

**VISITWallonia.be**

# Wallonia By Bike

**Legendary rides to touring treats, surrounded by lush forests, and stunning architectural landmarks**



**The Ultimate Belgian Getaway**



**Choosing a Holiday on Wheels?** You'll love Wallonia, for this very reason. Cycling in Belgium go together like hops and beer or brakes and gears. In fact, a large proportion of the country's 11.5 m population cycle. But it's arguably this southern French-speaking part that offers the greatest variety. Contrary to belief, it's certainly not all flat. In fact, the region hosts top cycling events like the annual 'Liege Bastogne Liege'. With it's grueling 255km distance it has retained its aura and respect for over a century, and the emotion amongst its fervent spectators and participants is palpable. Despite the terrain being hilly as opposed to mountainous, racing cyclists compare it to a high altitude race - it's a thrilling event that challenges amateurs and professionals alike.

Wallonia is the green heart of the country, with epic scenery, lush forests and wide-open spaces. It's unquestionably perfect for adventures on wheels. Between haunting valleys, crisscrossed with clean rivers, lie hundreds of km of dedicated pathways. These regenerated railway lines and trails are peppered with culture, history, great food and quirky festivities. Fantastic adventures to keep every single companion or family member as sweet as pie for the whole holiday. Mixing in the fact that it's the heartland of fries, beer and chocolate, we feel pretty happy with offering you a 'wheely' great biking holiday guarantee.

Have we revved up your curiosity yet? What if we also said that we've designed a whole host of carefully considered activities to meet your needs, complimented with accommodation and events to suit lovers of cycling and mountain biking experiences that lead from one intersection to another. It's as easy as can be... So let's get moving.

Written by Tara Munro  
Main cover image: © WBT - David Samyn

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# RAVeL – What a ride



Equivalent to the distance between London and Inverness, the RAVeL cycling network is a dream for all types of cyclists. Belgium was heavily involved in the early development of railway transport and the first state in Europe to create a national railway network. Reviving 1480 km of disused rail tracks and towpaths in the form of cycle paths celebrates Belgium's historical place as a key powerhouse in the 19th century industrial revolution.

These dedicated paths are now living a vibrant new life made up of 45 amazing cycling routes with greenways linked to provide visiting cyclists with ten regional and four international itineraries. Pretty much all routes have easy to manage gradients so all the family can join in to explore Wallonia at a leisurely pace, in peace and quiet if desired. It's a relaxing and safe way to enjoy unspoilt villages, historic towns, vast lakes and nature reserves.

## Long Distance Escapades

Thinking of making a journey by bike over several days, in stages, over distances of ten to even hundreds of km? Our long distance itineraries – often known as veloroutes and euroveloroutes allow you to travel right across the region. Easy to use signposting, safe and suited to all fitness levels these escapades will guide you through some incredible adventures.

Here are the ones traversing Wallonia:

**Itinerary 0:** La Véloroute des Capitales (The Capitals Cycle Route)

**Itinerary 1:** Entre Dendre et Haut Pays (Between the River Dendre and Haut Pays)

**Itinerary 2:** La Véloroute de la Bière (The Beer Route)

**Itinerary 3:** La Véloroute des Carnavals (The Carnival Route)

**Itinerary 4:** Canaux, Fleuves et Rivières (Canals, Rivers and Streams)

**Itinerary 5:** D'une vallée à l'autre (From one Valley to Another)

**Itinerary 6:** Au Fils de L'eau (Along the River)

**Itinerary 7:** Sur la Route des Ardennes (The Ardennes Route)

**Itinerary 8:** Entre Fagnes et Famenne (Between Fagnes and Famenne)

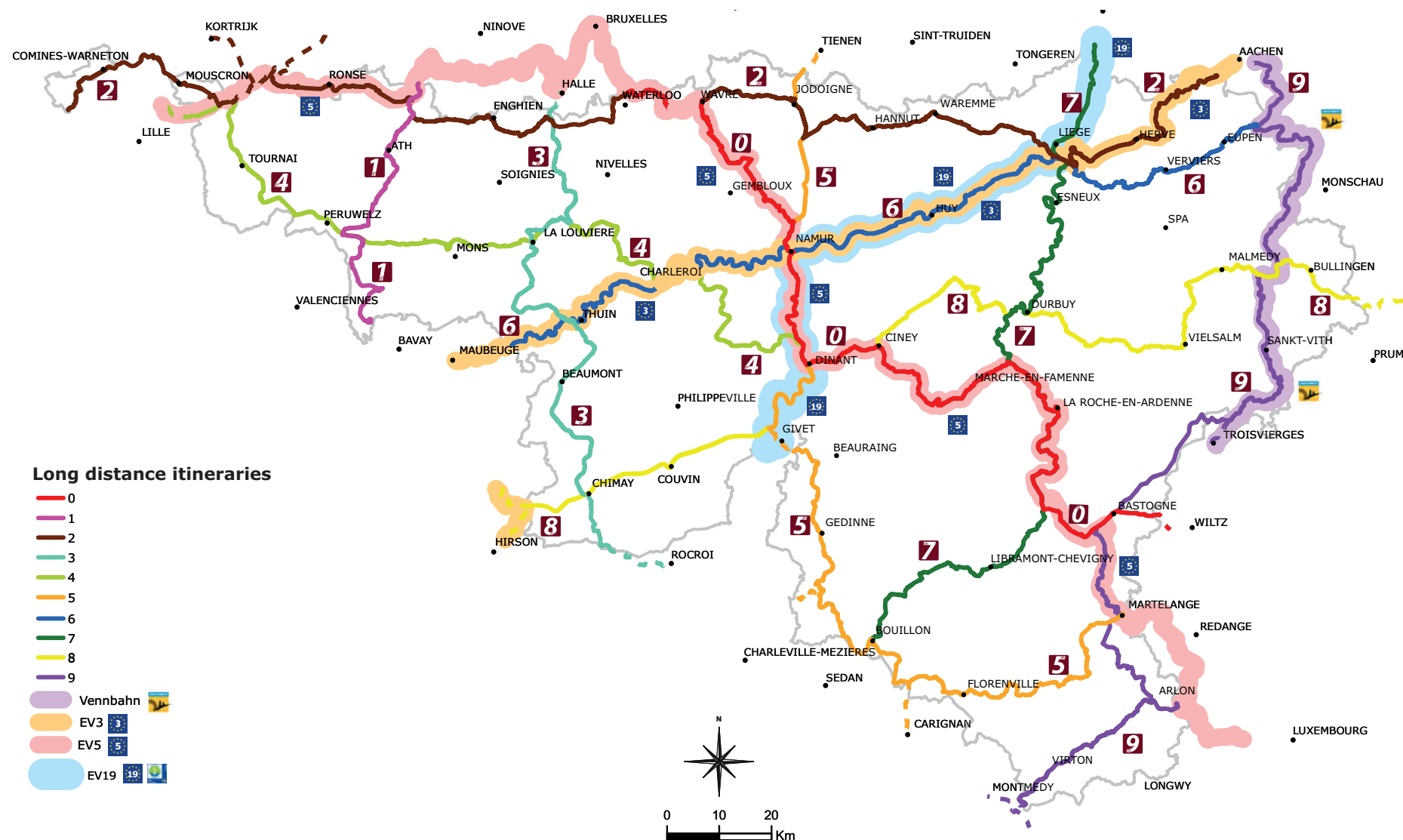
**Itinerary 9:** La Véloroute Grandeur Nature (The Full Nature Cycling Route)

