

# Car Free Style

By train, by bike or on foot

From Waterloo to Louvière



© 2014 Hike Together Belgium



In collaboration with

**Railtrip.travel**



© WBT - D. Vasilov

Here you have a ready to go itinerary for a nature themed getaway for a few days in Wallonia without a car.

It is part of a series of interconnectable itineraries (amounting to an itinerary of around two weeks in total). By combining these short stays, you have the chance to spend a fabulous sustainable holiday in Wallonia. This roaming escapade starts from a rail station, where you will have the option of either doing the route by train and bicycle, or by train and on foot. Set off in **slow tourism** mode and take the time to enjoy the landscapes, nature, local products, cultural and historical visits and of course the welcoming accommodation in each place.

Embrace the **slow tourism** experience.



© WBT - Bruno D'Almeida



© WBT - Hike Up Realtrip Travel



© Yves Henri Feltz

# Waterloo to La Louvière

## From War History to Industrial Heritage

This slow tourism route is connected to Brussels either by train or by bike. It really begins 20km south of Brussels, **on the edge of the Sonian Forest**. Discover the town of **Waterloo**. Its name is associated with a momentous event in European history: the famous **battle of June 18, 1815**. Visits are extended to neighbouring localities, notably the **1815 Memorial** and the famous **Lion's Mound**.

This getaway continues to **Nivelles**, a small town with great history and a wealth of historical heritage. Known for its **magnificent thousand-year-old Sainte-Getrude collegiate church**, this charming town conceals a thousand and one well-kept secrets. Immerse yourself in the heart of **the old town full of medieval charm**, or stroll among the **works of art that are scattered around the Dodaine park**.

After Nivelles, discover the region of **La Louvière** and the rich heritage from its industrial past. These include the historic **'Canal du Centre' and its century-old boat lifts which are classified, as UNESCO World Heritage**. The region is known for its waterways attractions and its folklore in particular its ancient carnival. When you arrive at La Louvière, we suggest you push on to **Binche**. This medieval town with **its Belfry** is registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List, whilst **its much-celebrated Carnival is recognized as Oral and Intangible Heritage**. The «City of the Gille» really is a one off.

## The concept of this car-free route?

A combination of train journeys and sections that can be done on foot or by bicycle. In the following pages, you can discover the different options on offer...

Have a nice trip.

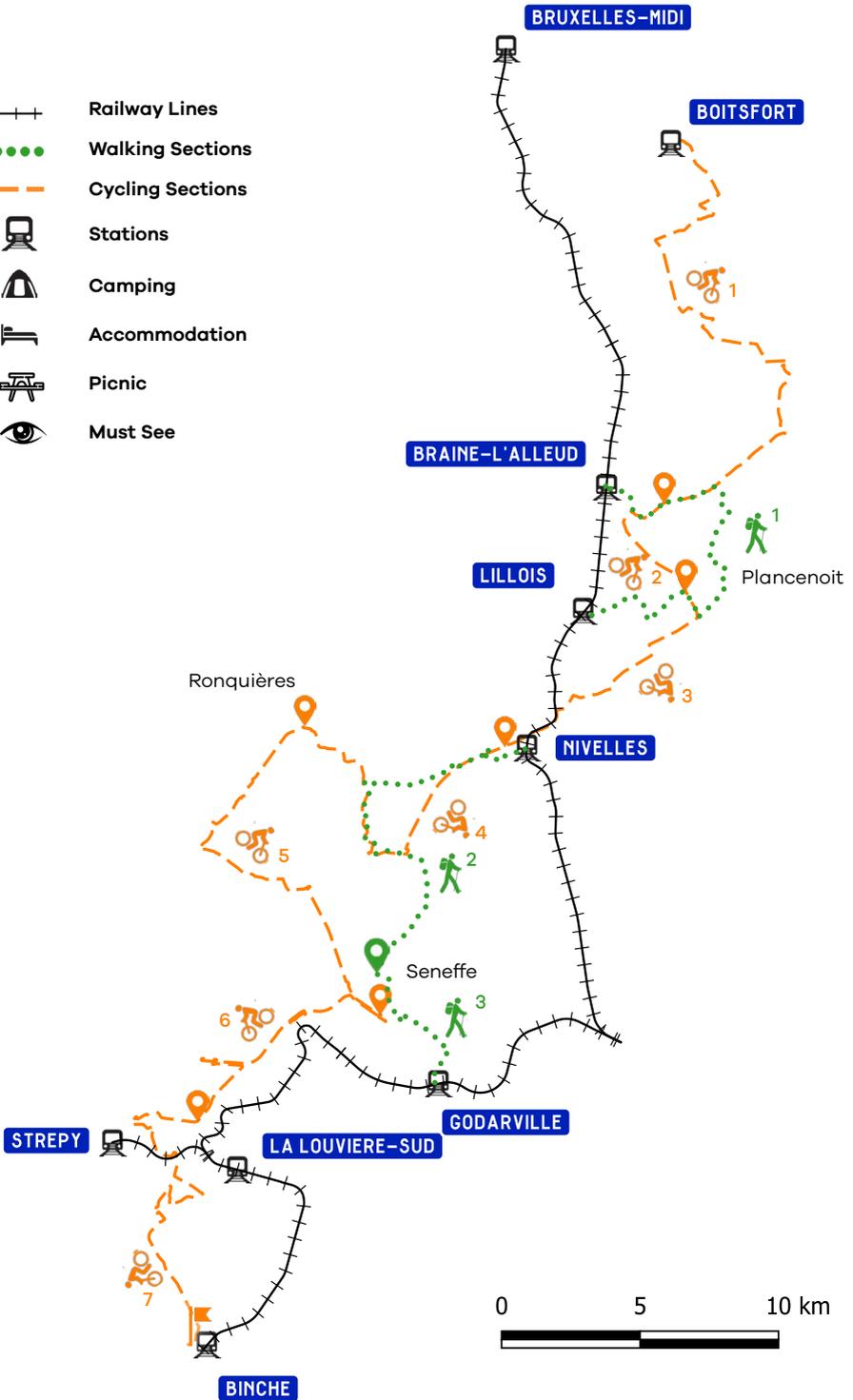


© WBT - Bruno D'Alimonte

# General map & itineraries

Find all our car-free itineraries on  
[visitwallonia.be/carfree](https://visitwallonia.be/carfree)

-  Railway Lines
-  Walking Sections
-  Cycling Sections
-  Stations
-  Camping
-  Accommodation
-  Picnic
-  Must See





# By train



## Sections by train

### #1

#### **Your departure train station – 'Gare de Braine-L'Alleud' (Station)**

Line 124 connects Braine-l'Alleud Station to the Brussels Stations (in about 20 minutes) with a direct train.

### #2

#### **'Gare de Lillois' (Station) – 'Gare de Nivelles' (Station).**

Line 124 connects Lillois station to Nivelles in 6 minutes. Two trains run per hour.

### #3

#### **Gare de Godarville (Station) – 'Gare de Bracquegnies (Strépy)' (Station).**

Take the train from Godarville Station to La Louvière-Sud Station then change to the train in the direction of Mons and get off at Bracquegnies Station to stroll along the historical 'Canal du Centre', where you can visit the famous boat lifts of the Historic Canal.

On weekdays, an S62 train leaves Godarville Station every hour to reach La Louvière-Center Station in less than 30 minutes via a small town called Manage. (N.B. on weekends, trains only run every two hours and at odd hours).

