

VISITWallonia.be

Driving Wallonia

Six great routes to get your motor running in Southern Belgium

Scenic Roads

Military Memories

The Belgian Ardennes

Historical Towns, Museums & Race Tracks



The Ultimate Belgian Getaway

Welcome

... to our in-depth guide to the sights, attractions – and great driving roads – that little-known Wallonia has to offer

There's more to Belgium than Brussels and Bruges – that's what Wallonia wants you to know. Bordering France and located a scant hour and a half from the English Channel, the French-speaking region is closer than you think and has both the geography and the driving roads to entice any classic car fan. From the fast, never-ending turns that sweep through the Ardennes forest to tight, technical routes that huddle outside hamlets, around rocky outcrops and even up the side of Namur's centuries-old citadel, there's variety and enjoyment to spare.

Wallonia also wins over visitors with lush, often epic scenery, lazy rivers and a steady climate that ensures comfortable cruising between May and September. Average temperatures are similar to the UK's, so crisp autumn drives can be a pleasure, too. Then there's the menu. Friteries – roadside cafés that serve Belgium's iconic double-fried chips – are everywhere, restaurants swell with locally caught trout and mussels and the famous Trappist monasteries tempt with cheese and beer. Add two enticing car museums, Spa circuit and a cultural landscape that ranges from medieval ruins, through Waterloo, to memories of the Battle of the Bulge and the region becomes even more compelling. Cruising through the Ardennes and picking through medieval streets, a drive through Wallonia will stay in your memory forever.



Emma Woodcock

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TOURING WALLONIA

Wallonia covers more than 16,800 square kilometres – and that’s a lot. But don’t despair. We’ve dropped behind the thin-rimmed wheel of a 1970 MGB Roadster to explore the region and bring you our pick of the best routes to make your classic car touring holiday an unforgettable experience. Every Wallonian adventure is saturated with history, filled with lush forests and rich in drivers’ roads but each journey carries its own distinct flavour, too. If Waterloo beckons, try Route 6 – the battlefield sits near two other unmissable sights. Fancy something less obvious? Route 3 whisks drivers away from the beaten track to some of Wallonia’s most photogenic spots. Or you can keep it more car-focused, visiting the Mahymobiles collection circuit in Route 2 or exploring Spa-Francorchamps in Route 4. And no visit to the Ardennes is complete without a reflection on Belgium’s role in both world wars – find excellent museums and key locations in Routes 4 and 5.

1. Hit The Road

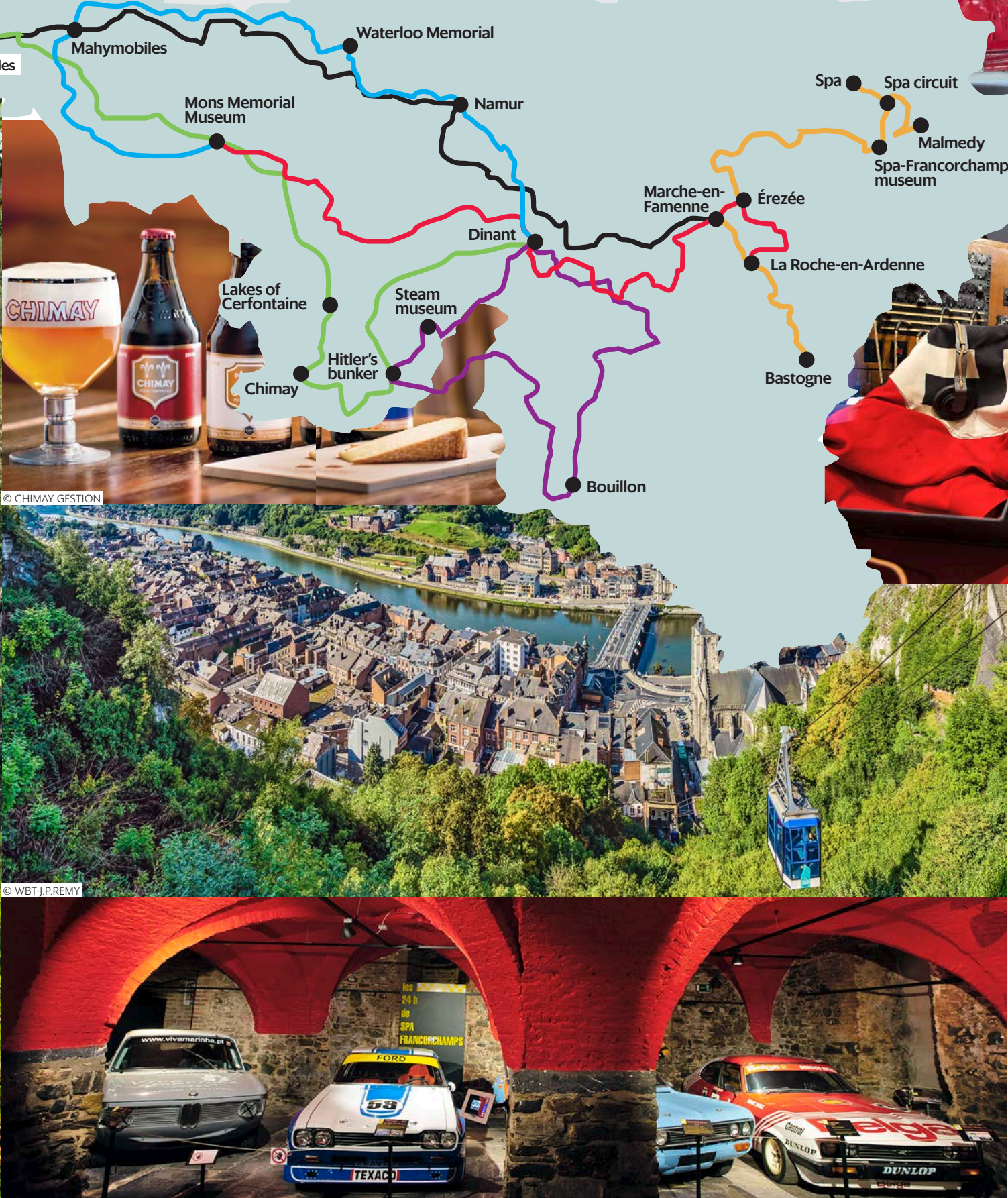
Tournai to Dinant
What to see? Tournai’s UNESCO-worthy belfry and cathedral, the lakes at Cerfontaine, the Château in Beloeil and Hitler’s hideaway in Brûly-de-Pesche.
Where to drive? The N598 over the tranquil lakes, the N59 to sample Wallonia’s customary mix of open fields and close-set villages, the roads around Brûly for compact twists in a tunnel of green.