**Eurovelo 3 – The Pilgrims Route**  
Spanning the breadth of Belgium, this 200km route gives you a good overview of Wallonia's cities, since it crosses Liège, Namur and Charleroi.

**Eurovelo 5 – La Via Romea (Francigena)**  
Via Romea Francigena in Belgium is approximately 400 km long, introducing you to the rich natural, architectural, cultural and brewing heritage of the country.

**Eurovelo 19 – River Meuse Route by Bicycle**  
The Meuse cycle route follows one of the most important rivers in Europe. Through sumptuous settings, with dramatic cliffs, fortresses and castles, you will follow riverside paths through Dinant, Namur and Liège.

**La Vennbahn – Cross-country trails**  
The Vennbahn route is one of Europe's longest and most beautiful greenways, laid out across three countries: Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg. The route leads you through undulating landscapes including the ethereal moorlands of the Haute-Fagnes, the forests and woodlands of the Our Valley in the North.





# Point Noeuds – Tailor Made Adventures: as easy as 123

Wallonia also has a number of cycle routes linked to each other by intersections known locally as 'points-noeuds'. These types of routes are already well known in the Netherlands, but Wallonia is catching up fast. A simple system of numbers and signposts at each intersection makes the different routes easy to follow. Cyclists will find it easy to change the itinerary as the fancy takes them. An average day could entail a long ride in the forest in the morning, with a stop off at a good restaurant for lunch, since many are known for their regionally sourced ingredients. Then perhaps a weird but wonderful festival where beer and strange traditions ensure warm spirits and good cheer. Voila! It's an average bike adventure – Wallonia style.



© MT Marche et Nassogne - P. Vandorpe



© WBT - Bruno D'Almonda

# Bienvenue Vélo: On (and off) Your Bike



What happens off saddle is just as important as on your bike. From accommodation that welcomes your bike and understands your needs to services and equipment adapted accordingly. When you see the 'Bienvenue Vélo' logo, you'll also find bike sheds, repair kits, documents, maps, with some also offering luggage transport services. You'll find these between lodgings on multi-day itineraries as well as at various attractions, restaurants, hire shops and museums to ensure maximum comfort.



