

French Ardennes •

# inspirations

**TOURING**

Julie and Jim  
follow the Trans-  
Ardennes



**ENCOUNTER**

Philippe Boudard,  
raconteur  
of legends



**ADVENTURE**

The Ardennes  
of Rimbaud  
and Verlaine



**ESCAPADES**

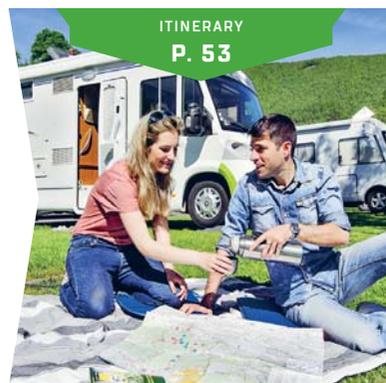
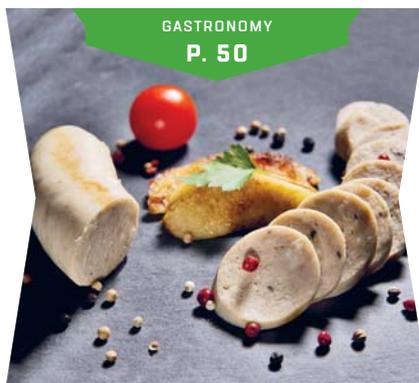
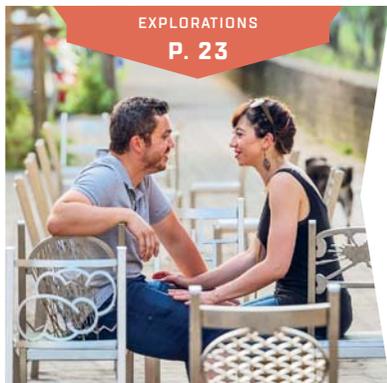
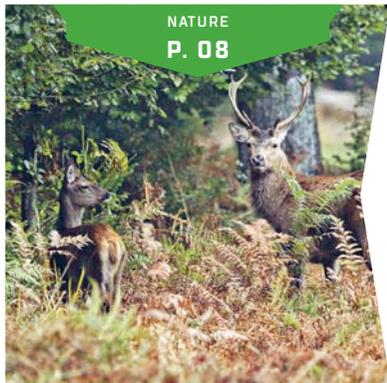
A choice of  
family outings

**SLOW TOURISM**

## ROAMING THE GREEN WAYS



*The Magazine that makes you  
love the Ardennes!*



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IN ALL SIMPLICITY

# THE PLEASURE OF BEING ONESELF

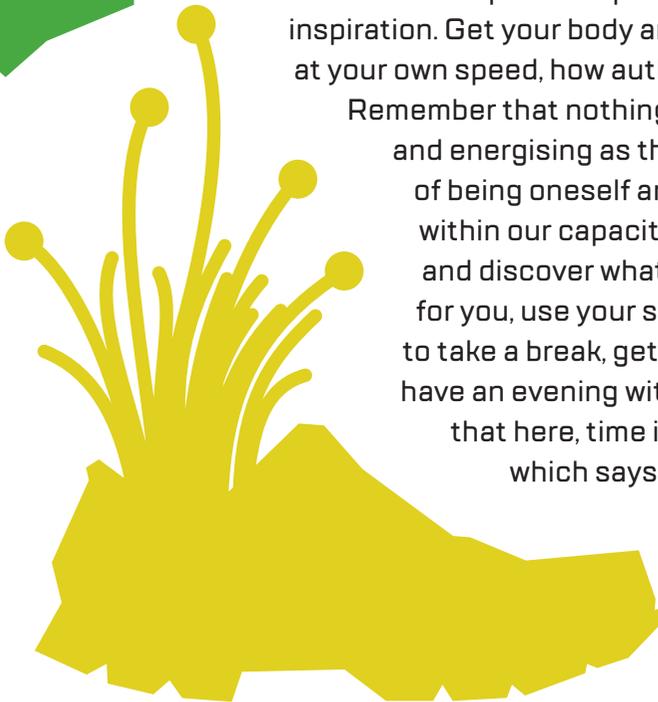
Watching time pass, feeling life go by: not one's life, but LIFE, in general. Children growing up, grass growing. Don't you think it's essential? Well, believe it or not, but that's what the Ardennes is all about. Vital! Only the essential. Nothing superfluous. If you think we are not being very objective, come and see for yourself! Leave the madding crowd behind for a weekend or two.

Follow in the steps of the poets. Draw a deep breath from their inspiration. Get your body and mind working again. Find out, at your own speed, how authentic this region is.

Remember that nothing is as calming, beneficial and energising as the simple fact

of being oneself and doing things within our capacities. So come here and discover what is really good for you, use your stay in the Ardennes to take a break, get up late, go to museums, have an evening with friends, and remember that here, time is set by a great puppeteer, which says it all!

“ Draw deep on the inspiration of the poets. ”



**BE INSPIRED!**



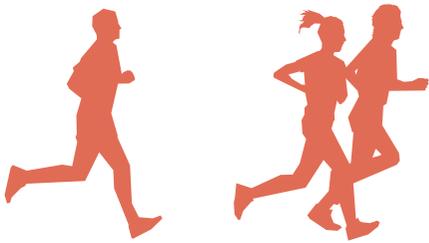
*The Magazine that makes you love the Ardennes!*

# THE ARDENNES AT A GLANCE

## MOTORWAY ACROSS THE ARDENNES



2018 will see the opening of a **new motorway** linking Charleville-Mézières with Rocroi in 20 minutes. On the other side of the frontier, in Belgium, a projected motorway will reduce the journey time to Charleroi to 60 minutes by 2019.



THE NUMBER

## 99 THE RACE

99, the number of times the **Sedan-Charleville** road race has been held. First organised in 1906, it is the **oldest "town to town" road race in France**, and a key date for people in the region, when in October the streets are full of runners in training. On average 3,000 runners take part, including some who have come a long way to participate: France, Belgium, Kenya, Ethiopia and more. This year, for the first time, times will be recorded at the half marathon (21 km), which will enable them to validate their performance at national level. The finish line will still be at 23.6 km.

## WOINIC AND I THE ESSENTIAL SELFIE



**Éric Sléziak's** creation, Woinic, the 10 metre high 50 tonne boar, will celebrate the 10th anniversary of its great transhumance.

He arrived on the Saulces-Monclin motorway service area on 08/08/2008 after a 4-day journey from his birthplace in a shed in Bogny-sur-Meuse. Eleven years and 12,000 hours of work were required to produce this colossus. Take advantage of your stay to go and see him and take a selfie with him. To see some real-life wild boar, the region's emblem, pop in to the Saint Laurent wildlife park near Charleville-Mézières. (free admission)



## REMEMBRANCE RENDEZ-VOUS WITH HISTORY



The **Guerre et Paix en Ardennes** (War and peace in the Ardennes) Museum will open in Novion-Porcien on 23 January 2018. With a collection of 16,000 objects, its displays will include film projections, animated maps and settings relating the daily life of both soldiers and civilians. It sets out to be both original and educational.

**Details:**  
+ 33 [0]3 24 72 69 50  
[www.guerreetpaix.fr](http://www.guerreetpaix.fr)





## MONTCORNET THE ARDENNE GOES BACK IN TIME



A key event this year is the March opening of the historic site of **Mont Cornu**, the Ardennes goes back in time. Organised around 5 periods, from the 4th century BCE to the 15th century, this historic site below the **chateau of Montcornet**, gives visitors the opportunity to watch Gallic, Gallo-Roman, Merovingian, Carolingian and medieval villages being built and lived in, using the techniques of the period, with numerous activities, conferences and festivities throughout the year. Archeologists, historians, keen amateurs, local authorities and the Teaching League have been working for several years on this incredible site, a guardian of the History of the ages. Open every day from March to November.

**Details from: +33 [0]3 24 33 81 10.**



## MONUMENT SEDAN'S BRANDEBOURG GATE

The German monument in Sedan is unique of its kind. **This 10m x 5m replica of the Brandenburg Gate**, a vestige of the German occupation in 1914-1918, was built in 1915 in the Saint Charles cemetery, in homage to its dead by the occupying powers who chose to consecrate it on the site where Napoleon III had capitulated in 1870.

It was so dilapidated that it was threatened with demolition in 2011, but is now the object of a subscription to enable it to be restored. It is among the 139 WWI memorials and funerary sites whose inscription on the Unesco World Heritage List has been applied for.



## THE DATE 27 > 30 SEPT. PUPPET WEEK-END • J-365



Organised every two years, this week-end alternates with the World Puppet Festival. The programme includes shows, exhibitions and encounters



**Details : +33 [0] 3 24 59 94 94**  
[www.festival-marionnette.com](http://www.festival-marionnette.com)





**RULE N°1**  
RESISTANCE IS  
USELESS: NATURE  
ALWAYS WINS  
IN THE END.



## HINTS FOR OBSERVATION

Always respect the natural environment. Here are some tips from a "nature lover":

- 1 Don't pick anything
- 2 Remain discrete
- 3 Don't touch or disturb anything
- 4 Keep dogs on a lead
- 5 Stay on the paths
- 6 Comply with the reserve regulations
- 7 Take your rubbish home
- 8 Before entering reserve during the hunting season, check: [www.fdc08.com](http://www.fdc08.com)

If you wish to learn, it's best to be accompanied.

**Le ReNard** publishes a programme of free Natures outings open to the public, run by specialised local associations.



[www.renard-asso.org](http://www.renard-asso.org)

> "apprendre"

" The Ardennes Forest is a refuge for the larger mammals. "



## INTERVIEW

# “A WORLD IN THE RAW”

## What gives the Ardennes its natural wealth?

The region's wealth is in the variety of its landscapes: from the spruce forests in the north to the plateaux of the Champagne District, the panoramas are immensely varied. The same is true of the fauna: Canada geese, birds from the Steppes, have been observed in the agricultural lowlands, while the rare and discrete hazel grouse has taken up residence in the woodlands to the north.

## Which animals can we hope to see?

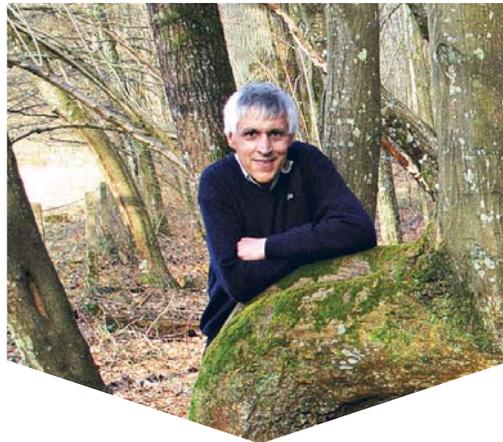
In the north, the great horned owl nests in the cliffs while the peregrine falcon resides in the Meuse Valley, skylarks and lapwings can be seen in the fields, with foxes and deer in the woods. The dense Ardennes forest is less rich in fauna than the woods, hedges or fields, but it suits the larger game animals (stag, wild boar, etc.), and traces of beavers can be found along the banks of the Meuse.

### Pierre Déom

is the Editor of *La Hulotte*, "most read journal in the warrens".

## What advice would you give to nature lovers?

As Flaubert said, "for something to become interesting, all it requires is to observe it for a long time". As far as I am concerned, I'm the most home-loving native of the Ardennes. In Boulton-aux-Bois, I have all I need: wetlands, vast state forests, pastures, crop lands and hedges: a mosaic of diversified milieux with flora and fauna that asks only to be observed. It's a world in the raw.



“ For something to become interesting, all it requires is to observe it for a long time. ”

◆  
GUSTAVE FLAUBERT

## DID YOU KNOW?

### THREE WILDLIFE RESERVES



There are three national wildlife reserves in the Ardennes: **The Point de Givet dry grasslands** with their unique geology, **the Vireux-Molhain Reserve**, one of the most ancient fossil beds in France, and the **Bois-en-Val** in Charleville-Mézières.

More details at [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com) > "wildlife reserve"

## IT'S NOT A REGIONAL WILDLIFE PARK FOR NOTHING

With its great variety of environments, from dry grassland to forests and hedgerows, the Ardennes Regional Wildlife Park (PNR), founded in 2011, 116,000 ha of exceptional diversity. Wildlife excursions enable visitors to encounter long-ea-

red owls, black storks, boreal owls, hazel grouse, wild cats, European beavers, or horse-shoe bats. These excursions can be led by locals wishing to share their knowledge. Their Association, "Les Amis du Parc" posts a programme on their web site.

Parc Naturel Régional des Ardennes  
+33 (0)3 24 42 90 57  
[www.parc-naturel-ardennes.fr](http://www.parc-naturel-ardennes.fr)  
Association Les Amis du Parc  
[www.amisparcardennes.org](http://www.amisparcardennes.org)



“ We have  
to take things  
slowly. ”



# CHANGE YOUR PACE, ADOPT THE SLOW ATTITUDE

## DID YOU KNOW? FOUR LONG-DISTANCE HIKING TRAILS

In addition to the ten short hiking trails marked by the Comité Départemental de Randonnée Pédestre, there are four long-distance trails:

**GR 654**, the mythical trail to Compostelle, which links Namur with Vézelay via Rocroi, Signy-l'Abbaye and Vieux-lès-Asfeld.

**GR 12**, which links Amsterdam with Paris and shares the route of the GR 654 from Gué-d'Hossus to Hauteville.

**GR 14**, which links the Paris region With Belgium via Grandpré, Le Mont-Dieu and Sedan.

**GR 16**, from Liège, enters France at Sorendal, follows the magnificent Semoy Valley and joins the GR 654 at Rimogne.

DENSE FORESTS, WINDING RIVERS, EXCEPTIONAL PANORAMAS...  
YOU ARE AT THE GATES OF THE ARDENNES. TIME TO FORGET  
THE AFFAIRS OF THE WORLD AND TAKE A DEEP BREATH OF FRESH AIR.

The *slow attitude* is not a fad, but an art of living, synonymous with letting go, well-being, sharing, caring for the environment and quality of life.

So you can be sure that you were not mistaken in choosing the Ardennes, where life moves at the pace of an ever-present Nature. Citizens' gardens, orchards in the Vouzinois region, hedgerows in the Thiérache, forests ... these "green lungs" are everywhere, with urban gems and nuggets of territory never far away.

Put on some comfortable shoes, and follow the Meuse on foot or by bicycle, delve deep into the forests on horseback, relax on a boat ... or wander on a hoverboard, a quadricycle or a canoe – and why not try your hand at cross-country skiing in winter? From the banks of the river to the top of the Ardennes forest, there are wonderful panoramas to be seen. This striking beauty reveals itself best to those who learn to contemplate it. Enjoy life on the slow side. Here, nothing is more natural.



**Michel Degré**,  
a compulsive hiker,  
is a member of  
Paysages de France.

# A HIKER'S 3 TOP FAVOURITES

1

## BY THE WATERSIDE ASFELD

Asfeld and its surroundings offer an ideal walk for children. This surprise-filled stroll along the Aisne canal is flexible (5 to 10 km) and follows the river bends.

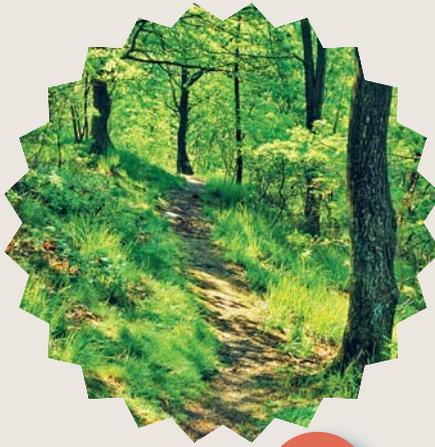
On the way you will find the unique **baroque 17th century Saint-Didier church**, a dam, and a German cemetery; so many evocations in such a short distance.



2

## IN THE WOODS OLIZY

This family tour, starting from Olizy (near the **Argonne Discovery Park**) offers a 6.4 km loop "between two worlds" via Petite-Ville, Blanche-Falaise and Martignon before returning by Petite-Ville. In the distance, the course of the Aisne marks the passage from the verdant, wooded Argonne district to the hills of the Champagne region.