2. Dig Deep

Tournai to Marche-en-Famenne
What to see? Mahymobiles for an excellent car collection, full of unrestored and premium vintage machines, the expansive Pairi Daiza zoo, a curious boat lift and a Huyssens baroque church in Namur.
Where to drive? The N947 outside Namur for thrills and the roads twisting up to the citadel for grandeur, unparalleled views and cobblestones.

3. Rounded Education

Dinant to Dinant
What to see? Château de Freÿr and its exacting gardens, bijou villages in Vresse and Redu, Ardennes panoramas in Rochehaut and Botassart.
Where to drive? The N935 to Membre, the N893 to Poupehan, the N810 to Bouillon – each offers the perfect mix of technical twists and dramatic scenery.



4. Ardennes Explorer

Bastogne to Malmédy
What to see? Bastogne’s museums and memorials for Battle of the Bulge history, Nisramont for natural tranquillity, Spa for the spa and Stavelot for top-end race cars.
Where to drive? Down the N616 for Ardennes isolation, over the N68 for cinematic twists and around the N62C to experience Spa’s racing history.

5. Military Memories

Mons to La Roche-en-Ardenne
What to see? The touching Memorial Museum in Mons, Hotton’s war cemetery, twin tanks and the jam-packed Museum of the Battle of the Ardennes.
Where to drive? The N86 south through Dinant for calming riverside views; the N841 and N89 for a swelling, thunderclap thrill into La Roche.

6. Turn Back Time

Mons to Dinant
What to see? Waterloo, the memorial museum and Hougomont Farm are a must, as is the ruined abbey at Villers and the still-standing citadel of Namur.
Where to drive? The meandering road to Villers for a cruise, the challenging N904 to Namur for fun and the fast N275 for a challenge.



1. HIT THE ROAD

As soon as you reach Wallonia, it's time to start exploring

Tournai to Dinant ▶ Distance 203km ▶ Time 3hr 30min

Just eight kilometres from the French border and 90 minutes from the Channel Tunnel, the city of Tournai is the medieval gateway to Wallonia. Clustered around the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, itself a UNESCO world heritage site that mixes Gothic and Romanesque styles, the centre delights with open squares, cobbled streets and cultural sights.

The remains of the 17th century citadel commissioned by King Louis XIV and the art gallery that houses a range of Impressionist works demand attention, but the city's most remarkable story is almost invisible.

Besieged in 1513 and held for the next five years, Tournai is the only continental European city to ever fall under the control of Henry VIII. One of the main towers built during the occupation – the Grosse Tour – still stands in the north of the city. Spy it from Rue de Rempart, then pick up the N7 for a leisurely cruise east through Leuze-en-Hainaut and the N526 heading south.

The pace soon slows, the route wandering through the centre of Beloeil, and a keen eye might spot the entrance to the local château. A multi-era building that sits within acres of pristine Baroque garden, it's well worth a stop. Nearby Chemin du Major offers another angle on the

▶ **Road-racing circuit**
▶ **Tudor tales**
▶ **Hitler bunker**

estate, skimming along the perimeter to offer a glimpse of the grounds' imposing water features.

If it's tranquil vistas you're after, the N90 and N59 track over open land to the expansive Lakes of Cerfontaine but that's no reason to miss Mons. Hungry travellers will welcome the restaurants that flank the main square here, while the Biercée Distillery in nearby Thuin will satisfy passengers looking for something stronger.

Fast twists lead on into Chimay where glimpses of Armco and coloured kerbing reveal that you're on the route of the Chimay road circuit, once host to Maserati 250Fs and straight-eight Bugattis, now a classic motorcycle racing venue. The town's streets fuss with antique terrace housing and the local Abbey is renowned for its brewery.

Amble south through the trees and turns of the Rue des Parconniers and Brûly-de-Pesche eventually appears. A short walk in the forest brings you to Wolf's Gorge – the secret base where Hitler resided in May and June 1940. His walking route and emergency bunker have both been preserved; to walk into the sparse concrete interior is unsettling but highly recommended.

Dinant, the birthplace of saxophone inventor Adolf Sax, echoes to jazz. The medieval fortress towers above the town, the local scenery rewards a Meuse river cruise and the restaurants tempt with popular *moules marinière*.

'The route of the Chimay road circuit, once host to Maserati 250Fs, is now a classic motorcycle race venue'

Tournai
Leuze-en-Hainaut
Mons



© ESPACE CHIMAY

MUST-SEE

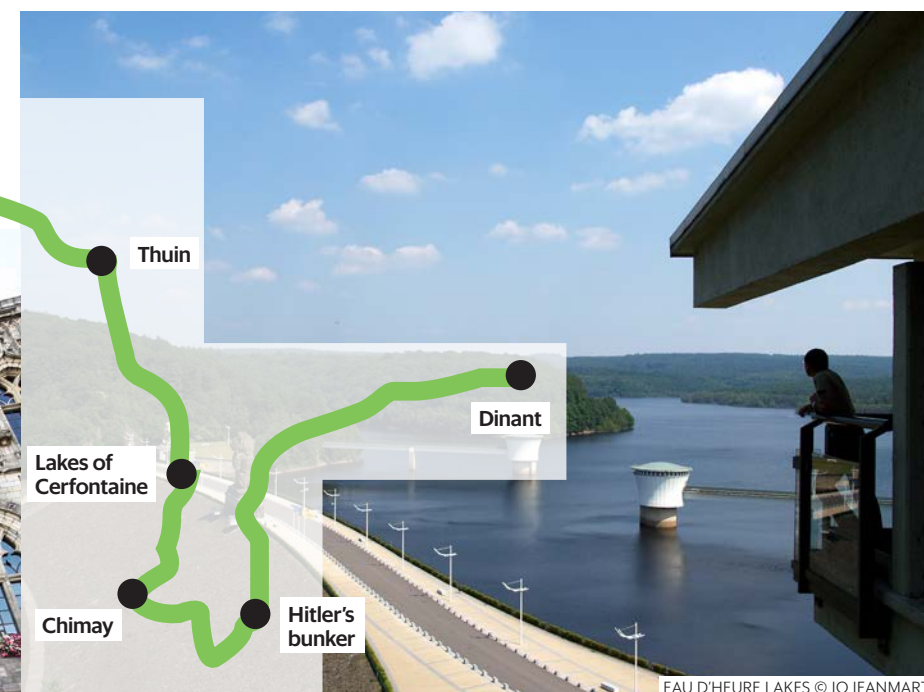
Tournai Belfry. Tournai city centre

Tournai is best seen from its 15th century belfry. Built on the site of the 1218 original after it burnt down, it's the oldest of Wallonia's seven belfries and the only one with outdoor viewing platforms. The second – and highest – balcony is a 257-step climb and scales most of the tower's 72m height. The cathedral view is spectacular but there's interest inside too – visitors can examine the oldest bell – dated to 1392 – up close and summer Sundays bring the chance to watch the carillonneur in action.

