

Wallonia for all

Good practices on accessible tourism

Certification of accessible cycling routes

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Wallonia – General information



Southern part
of Belgium

Surface area
17.000km²

Population
3.500.000
inhabitants

Languages
French
German (less than 1%)

Capital
Namur



Wallonie

Wallonia Tourism



- Nature
- Gastronomy
- Sports & Adventure
- Historical heritage
- Traditions and folklore
- Proximity tourism

Cycling tourism in Wallonia

= a vector for development



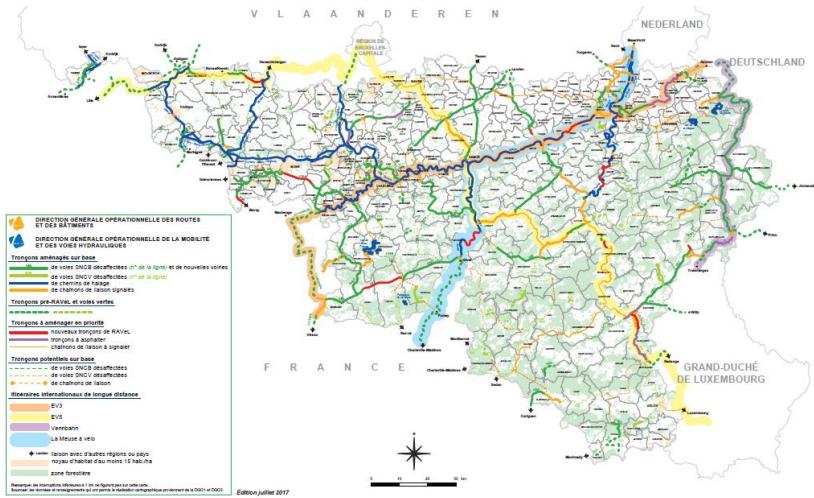
- Touristic
- Social
- Innovative
- Sustainable



- ▶ It's a key element in the creation of initiatives
- ▶ It fits in with a sustainable and accessible tourism for all.

2 strong and priority sectors in Wallonia

Cycling tourism = adapted infrastructures, routes and services.



BIENVENUE VÉLO
FIETS WELKOM
BIKES WELCOME
RADFAHRER WILLKOMMEN



Accessibility = the issue is included in the government's strategic plan.

Accessible tourism = the tourism Administration (CGT) is responsible for the development of the accessibility in tourism → it's included in its upcoming strategic plans (currently in its administration contract).



Cycling tourism in Wallonia

Great potential !

- RAVeL cycling network 1,440Km (disused railway lines and canal towpaths)
- Long-distance itineraries: 1,952 Km
 - Regional routes: 1,168 km
 - International routes: 784km
- Points-nœuds network = itinerary intersections : 7,958 Km (help people create an itinerary suiting their needs)
- 4,902 Km of mountain bike routes
- 6,051 Km of VTC routes
- « Bienvenue vélo » Label: 752 certified operators
- More than 200 rental or repairing bicycles services



The RAVeL

The RAVeL is a network of over 1,440 kilometers of paths reserved for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and those with reduced mobility!

The Réseau Autonome des Voies Lentes (RAVeL - autonomous network of non-motorised paths) is a comfortable, safe network of greenways laid out mainly along towpaths and old railway lines. It includes over 45 local routes waymarked for walking as a family, hiking, cycling, horse riding, roller skating and more.

These greenways are being gradually interconnected to form 10 regional routes and 4 international routes that cover the whole of Wallonia and are intended for cycling tourism. So using the RAVeL, the greenways and the cycling routes, you can cross Wallonia in peace and quiet along paths stretching more than 2,000 kilometers and explore towns and cities, rural areas and nature reserves!

Interactive Route Map



Maps order

Watch videos about RAVeL



Show all videos

Watch photos about RAVeL



Show all photos

Cycling tourism in Wallonia

Innovation Certification of accessible cycling routes



ACCESS ► i

www.access-i.be

Since 2014, **1 official partner** to develop accessible tourism in Wallonia

- = non-profit Access-i www.access-i.be (an association of accessibility professionals)
- = **1 methodology, 1 certification.**

A methodology developed exclusively by professionals and with the invaluable collaboration of “users” who help adapt it to the realities on the ground.

Since 2016 : collaboration with Access-i for **the identification and certification of accessible cycling routes** on the basis of an adapted methodology.

Access-i methodology

= clearly inform visitors and clients on the conditions and levels of accessibility of public places.

7 groups, 3 levels: based on the needs of user groups



ACCESS ► i
www.access-i.be

- ◐ people in wheelchairs
- ◐ people with walking difficulties
- ◐ blind people
- ◐ visually impaired people
- ◐ deaf people
- ◐ hearing impaired people
- ◐ people with learning and comprehension difficulties

Accessible cycling routes Identification



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Green = The route is independently accessible

Orange = The route is accessible with an occasional need for assistance. Difficulties might be encountered along the way, but they can be easily overcome with human or technological assistance.

White = An information sheet with technical data is available at www.access-i.be. The tourist is advised to check it beforehand in order to evaluate if the circuit is adapted to his handicap.

