



CA-009 the Meuse river

7 days – independent walk

Season

From April to end of October.

We recommend you to book this tour 3 or 4 months before the departure date if you plan to walk it in summer time. Great demand and few rooms!

Level of difficulty

Grade 3 – No major difficulty, you walk 6 to 8 hours a day. The grade 3 reflects the length of some stages about 25 kilometers and the nature of the terrain. The total altitude gain is about 350 meters a day, some ascents or descents could be steep. This walk requires a reasonable degree of walking experience and a current good state of fitness.

The trail is well marked with red and white GR signs or you walk some small paths along the river usually used by anglers.

Itinerary

D1 : Arrival at CHARLEVILLE-MEZIERES. Stroll through the old town to discover the famous Place Ducale, l'Horloge (clock) du grand Marionnettiste and the Notre-Dame de l'Espérance Church.
Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

D2 : CHARLEVILLE - MONTHERME (24 kms – 6.30 hour walk). Following the Meuse River, you will reach the industrial center of Nouzonville and the village of Lévisy. You will cross the Meuse River to admire the Braux Church, which houses a 12th-century baptismal font made of Givet blue stone. You will pass near Le Rocher (rock) des Quatre Fils Aymon whose four peaks recall the legend of the Bayard knight, who took them away as he fled from the rage of Charlemagne. You will reach Laval Dieu, an industrial city located at the doors of Monthermé, built during the 12th century around an abbey of which remains only the church.
Half-board accommodation in a one -star hotel with all conveniences

D3 : Walk around MONTHERME (24 km). You will walk first along the most chaotic part of the Semoy River to the village of Tournavaux and then continue on through the forest and along the cliffs to Thillay and Les Hautes Rivières. From the top you will behold a gorgeous view of the Vallée de la Croix de l'Enfer (Hell's Cross Valley). Crossing through the valley, you will pass across the stream of Saint Jean and through the forest, heading to a ruined village and the ancient forest ranger house of Le Champ Bernard. The shaded forest road will bring you to le Roc (rock) de la Tour, from where you will have a magnificent view of the Semoy Valley and the Ardennaise Forest. You will soon find yourself again at Monthermé.
Half-board accommodation in the same hotel.

D4 : MONTHERME - REVIN (19 km). The day will begin in admiration of the panoramas from la Roche à Sept Heures and la Longue Roche before a walk back to the bank of the Meuse River. You will take the towpath heading to Deville, Laifor and Auschamps. Nice views of les Rochers (rocks) des Dames de Meuse. You will leave the bank of the river and climb le Mont Malgré Tout to admire the great view from la Roche des Mintch et de la Faligeotte. You will then descend towards Revin and its quays where you will see half-timbered houses from the 16th century.
Half-board accommodation in a family-run hotel with all conveniences

D5 : REVIN - HAYBES SUR MEUSE (22 km). Along the hillsides and through the Ardennes forest, you will walk along the Meuse River to Fumay, former capital in the extraction and industry of slate. From here you will have a gorgeous view of the Fumay and Haybes meanders and of the Notre-Dame-de-Divers-Monts Chapel. You will then

return to the Meuse bank and walk along the Fumay meander before heading uphill to the Plateau Viewpoint, from where stretches a beautiful view of the Fumay and the Meuse Valley. Through the forest you will walk to Le Moulin Labotte (watermill), and later your hotel.
Half-board accommodation in a two-star hotel.

D6 : HAYBES SUR MEUSE – HIERGES (22 km). You will walk down to the village along the banks of the Meuse and climb back up through the Risdoux Wood to the Roches à Fepin to enjoy one more time a gorgeous view of the valley! You will then follow the towpath down to Wireux where you will cross the Meuse for a visit of the ancient Molhain Collegial Abbey. You will make your way through the countryside along the Belgian border to the lovely village of Hiergues, lying in the shadow of the remains of the 16th-century château that was severely damaged during the French Revolution. You will visit the village and the 16th-century Saint Baptist Church. The walk ends at Fountain Square, from where a taxi will take you to Givet. The landscape in the Meuse Valley is quite disfigured by the stone-pits around Givet and offers little interest.
Half-board accommodation in a family-run hotel with all conveniences

D7 : GIVET. Tour ends after breakfast.

Access to and from

Outward journey

By train : Charleville-Mézières is well-served by train from Paris

By car : Arrive in Reims by the motorway and take the speedway to Charleville.

Where to park : pay guarded car-parks in Charleville.

Inward journey

By train : To return, several trains between Givet and Charleville, a journey of about 80 minutes. Connections to Paris

Getting back your car : trains from Givet to Charleville

Accommodation

6 overnight stops in 1 or 2 star hotel or guesthouse on a half-board accommodation.

Picnic lunches are not included in the tour but are available from the hotel on request the previous evening, alternatively picnic materials can be bought at the stop village or at each of the towns and villages along the route. We indicate in the route notes where there are suitable restaurants or cafés for lunch stops. We recommend you to carry food and drinks if there are none convenient to the trail.

Included

- Twin share accommodation with private facilities (some guesthouses or 1-star hotels have a limited number of rooms with en suite facilities)
- Baggage transfer between hotels (except for STD option)
- Route notes and maps
- 6 dinners as indicated in the itinerary

Not included

- Visa fees, transportation fees to and from the walk area
- Insurance (strongly recommended on all trips)
- Transfers except those mentioned above
- Drinks
- Additional meals
- Spending of personal nature e.g. laundry, souvenirs, phone calls,...