Address: Grand-Place de Tournai, Tournai

More Info: Open daily, between 9:30am and 12:30pm; 1:30pm and 5:30pm in summer, entry €2.10

Website: visittournai.be



MUST-DRIVE

N598, N978 and N907 around Eau d'Heure

Outside Cerfontaine

The five artificial lakes of Eau d'Heure offer unmissable views but are far too large to hike around. Instead, point your classic down the N907 and N978 for twists, viewpoints of Ry Jaune lake and showstopping sights as bridges carry you over the water. Finish by tracking up the N589 to enjoy the breathtaking contrast of a brimming lake on your left and fields far below to your right.



© VISITTOURNAI

2. DIG DEEP

Entertaining roads deliver you from one fascinating destination to the next, with charming towns and villages along the way

Tournai to Marche-en-Famenne
► Distance 216km ► Time 4hr 30min

Lovely as they may be, there's more to Wallonia than castles and lakes. A 20-minute blink from Tournai, Leuze-en-Hainaut snares unsuspecting petrolheads with the excellent Mahymobiles museum – expect coachbuilt Packards, the Alfa Romeo RL SS that took a podium at the 1926 German Grand Prix and more – and nearby Brugelette stuns with a very different kind of collection. From its 65-hectare site to its status as Belgium's most popular tourist attraction, the Pairi Daiza zoological gardens know how to live large. This extends to themed gardens and enclosures that can be viewed by path, steam train and suspension bridge.

Now drive east over the N57 to Écaussinnes. From here, the road cuts between the trees to run north along the line of the Brussels-Charleroi canal until you reach the Plan Incliné de Ronquières. This mechanical curiosity has been here since 1968 and succeeds the 14 locks that previously carried boats over the local geography. Vessels are now placed on giant crates of water and winched over the incline within minutes and creates a remarkable sight.

Back on the road, the N533's gentle curves carry you through Nivelles, home to an imposing Romanesque collegiate church, and onto the N237. Quiet Genappe punctuates the drive east and marks the point where the roads get twister and forest views more dramatic. Fast and challenging, the next ten minutes are all about driving. You'll roar back into the light just above Abbaye de Villers to pick up the southbound N275. Villers-la-Ville passes in a flash, before a hard left onto the N93.

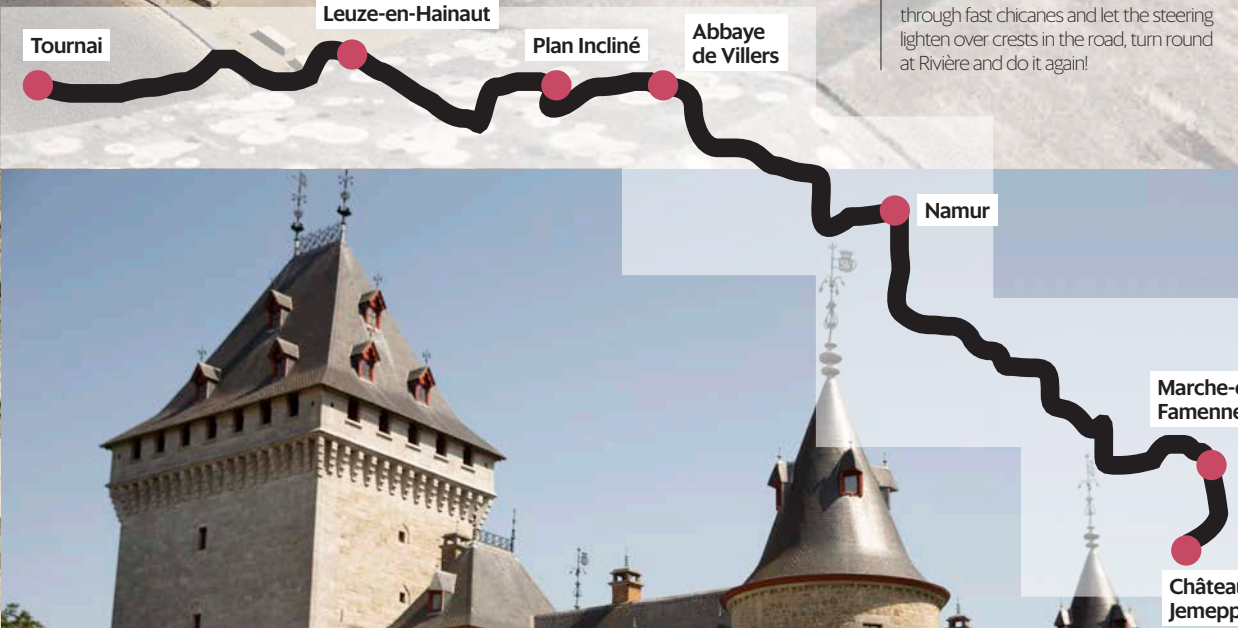
Namur – a medieval city that sits between the Meuse and Sambre rivers and hosts an extensive citadel – is the target now. The centre is best explored on foot, so park up and marvel at the belfry, cathedral and cavernous 16th century Halle al'Chair butcher's building. Finish at the Saint-Loup church and you'll save the best for last. Giddyingly excessive, the 1621 Catholic church exhibits the Baroque works of Huyssens.

The Meuse snakes away from the city, the N947 a rollercoaster along its every move, and you pass through the villages of Wépion and Rivière until the signs to Crupet appear. The village has been voted one of the prettiest villages in Wallonia – while the road east bumbles past churches and townhouses before merging into the twisty and engaging N944. Progress gets faster over the open, flowing roads of Ciney and Buissonville, then Marche-en-Famenne appears to complete the route. Nearby Château Jemeppe offers a fittingly grandiose overnight stop for groups. All 77 rooms are uniquely appointed and the classically-appointed common areas evoke Belgium's most famous fictional detective.

