



World Summit on Accessible Tourism

Destinations for All

Brussels 1-2 October 2018

WALLONIA

Bicycle tourism in Wallonia that's accessible to people with specific needs

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Wallonia – General information



Southern
part of
Belgium

Languages
French
German (less than 1%)

Population
3.500.000
inhabitants

Surface
area
17.000km²

Capital
Namur



Wallonie

Wallonia - Tourism



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



Wallonia - Tourism



- RAVeL: 1350 Km
- Itinéraires de longue distance: 1.931 Km
- Réseaux points-nœuds: 4.363 Km
- 227 circuits VTT: 4.654 Km
- 36 circuits VTC: 825 Km
- Label « Bienvenue vélo »: 615



The administration for Walloon Tourism

Commissariat général au Tourisme

Institutional tourism entity in Wallonia

- Enforcement of the rules.
- Recognition of tourism offer and labelling.
- Supervising and supporting tourism actors.
- The grants award procedure (for renovations, tourism and promotional equipment).
- Advising the Walloon government and tourism actors with their strategic choices.



The administration for Walloon Tourism

Commissariat général au Tourisme



Raising awareness within the tourism sector of the issue of accessibility

- The CGT includes the development of accessibility in tourism in its upcoming strategic plans (currently in its administration contract).
- The « Code Wallon du Tourisme » has advantageous subsidies for PMR renovations.
- Collaboration with non-profit Access-i since 2014 (raising awareness and certification of buildings and events).
- Development of projects relating to « themed years » initiated by Minister for tourism.

Themed years, potential catalysts for accessibility!

- Every year, a symbolic Walloon tourism theme is promoted.
- Objectives:
 - To integrate issues linked to how best to include people with specific needs, in all projects around the themes.
 - To develop a specific tourism offer that works for all disabilities and provides tailored products.

> Partnership with non-profit Access-i



Themed years, potential catalysts for accessibility!

The concrete example of the Wallonia by Bike themed year in 2016, which provided encouraging results!

- A big potential for bicycle tourism but an inexistence of structured and accessible products for people with specific needs.
- A desire to make active, open air leisure activities accessible and turn Wallonia into a top-class destination for all cyclists.
- Pilot project.



Themed years, potential catalysts for accessibility!

The concrete example of the Wallonia by Bike themed year in 2016, which provided encouraging results!

- Great research effort and certification by non-profit Access-i
- Accessibility of adapted tourism infrastructures and services.
- Key element = RAVeL = added value



Themed years, potential catalysts for accessibility!

**The concrete example of the Wallonia by Bike themed year in 2016,
which provided encouraging results!**

- 6 cycling routes in Wallonia (including 11 audited)
- A book of criterias
- **= a unique project in Europe and across the world!**





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Auditeur agréé: ANLH asbl

Destinations for All The key principles

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Itineraries are not selected by type of handicap:

1. The use of a specially adapted bicycle is not linked to a type of disability.
2. Our aim is to offer inclusive itineraries on which people with or without a disability could accompany any user.
3. All itineraries include at least:
 - One adapted toilet close by.
 - One accessible site for food and drink.



The types of itinerary



⇒ Itineraries that fulfil all the green criteria

=

SUITABLE FOR ALL BICYCLES



⇒ Itineraries that fulfil at least one orange criteria

=

SPORTY LEVEL (TOUGH)



Criteria to evaluate the level of bicycle itineraries



Criteria 1 :



ACCESS ▶ i

The visual quality





Criteria 2 :

Secure parking close to the itinerary





Criteria 3 :



ACCESS ▶ i

The accessibility of the entrance to the itinerary



Criteria 4 :