### #4

#### **'Gare de Godarville' (Godarville Station) – 'Gare de Binche' (Binche Station).**

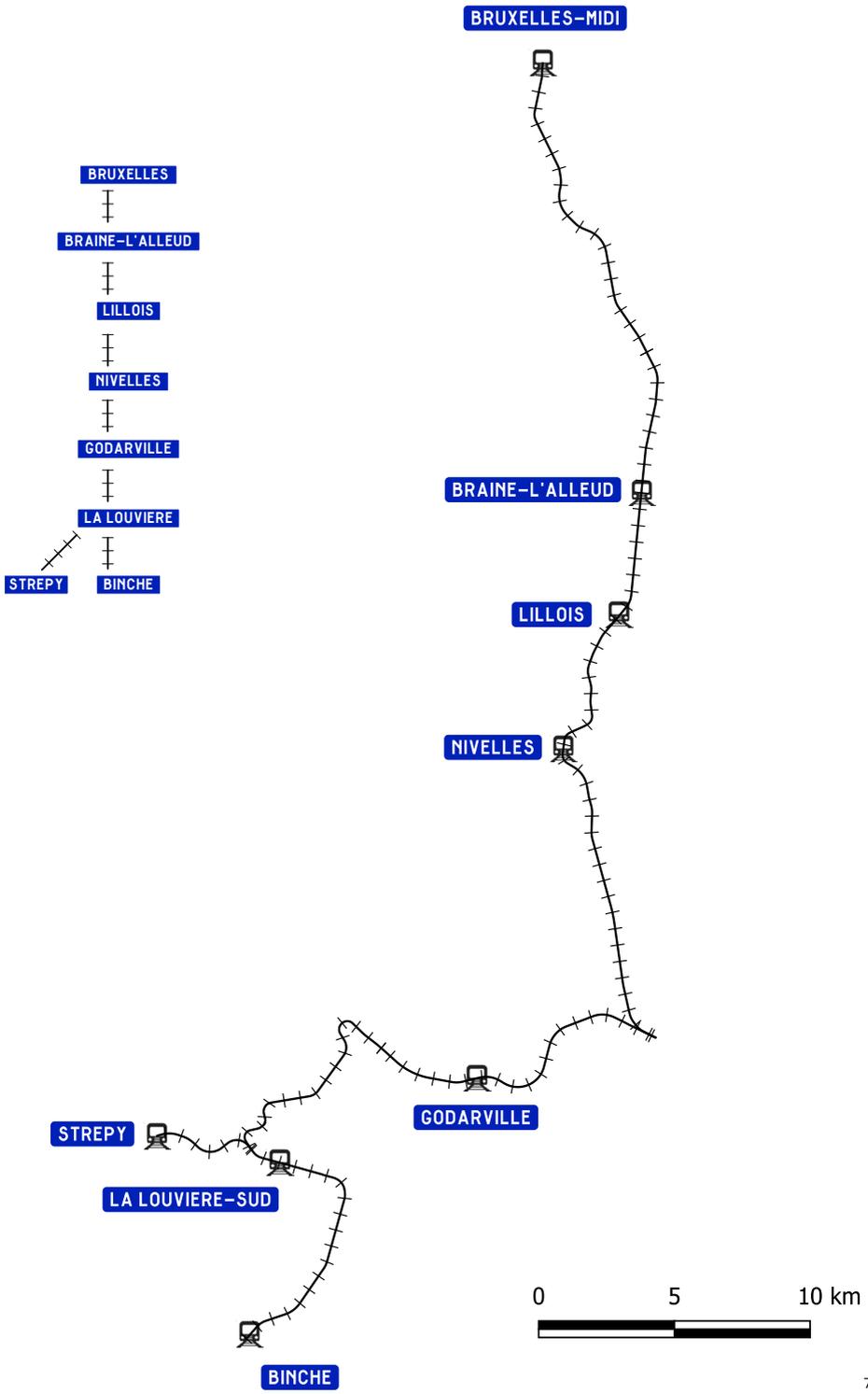
Take the train at La Louvière-Sud or La Louvière-Center Station towards Binche to visit the 'City of the Gille' (Carnival Character).

On line 108, a train leaves La Louvière for Binche every hour, via 'Leval' (about 12 min.).

## PRICES & INFO

On all these rail journeys, it is possible to embark with your bikes: €4/bike/trip + ticket price.

Find more information, timetables and prices on [www.belgiantrain.be](http://www.belgiantrain.be)