► Enchanting city
► Car collection
► Top attractions



MUST DRIVE
N947, Profondeville to Rivière
South of Namur
The signs are already good – smooth Tarmac, varied angles and deep cambers. Foot to the floor, hear the exhaust bellow off the rock faces, feel the chassis dance through fast chicanes and let the steering lighten over crests in the road, turn round at Rivière and do it again!



MUST-SEE
Mahymobiles Leuze-en-Hainaut
Mahymobiles holds a remarkable collection of veteran, vintage and classic vehicles, 300 of which are on public display. Walk into the entrance hall and you're greeted by a dusty Delahaye. Look out for the unique De Mola coupé, a Rolls-Royce Phantom III and a Delaunay-Belleville. Belgian brands such as Minerva add variety.
Address: 3 Rue Erna, 7900 Leuze-en-Hainaut
More Info: Open Thursday, Saturday and Sunday between April and September, plus selected other dates, entrance €10.
Website: mahymobiles.be



3. ROUNDED EDUCATION

Loop low from the city to discover little-seen treasures – and be back in time for *moules frites*

Dinant to Dinant ▶ Distance 278km ▶ Time 5hr 30min

- ▶ Panoramas
- ▶ Medieval villages
- ▶ Riverside roads



© WBT-DAVID SAMYN

© WBT-DAVID SAMYN

MUSTN'T MISS

Dinant – Brûly-de-Pesche

Cross the river and head for the N96, a cinematic route which presents the River Meuse in widescreen. Within minutes, see Château de Freÿr's crisp topiary, 18th century architecture and orange trees that are direct descendants of those planted here more than 300 years ago. The road continues past Agimont to Viroinval with its Neptune Caves. Mariembourg, a short drive up the N939, has the Chemin de Fer à Vapeur des 3 Vallées (Three Valleys Steam Train). Now aim for the N964, turn right and you arrive in Brûly-de-Pesche, which served as Hitler's HQ during the 1940 invasion of France.



FREYR CASTLE © A. B. DE L.

BY THE RIVERSIDE

Brûly-De-Pesche – Vresse-Sur-Semois

Straight roads pull you away from Brûly, following the N964 before turning left at Rièzes and over the French border. Rocroi's 16th century fortifications beckon before you join the D1. Flowing alongside the Le Ruisseau des Moulins, the road mimics the river in languid rolls before depositing travellers in Revin. This picturesque town points onto the D988 and D7, which hug the Meuse through long sweeps for the next 6km. Sharp bends dominate next, leading back over the border and onto the N952. Here, the road transforms into the bucking, serpentine N935 down into Membre. From there, it's just 5km to Vresse-sur-Semois.



© R. SMITH



SIGHTS FOR SORE EYES

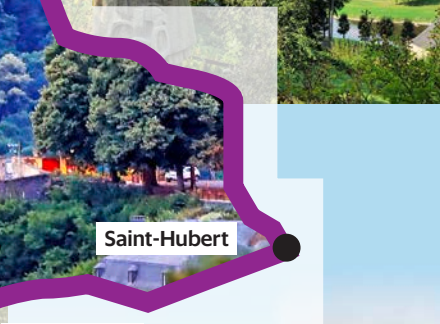
Vresse-sur-Semois – Botassart

From Vresse, follow the N945 south, skirt the riverbanks on the N819 then grab a snap from the panoramic Rochehaut viewpoint. Pick up the N893, scudding down hairpins that whisk through the village of Poupehan and over the river before heading for the Belgian border. The N810, a mass of tight and sweeping corners, plunges through the Ardennes into Bouillon. From the castle, which has stood since the middle ages, to the Ducal Museum, the town pulses with history. Finish the leg by taking the Route de la Belle Vue to the breathtaking Giant's Tomb vista in Botassart.

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© HOLGER BERNERT



Caves of Han



© BERNARD CARBONNEAUX

TURN BACK TIME

Botassart – Dinant

Turn north and follow the N899 to Redu, the self-proclaimed 'village of books'. A specialist museum, artisanal paper manufacturer and a dozen bookshops all cluster around the centre, and the Euro Space Center and the Caves of Han are but minutes away. Pass through Saint-Hubert and up to Musées du Fournieu Saint-Michel, a recreation of a pre-industrial Ardennes village. Now take the quiet N849 and N803 to Rochehaut and the faster N911 to Ciergnon, the Belgian royal family's summer home. For the run back to Dinant, take the N94, enjoying the sun-speckled canopy and flowing turns outside Payenne. Reach the river, slip through Rocher Bayard and the lap is complete.



4. ARDENNES EXPLORER

Plunge into the famous forest to uncover Wallonia's vivid heritage

Bastogne to Malmedy ▶ Distance 219km ▶ Time 4hr

Bastogne starts the day on a sombre note. It was a key location in the Battle of the Bulge, a five-week long campaign that marked the final Nazi assault on the Western Front and Bastogne keeps the memory alive with the War Museum, Barracks and 101 Airborne Museum. Make sure to visit the Mardasson Memorial, a poignant site that commemorates the American forces who fought in the battle, before running north to Bertogne.

Long bends double back over the next section on the way to Lake Nisramont. Its glassy surface and crowded banks beg for a photo but soon you're back behind the wheel and tacking down the vibrant N834 to reach La Roche-en-Ardenne. The perfect spot for an early lunch, nearby Restaurant le Sainte-Maxime beckons. Spilling out onto the Place de Marché, this compact eatery focuses on simple meals: almond-coated trout from the neighbouring Ourthe river is a particular delight.

Hotton and Érezée point the way to Durbuy, a tiny city with charming medieval streets, and home of the quirky Tortuga Bar, then the N66 and N616 plunge deep into the forest. A quick break in La Gleize rewards with a King Tiger tank – another ghost of the Bulge – and then it's a fast run over the N68 to Stavelot. The local abbey houses three museums, featuring a fascinating exhibit on influential 12th century Abbot Wibald, but petrolheads will want to dive straight into the basement. The Spa-Francorchamps race track

▶ Spa
▶ Battle of the Bulge
▶ Towering scenery

Museum crams every kind of exotic racer between the underground arches, exploring the history of Belgium's most famous circuit with Super Touring saloons, classic Formula One machines and more.