**BIENVENUE VÉLO**  
**FIETS WELKOM**  
**BIKES WELCOME**  
**RADFÄHRER WILLKOMMEN**

© WBT - Bruno D'Almonda

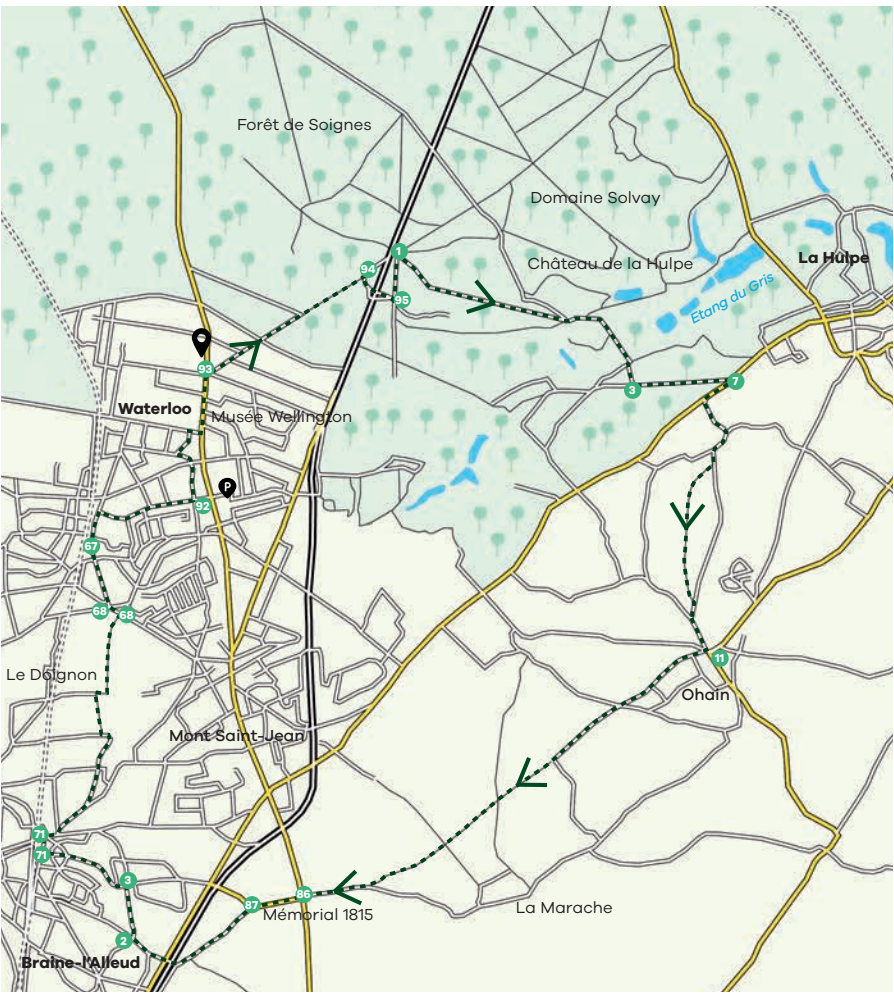


# Waterloo:

## Between Memorial and Culture

### – Let the Battle Commence

Intertwining memorial and culture is a normal state of affairs in a region so steeped in war history and relics from three of Europe's greatest conflicts. This itinerary, set around Waterloo is no exception. The Wellington Museum immediately gives you the heads up on the events of the 18 June 1815 where Wellington and his Prussian allies defeated Napoleon. A brutal offensive that changed the course of history forever. As you cross the Sonian forest with its magnificent centuries old beech trees, you'll discover the Folon Foundation. Set on the farm of the majestic 'Château de La Hulpe', it's where Belgian artist Jean-Michel Folon has installed over 500 art works. The trail then leads you through the Lasnois countryside where you'll arrive into the very heart of the battle of Waterloo site. Stop off to climb the 226 steps leading you to the summit of the iconic Butte du Lion (Lion's Mound), giving you an incredible 360 degree panoramic view of the battlefield below. Take the opportunity to visit the 1815 Memorial Museum which brings the scene to life in emotive multi-sensory sound and vision before ending your ride in the rural town of Braine-l'Alleud.



#### Where to sleep

**Hôtel Dolce La Hulpe Brussels**  
Chaussée de Bruxelles 135 – 1310 La Hulpe

**Hôtel Martin's Château du Lac**  
Avenue du Lac 87 – 1332 Genval (Rixensart)

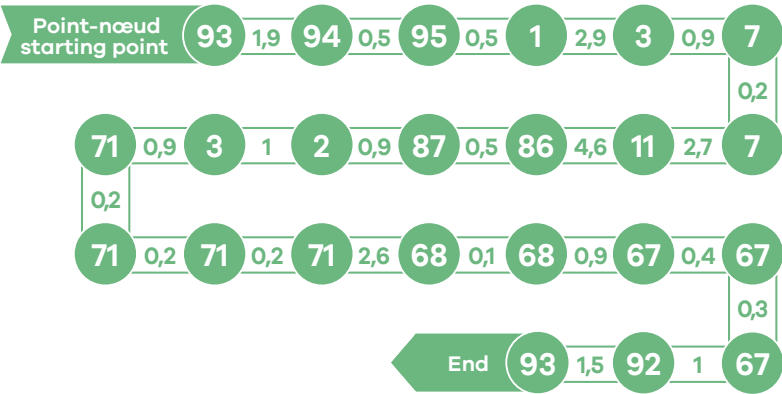
#### Gîte et chambre d'hôtes

**La Bachée**  
Rue de la Bachée 72 – 1380 Plancenoit (Lasne)

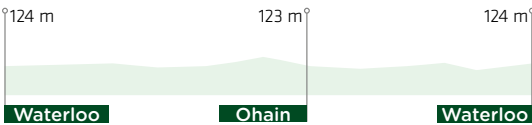
**Gîte Le haut des fiefs**  
Rue Landuyt 28 – 1440 Braine-le-Château

Download the route on [visitwallonia.be/cycling](https://visitwallonia.be/cycling)

#### Step by step

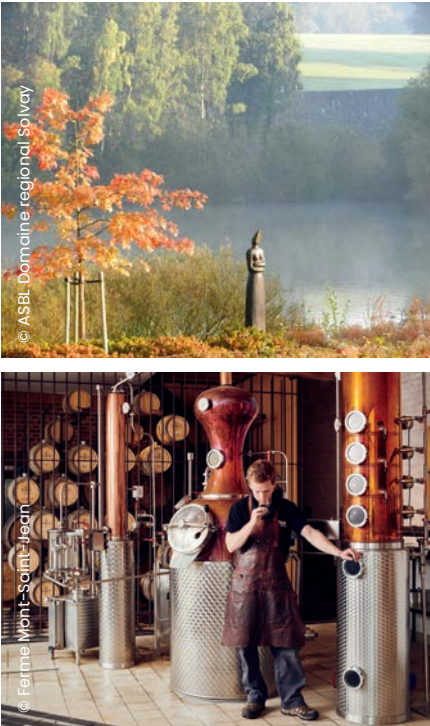
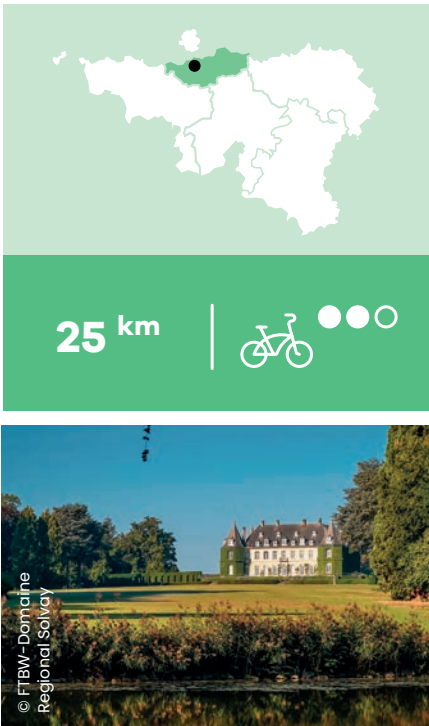


