

Newsletter March 2024

Agence de Développement Touristique des Ardennes

The Ardennes Regional Nature Park

A Surprising Diversity of Landscapes and Habitats to be Discovered.



© Credit Celine Lecomte

Extending over nearly 117,000 hectares (300,000 acres) in the north of the Ardennes region, the park covers 92 small towns, with the town of Charleville-Mézières being the gateway to this beautiful, undiscovered area of nature. Meandering rivers in the valleys of the Meuse and Semoy contrast with the peaty moors of the Plateau de Rocroi. Wooded valleys, grasslands, rocky cliffs, dark forests, rivers and wetlands, combine to create a paradise for flora and fauna. Eagle owls, black storks, beavers and rare orchids are just some of the plants and wildlife to be discovered.

The Park has over 1,000 km of marked walking trails, 400 km of Mountain Bike trails, 4 rock climbing sites and 8 take-off points for paragliding. A visitor centre, open from February to November, is based in Renwez, offering a number of cultural events and guided tours throughout the year.

From March to December, you can enjoy park visits, workshops, Natura 2000 events, guided tours, conferences, debates and cultural events exploring the fauna and flora, architecture or crafts and making visitors aware of the park's values: awareness of its natural and cultural heritage, respect for its biodiversity and climate, appreciation of local knowledge and products, sharing human values and respect for the natural environment and those who use it. On line brochure: www.calameo.com/read/000534805b2ea51cd8f75?fbclid=IwAR18jyH8mew7OkLs-SxVhdHN-ePQRO4JBlqtO6SqR8R0jKB6SaNXMurOWCI

For further information: www.parc-naturel-ardennes.fr

Outdoor Sports and Leisure Activities



From Zip Wires and Kayaks to Fishing and Donkey Trekking

Opportunities to connect – or re-connect – with nature, abound in the green and leafy region which is the French Ardennes.

Thrill seekers can experience the TerrAltitude park in Fumay, with 108 acrobatic circuits spread over 12 acres with catapult jumps, bungee jumps and the impressive Fantasticable zip wire, 4000 feet over the river Meuse. For the kids there is the Ardennes Terre d'aventures park near the Vieilles-Forges lake, with zip wires, climbing wall, trampoline and a life-size galleon where you can swing from mast to mast 30 feet above the ground!

For more sedate and relaxing activities, there is swimming in at least 6 different lakes, pedalos, sailing, canoeing, rowing and fishing in miles of forest streams and rivers.

For further information: www.ardennes.com/en/prepare-your-stay/nature-leisure-activities/

View of the Fantasticable

© Credit ruud_roadhorst

Vieilles-Forges Lake



This 150-hectare (375 acres) lake is set in a 1000 hectare (2500 acre) wooded nature reserve and offers a variety of water and land-based activities. From June to August there is supervision for many water sports, including Bathing, Sailing, Rowing, Canoeing, Kayaking, Catamaran sailing and Paddle boarding. On land, there is Mountain Biking, Hiking and Walking on marked trails.

Additionally, there is an Aquatic complex for all the family and Treetop adventure circuits in the woodlands. Plenty of picnic areas, small cafés and playgrounds for the children are available, together with a campsite.

A great destination for anglers, the lake is a top European destination for Carp Fishing.

For further information: www.lacsenardennes.fr

Vieilles-Forges Lake

© Credit Pierre Defontaine ARTGE

Accommodation in Nature

From tree-top cabins to Romantic chalets

The French Ardennes offers a wide range of unique accommodation surrounded by nature in all its glory. Sleeping in the heart of the countryside is a special experience allowing you to truly bond with nature, decompress and recharge the batteries.



A variety of accommodation solutions are available to suit all tastes and all budgets. Comfortable caravans, houseboats and yurts are just some of the possibilities, nestled in valleys, by a lake or river, or on a farm. For unforgettable experiences in the midst of a natural environment, there are treetop cabins nearly 50 feet high in the canopy, with breathtaking views over a wild valley.

©Crédit Ardennes Bulle

At ground level, there are charming little log cabins surrounded by lakes and streams, or self-catering chalets on the forest edge. Candles and oil lamps provide light, a wood-burning stove for heat and a vintage cooker to prepare meals, for a total immersion in country life of years gone by.



©Credit Marie Morin Perspectives de Voyage

For further information: www.ardennes.com/en/prepare-your-stay/find-accommodation/unusual-accommodation/

How to Get to the Ardennes

By Train: Eurostar from London to Lille or Paris then TGV train from Paris to Charleville-Mézières (about 5hr30mins)

By Car: From London to Dover and then three hours' drive time from Calais to Charleville-Mézières by the motorway

For press information, contact:

Djamila Daoud, press officer T: +33 3 24 56 67 77 E: daoud@ardennes.com

Catherine Esling, Director, BSC Ltd, T: +44 7884 238170 catherine@strategyconsulting.uk.com

Copies of media packs are available to all UK travel editors, writers and bloggers at: <https://www.ardennes.com/en/Press-area/press-kits/>

General media pack: www.calameo.com/read/00002300703993b6ae27b?page=1

Get close to nature media pack:

www.calameo.com/read/0000230075fd2208c32b5?page=1

Cycling in the Ardennes media pack:

www.calameo.com/read/00002300710103817a084?page=1