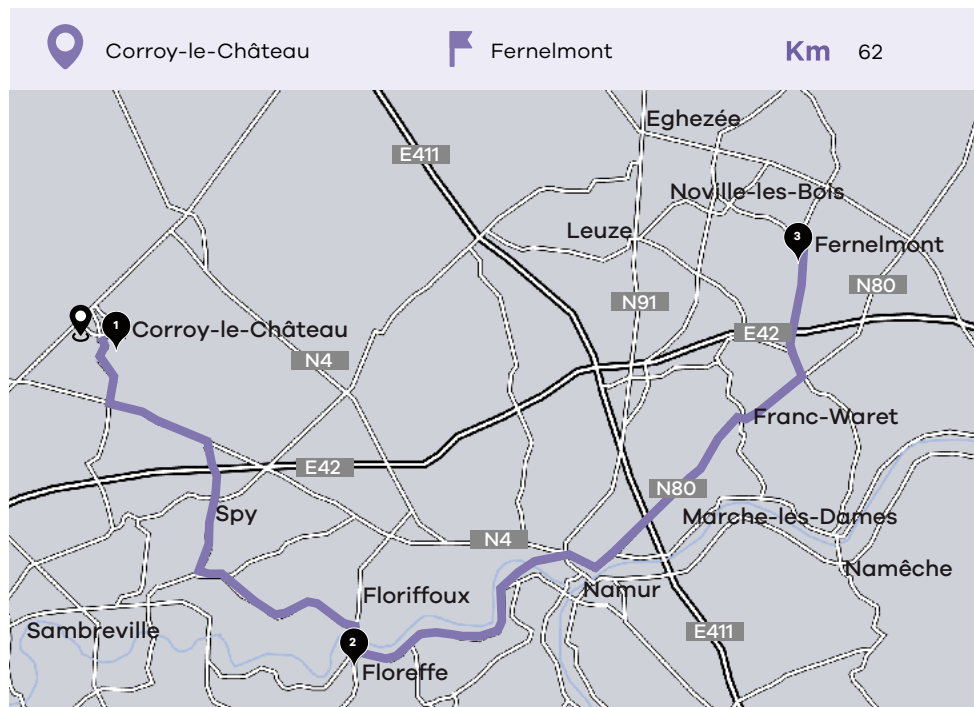


# By car



## The Hesbaye in the Namur Region Lowland Castles

All along the way, magnificent castles can be found on the vast plain of the Hesbaye in the Namur Region, one of the country's breadbaskets.







1

## Château de Corroy-le-Château

Listed as major heritage of Wallonia, the Château de Corroy-le-Château (Castle) is one of the best preserved medieval lowland fortresses in northern Europe. It originated in the 13th century when a keep was built to defend the territory south of the Duchy of Brabant. Philippe de Vianden built the mighty castle, which is surrounded by moats, in the same century. On the other side of the drawbridge, residential buildings have undergone many redesigns over the centuries. It is now owned by the Marquis de Trazegnies.

Open Sundays and public holidays from May to September and every Saturday in July and August, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Rue du Château de Corroy, 4  
5032 Corroy-le-Château  
+32 (0) 81 63 32 32

[www.corroy-le-chateau.com](http://www.corroy-le-chateau.com)



## The Man of Spy

This beautiful story always fascinates people... Max Lohest and Marcel De Puydt, two teenagers with a passion for archaeology, discovered bones inside a cave in 1886, very different from Homo sapiens but similar to those discovered thirty years earlier, in Germany, in Neanderthal: where the man of Spy was discovered. With his stocky and robust physique, this hominid of prehistory was perfectly adapted to the harsh climatic conditions that prevailed in northern Europe at the time. An excellent hunter, this Neanderthal was endowed with an intelligence like ours: he was far from being the brute that was too often presented... He developed a complex culture. And yet, he disappeared around the year 28,000 BC: the enigma remains and has still not been solved. The Interpretive Centre here is therefore an enthralling invitation to discover our cousin, the Neanderthal man.



© WBT - JB Van Achter



© WBT - JB Van Achter

2

## Abbaye de Floreffe (Abbey)

Floreffe, a small village on the banks of the River Sambre, would go completely unnoticed without the amazing abbey that overlooks the region. Founded in 1121, it was built in a Romanesque style. Witnessing various conflicts, it was destroyed and rebuilt several times, multiplying architectural styles. The last major modification was the work of the architect Dewez, who added a neoclassical aspect, in 1770. The mill brewery, located below the abbey, kept a Romanesque look. It's one of the few examples of 13th century industrial architecture.

Guided tours daily from April to September at 1.30 p.m., 2.30 p.m., 3.30 p.m., 4.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. In July and August: two more visits at 10.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

Rue du Séminaire, 7  
5150 Floreffe  
+32 (0) 81 44 53 03  
[www.abbaye-de-floreffe.be](http://www.abbaye-de-floreffe.be)

## Beffroi de Namur (Belfry)

St. James' Tower, built at the end of the 15th century, was originally part of the town's wall. After the destruction of this wall, the tower was shortened by two floors and transformed into a belfry. It was set up to receive the curfew bell announcing the closing and opening of the town's gates. The tower retains its defensive aspect, a testament to the military architecture of the 14th century. The Beffroi de Namur is part of the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage Site list.