#### Elevation



#### Foody Tip

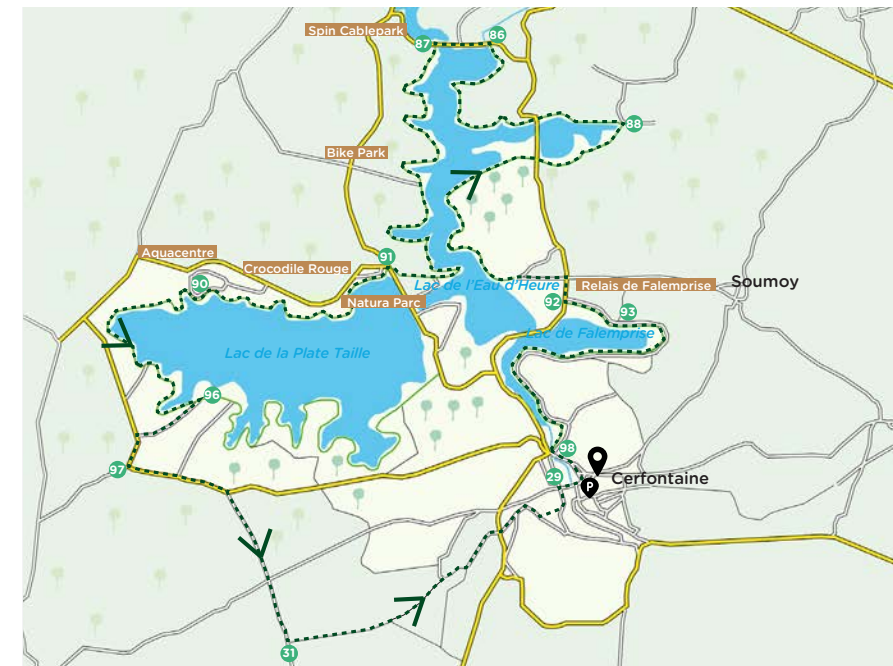
Mont St Jean farm in Waterloo is home to a museum and a microbrewery. This historical location once served as a surgical hospital for the British and Allied troops during the famous battle. Visitors can purchase its beers, gins, whiskies as well as other local specialties. All are distilled directly from the beer brewing process and from cereals grown on the battlefield. Try its restaurant for a spot of lunch. It's a battle you'll want to win!





# Cerfontaine: Water Water Everywhere...

Eau d'Heure Lakes site, the largest artificial body of water in Belgium – comprises five lakes which have now been inhabited by a wealth of nature and birdlife. They were initially created to build up drinking water reserves and supply the Charleroi-Brussels Canal. This bike ride takes you on beautiful parts of the RAVeL trail, embellished with the 'point noeuds' network, revealing all the beauty of this major natural and tourist centre in Wallonia. Stop off to relax on a lakeside beach, swim or enjoy a gourmet break.



## Where to sleep

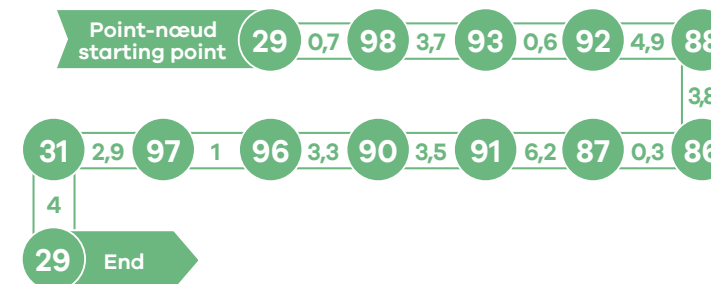
**Golden Lakes Hotel**  
Route de la Plate Taille  
54 - Boussu-lez-Walcourt  
(Froidchapelle)

**Chambres d'hôtes Confluences**  
Grand Place 41 - 5650 Walcourt

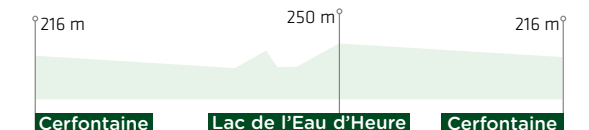
**Gîte Au Bout d'en Haut**  
Rue de Soumoy 41 - 5630  
Cerfontaine

Download the route on  
[visitwallonia.be/cycling](http://visitwallonia.be/cycling)

## Step by step

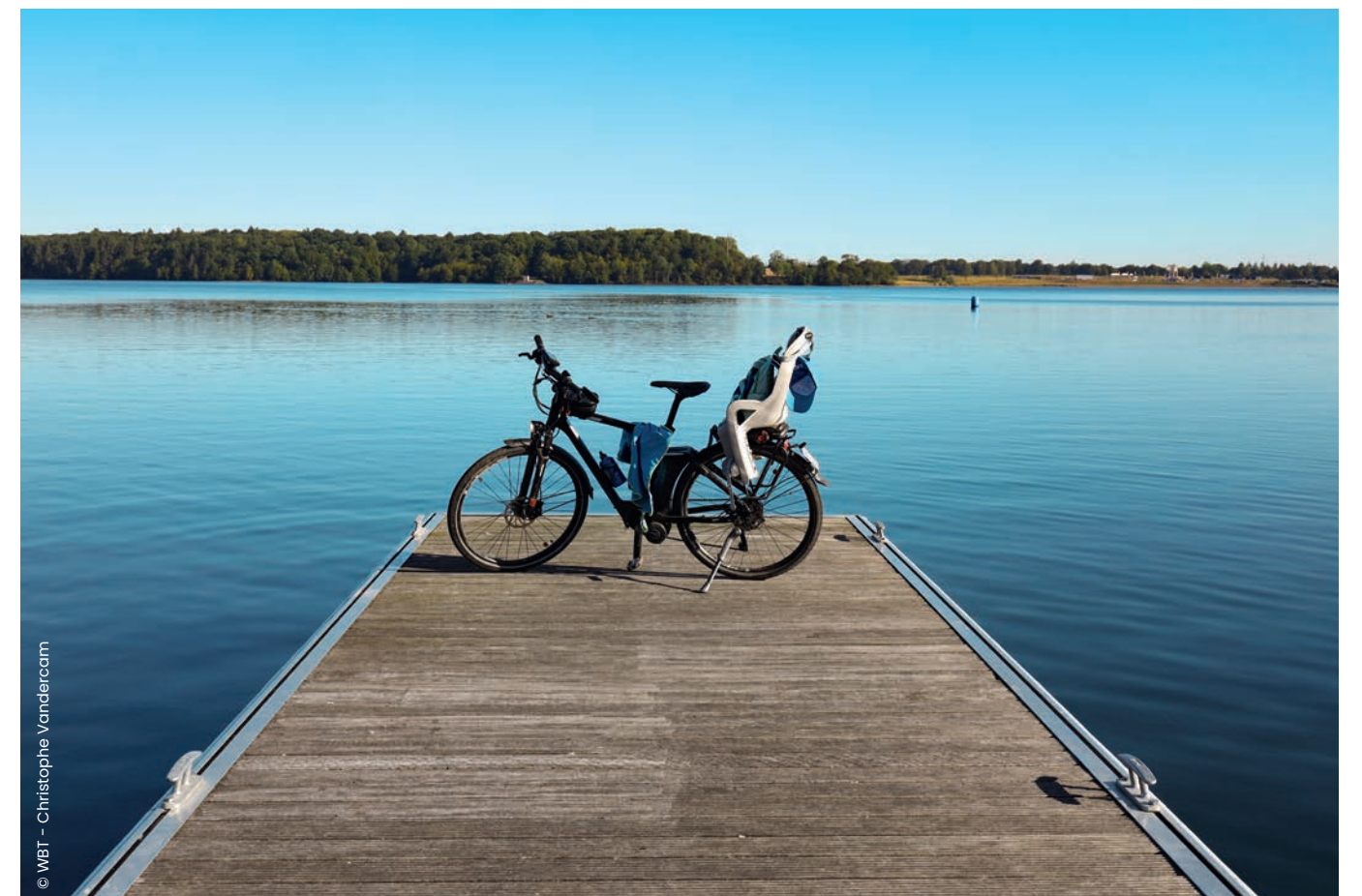
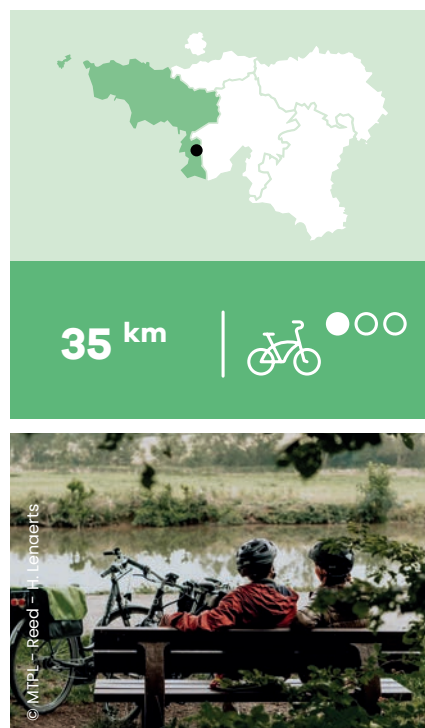