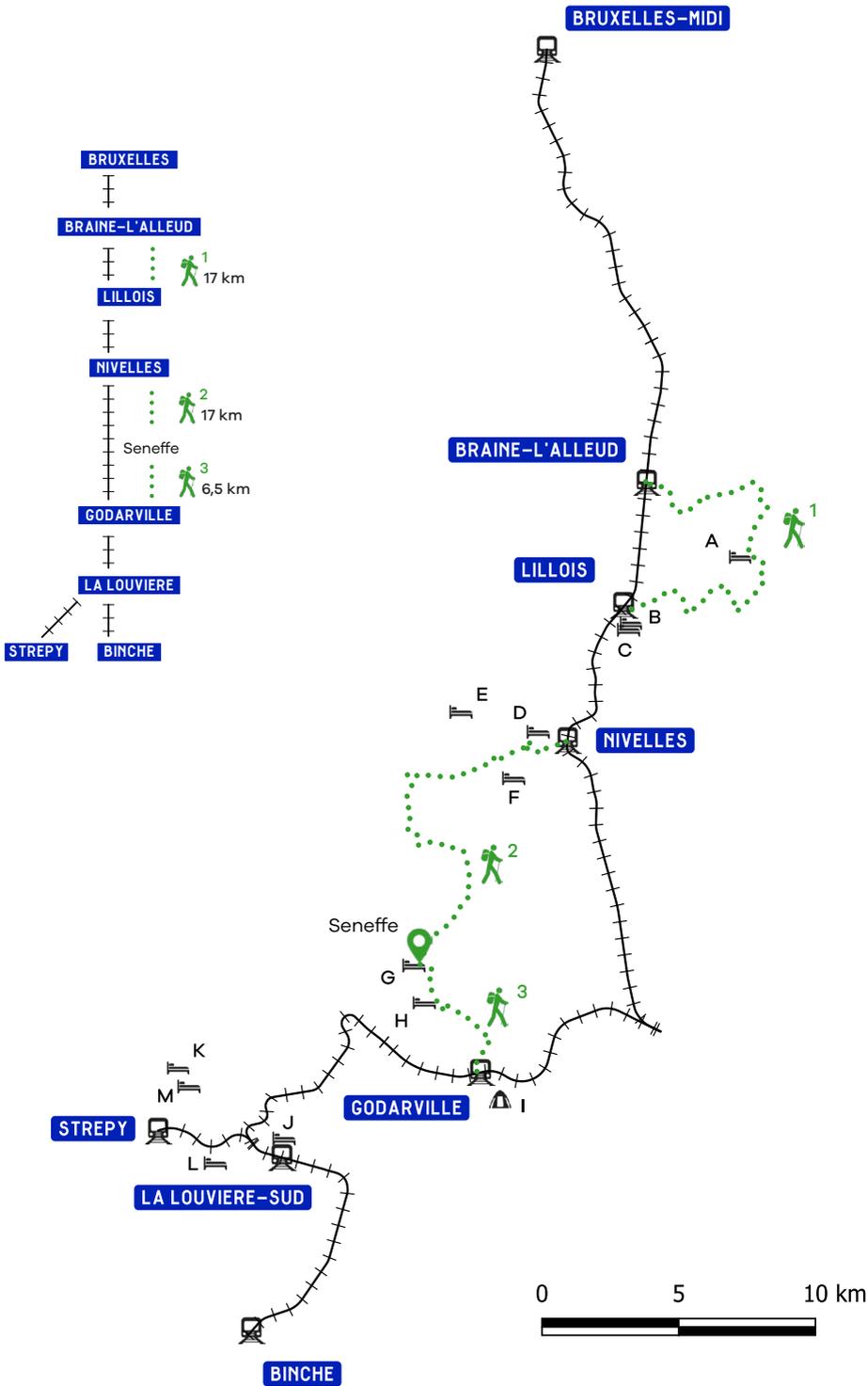


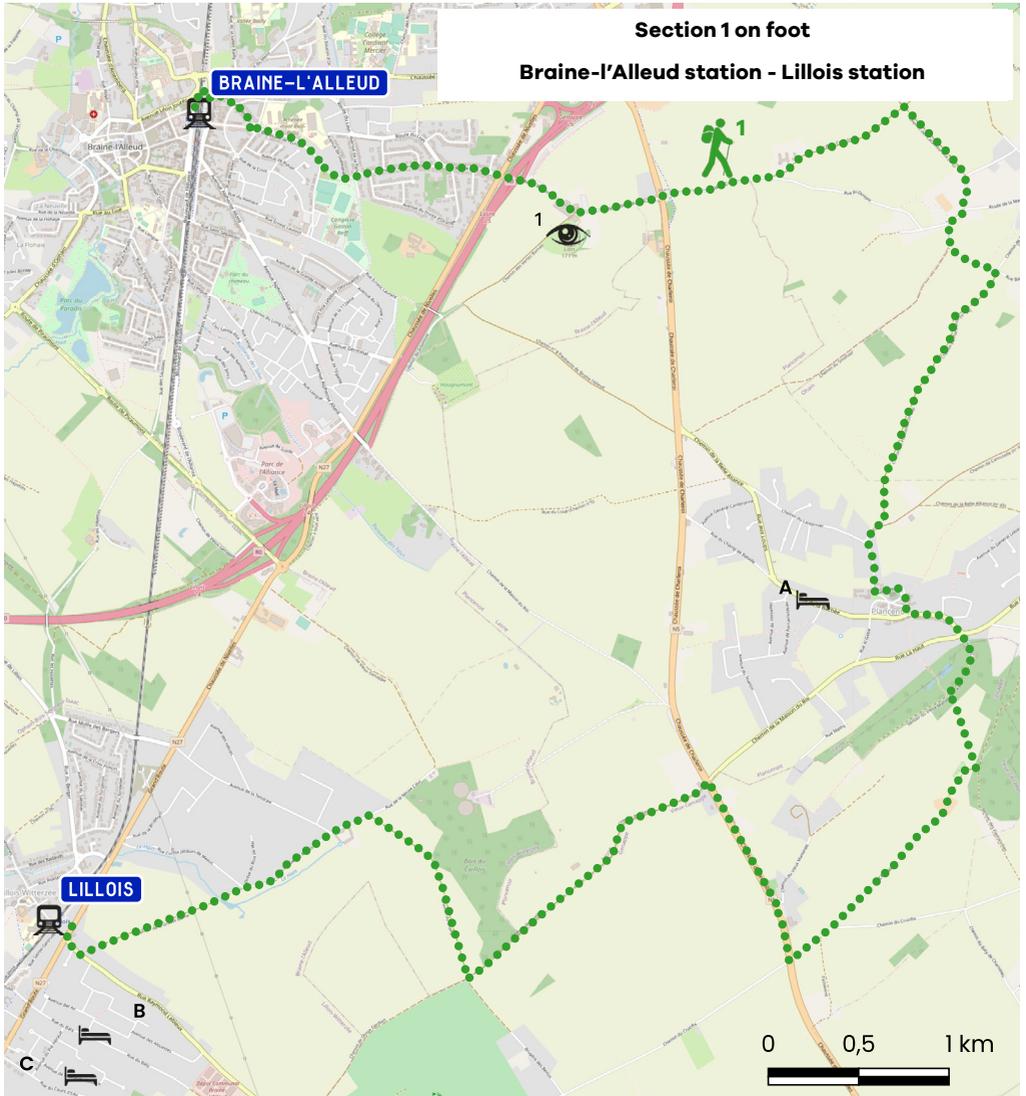
# On foot

## HERE'S HOW TO FOLLOW THE GUIDE

Download the GPX file or the guidance application for your mobile phone from [www.cirkwi.com](http://www.cirkwi.com).

You will find the different stages (on foot and by bike) of this route (GPX files, activities, accommodation, etc).





Km 17



5H00

**SIGNPOSTING**

(from the station to the Lion Mound of Waterloo)



## On foot



### 'Gare de Braine' (Station) – l'Alleud – 'Gare de Lillois' (Station)

#### PMR

Accessible for people with reduced mobility except the 'Sentier de la Grosse Borne' (Gross Borne passage) just before the Lillois Station, but you can continue on 'Rue Comte Jacques de Meeus' (Comte Jacques de Meeus Street) to reach the station

#### Signposting

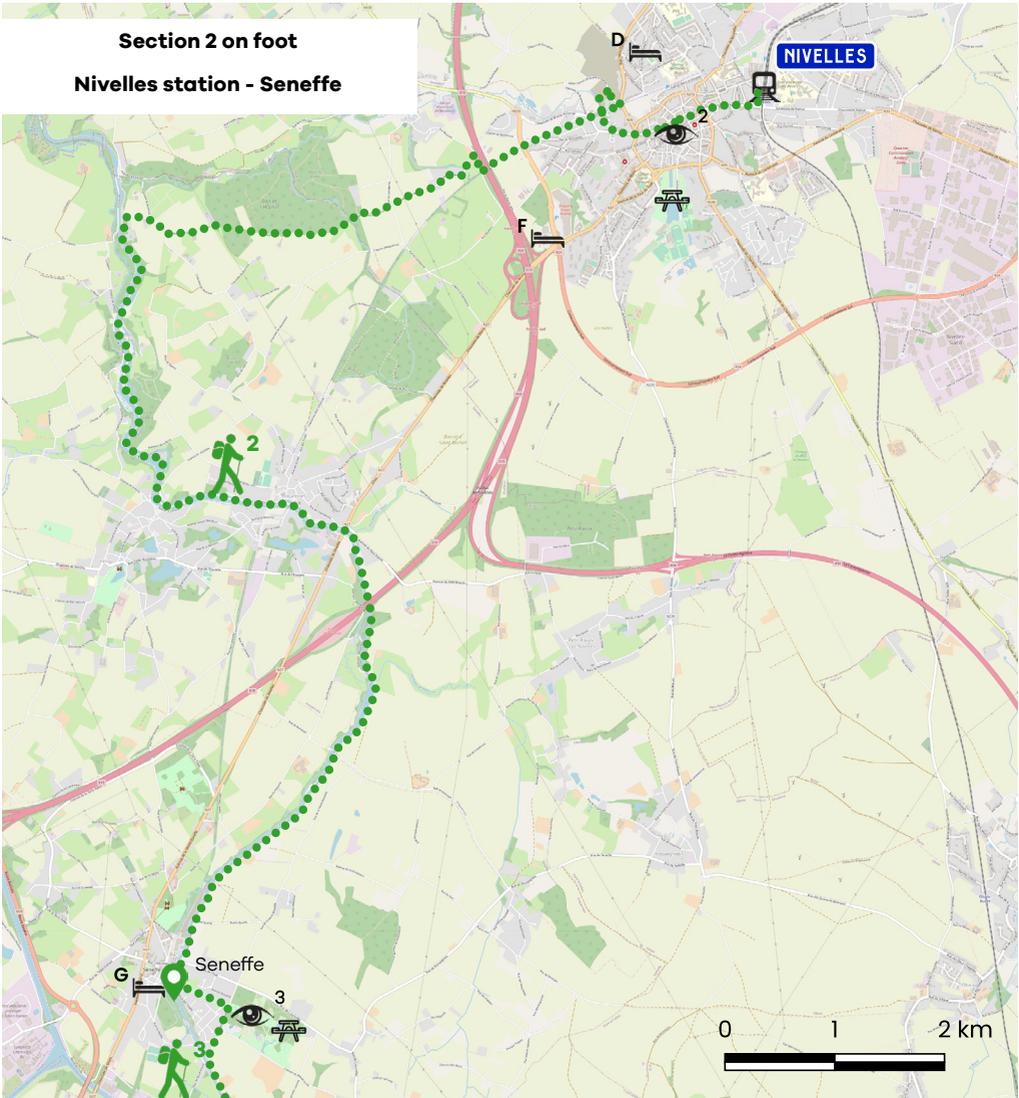
blue square with the silhouette of the Lion from the station to the Lion Mound of Waterloo - follow the signposting for the promenade tour 1815 (N.B. not the magenta pink)