© WBT - P. Augustyn



### Rochers de Marche-les-Dames

Well known for its crags, Marche-les-Dames is a popular spot for rock climbers. It is also infamous for the tragedy that unfolded on February 17, 1934. On that day, King Albert I, a great lover of rock climbing, decided to climb up alone. His equipment was not comparable to current technical gear: simple hobnailed footwear and hemp ropes. The rock was cold and wet, but that didn't matter! The king had participated in other much more prestigious races in the Alps. At the end of the day and with no news of him, the Palace went in search of him. During the night, the lifeless body of the sovereign was found at the foot of the crag. The anomalies of the investigation, the supposed sound of a gunshot would fuel rumours about the circumstances of the fall...

### Château de Franc-Waret

This castle is a fine example of an aristocratic residence in the Namur region. Like other 18th-century residential palaces in the region, Franc-Waret is adorned with bricks and bluestones. The Property of Franc-Waret is enhanced with themed gardens: herbs, English landscape gardens, French-inspired gardens and the like... The castle can be hired for events.

3

### Le Château de Fernelmont

The Château de Fernelmont, surrounded by moats, blends perfectly with the landscape of the Hesbaye in the Namur region. Its tower entrance dates back to the 14th century. Its semi-circular turrets make it one of a kind. The rest of the castle was built in the 16th century and its characteristic square plan is flanked by four wings surrounding an inner courtyard. Contemporary art exhibitions are regularly held here.

Open Sundays from 2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., June to late October.

Rue des Combattants, 77

5380 Fernelmont

+32 (0) 81 81 25 39

[www.valleedelameuse-tourisme.be](http://www.valleedelameuse-tourisme.be)





# On foot



© WBT - P. Paquay

## Around the Abbaye de Floreffe

The path takes you along the River Sambre and its history. Behind you, **the Abbaye de Floreffe dominates** the landscape and is still flourishing, and has been for centuries. This haven of peace is far away from the hustle and bustle of the modern world. Along the way, we notice that the industrial era has left its mark on the landscape. The route runs along the river and passes by former stretches of the river and docks where the barges loaded the glasses of the Floreffe glassworks, limestone or lime. While the valley seems so peaceful now, just imagine the noise and dust that used to come from the coal mines of Floriffoux, Soye and Franière – during a walk down the industrial memory lane of the area.



© WBT - P. Paquay



© WBT - P. Paquay

### Starting point

From the sports complex, you reach Rue Joseph Hanse before crossing the Rue Mauditienne bridge.

### Car Park

Complexe Sportif de Floreffe.

Km

8



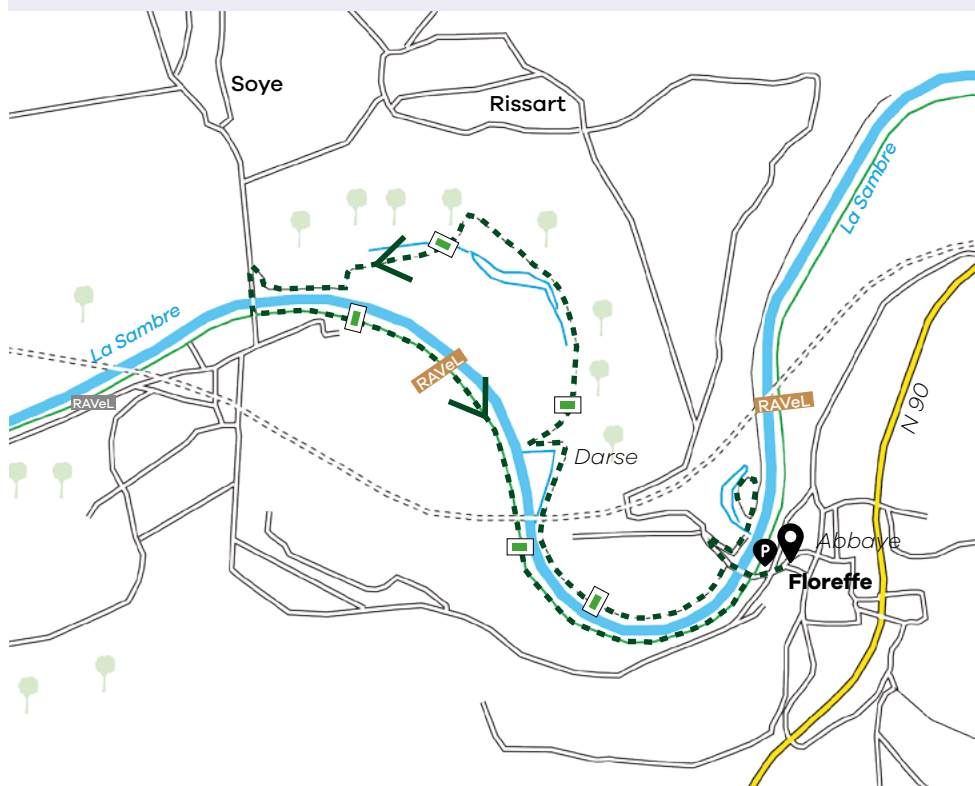
2H30

MARKINGS



Green rectangle

DIFFICULTY



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

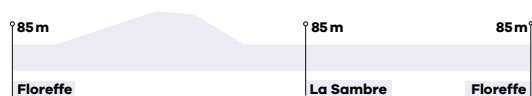
### Tip

Be sure to visit the abbey.