Now it's time to explore the legendary track itself. A quick diversion up the N640 drops your tyres in the tracks of Ickx and Clark, tracing the pre-1979 layout from Stavelot hairpin, through the fast sweeps of La Carrière to Blanchimont before drawing to a close at Turn 16 of the current circuit. Retrace your steps, swap to the N622 and the village of Francorchamps soon appears. The namesake town of Spa is just 10km further north; enjoy the sumptuous Victorian architecture or splash out at Thermes de Spa, where you can participate in the 700-year tradition of taking the local waters.

Suitably refreshed, drop onto the southbound N640 then the N62C to reach the circuit entrance. Guided tours are available throughout the summer but it's back to the N62C to enjoy the smooth, constant radius turns that define the next few kilometres. Exiting a final, flattened left-hander, the road picks up the route of the historic circuit once again and spears through Burnenville.

The next turn, a seemingly endless right, was a notorious challenge – look out for the famous white house that sits two-thirds of the way through the corner, almost overlapping with the road. One final legacy stands on the following N68. A heavily-cambered left-right chicane, the 170mph Masta Kink once inspired equal parts fear and respect in drivers. Lap complete, ten more minutes brings you to the bijou city of Malmedy.

MUST SEE

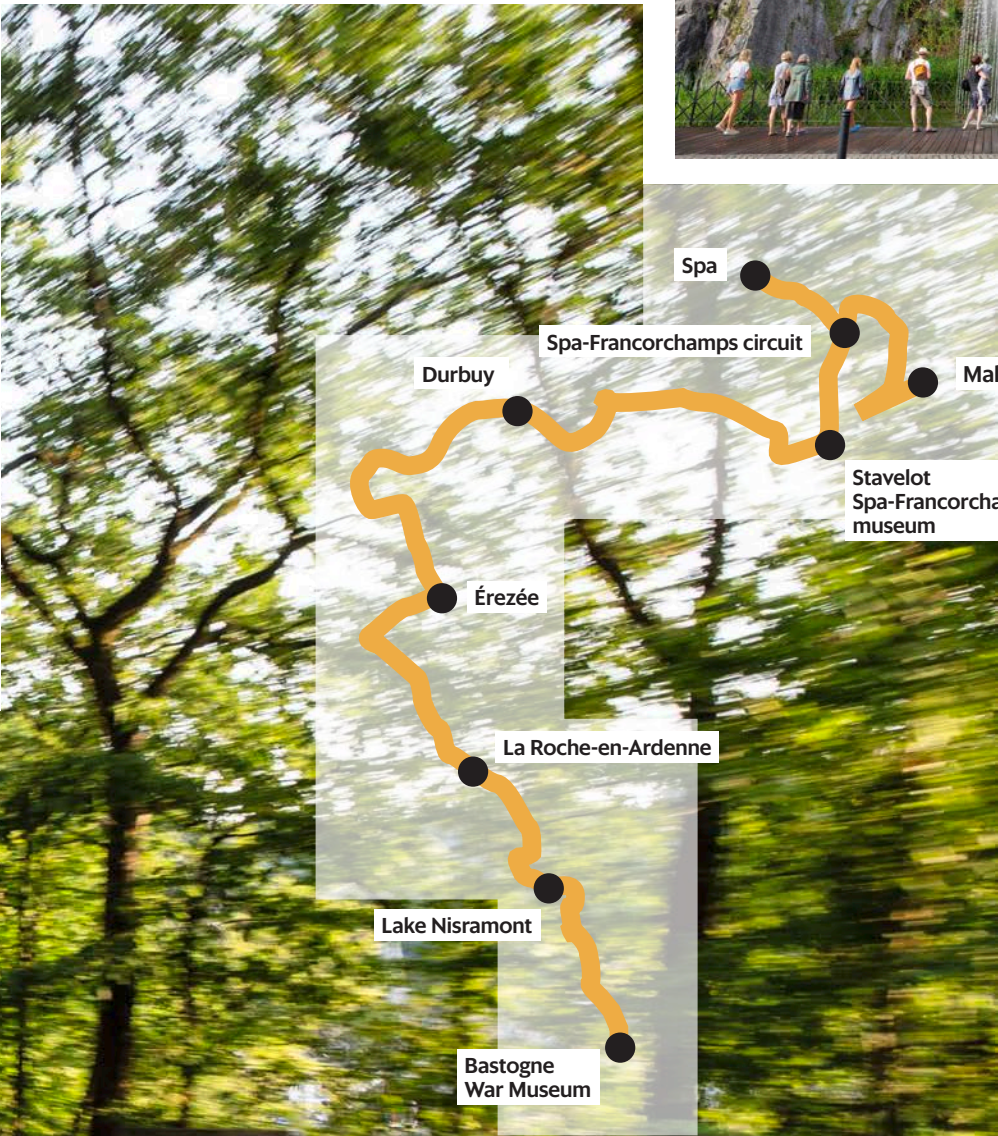
Roche à la Falize, central Durbuy

You don't need to be a geologist to appreciate this rock formation. The anticline in Durbuy is a jewel of the Famenne-Ardenne geopark, itself one of only 147 such parks with UNESCO status, and its sheer scale deserves the five-minute walk from the city centre. Formed from layer upon layer of limestone, the anticline gained its characteristic tented shape in the Variscan orogeny, when the sheer force of an intercontinental collision folded the rock layers upwards. Today, the 300 million year-old feature marks the highest point in Durbuy and dazzles with its steep, sharply defined layers.

Address: Avenue Hubert Philippart, Durbuy

More Info: Open anytime

Website: durbuytourisme.be



SPA CLASSIC © PHOTO CLASSIC RACING



MUST-DRIVE

N616, Lorcé, south west of Spa

Cobblestones over the Amblève, funnelling cars into the stunning dense forest – even the first few feet of the N616 are suitably dramatic. Speed away from the river and the road climbs fast, twisting so tightly through the foliage that you can smell the earth before bursting through the treeline in a final triumphant arc.

5. MILITARY MEMORIES

Wallonia's war history threads through the region and its other unexpected delights

Mons to La Roche-en-Ardenne
► Distance 225km ► Time 4hr 15min

Bordering both France and Germany, Wallonia has witnessed many of the defining moments in both world wars. The region now features a wide array of museums, memorials and artefacts from the conflicts and there's no better place to start your exploration than Mons. Location of both the first British engagement of World War One in August 1914 – and the final shot of the five-year conflict, fired when Canada liberated the area just hours before Armistice, the medieval city plays an important role in reflecting the wars.