- 1 Exit Braine-l'Alleud station towards 'Place de la Gare'. With the station behind you, turn right and then take the underpass as indicated by the blue markings with the silhouette of the Lion. Follow these markings to take you to the Lion's Mound memorial.
- 2 Go around the roundabout in front of you and take 'Avenue Napoléon'.
- 3 After 'Avenue Napoléon', walk down 'Boulevard de l'Europe' where you have a bird's eye view of the Lion Mound and the statue of local 'Brainois' involved in European construction. Then go up the 'Avenue de la Bonne Fosse' then the 'Route du Lion'. Cross the 'National 5' road and pass over the motorway (R0) to reach the Memorial site.
- 4 After this stop near the 'Butte du Lion' (Lion's Mound), follow the **Promenade Tour 1815 markings** for 8 kilometres to the 'Maison du Roy'. (If you have chosen to make this trip over two days, the stop-off will be after 5.2km, in 'Plancenot' village, at the 'Gîte de la Bachée')
- 5 Following the signs, you take a path that runs along the 'Chaussée de Bruxelles'. You then arrive at the Carrefour where the 'Maison du Roy' is located. Cross the 'Chaussée' to take 'Chemin de Nivelles', on the left, alongside the pet kennels.
- 6 Take 'Chemin de Nivelles' for 1.7km then take the first right, 'Chemin du Champ'. Then turn left towards 'Rue Comte Jacques de Meeus' (Comte Jacques de Meeus Street). At the end of the street in the bend, continue straight on to take the 'Grosse Borne' path which runs along the field.
- 7 At the end of the path, turn right onto 'Rue Raymond Lebleux' (Raymond Lebleux Street) until you get to the 'Grand'Route'. Take a right for 100m then the first left onto 'Rue de la Liberation' (Liberation Street) and you have arrived at Lillois station.
- 8 You now have two options: stay the night in Lillois and take the train the next morning or go to Nivelles by train directly and spend the night there.

Possible to split into **two stages** de 7.5km (2h) + 9.5km (2h30).

Find **accommodation** on **page 27**  
and **activities** on pages **22-25**

**Section 2 on foot**  
**Nivelles station - Seneffe**



**Km 17**



**4H15**

**SIGNPOSTING**



## 'Gare de Nivelles' (Nivelles Station) – 'Gare de Seneffe' (Seneffe Station)

### PMR

Not accessible for people with reduced mobility

### Signposting

GR from 'Hameau de Wailles' (Hamlet called Wailles)

- 1 Exit the Nivelles station on the 'Avenue Burllet' side. When you have the station at your back, turn left towards the square and go right down 'Rue de Namur' (Namur Street). At the end of 'Rue de Namur', take the pedestrianized shopping street to the 'Collegiate Church of Sainte-Gertrude de Nivelles'. Enjoy a drink and / or a tasty 'al'djote tart' on the bustling Grand Place (town square) and take a stroll around the area to discover the talented local artisans in the pedestrian area. (If you prefer a picnic, the 'Parc de la Dodaine' is a pretty option)
- 2 Leave the 'Collegiate Church' via 'Rue de Soignies' (Soignies Street) then continue straight on 'Faubourg de Soignies'. When you reach a small Y-shaped crossroads, turn right to 'La Rochelle'. You'll then come upon a pretty path.
- 3 Follow this path making a small loop until you reach the 'Vieux Chemin de Braine-Le-Comte'. Take this street to the right until you get to the one of the RAVeL trail points in the direction of 'Arquennes' (on the right). Walk on the RAVeL trail for 1.3 km. Then, after passing under the motorway viaduct, take 'Rue Boulvint' (Bouvint Street) directly to the right and then the first left to 'Hameau des Wailles' (The hamlet of Wailles).
- 4 You can't go wrong from here-on, follow this magnificent path which will become the 'Vieux chemin de Soignies' and the 'Chaussée de Soignies' for 3 km. You'll then arrive at a T-junction, turn right into 'Chaussée de Bornival' and then take the dead-end lane on your left to follow the path to the old canal. Follow the latter on the same bank thanks to this magnificent path for 9.5 km to 'Seneffe'.



**Section 3 on foot**  
**Seneffe - Godarville station**



**Km 6.5**



**1H40**

**SIGNPOSTING**



### 3

## Seneffe – Gare de Godarville (station)

### PMR

Not accessible for people with reduced mobility

### Signposting

GR

- 1 From the centre of 'Seneffe' follow the road along the tree line towards the 'Château de Seneffe'. Before continuing your itinerary, take the time to visit the castle and its park. Applications suitable for all ages allow you to experience an interactive visit. It's a pretty spot to stop for a picnic.
- 2 To resume your walk, in front of the castle, turn right into 'Rue Lucien Plasman' (Lucien Plasman Street) then walk along the canal to the first bridge. Take the bridge to cross to the other side. Continue on the other side to the 'Pont de l'Origine'. Cross the canal by Pont de l'Origine' (L'Origine Bridge) then turn left onto 'Rue du Pont de l'Origine' (L'Origine Street). At the end of the street, follow the path.
- 3 Take the path that goes up to 'Rue des Culots' (Culots Street). Cross the bridge and continue on 'Rue du Castia' (Castia Street). Take the third left 'Rue des Communes' (Communes Street) then right onto 'Rue de la Quiétude' (Quietude Street). At the end of the street, take the 'Rue du Président Allende' (Président Allende Street) on your left which will lead you to the 'Place de Gaulle' where Godarville station is located.

Find **accommodation** on **page 27**  
and **activities** on **pages 22-25**





# By bike

## DEPARTURE

Boitsfort station

- take the 'Chaussée de la Hulpe' (very small pedestrian and cyclist street)
- join route 5B towards La Hulpe
- 500 metres after entering the woods, turn right following the arrow towards 'Point-Noeud' 43 ('Point-Noeud' is an intersecting cycling network with numbers)

Then **follow the 'points-noeuds'** following the order number. The stages are set out according to the accommodation and stops suggested in this route. The sections can of course be **combined with the train** according to the desired pace. **Stations** are available at almost every stop.

## INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF THE 'POINTS-NOEUDS' MARKERS

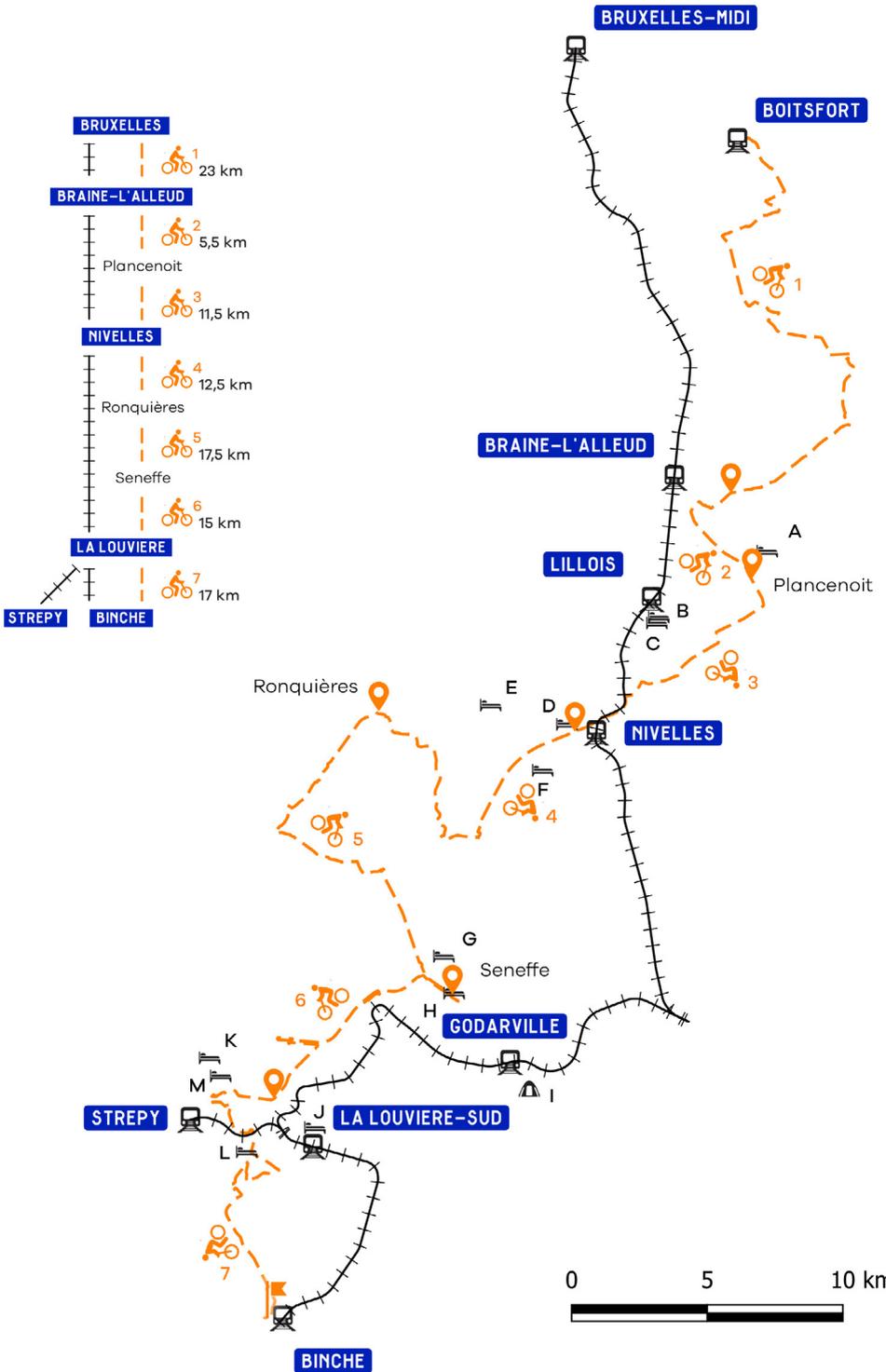
The 'Points-Noeuds' marker system is very simple: each intersection is numbered and provided with a directional marker which includes the number of the intersection (Point-Noeud) and the arrows to the following numbered intersections. Follow the 'Points-Noeud' indicated in the following pages as a route.

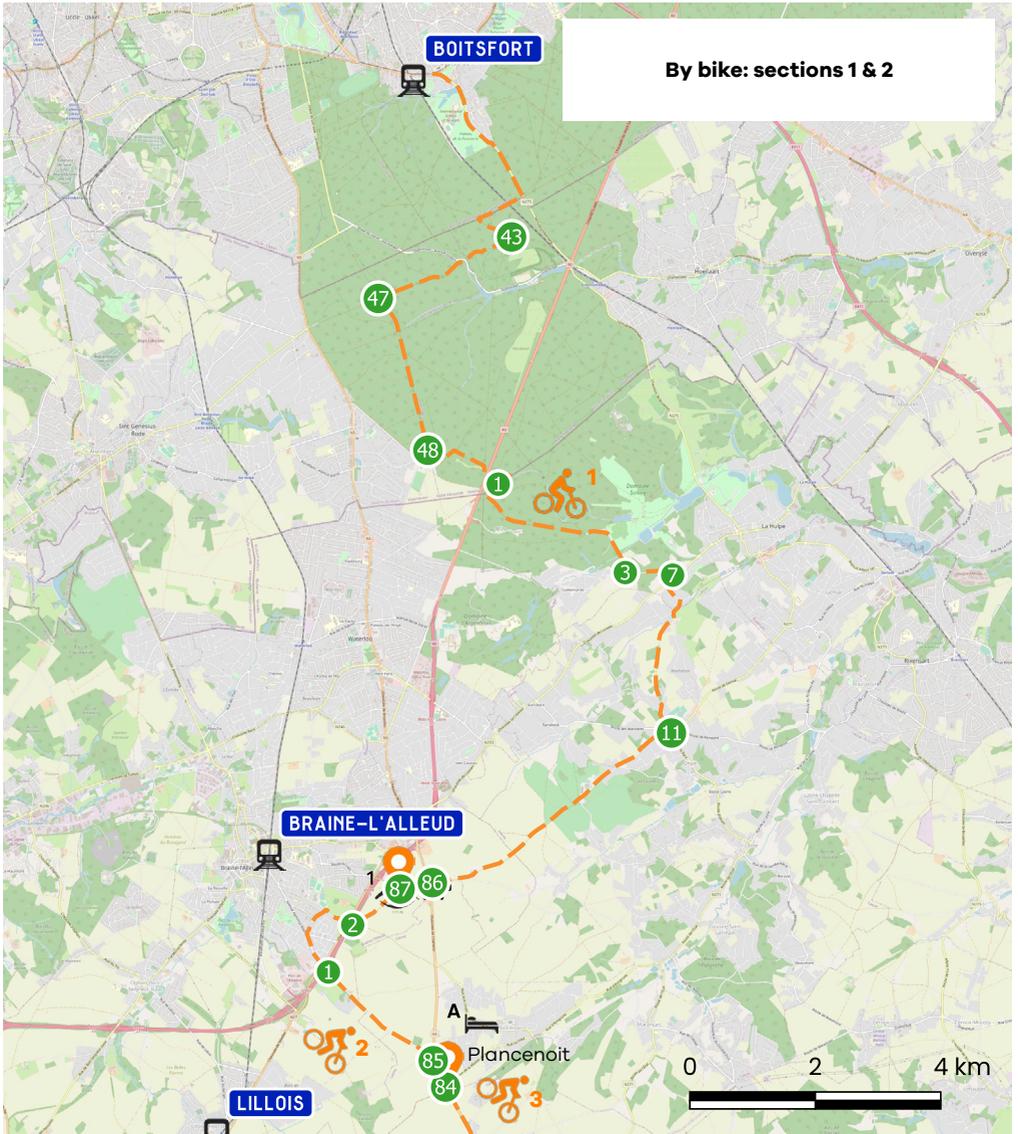


## EASY TO USE GUIDE

Download the GPX file or the guidance application for your mobile phone from [www.cirkwi.com](http://www.cirkwi.com).