## Elevation



## Handy Tip: Lakeside Rides

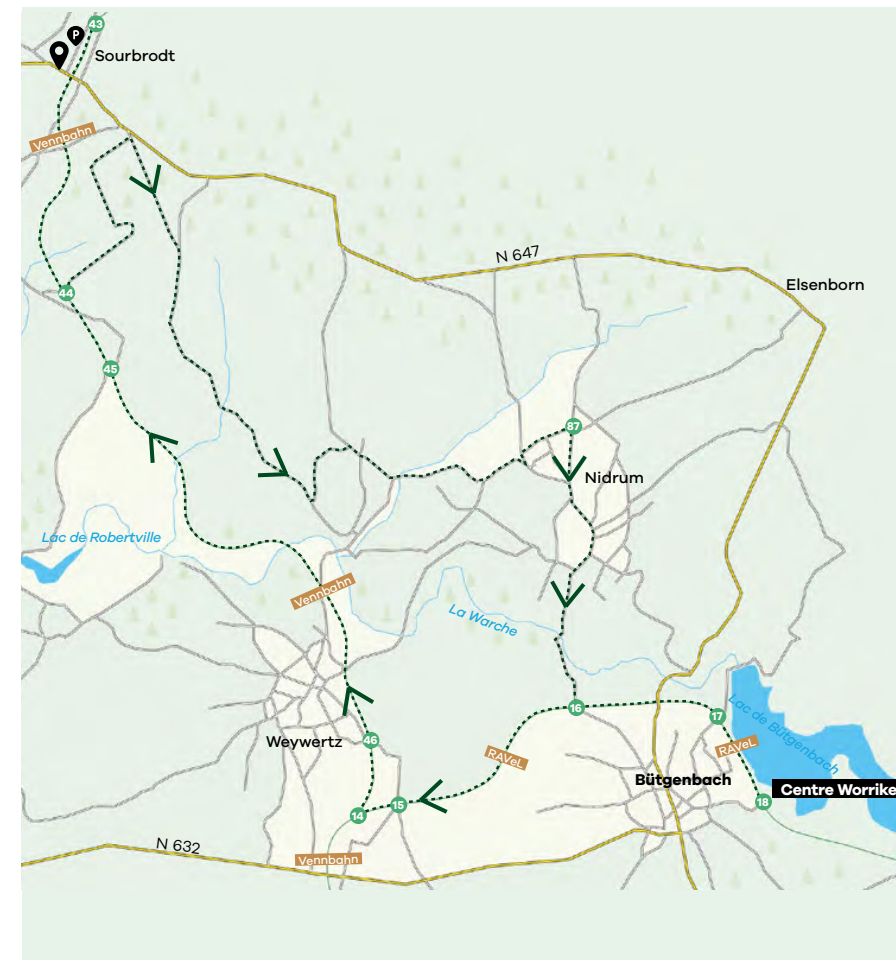
There's so much to explore beyond the usual array of water activities. For example, the bike parc Natura Bike. There's a challenge for every bike enthusiast with 11 downhill trails of varying levels and an initiation centre for little ones. They also rent out electric scooters and offer several scenic routes around the lakes. If you fancy a tonic for your weary limbs, the wellbeing centre is a soothing option, whilst the forest park 'Natura Park' is great fun for treetop climbing, zip wiring and Jungle Book style adventures.





# Sourbrodt: Lakeside Adventures – Lazing and Grazing

This itinerary is on the award winning international Venbahn cycling trail, one of Europe's longest cycle paths crossing 3 different countries (Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany). The paths cross epic landscapes like the ethereal misty moors of the Haute Fagnes – close to the German border and the Warche Valley. It's pure cinematography and emotion in equal quantities with VENNTastic views. Are you beach body ready? Pack your lunch (with some local specialities – beer, cheese and the like) for al fresco dining and get ready for some lakeside activities on Butgenbach's beach. On the route back, stop off at "Herba Sana Garten" in Elsenborn to discover some 200 medicinal herbs and 80 of wild plant species. It's a perfect route for those in search of diverse countryside and an abundance of activities.