3

## AROUND THE RAMPARTS ROCROI

This 16th century star-shaped city, given the label "Small city of character", is best enjoyed while strolling around its ramparts. Take your children to discover **the Rièzes Country**, the harsh plateau subjugated by Man. Let yourself be carried away by this landscape, imprinted by History. Note the glacis, a modification to the natural terrain which obliged the enemy to show himself.



## GIVE YOURSELF A LEG UP!

Saddle up! Let yourself go! The Ardennes can also be explored on horseback. "We are working to ensure that hiking trails can be shared by everyone", explains the president of the Regional Equestrian Tourism Committee, CDTE, Françoise Simon, who has a list of equestrian accommodation (both certified and uncertified) and itineraries recorded by local riders. Full details on the CDTE web site. Caution: be sure to check the practicability of the trails with the trail manager (municipality or département) before setting out.

■■■  
**Comité Départemental  
du Tourisme Équestre**  
Tél. +33 [0]6 80 34 84 87  
[www.cdte08.ffe.com](http://www.cdte08.ffe.com)

## MUST-SEE PANORAMA

**Mont Saint-Walfroy** (near Margut), is 350 metres high. The view from the summit is exceptional And takes in the Meuse and the Ardennes.

■■■  
**Find all the Ardennes  
viewing points on**  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)



**Regional hiking  
committee (CORPO8)**  
[cdrp08@orange.fr](mailto:cdrp08@orange.fr)  
[ardennes.ffrandonnee.fr](http://ardennes.ffrandonnee.fr)

**The Ardennes on foot**  
This guide from the French Hiking Federation describes 47 walks together with horse and bicycle circuits.

**On foot and bicycle  
in the French Ardennes**  
Brochure published (in French) by the Ardennes Tourist Development Agency Can be downloaded from [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)

**Other ideas for accompanied  
walks and hikes from**  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> « the Ardennes on foot »  
**Or from Tourist Offices**  
(details p. 58)

# TRANS-ARDENNES THE PATHS OF LIBERTY

MORE THAN 950 KM OF INTERNATIONAL TOURIST CYCLE TRACKS FOLLOW THE MEUSE FROM ITS SOURCE TO ITS ESTUARY. JULIE AND JIM, A DUTCH COUPLE, TRIED THEIR HAND AT CYCLING ALONG THE MEUSE, STARTING FROM SEDAN.

*"Excellent! Superb!"* Julie and Jim don't regret their decision: pedalling the 280 km from Sedan to Maastricht. Six days, synonymous with discoveries, tranquillity and exchanges...

*"Three nights in France, three in Belgium, and stages from 33 km to 71 km"*, explains Julie Bissonnette. She and her husband pedal every day in the Netherlands, and had already had previous experience of cyclo-tourism, covering 150 km in three days, but they wanted an easy route through Dinant (Belgium), and opted for electrically assisted cycles offering *"more latitude"* for this long trek. The trails, **Trans-Ardennes GreenWay** in France and Ravel 1 and 2 in Belgium were *"very easy and well-marked"* the couple insist, with a special mention for the road-book in France, *"and its map for each stage"*, which shows the viewing points, tour-

**Julie et Jim**, two Dutch citizens, tested the Green Way, 280 km between Sedan and Maastricht.

ist sites and local services, especially repair points. *"It's very reassuring"*.

## STOP, LOOK, EXPLORE

Julie and Jim took a Dutch tour bus from Maastricht to Sedan, taking advantage of a baggage carrying service: *"Every morning, after breakfast, we left our cases at the hotel, got on our bikes and took the road. They were waiting for us in the evening at the next stage."* Sedan, Charleville-Mézières, Haybes, Dinant,

Namur, Liège, Maastricht *"We were able to Take our time, stop, look around, explore, and try the local beers. We also appreciated the very natural section between Charleville and Haybes. On the route we saw locks and dams, and were able to understand the local history with our own eyes. We are very curious."* One thing they particularly liked: the *"impressive"* architecture of Sedan and Charleville-Mézières, with the castle and Ducal Square. Their advice: prepare a picnic to be able to eat outside the usual French meal times.



### DID YOU KNOW?

## A PRIZE ITINERARY

The Trans-Ardennes GreenWay was named **2010 Itinerary of the Year** at the leading bike and hiking exhibition in the Netherlands.



## NOVEL, FESTIVE DISCOVERY

Clink glasses over a craft beer, listen to a concert, go sculling ... all that in the verdant and magnificent setting of the Trans-Ardennes GreenWay. This unique discovery of the banks of the Meuse is possible every

year from the end of August to the beginning of September, during the GreenWay Festival organised by the Ardennes Regional Council in partnership with numerous local firms.

Full details about the **GreenWay Festival** from

[www.cd08.fr](http://www.cd08.fr)

Facebook

> Les Ardennes : le Département



**6**

**DAYS**

cycling from Sedan  
to Maastricht ...  
easy!



**BIKE, HOVERBOARD,  
QUADRICYCLE...**

Where can bikes be rented on the GreenWay, or nearby?  
What other activities are available?  
Hoverboard, quadricycle, horse riding...  
A selection of sports and open air leisure activities in the Ardennes is available via the **Ardennes Nature et Aventures** network, which lists about 50 service providers.

■■■  
**List of providers and detailed itineraries on [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)**  
> "nature & adventures"  
and "cycle tracks"

**A LABEL FOR THE ARDENNES BY BIKE**

A good breakfast to keep you going, a meal basket, a secure lock-up for your bike, and the certainty of finding a means to repair it in the event of problems ... the "**Accueil vélo**" label (displayed on hotels, B&Bs, camp sites etc.) tells you that all these services are available.

■■■  
**Accommodation and suggestions for tours available on [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)**  
> "Ardennes by bike"



**Trans-Ardennes GreenWay road book**

Available in Tourist Offices along the route to its estuary (Rotterdam). It crosses the Vosges, Meuse, Ardennes, Belgium and Netherlands. More details from [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "brochures and guides"

**The Meuse by bike**

A tour of practically 1,000 km follows the river from its source on the Langres plateau to its estuary in Rotterdam. It crosses the Vosges, Meuse, Ardennes, Belgium and Netherlands. Details from [www.meuseavelo.eu](http://www.meuseavelo.eu).



**Additional tour**

Extending the length of the Semoy river, **the Transemoytienne** is an additional, wilder, circuit of about 20 kms. With its 9 km, **the Ennemane** is ideal for introducing the family to bike tours : but watch out for the uphill finish!

**Prepare your route**

Explore the French Ardennes on foot or by bike with the "**Trans-Ardennes GreenWay**" application. You'll find some practical hints on [www.francevelotourisme.com](http://www.francevelotourisme.com)



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**THE ARDENNES WATERWAYS**

**La Meuse:** 95 km / 21 locks  
(Pont-à-Bar to Givet).

**Ardennes Canal:**  
106 km / 46 locks  
(as far as Berry-au-Bac,  
in the Aisne region)

**The "canal de l'Est":**  
100 km / 22 locks  
(as far as Verdun,  
in the Meuse region)

**A total of:**  
**301 km / 89 locks /**  
**17 riverside stations.**

PEACE OF MIND

**WE TESTED FOR YOU**  
**PILOTING A SMALL**  
**BARGE**

**LOOKING FOR A REAL BREAK? WITH OVER 300 KM OF WATERWAYS, THE ARDENNES GIVE YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISPENSE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE AND ENJOY AUTHENTIC CRUISING.**

An on/off button. Five seconds of pre-heating. Just cast off the mooring lines and clear the quayside. A gentle push on the accelerator, a turn of the wheel, 10 seconds of pressure on a button, and your course is easily corrected. At Pont-à-Bar, on the Ardennes Canal, the Ponçay starts its journey through refreshing countryside where the emerald green of the trees mingles with the tender shade of fresh grass. A stone's throw away, cows graze peacefully. Our boat glides on calm waters, almost in a straight line. In Rimbaud country, a tipsy craft could be taken for a tribute, but only a few hundred metres are needed to get a feel for the helm and the stream.

The most technical aspect is the lock, of which a patient guide teaches us the techniques. They are opened by remote control. Fortunately the fenders are there to protect the hull from any errors. With a lock every 3 km on average, you will have the time to perfect your skills.

**SCENERY AND GOURMET STOP-OVERS**

Even the less skilled will let the peace and quiet take over, and quickly see themselves as barge skippers: en route for vast horizons, legendary landscapes, historic sites and gourmet stops in a peaceful, protected and beneficial environment. Enjoy the "free liberty" so dear to Rimbaud!



**Cruising options**

**From Pont-à-Bar:**  
live-aboard permit-free boats  
(introductory day or week).

**From Givet:**  
cruise (outing or meal) on  
the *Charlemagne* or the *Naiade*  
(subject to availability).

**From Monthermé:**  
cruise with commentary on *the Roc*.

**Enjoy the water differently: electric boat, canoe, paddle, pedalo...**

**All details on**  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "river tourism"  
and "by the waterside"



“ Excursions in a gentle, undulating setting. ”



## ENCOUNTER

# IN THE PEACEFUL FOOTSTEPS OF A DONKEY

Bertin, Marcel, Fernand, Marius, Gaston ... with their long donkey's ears, they are coddled by their owner, Emmanuel Crametz. Untreated pastures in summer, organic hay in the winter.... and kilometre after kilometre for exercise. Attracted by the peaceful beauty of the site, and inspired by his long experience of hiking, he left Valence, his home town in the south, to come to Ardennes to organise donkey treks. *“From the age of 3 or 4, donkeys are perfect for carrying bagages and children, as*

Based with his donkeys in Le Ménil at Vaux-Vilaine, **Emmanuel Crametz** offers the opportunity of a unique experience.

*much 40 kg for a small donkey”.* These excellent walkers can cover as much as 15 to 20 km per day from their base at Vaux-Villaine to Lalobbe and Signy-l'Abbaye, in a *“gentle, undulating setting”*, or descending the Meuse Valley *“to the lake at Vieille-Forges or even the Château de Montcornet”*. Great fun for youngsters, who

don't notice the kilometres passing. Peace and quiet guaranteed. *“I see it on their faces when they come back. They even move differently. Everything changes at donkey's pace.”*



## AN ECOTOURISM CLUB TO GUIDE YOU

Rooms painted with potatoes, natural pigments from the Moulin d'Ecordal, façade finished by local craftsmen, masonry heater, single dish to avoid waste, local products: just so many environmentally responsible initiatives which are not always easy to find, especially for tourists visiting the area for the first time, but now the **Ardennes Ecotourism Club**, a cross-border network, simplifies the task.

In 2017, some thirty sites meeting clear criteria for sustainable tourism have been identified in the French Ar-

dennes. Water and energy savings, use of natural cleaning products, waste selection, etc. Just so many gestures in favour of the Environment. *“The choice of ecotourist accommodation is the guarantee of a holiday that is in line with the ideals of responsible tourism”*, says Stéphanie Drothier, responsible for the Club at the Ardennes Tourist Development Agency. *“These committed professionals are informed and can give advice about buying locally, finding good ideas and leisure activities. Customers can relax. We look after it for them.”*

■ ■ ■  
**All environmentally friendly activities on**  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> “responsible tourism”  
**All ecotourist providers on**  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> “our preferred labels”



UNEXPECTED

# THE CHARIOT OF LEGENDS

## ELFY PARK IN THE ELVES' VILLAGE

Near the Vieilles-Forges lake, the forest is home to a fun-loving people of elves.

**Elfy Park**, their country, is made up of games: slides, tyrolean traverses, netting: 5 hectares of magic for young and old alike.

■■■  
[www.elfypark.fr](http://www.elfypark.fr)

DEEP IN THE ARDENNES MASSIF, PHILIPPE BOUDARD'S "TCHÂR SCAILLE" SPANS DIFFERENT WORLDS. A 21ST CENTURY LEGEND.

**Philippe Boudard** maintains the flame of the "fabulous" in the Ardennes.

Between the magnetic Roc-la-Tour and the legendary Croix-Scaille, the hamlet of Six-Chênons contains a fascinating work: the **Tchâr scaille**.

Conceived by Philippe Boudard, it evokes a chariot made of schist (scaille means slate in Wallon) drawn by two horses, in the centre of a circle of menhirs on the edge of a clearing: an island in the immensity of the forest. The motto, "*I ride between the worlds*", an allusion to the Europe of Legends, also recalls the Celtic tradition of chariot graves: warriors were buried in their chariot with their horses to travel to the next world. The Tchâr Scaille is an invitation to a voyage through different worlds. As a contemporary resurgence of

these ancient legends, it is inspired by a fundamental element of the Ardennes tradition: enchantment.

### SUMMER SOLSTICE

*"The enchanter modifies the world by his song, voice, speech, and rhythm... We find these elements in hunting, forging, and legends, always related to an animist society"* explains this teller of legends, who sees the Tchâr scaille as another stone added to this edifice.

Massive. Rugged. Monolithic. Immobile. Under the sun of the summer solstice, this vessel of stone and its symbolic horses seem ready to take flight. The unending forest, the odour of the earth, the breeze. The poetic magic takes effect. The evocative power of the place prevails: the legend still lives.

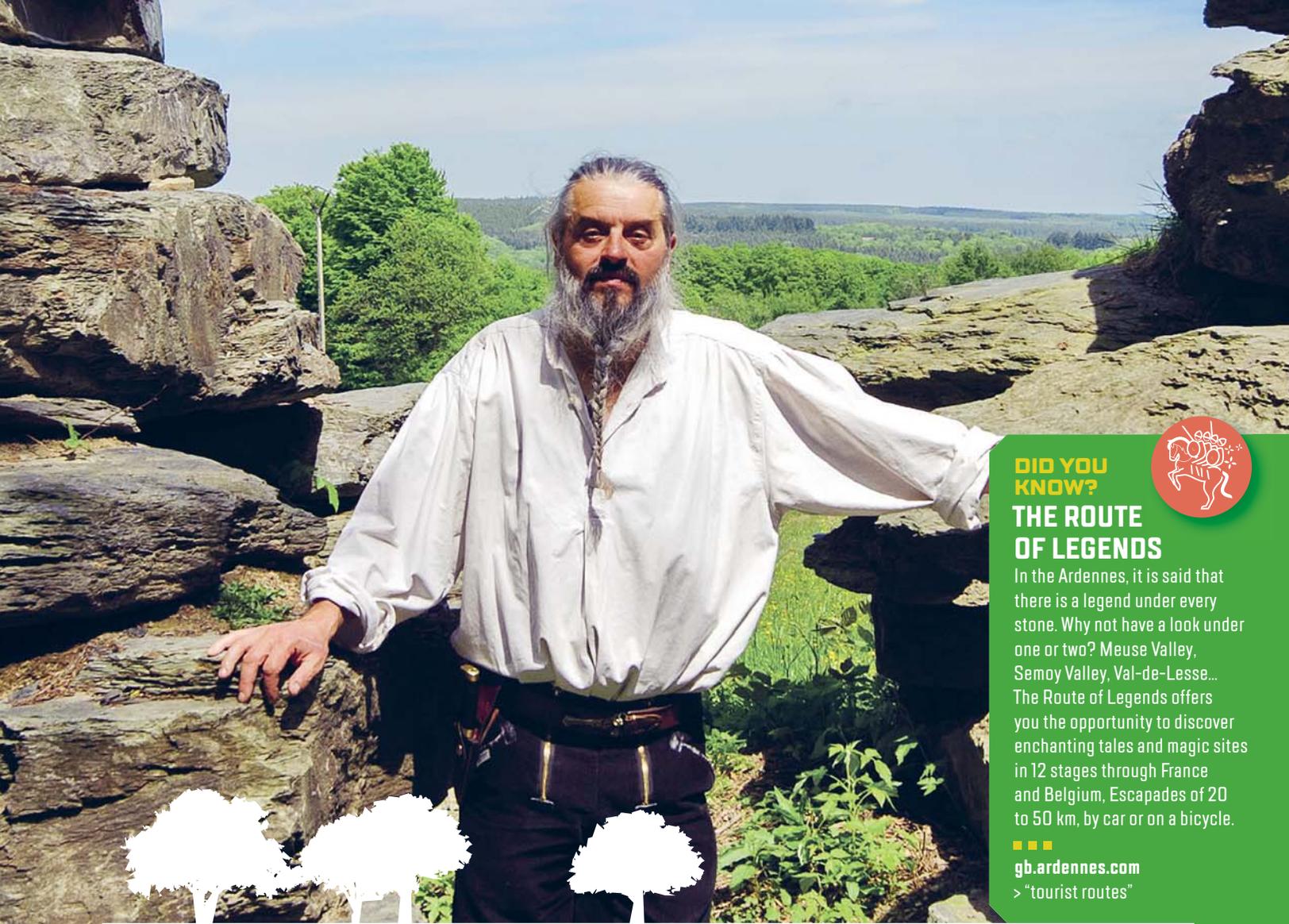
## LEGENDARY WALKS

A wonderful moment awaits you! The "walks with Arduin the druid" offer the chance to discover the Ardennes through its tales and legends. For example: the Four Sons of Aymon, The Pipe that smokes at Bogny-sur-Meuse, Imbolc the Lyre at Monthermé.... Qualified by

the French Hiking Federation, Jean-Luc and Claudie (sometimes accompanied by Arduin the Druid) guide you during long walks of an hour and a half or two hours. It gets steep sometimes! Good shoes essential, and animals must be on a lead.