You will find the different stages (on foot and by bike) of this route (GPX files, activities, accommodation, etc.).





By bike: sections 1 & 2

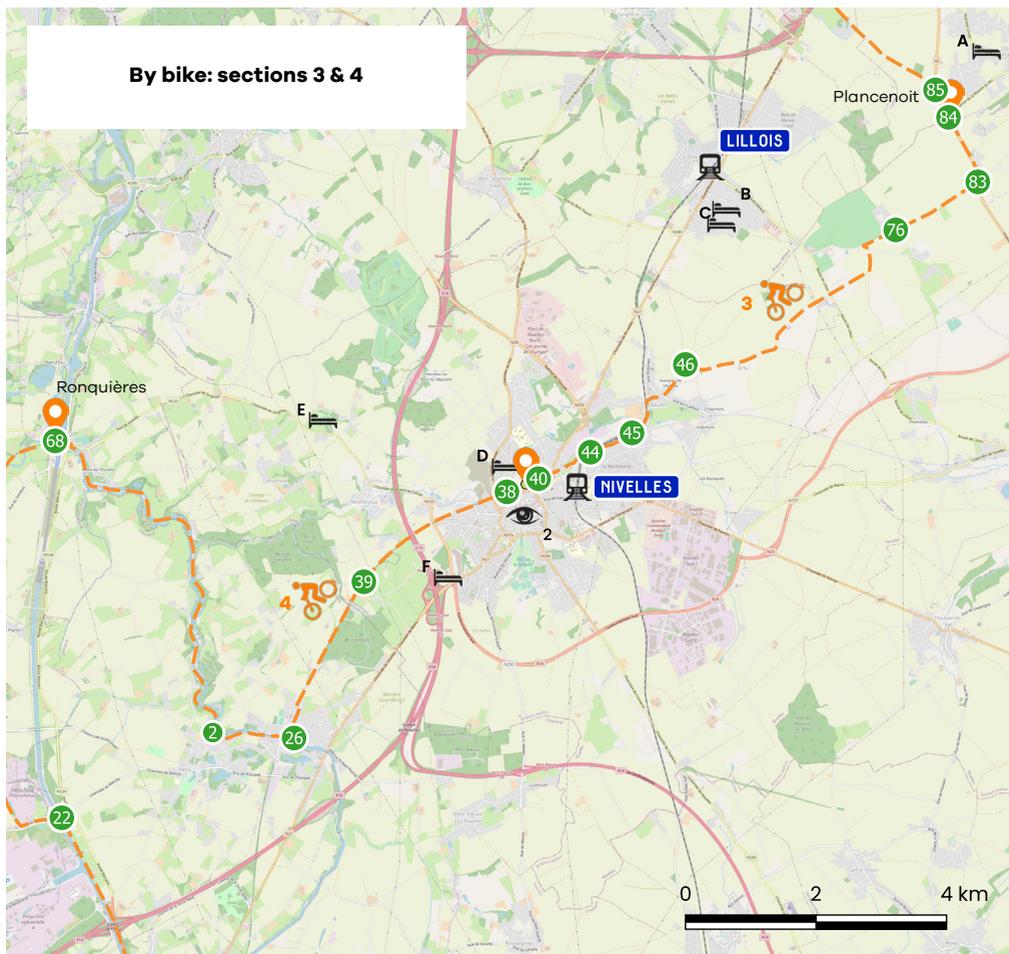
**🚲 1**

**Boitsfort – Butte du Lion (Lion’s Mound) (23 km):** 43 – 47 – 48 – 1 – 3 – 7 – 11 – 86 – 87

**🚲 2** **A**

**Butte du Lion – Placenoit (5.5 km):** 87 – 2 – 1 – 85 – 84

**By bike: sections 3 & 4**



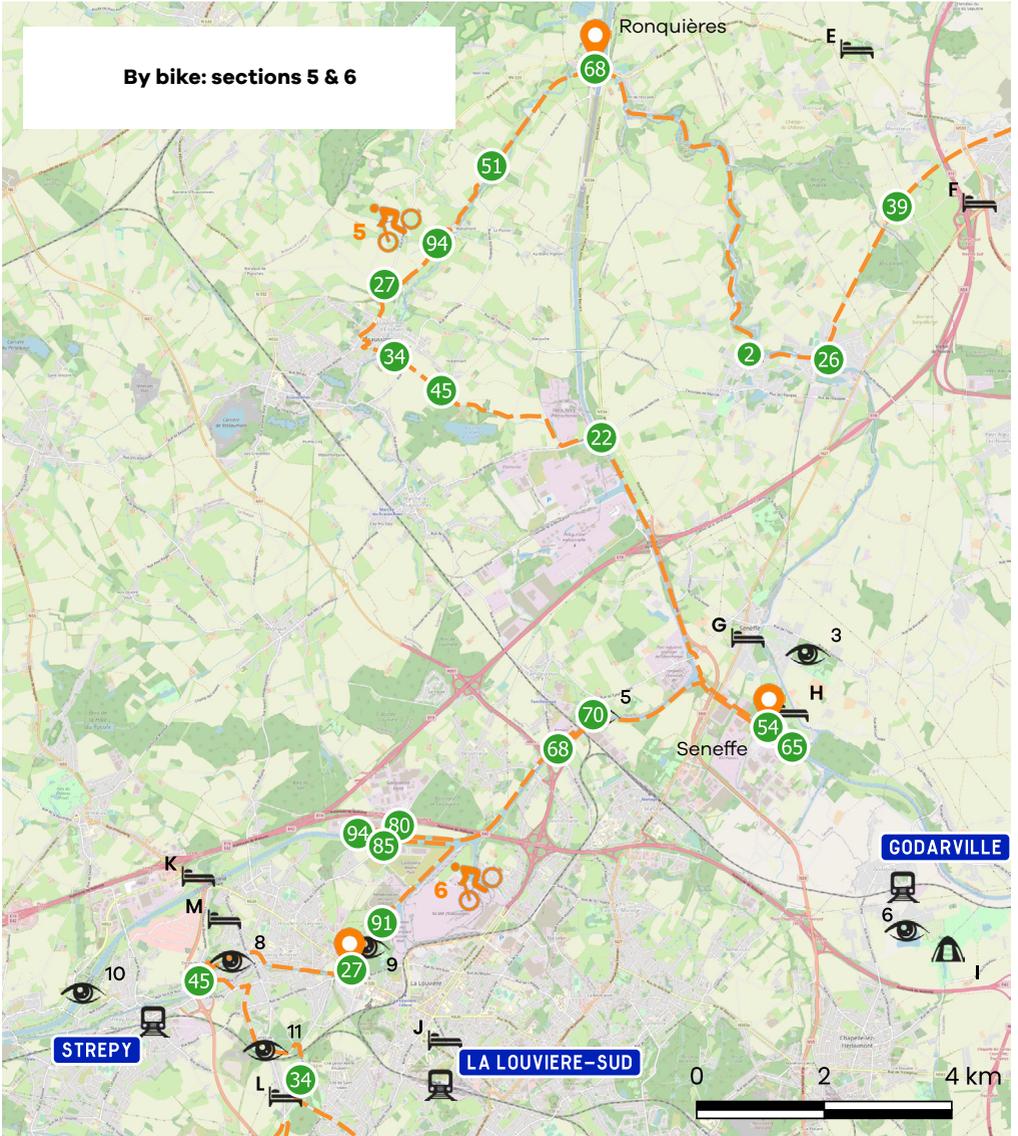
Find **accommodation** on **page 27**  
and **activities** on pages **22-25**

