

Les Quatre Saisons

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

The Ardennes is set to “Go Grand” this year

A new Grande Randonnée de Pays (GRP) hiking trail will be launched later this year in The French Ardennes. The [Ardenne Tour, in the footsteps of Arduinna](#), is a 350km loop that will straddle the French and Belgian Ardennes. Taking-in the captivating landscapes of the famous Ardennes, the route has been designed so that it can be completed in 15 stages, of around 23km per day. The trail draws its inspiration from Ardennes mythology and focuses on Arduinna, the Celtic goddess and protector of the Ardennes forest - taking hikers to discover Sedan (and its impressive fort), pretty villages such as Signy-l'Abbaye and the fortified town of Rocroi. But, really, it's mostly about the landscape: the scale of the Ardennes forest, the scenery, the forest trails, the wildlife (including deer), the flora-fauna, and the lakes. Each stage has also been carefully planned, so it is close to suitable accommodation. The full trail will be open to visitors in late Autumn, but media preview visits, along sections of the route, are available now.

Or, for those who prefer to travel by bike...

For those who prefer cycling, now is a good time to mention the 110 km cycle trail which was launched last year. [The South Ardennes Greenway](#) was created along the Ardennes Canal. Following its 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 was deliberately created so that cyclists are able to begin wherever it suits them best. It's also an opportunity 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 the poet Arthur Rimbaud used to take the train), and Charlemagne's Dome in Attigny.

‘The Ardennes Brothers’ are set to come of age this year

Launched in 2004, the [Festival of Brotherhoods in the Ardennes](#) has rapidly 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. Each year, during the first weekend of May, it brings together around fifty French and Belgian brotherhoods and 20,000 visitors onto the Place Ducale - a masterpiece of 17th-century architecture - in Charleville-Mézières. With free admission, the event helps to show what this region has to offer its visitors in terms of local food and drink. This year’s Brotherhood Festival, from 2 to 3 May, will once again promote typical Ardennes products, such as Arthur’s beer and Rimbaud pâté which, together, create a tribute to the famous poet born in Charleville.

What’s-on in the French Ardennes, in 2026? “Read all about it!”

English-speaking travellers will be made to feel even more welcome in The French Ardennes in 2026, thanks to the appearance of an entirely new magazine-style visitor guide called [Inspirations](#), which focused entirely on this region of France. Set for publication at the beginning of February, it is also available online and offers inspiration - in particular - to UK holidaymakers who are keen to explore what is currently one of the lesser-known areas of France. The magazine will also provide plenty of practical information about how to get there, where to stay, and when many of the annual highlights take place. The latter are also featured on the Ardennes Tourism website, under the headline [Highlights of 2026 in the Ardennes](#). These include a Cross-Border Chocolate Fair in Sedan on 21 and 22 March; the Festival of Brotherhoods in the Ardennes at Charleville-Mézières (see above) on 2 and 3 May; Sedan Medieval Festival on 16 and 17 May; a Beer Festival in Charleville-Mézières on 24 and 25 May; the Viola da Gamba Festival in Asfeld on 27 and 28 May; a ‘Brass Festival in the Ardennes’ in Sedan through July and August; Cabaret Vert in Charleville-Mézières from 20-23 August; and ‘Puppets: Temps d’M’ in Charleville-Mézières from 16 to 20 September.

ENDS

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

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