■■■  
Download the programme from [rando.jeanluclemaire.fr](http://rando.jeanluclemaire.fr)





**DID YOU KNOW?**

**THE ROUTE OF LEGENDS**

In the Ardennes, it is said that there is a legend under every stone. Why not have a look under one or two? Meuse Valley, Semoy Valley, Val-de-Lesse... The Route of Legends offers you the opportunity to discover enchanting tales and magic sites in 12 stages through France and Belgium, Escapades of 20 to 50 km, by car or on a bicycle.

■ ■ ■  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
 > "tourist routes"



**MONTHERMÉ**  
**ROC-LA-TOUR**

Broken stone columns, overturned blocks of quartzite, the gaping ravine: from its altitude of 408 metres, the chaos of Roc-la-Tour offers a strange panorama from which emanates a savage power. This devastation is the work of the Devil, the vestiges of a castle promised to a lord, before the first cock crow, in exchange for his soul. But the Devil and his noisy army of fiends woke the cock, who crowed before the last stone had been laid: and the Devil destroyed the fabulous castle in a rage.



**LAIFOUR**  
**THE LADIES OF MEUSE**

On the left bank of the Meuse, three enormous tree-covered rocks bar the skyline. The legend tells that they are the daughters of the Count of Rethel, **Berthe, Hodierno** and **Ige**. Married to Vauthier, Heribrand and Geoffroy, the sons of the Count of Hierges, the three sisters remained alone after the departure of their husbands on Crusade with Geoffroy de Bouillon. They were unfaithful to their husbands with passing knights, and God punished them by turning them to stone when Jerusalem was taken.



**BOGNY-SUR-MEUSE**  
**AYMON'S 4 SONS**

Here the enchanter Maugis built the Castle of Montessor with the 4 Sons of Aymon, the heroes of a famous *chanson de geste*. **Renaud, Alard, Guichard** and **Richard** lived at Charlemagne's court until Renaud killed the king's nephew during a chess game. They fled the Ardennes on his magic horse Bayard, crossing valleys in a single leap. Numerous sites around Europe tell the tale: Ardennes, Gascogne, German... If you're at **Bogny** for the summer solstice, listen carefully and you may hear the whinnying of Bayard.



## DID YOU KNOW? LEISURE SPORT

The green immensity of the Ardennes hides many treasures. At Villers-le-Tilleul, the Poursaudes golf course is another original way to relax and practice a sporting activity in the countryside.

■ ■ ■  
gb.ardennes.com  
> "golf"

# TOP 5 THRILLS

THERE'S NO NEED FOR MOUNTAINS TO ENJOY THRILLING MOMENTS: THE ARDENNES MASSIF AND ITS ALTITUDE VARIATIONS OF 380 METRES ARE AN IDEAL PLAYGROUND FOR ADRENALINE LOVERS.



### Have a good time at the PNR

The Parc Naturel Régional (Regional Wildlife Park) is home to the Meuse and Semoy Valleys Mountain Bike area. It offers 21 marked trails, 6 rest areas and 350 km of trails (from Givet to Nouzonville) with 4 levels of difficulty. Downloadable map, details on [www.parc-naturel-ardennes.fr](http://www.parc-naturel-ardennes.fr)

### Sedan and region mountain bike area

**Le Bannet** : 16 trails with different levels, a total of 116 km, are available on the VTT-FFC Bannet site, Givonne, near Sedan. Downloadable map and trails on [www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr](http://www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr)

### Ride over *Les Crêtes*, mountain bike trails

The *Crêtes Préardennaises* offer 239 km of mountain bike trails from 12 km to 25 km. Download from [www.rando-cretes.fr](http://www.rando-cretes.fr)



4



2

3

## FANTASTICABLE

**Michaël Gault**, the manager of the TerrAltitude adventure park at Fumay.

*"It's a nice overhead stroll of 1.2 km above the forest and the Meuse, two key features of the Ardennes countryside, at a height of 110 m. People often like it so much that they find it too short (the top speed is 100 km/hr). You can do it lying down, or in the sitting position, which feels more reassuring, or two people (father and son, for example) can do it together."*

1

## ENDURO MOUNTAIN BIKING

**Steve Pechet**, vice-champion Grand Est Benelux 2015

*"The French Ardennes are ideal for mountain bike and nature addicts, with marvellous views, hilly, varied terrain, and ease of access. It's better than the mountains: you climb for shorter distances, it's less elitist, and you can do 4 or 5 special descents in a single morning. There's a lot of choice, with about twenty trails between Bagny-sur-Meuse, Monthermé, Hautes-Rivières and Nohan... usually starting from Roc-la-Tour at 8 or 9 am."*

Facebook page  
Semoy VTT club de Monthermé,  
To cycle in safety,  
respecting  
the environment

## BUNGEE JUMPING

**Éric Lavielle**, président of the Adrenaline Élastique association

*"Amazing. A hell of an experience. Have to do it again."* There's no lack of superlatives on landing. *"It's a jump of 37 m from the magnificent Exermont Viaduct, in a very pretty natural setting. We organise 30 per year, in a great atmosphere, on the last Saturdays each month from April to September".* A "pure instant of adrenaline" that can also be experienced at the **Fumay adventure park** from a 20 m high wooden tower.

4

www.adrenaline-elastique.com/exermont  
Booking mandatory,  
call +33 [0]6 73 58 66 45



5



2

## TRAIL

**Jérémie Degraeve**, president of K-raid Ardennes, the organisers of the Aymon Trail (Bagny-sur-Meuse), Meuse Trail (Revin) and the Rimbaud City Trail (Charleville-Mézières).

*"The valley is perfect for seekers after thrills in the great outdoors: there are some ups and downs, a lot of woodland, and above all, a vast number of paths and tracks. You have a combination of fun and technique, with some quite difficult passages such as the Quatre fils Aymon at Bagny-sur-Meuse, or The Wall, just behind Haulmé, a drop of 250 m over 500 metres, between 35 and 40%."*

www.k-raid-ardennes.fr  
Details of other Ardennes trails  
at [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "trails"

5

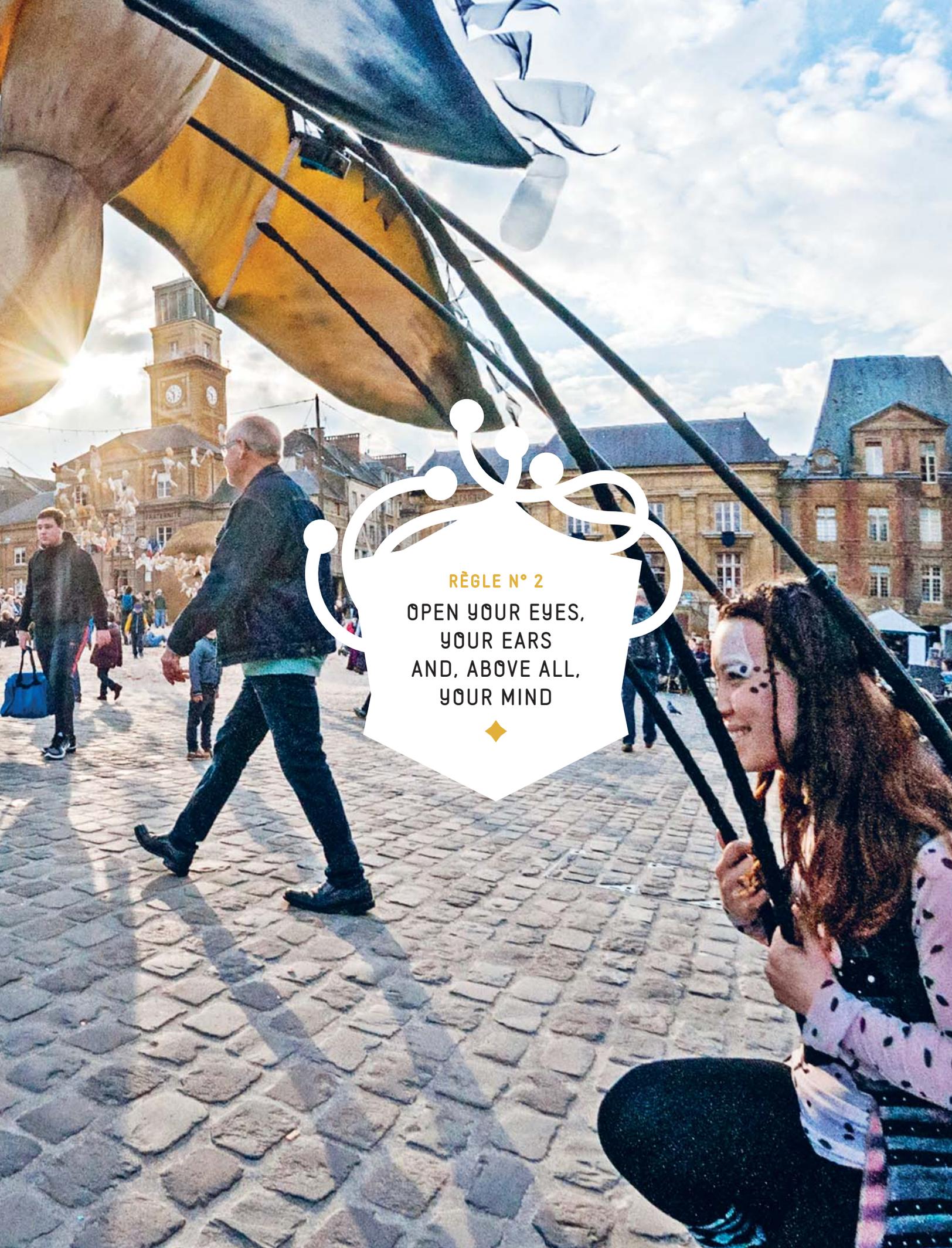
## PARACHUTING

**Olivier Tordo**, instructor-pilot at Douzy flying club

*"Unforgettable. Extraordinary. Fabulous. Going out of the door is difficult, the step is high: 3,500 metres! But the instructors are very serious and reassuring. Free fall is fantastic, you drop like a missile at over 200 km/hr: a real feeling of freedom. Then, after the tumult of free-fall, the opening of the parachute and the utter silence of the descent under parachute. It was marvellous. I'm a pilot, but I suffer from vertigo. If I can do it, anyone can. I would do it again with pleasure."*

Paraclub de Belval  
Registration: +33 [0]6 13 08 24 11  
Details on [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "in the air"





**RÈGLE N° 2**  
OPEN YOUR EYES,  
YOUR EARS  
AND, ABOVE ALL,  
YOUR MIND

◆

**RASBERRY  
MACAROONS**

*Fondant and freshness*

**ARABICA**

*White chocolate flavoured  
with coffee and tender  
chicory biscuit.*

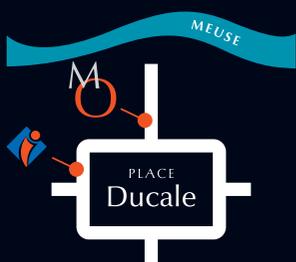
**THE CAROLO**

*The "speciality" of  
Charleville-Mézières*

**THE ARDOISIER**

*Our own creation,  
a tongue in cheek  
reference to the Ardoise,  
a local sweet.*

# Mont Olympe



**CONFECTIONER, BAKER, CHOCOLATE MAKER**

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[WWW.BOULANGERIE-BIO-MONTOLYMPE.FR](http://WWW.BOULANGERIE-BIO-MONTOLYMPE.FR)





# WEEK-END IN CHARLEVILLE-MÉZIÈRES

## A TOWN AT THE RIGHT

# TEMPO



IN JUST TWO DAYS, ANNE AND ALEXANDRE DISCOVER THE MANY FACETTES OF THE CAPITAL OF THE FRENCH ARDENNES, BIRTHPLACE OF THE POET ARTHUR RIMBAUD AND THE PUPPETS OF THE PLACE DUCALE, 17TH CENTURY JEWEL, AND THE MEDIEVAL RAMPARTS OF MÉZIÈRES: A WALK PUNCTUATED BY MANY SURPRISES.

### DID YOU KNOW ?

#### GUIDED TOURS

The Tourist Office offers a large range of guided visits: *Heart of Charleville, Medieval Mézières, Basilica of Mézières and its stained glass, In the footsteps of Rimbaud ..*

#### & CONCERTS

Organ concerts are also given, organized during summer in the Basilica of Mézières.

Details:  
gb.ardennes.com



**Details from**  
Tourist Office,  
Charleville/Sedan en Ardenne  
+33 [0]3 24 55 69 90  
[www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr](http://www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr)

**Ardennes Tourism**  
**Development Agency**  
+33 [0]3 24 56 06 08  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)



**Anne and Alexandre** chose to spend a weekend break in Charleville-Mézières, awarded "City of Art and History" label. They looked forward to taking a beneficial and cultural breather in the country, less than two hours from Paris.

# ITINERARY OF A COUPLE IN CHARLESTOWN

## SATURDAY

### 9:30 AM

From **Paris**, after **1 hour 37 minutes** by TGV, Anne and Alexandre arrive right in the heart of Charleville-Mézières, the ideal city imagined and founded in 1606 by **Charles de Gonzague**.

### 10:00 AM

The **place Ducale** ❶, the twin of the famous Place des Vosges in Paris, is a must-see. There are cafés, shops, restaurants and tourist information points. The couple visit an exhibition at the **Vitrine des Ardennes** (Ardennes Showcase).



### 11:00 AM

They are enthralled to discover the magnificent **Musée de l'Ardenne** (Ardenne Museum) ❷ in a house on the square. This framework of stone and glass houses **2000 years of local history** from Roman times to the present. The unexpected view of the **Grand Marionnettiste** (Great Puppeteer) ❸ prompts them to go and have a look at this automaton, the symbol of the **world capital of puppet theatres**.

#### Musée de l'Ardenne

31 place Ducale  
+33 [0]3 24 32 44 60  
[www.charleville-mezieres.fr](http://www.charleville-mezieres.fr)

#### Grand marionnettiste

Place Winston Churchill  
Presentation of a playlet of the legend of the Four Sons of Aymon every hour from 10 am to 9 pm. Full review on Saturdays at 9:15 pm.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

#### A CINEMA IN THE CENTRE OF TOWN

The Métropolis is not only one of Fritz Lang's masterpieces, it is also a cinema in the heart of Charleville-Mézières, a stone's throw from the Place Ducale.



### 12H30

After passing the astonishing building of the **l'École Nationale Supérieure des Arts de la Marionnette** (National School of Puppet Arts), Anne and Alexandre stroll along the pedestrian streets ❹ once walked by Rimbaud, who was born at 12, rue Napoleon (now rue Bérégovoy).