**3** D/E/F

**Plancenoi – Nivelles (11.5 km):** 84 – 83 – 76 – 46 – 45 – 44 – 40 – 38

**4**

**Nivelles – Ronquières (12.5 km):** 38 – 39 – 26 – 2 – 68



**By bike: sections 5 & 6**

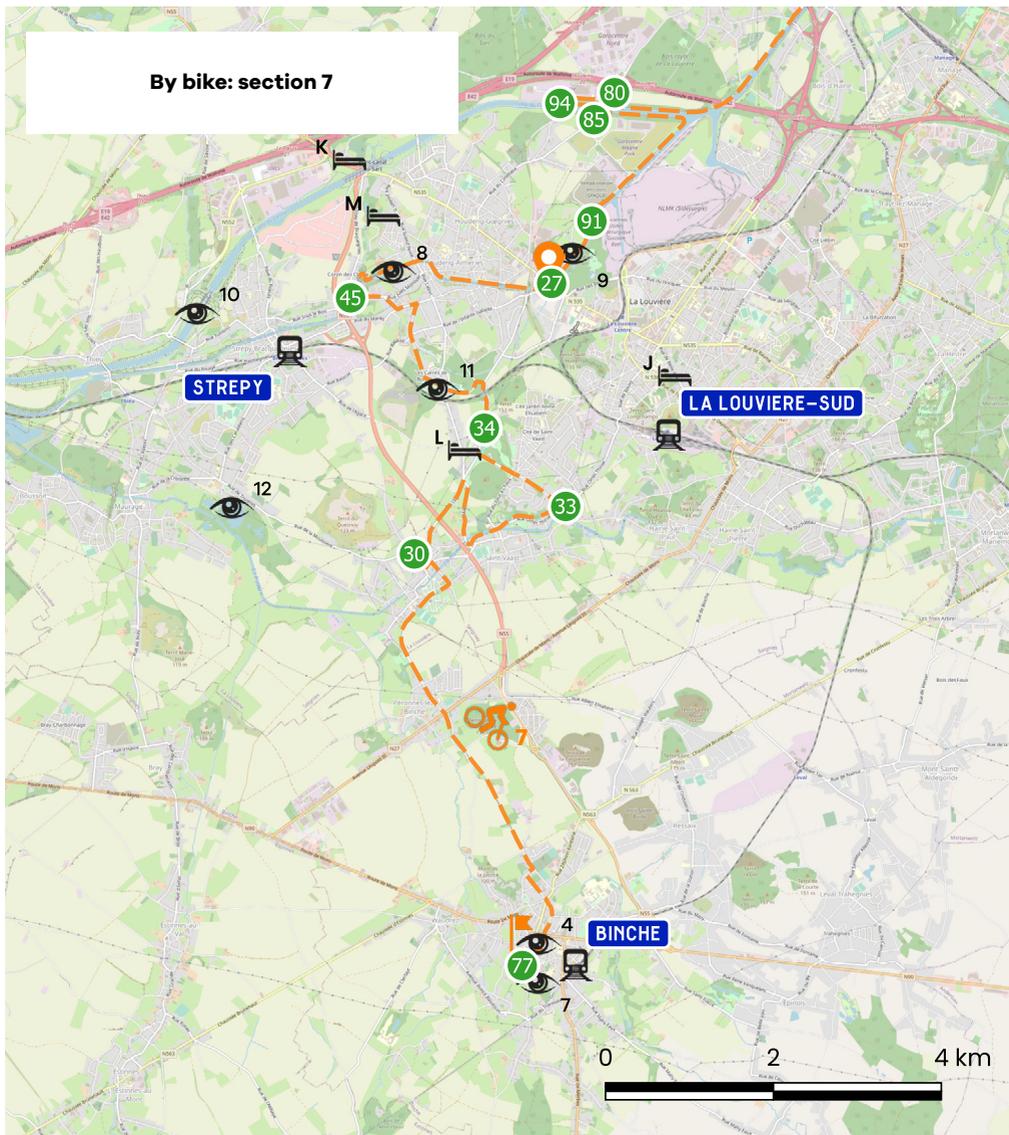
**5** G/H

**Ronquières – Seneffe (17.5 km):** 68 – 51 – 94 – 27 – 34 – 45 – 22 – 59 – 54  
 (To reach the center of Seneffe from 'Point Noeud' 59 follow: 63 – 61 – 51)

**6** J/K/L/M

**Seneffe – La Louvière (15 km):** 54 – 65 – 68 – 70 – 94 – 80 – 85

By bike: section 7



La Louvière – Binche (17 km): 85 – 91 – 27 – 45 – 34 – 33 – 30 – 77



# Discover

## 1 Waterloo

Its name is associated with a momentous event in European history. It refers to a past and a heritage of which Waterloo is proud. This heritage is showcased at the Wellington Museum, in what was the last headquarters of the Duke. It's where he wrote the victory bulletin on the evening of the famous battle of June 18, 1815. Visits continue in the neighboring towns with, in particular the Memorial 1815 and the famous Lion's Mound.

### Waterloo Tourism Office

Chaussée de Bruxelles 218 – 1410 Waterloo  
[www.waterloo-tourisme.com](http://www.waterloo-tourisme.com)

## 2 Nivelles

Nivelles, a small town with a great history, has a breathtaking historical heritage. Known for its magnificent thousand-year-old Sainte-Gertrude collegiate church, this charming town conceals a thousand and one little well-kept secrets. The city invites you to immerse yourself in the heart of its old quarters with medieval charm, or to stroll among the works of art that are scattered around the Dodaine park. Also discover the only sisterhood in Belgium, its craft beers and its famous 'Tarte al Djote'...

### Nivelles Tourism Office

Rue de Saintes 48 – 1400 Nivelles  
[www.tourisme-nivelles.be](http://www.tourisme-nivelles.be)

## 3 Le Domaine du Château de Seneffe et son musée de l'Orfèvrerie (Seneffe Castle & Silversmith Museum)

Set in an elegant 22-hectare park is at the centre of a remarkable 18th century complex comprising an orangery, a neoclassical theatre, an aviary and stunning gardens. These gardens are recognized as exceptional parks & gardens heritage in Wallonia. To have a guided tour, you can download an application for free or rent a tablet at the museum. (+ possibility of picnic in the park)

Rue Plasman 7-9 – 7180 Seneffe  
[www.chateaudeseneffe.be](http://www.chateaudeseneffe.be)

## 4 Le beffroi de Binche (Binche Belfry)

The Belfry, recognized as «World Heritage of Humanity» by UNESCO, is an integral part of the Town Hall built in the 14C. The monument was rebuilt in Renaissance style by the architect Du Broeucq after the city was ransacked by the French armies in 1554. A baroque bulb crowns the Belfry. The coat of arms of Charles V and his sister Marie of Hungary adorns the building.

### Binche Tourism Office

Grand Place 5 – 7130 Binche  
[www.binche.be](http://www.binche.be)

## 5 La Barchetta (Boat Trip with Picnic Lunch)

A 2-hour «NAUTICAL» trip on the 'Canal du Center' with a delicious made-to-measure picnic basket.