## Where to sleep

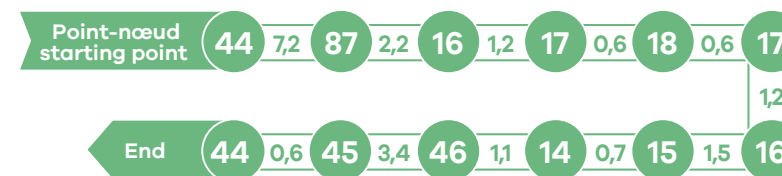
**Hôtel Bütgenbacher Hof**  
Marktplatz 8 – 4750 Bütgenbach

**Camping Worriken**  
Worriken 9 – 4750 Bütgenbach

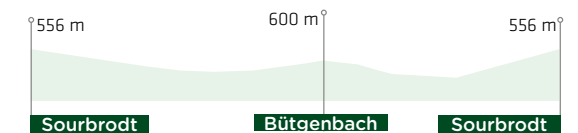
**Chambres d'hôtes  
La Romance du Lac**  
Rue du Barrage 19 –  
4950 Waimes

Download the route on  
[visitwallonia.be/cycling](https://visitwallonia.be/cycling)

## Step by step

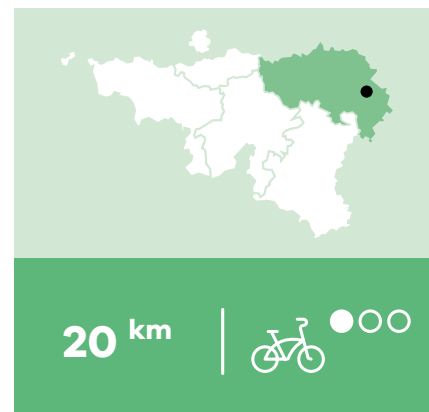


## Elevation



## Quirky options: A 'raily' unusual ride

If you fancy a twist on your adventure check out the quirky rail bike option on disused rail tracks. A couple of hours of fun with a weird sort of bike that can be ridden by 2 or more will get those grumpy teens smiling if anything will.

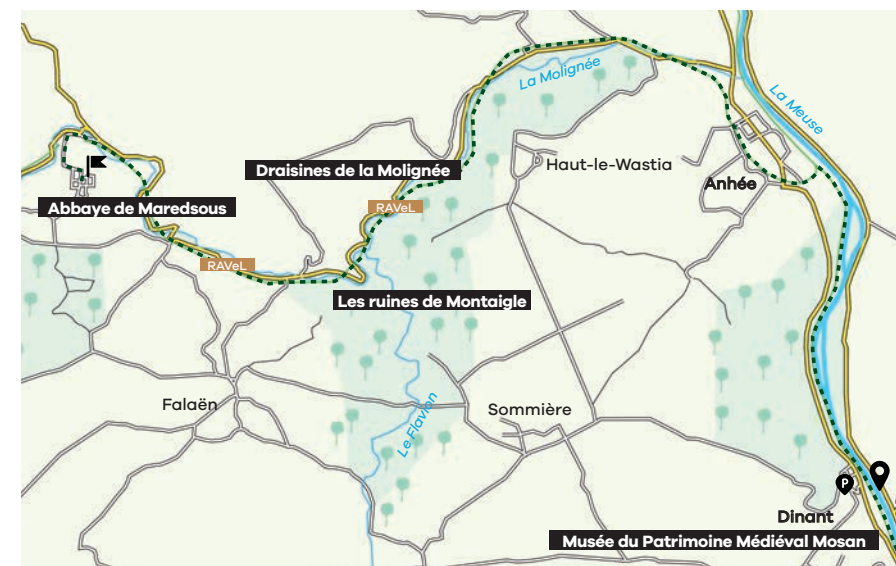




# Dinant:

## Molignée Valley RAVeL with a touch of Medieval Magic

Fancy discovering one of the most beautiful sections of the RAVeL in Wallonia? This trail is certainly a joy for lovers of architectural history. On route you'll discover ruins of fortified castles and two renowned abbeys at Maredsous and Maredret. At the starting place in the little village of Bouvignes you'll feel the spirit of the Middle Ages all around you. So steeped in time you can almost hear the sound of horses' hooves pounding the cobblestones of the narrow streets. It's an impression reinforced by the fortress of Crèvecoeur. On the other side of the River Meuse, you can also see the ruins of the Poilvache fortress. Shortly after Anhée, swap your bike for a quirky railbike which allows you a leisurely cycle along the old Molignée Valley railway line. Further on, on the road, the ruins of Montaigle offer a picture-perfect image of a medieval castle.



Download the route on  
[visitwallonia.be/cycling](https://visitwallonia.be/cycling)

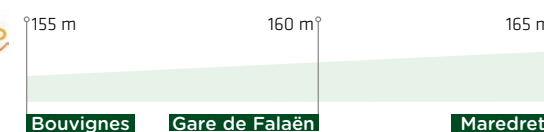
### Where to sleep

**Hôtel Les Jardins de la Molignée**   
Route de la Molignée 1 –  
5537 Anhée

**Chambres d'hôtes La Bergerie**   
Rue de Chertin 6 – 5522 Falaën

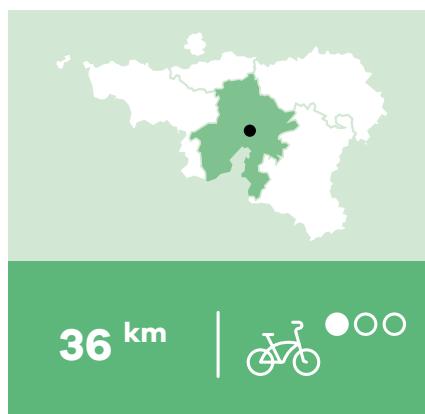
**Gîte rural de la Ferme  
de l'Abbaye de Moulins**   
Chemin Barons de Rosée 1 –  
5537 Anhée