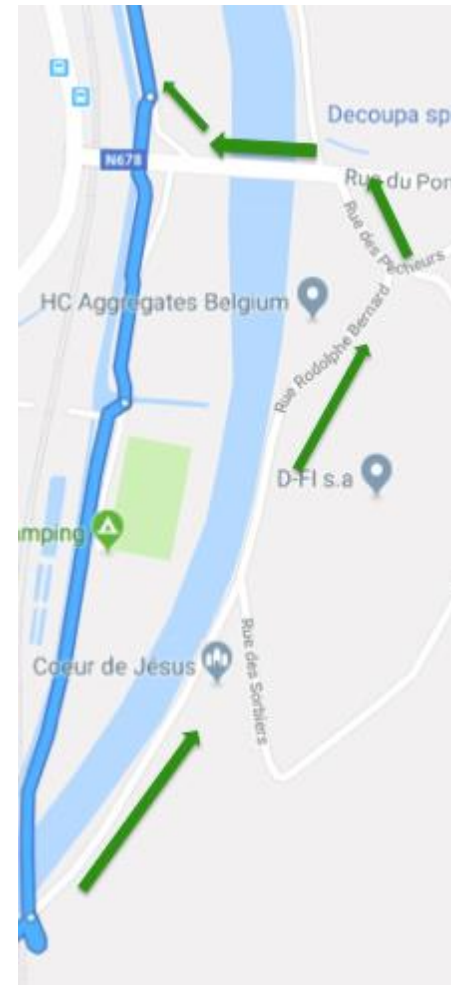
Practical widths, without sections
where you need to dismount





Criteria 5 :

ACCESS ▶ i Possible detours to bypass difficult sections





Criteria 6 :



Respects incline percentages
throughout the itinerary



Criteria 7 :

Adequate sign-posting to allow for a pleasant ride



Criteria 8 :

Regular rest stops



Zones avec banc
En dehors du
cheminement



Criteria 9 :



Possibility of doing half the itinerary, to shorten the route



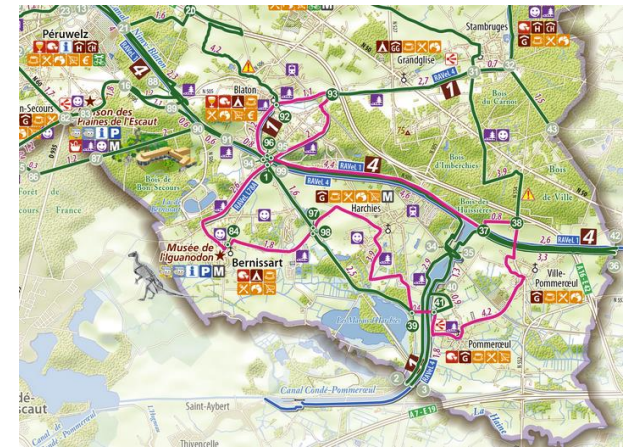
Related services

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





Survey tools





Information

www.access-i.be

La fiche Access-i

6



Hainaut

Circuit vélo Thuin - Landelies

Les paysages le long de la Sambre deviennent plus sauvages, la faune et la flore se diversifient. Votre promenade est rythmée par une série d'écluses pittoresques, calibrées sur la taille des anciennes péniches qui étaient construites autrefois dans divers chantiers navals de la région.

L'omniprésence des bateaux de plaisance démontre que Thuin, célèbre pour ses jardins suspendus, fut et reste encore un haut lieu de la batellerie.



Adresse

6530 Thuin

En général	 +++	 +++	 +++	 +++	 +++	 +++	 +++
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Distance Thuin - Landelies : 11 Km

Le parking à Thuin :

- le long du chemin du Halage, près de la gare, côté rive gauche

Le parking à Landelies :

- Rue du Déversoir - Landelies à proximité de l'écluse

La signalisation présente à l'entrée et tout au long de la balade permet une bone orientation.

A visiter :

- Abbaye d'Aulne - Gozée : [fiche descriptive complète](#)
- La Distillerie de Biercée - Thuin : [fiche descriptive complète](#)
- Musée de la Batellerie - Thuin : [fiche descriptive complète](#)
- Musée du Tram - Thuin : [fiche descriptive complète](#)
- Maison de l'imprimerie - Thuin : [fiche Access-i](#)

Auditeur

ANLH asbl



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

Perpetuation and raising awareness!

- Create interest and new itineraries.
- Raise awareness within tourism organisms of the importance of adapting their bicycle tourism offer for persons with specific needs.

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

Control!

- Guarantee the quality through regular site checks.
- Inform and train tourism organisms.

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

Promotion!

- Integrate these new products into the regular promotion
- www.access-i.be
- www.walloniebelgiquetourisme.be



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Thank you for your attention!

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