

Les Quatre Saisons

A news-in-brief round-up through the seasons, from The French Ardennes

What to expect

Welcome to the first edition of *Les quatre saisons*, a news-in-brief round-up of news through the seasons, from The French Ardennes. Not surprisingly, given the fact it's one of the most naturally "green" regions of France, The French Ardennes' press service is committed to sustainability. And this is the "eco-friendly, seasonal vehicle" we have created to focus almost entirely on news from the region related to sustainability, and responsible travel. We hope this gives travel writers plenty of scope to find stories from The French Ardennes's Great Outdoors of activities; walking and cycling; public transport; local produce; and sustainable producers who are working towards the same goal.

The Festival of Brotherhoods marks its 20th anniversary this year

Launched in 2004, the gastronomic [Festival of Brotherhoods](#) in the Ardennes has become one of the most popular events in the region. It was awarded the Ardennes tourism prize in 2014 and achieved "Excellence" status from the European Council of Oenogastronomic Brotherhoods in 2016. Every year, during the first weekend of May, it brings together around fifty French and Belgian Brotherhoods to the magnificent Place Ducale in Charleville-Mézières, a masterpiece of 17th-century architecture. With free admission, the event helps to convey what makes this region so special. Each year, a French or Belgian brotherhood is designated as the guest brotherhood of honour. It organizes an exceptional chapter in front of the public during which personalities and members of other brotherhoods are inducted. This year's event, scheduled for 3 and 4 May, will feature a new Ardennes Brotherhood, which has chosen to promote two typically Ardennes products: Arthur's beer, and Rimbaud pâté - which tribute to the famous poet born in Charleville. A special dish will also be introduced to the public during the festival: la carbonade Rimbaud (including wild boar, instead of the traditional beef, and beer from the Arthur brasserie)."

Head south for the summer...

A secure 110 km cycle trail now known as [The South Ardennes Greenway](#) has been created along the Ardennes Canal, Aisne and Vouziers. Following the towpath, it connects the village of Pont-à-Bar, with Vouziers on one side and Brienne-sur-Aisne - on the intersection with the Aisne department - on the other side. The circuit has been created so cyclists can begin wherever it suits them best. It's also an opportunity to take the time to discover the 19th century lock system in the "Valley of the Locks", from Chesne to Semuy, as well as the unusual baroque church in Asfeld, the mythical railway station in Voncq (where Rimbaud used to take the train), and Charlemagne's Dome in Attigny.

Best foot forward

Spring is coming. The forest is coming alive again, with all of the sights, sounds and smells of Nature and a new tourism season. And The French Ardennes is already looking forward to the launch a major new hiking trail: a Grand Tour 300km loop, called the *Ardenne Tour, in the footsteps of Arduinna*, More of that later in the year. For now, there's already 1,000 km of marked paths to explore - through guided tours, and self-guided trails. It's easy to plan a holiday to discover the great outdoors of the Ardennes Park. "Work from home" first, by visiting the most relevant sections of the Ardennes Tourism website www.ardennes.com and by taking a look at the eight walks on the brand new "By foot and bike" [À pied et à vélo dans les Ardennes](#) map. And once there, head to the Ardennes Park Visitor Centre, which was created as recently as 2020 in Renwez, in the heart of the Ardenne massif and close to the forest museum. The work of architect Frédéric Denisart, who hails from Charleville-Mézières, the building is made using natural and renewable materials, including wood and stone. It opens Monday to Friday from 09.00 to 12.00 and 13.30 to 17.30.

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Full [Media Kits](#) (in English) for 2025 are available online, all press trips are arranged with the aim of reducing the impact of tourism on the environment.

For press information, contact:

Djamila Daoud

T: +33 3 24 56 67 77

E: daoud@ardennes.com

Or, Ian Weightman T: 01782 680963 Email: ian@ianweightman.co.uk