### Elevation



### Off the beaten track option: Castle of Frey

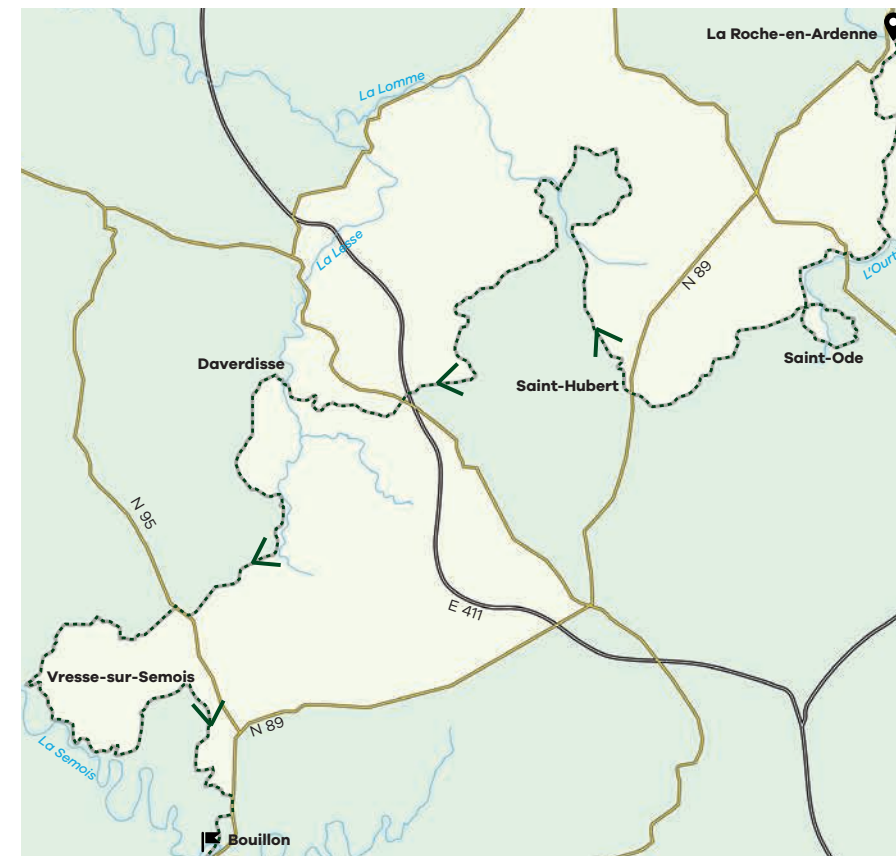
The graceful 18th century renaissance castle. It has been home to 20 generations of the same family who have lovingly restored and cared for it and opened their doors to the public. Paying a visit allows not only a great example of architecture, culture and well-being but the privilege of seeing a historical family home.





# La Roche-en-Ardenne to Bouillon: Village Charm and War History

This historical trail is part of a much larger itinerary called 'La Transardennaise.' A route taking you through the heart of the Ardennes forest as well as in the most beautiful landscapes of Belgian Luxembourg province. The full itinerary was designed more than 30 years ago by the organization 'GTA' that takes you from La Roche-en-Ardenne to Bouillon and its famous castle. History lovers will be aware of the area's WW2 prominence since the area was known for the Battle of the Bulge. On the subject of war, you can choose the 'Chemin de la Liberté,' a 68 km-loop in Bastogne. Museums, memorial sites and cemeteries are undoubtedly a key part of this route.



Download the route on [visitwallonia.be/cycling](https://visitwallonia.be/cycling)

## Where to sleep

**Hôtel floreal La Roche-en-Ardenne**  
Av. de Villez 6, 6980 La Roche-en-Ardenne

**Auberge de Jeunesse de Bouillon**   
Route du Christ 16 – 6830 Bouillon

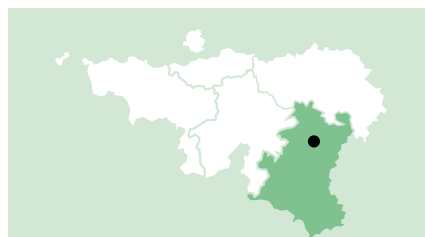
**Gîte La Ferme de Conrad**   
Conrad 22 – 5550 Vresse-sur-Semois

## Elevation



## Must Visit: Tobacco Roads

The charming villages like Laforêt, once a thriving tobacco-growing area sit in a pretty green setting along the Semois river. It still retains its traditional atmosphere and rich cultural heritage with drinking troughs, washhouses and even tobacco dryers. Small farmhouses have distinctive façades of wood, stone and brick. Look out for the sweet details in their architecture: hearts (for luck and protection) on facades and barns, bull's eye windows, wooden frames...



164 km





# UNESCO Route

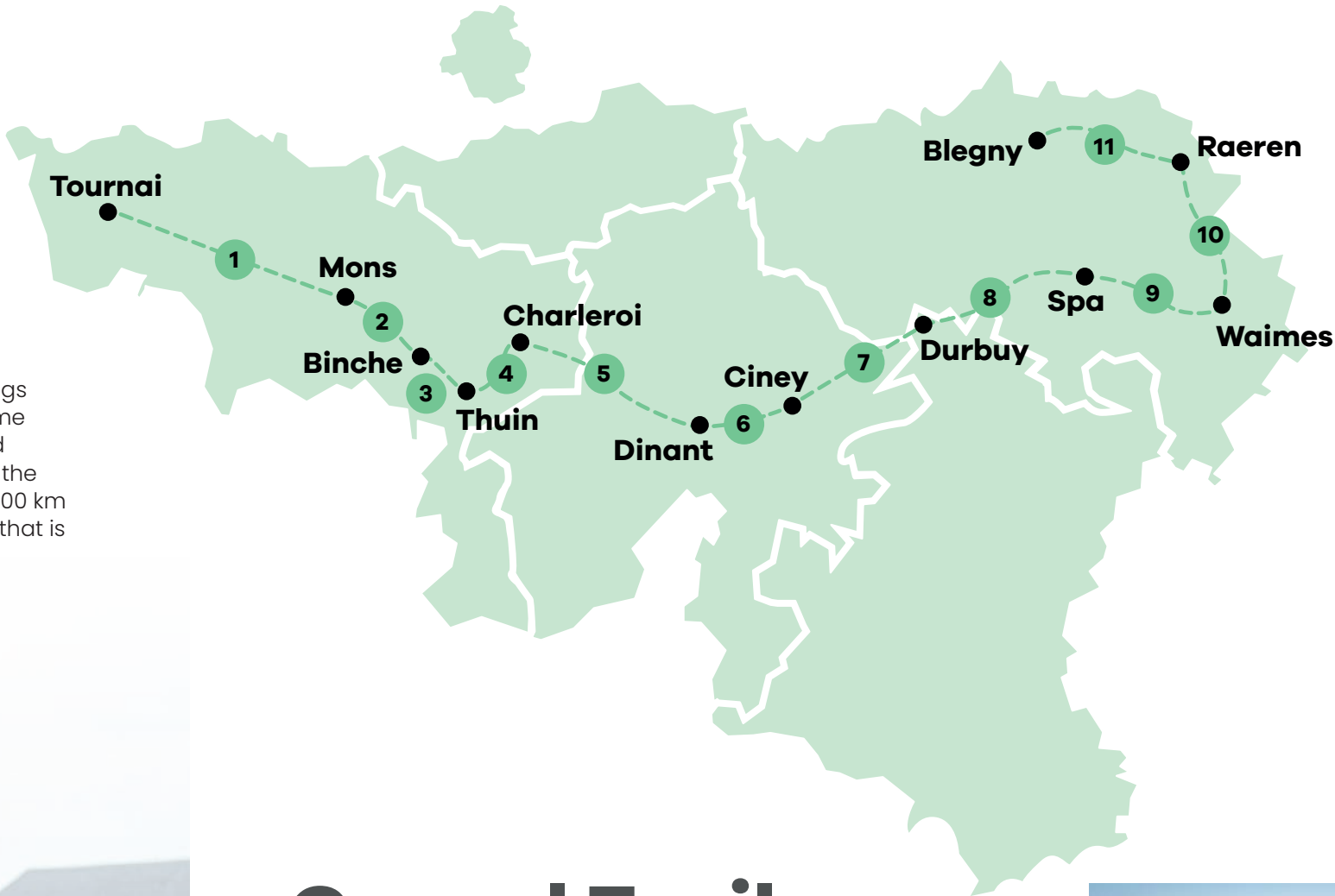
## Get on your bike and go from one UNESCO gem to another

