

ANDENNE

Nature and walks



Family strolls, mountain bike circuits, long-distance trails and Ravel, “nature” visits, Andenne offers unexpected circuits to walkers. Here are some trails for your walks.

Marked walking trails

A 1:25,000 scale map, produced by the Tourist Office in cooperation with the National Geographical Institute, contains more than 200km of footpaths, mountain bike and horseriding trails, together with all the authorised municipal paths, the sections of the RAVeL and of the long-distance trail GR 575 (“Tour du Condroz Namurois”, marked out in red and white) that passes through our region.

The long-distance trail GR 575

This trail, also called the “Tour du Condroz Namurois”, is 128km long and goes past the most astonishing, the most fabulous and the most fascinating places of interest of the Namur Condroz region. It passes through Andenne, Haillot, Jallet, Evelette, Sorée, Gesves, Emptinne, Ciney, Chevetogne, Celles, Spon-tin, Crupet, Sart-Bernard, Mozet and Goyet. You can follow this trail thanks to the red and white mar-

kings (international marking). The Association des Sentiers de Grande Randonnée is an association for long-distance trails that publishes a hiking guide (topo-guide). It is also available.

The RAVeL (Autonomous Network of Slow Ways)

The RAVeL is a network of greenways reserved for pedestrians, cyclists, persons with reduced mobility and horse riders. In Andenne, this network follows the towpath along the Meuse and so makes it possible to connect Andenne to Namur, Mons, and Tournai or to Huy, Liège and Maastricht.

The valley of the Samson

With one of the steepest slopes in Belgium, the Samson makes its way northwards, forming a deeply embanked valley pierced with caves and caverns. The valley is home to noteworthy fauna and flora ... After covering a distance of a few



kilometres, the Samson flows into the Meuse level with Thon-Samson, one of the most beautiful villages of Wallonia. Many limestone houses lend charm to the spot which is a wonderful place for hiking, horse and mountain-bike riding ...

Sclaigneaux Nature Reserve

This is one of the country's most interesting sites. The site is listed as a place of natural interest and is listed in the NATURA 2000 areas. Its savage beauty impresses the walker and the variety of ecosystems that is to be found over such a small area (+/- 50 ha) attracts



the scientist's interest. It is a place where you will discover: a heathland, a pinewood, a forest of imposing oaks and beeches, dolomitic expanses, a sand quarry, lichens typical of acid soils and a multitude of different orchids (rare and legally protected plants). The fauna is no less varied (wood larks, black woodpeckers, ring ouzels, grey herons, etc.). Open all year round.

Tourist routes

Two marked tourist routes provide you with an opportunity to discover our region.

The "cow war" route is a magnificent circuit of 125kms through the Namur Condroz region on the traces of that legend of the Middle Ages. History tells us that, in the 13th century, a peasant from Jallet stole a cow from a citizen of Ciney and attempted to resell it at Andenne market. Exposed, he was hung, but the lord on whom the thief depended started a war. For two years, the earldom of Namur and the principality of Liège were joined in bloody battle in the "Cow War" which only stopped thanks to the intervention of Philip III the Bold, King of France.

The **route of the Stone or the Jean Tousseul route** is associated with the memory of the writer Jean Tousseul, alias Olivier Degée, who worked at the Seilles quarries. It is an unusual trail of 135kms up hill and down dale and on both sides of the Meuse valley, between Namur and Huy. It runs through the economic riches of our region; stone: its quarrying in the many local quarries and its use in beautiful civil and religious buildings, made of limestone, sandstone and marble.

The Compostela Way

Another way crosses the Andenne region: the "Camino de Santiago", proclaimed the first European cultural itinerary and declared "World Heritage" by UNESCO. In the first half of the 9th century, the discovery of the tomb of the Apostle St. James, at the confines of the known world, was the beginning of an immense movement of pilgrims throughout Europe, which lasted over a thousand years. Rediscovered in the post-war years, that tradition developed again at an incredible speed. You can follow that route (Aachen – Namur – Givet section) thanks to the hexagonal

markings representing a red shell on a white background and, since 2004, bronze shells mark out the trail in the pavements of Andenne and connect Andenelle church to Sclayn church.

Several maps and other proposals for walks are available from the Tourist Office of the Town of Andenne.