#### ESNAM

16 avenue Jean Jaurès  
+33 [0]3 24 33 72 50  
[www.marionnette.com](http://www.marionnette.com)



### 12H45

Lunch break, with local products. **White sausage, fresh vegetables, local beer**. And of course, a **carolo** for dessert.



### 3:00 PM

Off to **Mézières** via the Cours Briand and the Avenue d'Arches for a guided tour of the medieval quarter, and a stroll on the ramparts ❺. This area, once defended by the **Chevalier Bayard** and scarred by the wars from 1870 to 1945, houses some little-known treasures. Our two friends discover the magnificent **Notre-Dame d'Espérance** basilica, famous for its contemporary stained glass, the work of René Dürrbach, a pupil of Picasso.



### 7:00 PM

Back in Charlestown, as Rimbaud called it, they enjoy a tasting of local dishes (**boar paté, bacon salad, "cacasse à cul nu", "galette à suc" and "gâteau mollet" – a local brioche**), then an after lunch stroll to **Mont-Olympe** ❻ before returning to the Place Ducale to enjoy the summer atmosphere.

## SUNDAY



### 9:00 AM

It's already Sunday, and there are so many things to do. Following the advice of their hotelier, they rent bicycles to take the **Rimbaud tour, via the station square, former college and cemetery**.



### 10:30 AM

The yellow stones of the **Old Mill**, where the **Rimbaud Museum** is housed ❷ look splendid in the sun. Once inside, the discovery of the poet's original manuscripts is a moving experience. Outside again, Anne and Alexandre cross the street and find the **Maison des Ailleurs** (known as the "House of the Illustrious"), which evokes Rimbaud's travels, and was his childhood home.



#### Musée Arthur Rimbaud

Quai Rimbaud  
+33 [0]3 24 32 44 65

#### Maison des Ailleurs

7 Quai Rimbaud  
+33 [0]3 24 32 44 70  
[www.charleville-mezieres.fr](http://www.charleville-mezieres.fr)



### 12:30

Today they'll have a picnic. Starting from **Montcy-Notre-Dame**, the young couple pedal along the **GreenWay** ❸ in search of a quiet spot. As they follow the river Anne and Alexandre discover the magnificent scenery and enjoy a large breath of fresh air. They make the most of it until the end of the afternoon, before going for dinner in one of the many restaurants in the city centre.



### 9:00 PM

To make the most of their stay, Anne and Alexandre decide to take the last train. Delighted by the authenticity and beauty of the region, they resolve to return.



**1**  
**HECTARE**  
 The exceptional area of  
 the Place Ducale.



**SOME SUGGESTIONS FROM AMEL BOUDERRA**

**Amel Bouderra,** leader of the FCBA (Flammes Carolo Basket) was voted best player in France in 2016 and 2017.

**The World Puppet Theatre Festival:** "Discover a show at every turning as you stroll through the city! There's a really friendly atmosphere. Every two years the city is full of life from morning to evening."

**Mont-Olympe:** "I love it. You just have to climb it. There is a flat area at the top, and you can sit down or play, and there's a lovely view of Charleville-Mézières. Below you can watch the boats passing along the Meuse, near the swimming pool, and children playing basketball. You always meet young people. And you feel almost outside the city. It's perfect for a picnic."

**The seats near the Old Mill:** "Of course, there's the Place Ducale. You need to take the time to look around, stroll along the rue du Moulin, read the poems on the seats near the Musée Rimbaud, and take photos."

**The Avenue d'Arches:** "The buildings on this avenue, on the other side of the city, towards Mézières, are in a magnificent Art Deco style. The town hall is attractive too, and if you are going as far as Mézières, take the Rue Monge, pass the army barracks and the Meuse and continue to the Exhibition Park. That's where we train. The matches are held from October to May."





# MUSÉE VERLAINE

Running commentaries,  
temporary exhibitions, book fair,  
concerts, and more.



## REVAMP THE CLICHES

PROGRAMME, PRICES, BOOKING...  
MORE DETAILS FROM  
[WWW.MUSEE-VERLAINE.FR](http://WWW.MUSEE-VERLAINE.FR)

1 RUE DU PONT PAQUIS  
08310 JUNIVILLE  
+33 [0]3 24 39 68 00



**Pays Rethémois Tourism Office**

3 Quai d'Orfeuil · 08300 Rethel · [www.sud-ardennes-tourisme.com](http://www.sud-ardennes-tourisme.com)



## TRAIL RIMBAUD VERLAINE ROUTE

This tour, comprising eight stages of between 20 and 50 km, takes you in the footsteps of the two poets.



# IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE POETS RIMBAUD VS VERLAINE

Arthur Rimbaud and Paul Verlaine are among the greatest of French poets. It was here, in the French Ardennes at the end of the 19th century, that they lived a turbulent relationship. "It's impossible to separate Rimbaud from Verlaine. Without Verlaine, we might never have known the real Rimbaud," asserts Maryse Aubry, who created the Rimbaud Tour, which starts in Roche. "Verlaine is the only person to recognise the potential genius in Rimbaud", confirms Marc Gaillot, the enthusiastic guide at the Verlaine Museum in Juniville, where the poet lived for several years. They both defend a version of the story in which the French Ardennes have far more importance in the life of these two poets than is generally accepted. The two poets met, loved each other and finally hated each other in Paris, London and Brussels. But less is said of their common roots in the Ardennes. And yet they are very deep. Rimbaud was constantly leaving, only to return. Verlaine lived many happy summers in his father's family. After the "Rimbaud affair" the Ardennes were the site of a double quest. That of the redemption of Verlaine (as teacher and farmer), and that of the flight of Rimbaud. By a strange destiny, their paths never crossed again. Rimbaud was far away. They never met again.



### JUNIVILLE

The Auberge du Lion d'or (**Verlaine Museum**), known as "**House of the Illustrious**" witnessed Verlaine's passage to the south of the Ardennes when he wanted to become a farmer with his friend Lucien Létinois.

■■■  
**Musée Verlaine**  
+33 [0]3 24 39 68 00  
[www.musee-verlaine.fr](http://www.musee-verlaine.fr)



### ROCHE

The **Cuif-Rimbaud** left Charleville to go to the family farm. Today only a wall is left standing. A 7 km tour explores this region that inspired Rimbaud to write **Une Saison en enfer**.

■■■  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "Rimbaud-Verlaine route"



### CHARLEVILLE

The epicentre of the "myth" with the **Rimbaud Museum**, The **Maison des Ailleurs**, the **cemetery**, and the **Rimbaud tour**...

■■■  
**Musée Rimbaud et Maison des Ailleurs**  
+33 [0]3 24 32 44 65  
[www.charleville-mezieres.fr](http://www.charleville-mezieres.fr)



### BOUILLON <sup>(B)</sup>

In April-May 1873, **Rimbaud, Verlaine et Delahaye** were drinking partners at the Hôtel de la Poste or the Hôtel des Ardennes. On 25th May, they decided to leave for London. In July, Verlaine fired a shot at Rimbaud in Brussels.

■■■  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "Rimbaud-Verlaine route"



### PALISEUL <sup>(B)</sup> CARLSBOURG <sup>(B)</sup> JÉHONVILLE <sup>(B)</sup>

From 1845 to 1873, **Paul Verlaine** spent summers in the "land of his heart" with his aunts Julie and Henriette. **A 5 km tour** introduces you to his life here.

■■■  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "Rimbaud-Verlaine route"

**DID YOU KNOW?  
A NAME IN THE FORM  
OF A TRIBUTE**



The **Cabaret Vert** is the name of a poem by **Rimbaud** written during an escapade in Belgium.



2018 edition from 23rd to 26th August

Details:

[www.cabaretvert.com](http://www.cabaretvert.com)

## THE CABARET VERT

# A UNIQUE STATE OF MIND

INDEPENDENT, CONVIVIAL, AUTHENTIC, SIMPLE, GENEROUS, RESPONSIBLE AND FESTIVE OF COURSE! THE CABARET VERT IS THE QUINTESSENCE OF THE ARDENNES.

### The surprise of discovery •

International stars are not alone on the stage of the Cabaret Vert. There's a place for rising stars and emerging artists too. There's an ethos of renewal that is noticeable in every creative field, from catering to decoration, including the theatre. Every edition brings its collection of surprises.

### Ecology is in its DNA •

The first French ecology friendly festival, which signed a chart for the environment in 2005, has constantly progressed. With its emphasis on short circuits, responsible consumption, draconian waste management (with its own waste sorting unit!), the creation of a think tank (the Ideal), awarded the "Greener festival" prize in 2010, it is now supporting a European sustainable development programme.

“ What an incredible atmosphere! Over and above the concerts, what I remember are the encounters during meals. You can spend time with friends, or make new acquaintances. ”



LOLA, 20

**Living and open arts •** Cartoon strips, street art, film projections: culture doesn't stop at music. Outside the concerts themselves, festival goers immerse themselves in a host of other worlds. Little islands of curious and delicious events.

**100% unpaid •** In 2017, 2,000

people worked free of charge for 3 weeks to prepare the festival... With enthusiasm and generosity, in a legendary atmosphere of goodwill. Because the excellent welcome is not reserved only for the festival goers.

**Among the artists on stage:** *The Chemical Brothers, Iggy Pop, Archive, Massive Attack, Placebo, Prodigy, Emir Kusturica, Catherine Ringer, Christine and The Queen, Dionysos, Franz Ferdinand, Indochine, Louise Attaque, Arno, Korn... and many more!*

## THE ASFELD BIENNIEL VIOLA DE GAMBA FESTIVAL: AN "EXCEPTIONAL EVENT"

*"The church of Asfeld, in the shape of a viola de gamba, is a real gem".*

More than 10 years after discovering it, Jean-Louis Charbonnier, teacher of viola de gamba in Paris (and Gérard Depardieu's musical double in "All the mornings of the world") is still dazzled by this 17th century marvel "present in art books all over the world". This amazement, shared with other enthusiasts, led to the creation of the **Asfeld biennial viola de gamba festival**, unique in Europe, which

has hosted some of the greatest names of classical music: Jordi Savall, Paolo Pandolfo, Guido Balestracci... For its next edition on 23rd and 24th June 2018, the president of the Asfeld Heritage Association, Aline Beaujard, is expecting as many as 5,000 people from Spain, Austria, Italy, the UK, Belgium, and France of course: an international appeal that is perfectly normal for this string instrument, close to the guitar with its six strings and its frets, which was played in all the European courts from the 15th to the 18th centuries.



Details:

[www.paysrethelois.fr](http://www.paysrethelois.fr)

[www.violedegambe.org](http://www.violedegambe.org)



## FESTIVALS FOR EVERY TASTE

### GUITAR

**Rencontre guitar et patrimoine** (Guitar and heritage encounters) offers moments of pure, simple beauty, celebrating summer with outstanding instrumentalists in the most prestigious sites of Sedan and its region. The programme includes baroque, classical, jazz and "world music".

### CELTIC

The end of July brings a Celtic atmosphere to the Platelle of the **Quatre Fils Aymon**, Bogny-sur-Meuse, with the **Aymon Folk Festival**, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017.

### CLASSICAL MUSIC IN THE COUNTRY

Classical music comes to the countryside with the **Musicales de Louvergnny**, under the supervision of the Italian artistic director, Paolo Gatto. Internationally renowned artists, musicians and opera singers will be performing with good humour and fantasy in various villages of the Vouzinois region.

### AND ALSO...

The château de la Cour des Prés, a 16th century castle in Rumigny, is another exceptional site for musical evenings. The concerts take place in summer, and are followed by a candle dinner. Details: + 33 [0]3 24 35 52 66.

■ ■ ■  
**All concerts and festivals**  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "events"

## MIDDLE AGES IN SEDAN

LIVING  
HISTORY

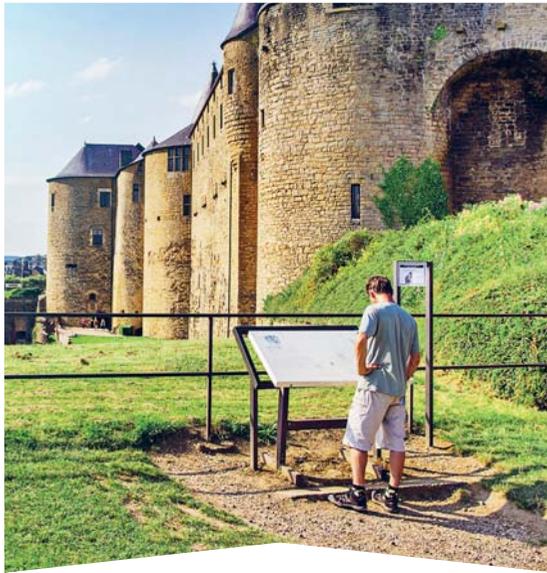
HENRI IV, ELISABETH OF AUSTRIA, TURENNE...

GREAT NAMES HAVE CONTEMPLATED THIS CASTLE, THE LARGEST IN EUROPE

LET YOURSELF BE CARRIED AWAY BY ITS MAGIC USER GUIDE

**Imagine** • Even from the moat or the castle court, the silhouette of this stone colossus seems very unusual. Seen from its heights, the ramparts and wall walk appeal to the wildest imagination. Can you see the young Charlotte de la Marck welcoming her troops, over there?

**Enjoy a visit** • Pierce the secrets of its towers, gates and ramparts. Reconstitutions tell you the great and small history of the place. Raymond le Marmiton has escaped from the castle kitchens to guide visiting children.



**Watch a tournament** • Sigismond, the guest of the Prince de la Marck, is a bad sport. He thinks he is a better fighting man than his host. They challenge each other to a duel. The two lords and their faithful companions will confront each other in the lists. They await your encouragement. Thrills and excitement are guaranteed throughout the summer, or during the Medieval Festival.

**Feast** • And experience a waking dream on 26th and 27th May. With 400 extras and numerous companies and craftsmen, the medieval festival gives you a one-way ticket to the Middle

Ages. Daily life, workshops (cooking, forge, glassblowing, garment making, juggling, fire eaters, and a medieval market: you could even get married!

**Put on your costume** • Disguise yourself for the Medieval Festival or take advantage of the collection of period costumes in the photographic studio in the castle. An unforgettable photo opportunity is available throughout the festival or in the summer period.



The castle is open every day from 10 am to 5 pm (last departure at 5 pm), except Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

« CITY OF ART AND HISTORY »  
SINCE 2000

The city of Sedan proposes several discovery tours with different themes: Immerse yourself in Sedan, Turenne, Sedan during the Great War, Sedan Hospital, etc.

■■■ Guided tours during the summer season.