This open-air adventure, which follows the local 'RAVel' and 'Points-Noeuds' cycling networks, can be easily adapted to your desires: a gentle one-day ride or a few days itinerary. There is much to see in our beautiful region...

Between Tournai and the remarkable Blegny-Mine site near Liege - located at the gateway of the Netherlands, enjoy the stunning, varied landscapes of the Hainaut plains, the Meuse river, the Condroz hills and the secret Ardenne valleys. Dotted here and there, admire exceptional historical treasures, included in UNESCO's list of World Heritage sites, as well as other fantastic tourist attractions.

Add to this a selection of bike-friendly lodgings which are branded 'Bienvenue Velo' (Welcome Bike)... meaning places offering services and equipment adapted to your need as well as the best welcome possible, ensures a magical 500 km Wallonian adventure divided into 11 sections that is sure to stay in your holiday memory chest.

Find out more:  
[Visitwallonia.be/unesco-cycleroute](http://Visitwallonia.be/unesco-cycleroute)



## Gravel Trails

Gravel applies to the sport discipline and the bike you will use to cycle along unsurfaced, dirt or gravel roads. There are countless trails adapted to these more challenging adventures on our cycle paths, combining paved, rocky and countryside roads.

Specific markings exist anywhere legislation allows you to ride. Just remember to protect nature on your way.

Find out more: [Visitwallonia.be/gravel-bike](http://Visitwallonia.be/gravel-bike)





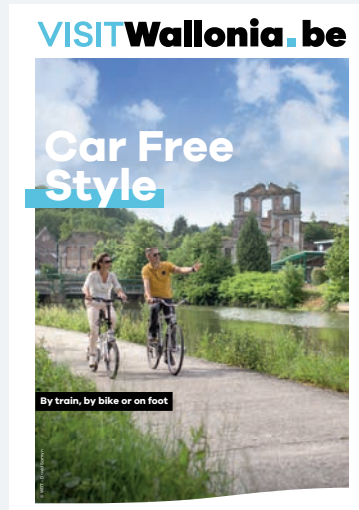
# Want more?

Read our fantastic brochures online, order or download them for FREE.  
You'll have everything on hand for a successful getaway.



## DRIVING IN WALLONIA

Cruise along scenic roads amidst the epic Ardennes, hiding endless surprises: military memories, historical towns and impressive museums. Our in-depth guide introduces you to it all. [visitwallonia.be/roadtrip](https://visitwallonia.be/roadtrip)



## CAR FREE STYLE

Short break getaways 100% zen, 0% car...  
Each itinerary begins and ends at a station.  
Between the two stopover stations, you connect on foot or by bike.  
[visitwallonia.be/carfree](https://visitwallonia.be/carfree)



## 23 CHARMING TOWNS & CITIES

Discover our towns and cities. Each has its own identity, treasures, charms, curiosities... and all have unexpected surprises in store.  
[visitwallonia.be/destinations](https://visitwallonia.be/destinations)



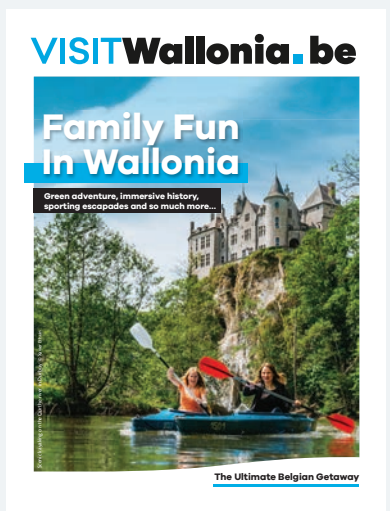
## WALLONIA IN THE WARS

Uncover a wealth of wartime history in Southern Belgium. Wallonia found itself in the firing line of Western Europe's three most significant conflicts in 19th & 20th century.  
[visitwallonia.be/memorial](https://visitwallonia.be/memorial)



## WALKING IN WALLONIA

Castles, quirky places, fascinating heritage, breathtaking landscapes in fresh air and wide open spaces... as many themes as itineraries  
[visitwallonia.be/hiking](https://visitwallonia.be/hiking)



## FAMILY FUN IN WALLONIA

Offer your kids a taste of a different culture and a change of scenery without having to wander too far from home.  
[visitwallonia.be/family](https://visitwallonia.be/family)

And many more on [visitwallonia.be/our-brochures](https://visitwallonia.be/our-brochures)