► **Superb museums**
► **Striking memorial**
► **Tech turns**

Located metres from the centre, Mons Memorial Museum uses the city's collection of military artefacts to narrate the conflicts with uncompromising effect. The ground floor explores the Battle of Mons and following occupation yet it's the upstairs WW2 exhibition that stops you in your tracks. Nazi jackboots meet visitors at the entrance, symbolising the encroaching invasion force, but it's the cabinets of smaller possessions that strike the heart. Owned either by members of the local resistance forces or victims of the Holocaust, they bring home the human cost of the conflict.

The N90, N55 and N59 carry you south-east through Thuin and on to Ragnies. Now it's time to power east over farmland, pick through the stone houses of Denée and arrive at Marsedous Abbey. More modern than its neo-Gothic lines might suggest, the Victorian structure is still home to a chapter of Benedictine monks who produce their own cheese and beer. Did someone say lunch stop?

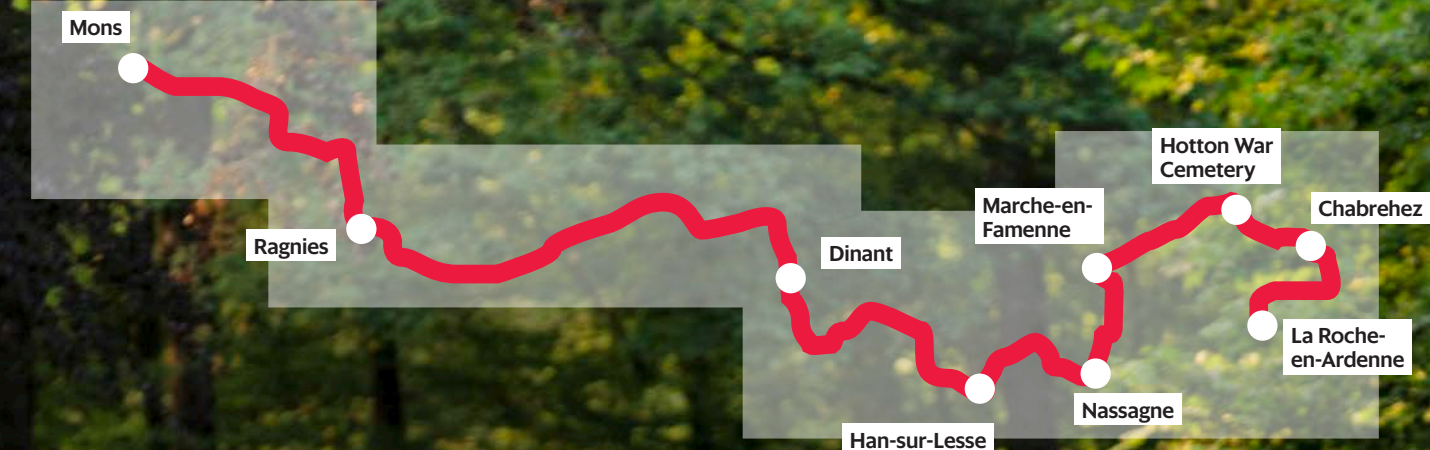
Drivers will want to keep a clear head, though. The Rue de Warnant snakes tight and narrow, rewarding precise driving on the approach to Anhée; the gentle N96 and N95, through Dinant and down towards Houyet, couldn't be a greater contrast. Half an hour east, Han-sur-Lesse tempts with the Caves of Han and its 7m stalagmite, before the N86 whisks you through its sweeping turns and verdant scenery. You could almost be back on a British B road!

A small green sign pointing up a minor track is the only prompt for our next stop. The road climbs quickly out of the village in a series of hairpin bends to the Hotton War Cemetery. Respects paid, the road becomes fast and increasingly technical as you dive down the N841 and onto the thrill-a-second N89.

As La Roche-en-Ardenne approaches, the town's role in the Battle of the Bulge is underlined by the British Achilles M10 Tank Destroyer that stands sentinel over the road. It's not the only war artefact here – down in the town centre, you can park by a stubby M4A1 Sherman and walk over to the Museum of the Battle of the Ardennes. Packed tight with period uniforms, weaponry and a genuine Enigma machine, this four-floor centre takes you straight to the front lines.



MUST-SEE
Hotton CWGC Cemetery, east of Marche-en-Famenne
It's no conventional tourist spot but the Commonwealth site at Hotton deserves a moment of contemplation. Perched high above the local suburbs, the cemetery stands amid silent fields as a poignant reminder to the sacrifices made by Allied forces. Arranged in two dense columns, the headstones mark the resting place of 666 servicemen who lost their lives in the local area. Many of the names here were shot down in RAF manoeuvres, even more were lost in the Battle of the Bulge, when Hotton served as an effective bulwark against advancing Nazi forces.
Address: Rue de la Libération, Hotton. **More Info:** Open at all times.
Website: cwgc.org



MUST-DRIVE
N89 from Chabrehez to La Roche, north West of La Roche-en-Ardenne
Headlong into the forest, the N89 gets tougher with each passing kilometre. Streaming straights lead to quick kinks. Quick kinks lead to sweeping pulls. Sweeping pulls finally lead to a spaghetti swirl of tight and endless turns that beg for firm inputs, heel-and-toe downshifts and perfectly throttle-balanced exits. This is classic driving at its very best.



6. TURN BACK TIME

Bring the past into the present with three of Wallonia's greatest historical sights

Mons to Dinant ▶ Distance 210km ▶ Time 3hr 10min

A metal lion, one paw raised, perched imperiously on the peak of a hill. Erected by the Dutch in 1826, it's a sight that draws tourists down the Route de Lion and towards the Waterloo museums complex. Some 40 minutes earlier, the journey starts in the streets of Mons, the 2015 European Capital of Culture. Martin's Dream Hotel, with its hidden, private car park, is the perfect starting point. Bold street art and the 15th century Grand-Place reward local explorers before the fast blast down the E429 to the battlefield.

We all know the basics – Wellington called it 'the nearest run thing you ever saw', Napoleon did surrender – but the immersive Memorial Museum takes visitors so much deeper. The experience is split into three sections exploring the situations before, during and after Waterloo and peaks with a 3D movie that recreates the battle itself.

Leaving the N5 at Vieux-Fenappe, hook left onto the Rue Longchamps and the drive changes dramatically. Open farmland gives way to tall, sparse woodland as the road rolls into languid sweepers that burst into a clearing just above the Abbaye de Villers.

A striking combination of Romanesque, Gothic and Neo-classical styles, the site bore witness to more than six centuries of Cistercian devotion until its ruination during the French Revolution. Today, history-lovers can easily lose an hour or two to exploring the abbey but even time-pressed travellers should take a minute to wriggle down

the narrow road that abuts Villers and offers remarkable views without leaving the driver's seat.