## DID YOU KNOW?

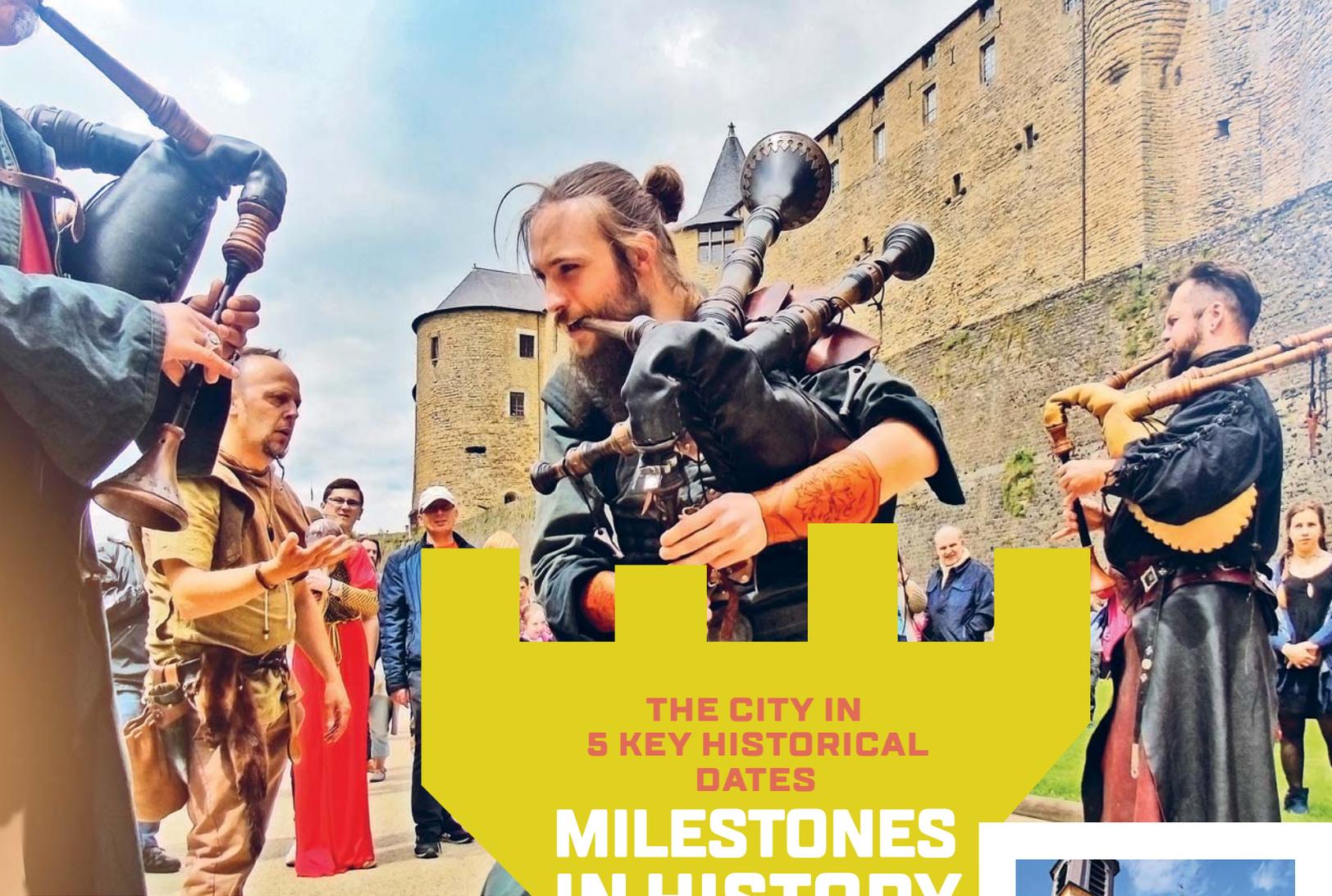
## YANNICK NOAH WAS BORN IN SEDAN

The famous French tennis player is the son of the professional footballer Zacharie Noah, of the CSSA (Club Sportif Sedan Ardennes), which won the French Cup in 1961.



**Sedan Castle**  
+33 [0]3 24 29 98 80  
[www.chateau-fort-sedan.fr](http://www.chateau-fort-sedan.fr)

**Charleville/Sedan  
in Ardennes Tourist Office**  
+33 [0]3 24 27 73 73  
[www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr](http://www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr)



THE CITY IN  
5 KEY HISTORICAL  
DATES

# MILESTONES IN HISTORY



Aurélien Behr is the guide selected for official visits: President Hollande in January 2017, Françoise Nyssen, Culture Minister, in September. A member of the SHAS (Sedan region society of history and archaeology), and the author of "Sedan, an international and denominational focus", he reveals 5 key dates for Sedan.

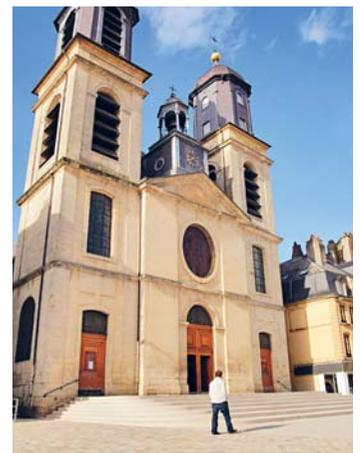
**Early 16th century:** The future lord of Sedan, Robert III de la Marck, was sent to Amboise to join the future François I of France, becoming his friend and companion of arms. Together they pursue the Italian wars.

**1538:** His son, Robert IV, married Françoise de Brézé, the daughter of Diane de Poitiers, the mistress of Henri II of France. Henri II stayed at the castle for a month in 1552.

**November 1570:** Disguised, Charles IX mingles with the crowd to watch his future wife, Elizabeth of Austria, at the foot of the bastion des Dames (Ladies bastion). The marriage was celebrated in Mézières on 26th November.

**11 September 1611:** Birth of the future Marshal de Turenne. His elder brother, Frédéric-Maurice de La Tour d'Auvergne, lost Sedan after a plot against the Cardinal Richelieu in 1642.

**2 September 1870:** Emperor Napoleon III leaves Sedan for the Château de Bellevue in Donchéry, where he signs the capitulation in the presence of Bismark.



**DON'T MISS**  
**CHURCH OF SAINT-CHARLES-BORROMÉE**

Behind its sombre façade, typical of the classical style, the church of Saint-Charles-Borromée hides a rarity: a Protestant church dating from the end of the 16th century. Built by Prince Henri de La Tour d'Auvergne for the Calvinists of Sedan, it escaped destruction when Louis XIV revoked the Edit of Nantes in 1685 and had all the Protestant churches destroyed. Instead it was converted into a Catholic church.



# CHARLEMONT, CITADEL of GIVET

## STEP INTO HISTORY



© Christian Galichet

Information :  
 Val d'Ardenne Tourisme  
 +33 (0)3.24.42.92.42  
[www.valdardennetourisme.com](http://www.valdardennetourisme.com)



HERITAGE

DON'T LEAVE WITHOUT SEEING  
**THE JEWELS**  
OF THE ARDENNES

FROM THE STAR OF ROCROI TO THE CITADEL OF GIVET, PASSING BY MOUZON  
AND THE FORTIFIED CHURCHES OF THIERACHE, ESCAPE DOWN  
THE PATHS OF ARCHITECTURAL PEARLS.

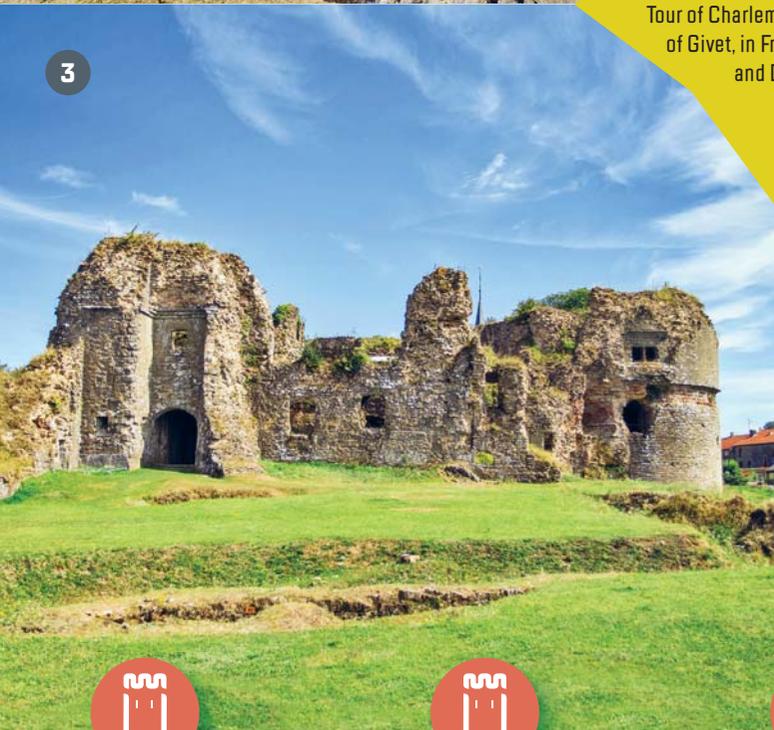


2



4

**3**  
**LANGUAGES**  
 Tour of Charlemont and Citadel of Givet, in French, English and Dutch



3



**ROCROI 1**

"A stone star in a verdant setting", Rocroi, an Ardennes "Small city of character", is unique as much for its architecture and fortifications as for its History. On 19th May 1643, the Duke of Enghien, soon to be known as the "Grand Condé", defeated the Spanish army besieging the city. It was a turning point in the history of France, at the beginning of the reign of Louis XIV.

■■■■  
**Rocroi and North-West Ardennes Tourist Office**  
 +33 [0]3 24 54 20 06  
[www.otrocroi.com](http://www.otrocroi.com)



**CHARLEMONT 2**  
**Citadel of Givet**

Perched on a rocky spur, Charlemont was built in the 16th century on the orders of Charles Quint, whence its name: Charles' Mount, and modified by Vauban in the 17th century. Now classified as a historic monument, the citadel held a strategic position in Europe for many years. Since 2017 its eastern point, undoubtedly the most spectacular, can be visited from July to September. It offers remarkable views of Givet and its valley.

■■■■  
**Val d'Ardennes Tourism**  
 +33 [0]3 24 42 92 42  
[www.valdardennetourisme.com](http://www.valdardennetourisme.com)



**CHÂTEAU DE MONTCORNET 3**

This 11th and 12th century medieval fortress, although partially destroyed, has a special charm. Constantly modified until the 16th century, it is a unique example of architectural adaptation to the development of artillery. When the castle was cleared, many objects from daily life were discovered, and are displayed in one of the preserved rooms.

■■■■  
**Association of friends of Montcornet**  
 +33 [0]3 24 54 93 48  
 +33 [0]6 71 15 43 15  
[www.chateaudumontcornet.fr](http://www.chateaudumontcornet.fr)



**MOUZON AND ITS GEMS 4**

Recently classed as a "Small city of character", Mouzon is a pearl full of surprises. Between the Porte de Bourgogne (a gate in the 13th century fortifications), its classified abbey church (12th to 19th centuries, early Gothic style), its organs, also classified, and a curious "recluse's cell", this little town is an ideal place for a complete change of air. The village also houses the Musée du Feutre (Felt Museum), the only one of its kind in France.

■■■■  
 A stage on the **Route des abbayes** to be found on [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
 > rubrique "tourist routes"

5



6



6

## TOURS

to discover  
the 65 fortified churches  
of Thiérache

OPEN YOUR  
PEEPERS AND **FORGET  
THE REST.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**STOPOVER  
VILLAGES**

There are two “village étapes” (stopover villages) in the French Ardennes: **Rocroi**, in the north near the Belgian frontier, and **Launois-sur-Vence** **8**, in the heart of the Ardennes foothills. The village is also known for its 17th century postal station.

7



**FORTIFIED  
CHURCHES OF  
THIÉRACHE** **5**

Signy-le-Petit, Aouste, Liart, Rouvrois-sur-Audry... The French Ardennes have some twenty fortified churches. These places of worship, flanked by defensive towers and embellished with machicolations, arrow slits and bartizans, were modified to serve as places of refuge for the local populations in a dangerous environment.

■■■  
**Ardennes Thiérache  
Association of Municipalities**  
+33 [0]3 24 26 13 31  
[www.ardennes-thierache.com](http://www.ardennes-thierache.com)

**SAINT-WALFROY  
HERMITAGE** **6**

At an altitude of 350 metres, the Saint-Walfroy hermitage overlooks the Wois country and offers an unbeatable view. An ancient pagan cult centre for the worship of Arduinna, the goddess of hunting and forests, it takes its name from Deacon Walfroy, who converted the Ardennes in the 6th century. A cross, a church and a park complete this calm, peaceful site, a place of pilgrimage and spiritual retreat.

■■■  
**Tourist Office of  
Portes du Luxembourg**  
+33 [0]3 24 29 79 91  
[www.portesduluxembourg.fr](http://www.portesduluxembourg.fr)

**Special favourite**  
**CHURCH OF SAINT-ANTOINE  
DES HAUTS-BUTTÉS** **7**

Deep in the forest at an altitude of 500 metres, the church of Saint-Antoine des Hauts-Buttés seems like the back of beyond. Dating from the 19th century, this still active pilgrimage site, dedicated to Saint Anthony of Padua, seems to be frozen in time. 2,500 votive offerings on the walls (not counting those removed for safety reasons) give it irresistible charm.



Vallées  
et Plateau  
d'Ardenne

Give you  
*wings*

**Its shape evokes a butterfly with infinite depth and colour: a new territory is spreading its wings today. Do as it does, and take flight to discover ... the Valleys and Plateau of the Ardennes.**

From the splendid star-shaped city of Rocroy to the spectacular river bend at Monthermé, through the legends of the four sons of Aymon or the Ladies of the Meuse, from the heights of the Rocher des Grands-Ducs or the foot of the Chateau of Montcornet, on a boat on the lake at Veilles Forges or by bike on the Trans-Semoysienne, following the industrial heritage at the Museum of Metallurgy at Bogny sur Meuse and the Slate Museum in Rimogne, on the trace of natural resources in the Forest Museum in Renwez and the museum of minerals and fossiles, in immersion in the Aquatic Centre in Rocroy, enjoying activities in the Ardennes adventure park, or quite simply with all the family at Elfy Park, **spread your wings and have a change of air: the Ardennes opens its arms to you.**

**[www.cc-valleesetplateaudardenne.fr](http://www.cc-valleesetplateaudardenne.fr)**

**Two Tourist Offices  
at your service**

**Boucles de Meuse et Semoy :**

+33 [0]3 24 54 46 73

> [contact@meuse-semoy-tourisme.com](mailto:contact@meuse-semoy-tourisme.com)

**Rocroy :**

+33 [0]3 24 54 20 06

> [info@otrocroi.com](mailto:info@otrocroi.com)



# LIVING MEMORY

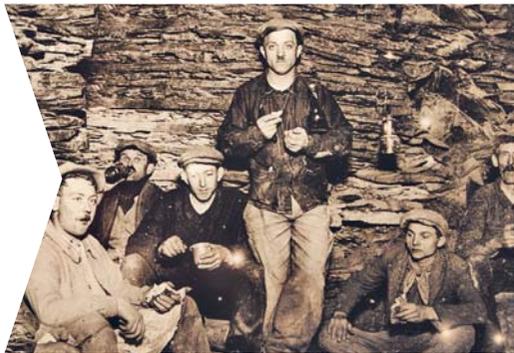
# THE SECRET OF THE SLATE MINES



THE MAISON DE L'ARDOISE (SLATE MUSEUM) IN RIMOGNE PROVIDES A STRIKING TOUR, FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE EARTH TO THE SURFACE, WHICH GIVES AN AUTHENTIC PICTURE OF THE DAILY LIFE OF THE "SLATERS". NARRATIVE...

## DID YOU KNOW? CONFECTIONARIES

You can also enjoy slates ... from chocolate makers.



From father to son, "You descend 600 metres and more. Practically everything is done in pitch blackness, from ladder to ladder, sometimes with 100 kgs on your back. You work by candlelight, with pickaxes and axes. When the block has been detached from the rock, it is cut up on the spot. That can take a long time without gunpowder. Above ground the women pump out the water which seeps in and makes the conditions so humid. The youngsters work too. Their small size and agility enable them to reach every nook and cranny." For many of them, the pit will be fatal. Their working conditions were appalling. By the end of the 19th century, and especially in the 20th century, acetylene lamps and electricity generators, winches, and even lifts improved working conditions. The last slate mine in the Ardennes was closed in 1971.

## SEE ALSO... THE SPANISH HOUSE

Explore this exceptional 16th century building (probably the unique vestige of the Spanish occupation, ending in 1769), which is now the the Museum of Old Revin.

## EUROPEAN ARTS & CRAFTS CENTRE

Based in Givet, the Centre houses over 5000 unique objects created by over one hundred craftsmen.

## THE ARDENNES IN 4 ELEMENTS



### WOOD

Forests cover practically a third of the region. Among the great forests that cover the territory is the **Arduenna Silva**, the primary forest, "the greatest in the whole of Gaul" according to Julius Cesar.

■■■■  
**Forest Museum**  
Renwez  
+33 [0]3 24 54 82 66  
[www.renwez.com](http://www.renwez.com)



### METAL

Metallurgy drove the heartbeat of the region for many years. A witness to this is the blast furnace at the **Domaine de Vendresse** (p. 47) and the **Metallurgy Museum** which retraces its history in the Ardennes.