### Difficulty

A nice easy walk along the Sambre.

### Gradient gain

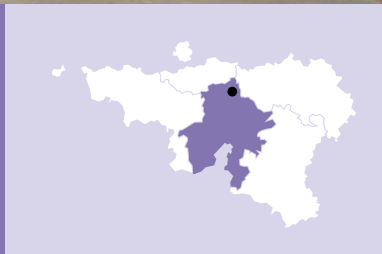


# By bike



## Around the Château de Fernelmont

This route crosses beautiful landscapes and peaceful countryside. After passing the last houses of **Noville-les-Bois**, you set off on the tracks of this enchanting ride. In Seron, the stream makes beautiful arabesques here and there in the meadows. You now reach the **Château-Ferme de Montigny**: this route is full of hidden treasures... In **Hanret**, the itinerary crosses the Hesbaye in the Namur region to reach in Leuze a small portion of the RAVeL coming from Namur. The return journey of this route takes you to bucolic and quiet spots.



### Starting Point

From the town square, make your way to the Rue des Combattants, to the left of the church.

### Car Park

Place communale (town square) of Noville-les-Bois.



Km 23,7

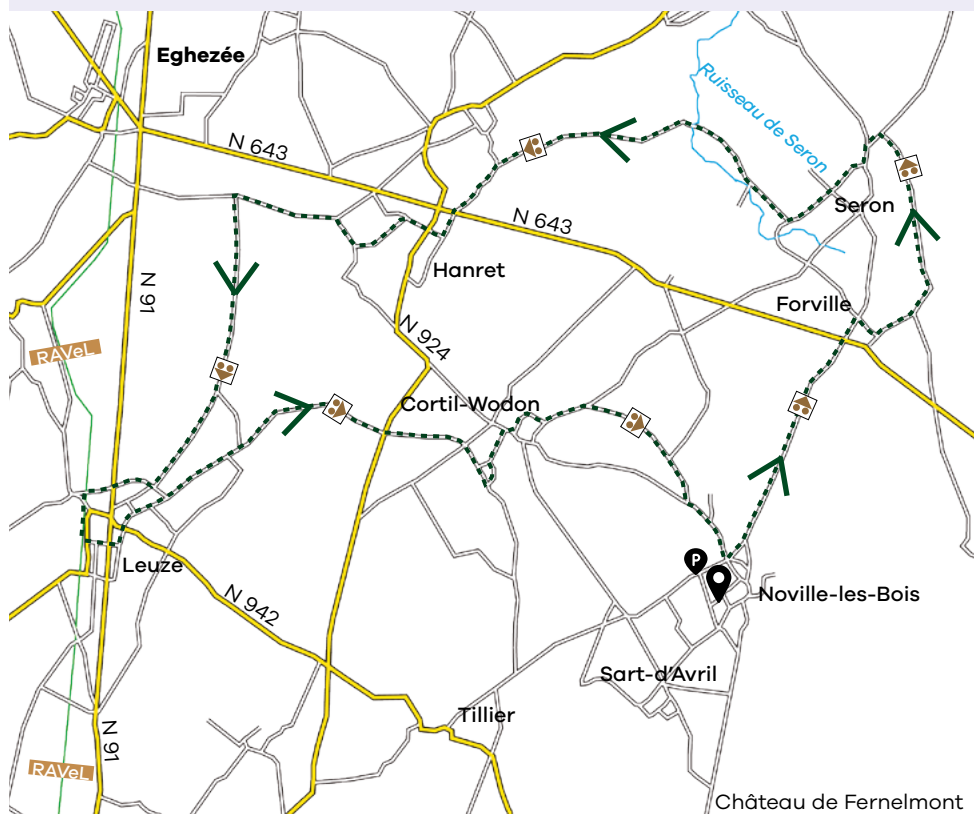


2H20



HYBRID BIKE

DIFFICULTY ●○○



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

### Type of Route

RAVeL and country roads.

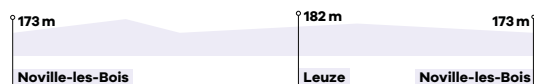
### Markings

Follow the triangle and brown circles.


### Difficulty

A trail without great difficulty that takes place on a slightly undulating terrain.

### Gradient gain



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## **VISITWallonia.be**

### **The Ultimate Belgian Getaway**

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