Head back to the main road and the rewards are immediate – the N275 thunders north in a series of fast, building turns that feel like they'll never end. The N25 dual carriageway and arrow-straight N4 are next, then spear off the main road just south of Beuzet for the N904, which ribbons straight into the heart of Namur.

The hairpins of Avenue de Jean Ler bring a rear-wheel workout, pulling uphill with Alpine persistence, but it's worth it for the moment you blast on to the Champeau plateau. The imposing 1910s stadium stares down, a reminder of Namur's recent past as a holiday resort, and marks the final approach to the Namur citadel. The walls, bridges and museum appeal but the sprawling underground tunnel network intrigues most. The passages extend for miles and visitors can take a 90-minute guided tour that reaches more than 10m underground.

Rise back to earth and engage overdrive for a lazy, riverside cruise down the N92, perhaps detouring west for a tour and tasting at Châteaux Bioul winery en route to Dinant. Now gastronomic delights beckon, so trace the Lesse tributary ten minutes south to Hôtel Castel de Pont-à-Lesse, which often hosts car clubs and stuns with its on-site restaurant. Novel combinations dominate and guinea fowl with duck liver and blackberries is especially compelling. Back in town, beer fans can round out the day at Maison Leffe, a museum and tasting tour celebrating one of Belgium's most famous monastic brews.

▶ **Iconic battlefield**
▶ **Enchanting citadel**
▶ **Challenging curves**



© ERWIN FURNIERE



LEFFE MUSEUM DINANT © MAISON LEFFE



© ERWIN FURNIERE

MUST SEE

Hougoumont Farm, Waterloo

'Keep Hougoumont.' This was the one instruction that Wellington placed above all others. Over the course of battle, the British soldiers within endured the attacks of more than 10,000 French soldiers, forcing the farm gate closed at a pivotal moment, before suffering howitzer attack and an inferno that destroyed the château itself. Restored in 2015, the site now features a 15-minute multimedia presentation that explores the battle in dazzling detail. Be sure to explore the original chapel, too – it still holds the 17th century crucifix that looked over injured soldiers, singed feet and all. Parking is scarce but a horse-drawn cart connects the site to the Memorial Museum during the summer months.

Address: 1 Chemin de Goumont, 1420 Braine-l'Alleud

More Info: Open daily 1000 to 1830, 1930 in July and August, included in Waterloo Memorial ticket

Website: waterloo1815.be



MUST DRIVE

Rue de Gembloux

Immediately north west of Namur

Sweeping downhill towards the city centre, the final five kilometres of the N904 are a constant thrill. Twin sweeps lead into steep, heavily cambered scoops that can get any classic dancing, with three long horseshoes a rousing conclusion. Just as much fun heading uphill, it's a route you'll want to drive again and again.

DINANT © WBT-ANIBALTREJO



© OLIVIER CAPPELIEZ

motorsport
TRAVEL DESTINATIONS

ON-TRACK

The team at Travel Destinations is pleased to present to you this selection of motor sport events at Spa-Francorchamps in the Wallonia region of Belgium. As well as the events at Spa itself, we can create a variety of bespoke tours to the towns, villages and cities featured in this guide.

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Travel Destinations also has an ATOL licence; ATOL is a government-backed holiday protection scheme that ensures that all holidays booked through Travel Destinations are financially protected.



SPA CLASSIC



Multiple races, including the mighty Group C

The Spa Classic continues to go from strength to strength. Offering a diverse selection of race cars on the track and a unique car club display off it, the Spa Classic now regularly attracts more than 30,000 spectators every year.

The legendary Spa-Francorchamps circuit offers all spectators spectacular views as the track winds its way around the forested Ardennes hills. Tickets allow visitors to walk the various pathways around the circuit, wander at leisure around the busy paddocks or relax in the one of the grandstands overlooking the track. There is a laid-back atmosphere that allows drivers, teams and the public to mingle among all the historic machinery.

The different grids take to the track in turn, offering ever-changing action around the circuit. Grids include historic sports cars, European touring cars, Classic Formula single-seaters and a glimpse of some more modern endurance racers, including the popular Group C cars of the 1980s. There is definitely something for everyone on show across the weekend.

Travel Destinations has been looking after guests at the Spa Classic since its beginning and so all of our customers can benefit from exclusive additions:

- ▶ All our customers can join us for light refreshments in our exclusive hospitality suite overlooking the famous hill at Eau Rouge.
- ▶ Travel Destinations has its own reserved car parking area, in pride of place, inside the paddock and adjacent to the F1 garages for those arriving in a classic or sports car. All these cars are thus part of the grand display seen by thousands.
- ▶ For those wishing to experience more, Travel Destinations can also offer, at a variety of times across the weekend, the chance for anyone to take their classic or sports car around the track itself. This is a truly unique experience.

Travel Destinations has a number of different travel, tickets and accommodation offers available that will help you make the most of your time at the Spa Classic.

Spa Classic camping options:

The family-run Eau Rouge campsite is just five minutes' drive from the circuit. For the fit, it is also possible to walk in to the circuit from here. The campsite is in a peaceful valley, offering a small bar/café, shower and toilet blocks together with an outdoor swimming pool.

Prices from £315 per person

What is included:

- ▶ Return channel crossings with Eurotunnel to Calais.
- ▶ A reserved camping pitch for three nights (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) at the Eau Rouge campsite.
- ▶ Entrance tickets with paddock and grandstand access.
- ▶ Invitation to the Travel Destinations hospitality suite during the weekend.

Spa Classic hotel options

We have a number of three- and four-star hotel options that are perfect for the Spa Classic. All the hotels are within 20 minutes' drive of the circuit and offer a variety of town and countryside locations. In addition, we also offer a number of self-contained cottages that are ideal for four people sharing or small groups.

Prices from £459 per person

What is included:

- ▶ Return channel crossings with Eurotunnel to Calais
- ▶ Three nights (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) in your choice of hotel on a bed and breakfast basis.
- ▶ Entrance tickets with paddock and grandstand access.
- ▶ Invitation to the Travel Destinations hospitality suite during the weekend.

For further details or to book your place, please visit traveldestinations.co.uk or call our reservations team on 01707 329988.



FIA WEC 6 HOURS OF SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS

Endurance racing at its most exciting!