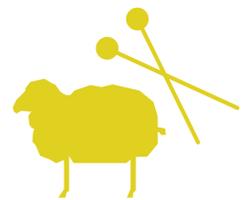
■■■■  
**Metallurgy Museum**  
Bogny-sur-Meuse  
+33 [0]3 24 35 06 71  
[www.musee-metallurgie-ardennes.fr](http://www.musee-metallurgie-ardennes.fr)



### SLATE

Over the ages slate, derived from shale massifs, has shaped the Ardennes countryside, from the façades and roofs of houses to funerary monuments, fireplaces and fountains.

■■■■  
**Slate Museum**  
Rimogne  
+33 [0]3 24 32 19 48  
+33 [0]3 24 35 13 14  
[www.village-ardoise-rimogne.fr](http://www.village-ardoise-rimogne.fr)



### FELT

Felt, the first textile produced by mankind 8000 years ago, is a living material. The last French felt factory, in **Mouzon**, is now classed "Museum of France". For fans of history, technology, arts and crafts.

■■■■  
**Felt Museum**  
Mouzon  
+33 [0]3 24 26 19 91  
[www.mouzon.fr](http://www.mouzon.fr)

“ A memory that is still alive for the younger generations. ”



## COMMEMORATIONS

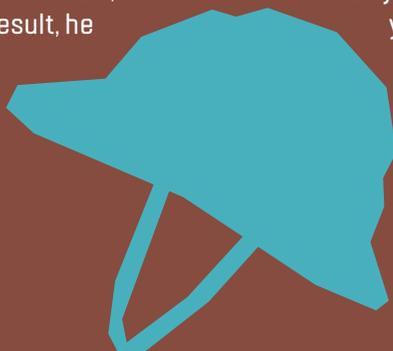
# 1918

## THE CENTENARY

THE CENTENARY OF 1918 HAS A SPECIAL DIMENSION IN THE ARDENNES  
THE ONLY FRENCH REGION OCCUPIED FOR 4 YEARS, IT WAS ALSO THE SITE OF THE LAST  
OFFICIAL COMBAT OF THE WAR

At Vigne-Meuse, on 11th November 1918, while carrying a muster order, Corporal Augustin Trébuchon was hit by a bullet in the head. He fell just before 11 am, a few minutes before the armistice. As a result, he was *the last French soldier to be killed in the 1914-18 war*. The 40 year-old family man from Lozère is buried at Vigne-Meuse. His death will be commemorated in this centenary year.

This international ceremony, attended by numerous personalities, is being seen in the Ardennes as the last of a cycle dedicated to remembrance. This four-year series of commemorations has been taking place under the auspices of the *1914-1918 Centenary*.



■ ■ ■  
Commemorations will be taking place throughout 2018.  
**Details**  
Tourist Offices (p. 58)  
and on [www.centenaire.org](http://www.centenaire.org)

# THE MAGINOT LINE

## “LA FERTÉ, AN EMBLEMATIC SITE”

### What is the reason for your interest in the Maginot line?

I was born in 1956. Since I was 8 years old, I have heard people talking about the War. I visited the Maginot Line for the first time when I was 25. For over 20 years, I have been obsessed by what happened in 1940. How could the Sedan breakthrough have been so rapid when, a few months previously, France seemed to have the most powerful army and defences? The Maginot Line comprises 10,000 blockhouses spread across the frontier with Belgium, Luxemburg, Germany and Italy. The drawings were secret, and we are still making discoveries, that we collect on the web site wikimaginot.eu. I've found a dozen blockhouses since I've lived here.

### What happened at the fort at Villy La Ferté?

The Germans arrived at Carignan on 14 May 1940. The attack of the fort was symbolic, and was essentially a propaganda exercise. Moreover, it was one of the first parts of the Maginot Line to be open to visitors, and was converted for German war propaganda in 1940. The fort was bombed for four days continuously

Originally a London computer expert and maths teacher, **Richard Tucker** settled in Sedan to devote his time to his obsession, the Maginot Line.

from 15th to 18th May, 107 men inside were trapped in a fort which was not built to the correct standards because of budgetary shortfalls. There was no lift to descend the 30 metres to the base, and no underground village to take their rest.

### What is special about this site?

The Ferté fort (two blockhouses and an underground gallery 300 m long) is an emblematic site on the Maginot Line. It is on a human scale, and provides a unique experience, for

historical and technical reasons. All the equipment is still in situ. It has been in its original condition since the end of the fighting. In 1973 it was sold for a token Franc to the remembrance committee for the defenders of Villy-la-Ferté, who had looked after it since 1950. They have worked wonders. A museum has been open since 2015 following an impressive collection operation directed at all the families. For example, we have 104 photos of the 107 soldiers, letters, and uniforms.



“ For over 20 years, I have been obsessed by what happened in 1940. ”

### The Ferté Fort

+33 [0]3 24 52 97 47 ou +33 [0]6 02 25 42 36  
[www.ouvrageslaferte.fr](http://www.ouvrageslaferte.fr)

## 1918 IN THE ARDENNES IN 4 DATES

**5 october** • Roland Garros, first aviator to cross the Mediterranean in 1913, the inventor of the first fighter plane, crashed at Saint Morel while flying his SPAD. He is buried at Vouziers.

**8 october** • Corporal Alvin York (1887–1964), the future sergeant York, led a small group of men against the German positions and took 132 prisoners. According to Marshal Foch, it was “*the greatest exploit ever achieved by an ordinary soldier among all the armies in Europe.*” At Chatel-Chéhéry, a 3 km forest trail recalls this event.

**22 october** • The 21st and 22nd Czechoslovakian light cavalry regiments liberated Vouziers and Terron-sur-Aisne. A monument pays tribute to them at Chestres, near Vouziers. A gift of the Czech nation, it is the work of Jan Zázvorka.

**10 november** • General Pershing, commander in chief of the American forces, gave tribute to the American troops in Wadelincourt. Today the American monument “*This Point*” marks the final point of the American troops.






MUSÉE  
GUERRE & PAIX  
EN ARDENNES

# Immerse yourself in History



## From 1870 - 1945

High season :

open from **1st June** to **31st August**  
from **10 am** to **7 pm**



MUSÉE  
GUERRE & PAIX  
EN ARDENNES

Impasse du Musée  
08270 Novion-Porcien

03 24 72 69 50

[www.guerreetpaix.fr](http://www.guerreetpaix.fr)

Low season :

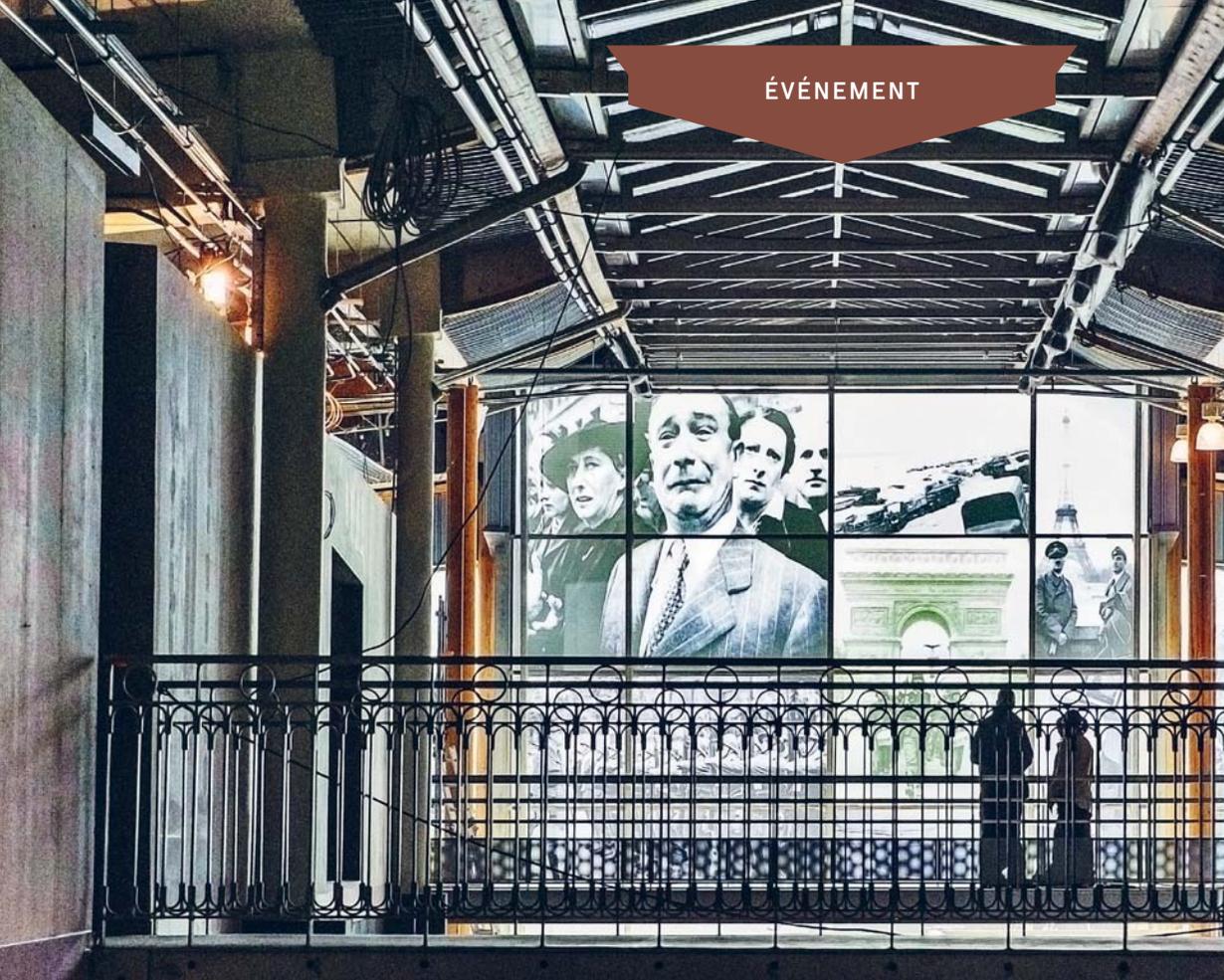
open from **1st September** to **31st May** from **10 am** to **5 pm**  
(closed on *mondays*)

**Standard price : 8€**

**Reduced rate : 5 €**

**Family rate : 20 €**

Children under 6: free admission



# OPENING NEW WAR AND PEACE MUSEUM

From the 1870 battle of Sedan to the Meuse breakthrough in 1940, the Ardennes have been at the centre of

the three great European conflicts, and still have the scars. Since January 2018, the "War and Peace in the Ardennes" museum, at Novion-Porcien, half-way between Reims and Charleville-Mézières, summarises 100 years of History, from 1852 to 1945. Its 3,700 sq m make it the biggest in the region, and the period it covers is exceptional outside Paris. Vehicles, arms, uniforms, objects from daily life, iconography ... 14,000 objects are displayed in 19 areas, punctuated by three film projections. This is an excellent place to begin remembrance tourism in the Ardennes.

“ The Ardennes have been at the centre of the three great European conflicts. ”

◆  
plication is planned for the future. It will provide all the tourist information required for the exploration of the sites in the region, for both free-range and set tours. As well as an historic section, it will give access to entertaining information in the form of videos, interactive maps, audio commentaries and mini-games connected with the remembrance sites and their history.

◆◆◆  
**War and Peace in Ardennes Museum**  
+33 [0]3 24 72 69 50  
[www.guerreetpaix.fr](http://www.guerreetpaix.fr)



## AND ALSO

### GUIDED TOURS

Guided tours about the First World War: "Sedan during the Great War", "Charleville, memoirs of war", and the interactive tour "Destinies of War" at Noyers-Pont-Maugis".



#### Information:

Charleville/Sedan  
in Ardennes Tourist Office  
[www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr](http://www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr)

### EXHIBITION

During the summer, the "Vitrine des Ardennes" (Ardennes Showcase), on the Place Ducale in Charleville, will host the last exhibition in the "Centenary of the 1914-18 War" cycle, "Derniers feux, Argonne 1918" (Last shots, Argonne 1918) with a close-up on the occupying forces, the life of the occupied, and the arrival of the liberators, including the American hero Sergeant York.

A programme of discovery in Argonne will complete the visit.



Plus d'infos  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)



## OTHER DEDICATED SITES

- Domaine des Ayvelles,
- Maison de la Dernière Cartouche (Bazeilles),
- Museum of the May-June 1940 battle (Semuy),
- Spahis Museum (la Horgne),
- Museum of the Two World Wars (Chagny),
- Stonne...

Including both private and public initiatives, there are some forty sites in the region linked to the history of the fighting.



#### Details

"The Ardennes, land of remembrance" can be downloaded from [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com) > "brochures & guides"





**RULE N° 3**

**WITH COURAGE  
AND DETERMINATION,  
ALLOW YOURSELF  
TO LET GO AT LAST**





*4 play areas, 1 blast furnace, 1 touch tank,  
1 aquarium gallery, plus fishing, brasserie, and more.*

***A simple recipe for an unforgettable  
family day out!***

# Welcome to your domaine



Domaine de Vendresse  
au fil de l'eau

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WWW.DOMAINE-DE-VENDRESSE.FR



**FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY**  
 A SMALL GUIDE  
**SHARED**  
**HAPPINESS**

OPEN MOUTHS, SPARKLING EYES, LAUGHING HEARTS... MAKE THE MOST OF THE ACTIVITIES TO RELISH JOYFUL MOMENTS. THE CHILDREN WILL LOVE IT. AND YOU TOO!

### FEEL LIKE A KING ON THE DUCAL BEACH

Day-dream in a deckchair with your feet in the sand, and admire the sublime Place Ducale in Charleville-Mézières ... it's possible every summer, when the **Ducal Beach** takes over for a few weeks. With its 900 sq m of fine sand, it provides a marvellous leisure area as well as an ideal playground for children. Beach-volley, table tennis, badminton,

mini-golf, pétanque, table football, fitness, concerts ... a programme of activities and entertainment to give you that extra energy for all your holidays. Another popular spot is the reading room under the sunshades ... dozens of books are available, including a selection in English, Dutch, German and other languages.



## DID YOU KNOW?

# WHERE CAN YOU TAKE A DIP?

There's water everywhere in the Ardennes. If it's the countryside you want, you have a wide choice. Three lakes or water courses are in the process of receiving the **Pavillon Bleu** label (covering water quality and equipment): **Douz**, the **Warrene** at Charleville-Mézières, **Vieilles-Forges** at Mazures (supervised during July and August). **The Bairon** and **Sedan lakes**, the **La Motte pools** at Signy-le-Petit (supervised during July and August) and the **Samaritaine** at Buzancy, are also open for bathing. You can also count on the **water centres** and **municipal swimming pools**.

■ ■ ■  
The leisure centres at the Vieilles-Forges and Bairon lakes provide a wide range of activities : bathing, canoe, paddle, etc. Details on [www.cd08.fr](http://www.cd08.fr)  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "by the waterside"



# 1001 IDEAS

[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)



### Argonne Discovery Park

Wolf park...

+33 [0]3 24 71 07 38

[www.parc-argonne-decouverte.fr](http://www.parc-argonne-decouverte.fr)

1

### Le Chêne Perché

Acrobatic park

+33 [0]7 83 07 24 90

[www.lecheneperche.com](http://www.lecheneperche.com)

2

### Ardennes Terre d'Aventures

Acrobatic park

+33 [0]3 24 53 18 43

+33 [0]6 62 11 18 18

[www.ardennes-terre-aventures.com](http://www.ardennes-terre-aventures.com)

2

### Parc TerrAltitude

Acrobatic park

+33 [0]3 24 57 57 59

[www.terraltitude.com](http://www.terraltitude.com)

2



### Emily Schoen

is the founder of "Parentage et Compagnie" (Parenting & Co.), an association aimed at sharing parental experiences.