Accessible cycling routes Key principles

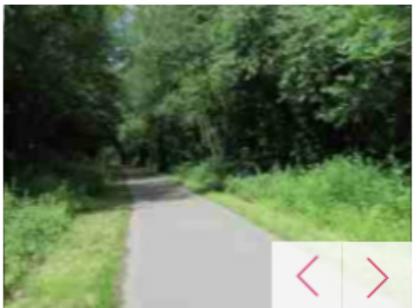
1. Never select the routes based on the cyclists' impairments or physical ability, but on their potential of accessibility;
2. Offer inclusive routes on which all users can be accompanied by anyone, regardless of whether or not they have any disability.
3. All itineraries include at least:
 - 1 adapted toilet close by
 - 1 accessible site for food and drink.



Advises

- Analyse adapted bicycles to understand how they work and particularly their dimensions;
- Meet cyclists with specific needs to better understand their expectations.

Information on www.access-i.be



GALERIE TECHNIQUE



CERTIFICATION



Validité :
03-08-2020 - 03-08-2023

Circuit Fosses-la-Ville - Lac de Bambois

La Ligne 150 (A) du Ravel vous emmène des bords de la Meuse en passant par Mettet connu mondialement pour son circuit de moto pour arriver à Aisemont à quelques encablures de la vallée de la Sambre.

Dans le cadre d'Access-i, seul le tronçon entre Fosses-la-Ville et le Lac de Bambois a été audité. Cette certification ne prend donc pas en compte le contenu des panneaux didactiques sur l'histoire du chemin de fer tout le long du Ravel.

Au départ de l'ancienne gare de Fosses-la-Ville transformée en Centre d'interprétation du patrimoine fossois et régional nommé ReGare depuis 2016, vous longerez l'ancienne voie de chemin de fer jusqu'au Lac de Bambois pendant 3,6 km.

Après votre balade, vous pourrez vous restaurer, vous divertir au Lac de Bambois où différentes attractions touristiques sont proposées.

Si vous souhaitez plus d'infos, consultez [la fiche descriptive](#).



More technical information

EN
GÉNÉRAL



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POINTS FORTS

Distance Fosses-la-Ville - Lac de Bambois = 3,6km

- Le parking se trouve à proximité de l'entrée du circuit
- La signalétique présente à l'entrée et tout au long de la balade permet une bonne orientation
- Promenade sur site propre
- Une seule traversée de voirie sur ce tronçon mais peu fréquentée
- La promenade est dans sa majorité en pente très douce
- Présence de nombreux panneaux didactiques sur le parcours

Accessible cycling routes

Evaluation criteria

Precise **selection of criteria** for the identification and/or creation of cycling routes that can be ridden by people with mental, hearing, visual or mobility impairments.



Criterion 1 : The visual quality



Criterion 2 : Secure parking lot close to the itinerary



Criterion 3 : The accessibility of the entrance to the itinerary



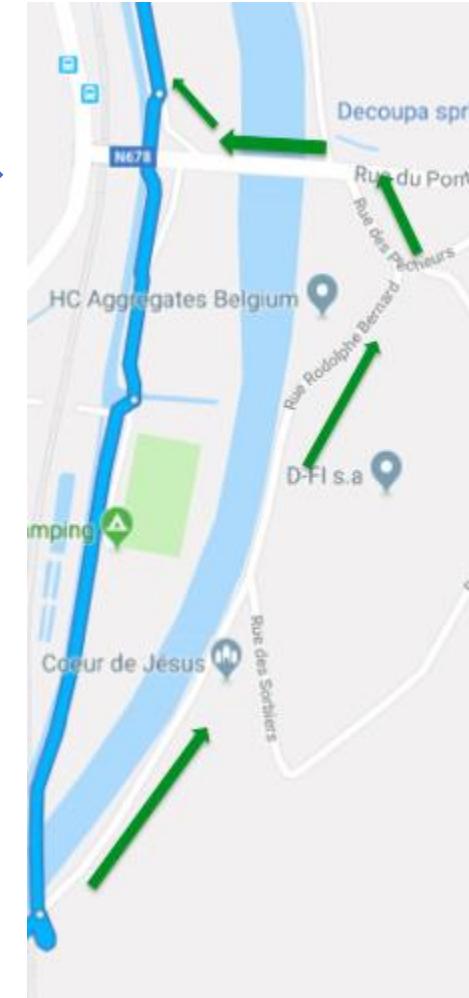
Criterion 4 : Convenient widths without sections where you need to dismount



Criterion 5 : Possible detours to bypass difficult sections



Bypass proposal



Criterion 6 :

Respecting certain incline and decline percentages along the route



Criterion 7 : Adequate sign-posting that allow a pleasant ride without the risk of getting lost



Criterion 8 : Regular rest stops



Criterion 9 :

Possibility of shortening the route by half if necessary



Related services

It is essential that there be cultural, leisure, catering etc. infrastructure close to the route.



Control!

- Ensuring quality through regular on-site checks.
- Inform and train tourism organisms.

Result

**1 methodology + criteria
8 accessible cycling routes in Wallonia**

The results are concrete and transposable for all tourism destinations with the same specific accessibility objectives and criteria.



Needed

A good promotion (in progress ☺)

- Integrate this product into the regular promotion
- www.access-i.be
- <https://visitwallonia.be/>

Conclusions...what are the objectives for the future?

Perpetuation and raising awareness!

- Create interest and identify new cycling routes with specific route signs.
- Raise awareness within tourism organisms regarding the importance of adapting their bicycle tourism offer for people with specific needs.

Thanks for your attention



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