Le Mans comes to Belgium! The FIA World Endurance Championship brings the cars that race in the Le Mans 24 Hours to the historic Spa-Francorchamps circuit for this six-hour endurance race. This race has always taken precedence because its the last race before Le Mans in the calendar.

The undulating circuit at Spa is a challenge for drivers, but it also opens all of the circuit up for great spectating. A footpath around the track enables all spectators to wander around the whole circuit, never straying more than a few metres from the track.

Spa WEC camping option

The campsite Eau Rouge is privately owned and run, offering a peaceful green environment for camping and motorhomes. The campsite has a small café on site as well as heated shower and toilet facilities.

Prices from £289 per person

What is included:

- ▶ Return channel crossings with Eurotunnel to Calais
- ▶ A reserved camping pitch for three nights (Thursday to Sunday) at Camping Eau Rouge.
- ▶ Entrance tickets with paddock and grandstand access.

Spa WEC hotel option

Just beyond the town of Malmédy, and less than 15 minutes' drive from the circuit, lies the hotel Val D'Arimont. This three-star hotel complex offers an excellent restaurant and bar, indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a variety of accommodation including cottages that can sleep up to five people.

Prices from £425 per person

What is included:

- ▶ Return channel crossings with Eurotunnel to Calais.
- ▶ A reserved two-bedroom cottage for three nights (Thursday to Sunday) at Hotel Val D'Arimont on a B&B basis.
- ▶ Entrance tickets with paddock and grandstand access.

For further details or to book your place, please visit traveldestinations.co.uk or call our reservations team on 01707 329988.



24 HOURS OF SPA

GT3 superstars flat out all day – and all night



The famous – some might even say infamous – and historic hills, crests and sweeping corners of the world-famous Spa-Francorchamps circuit play host to the best GT3 cars and most talented drivers in this gruelling round-the-clock test of stamina, endurance and mechanical brilliance. The 24 Hours of Spa is the headline event in the Blancpain endurance season and is a real race of attrition with only the the very best of the best finally making it to the chequered flag.

In recent years German manufacturers such as BMW and Audi have been worthy winners of this demanding race, but the competition is always right up there with them, with the likes of Aston Martin, Mercedes, Nissan and Porsche all posing fiercely strong challenges in 2019.

The combination of such a historic circuit and fascinating endurance racing make the Spa 24 Hours a must-see event for all motor racing fans.

Spa 24 Hours camping option

While there are no official campsites at the Spa circuit, Travel Destinations provides the next best thing, with reserved camping at Eau Rouge, just a short drive or a 30-minute walk to the track. The camping facilities are excellent with heated shower and toilets, a small bar/café and an outdoor pool all on site.

Prices from £335 per person

What is included:

- ▶ Return channel crossings with Eurotunnel to Calais
- ▶ A reserved camping pitch for four nights (Thursday to Monday) at Camping Eau Rouge.
- ▶ Entrance tickets with paddock access.

Spa 24 Hours hotel option

The Hotel Val D'Arimont offers a number of hotel rooms and cottages near the town of Malmédy just a 15-minute drive from the Spa-Francorchamps circuit. Set in a quiet tree-lined nature reserve, the Val D'Arimont offers an excellent restaurant and bar as well as indoor and outdoor swimming pools.

Prices from £549 per person

What is included:

- ▶ Return channel crossings with Eurotunnel to Calais.
- ▶ Four nights (Thursday to Monday) accommodation at the Hotel Val D'Arimont on a bed and breakfast basis.
- ▶ Entrance tickets with paddock access.

For further details or to book your place, please visit traveldestinations.co.uk or call our reservations team on 01707 329988.



SPA SIX HOURS



Classic endurance racing at its most exciting

The Spa Six Hours event is a whole weekend of exceptional classic motor racing at the famous Spa-Francorchamps circuit. The weekend programme features around 600 vehicles competing across a variety of grids, culminating in the six hours endurance race that begins in the afternoon and finishes under darkness.

The Belgian Classic Car Federation invites all spectators arriving in their own classic or sports car to join them in its own reserved parking area, creating an impressive display for all spectators to enjoy. Elsewhere spectators are free to roam through the paddocks and garages to really get close to the legendary track cars.

Spa Six Hours camping option

Just a short drive (or a 30 minutes' walk) from the circuit lies the family-run Eau Rouge campsite. The campsite is located in a peaceful valley and offers a small bar/café, heated shower and toilet blocks as well as an outdoor swimming pool. Prices from £279 per person

What is included:

- ▶ Return channel crossings with Eurotunnel to Calais.
- ▶ A reserved camping pitch for three nights (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) at the Eau Rouge campsite.
- ▶ Entrance tickets with paddock and grandstand access.

Spa Six Hours hotel options

We have a number of three- and four-star hotel options that are perfect for the Spa Classic. All the hotels are within 20 minutes' drive of the circuit and offer a variety of town and countryside locations. In addition, we also offer a number of self-contained cottages that are ideal for four people sharing or small groups. Prices from £415 per person

What is included:

- ▶ Return channel crossings with Eurotunnel to Calais.
- ▶ Three nights (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) in your choice of hotel on a bed and breakfast basis.
- ▶ Entrance tickets with paddock and grandstand access.

For further details or to book your place, please visit traveldestinations.co.uk or call our reservations team on 01707 329988.



Mons Classic, Belgium

30th September – 2nd October 2022

BELGIUM
MONS
CLASSIC

Join fellow classic car enthusiasts for the inaugural 'Mons Classic' event open to all marques of classic cars.

This three-day tour has been developed in conjunction with the Wallonia Tourist board and it starts in the 'Grand Place' of Mons, where special access has been granted to park our cars.

You will have a two-night stay in the four-star Martin's Dream boutique hotel situated just off the main square. The first night is free to explore the town with its bars and restaurants located around the square.

The following day a road run is planned around the countryside of Wallonia. This evening a traditional Belgian dinner is planned at a local restaurant on the Grand-Place to sample the typical dishes of Mons.

On the final morning a coffee stop is included at a fascinating car museum before your route back to the Eurotunnel.

What's included:

- Return Eurotunnel crossing
- Two nights' accommodation on a B&B basis
- Road run rally - including entry to Hitler's bunker
- Dinner on Saturday evening
- Entry to car collection and coffee

Price: £399 per person based on two in a car sharing a room.

To book: call Motorsport Travel Destinations on 01707 329 988 www.traveldestinations.co.uk

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'After exploring the Spa-Francorchamps museum and taking to the circuit it's time to head for the town of Spa to enjoy the sumptuous Victorian architecture'

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