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TAILOR MADE RAIL

Ardennes In Detail

From £849 per person // 8 days



Sit back and relax on a scenic rail journey through the lovely Ardennes region, straddling Belgium and Luxembourg. Take the Eurostar to France and then use local trains to visit Spa, Clervaux and Dinant, with a stop in Lille to break your journey.

The Essentials

- Catch the Eurostar to the historic Flanders city of Lille
- Cross the border and meander across Belgium to Spa in the Ardennes
- Visit the pretty town of Clervaux in Luxembourg
- Stay in beautiful Dinant on the River Meuse before returning back to the UK

What's included

- Standard Class rail travel with seat reservations
- 7 nights' hotel accommodation with breakfast
- Comprehensive hotel directions
- Easy-to-follow travel documentation
- Despatch of tickets by email, post or collection from our London office

Tailor make your holiday

- Decide when you would like to travel
- Adapt the route to suit your plans
- Upgrade your hotels
- Add extra nights, destinations and/or tours

- Suggested Itinerary -



Day 1 - London To Lille

Your journey starts at St Pancras, where you catch a Eurostar service for a direct train to Lille. On arrival in Lille, check in for an overnight stay at the Novotel Lille Gares (or similar), within easy walking distance of the station. Once you've settled in, you might like to stroll into town for a look around. Lille is an historic city, dubbed the 'capital of Flanders', with a pretty Old Town and some great museums and art galleries.



Day 2 - Lille To Spa

Travel today from French Flanders to Belgian Flanders and then on to the Ardennes. Your route takes you via the historic city of Kortrijk (pictured) where you might like to spend some time before continuing your journey into the Ardennes. There are no reservations needed today so you can decide on the day whether you'd like to stop off en route. Once you arrive in Spa, make your way to the Radisson Blu Palace Spa (or similar) where you have a 2-night stay.



Day 3 - Spa

Alongside destinations like Bath and Vichy, Spa's thermal waters have attracted tourists since Roman times. This has recently garnered the town a UNESCO World Heritage listing as one of the 'great spa towns of Europe'. You can learn about the history of Spa at the Musée de la Ville d'Eau, stunningly situated in a former royal palace. Alternatively, try the waters for yourself at Les Thermes de Spa. As well as taking the waters, you can also try your luck at the world's oldest casino, founded in 1763 or hop on a train to the nearby Wallonian city of Liege.



Days 4 & 5 - Clervaux

Leave Spa and take the train across the Luxembourgish border to Clervaux. Here, check in for a 2-night stay at the Hotel Koener (or similar). Situated in a narrow valley on both banks of the River Clerve, Clervaux is dominated by the Benedictine Abbey of St. Maurice and St. Maur, built in 1910 and a still a working monastery. If you're lucky enough to be here on the first Monday of the month, you can visit for a guided tour. But the lovely Chateau de Clervaux is open daily and features 'The Family of Man', a UNESCO World Heritage listed photography exhibition.



Day 6 - Clervaux To Dinant

Your journey today takes you via Luxembourg City, where you might like to stop and leave your bags in lockers at the station so you can have a look around, perhaps staying for lunch here before catching an onward train to Dinant. Luxembourg is a stunningly situated European capital, built amid deep gorges cut by the Alzette and Pétrusse rivers. Once you're ready to move on, travel via Libramont to Dinant and check in for a 2-night stay at the Ibis Dinant Centre (or similar).



Day 7 - Dinant

Dinant derives its name from the Celtic for 'Celestial Gorge' or 'Sacred Valley', which gives a clue as to its continuing beauty. Located on the River Meuse, the town is dominated by the spire of the Collegiate Church of Notre Dame. In the summer months, you can take a cable car from here to the majestic citadel at the top of the 'rocher' – the prominent cliff-face which forms the town's backdrop. Among the museums in Dinant is the house of Adolphe Sax, inventor of the saxophone and the Leffe Museum, where you can find out more about the famous Belgian beer brand, which originated here.



Day 8 - Dinant To London

Leave Dinant this morning and catch a train via Namur to Brussels. Though your train journeys to Brussels are flexible, you'll need to make sure you're at the Gare du Midi in plenty of time for your Eurostar check-in. Leave Belgium behind and head under the English Channel on the Eurostar back to London St Pancras.

Pricing

From £849 per person

These prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single supplements will apply for sole occupancy. It is based on Standard Class rail travel. It is based on the best fares on the trains. If you travel during a peak period, particularly at short notice, then supplements may apply.