# MY GOOD IDEAS FOR THE FAMILY

## **DOMAINE DE VENDRESSE**

"It's really not costly for families, and it's interesting for all ages. There's a playing area in the sand, small and large slides, a Tyrolean traverse, a climbing wall ... and an important detail: the benches have beach umbrellas. There are water games: children love them! In summer there are workshops, archery ranges, and theme events. You can feed the fish – or fish for them. And the older children can visit the blast furnace. The park is shaded and you can picnic, and stay all day if you wish."

## **ELFY PARK**

"This park [dedicated to the legends of the Ardennes] is deep in the forest, next to the lake at Vieilles-Forges. Its strong point is the games are accessible to parents, so they can share the fun with their children. Our special favourite was the sensory trail. It is the biggest we have done. A great discovery, in addition to the numerous activities and picnic areas."

## **3 ACROBATIC PARCS**

"What counts in acrobatic circuits is size rather than age. But don't worry – there are professionals on hand to answer your questions. There are three acrobatic parks, each for family use: **TerrAltitude** at Fumay, with its remarkable Tyrolean traverse; **Ardennes Terre d'Aventures** at Vieilles-Forges, with a variety of activities for all levels, and **Le Chêne Perché** at Signy-l'Abbaye, with its 10 acrobatic circuits."

## **LIART TEACHING FARM**

"I remember especially the ease of access and the nearness to the animals, who are very docile. Lyloù was able to stroke a cow, hold chicks in her arms and cross the farmyard. It was very well managed and within reach of everyone there is even something for babies. It's very impressive. And there are activities and workshops [bread making, for example] for older children. You can spend between an hour and a half and two hours there."

## **ARGONNE DISCOVERY PARK**

"Birds of prey, feeding the wolves, a farm, nocturnal animals, bouncy hammock ... there's no age limit for this park. Lyloù, 2 1/2, loves it: every morning we have a reading of stories about wolves. There are also indoor activities, and very good explanations about the nocturnal animals. And many things to be learnt for older children, from films to watch and experiments to do ... but a word of warning: pushchairs are not recommended in the park. It's better to use a baby carrier. Here again you can spend the whole day. There are many shaded areas."

■■■■ **Association Parentage et Compagnie**  
[www.parentage-et-compagnie.org](http://www.parentage-et-compagnie.org)

### **Elfy Park**

Park dedicated to the legends of the Ardennes  
+33 [0]3 24 53 18 43  
+33 [0]6 62 11 18 18  
[www.elfypark.fr](http://www.elfypark.fr)

3

### **Domaine de Vendresse**

Leisure park  
+33 [0]3 24 35 57 73  
[www.domaine-de-vendresse.fr](http://www.domaine-de-vendresse.fr)

4

### **Liart Teaching Farm**

Teaching farm  
+33 [0]3 24 54 48 33  
[www.fermepedagogiqueliart.fr](http://www.fermepedagogiqueliart.fr)



© Photos : A.FREZARD, S.BETTIG

## Spot the wolf ...

The Argonne Discovery Park offers you an unforgettable experience for all the family in the perfectly preserved setting of the Roucy woods in the French Ardennes.

### Getting close to nature

Meet the wolf pack: follow your guide in the tracks of these fascinating animals. Learn more about them from a **film** and watch them at their daily **feeding** time.

### ... and even more!

You won't only see wolves at Argonne Discovery Park! Racoons, golden eagles, eagle owls, griffon vultures, mini farm, and more... You can also admire **birds of prey in flight** during our falconers' daily show.



### Discover and explore

Our keepers are there to answer your questions during the **daily animal life presentation** in the on-site theatre. Take a closer look at wildlife at night in the **Nocturnia** zone.

The "*Of animals and man*" exhibition gives a glimpse of the relationship between man and the animal world, and demonstrates the research methods used in the natural environment.

### Reach for the sky

Travel from tree to tree in perfect safety, with no need for harness or cables, on the **bouncy multi-level hammock** trail between the trees. Thrills are guaranteed!



### Take a break

The *À la Cime des Arbres* **restaurant**, with its panoramic view of the forest, and **2 picnic areas** welcome you in the heart of the park. Enough to satisfy a hungry wolf!

**Parc Argonne**  
**Découverte**  
Sensations Nature en Ardennes

www.parc-argonne-decouverte.fr  
03 24 710 738


**FUN FOR  
ALL THE FAMILY**
**LEARNING**

**Felt Museum** (Mouzon),  
**Forest museum** (Renwez),  
**Mineral Museum**  
(Bogny-sur-Meuse),  
**Nature Museum**  
(Boult-aux-Bois),  
**Ferme du Lion d'Or** (Jandun)...

**PLAYING**

Bowling alleys, go-karting,  
games parks: open in summer  
or all year round


**Details**

[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)

> "leisure areas"

## UNIQUE IN EUROPE

# PAGEANTS

# AT LA CASSINE

Imagine yourself watching a 10 hectare stage at night, in the gardens of a ruined 16th century palace and a restored convent, sitting on a mobile stand of 1650 seats (with back rests) which travels 350 metres... That will give you some idea of the unique experience offered by the troupe of voluntary players at La Cassine. Each summer they revisit a page of the history of France with a classic (*La Bicyclette bleue*, *Germinal*, *Sans famille*...) and create a sound and light

show (with a touch of pyrotechnics). A must-see during the summer in the Ardennes. It is possible to have something to eat on the spot before the show begins: the convent is converted into a dining area during the season.


**La Cassine Sound and Light**

+33 [0]3 24 35 44 84

[www.la-cassine.com](http://www.la-cassine.com)



## UP AND DOWN, THIS WAY AND THAT

Lose your way in the **Méry vegetable maze** (a stone's throw from Roche, the village of Rimbaud's family), paddle on one of the many Ardennes water courses, explore the depths of the **Nichet cave system** at Fromelennes (400 metres from Belgium), the only underground cave open to the

public in north-east France, discover the Aisne Valley and the south of the Ardennes, starting from Attigny on a **traditional railcar** (Rail Festival 15th August). Surprising experiences from north to south, to be discovered with the family, in only a short distance.


**Méry vegetable maze**

+33 [0]6 76 12 38 24

**Nichet cave system**

+33 [0]3 24 42 92 42

[www.valdardennetourisme.com](http://www.valdardennetourisme.com)

**South Ardennes tourist train**

+33 [0]3 24 71 47 60 / [www.cftsa.fr](http://www.cftsa.fr)

“ White sausage,  
Ardennes ham, *galette à suc'*,  
*gâteau mollet*, beer, cider,  
apple juice...  
Here, cooking is a pleasure  
as much as a heritage. ”



## SOME LABELS FOR A TYPICAL LOCAL SHOPPING BASKET

### ARDENNES DE FRANCE

The collective brand “**Ardennes de France**” covers over 200 products and 60 service providers in every field of activity. This logo, a warranty of quality and traceability, is subject to very strict specifications and a membership committee, which guarantees local expertise and production.



**Information**  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> “Ardennes de France”

### LOCAL FARMERS' MARKETS

The smell of cheese, the good humour of the market gardeners, the coloured stalls... Friendliness, freshness and authenticity are the prerogative of the local Farmers' Markets. This network, created by the Chamber of Agriculture, offers local seasonal farm products, regional specialities and complete transparency regarding agricultural practices.



**Programme**  
[www.marches-producteurs.com](http://www.marches-producteurs.com)

### WELCOME TO THE FARM

Very attached to their region and its products, the people of the Ardennes have developed a number of short consumption circuits (organic counters, farm drive-ins, etc.) and good practice labels. **Bienvenue à la Ferme** (“welcome to the farm”) lists this information, without overlooking farm tourism (catering, vacations and leisure).



**Information**  
[www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com](http://www.bienvenue-a-la-ferme.com)  
**Good places for buying local products in the Ardennes**  
downloadable brochure  
from [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)

### CERCLE DES RESTAURATEURS

Created by ten local professionals supported by the Chamber of commerce, the **Cercle des Restaurateurs** (“Circle of restaurant owners”) promotes the good practices of recognised professionals. On the menu: creative cooking, fresh local products, some of which have the label “Ardennes de France”.



**Information**  
[www.restaurateursdardennes.fr](http://www.restaurateursdardennes.fr)

## DINNER IS SERVED!

# THE ARDENNES IN MARIE-JO'S PLATE

Marie-Joseph Garand-Briard, "Marie-Jo" as she is known, has always cooked local products regardless of the season. In 2015 she shared her flavour-filled casserole in a book, "*Ma Cuisine ardennaise de saison*." Until 2017 she was Master Chef at the "Table du Pays" in Hargnies, which was featured several times by well-known French cooking critics and TV personalities, mentioned in Figaro magazine and Le Routard. All her products are grown in one of her three gardens, or come from local producers. With the label "Ardenne de France".

**Marie-Joseph Garand Briard** made a career of her hobby. In 2015, her "*Ma Cuisine ardennaise de saison*" (My seasonal Ardennes cooking) was published by Noires Terres.

"My mother did everything: tarts, lemonade, stews, etc. We used cheap cuts, and we made preserves. We had two gardens. We ate garden plants all winter". Marie-Jo, the devoted mother of three children, has kept the same good habits: simple cooking with regional, seasonal products: an old practice that has become fashionable again. Among her favourite recipes is "mother's chicken with rice" and the emblematic "cacasse à cul nu" that she has decided to share with us.



## RECIPE FOR THE CACASSE À CUL NU

For 6 persons: melt **20 g of butter and 4 soup spoons of lard in a cast iron simmer pot**. Add **300 g of slightly salted bacon**. Put it to one side when it has browned. Add **1 kg of whole peeled potatoes**, after washing and drying them. When they are browned, remove them and brown **two onions**. Replace the items you have put to one side, and add **two chopped garlic cloves** and **two soup spoonfuls of flour**. Salt, pepper and mix. Add **a bag of mixed herbs** and **a big cup of coffee** (for the brown colour) and cover with water. **Cooking: 45 minutes**. Stir from time to time.

### DID YOU KNOW?

#### PROTECTED SAVOURS

Two gastronomic Ardennes products are protected by the European IGP label (Protected Geographical Origin): **Rethel white pudding**, **Ardennes dry-cured ham** and **dry-cured fillet of ham**.

#### ON LINE STORE

Val d'Ardenne Tourist Office has an online store where you can find the **Ardenne de France** products. [www.valdardennetourisme.com](http://www.valdardennetourisme.com)

## FESTIVAL OF GASTRONOMIC BROTHERHOODS

Colourful, gay, and gourmet! The festival of brotherhoods in the Ardennes is THE meeting place for gourmets – the fifty or so members vouch for the original recipes in their region, including the essential Ardennes brotherhoods: "galette à suc", "gâ-

teau mollet", "cacasse à cul nu", bacon salad, black pudding, Ardennes dry-cured ham, Elmont brawn, etc. And always with cheerful enthusiasm. An absolutely unique moment of sharing.

■ ■ ■

#### A date for your diary:

5 and 6 May 2018

Free entry



# Gîtes de France Ardennes



A choice of holiday stays: weekends to explore or relax, forest treks, trail bike or water tours, culture, architecture, history, legends: there are so many good reasons for visiting the French Ardennes! And we have no less than **200 welcoming doors** for **your accommodation**, guarantees of quality stays. Discover all our offers: accommodation, holiday cottage bookings and other promotions at ...

[www.gites-de-france-ardennes.com](http://www.gites-de-france-ardennes.com)

“ In the Ardennes,  
you can breathe ”

## MOBILE HOMES ON THE ROAD WITH ROMY

Looking for quietness, History and local cooking, Romy chose the Ardennes and doesn't regret it. Arriving from Paris via Rheims, she decided to organise her journey in two stages: a week and a half north of Charleville and a week in the south. “*This makes for two very different experiences*”, she explained. “*In the north, it's a region of France with powerful, contrasting scenery, where History and metallurgy have left their marks, a mixture of the Tarn Gorges and Canadian forests. After the bridge at Revin, Fumay, Haybes, it's marvellous! And being in a mobile home, you have a higher seat! So the view is unbeatable ... to the south,*

**Romy**, a mobile home user since she was 9 years old, chose the French Ardennes this year. Nature, countryside, peace and quiet, food for thought... and for her weakness for good food.

*towards Vouziers, lies the lovely undulating French countryside and its canals. The best route is by Pont-à-Bar. You just let yourself be carried gently along. You can also go cycling, especially at Le Chesne, and along the tow paths. And don't forget Attigny.”*

Throughout her journey, she benefited from the different services available: reception areas, service areas, parking at camp sites or even at farms. The “bush telegraph” so dear to mobile home users helped her to find her bearings, but also the Tourist Development Agency web site, [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com) and the Ardennes tourist map.

### CROSS BORDER THEME TOURS

With these theme itineraries for tourists, the gates of the Ardennes open for you. **Ardenne All Access** gives you the keys to exploring this cross border region and find unusual itineraries and astonishing points of interest. Delight yourself! These routes, which faithfully reflect the Ardennes identity, help you to create your own original

itinerary to be covered on foot, by car, on a bicycle, a motorbike, motor home, etc. Astride Belgium and France, follow the great circuits of the Ardennes to encounter its legends, fortifications, abbeys, multi-flavoured beers, old smuggling paths, and more...



■ ■ ■  
**Details**  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> “tourist routes”



# A ROOF OVER YOUR HEAD

## STAYING IN THE ARDENNES

AUTHENTIC SCENERY, FRIENDLY INHABITANTS, RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE, OPEN AIR ACTIVITIES ... ALL YOU NEED TO BENEFIT FULLY FROM YOUR STAY; AND TO ENSURE THAT IT IS A TOTAL SUCCESS, SEVERAL TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION ARE AVAILABLE...

**Fascinating splendour** • Castles and palaces from 10th to 17th century, homes of character, an exceptional heritage... these enchanting places, resonant of fabulous tales are havens of peace and unmatched comfort. ①

**The charm of conviviality** • A room "with a local" ensures a warm and personal welcome. Not forgetting the facilities: heated pool, spa, garden, bike rental, etc. ②

**The thrill of adventure** • On the water, in the trees, in a gypsy caravan, a Finnish kota, a yurt, a castle and so many other unusual places... an original experience for a unique, unforgettable holiday. ③

**Naturally simple** • Camp sites offer conviviality and closeness to the environment... from one to five stars, they provide a range of facilities designed to relax you. ④

**The peace of a cosy bed** • Cottages, chalets, flats, houses, with or without swimming pool... Hundreds of holiday rentals to live life as you wish and feel at home... ⑤

### A WIDE CHOICE OF ALL-INCLUSIVE HOLIDAYS

Let yourself be tempted by the all-inclusive theme offers prepared by for you by experienced professionals in the heart of the region: gourmand, romantic, in castles and palaces, well-being, sporting ...