Rue de Manage 75 – 7180 Seneffe  
[www.labarchetta.me](http://www.labarchetta.me)

## 6 Centre de délassément de Claire-Fontaine (Claire Fontaine Activity Centre)

Just 1 km from Godarville train station, you can experience all the nautical pleasures you desire (slides, pedal boats, etc.), or take a walk on the woodland trails that border it. Young and old alike, adrenaline junkies and thrill seekers will love the brand-new tree-climbing course, zip line and other fun activities

Rue Clémenceau 11 – 7160 Godarville  
[f DomaineClaireFontaine](https://www.facebook.com/DomaineClaireFontaine)



### **7 Les Remparts de Binche (Binche Ramparts)**

Nicely restored and standing strong with 22 towers beautifully lit at night, the current Binche ramparts date from the 14th century. They replaced an older and more restricted enclosure which protected the rocky outcrop south of Binche. The towers which dominate the ramparts are 8 m high with a diameter of around ten metres. Come and discover the 'Ramparts de Binche' new illuminations

#### **Binche Tourism Office**

Grand Place 5 – 7130 Binche

[www.binche.be](http://www.binche.be)

### **9 La Cantine des Italiens (Information centre with Museum and Restaurant)**

Built in 1946 by the Boël factories for its Italian immigrant workers, its buildings have been rehabilitated into a café / restaurant and an information centre on immigration. From the 'Cantine des Italiens', rent electric boats without a license to explore the historic Canal du Centre. It's fun and informative all at the same time.

#### **The waterways of Hainaut**

[www.canalducentre.be](http://www.canalducentre.be)

### **11 Le site minier du Bois-du-Luc ('Bois-du-Luc' Mining Site and Museum)**

Since July 2012, 4 major mining sites in Wallonia have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. These are the best-preserved sites of coal mining, which spanned from the beginning of the 19th century to the second half of the 20th century. Bois-du-Luc has many buildings erected from 1838 to 1909 and a colliery, which is one of the oldest in Europe, dating back to the end of the 17th century.

Rue Saint-Patrice 2b – 7110 La Louvière

[www.ecomuseeboisduluc.be](http://www.ecomuseeboisduluc.be)

### **8 Les Ascenseurs hydrauliques du Canal du Centre Historique (Hydraulic Boat Lifts)**

Whoever mention La Louvière can't help but think of the canal that crosses it and the many walks you can take along the tree-lined banks, or on a barge over the water. The heavy boats taking a lift is most definitely an arresting sight. Between La Louvière and Thieu, four hydraulic boat lifts have been in operation for over a century. Built between 1882 and 1917, each of them redeems a drop of around 17 m and operates on a single source of energy: water

#### **The waterways of Hainaut**

[www.canalducentre.be](http://www.canalducentre.be)

### **10 Ascenseur Funiculaire de Strépy-Thieu (Strépy-Thieu Funicular Lift)**

The network of Belgian waterways with a gauge of 1350 tonnes required the construction of a new section for the Canal du Centre with the creation of a boat lift: the Strépy-Thieu funicular lift.

Discover its panorama, from where you will have the opportunity to observe the mechanism that carries the boats to a dizzying height of 73 metres. You can discover the evolution of inland waterways in Belgium, with the exhibition «Waterways of yesterday, today and tomorrow».

Rue Raymond Cordier 50 – 7070 Thieu

[www.canalducentre.be](http://www.canalducentre.be)

### **12 Réserve Naturelle des Étangs de Strépy (Nature Reserve)**

Nature in abundance, the wealth of the flora is infinite in this area. The Strépy ponds truly constitute a phenomenal nature reserve. Labelled NATURA 2000 site, it also has a children's play area and a brasserie-restaurant «Le Chalet des Etangs».

Rue des Étangs

7110 Strépy-Bracquagnies



# Taste of Wallonia

## Ferme de Mont Saint-Jean (Brewery)

Chaussée de Charleroi 591  
1410 Waterloo

[www.fermedemontsaintjean.be](http://www.fermedemontsaintjean.be)

## « Bière L'Impératrice » (Brewery)

Rue des Scailleux 62  
7130 Leval-Trahegnies

[www.imperatrice.be](http://www.imperatrice.be)

## Ferme de Scoumont (Farm)

Rue de Scoumont 19  
7181 Arquennes

[f Ferme-De-Scoumont](#)

## Glaces Franklin (Ice Cream)

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

## Ferme du Grand Berlanwez (Farm)

Rue de Tyberchamps 24  
7180 Seneffe

[www.berlanwez.be](http://www.berlanwez.be)

## Gin de Binche (Gin)

[www.gindebinche.be](http://www.gindebinche.be)

## Bières « La Binchoise » (Brewery)

Faubourg Saint-Paul 38  
7130 Binche

[www.brasseriealabinchoise.be](http://www.brasseriealabinchoise.be)



# Where to Stay?

- A La Bachée**   
Rue de la Bachée 72  
1380 Plancenoit  
[www.bachee.be](http://www.bachee.be)
- B Le Hameau de Goumont**  
Rue du Baty 34  
1428 Lillois  
[www.lehameaudugoumont.be](http://www.lehameaudugoumont.be)
- C Heathers 2**  
Avenue de la Grande Closière 29  
1428 Lillois-Witterzée  
(Braine-l'Alleud)  
[www.gitesdewallonie.be](http://www.gitesdewallonie.be)
- D Le Mont Saint-Roch**  
Rue Mont-Saint-Roch 34  
1400 Nivelles  
[www.gitesdewallonie.be](http://www.gitesdewallonie.be)
- E Ferme de Grambais**  
Chaussée de Braine-le-Comte 102  
1400 Nivelles  
[www.fermedegrambais.be](http://www.fermedegrambais.be)
- F Hôtel Nivelles Sud**   
Chaussée de Mons 22  
1400 Nivelles  
[www.hotelnivellessud.be](http://www.hotelnivellessud.be)
- G La Belle Escapade**  
Rue du Roi Albert 8  
7180 Seneffe  
[www.belle-escapade.be](http://www.belle-escapade.be)
- H Au Fil de l'Eau**  
Rue de Soudromont 22  
7180 Seneffe  
[www.hotel-aufildeleau.be](http://www.hotel-aufildeleau.be)
- I Camping du Domaine de Claire-Fontaine\*\*\***  
Avenue Clémenceau 11  
7160 Godarville  
[www.hainaut.be](http://www.hainaut.be)
- J Hôtel Belle-Vue \*\*\***   
Rue Belle-Vue 126  
7100 La Louvière  
[www.hotel-belle-vue.be](http://www.hotel-belle-vue.be)

- K Orange Hotel\*\*\***   
Chaussée du Pont du Sart 238  
7110 La Louvière  
[www.orangehotel.be](http://www.orangehotel.be)
- L Le Castillon**   
Rue du Castillon 9  
7100 Trivières  
[www.le-castillon.be](http://www.le-castillon.be)
- M Moulin du Ya**  
Rue de Bignault 30  
7110 Houdeng-Aimeries  
[www.lemoulinduya.be](http://www.lemoulinduya.be)





Follow us

 whybelgium

 BelgianTouristOfficeWallonia

**VISITWallonia.be**

**The Ultimate Belgian Getaway**

**This brochure is published by Wallonia Belgium Tourism (WBT) Company Number: 0888.366.085.**

Rue du Marché aux Herbes, 25-27 – 1000 Brussels (Head Office) / Avenue Comte de Smet de Nayer, 14 – 5000 Namur (Operational Department) Chief Editor: Etienne Claude, WBT Director General. • Coordination and Publishing: S. Burgeon, P. Maree. • Design and Layout: Lielens. • In partnership with Hike Up and Railtrip Travel. • All information, contained in this brochure has been compiled with maximum attention to current facts and details, correct at the time of publishing. This brochure is not contractual and the editor cannot be held responsible. Any errors and involuntary omissions or subsequent modifications are not the responsibility of Wallonia Belgium Tourism.

**Alcohol abuse is harmful to health. Consume and enjoy in moderation.**