■■■  
gb.ardennes.com  
> "holiday ideas"



1



4

# 54 HOTELS

welcome you to the French  
Ardennes



5



3



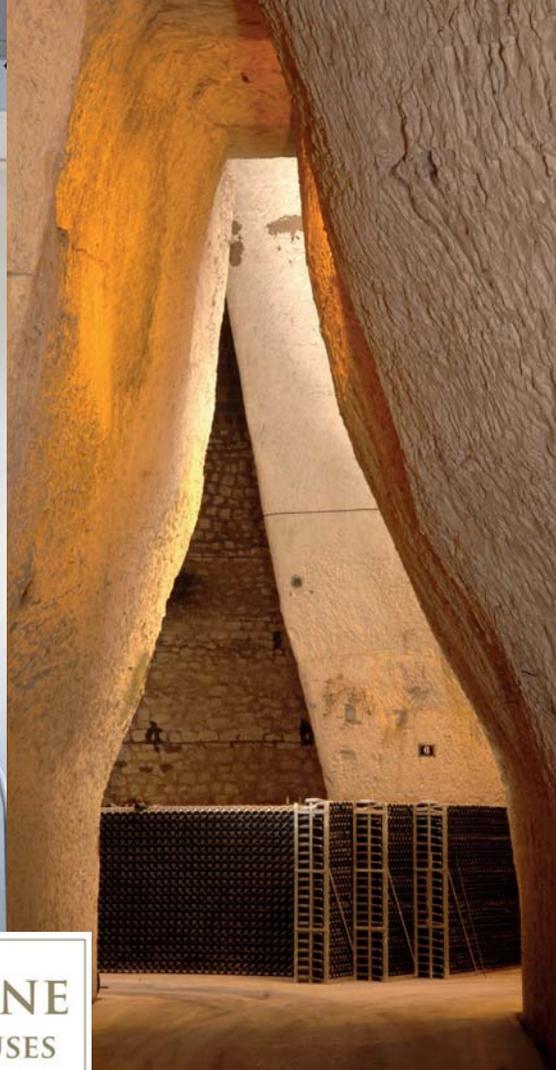
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# 12 SURPRISING PLACES

to spend an unforgettable  
night



2




**CHAMPAGNE**  
HILLSIDES, HOUSES  
& CELLARS

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WORLD HERITAGE

© photos : Michel Jolyot

[www.champagne-patrimoine-mondial.org](http://www.champagne-patrimoine-mondial.org)

# STANDARD BEARERS OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE

*The region's landscape has seen man and nature combine over time to create an exceptional wine, one recognized universally as the symbol of celebration, reconciliation and parties.*



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



Champagne Hillsides,  
Houses and Cellars  
inscribed on the World  
Heritage List in 2015

# THE ARDENNES FOR BIKERS A PLEASURE THAT KNOWS NO BOUNDS

YOU'LL NEVER GET HIM TO TAKE THE CAR JUST BECAUSE IT'S RAINING.  
PIERRE MARECHAL TAKES US FOR A SPIN ...

## His regular route

From Charleville-Mézières, head for Revin, via Warcq, Cliron, Renwez and the Mazures hill. A few good corners allow you to "crank over" nicely while respecting the speed limits. Go through Revin. Instead of leaving the town by the Fumay bridge (L), continue straight ahead towards Malgré-Tout. Two or three fine view points overlook the rock faces along the road. Continue straight on, along a tarmacked forest road. At the end, turn right towards Les Woïries to return to Charleville-Mézières, or continue left, towards Hargnies. You then have a good road as far as Vireux-Wallerand. Go over the bridge and turn right towards Givet. It's best to take a break at Hierges. Expect to take between two and a half hours and four hours, depending on stops.

## This is his route to Bouillon, in Belgium.

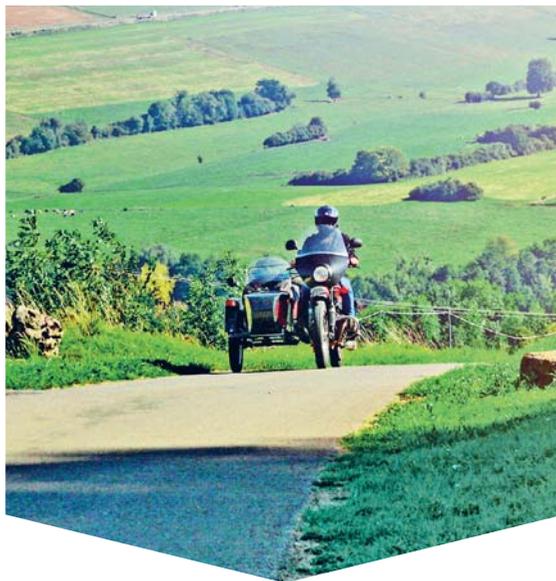
Leave Charleville-Mézières by Montcy-Saint-Pierre, towards Saint-Laurent. Continue straight on (D979 via La Grandville, Gespunsart) without asking questions. It's a good road and there are some good corners until the border village of Pussemange. Follow signs to Bouillon, turn left at a hairpin bend (30 km/hr).

**Pierre Maréchal** works for the regional road safety department and has been a biker for 48 years at the last count.

Pass by Corbion (caution: the surface of this winding road is damaged in places). When you arrive, stop for a coffee or refreshing drink. To return, turn round or take the motorway.

## His transArdenne route (the Abbeys route)

Start from Notre-Dame-de-Clairefontaine in Bouillon, and follow signs to the abbey church at Elan to discover the astonishing Saint-Roger fountain. Then head for the abbey church of the charming village of Mouzon, the Saint-Walfroy hermitage (with its exceptional view over the Chiers valley), or Orval, Saint-Hubert, Rochefort, Dinant, Maredsous, Walcourt, Chimay ... each stage has its own charm and surprises, because these abbeys contain more than a few treasures (such as cheese and beer recipes whose secret is well kept) to take back for tasting once home.



“ Little roads full of greenery and corners, what more could anyone ask for? ”

## WORTH KNOWING THE BIKER WELCOME LABEL

Over 90 premises have received the label, from châteaux to camp sites and B&Bs. Each biker is sure of finding a locked area for his bike, a place to dry his clothes, access to a water point to clean his equipment and the means of completing minor repairs.



**Biker Welcome:**  
the Ardennes by bike

List of approved accommodation, ideas for itineraries and stop-overs on [gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)  
> "Motorcycling in the Ardennes"



**Cross border tours**  
[www.visitardenne.com](http://www.visitardenne.com)  
> "all access"

## USEFUL ADDRESSES

### Ardennes Tourism Development Agency

24 place Ducale, BP 419  
08107 Charleville-Mézières cedex  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 56 06 08  
[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)



### Gîtes de France Ardennes

21 rue Hachette  
08000 Charleville-Mézières  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 56 89 65  
[www.gites-de-france-ardennes.com](http://www.gites-de-france-ardennes.com)

### CléVacances

#### Clévacances Ardennes

24 place Ducale, BP 419  
08107 Charleville-Mézières cedex  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 56 68 69  
[www.clevacances.com](http://www.clevacances.com)



#### Logis des Ardennes

24 place Ducale - BP 419  
08107 Charleville-Mézières  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 56 68 69  
[www.logis-ardennes.com](http://www.logis-ardennes.com)



#### Bienvenue à la Ferme Chambre d'Agriculture

1 rue Jacquemart Templeux  
08013 Charleville-Mézières cedex  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 56 89 40  
[www.ardennes.chambre-agriculture.fr](http://www.ardennes.chambre-agriculture.fr)

#### Parc Naturel Régional des Ardennes

91 place de Launet  
08170 Hargnies  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 42 90 57  
[www.parc-naturel-ardennes.fr](http://www.parc-naturel-ardennes.fr)

#### Comité Départemental de Randonnée Pédestre

3 rue Jacquemart Templeux  
08000 Charleville-Mézières  
Tél. : +33 [0]3 24 26 55 95  
[ardennes.ffrandonnee.fr](http://ardennes.ffrandonnee.fr)

#### Fédération des Ardennes pour la Pêche et la Protection du Milieu Aquatique

Parc d'activités Ardennes  
Émeraude  
08090 Tournes  
Tél. : +33 [0]3 24 56 41 32  
[www.federationpeche.com/08](http://www.federationpeche.com/08)

#### Comité Départemental Olympique et Sportif

Maison Départementale  
des Sports  
Route de la Moncelle  
08140 Bazeilles  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 56 03 86  
ou +33 [0]6 82 17 13 57  
[www.cdos-ardennes.fr](http://www.cdos-ardennes.fr)



### ARDENNES TOURIST OFFICES

#### Union Départementale des Offices de Tourisme et Syndicats d'Initiative

24 place Ducale, BP 419  
08107 Charleville-Mézières cedex  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 56 68 70  
[udotsi08@orange.fr](mailto:udotsi08@orange.fr)

#### Office de Tourisme Val d'Ardenne

Place du Château  
08320 Vireux-Wallerand  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 42 92 42  
[www.valardennetourisme.com](http://www.valardennetourisme.com)

#### Office de Tourisme de l'Argonne ardennaise

10 place Carnot  
08400 Vouziers  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 71 97 57  
[www.tourisme.argonne-ardennaise.fr](http://www.tourisme.argonne-ardennaise.fr)

## PREPARE YOUR NEXT STAY GB.ARDENNES.COM

with the Ardennes Tourist Pass,  
1 free visit out of 2 among 12 partner sites.  
Details: +33 [0]3 24 56 06 08

#### Office de Tourisme des Boucles de Meuse et Semoy

Place Jean-Baptiste Clément, BP 10  
08800 Monthermé  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 54 46 73  
[www.meuse-semoy-tourisme.com](http://www.meuse-semoy-tourisme.com)

#### Office de Tourisme Charleville/Sedan en Ardenne Charleville-Mézières

4, place Ducale, BP 229  
08102 Charleville-Mézières  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 55 69 90  
[www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr](http://www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr)  
**Sedan**  
35 rue du Ménéil  
08200 Sedan  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 27 73 73  
[www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr](http://www.charleville-sedan-tourisme.fr)

#### Office de Tourisme des Crêtes Préardennaises

1 rue Cécilia Gazagnaire  
08430 Launois-sur-Vence  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 35 02 69  
[www.sud-ardennes-tourisme.com](http://www.sud-ardennes-tourisme.com)

#### Office de Tourisme de Rocroi et du Nord-Ouest Ardennais

1 ter rue du Pavillon  
08230 Rocroi  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 54 20 06  
[www.otrocroi.com](http://www.otrocroi.com)

#### Office de Tourisme du Pays Rethémois

Maison du Pays Rethémois  
3 quai d'Orfeuil  
08300 Rethel  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 38 54 56  
ou +33 [0]6 07 67 03 03  
[www.sud-ardennes-tourisme.com](http://www.sud-ardennes-tourisme.com)

#### Office de Tourisme des Portes du Luxembourg

Place du Colombier  
08210 Mouzon  
Tél. +33 [0]3 24 29 79 91  
[www.portesduluxembourg.fr](http://www.portesduluxembourg.fr)



### THE ARDENNES IN FRANCE, BELGIUM AND LUXEMBURG

[www.visitardenne.com](http://www.visitardenne.com)

#### Fédération du Tourisme de la Province de Liège

1 place de la République française  
B - 4000 Liège  
Tél. +32 4 237 95 26  
[www.liegetourisme.be](http://www.liegetourisme.be)

#### Fédération Touristique du Luxembourg belge

9 quai de l'Ourthe  
B - 6980 La Roche en Ardenne  
Tél. +32 84 41 10 11  
[www.luxembourg-belge.be](http://www.luxembourg-belge.be)

#### Fédération Touristique de la Province de Namur

22 bte 2, avenue Reine Astrid  
B - 5000 Namur  
Tél. +32 81 77 67 57  
[www.paysdesvallees.be](http://www.paysdesvallees.be)

#### Office Régional du Tourisme des Ardennes Luxembourgeoises

1 A rue du Vieux Marché, BP 12  
L 9401 Vianden  
Tél. +35 2 26 95 05 66  
[www.visit-eislek.lu](http://www.visit-eislek.lu)

## PRACTICAL HINTS

### GETTING HERE

#### By car

##### From Paris:

take A4 motorway, signposted Reims then A34 to Charleville-Mézières.

##### From Lille:

follow signs to Rocroi and Charleville-Mézières (via Tournai, Mons, Charleroi and Philippeville).

##### From Sarrebruck:

follow signs to Luxembourg (E25 and E411) then at Libramont, follow signs to Sedan and Charleville-Mézières.

##### From Cologne:

follow signs to Aachen, Liège, then Luxembourg (E25) thence signs to Namur and Libramont (E411) and then Sedan and Charleville-Mézières.

##### From Bruxelles and Amsterdam:

follow signs to Charleroi, Philippeville (N5), Rocroi and Charleville-Mézières.

##### From London, via Calais:

take A26 motorway, signposted Reims, then A34 to Charleville-Mézières.



#### By train

##### TGV Est

Paris – Charleville-Mézières  
1hour 40 mins, 2 direct trains daily



#### By boat

From the north, via **the Meuse**.  
From the south, via the **Marne canal**.  
Then the **Ardennes canal**.



#### Nearest airports

**Paris** (Charles de Gaulle)

**Paris-Vatry**

**Luxembourg** (Findel)

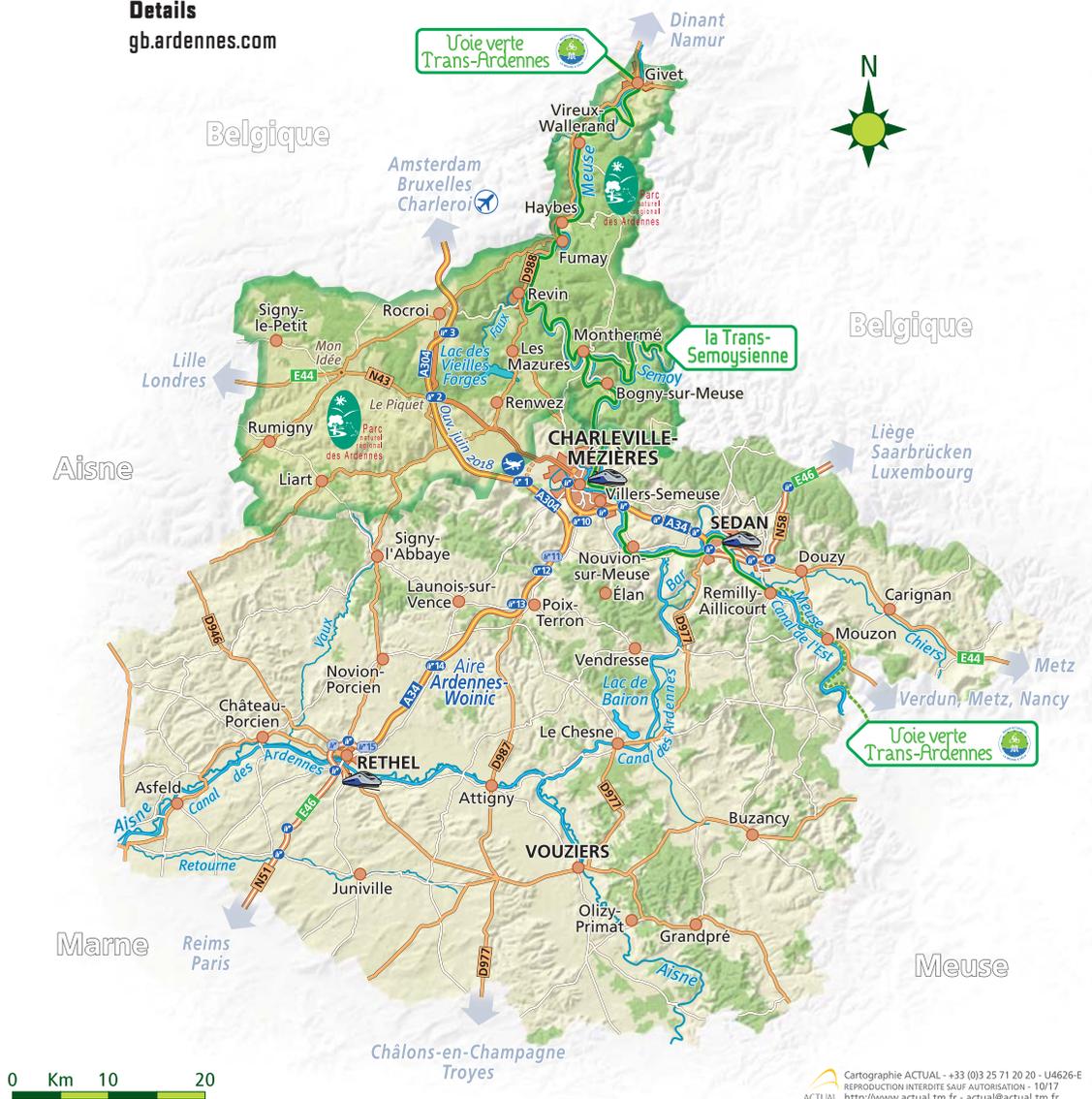
**Brussels** (Zaventem)

**Charleroi** (Bruxelles-Sud)



#### Details

[gb.ardennes.com](http://gb.ardennes.com)



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PUBLISHED BY  
THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT  
AGENCY



French Ardennes  
**inspirations**

JOIN **TOURISM IN ARDENNES**



**#ARDENNES**

**GB.ARDENNES.COM**

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